

SE1

WISHES
YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS

**bumper
issue**

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR NORTH SOUTHWARK AND WATERLOO

NO. 49 DEC/JAN 79/80 10p



WATERLOO WOODY

Did you miss me last month? I've been rather unwell - I think I caught something nasty off a woodworm, or maybe that elm I hit for breakfast had a bit of the Dutch disease.

Anyway I didn't waste my time laid up in the nest. I studied how to make predictions and have worked out what's in store next year - looks really good, at least for the first half.

JANUARY: the Coin Street Inspector will recommend family housing on the South Bank and apply for a house and garden there. "My eyes have been opened," his report will say. "Those nasty property companies just want to make money!"

FEBRUARY: Southwark Council will choose a new Town Hall site that wins unanimous public support on an uninhabited island in the Atlantic. "Our eyes have been opened" the Members, will say, some of them still fast asleep in the Council chamber.

MARCH: SE1 will print an article saying nice things about Southwark. Thousands of readers will demonstrate outside the office, threatening to stop buying the paper. "We've learnt our lesson," say the SE1 team, "it'll never happen again."

APRIL: Sir Horace Cutler is kept awake by major road-works outside his bedroom. He calls a Press Conference and - hiding his bloodshot mincepies behind a pair of dark glasses - announces that the Southern Relief Road is off. "I see the demonstrators' point," he says.

MAY: The South London Press court reporter is ill, so the paper doesn't appear and thousands of readers switch to SE1. "Wow!" they exclaim....

That's as far as I've got so far. Just let me know if you've got any of your own predictions. Seeya next year!

The bashers are back

The mask of respectability is off. The ugly face of the National Front, the British Movement and their like - the politics of headbashing and thuggery - has been increasingly in evidence in South London and elsewhere.

Here are some of the facts:

November 15th

* a meeting at Lambeth Town Hall was broken up by about 20 men, some known National Front members, and members of the audience were beaten up.

November 24th

* National Front members were caught with incendiary materials, in the middle of the night, at Union Place, a Lambeth community resource centre.

* newspaper sellers in East Street have been abused by National Front supporters, and black shoppers have been insulted.

November 25th

* Over 100 skinheads and National Front "heavies" were brought from all over London

to oppose a recent locally organised march against the presence of the National Front in the Walworth area. Passers-by in the area were shocked by the Hitler salutes, the threats of violence and abuse hurled at the march.

* In various parts of London dances and functions have been broken up by gangs of British Movement youth turning up and provoking fights.

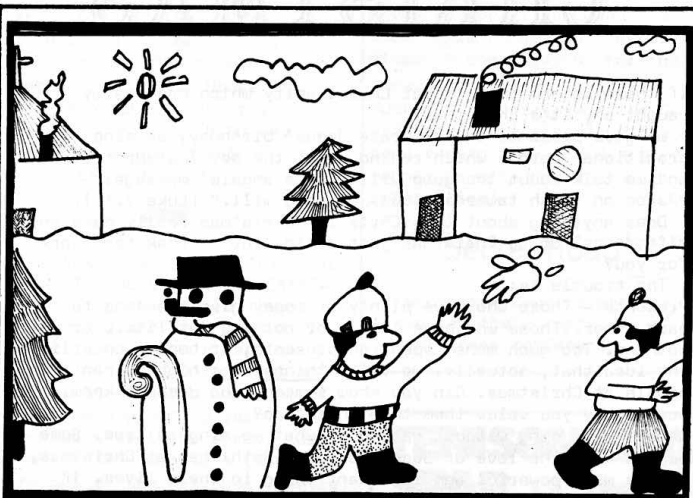
Like the Nazis of Germany the National Front and similar groups seek to blame Britain's problems on a whole range of scapegoats - blacks, Jews, communists, unions, feminists, and others.

Draping themselves in the Union Jack they claim to be true patriots; but behind this mask of respectability are leaders with a dream for Britain that resembles Hitler's Germany. They have never been shy about using violence against those they do not like, but tried to play this down in the hope of getting popular support.

In May the electorate smashed this hope. Now they feel there is little to lose by indulging in open attacks on their opponents.

It is heart-breaking to see politically-naive young people recruited as bully-boys, with the promise of being able to take part in punch-ups.

The voices preaching hate, violence and arson offer no solutions to inflation, poverty and unemployment. We have seen the road they want to lead us down and it must be rejected.



Shown above is one of the cheery designs in the Xmas card range handprinted by Blackfriars Settlement Work Centre for the Disabled. Pity we can't show you the bright colours as well. They're on sale at the Waterloo Action Centre in Baylis Road.

CHILD CARE LOBBY

As 1979 draws to a close we see the end of International Year of the Child. What we should have seen during the year was the provision of things that children and parents really need - more nurseries, good nursery schools and classes and facilities for the care and recreation of children in the holidays and after school. In fact there's been a lot of talk and little else.

Southwark Child Care Campaign exists to put pressure on and bring to the attention of Southwark Council, ILEA and the Government the needs of children, particularly those whose parents both work.

Today 52% of women with children go out to work. For most of these it's an economic necessity. Despite this there are virtually no facilities to enable women to work, and things can only get worse with large public expenditure cut-backs and a government urging the return of women to the home to care for children, the sick and the elderly.

Southwark Child Care Campaign is organising a lobby of the Social Services Committee on Tuesday 11th December at 6pm outside Peckham Town Hall, Peckham Road. Further events and action is planned. For more information contact: Nicky Road, tel 7011038.



All write in S.E.1



The best days of your life?

STUDENTS AND TUTORS IN THE LITERACY SCHEME OFTEN DISCUSS AND WRITE ABOUT EDUCATION:

'It's because you are not understood.'

'The teachers do the same subject day after day. The kids are bored. The teachers have too much authority. They should cut the classes down, and have places where kids can go all day to catch up.'

'When I was 12 or 13, I never went all the time. I'd been hopping rag. I would walk round till 4.00, and then go home.'

'Sometimes I put the blame on my parents. It was up to them to make me do my home lessons. The schools were more for the middle class instead of working class kids. If you weren't willing to learn they wouldn't give you a push. And that was that. A teacher's job is to teach people, not ignore them. The head teacher, had a cane with sellotape on it. Then the rubber tube was brought in - the one off the gas cylinders. He used it on the hand, or your leg or back if he felt like it. He actually broke a kid's knuckle with the cane.'

Some children can also get left behind through illnesses, having to change schools, language problems and so on. There are many reasons why some of us cannot read and write well.

Better Schools

Many teachers in schools today are very aware of how schools do not really meet the needs of kids. Methods used in literacy schemes are similar to approaches that some teachers would like to use if they could.

If we believe in literacy as a tool for people to have more control over their lives, then we must also fight against education cuts, and support teachers, parents and pupils who are fighting to improve our schools.



Shopping is chaos

Shopping is chaos for people who can't read the things on the shelf. I usually know what to look for because I've learned it. If I can't find something, I would ask somebody in the shop who was filling up shelves or something. 'Where's the biscuits?' or a tin of soup, like Heinz. I can read the labels, but not everybody can. They pick up a can of soup, but how do they know whether it's tomato or farmhouse vegetable? That's a pretty hard thing on a label. I've heard it in the supermarkets. They say, 'Half these people can't read'. If you see a sign up saying 'This week's special offer', how do you know people can read it? I think shopping is very confusing for people who can read. Never mind people who can't.

THESE PAGES WERE WRITTEN, edited and laid out by students, volunteer tutors and the paid workers of BLACKFRIARS LITERACY SCHEME (47 Nelson Square, SE1. Tel 928 9521). It was discussed several times by the steering committee and an editorial meeting, and by students and tutors working together in groups or 'one-to-one'.

Some students wrote down what they wanted to say and worked on the spelling afterwards, some dictated it to a tutor, some wrote questionnaires and asked other students to answer the questions. Some of the writing was recorded on tape to make it easier to read so everybody could discuss it.

Drawing my cartoon



Literacy Scheme Committee

I am a student at Blackfriars, and I am also on the committee, where we have discussion on how the scheme is run. The committee is for students and tutors in the scheme. Everybody can join. I enjoy committee work.

We discuss events to do with the running of the literacy scheme, such as workshops and how they should be run. And it makes you feel you are part of the scheme.

There are other projects in the Settlement who have committees, and they keep in touch with us about things that go on.

VOLUNTEERING TO TEACH

Volunteer tutors teach in the groups along with paid workers, and also one-to-one with students. Other volunteers help with typing or reception instead.

There's a training course for all tutors. They don't always feel confident about it all:

'Very little time is given over to information about teaching methods.'

'I started as a tutor at Blackfriars about two years ago. I had no experience of teaching, and I was pretty nervous about it. We had a short training course which helped a lot, but I still felt worried. What I have learned, I have learned on the job.'

People volunteer for lots of reasons. Here are two of them: 'Both of my parents, had they been born into a different type of home and background would have stood a better chance. They would have had more money, more comfort, more education, more jobs, better jobs. I have been angry about this all my life. It made me want to be a teacher.'

'I like being a tutor - I enjoy it because I meet new people to

talk to, and am learning at the same time.'

What some of the students said about volunteers and paid workers:

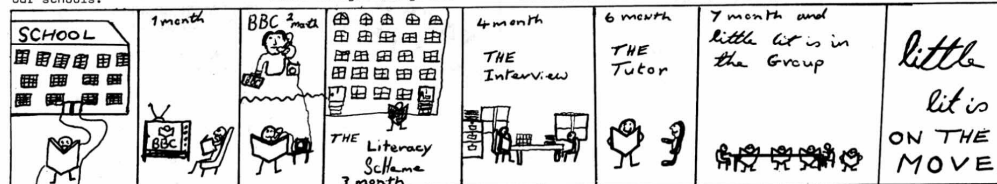
'Most are alright, but you do get some bad ones.'

'All tutors are very good, except you can get some dodgy ones. I think they do the job. I don't think there are enough, and they should be paid.'

'Volunteers are a most important part of our system.'

'PORRIDGE'

I don't like people taking the mickey out of literacy education. I saw Ronnie Barker doing it in Porridge. It's not a thing to be laughed at, because you can't read and write. If nobody laughed at people, or took the mickey out of them, I'm sure you would get more people in literacy classes. People get embarrassed. I belong to a literacy group and there's nothing to be laughed at.



Writing about health cuts-Dolly

Dear Mrs Thatcher

I am afraid that you will probably never read this letter, as I am a member of the Labour Party, and your secretary will probably throw this letter in the bin, BUT!

I would like to know why you are cutting back on adult education, including literacy, because I can say that I am a student at a literacy scheme, and I think it is disgusting to stop people from getting a fair education.

But why are you putting more money into the RAF and the army and navy? You know we should cut back on those three things, or are you looking for another war?

I would like to tell you that this letter is going in a local newspaper called SE1. It's the community newspaper for North Southwark and Waterloo. I would like to say, will you reply to this letter?

Yours sincerely,

Chris Bell

IT ISN'T LIKE SCHOOL !!

'We are all in the same boat, and we are friendly. And as you are learning, you get to know people.'

'You can learn a lot about yourself. It's not like school, you don't get told what to write or what to read.'

How do we learn?

Everybody learns in different ways and at different speeds. People can work out how they learn for themselves, and they do.

Reading

These are some of the different ways into reading. Students can read something that they have written, taped or dictated themselves rather than using someone else's writing. Sometimes an article is re-written by a tutor so that it's easier to read, or written in short lines (like John's article on this page), because some people find it easier to read like that.

Reading can be very practical - 'I and she do cooking, we make a cake and apple tart, using a recipe. I had a go, and she told me the words I didn't know.'

I study it

People learn to write the things they want to write - letters, stories, filling in forms. 'I wrote a letter to my tutor. The words I doesn't know, she would spell for me, then after, I read it back to her. Whatsoever I couldn't spell, she underline it. When I reach that word, I study it till I know it.'

There are lots of different ways of learning spelling as well - games, crosswords, worksheets, looking at a word, covering it, and then writing it down and checking it.

'You will learn about being independent and being able to cope with reading and writing outside the Settlement.'

'To learn to read and write. I'll get better jobs.'

'Being able to put what you want to say in writing.'

'I want to depend on myself. I filled in a form at the Building Society. It was good. I used to get my daughters to do them.'

'How I see the scheme, is that I am there to write what I want, and not whatever anybody else thinks.'



A good environment to learn in.

THREE MILLION READERS

BLACKFRIARS LITERACY SCHEME started about 5 years ago. (There is one other scheme in SE1, at the South Bank Adult Education Institute). The Blackfriars scheme has two paid workers, but a lot of work is done by students and volunteers. As John, a student, put it: 'Voluntary is the way the government always wants it to be. They just don't want to fund the scheme all the way. The government need volunteerers'.

I use it

People also use reading and writing to help them with learning other things, like using maps, typewriters, tape recorders, reading instructions, or using dictionaries. We run workshops and short courses on photography (all the pictures here were done by the literacy scheme), tape-recorders, spelling, making new materials, health, using pictures, etc. We put this page together at a workshop with some of the people involved in 'SE1'.

We have small groups, with two or three tutors in each group, and 'one-to-one' - student/tutor pairs. People often get only two hours a week, because more time needs more money. Some new students are having to wait about two months, before we get space.

3 million people in the country can't read and might like a chance to get their reading better. Only 100,000 have a place in a scheme. We need more money, more schemes.

JOHN: 'I COULDN'T CATCH UP'

I never had much schooling, because I was working. And when I did go to school, I never got much attention. The other kids were more advanced than me and I couldn't catch up. That's why I never went a lot. There was one teacher who kept me behind sometimes to try and help me, but I couldn't pick it up. When I left school I couldn't read and write. It was so bad, that I got to a stage, I wanted to learn to read and write. I asked at the labour exchange if there was somewhere I could go and try to learn reading and writing. They said around the corner there was a school for literacy. I ended up going, but I was frightened, because I didn't know what to expect. When I went to the school, I asked the lady if they do reading and writing. She said, 'Yes.' She took me upstairs. I see all of these other people in the class. I was nervous, at first, till I met this lady, called Carol. I said to her, I couldn't read and write. She said, 'Don't worry, it will come in time.' And as I kept on going, I learned to read. This was at Bethnal Green Institute. I thank this woman very much. Since I left Bethnal Green I've been coming to Blackfriars Settlement, and I'm doing very well.

John.

read write read write read write

YOU KNOW WHERE TO STICK YOUR TRANSFER

The Southwark Group of the London Tenant's Organisation are making an 11th hour attempt to persuade Southwark Councillors to oppose the transfer of GLC estates to the Borough.

If the transfer takes place it will lead to injustices for GLC tenants and will cause chaos and loss of services to all council tenants.

What are the reasons for the LTO wanting to stop the transfer?

Modernisation of older properties

One benefit which GLC tenants thought transfer would bring was an end to the GLC's 4-day package improvements. Southwark has always been a better landlord in this respect and have favoured full modernisation which includes emptying blocks before starting work. Now it's clear that nothing will change. The GLC are giving just enough money for package improvements to ex-GLC properties.

Tenancy Agreements

GLC tenants have far superior tenancy agreements to Southwark tenants.

The GLC agreements were negotiated with tenants by the previous administration at County Hall, and there is even a clause which says that the agreement cannot be varied without consultation with tenants. It seems highly probable that GLC tenants will lose their existing agreements and be forced to accept Southwark's conditions of tenancy or quit their homes.

Caretaking

Southwark is insisting that the GLC's mobile care-taking system is ended before transfer. This should receive a big 'hurray' from GLC tenants because the system never worked. But Southwark is not planning to employ residential caretakers on the ex-GLC estates.

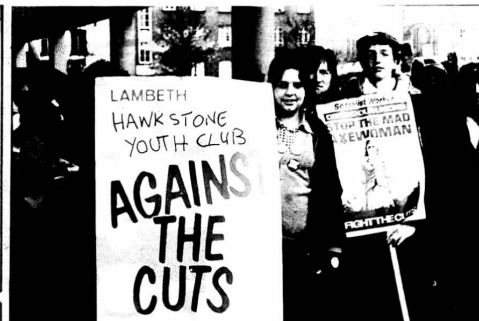
Instead they are planning to introduce a new system. Very few details are known except that it will operate on GLC estates before being extended to the whole of Southwark's housing stock. The most informed opinion is that it will be area based with residential caretakers responsible for several estates:

little more than mini-mobile caretakers.

Rents

At present GLC tenants pay higher rents than their Southwark counterparts but transfer will not change this. Southwark Council have said they will maintain the higher rent levels for ex-GLC tenants despite reduced tenancy conditions and worse standards and services.

In the next edition of SE1 we hope to show the disastrous effect that transfer will have on housing provision in London and how it will end the ability of tenants in Southwark to move to other parts of London.



On The March

STRONG LOCAL SUPPORT FOR THE LAMBETH MARCH AGAINST THE CUTS on November 7th. Amongst the thousands of marchers were these members of Hawkstone Youth Club, Kennington Road. The pouring rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the marchers to show their disgust at the vicious cuts in public spending being imposed by the Tories.

No help for Rockingham

JOHN AXON, CHAIRPERSON OF ROCKINGHAM TENANTS ASSOCIATION, WRITES:

Rockingham, the 'Estate of Seige' (Time Out, 30th Nov.), was placed eighth in the list of ten Urban Aid applications recommended by the Southwark Council of Voluntary Service, for forwarding by the London Borough of Southwark to the Department of the Environment, for funding from April 1980.

It is the only interwar estate of comparable size in Southwark with not a single worker to help the voluntary committee to develop the life of the community (if there is another workerless estate, the shame of Southwark should be that much greater, and the conscience of Southwark Council of Voluntary Service should be pressed to redress the imbalance between social need and some of the less socially demanding projects recommended on the suspected level of the in-group).

The most pressing need is for workers to assist the TA Committee to implement its extensive programme of welfare and social projects for the improvement of the morale and the physical wellbeing of the

Estate. This determined the content of the application. Only in this way can real progress be made in solving the problems of the estate and in starting to build a real community.

In extension of this objective, the Estate Play Association, with the support of Southwark Youth Office, submitted an Urban Aid application to ILEA. It's for the funding of a Detached Youth Worker, to help the youth of the estate, and to work in close liaison with the Youth Workers of the REPA project to reopen the Squires Club as a Youth Centre in the area.

Backing up the Community Leisure Programme the TA submitted a further Urban Aid application through the GLC for some of the proposed leisure activities - photography, woodwork, and metalwork. This would pay for the purchase of equipment to start such leisure activity groups.

Last month we reported that Cllr. Sawyer tore up a telegram from the London Tenants Organisation.

Well ... Rockingham T.A. didn't take the tearing up

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CUSTOMERS

KENNINGTON TENANTS SAY

'We Want Answers'

LAST MONTH IN SE1 WE REPORTED a meeting with Councillor David Ashby, Chairperson of GLC Housing Management Ctee in Kennington.

The Kennington group of interwar GLC estates (tenants from Ashmole, Dorset Road, Kennington Park, Larkhall, Munro, Springfield, Tanswell and Tube Hill) had finally arranged this meeting to discuss problems of maintenance and lack of improvements and rent levels.

On the question of the £10 compensation for disturbance which tenants receive when they have their flats package improved, he was asked why the GLC had decided to credit it to tenants' rent accounts. By crediting this payment to tenants' rent accounts those in rent arrears would not get the cash, which they needed at that time to compensate them for the cost of meals they had to buy while their gas and electricity was disconnected. Apparently the GLC operate this policy because it is quicker. They

agreed to "look into" the method of compensation payments.

On the question of the transfer of GLC estates to Lambeth Council, Mr. Harris had no reply. Mike Drake, Vice-Chairperson of Lambeth's Housing Ctee stated that the GLC wanted to get out of housing management, but he also said that Lambeth Council did not want responsibility for GLC estates and that if the Present Package Improvements Programme was to be an inducement to Lambeth Council to take over GLC estates then the GLC had better think again.

We want answers to the following questions:-

- (1) REPRESENTATION - Could some form of consultation be arranged between Tenants' Associations and the GLC?
- (2) £10 PACKAGE IMPROVEMENT DISTURBANCE ALLOWANCE - Could this sum be reassessed in consultation with Tenants, and could the Tenant be sent an

account indicating when this allowance has been deducted from his rent?

(3) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHERS - When are our Estates to receive the following improvements:

Courtyard landscaping
Correction of damp problems
Replacement of drains and refuse chutes?

(4) TRANSFER OF ESTATES TO LOCAL BOROUGH - What resources will the GLC make available to Lambeth if and when the transfer takes place?

(5) RENT LEVELS - Against the background of ever-depreciating maintenance facilities how can you possibly justify another 10% rent increase in 1980 of 17%? It is highly likely that Lambeth will be increasing its tenants' rates substantially for the second year in succession. This year (1979) we have already suffered a 26% rent increase plus 38% rates and a 10% increase.

GUYS DISTRICT Community Health Council

wishes all SE1 readers

a very happy Christmas.
Help us ensure St. Olave's has a happy new year too!

Francis House,
Kings Head Yard
Borough High St.
Tel: 403 3012

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM

ALAN DAVIS
GEORGE NICHOLSON
Local Councillors

"NO CUTS IN SERVICES
NO TO THE NEW TOWN
HALL
FIGHT THE TORY HEALTH CUTS!"

Southwark-Bernoldsey
Constituency
CATHEDRAL BRANCH
Labour Party

Lambeth Partnership

Despite grudging approval by the Tory Government of Lambeth's Inner City Partnership scheme, designed by the Labour Government to provide extra money in inner city areas, the future for many projects now looks very bleak.

A large number of ideas proposed by community groups and Lambeth Council for 1980 to 1983 will almost certainly be cut because the Tories have refused to honour the Labour Government's promise to increase the money available. Only if Lambeth Council can find the money elsewhere (doubtful in view of its financial problems) can any of these schemes go ahead.

These include the drop-in centre for 8 children proposed by the Waterloo Women's Group; 2 workers for the new North Lambeth Law Centre, the Upstream Children's Theatre, a community planner for the Association of Waterloo Groups, running costs for the Blackfriars Settlement Sheltered Work Centre and a full-time worker for SE1 newspaper.

£7 million was allocated for projects starting in 1979 and the last government agreed to

raise it by £2½ millions for new projects to start in 1980. Hundreds of applications had been made and a list of approved projects published when the Government said the extra money would not now be available. Worse still the 1979/80 money is being cut by £400,000 and existing projects already under way could still be axed.

At a public meeting of the Lambeth Partnership Committee on 16th October, opposition to the cuts was clearly put to councillors and officials of the Department of the Environment, GLC and ILEA.

The Lambeth Inner City Consultative Group, which represents community groups in the Borough and those who have applied for funding, is pressing the Government Minister, Tom Knight, for an urgent meeting to explain why extra money is needed.

With other changes in the Partnership structure being proposed by the government to make it less responsive to the community, the whole thing is in danger of becoming defunct in all but name, yet another example of the cuts which needs to be vigorously opposed.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
From Charlie & Catherine at

THE CROWN
Blackfriars Road

HOT & COLD FOOD
AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
5 NIGHTS A WEEK

Best wishes from all the workers at the

Waterloo Action Centre

ADVICE CENTRE
Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm.
FREE LEGAL ADVICE
Thursday 6.30pm - 8 pm.
PENSIONERS LUNCH CLUB
Every day
PENSIONERS CLUB
Monday and Tuesday
YOUTH CLUBS
Mon, Tues, Weds, 7pm.
REGULAR JUMBLE SALES
HALL & MEETING ROOMS FOR HIRE
14 Baylis Road SE1. Tel: 261 1404

Less help with your Fuel Bills

YOUR RIGHTS

TORIES LEAVE COAL IN YOUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING

The Tory Government has scrapped the Electricity Discount Scheme which might have helped you pay your electric bill last winter.

The scheme gave help to people on Supplementary Benefit or Pension, Family Income Supplement and Rate and Rent Rebates by paying a quarter of the amount by which the bill exceeded £20. People on Supplementary Benefit also got £5 in January to put towards any fuel bill.

The new scheme will only give help to the following people who will automatically receive 95p a week to help with their heating bills:-

- Families on Supplementary Benefit with children under 5
- Pensioners over 75 claiming Supplementary Pension
- Families on Family Income Supplement

The new scheme started on 12th November so you should be getting the extra money soon if you aren't getting it already.

However if you're already getting a heating addition you won't be getting this 95p per week on top of that. This means that many people won't be helped at all from this scheme. For example, two-thirds of pensioners over 75 claiming Supplementary Pension are already getting a Heating Addition and so won't be getting any extra money. In fact only 1/3 million people overall will get help instead of the 4 1/2 million helped by the Electricity Discount Scheme.

WATERLOO ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

ALL THE STAFF WISH EVERYBODY A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
Open ALL the holiday from 11.00 am.
PLENTY OF ACTIVITY TAKING PLACE

Support Your Local Shop

OPEN UNTIL 8pm MONDAY-FRIDAY,
7pm SATURDAY,
12pm SUNDAY.

- Fresh milk daily
- frozen foods
- all groceries & provisions
- newspapers
- confectioners & tobacconists
- hot snacks, rolls and sandwiches
- wines, spirits & beers

Merry Christmas from Glyn & Lynne (TOMS)

To All 137 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1

Christmas in the dark

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF THE L.E.B. WANT TO DISCONNECT YOUR ELECTRICITY

Many people are likely to spend Christmas this year without any heat or light. They might not be able to cook their Christmas dinner, and they certainly won't be able to watch their TV. This is because they have had their electricity cut off. Because of the cost of electricity these days, many people have trouble in paying their bill, and all too often find themselves in the dark as a result.

"THEY ARE CUTTING OFF OLD AGE PENSIONERS, PEOPLE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE TRIED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY OFF THEIR DEBTS"

The L.E.B. are supposed to be sticking to a "Code of Practice" which lays down their policy about cutting people off. This says that:

- (1) They will wait for 14 days if the social security have been told about the problem, and it they might be able to help.
- (2) They will not disconnect old age pensioners between 1st October and 1st March if they cannot afford to pay their bill.
- (3) They will be sympathetic if there are children under 11 years or any evidence of hardship.
- (4) They will not disconnect if an arrangement is made to pay off the debt by agreed instalments in a reasonable amount of time.
- (5) They will not disconnect if an arrangement is practical to install a slot meter.
- (6) They will not disconnect without a warrant if there is no adult at home when they call.

HARD LINES

It is clear that this winter the L.E.B. are taking a hard line and in some cases ignoring their own code of practice. They are cutting off old age pensioners, people with young children, and people who have tried to come to some arrangements about instalments or a slot meter. People sometimes believe that they are covered by the Code of Practice and then suddenly discover at the last minute that they cannot avoid a disconnection. Once they have been cut off they are definitely not covered by the Code of

Practice and it is useless to even try and claim its protection.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR BILL?

If you are having any problems with paying your bill, or if you think you may not be able to afford to pay the next one, there are several things you can do:

- (1) If you are claiming supplementary benefit you can arrange for money to be stopped each week and saved for you to pay off your next bill. Ask the DHSS about this.
- (2) If you have a social worker visiting you, tell her or him about your problem.
- (3) Find out about the "pay-as-you-go" schemes at your nearest show-rooms.
- (4) Tell the L.E.B. that you are having problems, and what your circumstances are. They might suggest a way of paying the debt. It is always wise, in any case to tell them of any difficulties you may be having in paying your bill.
- (5) If you're on supplementary benefit, you may be eligible for a grant or a weekly extra allowance to help with your heating costs. Ask at an advice centre about this (see below).

DO YOU NEED ADVICE?

If you feel you need to talk to someone else about your bill, and need help with dealing with the DHSS social services or the LEB, you can go to B.I.A.S. at Blackfriars Settlement (44-47 Nelson Sq., Mon.-Fri., 1.30-4.30) or your nearest advice centre. Someone will try to help you out.

Charlstan Promotions STALLS TO LET OPEN MARKET CHEAP DAY SAT

132 - 137 - 139 LOWER MARSH WATERLOO, LONDON SE1
Tel: 01.928.7782

COLOMBO ST. GAMES ...

THE COLOMBO STREET CENTRE IS A SELF-HELP PROJECT (A REGISTERED CHARITY) WHOSE AIM IS TO CONVERT THE ONCE-DISUSED CANTEN BUILDING INTO A THRIVING SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE. IT IS RUN BY A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.

START

THROW DICE
→ 3

Help at Party

Fall Skating
← 1

Senior Citizen's Party

The Centre is putting on a free party for Senior Citizens on Saturday December 15th at 1pm until about 4pm. There will be live music-hall entertainment with food and drink laid on. Transport will be available for the less mobile.

help needed

We urgently need people to help in any way with eg. hall decoration, food preparation, waiting on tables, transport etc.... We also need money - you can help out by making a collection or running a raffle in your pub, club or workplace.

In these days of cuts it is inevitably the old and infirm who suffer most and you can help by getting involved and making this a party to remember.

Mural



We want to paint some murals in the main hall. People have suggested showing eg. local scenes, local characters and the activities both going on and planned in the centre.

What do you think should be painted?
How about giving your ideas to the Centre?
How about getting involved in the actual painting?
The painting could take place in the day or evening.
If you are retired or unemployed why not use some of your time this way?
If you are interested please contact Jim at the centre & be involved right from the start.

GO TO THE CENTRE

FINISH

No Chairs
→ 2

Colombo St. → Building Completed
← 5

New to you...?

We are planning several new activities....
WOMEN'S SELF DEFENCE/COMBAT SPORTS
YOGA FOR BEGINNERS
ROLLER-SKATING
BINGO
SPORTS COACHING
Anyone wishing to take part or help with any of the above or any other activity please contact Bob or Jim at the centre.

Bingo!
↓ 3

Start Yoga
← 1

Pull Muscle
→ 4

We now have an equipped exercise/weight-training room with a brand-new "multi-gym".

This is a machine that can be used by everyone for a whole range of exercises.
We will be organising lessons for those people wishing to use the room, starting in the New Year.
In the mean-time there is still a lot of decoration/cleaning to be done in the room itself.
Why not come and help get the room ready so we can all start using it?



A multi-what?

£20,000 From sports council
→ 5

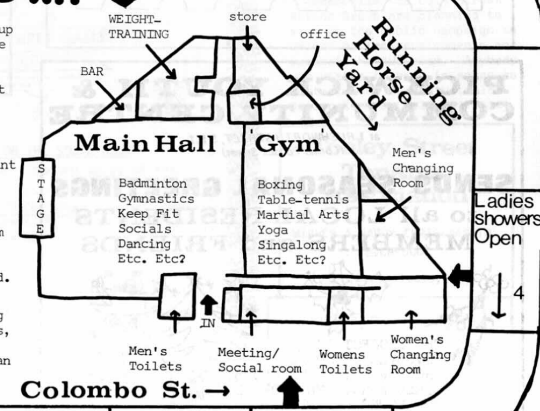
OUR NEW PLANS ...

This scheme has been drawn up over the last 9 months by the Management Committee who are now fund-raising towards the total building costs of about £50,000.

The changes will enable a much greater range of activities to take place and make the centre a much more pleasant place to use.

Included are new floors for both halls, new changing room and toilets for women, a new social/meeting room and improved access for the disabled.

The committee is also trying to raise money for new chairs, curtains and proper stage-lighting etc. Any help you can give with this would be most welcome.



BEDE HOUSE

BEDE'S BARGAIN BASEMENT

wishes all readers a
Happy Christmas

Bede House runs a secondhand shop near Southwark park to raise funds for Settlement projects including youth clubs, adult literacy, visiting the elderly.

Any Secondhand Goods gratefully received. Open office hours.

351 Southwark Park Road
Tel 237 3891

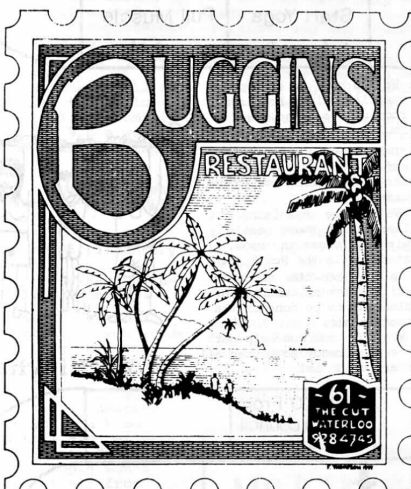
Christmas Greetings from Blackfriars Settlement

44-47 Nelson Square, SE1.
928 9521

Happy Christmas from JOHN & MARY Kings Arms Roupell Street



HOT MEALS & SNACKS SERVED



PICKWICK YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

at 1 RUSHWORTH STREET, S.E.1.
(Corner Pocock Street)

SENDS SEASONAL GREETINGS to all LOCAL RESIDENTS MEMBERS and FRIENDS



THE PROJECT IS INVOLVED IN SMALL GROUP WORK, YOUTH CLUBS, GIRLS WORK, AND WORK WITH THE YOUNG UNEMPLOYED. FOR INFO. CONTACT GEOFF OR STELLA - 633 0383



Best wishes from the Members & Staff

BLACKFRIARS SETTLEMENT WORK CENTRE

WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE
14 BAYLIS ROAD LONDON SE1 7AA

Merry Christmas 928 7525/6 and Happy New Year, SE1 Friends

Buy your Christmas cards and gifts from our shopfront stall at the Waterloo Action Centre: hand silkscreen-printed cards, beautiful woollen rugs, wooden plant stands. Well made, reasonably priced and attractive. -good value for money.

WATERLOO AMENITIES

WISH ALL THEIR FRIENDS
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

NEXT SHOW **ALADDIN** AND CABARET ACTS

DEC. 14th, 7.30 at WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE
Admission 50p, senior citizens 25p.
TWO SHOWS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE
In conjunction with Lambeth Amenities.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

TO ALL THE SUPPORTERS OF
THE COIN STREET ACTION GROUP

to thank them for their help

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Public inquiry ends Coin Street action goes on

THE COIN STREET PUBLIC INQUIRY ENDED ON NOVEMBER 20TH, nearly six months, over 100 witnesses and some 770 documents after it started last May.

The Inquiry was caused by a GLC decision to scrap its own plans for housing on the sites and to support a bid by private developers to build offices on land zoned in the Waterloo District Plan for housing and a new public park. Lambeth Council and the Association of Waterloo Groups (AWG) opposed the office schemes and put forward alternative housing schemes. The AWG scheme included a riverside park and various shopping and other facilities.

PETITION

The final piece of evidence before the lawyers' speeches came, however, from the local community. Local resident Bernie Spain presented a petition on behalf of over 8,000 individuals. The petition reads: "I support the Campaign for low-rise homes and riverside park on the 'Coin Street area' sites. I am opposed to offices and hotels on any of these sites." Two out of every three households in the Waterloo area had signed the petition, and signatures are still being collected.

TOO MANY OFFICES

David Harter, representing the Coin Street Action Group, was the first lawyer to make his closing speech. He pointed to the enormous concentration of offices in Central London - twice as concentrated as Paris - and the resulting pressure on land which was squeezing out less profitable uses, like housing, from the Centre. This was not only threatening the survival of the residential communities but also meant that there were increasing shortages of people to keep essential transport, postal, health etc. services working.

The over-concentration of offices also meant that over one in four Central London office workers had to be commuted in from outside the Greater London area, and shortages of staff were persuading more and more firms to 'decentralise'. In fact they were doing this so fast that it was doubtful whether the enormous amount of land already zoned for offices would ever be developed. Certainly there was no case for building offices on land zoned for housing. And this was without taking account of the 'chip' revolution which the Inquiry had heard was likely to make one fifth of existing office space redundant within 15 years.

CONTRASTED NEEDS

David Harter then contrasted the lack of need for office development with the urgent need for new housing - for which there was very little land available. The evidence showed a London housing shortage of half a million dwellings: "If we faced with overwhelming evidence of merit and need

the Secretary of State will not commit himself to housing here, then a lot of people will know that his Inner City policy is in tatters."

WIDE SUPPORT FOR AWG

John Hobson, the Assoc. of Waterloo Groups' lawyer, pointed to the wide public support for the Neighbourhood Council's homes-and-park scheme. Forty eight groups from various parts of London and South-East England had supported the AWG proposals at the Inquiry and only one group had opposed them. Of 113 individuals who had given evidence, only 4 had spoken against the Neighbourhood Council scheme.

The main issue, he said, was whether there was to be any future for residential communities in Central London.

ROOM TO MOVE

The Government and Planners had often stressed that it should be an area where people live as well as work, but unless new housing was built these communities would vanish. The Waterloo District Plan had earmarked the Coin Street area for housing in order to safeguard one of London's most precious commodities: community life in its heartland. The Government's Inner City White Paper had said that "involving local people is both a necessary means to the regeneration of the inner cities and an end in its own right. Public authorities need to draw on the ideas of local residents, to discover their priorities and enable them to play a practical part in reviving their areas. Self-help is important and so is community effort". If these words meant anything they meant supporting his clients. He pointed to the numerous self-help projects initiated by local groups - establishing 3 housing co-operatives, a Sports Centre, a community newspaper, an annual festival, numerous social clubs and tenants' associations as well as its initiatives in planning future development of the area. It was vital to allow and encourage this initiative and energy: "These are the people at the cornerstone of the Government's Inner City Policy".

Summing up for Commercial Properties Ltd., Sir Frank Layfield said that although their office proposals were speculative they had recently had discussions with Shell UK Ltd who were interested in occupying them when built.

George Dobry, on behalf of Greycoat London Estates, asked the Inspector to recommend that all the schemes apart from his clients' should be turned down. (This would give Greycoats a 'monopoly' when negotiating to buy the sites from the GLC.) Regarding doubts about whether there was any need to build new offices in the area, Dobry said "No one knows what demand will be in the 1980's and beyond. No one knows the sufficiency of supply. But my clients are putting their money on this: if there is any site in London which should be developed for offices, this should be."

THE NEXT STEP

Now that the Inquiry has ended, the Inspector has to draw up his report making recommendations to the Secretary of State, Michael Heseltine. Normally such a report would take over one year to draw up but 'The Guardian' has revealed that Heseltine has given orders that the report must be speeded up and given top priority. A Government decision is now expected in about 4 months. (The hurry to take a decision is caused by the knowledge that, with new GLC elections due in Spring 1981, the GLC Labour Party are committed to supporting the housing schemes and opposing office developments on these sites. The Tory GLC are therefore desperate to sell off the land before the 1981 elections but need a Government decision before they can do this.)

Meanwhile the Coin Street Action Group are planning to step up the public campaign to oppose office developments and support the AWG plan. Anybody who wishes to help is asked to contact them at the Waterloo Action Centre (Tel: 261 1404).

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The map will help you find us....

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Tuesday-Friday
10am-7pm

Tooley Street Tenants Association

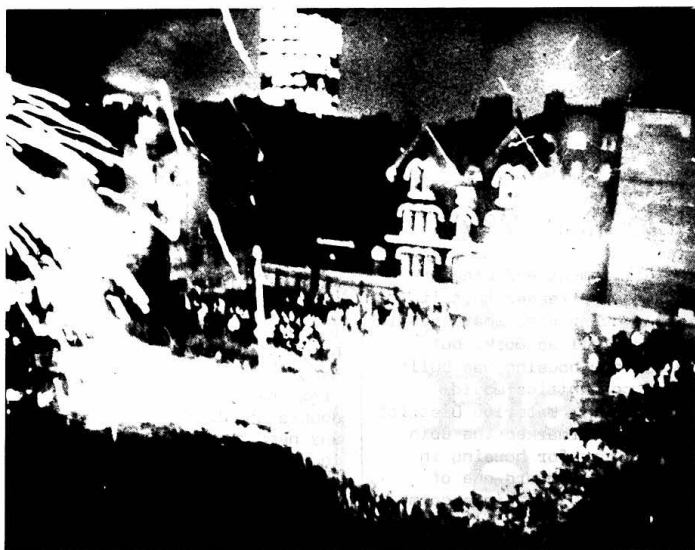
WISHES A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYBODY

(especially Tooley St)

Bishops Ward Labour Party
LAMBETH

Seasons greetings from your Councillors
Bryn Davies
Peter Lane
Pam Verdon

Surgery every Thursday
6.30-7.30pm. Auna Walk,
Tenants' Hall, Lambeth Walk.



NEW HOUSING STARTS WITH A BANG!

On November 5th the derelict Hatch Row site in Waterloo between Roupell Street and Hatfields became the setting for a spectacular fireworks display.

After 3 years of difficult negotiation with the GLC the site was finally leased to the Hatch Row Coop in October of this year.

The Hatch Row Coop, which intends to build 19 new housing units - 15 family homes with gardens and 4 flats - decided that the gaining of the 99 year lease should be celebrated.

Inconjunction with the Colombe Street Sports and Community Centre which is another project that has been created by local effort and imagination, the Hatch Row Coop laid on a Guy Fawkes bonfire and fireworks display.

The evening was a great success with several hundred local people and children attending. Some of

them were even standing out-side on the pavement partly because of the crowd inside - partly in awe of the huge bonfire and exciting fireworks!

BUTLERS WHARF SINKS UNDER TOWN AND CITY

At the beginning of December local groups were shown plans for the redevelopment of Butler's Wharf by the giant property company, Town and City. At present the 14 acre site is occupied by old warehouses, those on the riverfront forming part of the Tower Bridge conservation area.

A few local businesses survive, but most of the buildings are vacant. From 1970 various artists began settling in the premises, restoring the interiors so successfully that the colony now consists of 75 painters, sculptors, craftspeople (shoemakers, etc.) film-makers, dancers, printers and photographers. Town and City collected rent off them, but the tenants paid - and still pay - the other expenses including fire insurance.

At the end of August one of the riverfront warehouses caught fire and burned down. Demolition men moved in at 9.00 the next morning and completed the job. A week later

WHO REALLY RULES THE ROOST?

Southwark Council's discussion of how to introduce cuts in spending has demonstrated once again how much the Council's policies are dominated by officers rather than elected members. To be more precise it is run by an alliance of the chief officers and the 8 committee chairmen - Leader O'Grady and his 7 lieutenants (6 out of the 7 being from Bermondsey).

£700,000 CUT

During the last month the Council's committees have been considering a 'shopping list' of cuts put to them by officers. With only a few exceptions these cuts were accepted. Only Libraries committee refused, after a big wrangle, to accept a long list of proposed 'savings'. Housing Committee on the other hand merrily agreed a £700,000 cut in maintenance producing the jubilant headline in November's 'Southwark Tenant' 'D-I-Y for tenants in Southwark'. And at that stage no decision about cuts had

been taken by the Labour Group!

While cuts of £2.7 million were being asked for by John O'Grady, the Labour Group was at the same time agreeing a proposal by the Town Clerk, Sam Evans, to spend £6000,000 a year on paying more money to the Council's senior staff.

Vacancies in Southwark's white collar staff are currently over 20%. But Sam Evans' concern is not with the drastic shortage of Trading Standards Officers (64% under strength) or of Environmental Health Officers or of good Housing Estates Officers or the almost complete absence of surveyors. Instead he is to promote 45 top officers to higher grades, and suggests that 'merit awards' be given to other employees in what the NALGO union describes as a 'Cash for top; carrots for rest' policy. The Labour Group, of course, accepted the proposals with barely a murmur.

MET IN SECRET

In Lambeth the Leader of the Council, Ted Knight, has insisted that he attends the weekly meeting of the barons - the Chief Officers' Board. In Southwark, in contrast, they meet in secret. In 1981 Town Clerk, Sam Evans, is due to retire. Southwark's councillors must insist that when his replacement is chosen it is someone who is committed to the principle of proper democratic control of the way the Council operates.



12 Meymott Street, SE1.
tel: 928 1643

A mood of optimism is growing in 'SE1' following the crisis meeting in November. Many people have come forward to offer help and working groups have been formed to look at how the paper should be organised and to get more people involved. The groups are covering contents of the paper, distribution, production, administration, and advertising.

If you would like to help in the new, re-organised 'SE1' come to the next meetings, on 10th, 14th and 21st January at 7.30pm at the SE1 Office.

The last day for articles for the next issue is 21st January. Paste-up of the paper on 26th and 27th Jan starting at 11am each day. Publication on 1st February.

72nd N & C LAMBETH SCOUT GROUP

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