



National Front muggers the media didn't wait to see

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL PRESS AND TV, Southwark escaped lightly on March 2nd when the National Front were prevented from marching to the Elephant as they had planned.

Instead they were marched by the police to Peckham and then dispersed. However, those residents of SE1 actually on the streets that day have a second story to tell.

Throughout the day and evening gangs of fascist thugs roamed the streets looking for trouble. Apparently, carrying a camera counted as provocation for a fight for one such gang. On the back page we carry an account by an 'SE1' photographer of the attack he suffered in the Old Kent Road - with a photograph of the



ABOVE: A representative of the Secretary of State receives the petition from John Hearn (left).

attackers just before the incident occurred.

Below - we picture one of the few arrests on that day. Police removed this kid from the Walworth Road after he was involved in a fight with counter-demonstrators who were protesting against the fascist presence in Southwark.

Coin St. petition presented

A delegation of Waterloo and North Southwark residents braved pouring rain and howling winds on 19th March to present the Coin Street petition to a representative of the Secretary of State on the steps of the Department of the Environment's Marsham Street headquarters.

Association of Waterloo Group's Secretary, Ernie Hearn handed over the 8,585-signature petition which reads "I SUPPORT the Campaign for low-rise houses and a riverside park on the 'Coin Street area' sites". He pointed out that over 80% of Waterloo households had already signed the petition and that only 1% had refused to sign. There were as many non-local as local signatures.

INSPECTOR HANDS IN REPORT

The presentation of the petition was hurriedly organised when it was heard that the Inspector had recently submitted his report of last year's Public Inquiry to the Department of the Environment. Civil servants are now "processing" the report and the Secretary of State's decision will probably be announced in April or continued on page 8.

health authority sacking was illegal

A major reverse for the government and a possible step forward in the fight against the run-down of the National Health Service. This was the reaction of health campaigners to the recent High Court decision that the sacking of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority (AHA) was illegal; and the Health Minister's decision to restore the AHA's powers.

Readers may remember that the AHA last year refused to implement the cuts in Health Services which the Tories were demanding, and Minister Vaughan replied by sacking the Authority and putting in "Commissioners" to carry out the cuts.

2 hospitals closed

The Commissioners, who have now been dismissed, have already succeeded in closing two hospitals - St Johns, Lewisham and St Olaves, and wards at Guy's and New Cross; stopping kidney and heart surgery programmes and cutting down on many of the clinics that service the pressing health needs of the area.

The question now is, how far will the AHA go in restoring these cuts? The AHA members may have already tied their hands behind their backs by agreeing in advance to respect the "cash limits" imposed by the government, which control the size of next year's budget. This, it seems, was a 'condition' of their reinstatement, and it gives rise

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... SE1 TENANTS' NEWS ...

CAMPBELL LATEST

On Wednesday 19th March the tenants from Campbell Buildings met members of Lambeth Council to find out what they intend doing about moving out the tenants and demolishing the estate.

The dates we were given last July have slipped by over a year. The latest dates (which the Council say are more realistic) are as follows:-

Block 1 (nos. 241-300)
- MARCH 1980

Block 2 (nos. 176-240)
- MARCH 1981

Block 3 (nos. 106-175)
- OCTOBER 1981

Block 4 (nos. 51-105)
- JUNE 1982

Block 5 (nos. 1-50)
- DECEMBER 1982

These dates indicate when the blocks will be empty and due for demolition.

We know that Block 1 will be empty of the last few tenants this month and the council have started putting the wheels in motion to get a demolition contract signed. Hopefully we'll see this block coming down in June.

The Council have given us assurances that when flats become empty in Block 2 they will be effectively destroyed inside. This is to prevent any of the unpleasantness these tenants faced recently when squatters moved in.

The Tenants Association will stop re-letting flats in Block 3, 4 and 5, six months before the dates given. 'Old' tenants were given assurances by the Council that 'new' tenants would not affect their chances of re-housing.

CLEANING

Another main problem has been the cleaning on Campbell Buildings. There is no caretaker on site now which means light bulbs are not being replaced. The cleaners we did have were being intimidated and subsequently withdrew their labour - but there was no consultation with the tenants association about this. Now we have two caretakers doing all these jobs on a voluntary overtime basis.

The situation is being looked into by the Council and the Union to see whether permanent cleaners can be put back on Campbell.

The tenants made their feelings very clear to the Council on all the points they made. They will only believe the Council when they see the promises made being fulfilled.

The Tenants Association will be following up all the queries made at the meeting to see what else can be done for the tenants.



CRISP BAG SUMMONS

ONE WONDER! The Secretary of the Rockingham Estate Tenants Association has been summonsed for:

"That you on the 19th October 1979, did throw down in the forecourt of Whitworth House, on the Rockingham Estate, SE1, in the open air which the public are entitled or permitted to have access without payment and there left an empty potato crisp bag in such circumstances as to cause the defacement of the forecourt of Whitworth House, Rockingham Estate, SE1, in the London Borough of Southwark". Here is a picture of the forecourt of Whitworth House.

It's funny how nobody has summonsed the GLC for leaving litter in the forecourt! The incident follows accusations by many tenants of harassment by the police.

NO HOUSING PROBLEM

Readers of SE1 will be pleased to hear that there is no longer a housing problem in Britain. That's OFFICIAL! Mr Heseltine, the Secretary of State, gave the good news last month when he announced massive cuts in the money that the government will allow local councils to borrow for housing programmes over the next year.

Heseltine, who owns both a town house near Marble Arch and a country residence in Berkshire, said: "The emphasis of public sector housing now must be to meet particular needs ... rather than on the general provision of new houses. And we must encourage home ownership."

CUTS in BUILDING

So there you have it, no more money for homes, unless you can afford to buy. The size of the cut in the Housing Investment Programme (that's the money that the government allows councils to borrow to finance house building and improvements) amounts to about 38% taking account of inflation and will mean that many plans for building the homes that are urgently needed will have to be scrapped, improvement schemes will fall further and further behind, and some schemes will remain in limbo, half done, as money dries up.

CAMPAIGN FOR HOUSING

A new campaign for new housing in Central London has been launched by community groups from all over the city, including the North Southwark Community Development Group and the Waterloo Community Development Group.

The Campaign for Homes in Central London is aiming to increase the amount of low-rise, low-rent housing for families and single people, and to prevent the building of more offices and hotels. It wants more land zoned for housing, land owned by government, local authorities or nationalised industries used for housing, government finance for more housing in Central London and priority given to housing for people on low incomes over offices, hotels and luxury housing when making decisions on public inquiries.

With the Government making increasingly savage attacks on living standards and public services, Southwark residents may have been wondering why no opposition has been mounted in their borough. Particularly since the (supposedly Labour) councillors of Southwark have decided (on our behalf) to do the Tories' work for them, by cutting services, raising rents and rates, and creating redundancies. (Gone are the happy days when Bermondsey Labour Council built good quality housing for the working people it represented, in defiance of Government instructions.)

A fight against Southwark Council's Tory policies is finally under way, however, in

the form of a joint committee, whose aim is to draw together all the organisations and individuals in the borough who are opposed to the cuts in public services - health and education cuts as well as cuts in borough council services.

The committee already has the support of 'umbrella bodies', like the Southwark Group of Tenants' Organisations, Southwark Trades Council, the Council of Voluntary Service, Labour Parties, and so on. But with the cuts getting worse every week, it is clear that every organisation in the borough is going to have to urge its members to give active support to the fight, if it is to be successful in defending our services and our living standards.

The committee has already produced the first issue of a regular newsheet, the "Cuts Challenger". Copies of this and orders for future issues, from Maureen Donnelly, c/o Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, SE5, (5p each, or £1.50 for 50 copies, £2.00 for 100 copies.)

SE1 urges tenants groups and other such community organisations, as well as Labour Party wards and trade union branches, to order copies of the "Cuts Challenger". This way, you can make sure your members are kept informed about developments, and learn how and why the cuts must be fought, and how people can help.

We reprint below some extracts from the first issue of "Cuts Challenger".

Public Spending is Ok!

Almost all papers and radio and TV are extolling the necessity of keeping down public expenditure. Both Labour and Tory governments over the past decade have claimed that "the nation cannot afford too much public expenditure", and have increasingly stressed the necessity, as they see it to "balance the nation's books".

In the past 10 years public expenditure has risen by only 12.7% which is an average growth of only about 1¼% a year. Before the past 10 years, public expenditure had been seen as the driving engine of the economy rather than a burden. It was the rapid growth in public expenditure which lifted the western world out of the thirties slump, but now economic recovery is being sought by cutting state expenditure and allowing the public sector to stagnate. Growth in public expenditure was once designed to promote social welfare, economic justice and the redistribution of income.

Over the past 10 years however, successive governments have reversed that policy, and have tried to bring about economic and social changes by reducing taxation and allowing more scope for a "free market economy". It is up to those of

us who know that this policy will not work, not only to defend our services against the cuts in public expenditure, but to go on the offensive by reasserting the basic and original aims of public expenditure.

Where is the money to come from?

Large companies are not paying their proper share of taxes. Wage and salary earners have been required to pay a larger proportion of the total tax bill to compensate for the rapid drop in the yield of company taxes and taxes on capital. While the tax burden of the ordinary PAYE taxpayer increased from 41% to 50.5% of total revenue between 1973 and 1978, that of companies fell by 42% and that of capital by 43%. In 1969 corporation tax accounted for one-fifth of all tax receipts, by 1975 this had fallen to one-two-hundredths fiddles.

Recent research has shown that 13 of the 20 biggest UK firms paid no corporation tax at all during 1977-78.

NEVER
1930s
AGAIN!

NALGOS FIGHT

Faced with Southwark council's plans to cut its 1980-81 spending by 5%, in line with Heseltine's diktat, Southwark NALGO last year declared its total opposition to all measures which would mean:

- any reduction in staffing levels or delays in recruitment;
- any reduction in the level of service provision;
- increases in charges to the public above the level of inflation;
- any reduction in earnings or deterioration in working conditions.

Jobs & Services

Whilst Nalگو's main concern must be the defence of its 2,200 members' jobs and prospects, these are very much bound up with the quality, scope, and cost of the services we provide for the local community. Local government services constitute an integral part of the welfare state: both jobs and services must be defended against Thatcher's axe.

by Peter Coast, Southwark NALGO

CAMPAIGN FOR
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL
ADVANCE

EDUCATION

It is difficult to indicate specific cuts in Southwark, as the borough is not an education authority, and one can only look at the overall figures for ILEA, which covers all the inner London boroughs.

On December 4th the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) took the decision to make a cut of 4.2% in the budget for 1980-81, and this was confirmed at the budget meeting on 5th February. The cuts are across a wide range of educational services, covering administration, transport, games, swimming provision and in-service training. It will not only affect schools, because there are also to be cuts in further and higher education and adult education, the latter not being the most over-endowed service in London in the first place.

Confession

Sir Ashley Brammall, the leader of ILEA, has at least been honest when he says: "We do not pretend like some others that public expenditure can be reduced without an effect on the quality or extent of the service."



FIGHTBACK NOW



Present at the opening, from right: Mayor of Southwark; Lord Gower, Minister of State for Employment; Canon Peter Challen, Chairman and George Ruddock, managing director of Elephant Jobs.

TRESS HOUSE OPENS

Over the last 4 years Elephant Jobs Ltd. has grown too big for its boots and required a larger building from which to operate. Initially the company began under the auspices of Job Creation Programme providing work for the unemployed young people from the Southwark area in a variety of craft and construction departments. After prolonged negotiation, Tress House became available for use by Elephant Jobs last July.

The building had stood empty for over four years and required a great deal of conversion work done on it to suit our needs. This has progressed around us and we found ourselves in a position of being able to officially open the building on February 28th 1980.

Come and visit!

We were fortunate that Lord Gower was able to perform the opening ceremony, with the Mayors of Lambeth and Southwark in attendance. Other guests included Representatives from the local companies, community and voluntary organisations and official bodies which have supported the development of Elephant Jobs Ltd. over the last four years.

It is also to be noted that in refurbishing Tress House for that purpose, space has been provided for other agencies concerned, with Elephant Jobs, to generate what the new company plaque describes as a "just social economic community". These words were usually treated separately. We must put them together and take everyone's interests seriously. The Chairman then invited Lord Gower to comment on our work and

formally open Tress House for its important new uses.

Lord Gower emphasised the valuable work that Elephant Jobs is doing in the community. So may Elephant Jobs now extend its invitation to the readers of SEL to contact us and arrange to visit us: Elephant Jobs Ltd. Tress House 3-7 Stamford Street London SE1 or phone: 928 1851



L-R: David Jones, Sue Mayo, Joe Leeway in Houses in Between.

HOUSES IN BETWEEN!

For the last year, the Young Vic Theatre in the Cut has been the base for the Young Vic Education and Community Service.

Funded by the Inner City Partnership and sponsored by the Inner London Education Authority and Manpower Services Commission, this company has taken theatre to schools, youth clubs, playschemes, festivals and senior citizens clubs in South London.

Their most recent project has been a play especially

EVERYONE gets old, gets sick, NEEDS SOCIAL SECURITY

A member of Claimants Rights in Southwark writes about the group's current activities:

At the moment we're having a campaign over the dreadful level of service at Wedge House, the social security office in SEL. We're saying that the DHSS should put more staff into the office so that pensioners don't have to wait months for their rent increases paid, so that single parents don't wait weeks for grants for their children's clothing etc.

It's also very important that claimants claim grants NOW because in November the new Tory legislation will come in and it will be more difficult to get help from social security.

So far, we've produced an 'action pack' telling people how to get what they need - phone 928-9521 and ask for BIAS if you want a copy. We've been to see Stuart Holland and Bob Mellish, the MPs, who have both said they support the aims of the campaign and are very concerned about the situation at Wedge House.

MEETING FOR CLAIMANTS

We're holding a meeting from 1.30-2.30pm on Thursday 17th April. We hope that all those who rely on Wedge House - pensioners, single parents, the unemployed, the disabled and the sick - will come together to discuss their experiences and what to do next. We're also going to talk about the new social security law.

There will be tea and biscuits and a chance to chat. It will almost certainly be at Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre - again phone BIAS (928-9521) to check.

COMPLAINTS DAY

Soon after, we're having a mass complaints day. We're meeting at Wedge House from 11am on Monday 21st April. Then we're going to walk down to the DHSS headquarters at the Elephant. Everyone can go in to register their complaints at the public enquiries desk.

We can also lobby the Minister in charge of the DHSS - Patrick Jenkin - who apparently has lunch there every Monday. Maybe he'll invite some of us in!



12 Meymott Street, SE1.
tel: 928-1643

If you would like to help with next month's copy of SEL, give us a ring, or come to one of the meetings listed below:

MEETINGS Monday 14th April and Thursday 24th April at 7.30pm at the SEL office 12 Meymott Street.

DEADLINE for next issue: Thursday 24th April.

PASTE-UP 26, 27th April from 11am.

PUBLICATION of May issue on 2nd May.

Theatre that can tap the collective spirit of the community and relate to its roots and history in this way offers a welcome alternative entertainment to the South Bank elitist theatre that is normally associated with the Waterloo area. If you'd like to know more about the local community and education theatre or see one of their shows contact them at the Young Vic theatre in the Cut, SEL.

written for Tenants Associations "The Houses in Between". Recently seen at the Waterloo Action Centre and Colombo St. Sports Centre, the play takes an affectionate and entertaining look at the London of the Thirties seen through the eyes of three sisters.

SEL local people's history group worked with and provided information for the writer, musical director and the actors and gave advice on the final working of the play.

colombo street★

Sports and Community

Centre moves into top gear

The old Sainsbury's canteen building which SEL people have converted into sports and community centre is beginning to fairly buzz with activity. Here are some of their forthcoming activities. More information and booking forms can be obtained from: Colombo Street Sport and Community Centre, Colombo St London SE1. TEL: 261 1658.

ARTISTIC ROLLER SKATING:

Why not be the best one on eight wheels! We shall provide the skates so please don't bring your own. The courses will be on Monday evenings and there are only 25 places on each session; so book early.

Start Date: Monday April 21st
Times : 9-15 year olds 6-7pm,
over 15s 7-8pm.
Charges : 9-15 year olds 10p
over 15s 30p.

ELEMENTARY GYMNASTICS:

Don't just watch those gymnasts on TV; have a go yourself! After all, they were beginners once too. So come along to our gymnastics course on Thursday evenings.

Start Date: Thursday April 24th
Times : 6-10 year olds 5-6pm,
over 10s 6-7pm.
Charges : 6-15 year olds 10p,
over 15s 30p.



BEGINNERS BADMINTON:

Knocking around a shuttlecock is fun, but it's much more fun when you know the basics of badminton. You can come along to the Centre's coaching classes on Thursdays. Bring a racquet if you have one, if not you may borrow one from the Centre.

Start Date: Thursday April 24th
Times : 9-15 year olds 5-6pm,
over 15s 6-7pm.
Charges : 9-15 year olds 10p,
over 15s 30p.



Weight training at the Colombo Centre is really getting off the ground. There is an exercise machine (multi-gym) and plenty of loose weights. Using them is a very good way of being stronger, fitter and looking better. It is especially good if you already play a sport (the Prince Albert football team owe their current success to working out at the Centre!)

Beginners:
Learn how to get the most out of weights and how to use them safely.
Times: Mondays 7-7.45pm, under 16s 7.45-8.15pm.
Fridays 7-7.45, women only 8-9pm. Please note that booking is essential.
Charges: 50p per session.

Membership:
Once proficient you may become a member of the weights room. Even if you have used weights before you must have at least one tutor session before you can gain membership. You can then use the room unsupervised.

The meeting was well attended but new faces are always welcome - so if you'd like to help organise the Festival come along to one of our meetings. We particularly need help with the following:

- * Publicity
- * Catering
- * Booking entertainment

You may think it's too early in the year to be talking about summer festivals - but the Waterloo Festival Committee has just held its first meeting to plan the 1980 Festival - the date for this year's Festival is SUNDAY 15th JULY.

There are still plenty of stalls available for the Festival - so get in touch if you're interested in running a stall such as a home-made food stall or white elephant stall. We'd especially like

Women's activities

WOMEN'S WEIGHT TRAINING:

Using weights and fitness machines is a good way to keep strong, fit and slim. The Centre doesn't want the weight training room to be dominated by men trying to be macho and muscley. So a 8-9pm on Fridays has been set aside as instruction for women only. Once proficient you may become a room member and use the equipment unsupervised.

YOGA FOR BEGINNERS:

The Centre is starting a course for those who would like to learn Yoga. They will be on Tuesday evenings. Juniors over 10 will be welcome. (10 week course)

Start Date: Tuesday April 15th
Times : 6-7.30pm.
Charges : 10-18 year olds 10p
over 18s 30p.



BADMINTON - BOOK A COURT

From April 8th, courts will be available for bookings on Tuesdays 6-7pm and Wednesdays 7-8pm. Charges are £1.50 per court per hour. There is also a community badminton club on Wednesdays 8-10pm.

BOXING AT COLOMBO ST



The Colombo Street Centre is also the home of the Stamford Amateur Boxing Club. They held a very successful amateur show at the Centre on March 14th. The picture (right) shows one of the highlights from the junior bouts.

Anyone interested in joining the Club should contact Flicker Beale, Secretary Stamford ABC c/o Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre, Colombo St, London SE1.

Riverside

Wasted

The white elephant hotel on Kings Reach is back on sale again for 15 million pounds -- still unfinished and unused.

The building was bought by an American company called Sea Containers for 9 million pounds in 1975. The shell of the 770 bedroom hotel was completed before the original developers went bust. Sea Containers wanted to convert 250 of the bedrooms into offices and finish the rest of the building. But now they are saying they cannot afford to carry on.

WATERLOO FESTIVAL 1980

WOMENS KEEP FIT:

The Centre is starting a ten week course to help you keep fit and slim. Not too strenuous ... and lots of encouragement! A good use of an hour on Wednesday evenings. Start Date: Wednesday April 16th
Times : 6-7pm.
Charges : 10-18 year olds 10p,
over 18s 30p.
Please pay for your ten sessions on the first night.

YOUR HEALTH

Senior Citizens

— Tit-bits

The elderly are entitled to FREE CHIROPODY at National Health Service clinics - but there may be a long waiting list. (Pensioners in Waterloo have recently written to St Thomas' Health District to complain about the 3 months waiting time).

Local Clinics

St Georges Clinic - Blackfriars Rd SE1
Lambeth Towers - 80 Kennington Rd SE11

You need to make an appointment. HOME VISITS can be arranged for those unable to get to a clinic - ask your doctor.

- Basic rules for foot care:-
1. All feet should be measured for shoes when standing.
 2. Tight hosiery eg stockings & tights should be avoided.
 3. Avoid so-called corn cures.
 4. Keep feet clean. Use a foot powder.
 5. Don't soak your feet too often or too long.
 6. Trim toenails longer than the top of the toe.
 7. Do not cut your own corns, callouses or ingrown toenails - see a State Registered Chiroprapist or visit a health centre.

Incontinence

DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH YOUR WATERWORKS?

What you can do to help yourself:

1. Try going to the lavatory every 2 hours whether you feel like it or not. Your bladder will get used to this and you may be able to keep dry.
2. Don't cut down on the amount you drink as you need a regular amount of liquid, but don't have too much after teatime.

Who else can help?

1. Visit your doctor - apart from giving advice, if necessary he can send you to see a specialist.

2. The district nurse will visit at the request of your doctor. She can supply pants and pads and protection for the bed.
3. The social worker can help with getting items such as a commode, bottles and raised lavatory seats.

Is financial help available?

1. If you are on Supplementary Pension you can ask for an additional allowance to help with the expense of extra laundry. A grant may be made to pay for essential replacements of bedding or clothing.
2. If you need a lot of care from a relative or friend during the day or at night, it is possible to receive a Constant Care Allowance. Make enquiries at your local DHSS office.

Addresses

Other useful addresses for help and advice.

1. Incontinence Adviser
The Disabled Living Foundation
346 Kensington High Street
London W14 8NS
Tel: 602 2491
2. Age Concern (Lambeth)
Lambeth Town Hall
Acre Lane, London SW2
3. Age Concern (Southwark)
33 Peckham Road, London SE5
4. Your local Health Clinic

Other Help

There is a soiled linen laundry service which is available to those who continually soil clothing or linen because of age or illness.

Laundry is collected from your home, cleaned and returned.

The Social Services also have a bathing service for those who, because of age or ill health, are unable to bathe themselves. Contact your doctor, health visitor or local Social Services.

SEI SOAPBOX SEI Social Club

John 'Ernie' Hearn



With the price of beer and spirits rising regularly, SEI residents are finding that they now have to cut back on their pub ventures.

This does cause concern, for the pub is possibly the best political surgery, the best place for people to air their feelings after a few pints; and the best place for people from all walks of life to get together.

The increases not only mean that the patrons stay away but because of the cost, they begin to avoid each other, so as not to get involved.

What can we do about it? Well, if we take some advice from the north of England and places like Manchester, they are something like twenty years ahead of us. We could form our own social club - we do have the premises. Come and have a look at the Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre in Colombo Street SE1. The potential is there: a lot of effort is already being put into the centre and we're now beginning to see the results of that effort.

We mustn't run before we can

walk, but the idea of a social club has been floating about for a number of years. What can you do - well, you could let us know if the effort would be worthwhile. You could let us know if you would like to be involved, and a project like this will need extra involvement.

We have already seen some local tenants associations putting on their own private party, all inclusive food and drink and these have been a great success.

Of course these are early days - we could start with an occasional licence with perhaps a more permanent licence, say every Saturday night. The ideas are there, the night could start with bingo, going on to either live music (we have a piano and a stage) or a disco.

If you are interested please contact ERNIE or leave a message at the Colombo Street Centre in Colombo St. SE1, tel. 261 1659 or 928 4179. Better still go around to the Centre and have a look round - you may be surprised!

Learn Counselling

THIS COURSE is aimed at people living in the local community who would like to develop their capacity to be sensitive and helpful to others in difficulties.

The course is designed for people who, whilst at home or at work, often find themselves listening to others' problems but who, having had no training, have to rely on their existing personal knowledge and skill.

The course will combine discussion with practical exercises. People will have the opportunity to think about themselves, as well as becoming more skilled at helping others. It won't be necessary to read books but a reading list will be provided for those who want to.

These are some of the topics to be covered:

What is counselling?

If it's not just 'chatting' or giving advice, what is it? 'LISTENING'!

You'll be surprised how rarely we listen to each other. HELPING & BEING HELPED

How to help and how to hinder. Understanding our

feelings and how we 'let them out'. Is it good to get too worried about others?

KINDS & CAUSES OF UNHAPPINESS
'Feeling low? Nervy? Fears?'

Are these just a part of everyday life? When does a person need help? The causes of personal unhappiness and powerlessness.

FAMILIES
How much are we formed by our families?
How much can we change afterwards?
WORDS CAN LIE
How much can we tell about people before they speak to us? What do we say about ourselves by the way we look, walk, talk?

This course will be run by the Lambeth and Southwark Community Mental Health Group in conjunction with the North Lambeth & North Southwark Community Education Project.

It will be held on WEDNESDAYS
APRIL 16th - JUNE 4th
7.30 - 10 pm
for 8 WEEKS
If you would like to come on the course ring Marie Maguire on 274 7029 or PAUL HOGGETT on 733 9067.

A nominal charge of £1 will be made for the course.

BABBAGE: SEI RESIDENT: INVENTOR OF THE COMPUTER

About 1821, Charles Babbage, a brilliant mathematician born in Crosby Row in 1791, thought of trying to build a machine which would calculate mathematical tables automatically. Since electrical knowledge was then in its infancy, he tried to build it mechanically, entirely out of nuts, bolts, gears wheels and levers.

Probably, he intended the affair to be steam powered, but he never got that far. He produced a small working model in 1822, which met with such enthusiasm from his friends in the Royal Society that they helped him to apply to the government for a series of grants to help finance the construction of the full scale machine.

In designing and attempting to construct his 'engine' Babbage's abiding dream was to eliminate the errors which unavoidably crept into human calculations. (That this is not easy to achieve may be appreciated by anyone who has had to check on the accuracy of a telephone bill.) Not only the parts themselves, but many of the tools used to make them, had to be designed by Babbage. For the actual work of construction, he hired Joseph Clement, whose workshops were located at 31, St. George's Road.

Clement was one of a succession of great engineers and machine-tool builders of the nineeenth century to locate in what is now SE1 for at least part of their careers, all stemming from the 'Maudslay nursery'. This was the firm of Maudslay Sons & Field, which flourished from 1810 in Lambeth Marsh.

Among the workmen in Clement's shop while he was working on Babbage's computer was Joseph Whitworth, who first standardized screw threads. The Whitworth thread remained the British standard until 1948. It is said that even in the 1830's he could work to accuracies of a micro-inch. Thus, it is not surprising to read in Babbage's autobiography, when he found he required gears which were beyond the capability of his own lathe to produce, "I took the wheels to a wheel-cutter in

Lambeth." (It is interesting to note how many South Bank streets are named after famous nineteenth century engineers and mechanics: Maudslay Road, Brunel Road, and Whitworth Street, for example.)

Because Babbage was such a perfectionist, his machine took much longer to build than he had expected. Because of the difficulties of understanding the possibilities of an invention so far ahead of its time, government support became increasingly difficult to obtain.



In 1833, a small part of the engine was assembled, and the work was scheduled to be transferred to fireproof premises in East Street, Manchester Square, where Babbage then lived. But Clement refused to move.

By this time, Babbage had spent so much of his own private fortune (his father had been a banker) on the invention, that he did not wish to continue to pay Clement in advance of government reimbursement. Clement immediately took industrial action. He dismissed the workmen, but kept all the tools which had so far been produced. (In those days, workmen had legal title to the tools they made, even when the costs had been defrayed by the employers and, as in this case, the designs were not their own.)

Work on this "Difference Engine" was never resumed. In the meantime, Babbage had thought of a new and more powerful calculating engine, the first true general purpose digital computer. But he also predicted it would not be built until more than fifty years after his death. (The Mark I, built seventy years later, was not as advanced in design as Babbage's "Analytical Engine", though it did use electric circuits.)

Ironically, a Swedish printer named Scheutz, reading an account of Babbage's "Difference Engine" in the Edinburgh Review, began in the 1840's to construct one of his own.

After some years, he produced a modest version of the Babbage design, which was unanimously awarded the Gold Medal at the Great Exposition of Paris in 1855.

But Dr.

Dubbey, a Babbage scholar and head of Mathematics and Computing Science at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, says: The final irony was that in 1864 the British Government bought a copy of the Scheutz difference engine, and used it to compute a set of Life Tables related to mathematical principles worked out by Babbage nearly forty years earlier!

Thus SE1 has a number of connections with the early history of the premature invention of the computer.

GREENPEACE MOVE OUT

Greenpeace, the well known conservation group, has been based in offices rented to them by the Colombo St Centre for the past 18 months.

However they have now outgrown the space available. This reflects growing local and national support for their activities - the most notable probably being their campaign to save whales from being killed.

Greenpeace HQ will however be staying in SE1 and their new address is Globe House, 2a Crucifix Lane, SE1. (Just behind London Bridge station.) Telephone: 403 4242

LCC MOVE IN



The London Cycling Campaign (LCC) are taking up some of the space left empty by Greenpeace in Colombo Street.

Several local cycling groups, including those from Lambeth and Southwark, belong to the LCC and individual members are also welcome.

LCC is a pressure group which promotes cycling and fights for cyclists' rights. They recently did an 'Open Door' programme on BBC TV. Membership of LCC is only £1 per year, which brings action on your behalf as an urban cyclist, as well as a quarterly newsletter.

LCC's address is Colombo Street Centre, Colombo St, SE1. Telephone: 928 7220.

★STAR OF THE MONTH★



Mrs Carol SHEEHY has lived on the Peabody Estate, Roupell Street, for the past 2 years. Born and bred in Welworth, Carol, who works at Letraset in Waterloo Road reckons that Peabody is a nice place to live. "There is no vandalism and it's nice and quiet, a lovely place to live". We agree with you Carol. South London is a nice place to live, especially SE1. Perhaps it's got something to do with nice people such as yourself living in the area.

Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre

tel: 261 1658

MAIN HALL AND MEETING ROOMS FOR HIRE... SOCIALS AND WEDDINGS WELCOMED.

USUAL SPORTING ACTIVITIES EG SHORINJI KEMPO, BOXING, KARATE, BAKUMINTO, GYM'S DANCING

Anyone interested in starting other activities, make yourself known.

COLOMBO STREET SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, COLOMBO STREET, SE1

Support Your Local Shop

OPEN UNTIL 8pm Monday-Friday
7pm Saturday
1pm Sunday

- Fresh milk daily
- Frozen foods
- All groceries & provisions
- Newspapers
- Confections & tobacconists
- Hot snacks, rolls & sandwiches to take away

THOS E DAVIES & CO (TOMS)

137 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1

Waterloo Whizz Kid

Howard Simmons, the 'eminence grise' of Waterloo Action (pictured below in action last summer at the huge Vietnamese kids party at the Colombo Street centre) is to leave his job at Easter.

During the 6½ years which have passed since he started work as community worker at the Waterloo Action Centre, few groups in the area can have escaped the impact of his ceaseless activity or failed to benefit from his advice. The list of new initiatives and developments in the community with which he has been associated seems endless.

Now, however, he's off to new adventures in Haringey, where he is to be the "Principal Community Development Officer". Howard told SE1 that this means being a roving trouble-maker - oops! trouble-shooter - with community projects around the Borough. A kind of flying doctor?



We hope SE1 readers will join us in wishing him the best of luck and thanking him for his contribution to the health and welfare of Waterloo. We shall miss his special brand of reticent guidance - and his sharp wit. Good luck, Howard!

VOLUNTEER WANTED at the Blackfriars Settlement Blind Club, for Fridays 9.45 - 2.30. Please phone Winnie Lewis at the Settlement on 928 9521 or on 286 5812 in the afternoon or evening.



NF ON THE RUN

The incident I am about to tell you occurred in the New Kent Road when the groups had effectively been separated and long gone. I, the photographer, and a young boy were standing outside a pub in the New Kent Road, when this group came running along from the Bricklayers Arms towards the Elephant & Castle. I had not covered the National Front meeting at Peckham but had followed a passive march down Walworth Road, New Kent Road and then left it. Here was the opportunity to get a photo of a group of NF supporters. I put my bag on the floor and started to take pictures. There was nobody in the New Kent Road except myself and the boy.

For no other reason than that they wanted to beat somebody up, they attacked us both. No great damage was done. There were about ten or twelve in the group, shouting "we don't want our *!*** picture in the papers". I called on reinforcements from the pub and this potentially nasty situation was over without any more trouble.

PEABODY EXPANDS TO THE CUT

THE ALLOTMENT SITE IN THE CUT has been bought from the GLC by the Peabody Trust. The Trust are planning to build flats of different sizes. The GLC decided last year to sell off all its unused land to the highest bidder.

AHA reinstated

Continued from page 1.

to the suspicion that their determination to defend the health services may have faltered during the months 'in the cold'.

A spokesperson for the Campaign Against Health Cuts in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham told SE1 "The High Court decision certainly confirmed what we already know - that this government is prepared to take any steps, legal or illegal, to force its policies through; and its good to see the AHA restored. But now we have to increase the pressure, to make sure those services which have been closed down or cut back are returned to full operation".

Coin Street petition

Continued from page 1.

May. The Inspector's report will not be published until Mr Heseltine's decision is announced.

At a Press Conference jointly organised by the "Campaign for Homes" community groups and Vauxhall MP Stuart Holland it was announced that the Labour Party in the House of Commons were officially opposing offices on the Coin Street sites. Former Minister of Housing, Reg Freeson MP, told the Press Conference that "if the government cut down some of the over-development of offices in inner London they would help employment problems elsewhere and make possible viable communities in the inner city area". Frank Allaun MP, Chairman of the Labour Party National Executive's Town and Country Planning Committee said "London has too few houses and too many office blocks."

Stuart Holland has asked to see the Secretary of State about the Coin Street decision as soon as possible. On March 10th he asked a parliamentary question about Government estimates of a decline in demand for offices resulting from the 'microchip revolution'.



WATERLOO WOODY

I was pushed out of last month's issue for lack of space, but space seems to be the one thing not lacking elsewhere. Before I ate him, a woodworm in the flag pole outside the Finance for Industry offices said he'd heard chat about the empty site behind this brown building on Waterloo Road. (On a bad morning, I often mistake the tower for a giant tree trunk - doesn't half hurt the beak!)

Anyway, this little worm said that there are plans awing(or is it afoot?) to turn it into a multi-storey car park. However, Lambeth Council have stopped this, at least for some years. So various schemes are being put forward to make use of the area in the meanwhile.

One of them apparently involves getting the local young kids (bless 'em) involved in turning it into something to keep them off the streets. A free fish and chip shop, maybe? As long as they include an insect infested tree or two, I don't mind what it becomes. I need a new source of nourishment, as the barge at the adventure playground seems to have run out of grubs. For lack of free fish and chip shops human fledglings have taken to snatching the food out of our beaks!

W.W.



A DOE Minister told him "We have made no estimate of the future demand for office space in London". The same minister had told him last October that figures on vacant office floor-space and outstanding office planning permissions in London were "not available". A spokesperson for the Coin Street Action Group commented "The blind lead the lame as we all limp backwards into the future."