

Social Security rumpus, Mellish backs tenants

A minor item on a Southwark Council agenda alerted residents living around Marshalsea Road to the fact that the Department of Health and Social Security were proposing to move their office for the payment of the homeless unemployed men currently in Marshalsea Road into a recently completed office at the foot of Redcross Way.

Angered by the lack of consultation about the proposal and the location of the new office in the midst of flats in Redcross Way and next door to two primary schools, shops, and open space, residents lobbied local MP Bob Mellish on Friday February 6th.

Mr Mellish told the deputations that he supported their protests and would go with them to see the Ministers responsible and get the proposal squashed. Mr Mellish said that he had already received letters from residents of Pattison and Babington House complaining of the nuisance and harassment caused by the men using the present office in Marshalsea Road. He had also received letters from Mrs Jenny McClaren of Douglas Buildings tenants association about incidents that had occurred in these flats in recent months.

Miss McKenzie, the head mistress of St Saviours Primary School, which is shortly to move to new premises in Redcross Way, has also written to Mr Mellish opposing the move. One local resident said "If this isn't stopped it might be necessary to take other action".

Predictably, an official at the DHSS was quick to defend the move saying that "a high official" in the DHSS had walked around the area and thought that Redcross Way was "a suitable location". But he let the cat out of the bag when he said that the payment office would not be suited to "an office area like Borough High Street".

Local residents see this as another attempt to use North Southwark as a dumping ground for problems that could be much better solved in other ways. Two ALTERNATIVES are being proposed to the DHSS. The first is to spread the payment



This photo by 14 year old Robbie Clarke is one of those in the Young Photographers Exhibition. See the story 'Say CHEESE', p4

Chemist closes

BOOTS THE CHEMIST on Waterloo Station closed at the beginning of February. This was a dispensing chemist which mainly served commuters, but by closing down it puts pressure on the remaining chemists. The closure notice states that you should use the Boots Chemist in Lower Marsh. It is bad enough already when you have to wait a long time to get your prescription made up; sometimes you even have to go back the next day because they are out

of social security to homeless men to offices throughout London thus taking the pressure off one area and making the men feel less like outcasts. Second, residents are urging that if there must be just one London office for homeless men that it should be located away from flats and shops and should be in an office or industrial area.

of stock. Already we have lost a large number of chemists in the last few years. This is the eighth to close in just over 2 years

What a con

Southwark Council tenants residing in Styles House, The Cut, are now finding themselves paying out more money in their rents for their heating. Now they find that their heating has been cut in half and they are now feeling the cold....

Recently, Southwark Council increased the heating charges by 42% - then switched off one of the TWO boilers, which have both been working since the Block was built. Although, the tenants have complained it seems nothing is being done about it!

SE1 advises all the tenants to get together and send a petition to SOUTHWARK COUNCIL.

Sport & shows for Waterloo

A six week run of shows and entertainments at the Waterloo Action Centre from Feb. 27 onwards is the outcome of the determination of a group of people in the Waterloo area who were disgusted at the lack of amenities for the area.

In November 1975 a group of people from the Waterloo area met with George Smith, Chairman of the Lambeth Amenities Committee, to find out what amenities were available for the Waterloo area. Mr. Smith was told that we needed long term plans i.e. Swimming Pool, Gym Hall, Parks etc. But it was pointed out to us that with money difficulties at the moment long term plans were very much in the future. Mr. Smith agreed that this area was very poor in amenities compared with Clapham (Swimming Pool) Norwood (Cinema & Theatre) Brixton (Theatre and a Recreation Centre)

Also North Lambeth has lost out with the Summer Fair with all events going to Streatham, the Town Hall and Clapham Common.

It was pointed out to Mr. Smith that the people in this area did not think that the South Bank did anything for the people of the area. Mr. Smith left the meeting promising to get something for us.

The Group then met on the 27th January to discuss the list of events suggested by Mr. Smith. The Group was very disappointed that all the things listed were on a short-term basis and it is clear that Lambeth Council still need to be convinced that there is a demand for more amenities before putting up any more money.

The group, now called the Waterloo Amenities Group, in an attempt to show its belief in the needs of the people of the area, says: "We can fight for these things, but it's up to the people of the area to keep them going by supporting the events, telling others and coming along to enjoy themselves. Anyone wanting to help or wanting tickets should call at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road (tel 261 1404) or ask their Tenants Association to get in touch - may be - by a block booking for members of the Association. See Events Diary on Page 6 for details and dates of the sports coaching.

Your Voice

St A's - keeps me out of trouble

I have been going to St. Alphages for a year now and it has been great fun. We do all kinds of games like table tennis, bar football, football in the hall, cricket, basketball. On school holidays we go on outings to the zoo and many interesting places. We have the best youth leaders in the world and their names are Steve Lancashire, and June Bell. They are very understanding if you have any problems you are sure they will help you to try to put things right.

Before I joined I used to just hang around my flats and sometimes get into trouble with the neighbours and police. But this has all changed thanks to St. Alphages and the youth leaders. This is why I am writing this to keep the club running for my sake and other young peoples' sakes and for all those who will enjoy the club for many, many more years to come.

Yours truly,
Tony Dunn age 15

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? Read our background story, page 4

Cecil House; Life...or bare existence?

Dear SE1,

In view of your meeting this coming Thursday, I would like to raise a point, that if printed in your small but useful paper, might do some good. It is regarding Cecil House, 266 Waterloo Road, SE1. This hostel accommodates 44 homeless women, but recently the rent for a bed in the dormitory has gone up to £8.05 per week. All meals are paid separately, and having to be out during the day, in this extremely cold weather, makes life very miserable and expensive. I would willingly move out of

Southwark, just to have the opportunity to LIVE rather than exist in this way. (I have lived in a flat in Southwark for 25 years so I feel the Council and social workers are not doing enough to help the homeless.)

I fear for my HEALTH (although we are allowed in a bit earlier during this cold spell). Secondly I find buying meals out is costly and you have to pay VAT; nor are they very satisfying. There are no clubs for 45-55 age groups where I could do my knitting, and I am not old enough for an OLD PEOPLES' HOME.

Although I am a trained nurse and midwife and have excellent

Trying to get something done....

Dear SE1,

I feel that I must complain through your newspaper about the illegal parking of lorries and private cars in Carlisle Lane. Everyday there is either a Tate and Lyle lorry parked right across the street which is very narrow or an oil tanker which leaves oil remains on the road right outside our estate.

You might think that I am just a complainer, but when you try to get something done about it, no one seems to want to know. I have told a traffic warden about a car parked on the pavement under the arch, he stated that it is British Rail property which is ridiculous because this is a main thoroughfare, surely British Rail only

own the surrounds. I hope your newspaper reaches the appropriate people so that something can be done.

All the best,
Mrs. K. Richards,
10 York House,
Carlisle Lane SE1

WRITE

to SE1. We want to hear your news and views. Send your letters to: SE1 Community Newspaper, 12 Meymott St, SE1.



office and administration experience, all I am offered is VOLUNTARY WORK. I can't be well dressed on that. So I exist on Social Security while there is work in ABUNDANCE. And if I had work the day would pass quickly and I would be better off as I would not have to exist on snacks all day.

I will try to attend your meeting on Thursday evening, as I dare not sign this letter as I live in fear of being chucked out and I have nowhere else to go.

PS: There are hundreds of

Jim Mellor Len Biffin

Jim Mellor died last month, only 42 years old.

Jim, an actor, lived in Roupell Street and was well liked in Waterloo. His funeral at St Pauls Covent Garden was attended by many of his friends and colleagues. Peter O'Toole and Peter Hall, Director of the National Theatre, gave the orations.

Jim had been asked to return to the National Theatre when it opened its new building. Born in Huddersfield, he went to Bradford Art College - where he met his wife, Margaret - before coming to London to act in 1955. Starting at the Old Vic, he played with the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and in a long succession of roles on TV, such as The Regiment, The Likely Lads, Z Cars, Dr Who, Softly Softly and most recently Moll Flanders. In April 1975 he was found to have cancer.

Our deepest sympathies go to Margaret, Secretary of the Waterloo Community Development Group, and his sons, Ben and Matthew, Secretary to SE1.

There will be a Benefit performance for the Family at the Old Vic on Sunday February 22nd, a Music Hall put on by his friends.

empty flats in Southwark and I am paying out of Social Security to keep my furniture in a WAREHOUSE! I am British so I feel they should offer single people more flats and get us out of communal living which does no one any good. The reason I am in Cecil House is that I fell out with my neighbour although I had been living in a private estate since 1953. Under private

Dear SE1,

We recently had a letter from a lady, Mrs. Horrocks, who was once a resident in SE1. She moved to the country about 20 years ago and is now very keen to move back to the area as she is feeling rather lonely and isolated.

She is a 65 year old widow, although she does not look her age and is quite lively. She is interested in the possibility of sharing with another lady who might have some space in her house.

Perhaps one of your readers might have some room and would be interested?

Many thanks,

Joe Szwarc,
B.I.A.S.

Workmates and friends rallied round when they heard of the sudden death of fellow worker, Mr. Leonard Biffin. Over 200 attended his funeral.

Len, who was only 44 years old was a quiet and respected friend of many in the newspaper industry in and around Fleet Street. He worked locally on Saturday night at the Sunday Mirror works in Stamford St. for over 20 years as a NATSOPA.

The week after the funeral his workmates held a giant raffle plus a buffet/dance at the Stamford Rovers Club in Cornwall Road as a fund raising mission for the deceased's dependants, his wife Sylvia, and a 3 year old child. All the 14 prizes for the raffle, hall and dance band were given free. The fund raised over £800.

This is not the first time the Stamford Rovers Club and workers from the Daily Mirror have come to the aid of dependants when in need.

In early 1975 another local printworker, James Sheldon, died and a similar function was arranged.

Flicker Bill, Bernie Noble and all the others involved deserve our thanks for their well-worthwhile efforts.

landlords I have been on the waiting list for 25 years for Borough Council but did not need one then.

But as my circumstances have changed (being homeless since LAST JUNE) I have to wait a year or two to qualify for a council flat, and I could be dead with pneumonia by then.

(Name and address supplied)

Golden Oldy

is on the centre pages this month.

Jobs lost through Borough deal

A DEAL HAS RECENTLY BEEN MADE public which will give Southwark Council a tenants hall and an old peoples' day centre on a site which now contains two firms employing 41 people. The site which fronts onto Borough Road (nos. 49,60) is owned by the City of London Corporation. The Corporation has obtained a developer who will build an office block on the Borough Road frontage with the community facilities at the rear being the "planning gains". But two firms which occupy the rear of the site have not been offered alternative accommodation and fear that they will be forced to move out of the area.

Briar and Co. Ltd. who employ 25 people, manufacture plastic goods and Staunton Imports employ 16 people, and manufacture wooden household goods. Staunton Imports actually want to expand their operation into vacant parts of the site but were refused by the City of London Corporation.

The community facilities would be for tenants of the new Scovell Road housing estate which is under construction behind the site. Originally, the tenants' hall and day centre were to be built as part of the estate but now Southwark Council are saying that they will be tied to the granting of planning permission for the office block on Borough Road. This, plus the loss of jobs which will result, has prompted the NSDCG and the Southwark Trades Council to write to the Council asking that the community facilities be included in the Scovell Road scheme as originally planned, without being related to the Borough Road scheme. This will ensure that the community gets its facilities without losing jobs and without being linked to any planning permission for offices.

GLC stops private clinic

A prestige private hospital which had been planned for Southwark Street has been turned down by the GLC Planning Committee (February 2nd). This is good news for local groups and for the Community Health Council and the Southwark Trades Council who campaigned against it.

What next for the Lambeth?

The Lambeth Hospital in Brook Drive is definitely to close, the beds being transferred to the main St Thomas' site.

But the crucial decision on how the empty site is to be used depends on the Minister of Health, who must, by law, take account of the local proposals for a Community Hospital.



Victory for our views

Dispatched

Carpgate Ltd., a firm of property developers, who have been trying to get permission to turn the old Dispatch Motors building in Southwark Bridge Rd into offices have been told by the Department of the Environment, following a public inquiry held last October, that the building must remain in industrial use. This is a victory for local groups and the Southwark Trades Council who went to the public inquiry to make a case against more office development and in support of industrial employment. If this Inquiry had been lost, the prospects of retaining and building up industrial employment in Southwark would have been damaged.

Local views upheld

As reported in February's SE1, residents in Bermondsey protected at a public inquiry against a proposal to build a block of £24,000 flats on a key riverside site near Tower Bridge.

Now their protests have brought success, and official support for their arguments which should encourage other groups in a similar position. Last week the Inspector announced that the Department of the Environment did not support the proposal to build the flats.

river access

In his report he said that the wharves concerned "command spectacular views of the river; represent a possible

point of access to the river for the general public in an area where there are depressingly few and they lie close to a series of large council housing estates where recreation facilities are undeniably poor".

£24,000 flats

This is a victory for those in Dickens Estate, Arnold Estate, Tooley Street, and Millpond, all of whom made representations at the inquiry, arguing that the wharves should be retained as open space and that the people of Bermondsey could not afford £24,000 flats and it was therefore wrong to build those sort of flats on the site.

Baths at the Elephant?

Perhaps the longest standing promise made to Southwark residents over the years is that soon there will be a swimming pool built at the Elephant & Castle. So far nothing has happened, though a succession of grand schemes consisting of everything from theatres to squash courts has been sketched out on Council drawing boards ever since the last war. But it has just been announced that a more modest scheme consisting of three pools - a main pool, a teaching pool, and a splash pool - is definitely to be built. But keep your fingers crossed. We've the planners have in mind is next door to the Tabernacle and will not become available until the end of the year. Let's

hope it happens. With Rotherhithe and Manor Place being the nearest swimming baths and with the prospect of Manor Place itself closing in the near future, the Elephant Baths are desperately needed.

SCHOOL PATROLS

There are several vacancies for school crossing patrols in the Southwark area. The pay is now 92p an hour - for between 12 and 15 hours per week. Half pay for school holidays as a retainer. Uniform is supplied.

For details, contact: Police Sergeant Austridge Southwark Police Station 323 Borough High Street, SE1 Telephone 407-8044 or your local home beat officer.

National Theatre drops a brick!

The building costs of the new National Theatre - already standing at more than £13 million of our money - escalated once again recently when the builders discovered that the special entrance they had built at the rear of the building for the transporters was not high enough. Someone had not bothered to measure the transporters! So they have had to shelve out more money to lower the road into the theatre.

Perhaps the new Theatre's first production should be "Measure for Measure".

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7pm SATURDAY,
1pm SUNDAY.

SE1

SPEAKS
OUT

Time and again people in SE1 find they cannot get information from officials or cannot hear issues discussed at Council meetings because it is 'confidential'. Elaborate attempts are made to exclude the public from finding out about important decisions, especially if they could cause a public uproar. It is the very decisions which worry the public most that are cloaked in this secrecy. Local and national government is becoming as secretive as MI5.

Only this month we have several examples on our doorstep. There is the ridiculous statement from Southwark that information on the future population of the borough is confidential. Major development schemes do not surface from council committees for public consultation until the committee has already made up its mind, eg Snowfields and Bankside.

The proposal to move the DHSS office to Redcross Way was discussed on the confidential section of the planning committee 'so that the matter could be gone into in some depth'. Many reports on what is happening in SE1, for example on housing, employment are stamped 'confidential' and are never seen by the ratepayers, sometimes even councillors are kept in the dark.

Confidentiality can only benefit the increasingly select band of decision makers in the Town Hall or Government departments, who by and large are not elected members but paid officials. SE1 says open up the doors of these committees, publish those reports and surveys and tell us, the people, what is going on, and let us take part in the discussion and decision making.

Free help for Law

We are a group of lawyers who give free advice and assistance in an informal atmosphere to those who may be unwilling or unable to go to see a solicitor and find the Citizens Advice Bureaux cannot help.

Much of our work involves writing letters and making telephone calls to landlords, tenants, insurance companies, manufacturers, shopkeepers, employers, husbands and wives, and above all the local council. We find that with the benefit of legal experience and headed note paper we are able to present the client's complaint both clearly and forcibly. Usually we can sort out the problem without going to court.

makes the difference

However if legal aid does not cover the matter and the client is unable to afford a solicitor, we can assist in the preparation of the case and give information about procedure in order that the client can present his case better.

If we cannot speak for clients at court or before tribunals, then we can usually arrange for this - and it makes all the difference with a case.

In some cases people often need a problem or a document explained to them so that they can understand their legal obligations and commitments before any dispute has arisen. In others, the matter is not primarily a legal one and the social workers present are better trained to deal with the problem.

The need for the service we provide comes from the limited number of helpful solicitors who practise in the area and also the fact that Legal Aid does not yet cover areas that are often very important to people, like Rent, Industrial and Social Security Tribunals.

The Waterloo Legal Advice Service is open every Thursday

evening between 6.30 and 8.00pm at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1 (01-261 1404). There are seven lawyers, a typist, and two social workers who attend regularly.

Say CHEESE!

For three weeks starting Monday March 1 there will be an exhibition at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road about the work of the Young Photographers' Group run by Blackfriars Settlement. About 30 young people aged 8 to 17 come to the darkroom at the Settlement four evenings a week to process the photographs that they have taken on the cameras that they borrow from the Group. In the exhibition each young photographer displays his or her own best photographs on a panel designed by themselves. In addition, the boy or girl explains a little about the photographs and says what he or she thinks of coming to photography club.

The point of the exhibition is not so much to show off the photographs that have been taken (which are very good), but to

create discussion and an understanding among the kids themselves, parents, youth workers and other adults involved with kids about the value of using photography as an educational tool among young people. For taking photographs is not only lots of fun but also encourages the photographers to look more closely and objectively at themselves and their world, and gives them an excuse to go into new situations and provides a means of expression for kids who have reading and writing difficulties. It is as much the atmosphere around the group as the photography that draws the members back each week. The exhibition attempts to capture some of this spirit.

After 3 weeks at the W.A.C. the exhibition moves to the Half Moon Photography Gallery, Alie Street, E1 for a month.

HELP?



In the next couple of months work on the new youth and community centre in Pocock Street, off Blackfriars Road, will be completed. The building will be used mainly for the youth work of Blackfriars Settlement but it will also be available for wider community use.

The Settlement youth workers, Sue Sinclair and Steve Lancaster, are calling on individuals and groups in SE1 to get involved in planning how the centre can best be used.

However inflation has hit this project like everything

else and although the basic shell of the building has been built there isn't any money left to buy equipment to make it usable.

Can you help with equipment that could go into it? They need solid kitchen and lounge furniture, paint, crockery, cutlery, cooking gear, tables, chairs, carpets, shelving, ashtrays, stools, pots and pans, glasses, food display units, table tennis table, film projector, etc, etc, anything, no matter how small, might be of use. Let Steve or Sue know on 928 9521.



Edgers site



Kings Reach



Laing site

Going - Gone - Tide Turning

Will the procession of massive office schemes like the Kings Reach, Edgers, and the proposed Laings continue to march further down river to Hays Wharf, Butlers Wharf and beyond? One major obstacle in the way of this advance is a vital policy formulated by the GLC last year

which severely restricts the amount of office space that will be allowed in Central London over the next five years. Between 1976-1981 the GLC have limited new office space to 3 million square feet in the whole Central London area which includes the West End and City as well as North Lambeth and North Southwark. These restrictions have been strongly supported by local residents and trade unionists in SE1

The restrictions were under

threat from several different and unexpected quarters. The devlopers as one would expect have been mounting an attack on the policy in the press saying that it is "politically motivated" and is "preventing the proper expansion of the City of London".

tories want offices

Support for the developers has come not surprisingly from the Conservative opposition at the GLC. What is more disturbing is that some of the Inner London boroughs and in particular Southwark and Camden have joined in the attack. They have said in letters to the GLC that office restrictions are holding up redevelopment of key sites and that "planning gains" are being lost.

To add to this there is growing concern in SE1 that the Secretary of State for the En-

vironment, Antony Crosland may confirm details of the Laings office block on Bankside. This was the subject of a planning enquiry last June and there is still no decision on it. If the scheme is approved the GLC office policy, on which the GLC based their case against Laings will be in trouble because the Government will have shown themselves unwilling to support it. Without Government support the office policy cannot be enforced

more plans

Meanwhile developers of the Emerson Street site on Bankside between the Edgers site and Laings have asked the GLC to consider a huge new complex which would include up to 270,000 square feet. This is clearly in direct conflict with the office policy and if accepted would make a nonsense out of it. But the recent Lambeth de-

cision to favour housing over offices in the Waterloo area and the constant pressure of local people throughout SE1 show that the developers and their friends in the Government and Local Councils will not have it all their own way.

Local groups have used the GLC office restrictions to support their own cases at public enquiries on many decisions. For example, on January 10th, Waterloo Community Development Group argued against an office at 91/94 Lower Marsh seeking instead a mixture of housing and shops. On the same day groups in Southwark opposed a change from industry to offices at 309-317 Borough High Street using the GLC office restriction. Many of these issues would never have reached an enquiry if the GLC had not stepped in against office developments which contravened their own office policy.

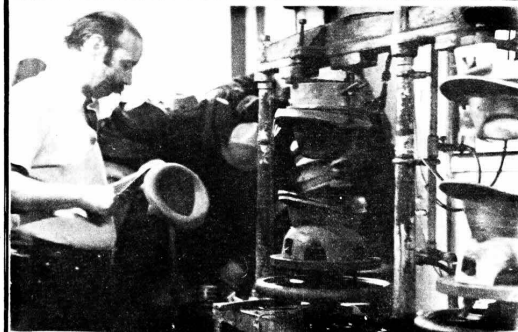
'autumn exclusive' handmade hats for fashion conscious women to producing hats for Woolworths to make ends meet.

However the Woods family adjusted to the change. Sensing that there must be millions of unwanted hats they moved to Flat Iron Square and started re-modelling old hats.

30 years later tastes have changed, but favourites are still cowboy hats and policemen's helmets. Other styles such as Batman, kung-fu or Bay City Rollers come and go and then a new 'block' is made to cater for a new craze. The process stays the same though with old hats being first steamed and then pressed into a new shape with hot irons. The machinery is simple but effective. After pressing, the hats are trimmed and then sent off.

Not surprisingly, after 30 years it's getting harder to find old hats to recycle and soon the Woods will be going over to using rolls of hat felt which they will cut up and then shape in the normal way. The problem with this is that whereas the old material was spun into a cone shape before pressing, the new material is flat and will not keep its shape as long, so next time you go to Southend pray it doesn't rain or you may end up with something more like a skull cap than a bowler hat.

In Flat Iron Square though behind those steamed up windows, an old craft is being carried out, and who knows what might happen to the industry if Malcolm Allison's cat catches on. thousand, destined to end up on merry heads all over the world. When it started back in 1914 the firm was a much more sober business with a large milliners in the West End, producing quality hats at 5 guineas a time for the hatted general public. In the late forties though, startling changes suddenly occurred. The 'beehive' hairstyle took over from the 'bob' and hairstylists took over from milliners. As if this wasn't bad enough, royalty started wearing headscarves instead of hats and almost overnight thriving milliners were reduced from making



Wear didya get that hat?

What have Southend, a Germ an Beer Garden and Harrods got in common? Rather than send an SE1 reporter to all three locations, something that would treble the price of the paper, we sent him round to Flat Iron Square, Union Street to investigate this unlikely puzzle.

How many of you pull out of Southend after a 'beano' with no money left but a funny hat on your head telling everyone you're 'only here for the beer'?

Did you ever wonder where those toy policeman helmets on sale in Harrods come from? The chances are that all those hats were made by Royce Hats Ltd of Flat Iron Square, SE1.

Royce Hats is a family firm spanning three generations of hatmakers. Claude Wood, son of the founder of the firm works with his son Peter under the watchful eye of Mr Wood senior, churning out novelty hats by the

Golden Oldy

Dan Crawley lives on Bethel Estate, Bermondsey, a few hundred yards from where he was born in Abbey Street.

My first job after school was in a butchers shop in Long Lane - scrub the blocks and put sawdust down - for 12/- a week and a joint of meat. But it wasn't as bad as it seems, because that Mrs. Pierce, she was a good woman. For instance when the blocks was finished and that, she'd take me upstairs and I'd have my tea and she'd give me some money for the pictures.

The year of the General Strike I was working over at Barnes earning 32/- a week and if I'd known the sort of things that I know now, I'd never have thought of working during the strike. But I thought a lad of



eighteen earning 30/- a week wasn't going to make much difference to the strike. I walked over to Piccadilly; lined up from the Ritz towards Hyde Park Corner was a line of strike-breaking buses and I got one of them to Hammersmith Broadway and walked over the bridge and across the common to Barnes and I stayed there all that week sleeping on the factory floor.

After my first job finished I registered at Walworth Road Labour Exchange. I wasn't the only one out of work at that time, there were plenty of young fellows in the same position. You speak about a regular job, it was like speaking about win-

ning the pools. For instance, if two fellows were talking to one another, one might say to the other 'Well, old Jack told me - he's got a regular job you know' well, that gave Jack some authority for what he said. If a fellow was standing in the street talking to another one and somebody walked by on the other side and shouted out to him, as we'd say, he'd turn to the other fellow and say 'He's got a regular job' and he was named in status. It was like name dropping.

At one time I applied to join the army, but they rejected me. I saw a statistic once that 83% of would-be recruits were rejected on grounds 'directly attributable to malnutrition' - that was children who'd had the brunt of the first world war, rationing and all that.

I got a job in the hop warehouses - they'd take on a few people before the hop-picking started. You could go home with £4 in your pocket. Of course you got as much overtime as you could knowing full well that the job was going to wrap up soon after Christmas. Later on I worked for the Hop Control Board - that was when the bottom fell out of the hop market with prohibition in America and they were destroying the hops, or rather, sending them back to the country for manure. You'd pour paraffin in each bundle and stencil 'Rendered Unfit for Brewing' on it with black ink.

I can't speak from experience about the hop picking itself, but remember Mother's scrimping and saving for it. It was the equivalent of a holiday in those days. I remember the first thing the kids would do was get a bout of diarrhoea, I think it was the change more than anything else but maybe it was picking too many apples out of the orchard! But I remember them all going off in lorries, carts, special trains from London Bridge at reduced fares. It was a big thing for Bermondsey people, that.

Dan has strong feelings that Bermondsey people have lost out from all the changes in the area and is active in the campaign for developments that are in the interests of working people. Bethel Estate, where he lives, is on Hays Wharf.



Lambeth free bus fares

How to get a new permit

NEW APPLICANTS

Those applying for a free permit for the first time (men of 65 and over and women of 60 and over) should go in person

Waterloo Action Centre

14 Baylis Road, SE1

during the week 11 - 2

(From 1st March to 2nd April)

YOU SHOULD HAVE A NEW PERMIT FOR BUS TRAVEL BY 1 APRIL 1976

What Where When?

ENTERTAINMENTS

LAMBETH TOWN HALL

29.2.76 Old Time Dancing 2.30-4.30pm) Admission 30p
4.3.76 " " " ") OAPs 20p

23.2.76 Traverse Players present "Ladies in Retirement"
Admission 5p
Children & OAPs 25p

NORTH PECKHAM CIVIC CENTRE

2.3.76 Cabaret Showtime 7.30pm Table for 8 - £2.00
Single tickets 25p

5.3.76 Club Night - Semprini - Piano Virtuoso

9.3.76 Anne Shelton - Our Local Star Table for 8 - £10.00
Single tickets £1.30

VAGABOND KING presented by The Cathedral Players. 75p, 65p, 40p

every 25 - 28 at 7.30pm in Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road SE1.

NORTH PECKHAM CIVIC CENTRE LIBRARY HALL - FREE FILMS 7.30pm

24.2.76 The Railway Children

9.3.76 A Man For All Seasons

Old Vic, Waterloo Road.

22.2.76. Benefit performance for Jim Mellors family. Music Hall

and others with Peter O'Toole, Elaine Stritch, Annie Ross...7.30.

Phone the Old Vic Box Office for details of tickets 928 7616

Sports Training

Water Polo- at Clapham Baths, transport to be arranged, must be able to swim 400 yards, leads up to Bronze Award.
MONDAYS in March (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd) 6-7.30

Gymnastics- at Hawksstone Hall, Christchurch & Upton Chapel, Kennington Road, leads up to Grade 4 Award.
TUESDAYS in March (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd) Times: 6-11yrs old-5-6pm.
12yrs plus-6-7pm.

Introduction to Ladies Keep Fit- at Hawksstone Hall, Kennington Road, Crèche will be arranged- for any age.
WEDNESDAYS in March (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th) 1-3pm

Weight Training- at Hawksstone Hall, Kennington Road, over 14 yrs.
SATURDAYS in March (6th, 13th, 20th, 27th,) 5-7pm

COUNCIL MEETINGS

We are sorry, but due to lack of space we have not been able to show the dates and times of the Local Council meetings, if you want to go, ring either the Lambeth Information Desk on 274 7722. Or the Southwark Information Desk on 703 6311.

Community Health Councils

GUYS COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING

26.2.76 Nurses Old Dining Room, St. Olives at 6.30pm

ST. THOMAS' DISTRICT COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

23.3.76 Lady Margaret Settlement, 131, Kennington Road 7.00pm

The Community Health Council for the St. Thomas' District is a group of non-medical men and women who live or work in Lambeth. They have an advice surgery at the Citizens Advice Bureau at 323 Kennington Road, SE11 (735 2400) every Thurs, 5.30-7.00pm. They will be able to advise on individual difficulties with the health service. The council does have powers over the Local Health Authorities and their District Management Team, so now you, the consumer can change the health service that you get. (for other information contact St. Thomas' District Community Health Council, York Road, SE1. (tel: 928 9292 ext. 2391)

S.E.I. MEETINGS

We meet most Thursdays to discuss what the next issue will have in it, what it will look like etc. EVERYONE IS WELCOME just drop round at 7.15pm on the; 26th Feb.
11th Mar.
18th Mar.

to 12 Mewmott Street, off Blackfriars Road- just opposite the new Prince William Henry pub.

see you there

Secret statistics - why?

In November the North Southwark Community Development Group asked Southwark Council for information on how the population projections, which are the basis for deciding on the number of councillors, were arrived at.

Cathedral Ward in Southwark is to lose a councillor under proposals just released by Southwark Council. This was predicted by SE 1 in December, and now local organisations are writing to the Boundary Commission to protest

Cathedral Ward Labour Party also wrote questioning the figures but as yet the letters are unanswered, increasing suspicion locally of what has gone on behind closed doors. With something in the order of 500 new homes being built or about to be built in the Ward, local electors have questioned how it is that Council figures show a loss of over 500 electors in the next five years.

The Southwark-Bermondsey Constituency within which Cathedral Ward is located is however gaining two councillors, one in Abbey Ward and the other in Riverside. But this is no comfort to Cathedral Ward where residents will be worse represented than they are now.

In an attempt to publicise the changes, Bermondsey Trades Council and the NSDC called a public meeting on January 21st at Duthy Hall. Over 30 people from Southwark and Bermondsey attended. Several people expressed the feeling that the changes would make the town hall even more remote. People wishing to view the proposals should go to the town hall in Peckham.

Rates soar services cut

New facts have emerged recently about the way the rating system discriminates against the poorer inner urban areas such as Southwark and Lambeth. For example, our councils receive less government grant than better off Boroughs and actually pay out money to the suburban outer London Boroughs. The result of this is that our councils have to get income by raising rates and rents, or are forced to cut services.

It is often said that more office development will bring in the rates our councils need in order to offer proper services. But this is not necessarily the case, as far as inner London is concerned. Also, there are other means of raising revenue which do not cause such serious social problems.

For all the facts on RATES and how the rate system affects inner London came to:

A SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON THE RATE SYSTEM

SATURDAY FEB. 28th

at
ST. PANCRAS CHURCH HOUSE
LANCING ST. N.W.1

10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Association of London Housing Estates and the Joint Dockland Action Group.

Didn't she do well?

As reported in last month's SE1, Mrs Haswell took out a 'section 99' summons against the council to force them to clear up the terrible conditions at Edward Henry House, Cornwall Road. The magistrates had no doubt that the flats were in a bad state and ordered the council to do the necessary repairs and cleaning within 21 days.

When Lambeth asked for more time to repair the drainage the magistrate said he was sure if the Queen Mother said she wanted to visit Edward Henry she wouldn't have to paddle through the water because the council would fix the problem immediately so if they could do it for her they could do it for Mrs Haswell.

When local councillors heard about the court case they were furious because they had been told by officials that no one was living there any more. The officials hadn't dared or bothered to tell them about the court case. The cover-up continued with the officials accusing the remaining tenants of being obstinate by refusing many offers of alternative housing and persuaded councillors to agree to make each tenant just one more offer and enclose a notice to quit to put pressure on them.

But the tenants had had good reason to reject all the offers that had been made. In Mrs. Haswell's case she found two of the places had been bricked up and the other three were all too small.

When councillor Pam Verden discovered that Housing department officials had been misleading them she began to put the pressure on for immediate offers of decent accommodation. Mrs. Abbey, senior allocations



Would the Queen Mother have to paddle through this puddle?

officer stepped in and the area housing officer actually took Mrs. Haswell on a tour to view flats until she found a suitable one. Mrs. Haswell has now got what she had been waiting for - for 8 years. She and her seven children moved to a 5 bedroom house in Clapham at the beginning of February. All the other tenants have also accepted offers of better accommodation.

A recent High Court case cleared up a vital point which will affect Mrs. Haswell's claim for compensation against Lambeth Council due to be heard

on 16th March. The case was about another section 99 summons taken out by a tenant in Oxted against the council. The judge decided that leaving a property in a bad state is a criminal rather than a civil offence. This means that the landlord can be fined up to £200 and tenants can claim compensation against them. It enables Mrs. Haswell's claim against Lambeth Council to go ahead.

Once again, the courts have tightened up the law in favour of tenants rather than landlords.

YOUR RIGHTS

Finding it too expensive to keep properly warm? If you are on supplementary benefits or get a supplementary pension as well as your ordinary pension, you may be entitled to extra money to help with heating costs.

IF YOU OR A DEPENDANT

(1) live in accommodation which is difficult to keep warm because of damp or because the rooms are unusually large. OR

(2) have difficulty getting about because of your health or age. OR

(3) have a complaint (like chronic bronchitis or rheumatism) which requires extra heat. THEN

you can ask for an extra heating allowance. These are extra weekly amounts ranging from 55p to £1.65 depending on your circumstances. Heating additions are also payable to people with central heating.

Just drop a note into your local Social Security Office:

state.....
To the Manager, Department of Health and Social Security...
Dear Sir,

I wish to apply for an extra heating allowance and would like you to arrange for a visit to me.....

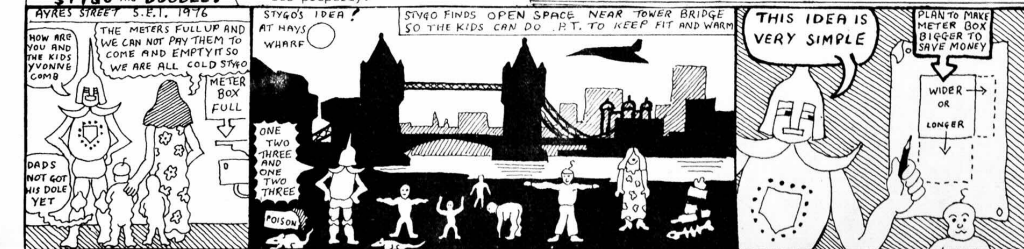
Signed.....(Joe Bloggs)

Address.....
Maybe, some extra blankets will do the trick, or you might have to repair or replace a faulty fire. In this case, you can also ask for help by way of a single lump-sum payment. Let the DHSS know of your need in the same way as for the week ly allowance.

Do it yourself repairs

Lake, Ley, and Lefroy Houses on Southwark Bridge Road were acquired by the GLC from a private landlord in April 1975. Since then, over nine months later, no maintenance or repairs have been done by the GLC. The tenants association has protested on numerous occasions but the GLC have done nothing. Con Rudduck, chairman of the TA, said "We have written to Sir Reg Goodwin but have had no response; the problem seems to be with the GLC caretakers who

will not look after estates which have been newly acquired by the GLC until their staffing is increased. This has created a deadlock because the GLC have refused to take on more maintain ance staff. Meanwhile, it is the tenants who have to replace light bulbs in the stairways and clear up rubbish in the square. Other GLC estates have the same problems. The answer must be for the GLC to employ enough staff to enable them to undertake their maintenance responsibility properly.



The West end comes to — Waterloo

Feb.27 Variety Show 20p, 3p OAP
8pm WITH BAR

March 5 Kids Show 20p INCLUDING
REFRESHMENTS

" **12 Variety Show** 20p, 3p O.A.P
WITH BAR

" **26 Kids Show** 20p INCLUDING
REFRESHMENTS

April 9 Grand Disco "THE WORKS"
8 PM - 12 PM

PLUS "O'a show on London" 20p 3p O.A.P
WITH BAR

All at the Waterloo Action

Centre 14 Baylis Road SE1
Tickets available from WAC or your tenants assoc by Feb 23 come and enjoy yourselves

also Pensioners Show

at The Young Vic The CUT SE1
March 9th 2-30pm **5p**

Cliftonville, Margate & Begnor



Holidays for Lambeth old age pensioners

£150

for one week full board and travel

For those permanently resident in Lambeth who have not had a holiday under this or any similar scheme during the previous year.

Holiday every year for those over 67 years old.

Apply NOW for holidays in MAY

Application forms giving full details from

WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE

14 Baylis Road SE1.
Tel: 261 1404

Experts Rubbish

say local people

Tenants in Bermondsey have challenged Southwark's Director of Social Services, Mr. Sellick to employ them as social workers.

The challenge came at a meeting between a delegation of tenants led by Mr. Patrick of Tooley St. T.A., Southwark Council officers and members, and NALGO Union officials on Tuesday January 27th at the area office.

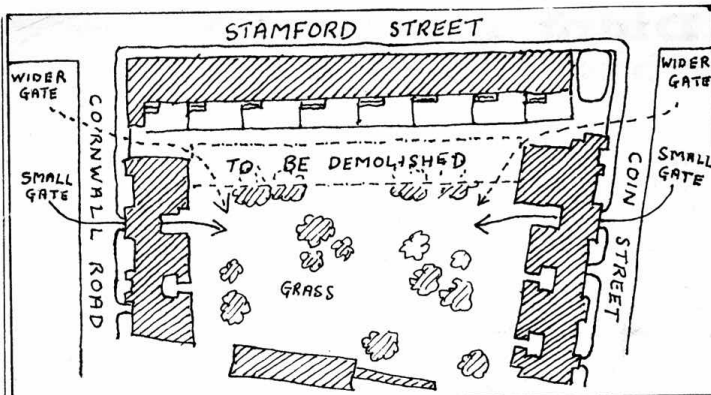
The meeting was called to discuss the closure of the Area 2 office due to staff shortages. When fully staffed, the office should have 18 social workers. The present compliment is 5 which includes 1 qualified social worker. This situation was first reported in SE1 in October when Councillor Covey, Chairman of Southwark Social Services committee said he did not think the staff shortages were bad in Area 2.

At the meeting on 27th Jan Tom Sawyer, chairman of Arnold Estate T.A. suggested that several local people had adequate experience to be able to run the reception desk, which would at least mean the doors would be opened, rather than closed with a notice on the door directing people to Castle House at the Elephant, nearly 2 miles away. He was supported in this by Mr. Eddie Hart of Dickens T.A. and Mr. Wally Warbey of Millpond T.A. who both stressed the amount of social work done locally by the tenants associations.

Mr. Patrick also pressed that in the short term money that was not being spent on staff salaries for the vacant posts should go to employing more home helps to cater for the elderly who were being increasingly isolated.

Mr. Sellick answering these points was reluctant to concede that a local unqualified resident could meet the demands of the job; however after several angry exchanges a commitment was made to staff the reception desk and open the doors. A meeting was also fixed to review the staff recruitment situation.

Perhaps the most significant revelation of the evening was that there is no law in this country that says elderly people must be cared for, thus when staff shortages occur, they are the first to be neglected. As Mr. Hart said "If tenants associations didn't do the caring, who would?"



Edward Henry

The GLC proposal for part demolition and remodernising of Edward Henry House was agreed to at a Waterloo Community Development Group meeting. At this meeting GLC planners discussed ideas of what could be done about Edward Henry House. The one accepted was to completely demolish the central block which backs onto the gardens of the houses in Stamford Street. This would leave two separate wings which would be improved to a high standard, plus lifts. By

demolishing the centre block they would create an open space which would be landscaped. Although it would mean the loss of 42 flats (most of which are small units) it would leave 54 flats (2 and 3 bedrooms) which would provide family accommodation. There are now only 2 or 3 families left on the estate and these will be allocated alternative accommodation in the very near future.

The GLC hope to start work in a couple of months so as to stop any vandalism. However, there are already some squatters including families with children, making use of the empty flats and the GLC will have to re-house them before work can start.

S.E.1. COMMENT

This is wonderful news for we all know what has happened to Edward Henry in the past 8 years; Lambeth Council has used it as a half-way house, accomodating 330 kids plus parents. The density then was 400 persons per acre. Once the GLC has carried out its modernisation programme it will leave 200 persons per acre, which is still well above the average; however, it is better than complete demolition for who knows what would have been built in its place.

Why are we waiting?

A block of 40 new GLC family flats in Nicholson Street near Blackfriars Road which have been ready for occupation (or so it seemed) for several months, are still empty even though people have been promised flats on the estate. Why the delay? It seems that once again sub-contractors have let the GLC down. Apparent-

ly the light fittings in every flat have been improperly wired so that the GLC is now having to send its own electricians round to make good the work. Let us hope that when it is finished that all those who have been promised places do get formal offers.

Same work for less pay

Everyone who lives in SE1 knows the Shell Centre on the South Bank, it's very big and grey(they also have a swimming pool they keep to themselves). Few, however will have heard of the Office Cleaning Service, that also is big perhaps it's grey as well.

In July last year, Knuckle the community newspaper for Lambeth and Southwark, reported the troubles of the night cleaning staff, employed by the Office Cleaning Service. The source of their problems was obvious. The ladies had a take-home pay that averaged £16 per week. This was a wage for work which started at 10.00 p.m. and finished at 6.00 a.m. the next morning.

Thanks to the women's determination and Knuckle's publicity, OCS gave them an extra £6 a week. But this meant that the cost Shell had to pay went up, so they sacked OCS and switched the work to another cleaning firm, Rebate.

Most of the local women doing the all-night shift lost their jobs - some 50 or so - as Rebate hired other people for another shift system in order to keep their wage-bill down. Mind you, they don't stint themselves. As long ago as 1973 Rebate's manag-



Sophie Esmond

ing director paid himself £1,154 a week.

The 10 women still left on the all-night shift can get £30.30 a week gross, £20 odd after tax. But the three men working with them on exactly the same kind of work get up to half as much again. Even a new student who dropped in gets £40 a week, a full £10 more than the women who have been at the job for years.

But now the women are going to change this, under the Equal Pay laws that have just been passed. Says Sophie Esmond "The first thing is to get £45 for those of us who do exactly the same as the men do," and they have sent a request to their manager for parity.

"We're all going to fight for what we know we should get" said Anne Burnett, and that could mean going to an industrial court.

Legal Aid is not available for this, but Lambeth Community Law Centre offers a free service. Women lawyers there are looking to help women in any local jobs whose pay doesn't match that of men doing the same job.

If you are in this position, phone them at 733 4245 for help and advice.

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