

# SEL

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR NORTH SOUTHWARK AND WATERLOO

NO. 60 FEB 1981 10p

## GREYCOATS AT IT AGAIN

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 similar 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 amphi-theatre by the river! The architect is still the same, Richard Rogers, and although some of the design details are different, essentially the scheme is still for a lot of offices, approximately one million square feet (compared with 1.3 million in their earlier plan), about equivalent 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 they'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 to 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 comments 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 disguise the true height 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 such 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 making any comments. The architects 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 zoned 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-

16th & 26th February 7.30pm

Copy deadline 26 February

Paste-up 28 February and 1st March

Out 7th March Issue no 61



## NATIONAL HOUSING DAY OF ACTION

saturday 28th march

The National Housing Liaison Committee (NHLCL), 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 issues.

### 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

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; immigration. 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.





## Bert's boots

Albert Football Club

With the Christmas festivities now over, it's back to the hard training and work for Albert F.C. Although since my last report it's 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 completing a fine hat-trick. The following week was a different game altogether against our old enemies, Marlboro. 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 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. Scores were Fitzsimons (4), Baldwin (3), Roy(2), Terrey(2), Doyle and Scarborough.

In sight of Tower Bridge and the sound and smell of the Courage Brewery (shortly to be closed) a 2 acre site has seen visits from foxes, hedgehogs, butterflies, dragonflies and various flowers and birds, as well as the more usual range of sparrows, pigeons cats and people to be found in SE1. It's the William Curtis Ecological Park, which is reached through a muddy lorry park at 16 Vine St, and is a patch of greenery amongst amongst warehouses and dereliction (if a little damp at this time of year).

## WILDLIFE HOME

Before 1977, the site was a lorry park itself, and basically a hard surface of ash. But as part of Silver Jubilee year, a large amount of voluntary labour helped transform it into a place where wildlife would feel as much at home as people.

# WILLIAM CURTIS: a natural haven

A lot of the voluntary work was done by members of the Bermondsey Boys and Girls Brigades, plus the Conservation Corps. With their enthusiasm and various donations by companies and organisations, the work took just 5 weekends

and about £2,000 to be made. Since then, nature has been allowed to do most of the work, and left alone as much as possible. A small area of grass is scythed now and then, and the pond occasionally has to be cleared of weed, but



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 other half of the site, owned by Southwark Council is earmarked for 'open space' of an unknown nature. Also there is only one year left to run on the Hays Wharf lease, even if only a peppercorn 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/full-time. £70 per full week. Trial period 2 weeks in February. Contact Administrator 01-633 9819.

# FUN IN SE1

'Musical' events for February:

Southwark Child Care Campaign has organised 'A Grand Thatcher Stomp' at the Borough Community Centre for Saturday February 21st.

Dance all over Maggie to 'The Gymnasts', '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. 50p adults, 25p 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. Margaret's Barcombe Avenue, Streatham, at 7.30pm.

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

## Southwark's child care campaign

**A Grand Thatcher Stomp** featuring **The gym slips The Biss Band and Disco** Saturday Feb. 21st. 8pm late at Borough Community Centre (NEAREST TUBE= BORDOWN) 56 SOUTHWARK BRIDGE RD. SE1

Admission £1-50 FOOD + DRINK EXTRA  
For tickets contact -



BOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE IS ON THE CORNER OF SOUTHWARK BRIDGE RD AND UNION ST.

# 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.

## 'an extra £118million...'

ILEA estimates that it will need £694million to maintain its present services during 1981/2.

In calculating this figure, ILEA has taken into consideration all savings possible due to falling numbers of school-children, 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 'grant related expenditure' (GRE) and the assumed budget level.

## 'no allowance for books...'

The GRE is assessed by the Government and is an estimate of the cost 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 savings 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.

ALL THIS, AND THE EXPENDITURE LIMIT COULD STILL NOT BE MET!

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

## 'an extra 5p rate...'

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 grant 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, 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 part-time 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 overspending will be punished in future years by further cuts in the Government's grants.

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 off-loading its responsibilities onto local authorities.

When the huge cost of ILEA (and it, justifiably, costs a lot) is being met from the rates, 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 Metropolitan 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.

# CLAIMANTS RIGHTS IN SOUTHWARK



'CRIS'

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 Benefits and to press for a fairer, more equitable distribution of wealth. 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 system.

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 campaign
- 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 full-time workers, £1 for other organisations. Individual membership is free.

Affiliation fees should be sent to CRIS, 12 Meymott St, London SE1.

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 from CRIS NEWS:

## 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 press more vicious in their 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 Cuts.

## '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 up the hierarchy.

One of the things we have realised is that to mount a successful campaign we need the active support and co-operation of the unions inside the DHSS, the CPSS 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 JOBS  
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 it's not the rich who pay as is shown by the Vestey scandal.

William and Edmund Vestey's empire is made up of 246 companies with an estimated asset value of £924 million. The Vesteyes have successfully dodged the tax man for 65 years and this disgrace has received the stamp of approval from Lord Mandam as well as the chairman of the Conservative Party. Still - its understandable really isn't it - the members of the upper classes have to stick together and protect each other rights to get richer . . . and they talk about Social Security scroungers!



## Supplementary benefits & pensions Check Your Money

Add together the amounts that affect you and your family

Personal allowance for a Householder (a person who is responsible for the bills)	
Single	£21.30
Single (long term rate*)	£27.15
Couple	£34.60
Couple (long term rate*)	£43.45

Personal allowance for a non-householder (a person over 18 staying with parents, friends etc.)	
(long term rate*)	£17.05
	£21.70

(\*long term rate - you should get this if you have been claiming for over one year or are a pensioner but not if you are unemployed and signing on)

Children that you support

0 - 10 years	£ 7.30
11 - 15 "	£10.90
16 - 17 "	£13.10

ADD your total rent and rates or £2.15 if a non-householder. If you are an owner occupier add £1.25 for maintenance and add your mortgage interest payments. See below for extra.

WRITE TOTAL SO FAR

NOW TAKE AWAY

Child benefit  
Maintenance payments  
Retirement pension and occupational pension and any other National Insurance benefit except attendance allowance and mobility allowance  
All you or your wife each except £4 plus fares to work  
If you are a single parent keep £4 plus half your earnings between £4 and £20

WRITE TOTAL HERE

### NOTES

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

### Extra money each week

There are special allowances for 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.

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

clothing 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.

IF IN DOUBT CLAM 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 practice.

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 companies.

## 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 unemployed.

## 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.

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's 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.

## A Series of Discussions ... Open to everyone

Do you find it easy to talk to your doctor?

How are the cuts affecting your health services?

Have you ever wondered about alternative medicine?

Do you want to know more about your body + how it works?

ASTHMA + BRONCHITIS JANUARY 28TH

Professor Ian Cameron  
St. Thomas' Hospital  
Representative from the Asthma Research Council } Speakers

POLLUTION IN FEBRUARY 18TH  
WATERLOO

Speaker - Ray Ransom, Chief Environmental Health Officer, Lambeth Council

CANCER FEBRUARY 4TH

Speaker - A local family doctor  
Dr. M. Eisner

HEART COMPLAINTS FEBRUARY 25TH  
+ STROKES

Speakers - local G.P.  
- Susie Witham-Davies

DEATH AND FEBRUARY 11TH  
BEREAVEMENT

Speakers - Dr M. Eisner  
- Representative from CRUSE

CONTRACEPTION MARCH 4TH  
(family planning)

Speaker - Worker at Brook Advisory Centre

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7.30PM. AT BARLEY MOW CLINIC,  
GREET HOUSE, FRAZIER ST, SE1

## 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 Santsley House, Frazier St, SE1, 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-noon.

## Health Party



Some news about the Wednesday 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 Santsley House, Frazier Street, London SE1.

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

By Astrid Louise Bull

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 Yetunde

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.





## 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 tudor beams, no wood panelling and wooden front doors ..... but there aren't any gutters or 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 each had to reply to a standard letter protesting about the Coin Street plans.....

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

Lambeth got off to a good start, with a reference number at least twice as long as Southwark's: 'DC/JJT/WWS/EDC/30000/27 to 30'. It is rumoured that birds who can't write this backwards and forwards 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 words'.

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.

W.W.



## 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 vacuation 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 whilst 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 negotiations 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 on 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?

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