# REPAPER FOR MORTH SOUTHWARK AND WATERLOO NO. 60 FEB 1981 10p

# GREYCOATS AT ITAGA

Greycoat Commercial Properties - the development company formed after the Coin Street Planning Inquiry-have produced their "new scheme" for the South Bank. They lodged their planning application with Lambeth on 23rd December, just before the Christmas holidays started, giving local objections the shortest possible time to get down to the town hall and see the plans or write in their objections.

The "new" scheme turns out to be very similiar to the scheme they were touting for at the Public Inquiry, a long curving wall of offices starting at Waterloo Bridge and going down to the river about where the Oxo Tower is now, with a bit of housing on Stamford Street and besides Kings Reach and some shops and leisure facilities including a sunken ampi-theatre by the river! The architect is still the same, Richard Rogers, and although some of the design details are different, essent-ially the scheme is still for a lot of offices, approximately one million square feet (compared with 1.3 million in their earlier plan), about equivelent to 8 Centre Points.

#### KEEP UP THE FIGHT

It's hard to see how they can expect to get planning permission for it since the first scheme was rejected so firmly both the Inspector and Heseltine but maybe thei've got good reason to keep on plugging away hoping eventually to wear out our opposition. The good reason could be the several million pounds Greycoat would stand to make, without laying out a penny of their own money, if their scheme ever did get built.

#### ITS OUR MONEY ANYWAY

(They don't have to risk any of their own capital to build the offices because they'd do that with our money invested by insurance companies and pension funds). It also seems likely that they're hoping to get an office permission through quickly so that they can buy the land from the Tory GLC before the GLC elections in May.

Drawings and a model of the "new" Richard Rogers scheme were on display last week at Waterloo Station, with a book for visitors to sign and give their comments. Of course the drawings look very pretty and the model on such a small scale that it is impossible making any comments. The archtp get any true ideas of the massive bulk that the buildings would have in real life, so many commuters made favourable comments and no doubt these comment; will be produced as "evidence" at the next Public Inquiry to show how many people support the office development. We think in any case that the drawings and the model actually misrepresent the scheme and that the drawings especially disguis th true heigth of the buildings, though of course this suggestion got the Greycoat people really mad. In spite of this many others commented in the book that they didn't want offices and asked what had happened to the Waterloo District Plan and 'the housing scheme.

Because we were given súch short notice about the exhibition, we weren't able to organise a full time picket of it, but when they could local people handed out leaflets asking visitors to stop and think before itects from Greycoats who were there to man the exhibition got pretty upset about this - they didn't seem to want the public to know that in fact this land is still zened for housing, that even if built the offices are unlikely to be occupied and that full or empty those offices would mean death to the Waterloo community.

#### THERE ARE OTHER IDEAS

They didn't give visitors any idea that there were alternative housing and open space plans for the same sites, so most visitors had no idea that there are other possibilities for development



THE EXHIBIT MOUNTED AT WATERLOO STATION

One day when the members of Blackfriars Day Centre went on mass to picket, the police were called in and names were taken in an attempt to frighten us away. Those developers just didn't seem to realise that the people of Waterloo were never going to give up the fight for housing, no matter what tactics they use.

Meanwhile our own planning application is just about ready to be submitted to Lambeth, (more about that in the next issue) and Lambeth Planning Department is preparing a new planning brief for the Coin Street sites and have invited anyone who is interested to write in saying what they'd like to see in any plans for Coin Street. If you haven't done so already, write to Lambeth saying what your ideas are.

#### SEI MEETINGS-

I6th & 26th February 7.30pm Copy deadline 26 February Paste-up 28 February and 1st March Out 7th March Issue no 61

# ATIONAL OUSING ACTION

### saturday 28thmarch

The National Housing Liaison Committee (NHLC), a broad based group of tenants, trade unionists, women's groups, housing aid workers, community and advice centre workers, and others involved in working on problems with housing is getting together a really big jamboree on housing.

A large group of people from all over the country will tour sites in Southwark and Lambeth to bring attention to and offer support to local groups campaigning on Housing

#### all are invited

All groups, old and new, are invited to take part in the day by doing something eye-catching on the day - or simply joining the tour.

> The tour assembles at: COLOMBO STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE

at 11am and leaves at 12.00 on a circular tour.

Bring the kids as well as there will be a place for them to play at Colombo Street and people to look after them.

In the evening there will be films and shows, plus a concert of music and dancing. with a bar provided.

Anyone interested should come to a planning meeting at Colombo Street Centre on 10 February at 7.30pm or ring Mel Wallis at 237 8277 or Roy Webb at 703 7720.

## **Letters**

Dear SE1.

In the December issue of SE1, Ms Chubb and Mr Smith expressed justifiable anger at the disastrous policies of Southwark Council and the disregard that many Labour councillors have shown for local people's interests.

But they can be reassured that their anger is also shared by many members of our Southwark-Bermondsey Labour Party who feel that the socialist principles of our Party have been betrayed by the Council leadership.

We do not support the "municipal muggers". We have always demned their complacent and harmful policies such as the

CAMPBELL

BUILDINGS

As many local residents are

aware, part of Campbell Build-

ings is in the process of being

blocks are empty with the third

suprise to the tenants who hadn'

expected to be moved until April

Just before Christmas many

accommodation and by mid-January

30 of the 73 flats were empty.

The Council are aiming to empty

the rest of the block by April.

With the Council moving quickly

the tenants hope the a repition

avoided. This would be easier to

they became vacant. This is not

association would like but hope-

the 'new' tenants - who were let

Some tenants were fortunate enough

to get their removals paid for but

other have been informed that they

are not entitled to this. The TA

this mistake of the Council's as

we are sure they wouldn't be doing

will of course hope to rectify

this deliberately.

in under the TA housing scheme-

their disturbance allowances.

fully this will improve.

being done as fast as the tenants

The Council are also not giving

of last years chaos will be

do if the Council could board

and vandalise flats as soon as

tenants received offers of new

demolished. Two of the five

block half empty. This is a

1981 at the earliest.

recent massive rent and rate increases combined with swinceino cuts in Council services.

Many of our councillors need to be replaced by men and women who are more willing to listen and act on local peoples wishes. But to achieve these changes, the Party needs the active involvement of people such as Ms Chubb and Mr Smith to ensure that Labour is committed to socialist policies which meet the needs of our community and that women and men who will carry out these policies are selected as Labour candidates.

Sure, the Labour Party isn't perfect. But it is only as good and effective as its

members make it.

Our Party consists of concerned local people just like Ms Chubb and Mr Smith - people who are angry at the neglect of our neighbourhood and who want to fight for a better

This better future is what the Labour Party stands for. However, it will never be achieved without the involvement of SE1 readers.

We invite you to join the Labour Party and help shape the socialist future.

> Yours fraternally, Peter Tatchell Secretary Southwark-Bermondsey Labour Party 133 Lower Road, SE16.

#### UNEMPLOYED **ACTION CENTRE**

About three weeks ago, an Unemployed Action Centre was opened in a shop provided by the Peckham Action Group. The shop, in Peckham High Street, just peyt to the Unemployment Office in Collier Place, is open from 12 to 3pm every Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday.

It's been set up by a group from Southwark Trades Council, Souhtwark Council for Voluntary Service and Claimants Rights In Southwark. Its members have experience of campaigning about unemployment and of welfare rights.

But increasingly the Centre is being run and staffed by unemployed neonle.

We are being allowed to stay there for the first three months rent free. But we are desperately trying to raise money to pay for the centre after that. Already some local Labour Parties and Trade Unions have given generously. A Christmas raffle raised £18. We are hoping people who drop in will contribute to the tea and coffee.

A few of us have hed to learn about unemployment through ebing unemployed for months, and at least one for years. We have had to learn through bitter experience about housing and our rights in the system that made us unemployed in the first place.

So why not come, talk to us, and if you like, you can help kick out those who made us live in the near poverty that we are in today. We hope we will fight together to bring this country back to what we need: the right to a job; good housing; and a good Health Service.

I would see this as a way to build and grow strong in ourselves in the near future. So come in to the centre, or if you can't make it while it is open, ring Brian or Mark on

### THE HORSES MOUTH

COUNCIL DIARY By Councillor Bob Smythe

In passing, town hall staff have a nickname for the Dockyard Ward that Cllr. O'Grady represents. They call it 'Gravevard'.

#### cheers

Those Burgess Park Pubs... enraged that Southwark's Libraries committee expressed an interest in keeping some of the park's pubs for their social or amenity value, Cllr O'Watts, who appears to think he owns the whole of Southwark. proposed at last month's planning meeting that all the pubs in the park should be demolished. So while squire Watts sipsqin-and-tonics in his (preserved) house in Addington Square and surveys his 135 acre front garden, the peasants in the pubs had better prepare to move.

Congratulations to the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Society for publishing, in conjunction with Southwark's libraries department, the booklet 'Bermondsey in War 1939-1945'. Impossible to resist, though, quoting a delightful misprint. A section describing the work of the Womens Voluntary Service comments: 'very large numbers of persons owe much to Mrs Buckland and her over-willing helpers. 1

#### fast movers

Strangest anecdote in the book concerns the wartime role of two of Bermondsey's watercarts. Front line airfields after the D-Day invasion quickly turned to dust if not watered. so the Royal Engineers imported to Normandy two green carts emblezoned with 'Borough of Bermondsey for Cheap Electric Light and Power, A.N. Baker General Manager.

Keeping up with the troops as they fought through France and into Belgium, at one point they advanced so fast they woke one morning & they were ahead of their own army and facing the Germans. A letter from the Engineers remarks:

appearing from "No Mans Land" shook them (the British front line) to the very foundations.

Their last resting place is in Holland: 'When in the Spring, the Company again took the road for the advance into Germany, these gallant water carts, battered and leaking their paint pealing and their behind. New and efficient water sprinklers were supplied held by the Borough of Bermondsey's water carts.'

#### LANE EXPLAINS RISINGRATES

WHY LAMBETH IS ASKING YOU TO PAY MORE RATES.....

Quite simply Lambeth is going to spend more this year than its income, £11.2 million more, There are five main reasons:

The Tory Government has cut

grants to Lambeth totalling almost £3.5 million. In effect like a wage cut in the middle of the week, it leaves the Council unexpectedly out of pocket. Largely this reflects the Tory Governmentss wish to reward the country areas whilst cutting back on the total level of grant to local authorities. Lambeth. despite bad housing and acute social need, has been specially penalised (about £2 million).

policy of the Government which has seen a bigger fall in production than in the depths of the 1930's and has pushed up interest rates, costing the Council an extra £3.5 million.

A drastic cutback by the Government on housing and social do that. construction programmes not only threatens large redundancies but has forced the Council to pay for some of the building actually going on out of the rates (around £1.3 million).

Wage settlements have been higher than budgeted as are grants to voluntary organisations including several in North Lambeth (together around £144 million)

The biggest extra spending is in the Housing and Socual Service areas. They are the areas where cuts would hurt and would have to be drastic - such as closing all luncheon clubs or stopping the meals-on-wheels service. We, as uour Labour Councillors, are not going to

Would a 'War on Waste' avoid rate rises? Simply, no. Lambeth Council wil spend around £97 million this financial year. To save £11.2 million would mean a cut of nearly 12 per cent. That's more than cutting waste.

> Peter Lane Labour Councillor.

### `CRUISE' OR UNITE

Residents of the London Borough of Southwark cannot it seems, rest easy in their beds at night. because their local council does not feel as strongly about the dangers of nuclear weapons as some of them may.

At a meeting of the General Purposes and Finance Committee on 14th January 1981, it was decided to take no action over a call from Manchester City Council for local authorities up and down the country to unite against the nuclear menace.

Manchester City Council passed a resolution calling on Her Majesty's Government to "refrain from the manufacture or positioning of any nuclear weapons of any kind within the boundaries of our city.

Recognising that their effort alone was pointless, Manchester City Council called upon all local authorities to make similar statements on behalf of their own citizens, in a desire, ultimately, to create a nuclear-free zone in Europe.

When this request turned up in Southwark Town Hall, however, the aforementioned committee decided to ignore it, presumably because they feel a nuclear policy to be necessary and, by implication, the final holocaust to be inevitable.

What do you think? - answers on a postcard, please, to Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5.

### NEW COLOMBO STREET PLAYGROUP STARTS

On Wednesday 17th December

around 15 men who are homeless

Reception Centre picketed out-

the night the Housing Committee

Council's Housing Policy, which

denut ation about the conditions

met to protest about Southwark

is that they don't have one!

During the council meeting,

two of the ward councillors

of Camberwell Resettlement

Centræ, which is their ward.

They said that they were very

on different occassions. We

have said that as the Camber-

has been succested, and though

connection with a hostel that

is being planned to be built

on the Orwell Road site in

Battersea by 1985.

well Resettlement Centre is

due to be closed in 1985, as

that has been the date that

the say that there is no

aware of the situation and had

visited the resettlement centre

came out to speak to the

side Southwark Town Hall on

or living in Camberwell

A new playgroup for under fives started in the New Year at the Colombo St. Sports & Community Centre. It is run five days a week. 9am to noon. and there are still some places available.

There are the usual type of toys, sand trays and a slide with small climbing frame.. And the children do painting and various other 'educational' activities.

If you want your child to join, contact Bobbie Lawrence at the Centre during the above times, or ring 261 1658 during the day.

\*The sight of water carts

wheels broken - had to be left but they have never filled that place in the Companys affection

#### **NELSON'S** COLUMN



Voices 22

James Nelson at the Waterloo Action Centre

#### ALL WE NEED ARE HOMES

This is the first issue sicce the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers took this on, and I am responsible for distribution in South London. It comes out every quarter of the year, and you can buy it at the Waterloo Action Centre at 600. It has short stories and humourous poems like the Gravediogers' and 'The Dog' These are very funny. So if you want to write poetry and have it published or just talked about, join a writers oroup. Contect.

This will be an 80 bed hostel with day centre places for 45 people. There is also a plan to use the old Battersea

General Hospital, and that is because the old Charing Cross Hospital has been ordered to close by the end of this year. which will create a big problem for homeless single people. This is just one side of the situation that this country is in today, with people becoming homeless because they get in debt. Some of the time they have to reseort to squatting, which gives them uncertainty and leads to petty crime

in some cases and wiolence. In finishing, I would say that everybody has a right to have a home and security and if neonle need support for themselves, hostels should be built up to 30 maximum bed space. or cluster flats which house self supporting groups of people with a caretaker to keep a watchful eye from a distance. This is working in other towns and cities in Britain, and I believe it should be tried in Southwark and Lambeth. I feel that because of the lack of jobs, the closure of factories people move, and become homeless. I feel that it is now

as bad as it was at the end of the Second World War, so I would urge the councils of Southwark and Lambeth and the London Boroughs Association to stop passing the buck, and get on with the matter of a massive rebuilding programme for houses in the local area, and that we get rid of the Camberwell Resettlement centre, and homelessness for ever.

James Nelson

#### NORTH LAMBETH LAW CENTRE

New Law Centre needs an energetic worker interested in any of the following issues: education, kids and family law community planning and council housing; work and unemployment; immioration. Knowledge of North Lambeth an

advantage. Further information and applications forms from 381 Kennington Lane, London SE11, tel 582 4373. Closing date, 16th February 1981.

cars as the space is occupied by office workers who leave their vehicles there when they go to

work. Some tenants were so angry that they wanted to start letting the tyres down but it was agreed first and then see what other

waiting either for Wocester House on the China Walk Estate or want to move to the other end of the At the last tenants meeting,

that we would warn these offenders

The remaining tenants are

parking was maised again. Many tenants cannot park their own action may be possible.

ALL CHANGE Your local councillor in

The TA is also hoping that the

can persaude the Council to start

block by this April and last, but

The new TA flat is at number

moving people out of the next

not least the remaining block

1 - the drop-in operates there

Doreen Ramsey for the furniture

she donated to us for the flat

our other furniture was 'lost'

when our last flat was squatted

Next issue will have more

news on the continuing saga of

on Thursdays between 10.30-

12.30. We are grateful to

within a year.

last year.

Waterloo on the Greater London Council has changed the days of his surgery. See advert below for details.

BRYN DAVIES. GLC MEMBER FOR LAMBETH AND VAUXHALL

Advice surgery at the WATERLOD ACTION CENTRE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

6pm to 6.30pm

### Bert's boots

Albert Football Club

With the Christmas festivities now over, its back to the hard training and work for Albert F.C. Although since my last report its been a mixture of ups and downs for the team. On the 30th November the team played league leaders St. Georges in what was to be our best performance to date. At half time, Albert were leading 2-0 through goals by Fitzsimons and Baldwin. and soon after the second half began, Steve Staley scored, making it 3-0. St Georges then pulled one back but their defence were no match

for Terrey and Fitzsimons on the 2 wings. The final score came to 5-1 with Fitzsimons complet ing a fine hattrick.

The following week was a different game altogether against our old enemies. Marlboto. The team severely weakened by injuries had a lot of the play but were unable to take any chances they had, and went down 0-3. During the last 30 minutes of the game, Albert played with only 10 men due to Tony Baldwin receiving an ankle injury. Even the fine efforts of Colin Ray could not stop the team losing its first league game.

21st December saw Albert v. Pace, and with only 10 men. managed to win 9-0. Martin Allerton had a good game. scoring four goals, the others being scored by Fitzsimons (2), Terrey, Ellerington and Staley. The first game of 1981 was against Heber Reserves, with 1 a win of 4-1 by Albert, all four goals scored by John Terrey playing the game of his life.

13-0. the biggest win of the season. was scored against Wells Way on 18th January. Scorers were Fitzsimons (4), Baldwin (3), Roy(2), Terrey(2), Doyle and Scarborough.

**WILLIAM CURTIS:** a natural haven

In sight of Tower Bridge and A lot of the voluntary work the sound and smell of the Courage Brewery (shortly to be Bermondsey Boys and Girls closed) a 2 acre site has seen Brigades, plus the Conservation visits from foxes, hedgehogs, Corps. With their enthusiasm butterflies, dragonflies and and various donations by various flowers and birds, as companies and proanisations. the work took just 5 weekends well as the more usual rance of sparrows, pig eons cats and people to be found in SE1. It's the William Curtis Ecological Park, which is reached thorugh a muddy lorry



WILLIAM CURTIS ECOLOGICAL PARK IS OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. FROM 10am to 6pm (or sunset if earlier) ALL YEAR ROUND.

otherwise little else is done. Even in winter, it is quite a pleasure to the eye, without the need of expensive bright flowers or carefully trimmed lawns of a normal park.

Local children, as well as using it as a playground, also draw flowers and plants. study the ponds and the small creatures to be found elsewhere in the park. And they may come back during the week in a school group and study the area in a more organised way. 900 students of all ages visited it in 1980.

#### creatures

A hut on the site houses 3 workers trained as biologists who are recording as much of what goes on here as possible. This information will help in setting up more parks of the same type: William Curtis is the first of its kind in the country. The workers often get brought specimens of creatures found on nearby, or not so nearby, derelict sites, and they say that a lot of the small animals which find their way to the park themselves also come from such 'stepping stones' from more rural areas, or even Surry Docks!

There is at least one fox which probably lives locally by scavenging during the night, and hiding in old warehouses by the day. There are even tales of a fox having been seen walking along the Old Kent Rd just before dawn!

It is obviously a worthwhile venture in SE1, but what of the future?. Plans for the whole of the area near Tower Bridge owned by Hays Wharf which are in the air at the moment would mean the part of the site which is leased from them being lost completely. The otherhalf of the site.owned by Southwark Council is earmarked for space' of an unknown nature. Also there is only one year left to run on the Hays Wharf lease, even if only a papercorn rent is paid at the moment.

Another site near the Crystal Palace transmitter is in the process of becoming the next site to be taken over the 'Ecological Parks Trust' which set up the SE1 scheme, but what about more locally?

#### STAFF WANTED

THEATRE CLUB in church complex needs responsible reliable staff to look after foyer telephone, refreshments, some administration. Interest in theatre a distinct advantage. Afternoon/evening, part/fulltime. £70 per full week. Trial period 2 weeks in February. Contact Administrator 01-633 9819.

### WILDLIFE GROUP

One of the aims of a group just being set up is to encour age such sites in Southwark, and bring nature back into the city. Southwark Urban Wildlife Group mentions the Surrey Docks Urban Farm, Nunhead Cemetery nature reserve and several schools as other areas where wildlife where wildlife is being encouraged. It wants to learn from such experience, and to use the knowledge to set up appropriate schemes,

North Southwark. Southwark Councillor Bob Smythe is a moving force in this group, and he reports that an inaunaral meetino will be held soon. For further details contact SUWG c/o Peckham Settlement, Staffordshire St, SE15 (639 1823/3823)

especially in more built up

Southwark Council are backing the idea, and will be providing a researcher to look at small sites (under 2 acres) with aim of setting up some sort of ecological park, possibly managed by the local community. So for once if you see wildlife and Southwark Council mentioned together, it might not be about the behaviour of the councillors!

# FUN

'Musical' events for February:

Southwark Child Care Campaign has organised 'A Grand Thatcher Stomp! at the Borough Community Centre for Saturday February

Dance all over Maggie to 'The Gymslips', 'The Biss Band' and a disco for only £1.50 The Centre is at 56 Southwark Bridge Road (corner of Union Street).

Morley College present a family concert on February 21st 10.30 to 12.30, at the College 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1. 50n adults, 25n children will get you in to a 'Concert for Recorders' with Paula Campbell. Light refreshments available.

Lambeth Orchestra will be playing at Holy Trinity Church Clapham Common, February 14th, and on the 21st at St. Margarets Barcombe Avenue, Streatham, at 7.30nm.

The programme is: Music for Brass by Gabrieli, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.3, and Symphony No.3 for Organ by Saint-Saens. Tickets £1.30

# **GOVERNMENT ATTACKS CHILDREN**

Figures recently published by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) show how, under the Government's new system of calculating the block grant settlement, virtually the whole burden of maintaining the present level of educational provision in inner-London will fall on the ratepayers in the boroughs concerned.

ILEA currently pays for and runs all educational activities in inner-London, including nursery. primary and secondary schools, colleges of further education, a comprehensive list of evening and adult education courses, and youth clubs.

The only alternatives, if ratepayers are not to meet the cost, are to drastically cut the services provided by ILEA. or, indeed, to scrap it and start again.

#### 'anextra £118million

need £694million to maintain its present services during

In calculating this figure, ILEA has taken into consideration all savings possible due to falling numbers of schoolchildren, and assumes that all savings arising from its 1980/1 budget have been made. It also allows for a wage increase of 6% and an inflation rate of 11% - both figures allowed for by the Government and, to say the least, optimistic projections.

With an expenditure of £694million for 1981/2, ILEA's grant from Central Government,

under the new settlement, would be £7million, instead of £125million which it would have received under the old system. Therefore, if ILEA is to maintain its present services, the ratepayers of inner-London boroughs would have to find an extra £118million to get it through 1981/2.

#### 'a sheer impossibility.

If this is not to happen, ILEA would have to cut its expenditure to fall in line with the Government's limits. However, figures released by ILEA show that meeting these limits is a sheer impossibility.

ILEA's rate support grant for 1981/2 has been determined by two calculations: the 'orant related expenditure' (GRE) and the assumed budget level.

#### 'no allowance forbooks...

The GRE is assessed by the Government and is an estimate of the cast of providing a typical service in authorities with common functions.

ILEA's GRE for 1981/2 has been set at £468million, and a report to ILEA's financial sub-committee points out that this level of expenditure could not be achieved, even if:

\*all recruitment to ILEA stopped and staff numbers were reduced as far as could be achieved to effect savinos during the financial year: and

\* the only other expenditure incurred was on rent, rates, heating and lighting, and debt charges. This means that there would be no allowance for books or other teaching materials. no maintenance to buildings, and no school meals service.

park at 16 Vine St, and is a

amonost warehouses and dere-

liction (if a little damp at

WILDLIFE HOME

Before 1977, the site was a

lorry park itself, and basic-

ally a hard surface of ash.

But as part of Silver Jubilee

year, a large amount of volun-

tary labour helped transform

it into a place where wildlife

would feel as much at home as

patch of greenery amongst.

this time of year).

ALL THIS. AND THE EXPEND-ITURE LIMIT COULD STILL NOT BE

It is, however, important that ILEA stays within this expenditure limit, as FOR EVERY POUND SPENT ABOVE THIS LEVEL, GRANT IS LOST!

#### 'an extra 5prate...

The 'assumed' budget level is, again, calculated by the Government and is based on projections of total expenditure, and assumes that local authorities will spend during 1981/2 at the same relative levels as 1980/1.

The Government's calculation of ILEA's 'assumed' budget level was not published in the block orant settlement. but has since been calculated by ILEA to be £598million.

This would produce a grant of £70million, rather than the £125million payable under the old system - a cut of £55million, overspending will be punished which is the equivalent of an extra 5p rate, levied on inner-London ratepayers!

As an illustration. ILEA has said that, to obtain the grant of £70million (that is, to stay within the cash limit set) it would have to:

\*leave unfilled all posts that become vacant during the year. no matter how crucial they are:

\*cut its allowances to schools and colleges (to cover such things as books and other teaching materials, and parttime teaching and non-teaching staff currently financed from elsewhere) by 75%;

\*cut all maintenance to buildings and not replace furniture or equipment: \*make no new discretionary

grant awards or educational maintenance grants; and \*sharply increase the price of school meals.

#### 'this new system... amounts to an 8.5 percent cut...'

The problem facing ILEA now is that if these levels of expenditure are not met - and. going on what ILEA has said. this seems very likely - ILEA will not receive its full grants for 1981/2 and this in future years by further cuts the Government's grants. in

It therefore seems inevitable that ratepayers in inner-London will be called upon to meet most - if not all - of the costs of education services in the inner-London area.

The most disturbing aspect of this trend - apart from the calculated dismantling of our state education system - is the way in which this Government is 'passing the buck' and offloading its responsibilities onto local authorities.

Since then, nature has been

and left alone as much as

possible. A small area of

to be cleared of weed, but

allowed to do most of the work.

grass is scythed now and then.

and the pond occassionally has

When the huge cost of ILEA (and it, justifiably, costs a lot) is being met from the rate will the Government still be telling local authorities that they must 'trim the fat' that exists in the system, and that they (the local authorities) must stop torturing the ratepayers by levying excessive rate demands to meet wasteful and unnecessary services?

#### 'a challenge to...local authorities...'

\*The Association of Metro-

politan Authorities (another body representing the interests of local authorities has already described the new system of calculating the rate support grant and the block settlement grant as 'a challenge to financial planning by local authorities!. It has also calculated that the introduction of this new system effectively amounts to an 8.5% cut across the country as a whole, with London and other metropolitan areas being more heavily cut to allow a 'flow of funds' from the urban authorities to the (mainly Tory-controlled) Counties.

# southwards abid care compaign Sagarday Feb. 21 514 CON STE SE SOUTHWARK BAIDGE RD JE



WHITY CENTRE IS ON THE CORNER OF SOUTHWARK BRIDGE RD



### **CLAIMANTS RIGHTS IN SOUTHWARK**

CLAIMANTS' RIGHTS IN SOUTHWARK (CRIS) is an open informal group of claimants, advice workers and DHSS workers.

The aim of CRIS is to assist in the development of an active local opposition to all cuts in provision of State Repefits and to press for a fairer, more equitable distribution of wealth, press more vicious in their CRIS is working to oppose cuts in jobs and benefits which are resulting from this Government's implementation of the previous Government's review of the Supplementary Benefit

CRIS is concerned to work with all those who depend wholly or partly on state benefits to maintain their income - low paid or unemployed, single parent or pensioner, disabled person or housewife unable to find paid work because of the lack of nursery facilities.

#### Campaigning

CRIS is involved in all sorts of publicity and campaigning activity: - organising a benefit take-

- up campaion
- lobbying local MPs
- joining in National action
- producing leaflets & posters
- organising meetings - running stalls at local
- festivals
- producing a Newsletter At the moment CRIS is involved with Southwark Trades Council in setting up a Centre for the unemployed in Southwark (see page 2), and with the WEA is running a course on the history of the Welfare State and its present development.

CRIS is producing a regular three monthly broadsheet giving details of local action and plans to produce a yearly newsletter outlining current issues affecting those on very low incomes.

You can make sure of receiving these free by affiliating to CRIS. The affiliation fee is £5 for Trade Unions and organisations with paid fulltime workers, £1 for other organisations. Individual membership is free.

Affiliation fees should be sent to CRIS, 12 Meymott St, London SF1.

Donations of time, money and materials will be gratefully accepted.

For more information phone John on 703 4775/701 0835 or Andrea on 928 9521.

The following is an extract

#### Defending Claimants Rights

Since the last Newsletter, the situation for claimants has got much worse. The nightmare of cuts in social security benefits have become horrifyingly true, and the attack on 'scroungers' and the 'work-shy'. Unemployment and basic commodities such as fuel have sky-rocketed.

In response CRIS has tried to fight back in lots of different ways. I don't think we have any illusions about what little impact we have had. the size of the task and the power of those who seek to degrade the unwaged and so undermine the strength of the working people as well.

Over the last year we have produced thousands of leaflets and posters. We held a public meeting in April, and followed this with a protest walk from DHSS Wedge House to the Public Enquiry room at the DHSS HQ at Alexander Fleming House. We printed badges. We lobbied Parliament twice over the 2 Social Security Bills. We lobbied the local MPs over the issue of poor staffing at the local DHSS offices. We had a stall at the Rotherhithe Carnival of Education, the Waterloo Festival and recently at the Carnival against the

#### 'Action Packs

We started a specific campaign to highlight the problems in one local office, Wedge House. To do this we produced 'Action Packs' which explained how to claim entitlements and what to do if you didn't get them. The emphasis was to put pressure on the managers at this office and those un the hierarchy.

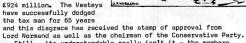
One of the things we have realised is that to mount a successful campaign we need the active support and coceration of the unions inside the DHSS. the CPSA and the SCPS, whose members face redundancies and increasingly appalling working conditions. One of our major aims of the next year is to forge closer links with the unions in local offices.

> JOIN CRIS JOIN THE FIGHT TO SAVE TORS SAVE BENEFITS

#### Whose Sacrifice?

The cartoon on the right shows things haven't changed since the 1930's the rich at the top are preaching equality of sacrifice, just like Margaret Thatcher today. But its not the rich who pay as is shown by the Vestey

William and Edmund Vestey's empire is made up of 246 companies with an estimated asset value of have successfully dodged



"Equality of Sac-rifice—that's the big idea, friends! Let's all

sten down

one rung!

Still - its understandable really isn't it - the members of the upper classes have to stick together and protect each others rights to get richer . . . and they talk about Social

#### Supplementary benefits & pensions **Check Your Money**

Single		£21.30	
single (long	term rate*)	£27.15	
Couple		£34.60	
Couple (long	term rate*)	£43.45	Variable Control of the Control of t
18 staying w	zuii puruiieu, i	£17.05	

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Your benefit will normally be reduced if there are non-dependents living in the house You will not get any benefit if you have savings of over £2000.

There are special allowances for  $\underline{\text{heating}}$  - on health grounds - or if your home is difficult to heat - or if you have central heating - or if someone - in the family is over 70 or under 5.

Dist You can also get extra money if your doctor has put you on a special dist.

Clothes
If your clothes wear out quickly due to a disability you can claim extra money. H.P. You can sometimes get money for the hire purchase of essential items.

TE TH DOUBT CLATM NOW! .

### •HEALTH PAGE•

### PRIVATE MEDICINE ~ ~ A THREAT TO HEALTH

Over the past few years Government policy has been deliberately designed to boost private health care by starving the NHS of funds and lifting restrictions on private medical

With NHS hospitals and services closing down for lack of money and the remaining services stretched to breaking point, private health care began to look very attractive. In fact there has been a boom in private health insurance largely accelerated by cut price group schemes offered to certain groups of workers, unions and

#### Who benefits?

But is private health care really more attractive? Make no mistake about it - private health care is based on profit profit for shareholders investing in the building, equipping and running of private hospitals.

Private health care will still be available only for the relatively healthy and the relatively well off. The services offered by private health care are those which can make quick money eg surgery. What will not be offered are services for the chronically sick, the elderly and the handicapped.

The NHS, which is in danger of becoming a run down, second class health service, will have to provide these services along with general services for the millions of low paid and unem-

#### Save the NHS

The NHS is supposed to offer services which meet the full range of people's actual health needs. Although this is not always the case at least there is the possibility of political pressure changing this. No amount of political pressure will induce the private sector to stop maximising profits.

So every time a group of workers is offered a group low price insurance scheme they could better spend their energy taking action to protect and force improvement and expansion in their local NHS facilities.

#### SE1 Threat

The Regional Health Authority plans to sell the Royal Waterloo Hospital (at the Waterloo roundabout) so that it can be used as a private hospital (see front page of Xmas issue and page , this issue).
What would this mean to SE1?

The increase of private medical establishments has a very direct harmful effect on the NHS.

A Series of Discussions... Open to everyone

Consultants spend less time in NHS hospitals - waiting lists increase.

Nurses, physiotherapists etc underpaid in the NHS and already difficult to recruit at Guy's and St Thomas', go to work in private hospitals. NHS hospitals are already running on the minimum possible establishment - the loss of only a few skilled workers results in wards having to be closed.

All this would mean a reduction in the health services available for the local residents of SE1. A private hospital at the Royal Waterloo will certainly be taking its patients by and large from outside the area. We need for our own health!

sake, to fight any attempt to instal a private hospital on our doorstep.

It is particularly disgraceful that the Regional Health Authority should be encouraging private development which will directly reduce the very services they are appointed to defend and develop.

The Royal Waterloo is a public building. If it can't be used for public health services then at least it must be retained for a use that will benefit the local. community.

#### Waterloo Health

WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP...

3rd. Thursday every month at Waterloo Action Centre at 7.30. New members always welcome. Talks, chats, coffee, very relaxing and enjoyable.

YOGA CLASSES at Colombo St.

Sports Centre, on Tuesdays, 6.15pm - 7.45pm (beginners) Wednesdays 6.30pm - 8pm (intermediate) A GROUP FOR PREGNANT WOMEN & NEW MOTHERS Monday 2pm at Barley Mow Clinic, Greet House Frazier. St. SE1. TANSWELL MOTHERS & TODDLERS DROP-IN at 4 Santley House. Frazier St, SEl, Mondays 1.30-3.30pm. Tues 10-12. Thur 1-4pm. DROP IN ABOUT HEALTH every Thursday 10.30am-12.30pm, at 1

Campbell Buildings. RELAXATION : &EXERCISE CLASS at Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1, Friday 10.30-

#### **Health Party**



day Health club from the children who go to it:

The Health Club meets at 4pm until 5pm every Wednesday. It is for children from 5 years old to 11 years old.

It is held at 4 Santley House. Frazier Street. London

What we do is play games and act things, like accident

By Astrid Loise Bell

There was a Film about Donald Duck. I like the bit when he got an Electric Shock and I like the bit when Donald fell down the Stairs. By Yetlinde

In the Health Club we had a party and it was very good. By Tina

Any child between 5 and 11 who would like to join the health club will be very welcome. Just come along any Wednesday.

How are the cuts affecting your

Do you find it easy to talk to your doctor? health services? Do you want to know more about Have you ever wondered about your body + how it works? atternative medicine? ASTHMA + BRONCHITIS POLLUTION IN VANUARY 28TH FEBRUARY 18TH Professor lan Cameron St. Thomas' Hospital Speakers Speaker - Ray Ranson, Chief Environmental Representative from the Asthma Health Officer, Lambeth Council Research Council CANCER FEBRUARY 4TH HEART COMPLAINTS FEBRUARY 25TH + STROKES Speaker - A local family doctor Speakers - local G.P. Dr. M. Eisner - Susie With - Danies FEBRUARY ITH CONTRACEPTION (family planning) BEREAVEMENT Speaker - Worker at Brook Advisory Centre Speakers - Dr M. Eisner

Representative from CRUSE

EVERY WEDNESDAY

7.30 PM. AT BARLEY MOW CLINIC

GREET HOUSE, FRAZIER ST, SEI



### WATERLOO WOODY

This has been a busy couple of months for us woodpeckers, with lots of letters to write about the terrible Coin Street plans from Greycoats.

Not only are there to be no

Not only are there to be no tudor beams, no wood panelling and wooden front doors ..... but there aren't any gutters of eaves either. For the first time since the invention of concrete, a really wide range of bird species have joined together to chirp their protest.

But at least all the work has had one good spin-off: a chance to award the Waterloo Woody prize for the most off-putting Council letter. The rules are simple: Lambeth and Southwark sach had to reply to a standard letter protesting about the

Without hesitation, both Councils nominated their Planning Departments to draft the replies knowing that planners can even butstrip Housing Managers when it comes to officialese.

Lambeth got off to a good start, with a reference number at least twice as long as Southwark's: 'DC/JJM/NWS/EDC/30000/27 to 30'. It is rumoured that birds who can't write this backwards and ferwards will not be allowed to attend the Public Enquiry.

Lambeth then cunningly went on to say that due to pressure of time they wouldn't be able to send us any of the papers we need in order to influence the decision on the plans.

But Southwark came from behind and won hands down. Their letter was duplicated but refused to acknowledge the reasons for our protest which we had put in our letter, because.... our letter had been duplicated. They asked us to write again 'in our own werds'.

Absolutely brilliant! So, we woodpeckers are replying with another standard letter asking the Town Planner to say in his own words why he wants us to say in our own words, why we object to the plans.

If he manages to evade replying, he may well go on to win the Waterloo Woody super-prize for most off-putting series of Council correspondence — which hasn't been awarded since the GLC last entered the competition in 1978. More news next month.

WY



### DAY CENTRE'S SHORT REPRIEVE

The December/January issue of SE1 sounded a loud warning about the future of the North Lambeth Day Centre, whose premises — part of the Royal Waterloo Hospital — were needed by the owners. The owners, the South East Thames Regional Health Authority want to sell the building quickly — with full vacant possession — as a private health facility. The RHA imposed a deadline of 23rd December 1980 on Lambeth Council (NLDC's sponsors) to ensure vacation of the premises.

On 23rd December, the RHA accepted the Council's offer to vacate on 31 March 1981, although they did not accept the Council's request that the date should be extended should there be any delay in the sale.

#### FUTURE PROSPECTS

With attendances this year at 11,000 so far there is an increase of 62% over last year s figures and demand is rising.

Against this background of rising demand it looks increasingly as though the NLDC will have to make temporary arrangements from 1st April which will result in only limited services being available. These temporary arrangements will probably have to last for at least 18 months while a long-term base is identified, negotiations take place, large amounts of capital monies raised and conversions are carried out.

Lambeth Council have given the NLDC a written assurance that the Centre's grant will be safe whilst a service of some kind is being provided and whilst negetations are taking place for long term premises. That assurance covers the period up to 31 March 1982, the date on which the first phase of funding for the NLDC expires,

One fact is clear. There will be a need for supportive services for homeless and rootless people in the area for years to come. Waterloo and North Southwark cannot afford to lose the NLDC, representing as it does the only positive response to a problem which has existed for many, many years.

The local community groups in the Association of Waterloo Groups actively support the work of the NLDC. The North Southwark Community Development Group has vigorously defended the case for retaining the NLDC in the Royal Waterloo premises and the Chairman of Lambeth's Social Services Committee has expressed that Council's strong support. Together, that alliance must strive to ensure that the NLDC survives.

Danny Levine, Director, North Lambeth Day Centre.

# Open Space ~ Work Starts

Work should be starting en Tuesday, 27th January on the site beside the Waterloo Road, opposite the Old Vic.

It will turn what is at present a National Car and Coach Park into a Public Open Space - something we desperately need in Waterloo.

Stages 2 and 3 on the plan should be finished by July. (There is not enough money to complete Stage 1 at present, although a rough kick-about area will be provided). As you can see, Stage 2 is a sitting out area and is separated from the roads and Adventure Playground by shrubs and bushes. Stage 3 is a toddlers' play area with a rubber safety surface and a slide and a shelter.

Waterloo people have been campaigning for this Public Open Space for more than 7 years. When it is complete, it will mean a positive improvement in the environment. As well as the new facilities for all ages there will be a reduction of noise and fumes from parking cars and coaches.

## Something to hide?

When our photographer went along to the Greycoats exhibition on Coin Street at Waterloo Station, a Greycoat official refused to let him take any pictures until he gave his name and address. He was told that any pictures would have to be approved by Greycoats before publication. Unfortunately, printing deadlines didn't allow us to do this (do Greycoats work Sunday afternoons?), and the front page photo is uncensored!

We can only wonder by the actions of the official in physically obstructing our photographer whether they really want their plans discussed widely. Have they got something to hide?

#### At your wits' end? Problem solved!

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CONTACT: Mary Murphy, Hall manager, after 6pm on O1 - 407 8179 or call at Hall 7.30 - 10pm Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday.

ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, off New Kent Road, SEl.

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