

SE1

FEB. 15^p NUMBER 2

THE SCANDAL OF CAMPBELL!

OFFICES SLAMMED

The Government has announced its decision on the Hays Wharf site between Tower Bridge and London Bridge, and recommended cutting back the developers' proposals for 2 million sq.ft of offices to only $\frac{1}{2}$ million.

This is good news for local people who would, however, have preferred to see the entire scheme thrown out altogether.

Last year there was a major public inquiry into the Hay's Wharf scheme to put the equivalent of 14 Centre Point office blocks on this site which local people wanted for housing, industrial jobs, open space and local shopping and community facilities.

Local people told the Inspector in no uncertain terms that an absurd speculative development of this kind was not what they wanted for their area and he seems to have accepted many of their arguments.

Indeed he recommended that the whole office scheme of the Kuwaiti-owned St Martin's property company be turned down on the grounds that there were too many offices and too little housing in the application.

Unfortunately Michael Heseltine has wilfully ignored the Inspector's advice and granted his permission for $\frac{3}{4}$ million sq.ft. of offices with no benefit for the local community.

But at least the Inspector has agreed that there is acute housing need in Southwark and that schemes in future should take account of the needs of the local community.

meeting was called instead, which many tenants are expected to lobby. This will have taken place while 'SE1' was at the printers, so we will report on what has happened next time.

If in the meantime you want more information, contact SGTA at 190 Southwark Park Road, SE16. Phone 231 7275.

(A rents freeze means that tenants refuse to pay more than the pre-increase rent to the Council.)



Would you want to live in a flat with no hot water, no bath, and surrounded by half demolished buildings and filthy flats, empty or squatted? This is how many people left in Campbell Buildings are living. To those in the last block, re-housing seems to be along way off.

Lambeth Council has started 'decanting' people out of the fourth block, ready to demolish it. (There were originally five blocks.) But when they move out, the flats rarely get boarded up, and squatters and vandals soon break in, gut the place and leave water gushing into the flat below, through what's left of the piping they have ripped out. The tenants left are those likely to suffer most: elderly people who don't want to move out of the area they have lived in for so long. And there are few places locally which the council are offering for them to move to.

In the fifth and last block, some people haven't waited for

the council to move them. As conditions have got worse, they have decided that they can't stand living there any longer. In the process, they have given up their right for moving costs, disturbance allowance etc. And as they move out, squatters move in making things even worse. Fire engines and police now have to make regular calls to the estate.

Council officers did not deny that they had lost control of the estate at a recent meeting of the Kennington District Housing Committee. This committee agreed to recommend to Lambeth Council's main Housing Committee that people should be moved out of the last block immediately, and not wait for the original date of May or so. With only 36 out of the 50 flats officially occupied, this should not be too difficult for the council. It is surely the least they can do considering the state of the Buildings.

FREEZE!

A rent and rates freeze from April was decided on by the Southwark Group of Tenants Associations on 27th January. At a meeting very well attended by tenants associations from around the borough, they agreed nine recommendations. These included forming a rents freeze action committee, and setting up a series of meetings around council estates to discuss this with as many tenants as possible. Reaction from these meetings will be reported back to STGA at the end of February, and final preparations for a rent freeze will be made.

Southwark Council itself delayed making a decision at its meeting on the 27th January on whether they were actually going ahead with the proposed rent increases. A special

WRITE ON FOR SE1

In order that a wider range of people feel able to take part in producing 'SE1', we have been thinking about alternatives to the present arrangements where most of the work is done at the fortnightly evening meetings and at the actual paste-up weekend.

We realise that for a variety of reasons not everyone wants to attend evening events. So we are organising a series of daytime sessions to try to take over some of the production of the paper. The first of these will be on Tuesday 16th February at 10.00am, and will decide what kind of things should be done during the day. Possibil-

ities include learning about photography, paste-up/layout, typing, writing workshops and indeed anything related to producing a newspaper.

If you are interested in coming, please contact Jeanette at Waterloo Action Centre on 261 1404, to find out where we will be meeting on the 16th. Look forward to seeing you.

The local newspaper!



FEBRUARY

The Cityfolk Song Club present the Pye Brothers, at Beadles Wine Bar, Kings Head Yard, Borough High St. Friday 12th 8pm

Morley College Choir and Symphony Orchestra at Southwark Cathedral play Britten's St. Nicholas an Rakhmaninov Symphony No. 1 Wednesday 17th at 8pm

A show about Housing: 12 o'clock and still no Dick! at South London Industrial Mission Christchurch, Blackfriars Road. Free on Monday 8th at 12.15pm

MARCH

Morley Chamber Orchestra play a programme of Mozart, Beethoven and Vivaldi on Thursday 4th at Emma Cons Hall, Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, 7.30pm

APRIL

Handicraft competition and exhibition at Lambeth Town Hall. This is being organised by Age Concern Lambeth for senior citizens in the borough. There is a huge range of classes to enter. Entries should be taken to Lambeth Town Hall, SW2 on Tuesday 20th. For further details, contact Age Concern on 274 7722 extension 2922, or get a leaflet from Lower Marsh library.

Monday March 1 Open Day Lambeth Town Hall: Books, exhibition film children's activities. On peace & disarmament 9 to 5 with at 1pm * The Wargame

* First meeting of new N Southwark CND 8pm Bermondsey Library Large Hall, Spa Rd. Speakers inc Peter Tatchell. Showing of The Wargame More info Frances Bestley 7012625

Tues 2! Regular fortnightly mtg of Brixton & N Lambeth CND at V. Neighbourhood Centre, corner of Vassall & Brixton Rds 7.30. More info Tim Spencer 582 0836

Sat 6! Brixton & N Lambeth CND weekly street stall

* Bicycle Parade assemble 11am Jubilee Gdns County Hall to see sites in Lambeth war plans

* Brixton & N Lambeth CND jumble sale 2pm Methodist Hall Mostyn Rd SW9

* Nollukes Music gig at Lambeth T. Hall: big name group

SMALL JOB

HOME TYPIST REQUIRED....for occasional, urgent typing. contact Sharon Delaney 928 8264

wac pensioners party



Pensioners at the Monday Club's Christmas party - after lunch at Steve's restaurant in the Marsh. the 37 members returned

to the hall behind WAC for an afternoon of music, fun and games. A marvellous time was had by all!

DID YOU KNOW

NEIGHBOURHOOD FRIENDS
BOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE,
56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1.
ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE GIVEN
TO LOCAL RESIDENTS
Monday to Friday 9.30 to 4.30
HALLS AND MEETING ROOMS
FOR HIRE
VARIOUS CLUBS:
Sunday: OVER 40s club 4 to 6.30
Tuesday & Thursday: YOUTH CLUB
for 13 to 16 years, 7 to 9.15
Wednesday: ARTS & CRAFTS 2-4pm
Saturday: IRISH DANCING 11.30am
STARTING TUESDAY 2nd MARCH at
12.30pm: MOTHERS & TODDLERS CLUB
TEL. 928 6476

WILD HORSES

and all that

Come across any stray horses wandering around SE1 lately? If so, you need a copy of 'Living in Southwark' published by the Council Here you will find the information nobody in Southwark should be without such as: "There is a pound for stray horses at East Dulwich Police Station, 173 Lordship Lane, SE22." So now you know why their station garden is always thriving. Nothing beats horse manure!

"Living in Southwark" is a comprehensive guide to council services and facilities in the Borough plus some others provided by voluntary groups. It is produced by Southwark Public Relations Department, Town Hall, SE5

Here is our second attempt at producing 'SEI': we hope you find it interesting and enjoyable. We hope we are improving, but if you have any comments or ideas about the paper, please let us know. And let us know if there is anything you want featured: we can't report it if we don't know about it! Or you could write an article, or send us a story, cartoon, photo, advert.....

Or perhaps you would like to know more about how the paper is put together, and possibly get involved. We are trying to make it easier for more people to do this. There are details of daytime sessions elsewhere: we are also starting a 'drop-in' at our office at 12 Meymott St, off Blackfriars Road, 1.30 to 3.30pm on Wednesdays 10th and 24th. And every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month after that! Come in and say hello if nothing else!

Later on the same days, there will editorial meetings at the Waterloo Action Centre, at 7pm. The 24th is also the deadline for all contributions for the March issue, appearing on March 6th.

ALL WELCOME

There will be a meeting on 9th February at the Waterloo Action Centre, starting at 7.30. Its aims are to bring together the old committee and introduce new members. Anyone interested in joining will be very welcome.

The committee members are responsible for organising entertainment in the local area, such as shows, films etc. There are already four shows arranged for March, but there is still a lot of work to be done. For further information, contact Dolly Davey, Amenities Committee Member, Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1.



MUSHROOM PRINCESS
4 servings or 12 savouries

12 small mushrooms
2 ozs butter
3 ozs cream cheese
paprika pepper
12 rounds of toast or
fried bread or
4 larger slices of toast.

Cook the mushrooms in the butter, removing the stalks before cooking, but using these as well. Drain thoroughly and cook. Pipe a rosette of soft cheese in the centre of each mushroom. Dust with paprika pepper and put the stalk into position. Serve on toast or fried bread..

SEI says: this description of Lower Marsh was sent to us by a local resident. If you have any memories of what life used to be like in SE1 why not share them with us and send them in to the office. If you don't feel up to writing them down we can arrange for someone to come and interview you. All you have to do is let us know.

'SEI' should soon have its own typewriter, photographic equipment and interviewing tape recorder, all being well. Up to now, we have had to rely on borrowed equipment, personal cameras etc, which has often stopped us doing things quite as we would like. But thanks to an equipment grant from the Greater London Council, future editions should be easier to produce, more enjoyable, and the finished product will be better as well. We have still to get final confirmation on the grant and any conditions on it, but many thanks to the GLC Grants Panel in anticipation.

Equipment is no good without people using it, or if we can't afford to print the paper. So let's have your letters, ideas and money!

letters.

1 Douglas Flats
Marshalsea Road
SE1

Dear Sir

The planners have been trying to rob this locality of its identity for the last 35 years and for my part I think it is a good thing that SE1 is trying to build that identity up again. It is also a good idea that we can produce a paper without "them", the experts.

I liked the political parts of the paper and I think it would be a mistake if anyone thought they could produce a non-political paper in these times. This district is taking a terrible hammering from the government in a lot of ways and disenchantment with politicians does not mean that people disregard politics. If lots of people could get involved in the production and distribution of the paper it would be marvellous. I am sure all those that did so would benefit by learning a lot and enjoying it a lot.

Yours faithfully
R Kingsbury
23 December 1981.

In 1930 Lower Marsh was a thriving industrious market place frequented by all types of people from every part of London

The stalls were out from early morning till late at night and it was a grand sight to see the stall-holders and shops auctioning their wares last thing at night to the poorer section of the area such as Wexwell Terrace, Murphy Street and Grindel Street - now demolished of all their small houses and also Oakley Street which is now Baylis Road but at that time was three-storey terraced houses interspaced with dingy shops.

family houses

The houses were let to several families in one house at one time and the population density was immense. One could always find barefoot ill-dressed kids running around till all hours of the night but no vandalism.

There were quite a few hostels for the homeless and destitute. One or two well-known places were the Glendale Hotel in Westminster Bridge Road

bottom of the barrel

and a hostel in Lower Marsh down by the Red Lion pub known as the "doll's House" housed quite a lot of "night ladies" and homeless ladies. Some of them had known better days but for one reason or another had reached the bottom of the barrel and earned what little they could by washing clothes and sewing for the girls who were on the street. I think they paid about one shilling a night for a bed in these hostels and paid for their bed in advance then they could go in at any time.

There were three or four fried fish shops in the Lower Marsh and you could buy a piece of fish and paper full of chips for twopence.



A view of Lower Marsh in the 1930s.

We had hat shops where we could buy a hat for 2/11 - I am quoting old money by the way. We could buy a new outfit pretty regularly as clothes were so cheap. One dress shop in the Marsh was Modlyn's Monty Modlyn's mother's. She would always dock a bob or two off the price of anything one bought. Another shop was Rosa's and she was very good. If you wanted to buy a coat or a dress there would always be a small discount off or you could pay a deposit and she would keep the garment for you till you paid for it.

Lower Marsh was at one time rather notorious as "ladies of the night" were to be found seeking "business" both there and in Waterloo Road. But it was safe for people to walk out at night in those days.

Another well known place in the "Marsh" was Hill's the Herbalist and he would have a stall outside his shop selling sarsaparilla which he claimed was "very good for the blood".

I could go on and on about this area but I had better stop now.

As the second of an occasional series on local political personalities, we interview John Medway, SDP councillor for Bishops Ward, Waterloo.

John Medway came to London in 1969 to work as an architect for the GLC and in that same year joined the Labour Party.

"It was something I'd had a long standing intention to do but I thought I would leave it until I had time to devote to it. Actually they were so short of people that they had me running for Parliament in 1971."

"That was a very exciting period for me and I was very pleased to be thrown in at the deep end as it were but I gradually began to feel frustrated with being a Councillor - it was a bit like being the 'icing on the cake' ... giving a democratic gloss to something which goes it's own way really.

"I began to feel that I would like to work full-time on some of the issues, which at that time in Lambeth meant housing work. I was lucky enough to get a job with Southwark council, working as one of a small group of people helping to produce Southwark's housing strategy.

"Then I gradually become more involved in one aspect of implementing this strategy, that is working with housing co-ops.

"Since 1974 I'd been gradually dropping out of politics ... it seemed that there were several things wrong with the Labour party it was too attached to an old fashioned ideology and it's decision making process seemed to be at fault."

On the splitting off of a new centre party he says - "Actually I'd been looking forward to this happening for a couple of years before it actually did ... others in the party, like Roger Liddle, had been fighting very hard to get the party, from our point of view, back on the rails but as I'm not really very

keen on politics I hand't the energy for that sort of fight. It has been said that the SDP doesn't really have any clear policies and that voting for it is a bit of a 'short in the dark' really.

"Certainly the policy making process of the SDP is still in it's infancy ... but I think that by the next election things should be sufficiently hardened up for it to be clear what sort of party we are!"

"It seems to me that principles are more important than policies ... I agree with Roy Jenkins when he says that the major parties are in a state of manifesto-itis ... though obviously there are certain things which it's vital we have clear policy on."

Would the Liberal/SDP alliance, help maintain a Tory government if it were to hold the balance of seats after the next election.

"Well that's possible ... though it would have to be with the so called 'Tory wets', there's no way I'd feel happy about maintaining anything like the present government. The Tories would have to pay a very high price for collaboration ... meaning especially that they would have to give their support to proportional representation ... it's ever possible that it would be a short parliament, just long enough to bring in P.R."

"I have the feeling that coalition with the 'Tory party' might be more stable than with Labour ... a kind of gut feeling that the Tory backbenchers would be more inclined to take a pragmatic view."

As a socialist, how does he feel about this possibility?

"Well I don't give myself precise labels anymore ... the trouble with 'socialist' being that it means so many different things ... my commitment isn't to some abstract notion of equality - in fact I don't particularly feel outraged at the sight of people who are rich; but that people should have to live in the sort of conditions they have to live in round here seems to me to be the important thing.. an example of the human right to a decent standard of living not being available to all."

All of which sounds close to traditional Liberalism really.

"Yes I think I'm quite close to Liberalism really ... the reason I never joined the Liberal party is that that philosophy was at one time expressed by one wing of the Labour Party."

In the end John Medway doesn't see himself as a career politician, he is not planning to run for Parliament and he sees membership of Lambeth Council as a way of complementing his involvement in housing issues in a way being an M.P. never could.

Howard Johnson.

HEALTH NEWS

AT LAST A HEALTH CHECK-UP CLINIC FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE AND A CHIROPPODY CLINIC WILL START AT BARLEY MOW CLINIC THIS MONTH.

For the past year or more pensioners living in Waterloo have been campaigning for somewhere local where they could go for health checks.

Many pensioners are worried about their health and many have commented that they are often told that there is nothing they can do about their ailments as they're just getting old. They decided they would like regular full check-ups and a chance to talk with a doctor. They wanted to be reassured that they were healthy or do something about it if they were not. These will start in March on Monday mornings at Barley Mow Clinic, Greet House, Frazier Street, S.E.1

Any woman over 65 and any man over 65 is entitled to a check-up. You will need to make an appointment. Forms are available from Barley Mow Clinic and Waterloo Action Centre.

FOOT CLINIC (CHIROPPODY) There has also been a fight for a foot clinic (chiroprody). The only ones near Waterloo are in Blackfriars Road and at Lambeth Towers, which is too far to walk for many people. The waiting list is also very long at both clinics.

A new foot clinic will start this month at Barley Mow Clinic on Tuesdays. You will need to make an appointment. Telephone 720 6551 x44. Free treatment will be available for children, pregnant women and pensioners.

DRUGS EXHIBITION....PILLS AGAINST TIREDNESS, WORRY AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS?

Many women take drugs prescribed by their doctors to cope with their daily lives.

The Women's Health Group have started talking about drugs commonly used, what they are, how they work and what the

effects are. They had the idea of mounting an exhibition about drugs to give people some facts.

Do you want to know more about the drugs you or your friends use?

Go along to the next Women's Health Group meeting on 18th February or telephone Barbara Hartley or Eva St81te at Blackfriars Photography Project 928 9521

PENSIONERS HEALTH GROUP A group of pensioners meet together every Wednesday morning 10.30am-12noon, at Barley Mow Clinic, Frazier Street, S.E.1

The group is friendly and informal. Below is a list of the next few meetings. Please come if you are interested.

FEBRUARY 3rd WATERWORKS
FEBRUARY 10th YOGA.....WHAT IT CAN DO FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE.
FEBRUARY 17th GLANDS OF THE BODY....WHAT THEY DOHOW THEY WORK.
FEBRUARY 24th BEREAVEMENT
MARCH 3rd FEAR



WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP

We are a group of women who meet every third Thursday of the month to discuss various aspects of health. Our meetings are held at Barley Mow Clinic, Frazier Street, SE1 at 7.30p.m.

EASING UNEMPLOYMENT?

With unemployment in Waterloo, like everywhere else, increasing it is good to see that the Waterloo Action Centre in Baylis Road now has a worker specifically concerned with these issues.

Marshall Colman will be pleased to help anyone locally interested in setting up a workers co-operative. As he says "Plenty of unemployed people have skills that are going to waste. They can often get together and set up their own." He has already offices.

helped a local group who are setting up a self-run catering business, and is putting together a plan to employ youngsters in a home window cleaning project. A report that Marshall had produced points out that what the area needs is more light industry and service jobs that can employ local people. They could also offer a service to the community. Little of this will come from the present plans by property developers to build up their own." He has already offices.

We shall be holding a meeting on the 18th February when we will be discussing different kinds of drugs, the affects they have on us, what they contain, etc. For instance women who take anti-depressant pills or tranquillisers may like some information on how these kinds of pills affect us over a period of time. We shall also be having meetings through out the year to discuss herb- alism, psychosomatic illnesses, acupuncture, vaginal infections, etc. Additional information can be obtained at Waterloo Action Centre. ALL WELCOME.

BARLEY MOW DROP-IN

Lonely or Depressed?

A Sympathetic Ear?

During the summer of 1981, a drop in counselling service was set up by Waterloo Health Project and Lambeth and Southwark Mental Health Group.

At the moment the service is open every TUESDAY EVENING 7PM-9PM at the BARLEY MOW CLINIC on Tanswell Estate, Frazier Street, SE1

It is for people living in the area who may be in some sort of crisis, who are depressed and need to talk about their problems or who are simply lonely and would like to chat.

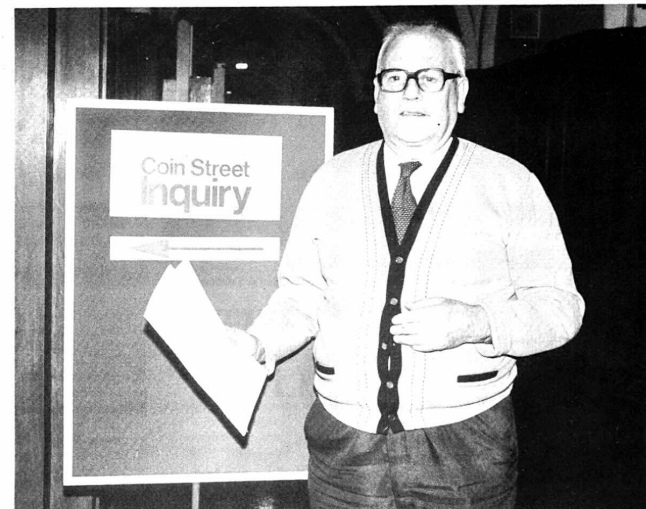
There is no formal commitment to attend regularly although regular counselling sessions are available if anyone seeks continuing help.

Eventually self-help groups could be formed if people want to continue to meet.

As an alternative to the local G.P. (family doctor) or psychiatrist, local community counselling at Barley Mow Clinic offers people support in talking about and understanding their problems in a relaxed and friendly way.

Ideally a Waterloo Employment Project, possibly funded by Lambeth Inner City Partnership money, would be able to really tackle the local work problem. The money for his own post will run out this summer, having only started last July. Copies of the report "Employment in Waterloo" are available from The Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road or phone 261 1404 if you want to discuss anything further with Marshall.

Helping the unemployed



If you have lived in Waterloo all your life, as Fred Miller has, then you probably share his concern for the future of the area and the impact of a major office development on Coin St.

Fred is 70 and now retired but as Treasurer of Lambeth Estates Residents Association, Chairperson of Hatch Row Co-op, Treasurer of the North Lambeth Law Centre and a member of the Coin Street Action Group, he's as busy as any full-time worker. He is also Chairperson of the Association of Waterloo Group and it was in that capacity that he launched the AWG's case at the Coin St. Public Inquiry last month.

Born in Theed St., he now lived in the next street, Witlesey St, all part of a conservation area that was once scheduled to be demolished as slums and where now unmodernised houses sell for over £50,000.

"My grandparents lived in Coin St. My grandfather was a Master Lighterman which meant that he owned his own boats. My father followed the same trade and was Captain of a tug. I well remember as a child hearing his whistle blowing as he passed by on the river; this was a signal to my mother that he would be home in a couple of hours after mooring his boat at Charlton for the night. Everyone around knew about Mr. Miller and his whistle."

When Fred left school he got a job with a book publishing firm. "Like most people in Waterloo I could walk to work. There was plenty of local industry and plenty of family housing so people lived and worked in one community."

Fred's memory of the area is good. He reels off the names of firms which used to be along the riverside and streets and streets of houses that are no more. Many of the street themselves have also disappeared under office developments.

As a fireman during the war Fred worked to save housing that was pulled down after the

war. "The 1950s did more damage to North Lambeth than Hitler's bombs ever achieved" he remarks sadly, "in those days there were no action groups like there are now to fight the system".

Gradually he was sucked into the action in Waterloo, starting as a founder member of the Lambeth Estates Residents Association for the people who live in Ruggell, Theed and Whittlesey Streets. He attended the public meetings from which the Waterloo District Plan emerged. At last it seemed they were going to put back the housing that had been taken away thirty years ago. But then the Tories won control of the GLC in 1977 and decided to support the Heron Group's plan for a hotel and offices on Coin St.

"I arranged a meeting with George Tremlett, the Chairperson of the GLC's Housing Committee. He told me "I know what you want but I want a hotel and I am going to have one". Well, he didn't get his hotel and we are still fighting the Greycoat plans for offices four years later."

For the Fremletts and the Greycoats of this world, Coin St. is just a space on a map, handy for fulfilling their ambitions and building their empires. For Fred it's his home and he doesn't want office blocks as his next-door neighbours. "I live in the area and have done for nearly seventy years. I want to see the sites developed for the people who live there and who could live there."

Fred sees Coin street as Waterloo's last stand; "If the developers have their way, just like all the other times, there won't be any local people left anymore. Unlike General Custer however, Fred is determined that Waterloo will come out of this battle alive and winning!"

Tony Phillips.



Bert's boots

Since it's been nearly a year since you last heard from me I will give you a brief summary of the Club activities over the past 10 or so months.

The teams trip to Amsterdam was a great success and we did well to beat Den Haag 6-2. Although the team we played was Den Haag's 6th team this was not a bad result considering their first team qualified for the UEFA cup last year.

At the end of last season we finished a disappointing 3rd just missing the top by 4 points. Barry Fitzsimons was top goalscorer with 27 goals and Martin Allerton was voted Player of the Year.

During the year we entered two teams in the Southwark 5-a-side competition along with a 100 or so other teams. This competition is staged annually at the Southwark Park Astro turf Pitch and we did exceptionally well in that both teams reached the last 8. Although the 'A' team got beat in the quarter final the 'B' team got through to the final only to be beaten 3-1. Unlucky AEE?

Now to the present season: due to our strength we were promoted to intermediate 2 division and to date have played 4 games winning three and drawing 1. For this reason we entered the London F.A. Sunday Junior Cup. This is a Cup that is open for all the junior teams in London to enter. We had a good run beating a team from Wembley 6-2 and beating the top Dulwich



team Caribb 4-2 after a replay. But we met our match when we lost 4-2 to a more experienced team called Lessa Ravensbourne.

We have reached the quarter final of the Inter Cup, the final of which is played at Dulwich Hamlet. In March we are going to Hamburg where we will be playing 2 games details of which I will give you in a later edition.

S ELLERINGTON
Albert F.C.



ACTIVITY 81 CLUB

There was no shortage of activity at the Christmas Party organised by the members of Activity 81 Club, which is held every Sunday afternoon between 4 pm and 6 pm at the Boro' Community Centre at 56 Southwark Bridge Road. Why don't you come and join us next Sunday? Have tea & biscuits - raffle - bingo - sing-song - dancing. This Club is specifically for men and women over the age of 40. You don't have to be lonely.

A CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

by JON ANDERSON

IT was Winter again. No longer were the trees dressed in the greens of Summer, nor the multi-coloured shades of Autumn, but now offered their branches to the sky as living skeletons, naked in the sight of God and anyone who cared to look, few bothered. The grass too had changed from its Summer richness. It seemed as only yesterday I had lain back in its comfort as my kite and mind wandered into the still blueness above.

With this sense of detachment I could sense patterns in the grass and each blade became a target for observation, but if I reached out to attack some of this delicate-looking substance, I would be left with wonder as the power of resistance sent pain stinging through my hand. A similar feeling of wonder now accompanied each footstep. The crystal coated fields crunched underfoot and echoed as if trying to talk to me. If I walked slowly and carefully, there would be a deep, serious conversation but the faster I walked,

THIRD WORLD POVERTY WHAT HURD 'THOUGHT'

7 January 1982 saw the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Douglas Hurd, come to Union St SE1 to hear the views of about 60 local residents, workers and employers, on Britain's role in helping the poorest countries of the world to be free from poverty, hunger and disease. This was a return-visit by the Minister. Last July Bob Mellish MP had taken three Bermondsey constituents to meet him and impress upon him their concern at this government's attitude to the problems of world development.

Reporting back, Mr Hurd admitted that progress was slow, as always in international negotiations, but things were happening.

Though overseas aid was cut again this year by 11% in real terms, he claimed it was being spent in the most productive way (with 62% going to the poorest countries) and when possible, the government would increase it. "You will press us to do more", he told the audience, "and I hope you do".

Mr Hurd was asked whether helping the poorest countries was not always necessarily helping the poorest people, and that sometimes British aid went to oppressive governments. He answered that he could only work with governments - whether they were elected or not. Similarly he could not interfere in what a multinational company may be doing to its employees in another country. "We don't run an empire any more", he said.

Mr Hurd did not agree that the real cause of world poverty lay in the excessive consumption by the rich countries and that it was really a question of justice, not charity.

Peter Challen of the South London Industrial Mission, (928 4707), one of the organisers of the meeting, is keen that locally based firms continue to study the wider implications of their operations. So far the meeting has prompted two firms with international connections to do this.

the more light-hearted the conversation became, until it would laugh in agreement as I ran over its crackling surface.

The days grew shorter and the atmosphere of secrecy increased. Money that had been saved since the last 'penny for the guy' had been given was spent on presents to be wrapped and hidden away. Christmas was close.

Inside Grandad helped arrange the balloons on the ceiling. Paperchains were licked and fastened. The Christmas tree was draped with tinsel and surviving glass decorations from the year before.

Mother tucked me into bed reminding me to be good, as tomorrow was going to be a BIG day! It was still dark when I awoke to the sound of rustling near the fireplace. My sense of wonder increased with stories of Father Christmas coming down the chimney. I found myself walking towards the noise.

By the time I reached the

grate, the noise was coming from way up on the roof. Had I missed him? I leaped over the bed into a collection of boxes wrapped in tinsel - My Presents - to get to the window. I stared out into the first light of dawn, and could just make out something moving high above the house. As the light grew stronger, I could make out the shape - I had never seen a sleigh before, and by this time it was so far away that it reminded me of formation flying at Biggin Hill. I watched until the flyers were almost out of sight. As they reached the horizon, there was a sudden flash of light, just like a camera flash. It was so bright that I had to look away and it lit up my bedroom brighter than the daytime sun.

As I looked back, dust and smoke were billowing into a big, glowing mushroom. My mother came running into my room, screaming and crying, 'Why today?' And I wondered if it had anything to do with being good.

DHSS CRIS

Call the DHSS and ask them -
What is my rent / rate increase / benefit increase?

A hassled clerk will say - It's being processed, there are hundreds still to do, you'll have to wait your turn. 6 months later (time for the next increase) you could still be waiting. In the

meantime people are going into rent arrears, having their electricity supply threatened with disconnection, going without food to somehow manage. Many people, especially pensioners, have a horror of being in rent arrears and will not take the option of paying at the old level until the benefit is increased. Local Authorities will almost always accept this reduced payment if the situation is explained to them. When benefit is finally increased, there is a lump sum arrears payment to pay off the debt.

For private tenants and others who understandably don't want to be in rent arrears - it can well reduce your chances of a transfer. One method used a lot by CLAIMANTS RIGHTS IN SOUTHWARK (CRIS) is to write to the DHSS demanding the increase and saying how much it is. At the bottom of the letter is written, "If I do not receive my extra benefit within 14 days, I will write to my MP and ask him to take up the matter with the parliamentary Ombudsman". Keep a copy. After 14 days, if, as is likely, you've heard nothing, write to your MP enclosing the copy, and ask him/her to take up the matter. If enough people do this, the service will have to be improved.

This is the only solution. Every 6 months it seems to come as a complete shock to the DHSS. Why? Because there are just not enough well trained, well paid staff doing the work. In turn this pressure turns on the claimant, who really suffers. Despite all the cuts, CRIS continues to fight for a better system. If you can help, write to:

CRIS
c/o 12 MEYMOTT ST. SE1

SE1 WOMEN

Studying

Southwark College has started to offer Return to Study courses for people who want to return to education.

They are timetabled between 10 and 3 o'clock to allow women with children to attend.

Here are some views from women who have been on the courses:

"I find the 'return to study' course most helpful and meaningful, particularly as I'm a mature student. The tutorial sessions provide an ardent backing & support element, thus encouraging the student to study seriously with the aim of achieving the best possible results in the exams.

"The careers sessions prove very helpful and invaluable since in many cases a matured student is not acquainted with the ways in which he or she can pursue a career without O' or A' Level qualifications.

"The study skills sessions prove a very satisfactory, integral part of the course, without which a matured student becomes most frustrated at the amount of work that has to be dealt with and studied skillfully.

"It is a shame, however that more financial help is not given to unemployed students and students with young children and no facilities for their keeping whilst the parents attend the part time courses.

...and Working

Southwark Council has set up a special Study Group to work out an equal opportunities policy for women, as well as for ethnic minorities and the disabled.

-Why is action needed?

It has become abundantly clear that the existing legislation on equal opportunities is inadequate. Currently unemployment is rising faster among women than men in the South East, as elsewhere, and the average hourly female wage is falling relative to the male equivalent. Women are still concentrated in the least secure, lowest paid areas of employment. As the recession gathers momentum, the right of women to work is increasingly undermined.

The reality remains that most women wish to work, and they and their dependents rely on their income as a major part of the household economy. Nevertheless it is often argued that when jobs are being lost, women should retreat into the home.

In other words, women's right to work is a social luxury that can only be considered in times of economic expansion. In the face of such argument espoused with particular delight by Tory ministers it is vital to insist on the right of all sections of the population to work.

-What does positive action mean?

In the wake of the Sex

Discrimination Act, employers started advertising with phrases: 'Open to both men and women', or 'We are an equal opportunities employer'. But such statements are meaningless if the job requires the employee to be over 6'; if the interviewers believe that women are unreliable; if no childcare facilities are available; or if women are denied appropriate training.

Positive action includes: Advertising jobs in magazines more usually read by women; Assess the job description to see whether requirements less likely to be met by women are strictly necessary for the job; Removing questions about marital status from application forms; Monitoring training programmes. The Council should take positive action seriously because it is a major employer in Southwark. It has responsibility to set standards in working conditions, and already has, or can create, structures to monitor and develop positive action programmes in consultation with Trade Unions, women's groups, etc.

Women interested in the first stage of this consultative procedure should WRITE TO:

WOMEN'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE

c/o 69 BALFOUR ST. SE17.

TANSLEY MOTHER AND TODDLER DROP-IN

4 Santley House, Frazier Street S.E.1 Tel. 633 9441

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9.30a.m.-12.30p.m. 1.30p.m.-4p.m.

Drop-in anytime we're open, we've got lots of toys, paint, sand etc. Come even if you only have a small baby! Have a chat and a cup of tea. You can leave your child for an hour or two if you want a break or you can stay and join in with whatever's going on. Wednesday afternoons we have health meetings (drugs, teaching children about sex, vaginal infections, child development) Yoga Class Thursdays across the road, for beginners 10.30-12 noon. Craft Class Thursday afternoons



Kids enjoying themselves in the snow on Hatfields Open Space during the recent bout of arctic weather



The completed childrens play area in the snow: part of the Stage 1 Baylis Road Open Space reported under 'Play Money'

PLAY MONEY

Only two years ago there was a car and coach park between the Tanswell Estate and Waterloo Rd, SE1. Then last year this was replaced by a landscaped open space with a children's play area, planned by Lambeth Council in close consultation with local people. However, the money available wouldn't stretch far enough to build the sports area planned near the Waterloo Adventure Playground.

Immediately Stage 1 (landscaped area) was completed, local people who had campaigned for it pressed for enough money to complete Stage 2 as soon as possible. This is to be a proper fenced and marked multi-purpose sports area, fully equipped for various games and sports, and available for adult use as well as children and young people.

Local people from various member organisations of the Association of Waterloo Groups which have an interest in using the multi-purpose sports area when it is completed, met with councillors, council officers and the Sports Council, and impressed upon them how very short Waterloo is both of open space and of sports facilities.

A financial package was put together at last - the majority of the money coming from the Lambeth Inner City Partnership, but with £20,000 from the Sports Council. The total cost will be over £60,000. Work has now begun, and the special sports surface should be laid in May.

Once Stage 2 is completed and handed over it will be the responsibility of the groups who use it to manage the lettings and supervise its running. Priority will be given to local groups who want to use it - already nearly 20 have shown their interest. If you are interested please contact the Action Centre on 261 1404. A local planning group will take over the running of the sports area as soon as it is completed.

GREENERY AND GRASS

On Monday 18th January, a meeting was held at St Josephs School, Redcross Way to discuss plans for turning Little Dorrit playground into a park. At the moment, the playground is hardly used: the swings and roundabout were vandalised long ago.

At the meeting were the heads of St Josephs and also St Saviors, and Ted Bowman from North Southwark Community Development Group. I attended it also along another local parent, Mrs Hawkes.

The playground lies opposite both schools and the advantages of having a park on that site are numerous. Not only will it benefit the office workers and the general public, but children from the schools will be able to have outdoor lessons in the summer.

The plans are to have plenty of greenery and grass which are sadly lacking locally, plus a play area with a pool and playground equipment for younger children. The general opinion of parents in the area is that there is not enough play facilities for the younger children, and what there are, are not good enough.

Susan Naughton

An engrossed audience at a previous Waterloo Festival.



LOCAL PLAN "NONSENSE"

A major public inquiry into the North Southwark District Plan looks set to take place in March. The exact date and venue have not yet been revealed.

A public inquiry has been called because so many local people have objected to the draft North Southwark District Plan (a massive document weighing over 3lbs!).

Southwark Council planners received so many objections from local people that the deadline for comments had to be extended at the end of last year.

The Plan is supposed to help planners by giving them a framework to guide their decisions on how the North Southwark area should be developed over the next ten years.

But many local people have been angry at the Plan and the way the council has organised the "consultation" over it.

Ros Nash, who works for the North Southwark Community Development Group explained to SE1 that the Plan was far too complex.

"It is not a reasonable document", she said, "it is not a plan that local people can absorb." She said that people tended to be most concerned with their own areas that they

knew best, but the Plan didn't go into enough detail about what would happen to these "patches". It covered too big an area.

She also said that there weren't enough concrete proposals in the Plan. It tended to list endlessly what needed to be done instead of drawing up a plan of action to get on with the job.

Many local people, for example, had pointed out that there was a desperate need in North Southwark for more local shopping. But nowhere did the Plan come up with concrete proposals for doing something about that need.

SE1 also spoke to Lil Patrick of Tooley Street TA. She told us: "The Plan doesn't give us any hope for the desires of people for the area for houses with gardens and open space and jobs. The Plan is a lot of nonsense and doesn't mean anything to ordinary people. People are so tired of saying their piece and seeing less and less chance of achieving it."

SE1 will be reporting on the inquiry in full in future issues but if you want to know more contact Ros Nash, NSCDG, 56 Southwark Bridge Road SE1 (928 6476)

1982, WATERLOO FESTIVAL ?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A
1982 WATERLOO FESTIVAL ?
IF SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO
SEE IN IT ?

If we want a Waterloo Festival this year, we need to start planning right away. If you have any ideas, or would like to help in any way, we would like to hear from you. Even if you can spare only a little time, we would still be glad of the help.

Most of the people involved in organising the Festival live in Waterloo, so you may even know some of them. We are a friendly lot, so don't be shy - we really do need YOUR help, and it can be fun!

If you would like to find out more, please contact Rita Wood at Waterloo Action Centre 14 Baylis Road, SE 1, (261 1404) or call at Tanswell Mother and Toddler Drop-In, 4 Santley House, Frazier St., SE 1, (633 9441) on Wednesday mornings at 11.30 for a chat.