



BAYLIS ROAD CAR PARK

A WATERLOO VICTORY!

YOU HAVE FOLLOWED THE BATTLE FOR BAYLIS ROAD CAR PARK IN PREVIOUS issues of SE1. Now we can tell you that the battle is finally won, and that the depressing scene shown in the photograph will soon be no more. Until a short time ago the conversion of the site to a park was being delayed by the GLC, but fortunately the Department of the Environment has stepped in.



The Association of Waterloo Groups approached the DoE to intervene, hence Lambeth Council will be able to purchase the land from the GLC. Lambeth has allocated £51,000 to transform the site into an open space, and the work should go ahead in April of this year.

The Baylis Road Open Space Steering Group, which includes representation from Campbell Buildings, Munro and Tanswell Action Groups, Pearman Street, Quentin House and Waterloo Community Development Group, would like to see a five-a-side football pitch, an enclosed play area for the under 5's and a sitting out area included in the open space. But we need to approach the Sports Council and other charities for grants to supplement the rather basic provision made possible by Lambeth money.

YOU MAY REMEMBER THE pub and shops which once gave life to Baylis Road. After years of abomination from commuters' cars and from coaches which belch out diabolical fumes, the site is about to be returned to the people of Waterloo.

WATERLOO FESTIVAL 1980

Once again the Festival Committee are thinking about preparations for the Sixth Summer Festival.

The first Festival meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th March at 7p.m. in Waterloo Action Centre.

We need lots of help and ideas for

- stalls
- games
- music
- food
- street theatre
- competitions
- clowns
- children's sports
- fundraising
- publicity
- programme
- procession

Suggested themes for the Festival so far include - "Victory on Coin Street" - "Waterloo in the 80's" - any others???

If you can't make the meeting and you are interested in helping, drop into Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1. Telephone 261 1404.

★ STARS OF THE MONTH ★

MRS McEVoy AND HER DAUGHTER, ANNETTE, from Falmouth Road, SE1. Mrs McEvoy has lived in the area for 31 years and Falmouth Road for 22 of them. People are different from the old days, she says, and there are no facilities for kids. She does her shopping down the Lane because there are not enough shops locally.



BEWARE! A dangerous photographer is lurking about the streets of SE1. Known only as Smudge, he's liable to accost just about anybody and take their picture. The effect of this could be devastating because the picture will be printed in SE1 and some famous film producer just might see a potential star.

So watch out folks! Fame might be just around the corner. You could be this month's SE1 Star of the Month.



BIG RESPONSE TO PETITION

there is a strong possibility that an even higher percentage will be arrived at before the petition is presented.

The group has also produced the first of a series of posters which will be displayed not only locally but all over London. Other local groups who have similar problems to Coin Street, like the Covent Garden Group, are helping by putting up posters in their own areas. The poster explains to the public why London is in urgent need of more housing and why it does not need further office development. To put the point across it shows a man being stabbed by an office block. If you are interested in displaying one of the posters locally

Continued on page 8, col 4.

The Coin Street Group have not been lacking in action since the public enquiry ended in November. They have been working hard to keep the fight for housing as much as possible in the public eye. Amongst other things, work has continued on the petition as it is important to show the Secretary of State that the people of Waterloo are in support of housing and against offices on the Coin Street site.

Thanks to the efforts of volunteer canvassers, to date a figure of 77.7% of households saying yes to houses and no to offices has been achieved and

SPOTLIGHT ON RICHARD

I have been playing the guitar for about fifteen months. Mickey started a group at the Jubilee club, so that some of us could learn. After a while the other lot dropped out, but I stuck it.

I started off playing electrical guitar, but then I got into concert guitar.

Ann Keane wrote away to get me an audition for the TV programme 'Tiswas'. I soon heard that I had an audition on 23 January of this year.

While I was waiting someone asked me to help on one of their acts. It was a girl magician. When I saw all the spot-lights and people, I started to get worried. It was Victoria Palace Theatre.

I was packing up my guitar to go before my act when Mickey walked in. He said: "If you don't want to do it you don't have to - I'll have a word with the man about it". We both went up to tell the man - but he said: "There's nothing to worry about - I'll put you on next!"

Before I knew what I was doing I was up there. I was really shaking. I made two bum notes but I just kept on playing.

When the letter came, my mum opened it because I was at school. It said they were sorry I hadn't succeeded because there were thousands of people auditioning. They said I could try again later in the year.

I wasn't too disappointed. I just took it. Nothing gained, nothing lost.

Rockingham kids throw party

One of the most rewarding spin offs of our Christmas parties was the decision by the Rockingham kids to throw a party for the handicapped kids of our estate and area.

About fifty Rockingham kids entertained about fifty kids less fortunate than themselves. They played games together, made sure they all had plenty to eat, and arranged it so that the guests always won the prizes. In addition they all enjoyed a comic impersonator and also a puppeteer.

All enjoyed the treat and it was particularly pleasing to see the Mayor and Mayoress playing and chatting with the kids (without losing their chains of office). Reverend Angus Galbraith and Reverend John Cribb popped in to lend a hand. Mick Stapleton, the party coordinator, took some good shots of the festivities and promised follow-up visits to Rockingham and also to the residential homes in the area.

the ROCKINGHAM page

POP IN CAFE

Work on the Rockingham Pop In Cafe for pensioners is progressing and it is hoped to open it in the spring. The GLC is clearing and repainting the disused laundry room attached to Banks House. Help The Aged and the Welworth Project are hoping to help with furnishing it. We are compiling a list of volunteers to open the Pop In each morning and afternoon, and are looking for a volunteer coordinator for the project, to get it going. In addition to providing a meeting place for a chat and cup of tea, we also plan to operate a bulk buy shop for pensioners, a leaflet and information centre, and a surgery for Social Service and Health Workers. Anyone wishing to help should have a word with Joan Dennis on the Age Concern bus.

THE ROCKINGHAM ESTATE HAS HAD A LOT OF PUBLICITY LATELY - especially about police harassment of kids on the estate.

Here John Axon, chairperson of the T.A., describes some of the recent activities on the estate. And Richard, Dermot and Terry (pictured below) write about their experiences.

We couldn't even fit all this material on this page; see page seven for news of Rockingham Estate Play Association.



LATCHMERE - a prison for kids

Latchmere House near Richmond Park is a remand centre for young boys between the ages of 14-19 years. I have been there twice and the last time I was there for 3½ months awaiting sentence at the Crown Court. I made an application for bail before Xmas but was turned down so I spent 1980 in the nick.

Over Xmas we were locked up most of the time - it was like an ordinary weekend. The only time we were let out of our cells was to scrub the floor or brush the landing. We saw a film on Xmas day. We weren't allowed to play any games at all. After all, it was Xmas and the screws wanted to be home with their families (so did I).

Anyway, that was just Xmas. I want to tell you about the Block. The Block is a special detention area that contains in the cell a block of concrete in the middle of one side of a wall and two blankets - nothing else except a piss-pot - there are no windows. I was sent into the block because I threatened a screw, at least, that's what he said, but it was the other way round. I was only in there for a couple of days, and got out three days before Xmas. I felt even worse in the Block - I was cracking up and didn't have any finger nails left when I came out. It might sound like torture, but I was lucky. Some kids have been in the Block a

month or more. I'm not saying that I didn't deserve to be put away, but I don't think it did me any good - locking me up eighteen hours a day and even more on the weekend. I didn't cry when I was in there, I don't know why, I just got used to it.

The visits are for half an hour every 2 weeks but the kids who have pleaded not guilty get a visit every day if they want. I don't know what to say now. I was fined when I went to the Crown Court, I was relieved that I wasn't sent to Borstal. If there is a lesson to learn, I don't know if I learnt it. I just know that Latchmere should be knocked down.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Southwark chat to George Mathers (left) and John Axon (right) at the T.A. New years reception.

POLICE HARRASSMENT

My name is Terry Fairman. I am one of many kids on the Rockingham Estate who have been getting police harassment for no particular reason. For instance, my mum sent me up the shops for some shopping and on the way back I was stopped by the police for no reason at all and they searched me and tipped all the shopping over the road, then they got back in the car and drove off. But that is just one incident. Many other kids get pulled up for just walking around the estate and searched by police.

I was threatened once by a policeman in plain clothes. He said "How old are you fairman?" I said "Sixteen". He said to me "I'll have you in the nick by the time you are seventeen, you little slag" then he let me walk away.

I think there should be an enquiry into police harassment, because this is making the kids of the Rockingham Estate dislike the police instead of appreciating the police force as we are expected to.

MARCH '80

SE1 WOMEN

NO.2



Photo: Caro Webb

routine and enables us to make new friends. We have our own room where we have a good chat or open discussions while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee.

The great help that our club offers is the many guest speakers which come along to see us. Consumer advice which helps us with our rights: Marriage Counselling, which should you have any problems helps you to be able to discuss them. We have speakers qualified in foot care, dental care and child care. We even have a beauty counsellor who gives advice on cosmetics and care of the skin. But most of all the club has enabled the mums to talk openly and make new friends.

We meet on a Monday afternoon at 1.30 to 3.30 at the Pickwick Youth and Community Centre, which is on the corner of Pocock Street and Rushworth Street.

The club has been or great help, not only to me, but also for my little girl. In my opinion more of this type of club is needed. If you feel you need somewhere to go or someone to talk to, do come along any Monday. Everyone is welcome. Pat.

2nd Womens Issue

WOMEN ARE TAKING A LOT OF STICK at the moment. It looks as though the abortion law will get worse for us, schools are closing (St. Patrick's and St. John's are two local primary schools that have disappeared, not without a fight), child-care is being cut back, the hospitals round here are under attack (Guy's clinics' opening hours have been cut, St. Olave's has lost its battle to stay open), it's taking longer and longer to get repairs done to council housing. AND IT'S WOMEN WHO GET THE EXTRA WORK TO DO. This is happening ROUND US - Waterloo and North Southwark. We want to share some of the things that local women are organising for themselves.

So here's the second issue of SE1 WOMEN, with lots of information about local groups where women can get practical support from each other.

We want to have a third issue, not too far off. The next meeting to discuss how this issue turned out is on Wednesday, 5 March, 7.30. Then on Tuesday, 25 March, 7.30, there is a meeting to start planning the next issue. ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME AT BOTH MEETINGS - and bring the kids too. The meetings are at 12 Pymott St, SE1 (off Blackfriars Rd near the post office). Or if you can't come, but would like to keep in touch, write to us - What do you think of this issue? Would you like to work on the next one? (No experience needed, we're all beginners.) Have you got ideas for articles? We would really like to hear from you.

Pickwick Mums Club

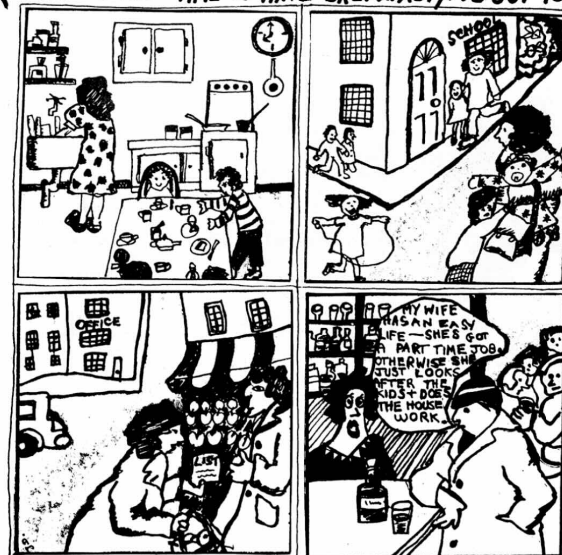
Mums!

This is to let you know about the Pickwick Mums Club. If like most women you are at home with children, as many of us are, we need an interest or an outlet in our lives. Well this is where our mums club really helps. Not only is it for us mums, it also

caters for our children. We have a fine creche available where the children are able to play with toys. And they can learn to play with other children. If like myself, you have only one child and live in a tower block this is a must. As for us mums, it gets us away from the everyday

ABLE TO GO OUT TONIGHT - I'VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER THE KIDS.

I HAVN'T GOT TIME TO HAVE BREAKFAST/I'VE GOT TO



I MONT HAVE TIME TO FINISH THE SHOPPING/I'VE GOT TO

GET THE KIDS TO SCHOOL BEFORE GOING TO WORK SO



Photo: Caro Webb

Dolly's Sense of Adventure

'A SENSE OF ADVENTURE' BY DOLLY DAVEY who lives in Taneswell Estate, has just been published. Dolly was born in Thornaby-on-Tees in 1913. These bits from the book show what life was like for a woman trying to be independent.

'It was the futility of it that made me want to come away (from Thornaby to London). Some of the girls who came out of school went into the factories, or they went to look after babies for the richer people in town. We did have quite a few big houses in the area, and there was quite a bit of domestic work to be had. You could get farm work. But my parents didn't want me to do any of those things.'

I'M GOING

'My father said, 'We don't want you to go to work.' By that time, there wasn't any work for the men in the town - 1929. My father was out of work. I said, 'I not only need clothes, I need to have something to make me independent'. They gave me what they could. But I wanted to be independent.'

INDEPENDENT

'I was 17 when I found myself a job through the Thornaby Gazette. I wrote off for it, and they sent my fare. I had to accept the job, otherwise send the money back. So I said to my father, 'I've got this job, and I'm going.' He said, 'Not if I know it!'. So I arranged for an early morning coach to travel from Stockton to London, and I said to him the night before, 'Well, dad', I said, 'I've arranged to go on the 7 o'clock coach in the morning. I won't be here when you get up.'

I had to do it that way, otherwise I'd never have got away. I'd have ended up an old maid, with no future in front of me. There was nothing else but marriage in those days. It was a way out.'

Dolly's first job in London was as a domestic. This is what she says about her employer: 'I didn't have much respect for her. I had gone there for a job and I had made up my mind that I would do my best for whoever I would work for. I was doing my best, and then to be accused of doing something that I would never dream of doing: I suppose we had learned to accept that they were higher up than we were, in my estimation. See, they were people with money; and you just accepted it, that they just lazed about and did nothing all day.'

SHIPYARD WORK

During the war, Dolly was working: 'I worked as an overhead crane-driver in a shipyard. I used to like to have to turn the wheels and drop the big side of a tank into position, (making sure there was no-one on the ground). They would try and position it, once you got it, and then they just let go of it. They trained you for a few days; but they were taking on anyone at that time. They were so much in need of them. I really did like that work.'

You can get a copy of Dolly's book from the Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Rd, for 70p.

PARENTS AND SCHOOL

Good Education

Most people believe that good education springs from two things - adequate resources and good relationships, and especially good relationships which involve the children's parents.

Parents Can Help

More and more schools are learning to welcome parental involvement in various ways. Our school, St. Jude's, Colnbrook St, encourages parental involvement in many ways. There is an active Parent Teachers Association, which raises funds for the school, and so provides equipment and outings which all add to the stimulation of the children. The parents enjoy working together and with the teachers ...

A sponsored netball match between parents and teachers created a friendly atmosphere and raised a lot of money.

But parents' involvement at St. Jude's doesn't stop at raising money. Some Mums help out in the playground, others in the library, and others in the classroom. Good things arise from this for everyone. Parents learn about the best kinds of books for their children, as well as new teaching methods.

Francien Hudson



I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANY OF THESE THINGS MEAN... THEY JUST KEEP SELLING ME BADGES.



YOGA CLASSES, WEDNESDAY 6.30 COLUMBO STREET COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE.

This yoga class was set up because an interest was expressed by the Womens' Health Group. (held at Waterloo Action Centre on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30 pm.), about a year ago.

The women decided to try and set up their own class at the local sports centre, so that the facility could be used best by those living in the community. They hired a room one evening a week and found Gloria, the tutor, who now runs a very friendly and informal class.

The reason most of the women go to the class is because it fulfills two roles. One, the exercises are fairly strenuous and good for general health care, and secondly because of the nature of the exercises and

concentration required to do them, it serves to relax you naturally.

Some of the women had done some yoga before, and had been put off by their tutors; but some were complete beginners. Because Gloria's interest stemmed from the television programme 'Yoga for Health', her attitude to yoga, although totally correct, is far more informal and self expressive in terms of effort required.

The Colombo Street Centre is hoping to start a second weekly beginners class, so watch this space for further details in SE1, and come and join us.

Judy Smith



Girls in youth clubs have generally been seen as second in line to boys; only too often have I seen the boys control all the activities while the girls sit timidly in the shadow, waiting for notice to be taken. It's good to see girls in the youth club - not too long ago the woman's place was in the home, minding the baby, helping with the chores, - it's not good however to see girls in the youth clubs doing nothing.

That is still the case in many places, but I am glad to see that things are changing in the Southwark Youth Service and not least in SE1 youth clubs. Girls and boys are encouraged to share the facilities and activities offered in the Pickwick Youth & Community Centre and the Roundabout Club (two clubs which I'm involved with). But there are still problems arising in the clubs all because of history - boys still expect girls to slot into domestic

Girls Matter



Photo: Ros Titterton

Face-Painting Fun at Pickwick Girls Group

roles; girls do still expect to be treated as inferior to boys, and don't realise that there are alternatives. And that's where working in youth clubs with groups can help to open doors to new opportunities for them. Setting up 'girls only' groups naturally takes time. It depends on how quickly the youth worker can make good friendships with the girls in the club, and whether the girls feel that there is a need for such groups.

At Pickwick and the Roundabout the older girls have jumped at the chance to separate from the boys for one of the evenings in the week. The girls group becomes a place where the girls can talk to the workers about alternatives. It's a place where girls can develop a much more positive image of themselves as opposed to the negative one that boys are always ready to give them. It's a

place where they can try out new activities and talk about whatever they like from problems they may be facing; to the new fashion trends, getting a job, school. It's an opportunity for girls alone to work out their own needs, and plan for future meetings, without any distractions from the boys. It's working together, trusting each other, and helping each other. It's getting a fairer deal, getting the confidence to reach out for something better.

Three groups run at present - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. These are 'friendship' groups and not open to everyone. Girls who would like to form a group can do so if resources, like money, space, time, are available. This can sometimes be a problem.

Volunteers to help run girls groups are always needed.

Stella Butler, Youth Worker.

NEW OPEN
Girls Night
THURSDAY EVENING

AT PICKWICK CLUB
RUSHWORTH ST. SE1.
GO ALONG or
phone Stella
633 0383

You START BY SINKING INTO HIS ARMS

... AND END UP WITH YOUR ARMS
IN HIS SINK...



VROOM BROOM
POW!!!!!!
POCKETA POCKETA

Girls Want More in S.E.1

GIRLS FROM THE WATERLOO ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND. Melanie Hilton: 'I live in Waterloo and I think that there are no facilities for girls in their teens. For example we only have the Action Centre and the Adventure Playground which was built for little kids and there are mostly boys. I think that we should have somewhere which we can spend time especially in the holidays.'

Adelaide Hilton: 'I live in Waterloo. It is an area of all offices, tower blocks etc. There is no room to build houses and there are a lot of people trying to get flats and houses to live in.'

There is only one youth club called Tuesday Club, and there is one Adventure Playground in Waterloo but that is mainly for younger kids. There is nothing to do in there other than to watch television.

In Tuesday Club there is a record player with no records to play, table tennis and a pool table.

Waterloo area needs more youth clubs for kids in their teens and more flats because the flats that we live in are not fit for dogs. They are small and cramped up. They are not decorated when you move in and they are disgraceful.



I ALWAYS WANTED TO
BE A MECHANIC....



Asian Women Get Together

THE ASIAN WOMEN'S GROUP BEGAN 5 months ago, with the arrival of Helen Nicholas as Women's Community Worker. Asian families in the Tabard Estate were very isolated and although there was already a group meeting on the Rockingham Estate, run by a Health Visitor from Guy's, there was an obvious need for another in the Long Lane area.



Nearly all the women do homework, sewing and making wigs, and at first were reluctant to give up their time, but wanted to meet new people and thought it important to set up a support system for each other to overcome their isolation. Although the women are all Indian, there are five main languages - Punjabi, Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati and Urdu.



Most mothers can tell horror stories of stepping into a new mother and baby club; the feeling that everyone is staring with blank faces and your cheerful "hello" are greeted with a distant mumble from the other mothers. From then on the conversation (which doesn't seem to include you), is of nappy rash, last night's TV and a detailed criticism of the person that has just left. (Everyone sits glued to their chairs for fear that they will be the next to be talked about after they have gone).

This might sound a little paranoid, but on speaking to a lot of mothers they have felt this dreadful isolation/rejection on entering a new club.

Which leads me on to why a few of us, with the help and encouragement of our health visitor, are trying to create a different atmosphere at our club, and to arrange for special activities to add more interest.

They were all very enthusiastic to learn anything new and asked to learn English cooking and Asian singing and dancing. A tutor was obtained from the Bethnal Green Institute who teaches different cultural dances but unfortunately only Bengali songs. They visited Shoreditch library where they were amazed to see books in their languages as there is NO provision for this in South-west London libraries.

There are no caste barriers within the group although there are both Hindu and Muslim religions, and they want to integrate into English society despite the cultural differences and the harassment they have suffered, and a lack of understanding from Social Services. All the women are so animated and keen that they will probably run the club themselves eventually.

The group meets every Friday, 1 - 3 pm at Charterhouse Ark, 39 Crosby Row. Tel. 407 5666 for further information.

SE1 WOMEN OK rule OK

The club is held above the local doctors surgery in Princess St. just off St George's Road, on Wednesday afternoons from about 1.30 till 4 pm. Incidentally you do not have to be a patient at the clinic to attend.

EVENTS

Events in the past have included a chat with one of the doctors on child health, a visit from a member of the Walworth Project and a talk on local history. We have made contact with some local elderly people who will be popping in for tea with us and the children from time to time. Although we haven't arranged a programme too far ahead, we will be having a make-up expert and a talk on first aid.

FRIENDLY

However, our basic aim is to provide a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and we do need more people, hopefully with more ideas and enthusiasm to keep the club really alive.

PS The children enjoy themselves too!!

PUT YOUR BETS ON WOMEN



HOME-WORKING

THERE ARE ABOUT A QUARTER OF A million people, mostly women, who take in work to do in their own homes. Homework is nearly always paid in piece rates. It's often work like sewing, or putting together Christmas crackers and toys, and you aren't given any equipment (so if you're taking in sewing, you have to have your own machine).

This is an account of home-working by Rose Stockman who lives in SE1:

My Homeworking Experience

In about April time it was. I found it in the South London Press. I telephoned the number, and a man came round with 24 dog-collars and 24 leads. They were all priced separately. The man didn't give the time I was supposed to take to make them, but I think it worked out about 15 minutes for a collar and lead. It was all hand-stitched with wax threads to make it stronger.

For that little lot I got nearly £6. It took about 20 hours for all of them. I thought the pay was bad and I didn't like doing work at home, because you don't see people.

A friend of mine actually saw them being sold in Harrods. I can't remember how much they was - I'll have to look myself!

!!!30p an hour!!!

Rose got about 30 p an hour. Rates for homeworkers are appalling - and they don't get sick pay or holiday pay either. Very few homeworkers are in a union, because it's difficult for the unions to reach people

I USE BETTING SHOPS QUITE OFTEN. Many of them have toilets for male customers, but there is nothing for the ladies. Talking to many women in the betting shops, they said there should be ladies as well as men's toilets.

I think it's disgusting to discriminate against women. Betting shops make enough money from horse-racing. They can afford to put ladies and gents toilets in betting shops. There are many women using betting shops now, especially on Saturday morning, when you see older women doing the dogs at Hackney.

I have been in a betting shop in Margate where there were facilities for men and women. I thought I was in a coffee-bar at first. If they can do it in Margate, why can't they do it in SE1?

Isobel Bowie.



Call a meeting on women after work and what happens? Only 2 turn up. Where were they all, I'd like to know?

who work at home. The employers make money on homeworking because they save on running costs and national insurance, as well as wages.

So why do women take in work? Usually because they have to look after their children at home, or because they are disabled. (Rose has a bad hip). If we had better benefits for people like Rose, and better child-care facilities and child benefit, then we wouldn't be forced to work for such low wages.

You can get more information about campaigning to help homeworkers from: London Homeworking Campaign, The Albany, Creek Rd, SE8, telephone 691 6804.

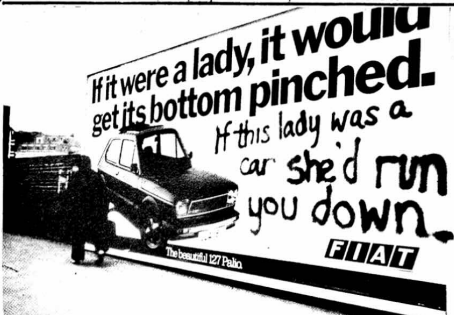


Photo: Jill Rosemer

FIFTEEN CHICKENS

Waterloo Adventure Playground are now in the process of having an extension put on the barge, which will be a kitchen, where we hope the local children will take an interest in cooking, etc.

We have also obtained 15 chickens, which were a gift from Mrs. P. Adams.

21 New Cross Road. We would like to thank Mrs. Adams very much. Anybody else who can help us obtain any livestock - eg. goats, rabbits, sheep - we will be very grateful to hear from you. Our telephone number is 633 9635.

Anybody wishing to visit the playground will be very welcome.

OPENING HOURS ARE:

MON-FRI 2 - 7
SAT 11 - 6
Closed all day Sunday
WE ARE OPPOSITE THE OLD VIC.

J. SUMMERFORD, J. CROSS, & J. BUTLER. (Playleaders).

BERMONDSEY IN WAR 1939-45

Ration-books, gas-masks and blackout, Anderson shelters and evacuees, sirens and buzz-bombs and sleeping in the tubes: does any of this bring back memories for you? If so, you may be glad to know that preparations are being made for an exhibition about 'Bermondsey in War, 1939-1945' which is being planned for this year, the fortieth anniversary of the Blitz. You may even be able to help in making the exhibition a success.

For the idea is to draw as much as possible on the personal memories and mementoes of people in the area, and it is hoped that the exhibition will consist of objects that people have saved from those days, and recordings of local people talking about what life in Bermondsey was like during the War.

At the same time it is planned to publish a history of Bermondsey in the war, written by the late Mr. J.D. Stewart, a former chief librarian of Bermondsey. The aim is to publish it at the lowest possible price to make it available to the maximum number of people.

A trust is being set up to finance the venture, and any possible future work (we hope that the tape recording and publication of local people's memories will continue), in association with the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Society. Any donations, however small, will be most welcome and may be sent to 'Bermondsey at War Project', c/o Treasurer, Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Soc. 5 Lewes House, Druitt Street, SE1.

Being A Foster Parent

In Southwark as in many inner London Boroughs there is a desperate need for more foster parents. Southwark is at present engaged in a campaign to attract more people to become foster parents in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe area. I have been asked if I would write an explanation as to what it is like being a foster parent. Well, I'll start at the beginning.

Just on two and a half years ago Southwark Social Services were involved in a recruitment campaign for more local foster parents. My wife and I decided we would make enquiries. We made contact with a social worker who gave us a detailed talk on what fostering was all about. After hearing this and telling the social worker we were interested, we agreed to attend a

fostering course in the area and also to undergo the assessment procedure, which took about six months, during which time on the course the reasons for children needing fostering and what fostering is all about was explained to us. When the course and the visits by social workers for assessment were completed our papers went before a fostering committee and we were accepted.

Since then we have fostered nine children from periods of 3 to 4 days or up until 14 months. We have experienced fostering a new born baby until it was just over a year old. We have fostered a child that has been battered and neglected and another child whose mother had suffered a very bad nervous breakdown. We have

fostered children of one parent families whose parent has had to go into hospital. A child who was taken away from it's home by the courts on a Place of Safety Order. So as you can see although we have only been fostering for really a short time we have had children fostered to us for a varied number of reasons.

But what's it like being a foster parent? To be honest it's really hard work both physically and emotionally, but saying that I think the rewards and benefits gained are enormous. It's hard work in that you become involved in the child's problems, it's needs, it's welfare and it's learning. You also become involved with the child's natural parents and families and with their problems. To try and explain the problems of fostered children and their parents is impossible because no two problems are the same.

REWARDS

There are even times when the foster parents have problems with the social worker but this is part and parcel of being a foster parent. As to the rewards in fostering these consist of receiving love, warmth and affection from foster children. Seeing them not being frightened or scared. Seeing them lead an ordinary childhood while they are in your care and sometimes seeing them reunited with their families. Every child we fostered we have really become attached to and in some cases parting with the child can be tough on the heart strings. But we have found that no sooner has one foster child left then there is another who needs the help a foster parent can give, and in Southwark there are many children who at sometime require this specific kind of care. If you are the kind of parents who take a lot of interest in your own children growing up and find enormous joy from this, then you will find exactly the same kind of benefit from being a foster parent, and at the same time see your family increase and expand with the number of children you foster. You do not have to be a kind of saint to be a foster parent, but someone who has enough character to be able to undertake and deal with the very important job of fostering a child.

By the way I'm a very ordinary run of the mill family man and a lorry driver by occupation.

If you want to find out about becoming foster parents then contact:

Shirley Clarke
Lady Gomm House
Hawstone Road
London S.E.16
237 6644

Chris Booth, Foster Parent

Rockingham Estate Play Association

REPA moved into the Squires Club for its Christmas Holiday project (31 December to 5 January) and so inaugurated a new phase of reorganisation and rationalisation of resources.

The grant aid was much less than we required but fortunately our volunteers had raised funds with jumble sales, raffles and discos and we were very pleased to receive toys and gifts for the kids from Capital Radio, Blackfriars Settlement and St. Matthews Church.

The project was run by our part-time workers, Anne Keane and Micky Stapleton, ably assisted by many voluntary helpers including Karen Murphy, Steve Pearce, Mary Murphy and David Ward.

Activities covered games and sports, painting and crafts. The kids also worked on their costumes for the Fancy Dress Disco which Revd. Angus Galbraith and three Salisbury students attached to St. Matthews together with George Nicholson, judged on the last night.

The young ones had their party on the Friday in the Community Centre. Helped by many of the mums, it was a big success with games and gifts and a special performance of

the kids' version of the Inter Galactic Xmas Road Show given by Market Theatre, which had been rehearsed in our hall and which many of our kids had lent a hand by helping Robert Strimblecombe paint the scenery and props.

Altogether it was a very happy and successful project and a lively launch to the Squires Club rejuvenation and a welcome resumption of working with Steve Lancashire, our ex-treasurer, who has now taken over as our Area Youth Officer.

Welfare Rights Course

AT: Morley College,
24th - 28th March 1980
For information ring Andrea at Blackfriars Settlement on 928 9521.

NEW WOMEN'S CLASS AT COLOMBO STREET - A new class for women will be starting at the Colombo St. Sports Centre on 29th Feb. on the weight training machine. Contact Colombo St. for details on 261-1658. Also beginners yoga starting soon on Tuesdays.

SAYING NO TO FASCISM

AS THE NATIONAL FRONT goes ahead with its plans to parade its lies and its fascist/racist poison through the streets of Southwark on March 2nd, working class organisations have been taking steps to ensure that their activities are opposed. Hundreds of people turned out for a march through the rain, from the Elephant to Camberwell Green, on Sunday Feb. 24th, and a Rally has been called for March 2nd, 10am at the Elephant and Castle (London College of Printing). Antifascists from all over London and the South-East are expected to attend the Rally.

The Rally has been called by the Southwark Campaign Against Racism and Fascism as a peaceful show of opposition to the NF Nazis and to all forms of racism. The Campaign says: "Bad housing, unemployment, inflation and so on worry us all - racialisists blame black people and other minorities for these problems. BUT EVERY SINGLE RACIALIST CLAIM HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE A LIE. The hatred and fear they stir up offers no answers to any of our problems."

Mums and kids 'DROP IN' on Tanswell

The flat at No. 4 Santley House has been used in the past for Tanswell Action Group's tenants meetings and Waterloo Women's Group. The Group has successfully applied for a grant to turn it into a Mothers and Toddlers Drop In...

At the moment the women's group meet every Monday at No. 4 taking their kids with them. There is some equipment sand, water, paint and bricks but with this conversion we hope the facilities to be more and to use it every day.

Work should be completed in April and local mothers who wish to come with their kids can work on a rota basis, with, we hope, a maximum of 8 kids at any one time, hoping to cope with 20 in a day.

The 'Drop In' will be a tremendous help on the Tanswell Estate as it will give mothers with young children a break and a chance to discuss problems with other mums; also giving the children a chance to experiment with equipment and facilities they may not use otherwise.

So, keep a look out young mums in SE1 and more info' will be given when the 'Drop In' will be completed and ready for use.

LAMBETH RENT AND RATE RISES DOUBLE BLOW FOR TENANTS

The message from Lambeth's council tenants to the council will soon be a resounding 'Think again!' The news is out, SE1 has heard that the ruling Labour Group is planning on a policy that will hit council tenants a double blow this spring:

Rates up 49%
PLUS Rents up by an average of £1.50 per week
AND Council heating charges up by 29%

This is in addition to the Government's latest dictat that council rents shall rise again later in the year.

The rises that Lambeth propose will mean an extra £5 a week for council tenants who have a 'district heating system' and probably around £3 - £4 a week extra for other council tenants.

Why is it that Lambeth are going to penalise council tenants like this? They don't actually like increasing either rates or rents, and it is certainly true that up till now Lambeth have been one of the few councils that have been resisting making cuts in services and increases in rents.

The Government is determined to force local authorities to cut public services and to raise council rents. If councils refuse to do this then the government is threatening that they will cut off the money paid from Government. Lambeth's policy has always been that cuts are not what the people of Lambeth elected them to implement. But now they seem to have lost their will to resist and are proposing a policy which flies in the face of all that has been the basis of their policy and their support over the past year.

Once before Lambeth's Labour group nearly took the plunge into a CUTS policy and the efforts of local people in Lambeth Fightback, local trade unions and local Labour Parties forced them to think again. Now is the time to remind the councillors of Lambeth of what we think of policies that amount to cuts in the standards of living of thousands of council tenants in Lambeth.

Raising the rates is a hard enough thing to swallow, but rates AND rents at one time is just not on. After all we council tenants pay rates too, so why should we have to pay twice?

In the next month the message must come loud and clear from Lambeth Fightback and the tenants of Lambeth: "Think again Lambeth", we're with you if you continue to fight for us, but cuts are cuts and rent increases are cuts as well, and they hurt just as much whoever is making them.

BUILDING BEGINS

Work on modernising Edward Henry House in Cornwall Road is due to start this month following government approval of the costs.

The Edward Henry House Co-op now has over thirty members who have been offered flats, and more applications are being received for the rest of the 66 one, two, and three bedroom flats. Co-op members had a work day in February preparing the way for the builders.

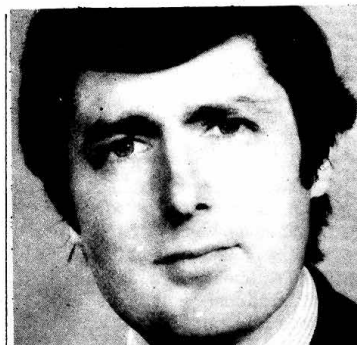
The building contract will cost over £1.4million, loaned by the GLC, and is expected to last 18 months.

If you are interested in living in the Co-op, ask for an application form at Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road.

NEWSAGENT OF THE MONTH



GORDON AND EVE NEWBY have been running their shop in Borough High Street for 17 years, and have owned it for the last five. They live in Catford, but have a lifelong connection with the Borough - Gordon worked in the hop trade before he took up his present occupation. They both probably have a few tales to tell about the life and characters of the Borough over the years, but that must be for another time! Meanwhile our thanks to Gordon and Eve for selling SE1, which they've been doing ever since issue No.1 (except for a sad break last year when their shop was gutted by fire and they were out of business for four months.)



BRYN DAVIES, Labour, won the GLC Vauxhall by-election on 21st February with a 12% swing to Labour. He has been a Lambeth councillor for Bishop's Ward (Waterloo) since 1978.

Details of Bryn's regular surgeries will be in next month's issue.

NUNS ON THE MOVE

Many residents of Waterloo and North Southwark will be sad to hear that the Community of Reparation to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in Rushworth Street is to move out of the area shortly.

The news was announced by Sister Esther Mary at the recent meeting of the Association of Waterloo Groups. As many readers will know, Sister Esther Mary was active in the setting up of the Multi-Service Group in 1974 - which later became the Association of Waterloo Groups as more groups of residents were formed - and during that time and since, her involvement in the concerns of the area has been a source of support to many.

She told the Association 'During the 1970s it has been a joy to see the residents of Waterloo becoming aware of the needs of the area, and helping to meet those needs. Though the time has come for the Community to cease active work both in North Southwark and Waterloo, wherever we are our main work of prayer goes on, and you may rest assured that though our physical presence will be removed, we shall value the bonds of fellowship with those who remain.'

COIN ST. continued from page 1

they are available for distribution at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1.

In order to finance further posters and to fund other publicity schemes, the group must continue to raise money to meet costs. They are therefore hoping to hold a bric-a-brac sale in the near future. First, however, it is necessary to collect as much as possible to sell. So, if you have any pots, pans, photo frames, china, cutlery, ornaments, vases, jewellery, children's toys and games, or nearly-new clothing and can bring them to the Waterloo Action Centre between 10a.m. and 2p.m. any weekday, they would be very appreciated.