

# SE1

NOVEMBER '83. 15p MONTHLY. NUMBER 20.

## HEAVE HO

LOCAL PEOPLE THROWN OUT OF  
HAY'S WHARF EXHIBITION

The plans for the massive office development on Hay's Wharf went on display for the first time in this country last month - TO THE PRESS ONLY! Local people who tried to go in to look at the exhibition and give the community's point of view, were thrown out by uniformed commissionaires.

The exhibition was taking place at Adelaide House on the City side of London Bridge. St. Martin's Property Company's aim was to impress journalists with models, slide shows and glossy information packs about their scheme for 2½ million sq feet of offices, private luxury housing, a private hospital, shops and leisure facilities. The local demonstrators were there to show that the Bermondsey Community does not want this development.

In a press statement St Martin's claimed that 71% of local people supported their development. They based this claim on a survey carried out by 'Mori' the opinion poll company in which local residents were asked whether they supported "a development combining offices, shops, pubs, restaurants, houses and a park".

The North Southwark Community Development Group attacked the survey as 'misleading' and a 'fraud'. They pointed out that 'Mori' did not tell people how many offices would be built, that the vast majority of the houses would cost between £70,000 and £200,00, and that the shops and restaurants would be similarly expensive. Interestingly, the 'Mori' poll did not mention the private hospital which St Martin's are building near London Bridge. St Martins are no doubt aware of the strength of local feeling against the health

Continued on back page



*inside!*

Left: Tanswell Mothers and Toddlers founder member Liz Bell with son Adam - see story back page.

CENTRE PAGE: The Old Vic and its new owner interviewed.

## HIGHLY RATED

Despite all the general gloom, some residents of SE1 have something to look forward to. They have actually managed to get their rates down by an average of 15%! Not only that, the decrease will be backdated to April 1982!!

The fortunate people are the tenants of Edward Henry Housing Co-operative in Coin Street and Cornwall Road. When Edward Henry was renovated a couple of years ago, the District Valuer set very high rateable values for the flats in the co-operative. (The District Valuer, employed by the Inland Revenue, is responsible for setting the rateable values of all properties, from which the local council works out your rate bill.)

As Maureen Corcoran, Chair of Edward Henry explained:

"Our argument was with the District Valuer, not with Lambeth Council. People understand that the rates paid in Lambeth are high largely because of the Tory Government imposing penalties on boroughs like Lambeth. Our complaint was that because of the assessed rateable value, people in one and two bedroom flats in the Co-op were paying the same (sometimes more) than people in two and three bedroom

houses in other parts of the borough. In one instance, tenants in a one bedroom flat were paying nearly £14 a week (£700 a year) in rates."

With the help of North Lambeth Law Centre and the Association of Waterloo Groups, Edward Henry Co-op appealed against its rateable values for all its 66 flats, and gained reductions ranging from 10% to 20%. An important point conceded by the District Valuer was that Waterloo did suffer from a poor environment lacking many facilities, such as a choice of schools and shops, which exist in other parts of the Borough. This is not reflected in the general level of rateable values, last assessed in 1973. This means that the levels for most properties in Waterloo are generally higher than elsewhere.

In the next few years, we hope to see new housing built in Waterloo on sites such as Campbell Buildings, The Cut and Coin Street. As well as ensuring that the homes are available at rents people can afford, we will need to ensure that rateable values are not set at levels higher than similar property elsewhere.

## CUT OFF?

South Eastern Gas plans to shut down the Gas Showroom at Elephant and Castle, at the same time as they are advertising as 'the best place locally for everything gas'!

SEGAS says the showroom is unprofitable, and that local people would be happy travelling further. They admit that closing the showroom will affect the elderly and young mothers', but plan to go ahead anyway.

This means that you will have to travel further to:

- \* Buy gas appliances and spare parts

- \* pay or query your gas bills
- \* report leaks
- \* ask for advice or register your complaints!

We say the showroom gives a convenient and local service. British Gas, as a nationalised industry with record profits of £663 million last year, can, and must, afford to keep it open.

DON'T LET SOUTH EASTERN GAS SHUT YOUR SHOWROOM.

- \* Sign the petition
- \* Write to South Eastern Gas Chairman, Arthur Dove, at SEGAS House, Katharine St, Croydon, calling on him to stop the Closure
- \* Write to the Gas Consumers Council at Helena House, 348 High St, Sutton, Surrey
- \* lobby your MP and local councillors

SAVE YOUR GAS SHOWROOMS!

NALGO, South Eastern Gas branch

*The local newspaper!*

# 2 WHAT'S ON.

## MUSIC

Saturday morning family concerts at Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1. 7.5p, 35p kids. November 26th, 10.30 to 1pm Let's Make a family opera - The Snowman of Kashmir. 24 hours of intense activity during which the whole family is encouraged to participate.

NOVEMBER 22nd, 7.30pm at Southwark Cathedral. Morley College Choir perform Purcell and Britten. Tickets £2.50/£1.50

NOVEMBER 29th, 7.30pm at Morley College. Morley Symphony Orchestra perform Dvorak, Beethoven, Rimsky-Korsakov. Tickets £2/£1.

JAZZ IN THE MUSIC BOX at the Royal Festival Hall every Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Bar, coffee and food available at reasonable prices, admission FREE November 11th: Pete Beachill/Rick Taylor Quintet, featuring trombones.

12th: High Time, piano trio  
13th: Touch Lines: Piano, flute, drums and double bass.  
18th: Esmond Selwyn Trio (Guitar)  
19th: Holiday Allsorts, Latin influenced jazz.  
20th: Lloyd Ryan/Paul Buck Quintet  
25th: Harry Pitch's Rhythm and Reeds.  
26th: Rae James Quintet  
27th: Keith Nichols and Ragtime plus.

"A LITTLE OF WHAT YOU FANCY..." An exhibition on London's Music Hall at the Livesey Museum, looking at all aspects from the stars and their music to the audiences and buildings. Displays of costumes, music, video, and

a series of associated events. Admission free, open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm. 682 Old Kent Road, SE15

**MUSIC**  
Monday lunchtimes at Southwark Cathedral: organ recitals, 1.10 to 1.45pm  
Tuesday lunchtimes at the Cathedral: recitals by senior students of London Colleges of Music.  
Admission free to the above. Ring 407 3708 for more details.

**ART EXHIBITION** of work by young in Southwark. Drawing - photos - paintings - prints.  
5th - 16th December 1983 at Teenage Information Network, 102 Harper Road, SE1  
If you are aged 13 plus, bring your entries in to T.I.N. by 28th November.  
Phone 403 2444 for more details

**OLDE TYME DANCE**  
Saturday 26th November at Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1. 7.30 - 11pm Entrance 50p. All star band, and refreshments. Bring your own (alcoholic) drinks if you want.

**MUSIC HALL**  
at Lambeth Town Hall, 2 to 4pm Wednesday afternoons, 50p  
November 16th: Jack Seaton, Mary Morland, Brian Pollard, Chris Edwards, Phil Hayes, Paul Webb.  
November 30th: George Williams, Eileen Farrow, Sheila Burnett, Alexander Bridge, Steven Valentine, Grant Burton, Nigel Fletcher, Dennis Matthews. Tickets available from any Lambeth library.

FRED HERE!

People from Waterloo and other central London areas appeared on the 'Help' programme on Thames TV Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th October, explaining the problems we have here and why we need more housing and support from other people.

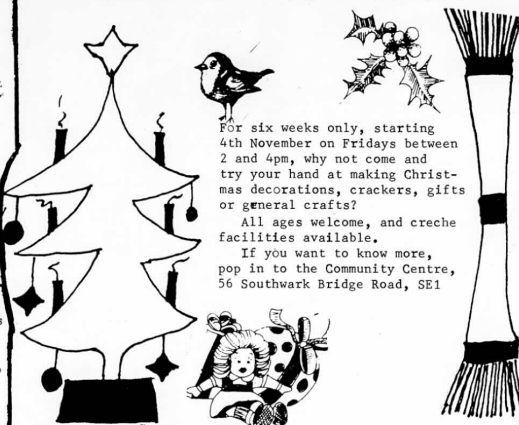
Here is a piece of fan mail which Fred Miller, a well known Whittlesey Street resident, received in response:



Dear Mr Miller, I really am w4rt, To see you on telly with holes in your shirt! Your language was really quite a disgrace, Dropping your aitches all over the place. With a few 'ouses here, a few 'ouses there, How did you ever get put on the air? As Maggie was saying in the House just today, That troublemaker should be sent far away! "Lock him up in the tower" Heselstine cried. "Send him to Alcatraz" Howe heaved with a sigh. Maggie looked nervous, he could be a threat, He's setting sights on her job, I'm willing to bet! He's well in with Foot and Ted Knight is a friend, The game's up, Dad, you can no longer pretend. Stick to what you do best and give quite well, Like day trips and parties and the OAP's hell. Don't stand for parliament like your old pal Ken, I really don't fancy scrubbing out Number 10!

Your greatest and ONE 'N' ONLY fan  
Your loving daughter, Marion.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



For six weeks only, starting 4th November on Fridays between 2 and 4pm, why not come and try your hand at making Christmas decorations, crackers, gifts or general crafts?

All ages welcome, and creche facilities available.

If you want to know more, pop in to the Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1

## DEAR SE1

I was surprised to see the letter in the last issue of SE1 having a go at "that Ted" who looks after the All Hallow's community garden in Copperfield Street. I can't remember having seen the letters page used before for attacking local people who are working for the community.

Obviously no-one can comment on the specific incident the letter-writers mention because we weren't there but I feel that someone has to point out that Ted (and Sue and George) have put in countless hours tending that garden and making it what it is - an oasis of green and flowers in an area seriously deprived of open space. They have fought hard to get bits of money from the council and the GLC to improve the garden with new benches and the new asphalt that's just been finished. If it wasn't for these people voluntarily giving their spare time to make this garden so beautiful it would now be a tip and the many people, young and old, who spend happy hours there would have lost something very precious. So as far as I'm concerned it's hats off to "that Ted" and I only wish we had a few more like him in SE1.

Yours sincerely,  
Nick Murray  
(Copperfield Street Garden User)

## LABOUR working for you locally...

TERRY RICH, your LABOUR councillor  
on Lambeth council  
holds his surgery  
EVERY THURSDAY EVENING 6.45-7.30  
at China Walk Tenants Hall,  
Lambeth Walk, SE1

## NEW T.A.

At a rather cold meeting last Tuesday evening (25th Oct), the tenants of Crosby Row, Porlock Street and Lockyer Estate started a tenants association. They adopted a constitution in which all residents of the estate can be members without having to pay a subscription. Instead, money will be raised by raffles and a jumble sale.

The new T.A. plans to start up a weekly bingo session, organise a Christmas Party for the children and run a fundraising dance. The other main activity of the T.A. will be to try to sort out problems with the pre-modernisation work which is just being completed, and to negotiate compensation for tenants.

The first committee meeting will be in the Charterhouse Boys Club at 7.30 Tuesday 15th November. The new chairperson is Lorraine O'Donnell, 12 Crosby Row, phone 403 4983

## ADVICE ABOUT EDUCATION

Do you want information on day and evening classes, for example:

dance, maths, typing, car maintenance, arts & Crafts, music

Do you want information on further education and training? You may be unemployed or thinking of going back to work or getting further training so you can change your job.

In any case, come along and have a chat with Eithne between 11 and 12.30 on Tuesday mornings at Borough Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 - the old library at the corner of Union Street and Southwark Bridge Road. Or if you can't come along, ring Eithne on 928 8501 ext. 154 or Linda on 928 6476.



Bermondsey CND made up just a part of the massive demonstration on October 22nd against cruise and trident missiles. It passed through SE1, along Belvedere Road after coming from Waterloo Bridge, and County Hall Car Park, on its way to Hyde Park.



## MAKING HISTORY COME ALIVE!

Are you interested in local history from 1900 to 1983? Would you like to find out more about North Southwark and North Lambeth? If so, why not get involved in the LOCAL HISTORY EXHIBITION due to go on show at the Morley College Gallery next June?

History is not just about Kings and Queens; history is about people like you. History is not just strings of dates, but real things that happen to you and your families. Did you live through the last war? Do you remember Elvis Presley? If you went hop-picking or to Southend on a charabanc then you have taken part in history.

### WHAT DO WE NEED?

We will need to collect pictures and tapes. We want household items, kitchen equipment and bathroom artifacts. We need furniture and paintings, but most of all we need people!

We need people's experiences on tape and we need people to collect items of interest. Above all we need people to do the woking and talking: telling people about the exhibition, making lists of objects, leafletting and visiting Tenants Associations etc. We need people to organise film events and people to get photos, or perhaps take part in jumble collections and sales.

At the moment it is envisaged that the exhibition will be built around the themes of decades but no final format has been decided. If you join us, you will be taking part in the decisions. So if you are interested why not get in touch with:

Amanda Woolley on 687 1655  
Rosemary Auchmuty on 735 5689  
or Eithne Nightingale at Morley College on 928 8501 x 155.

We need your experience and your help for the exhibition. Come along - it'll be fun.

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

On Thursday October 20th, the Pensioners of the Monday Club of Waterloo Action Centre were invited by the Headmistress, teachers and children and helpers of the Charlotte Sharnan School to their Harvest Festival, entitled 'Persephone' (the Greek Goddess of Fertility).

It was delightful. The children performed wonderfully well, everyone in the school taking part. It represented Winter, Spring, Autumn and Summer. The Pensioners were especially welcomed - we were introduced as friends from the Waterloo

Action Centre. We thought, how nice of them, and afterwards we stayed to tea, and what a lovely tea it was. Each one of us and some visitors from local councils were given a parcel each of Harvest Festival. What a lovely way of sharing. The children enjoyed themselves also, you could see they loved it all. We thanked them very much.

Mary Dimmond, secretary  
Monday Pensioners Club.

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH SOUTHWARK PLAN

The new North Southwark Plan proposes a ban on further office development in North Southwark. Instead, it proposes to develop land to provide houses, jobs, shops and other facilities for the local community. During the summer the Council conducted a random survey of local residents for their views on the plan and that survey revealed strong support for the plan.

**The Favoured use of Sites**  
There was resounding support for housing as well as strong support for industry, open space and community uses. There was very little support for offices.

Housing	72%
Industry	39%
Open Space	25%
Offices	4%

**Housing Type**  
Over 80% wanted housing with gardens and 75% expressed support for the need for low-rent housing.

**Jobs Needed**  
There was wide ranging support for most types of jobs but by far the greatest support was expressed for industrial jobs.

Industrial Jobs	73%
Warehousing	37%
Transport	31%

Shops	31%
Schools & Hospitals	35%
Offices	35%

**Transport Policies**  
There was good support given to reducing commuter traffic, improving the pedestrian facilities and for extending the tube and rail network, but by far the most popular policies were:-

Improving the bus service	70%
Reducing lorry traffic	60%

Support for the London Dockland Development Corporation (LDDC)

The LDDCs proposals to encourage office and luxury housing development contradicted those in the North Southwark Plan and the survey asked people whether they support the LDDC's or Southwark Council's proposals and the response was:-

LDDC	17%
Southwark Council	78%

If you would like to find out more about the North Southwark Plan please contact the North Southwark Community Development Group on 928 0711 or better still, call in and see us at 56 Southwark Bridge Road, on the first floor above the Old Library.



## NURSERY FOR WATERLOO

At a general meeting of the Waterloo Employment Project in June of this year, someone raised the issue of childcare. From the discussion that followed it became obvious that the shortage of good childcare facilities for the under-fives seriously affects the employment chances of many local people. It is also clear that the growth of any employment initiative, or attendance at a full time training course, is impossible for these same people. Surely this inequality of opportunity should not exist today?

A look at existing provision does not improve the situation. There are two council day nurseries in the locality: Coral has fifty places, and Lambeth takes 40 children. These places are allocated, rightly or wrongly, to people in special need, thus leaving the majority of parents stranded. There are some childminders in the area but these do not meet the true demand for childcare by local parents.

We are also fortunate enough to have access to the excellent creche at Morley College. This allows many parents the opportunity to study a wide range of topics. For parents wishing to follow a vocational course elsewhere however (including

TIPS, the retraining scheme) creche places are difficult, and often impossible, to get. This problem is not unique to Waterloo, but is nationwide. Research carried out for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children saw "the need for a national commitment to achieve coherent and progressive policies for the under 5s. The objective is seen to be comprehensive but flexible and universally available services for all children under the age of five."

What can we do on this in Waterloo? Firstly we need to know what parents want in the way of childcare. Secondly we need to form a 'Waterloo Under Fives Group' which would control this work for the local community. Thirdly we must act quickly upon any opportunity to broaden our under fives provision.

At the moment we have a local building in mind which would be suitable for day nursery use. We are investigating this vigorously, but in the meantime the other work must begin to happen. If you are able to help in any way, if only by completing our questionnaire, please contact

Elizabeth Smith,  
Waterloo Employment Project,  
Colombo Street Centre, SE1



## 4 local shopping;

..... IS IT WORTH IT ?

Local shops are the mainstay of the community yet they are often criticised for being too expensive. Local shops are particularly vital for the elderly, the disabled and mothers with young children who find the journey to a shopping centre difficult.

Local shops also often provide the friendly atmosphere to important in a community, very different from the bustle and rush of a large supermarket.

Local shops are also open much longer hours and at week-

ends but they are more expensive than big supermarkets.

To help people weigh up the pros and cons of local shopping the North Southwark Community Development Group, Borough Community Centre and North Southwark Pensioners Action Group have been surveying shops in their area. The price of a "shopping bag" of groceries containing sugar, milk, bread, tea, baked beans, soup, eggs, cheese and margarine were compared. Shops were also asked about their opening hours. The results were:-

SHOP	COST OF SHOPPING	OPENING HOURS
Tesco, Elephant and Castle	£2.77	Mon-Th 8.30-5.30 Fri 8.30-8.00 Sat 8.30-6
VG, Tower Bridge Rd	£3.01	Mon-Fri 9-6.30 Sat 9-6
Londis, Tower Bridge Rd	£3.02	Mon-Fri 8.30-6 Sat 8.30-6
UPB, Flat Iron Sq. Union St.	£3.08	Mon-Fri 7-6 Sat 7.30-2
SPA, Long Lane	£3.10	Mon-Fri 8.30-6 Sat 8.30-5.30
English and Continental, Tower Bridge Rd	£3.12	Mon-Fri 9-8 Sat 9-8 Sun 9-6
VG, Borough High St. near Borough Tube	£3.13	Mon-Sun 6-7
Londis, Harper Rd	£3.20	Mon-Fri 8.30-5.30 Sat 8.30-5.30
Milroy Foodstore, Milroy Walk Stamford St	£3.21	Mon-Fri 8.30-5.45 Sat 9.30-12.30
J.Thomas, Borough High Street	£3.27	Mon-Fri 6-8 Sat 6-8 Sun 6-8
Dawsons, Bermondsey St.	£3.28	Mon-Fri 9-5.30 Sat 9-12.30
Mace, Bermondsey St	£3.31	Mon-Fri 7.30-5.30 Sat 9-12
Ivy's, Pilgrimage St.	£3.33	Mon-Sat 6-7 Sun 6-2
Burberry, Harper Rd.	£3.34	Mon-Sat 7.30-6.30 Sun 7.30-3.30
Unique, Long Lane.	£3.35	Mon-Sat 7-6 Sun 8-1
McDamien, Snowsfields.	£3.35	Mon-Sat 9-7 Sun 9-2
9 till 6 mini-market, Snowsfield	£3.35	Mon-Fri 8.30-6 Sat 8.30-4
Mike's Store, Gt Suffolk St.	£3.36	Mon-Sat 6.45-6.45 Sun 7.45-1
Tower Mini-market, Tooley St	£3.40	Mon-Fri 7-7 Sat 7.30-1 Sun 8-1
Allens (Wavy Line) Borough High St.	£3.41	Mon-Fri 7-6
Rafiks, Long Lane.(Wavy Line)	£3.46	Mon-Fri 8.30-6 Sat 8.30-4
Batholemew St.	£3.49	Mon-Sat 6-6 Sun 7-1.30
Davies, Mint St/ Southwark Bridge Rd.	£3.55	Mon-Fri 8-8 Sat 9-7 Sun 8.30-1
Continental, Newington Causeway	£3.57	Mon-Fri 6-7 Sat 6-7
Southwark Grocers, Borough High St.	£3.73	Mon-Fri 8-6 Sat 9-5

PRESO, Falcon Point, Bankside

REFUSED TO HAVE COST PRINTED

For our shopping basket local shops were from 25p to one £1 more expensive than Tesco's. This should be compared with an average 20p bus fare each way to the Elephant and Castle. The small/medium sited supermarkets in Flat Iron Square, Tower Bridge Road, Borough Tube and Long Lane had a reasonable range if stock at 25p to 35p more than Tesco's. The are worst served by this sort of shop seemed to be

around Tooley St. Other shops throughout the area had a smaller range of stock and were more expensive.

The survey came up with absolutely no factual evidence to back the allegation sometimes heard in the area that "asian run shops are more expensive". In fact Asian run shops range from the four cheapest local shops to the more expensive.

## WATERLOO ROUND UP

The neighbourhood council for Waterloo has just produced its annual report for September 1982 to August 1983. We have covered much of what has gone at the Association of Waterloo Groups as it has happened, but not everything, so here are some extracts from the report:

It's been another busy year for the community in Waterloo with many successes to report, although many outstanding problems still to be dealt with. Five new groups have applied for affiliation to AWG this year and it has been great to see more people than ever offering their time voluntarily to help make Waterloo a better place to live and work in, both within local groups or within the Action Centre. It's particularly good that local young women are beginning to attend meetings to make their views heard, and to help encourage this we've approached Lambeth Council to ask for a small grant so we can pay for babysitters to make it easier for women with young children to attend evening meetings. The new groups in AWG are the Waterloo Employment Project, St. Thomas' Residents Association, Kennington & Waterloo Gingerbread group, Windmill House TA and the Waterloo Youth & Drama Group - we are delighted to welcome them.

As usual in this area no sooner have we sighed with relief because of one difficulty has been overcome when another major problem comes crashing on to our doorstep. That's because in an area like this, so close to the West End and the City, the speculators are always thinking up new ways of making money from our land and buildings, without any thought as to whether or not this will help or hinder the lives of local people. The government, the councils and even sometimes the church get drawn into the conflict, not always on our side. At present however, we are lucky to have very supportive administrations at Lambeth and

the GLC, and some local councillors who take a very active interest in the Waterloo community. In consequence it has been a lot easier this last year to negotiate with the councils about the things we need in Waterloo.



Some of the happy residents of the new Hatch Row Co-op, and below, how it used to be with the old pre-fabs.

### TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS

Munro and Matheson Lang;

The group has been pressing for improvements to the two estates. Already Matheson Lang is having windows replaced, and other improvements are in the pipeline. A complete overhaul of the courtyard and exterior of Munro House is now being campaigned for. This could dramatically improve the estate.

Another campaign being helped by the North Lambeth Law Centre is to get Matheson Lang classed as a "hard to heat" estate because of its underfloor electric heating. This would enable those on Social Security to claim an extra heating allowance. It's also the first move towards getting a new heating system installed.



Local shops seem to face a vicious circle - they tend to be expensive so fewer people use them and therefore they don't have a big turnover to keep prices low. North Southwark has lost many shops in recent years - particularly missed are chemists. Meanwhile there has been a big increase in sandwich bars and stationers to serve the office population.

Has your local shop been surveyed? Is it our duty to shop locally to support the local shops? Should local shops have their rates subsidised? Would a bigger turnover or subsidised rates mean lower prices for the customer or bigger profits for the shopkeeper?

Let us have your comments for next month's SE1.

### Tanswell:

Within the last year (with the help of constant letter writing and meetings with council) work has started on the estate to upgrade the surroundings. At this moment the roofing and

## OLD VIC; THE PEOPLE'S THEATRE ? 5

The new look Old Vic was open for business again this week. With the new look comes a new image which could affect local people traditionally 'turned off' at the thought of 'Theatre'.

"What I would like the Old Vic to be is a people's theatre" says the new owner, Canadian Ed Mirvish. "A theatre for the people who live here and in surrounding areas."

He aims to attract SE1 readers by offering a variety of shows which will have "wide mass appeal". These will include "musicals and comedy as well as drama" - most probably in that order of priority, because that is the order in which they sell best according to self-made millionaire Ed.

He called himself "Honest Ed" on the huge banner which festooned the theatre until recently, and he is unashamedly unpretentious about his knowledge of the arts. He was not a theatre goer until he bought the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto twenty years ago.

"I didn't know anything about theatre" he told me "I thought it was a bargain. It sounded cheap, you know what I mean."

### NORTH LAMBETH DAY CENTRE

This project has now been in Waterloo for over 4 years, based in the old Royal Waterloo Hospital basement. The conversion work on St. John's crypt is underway, and the project will move to this permanent base in June 1984. About 1400 people use the centre each year, and a series of 'life skills' houses have been set up to help the single homeless learn how to live independently again, away from institutions and off the streets. 25 people were re-housed last year, who had been through this training and it is hoped that 50 people will be re-housed this year.

It is planned to set up an employment project and some basic education courses with the help of the Community Education Project. Attendees have continued to be involved in local activities, and it is hoped that the new premises will be able to offer facilities for other local groups to use in the evenings and weekends.

### SE1 ADDS:

As this issue is put together the typist is recovering from the leaving party for Frances Gorman, who has put in a hard three and a half years with the Waterloo Health Project.

In the light of the amount of work she did and the 'Health pages' she helped to put together in the past, we'll forgive her for not writing the final article on the health cuts! Many people in Waterloo will miss you, but after all the time at Waterloo with barely a free moment, you might just be allowed a short break!

So I bought it and put double what it cost to restore it. Suddenly from never going to the theatre I became a patron of the arts. I didn't know what hit me, you know."

"I just buy what is available, that is popular," he added. He has been known to put on some highbrow plays in his Canadian theatre. He gleefully recalls putting on a Pinter play.

"It was quite serious and frankly I didn't understand it"

What he lacks in literary appreciation he makes up for in a talent for making money.

"I hope to bring Londoners the type of theatre they want at a price they can afford, & that's who I'd like to come."

There will be no V.I.P.s. I mean every body's important... if they buy the ticket they are important to us and I don't care if the feller sitting on the bench across the street comes in real fast and gets 5th row



REMEMBER THE OLD VIC BEFORE RESTORATION ?

centre, that's his seat and nobody's going to take it away from him."

In other commercial theatres, 60% of their tickets are sold to visitors from abroad, but Ed is more interested in drawing in a broadly 'local' audience who will keep coming back for more. That is the idea behind his subscription policy. People can take out a subscription - the cheapest £10 to see six different shows, the most expensive £49.

"The subscribers get the seats first" Ed explained "Sure we want to sell seats wherever we can and visitors are important too but basically I hope over the next five years we can build up a following where people have a commitment every two months to come to the Old Vic, and if they see value there and we deliver what they like it will work."

If this genial guru of money making thinks it will work, then it probably will. "Over the years we've built up about 50,000 subscribers in Toronto" he beams. "We go 52 weeks a year and every show is 85% sold out."

The figures roll off the tongue of this walking calculator. He paid half a million pounds for the Old Vic without having even seen it. He originally intended to spend a further million pounds refurbishing it.

"But they told me that it would cost twice that to get it the way I wanted it," he said quietly. "I knew I wouldn't be satisfied if it wasn't just right so I spent the other million."

The result is breathtaking. It's well worth a visit just to marvel at the surroundings which are restored Victorian period style. Ivory and gold are the predominant colours and plushness is the order of the day.

"We like to service our customers" says Ed and the beautiful bars especially enlarged and sumptuously decorated are refreshing evidence of this.

Mirvish's arrival could have wider repercussions for Waterloo if his purchase of the Toronto theatre is anything to go by. There he completely changed the character of the area, surrounding the theatre with craft shops and a restaurant which can seat thousands at one sitting. I asked him if this was to be the fate of Waterloo.

"We'll have to see" he smiled. "It took me twenty years to develop the area around the Royal Alexandra. If I take that long here I'll be nearly a hundred. We would have to work fast."

It looks as if he might well have plans for the Old Vic annex at least.

"I didn't know that the annex came with the theatre when I bought it" he chuckled. "That was a surprise. But it's a natural for roast beef and Yorkshire puddings."

His message to SE1 readers is - You're welcome! "To me everybody's money is the same. And everybody's dollars the same"

Sally Sheen

# PETER TATCHELL

## THE BATTLE FOR BERMONDSEY



BOOK REVIEW  
'The Battle for Bermondsey' by Peter Tatchell. Heretic Books, £2.95 paperback, 170pp.

'SE1' readers in North South-wark can probably be divided into those who have no wish to hear anything more about Peter Tatchell, and others who are still wondering what lessons can be learnt from 'The Dirties' and most notorious by-election. But any longstanding reader will be able to connect the first chapter of Peter's book with the (non) workings of Southwark Council up to May 1982 and the domination of the old 'Bermondsey Mafia'. From there on in your interest in the book is likely to depend on your level of involvement in community activities and politics.

In some aspects, you will get as much information from past editions of SE1 - for example issue 58 of the old series had a large article on 'Do you remember Red Bermondsey' (before the war). Parts of that article are identical to the book - but then they are by the same author!

But although I have been involved in SE1 for some time, and know local Labour party members and critics, there are many additions to my knowledge of local Labour history. Peter shows why Dr. Salter could easily have been seen as an 'unsuitable' candidate in the eyes of today's top Labour brass, despite the many achievements he and the local party made between the wars. There are also graphic illustrations of the support Peter was given during the by-election campaign and earlier, in particular from the older, born and bred Bermondsey party members, who felt let down by the O'Grady and Mellish regime.

The national dimension brought in by Peter does much to explain the more puzzling stages of the by-election fiasco. Almost conclusive evidence points to a deal having been struck with Mellish and O'Grady by Michael Foot - in return for Mellish not causing an embarrassing by-election by resigning as MP. Foot made his now infamous denouncement of Peter Tatchell in the House of Commons. Mellish of course later broke his part of this bargain.

### WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?

A suitable sub-title to the book could have been 'Where did we go wrong?' In the light of both the general election and our own by-election, many people are still debating how far the policies were to blame in Labour's defeat, and how much was due to internal wrangles and other factors. Peter tends to assume that readers will in some way be in agreement with his views on 'grassroots community socialism' and is confident that his views were not a major factor in the outcome of the campaign.

Instead the background to John O'Grady and his cronies bringing the local party into disrepute through their use of Southwark Council as a private club for their own ends is well analysed. Alongside this was the campaign run in particular by the gutter press of smears, lies and innuendo, who singled Peter out for special treatment!

Peter gives a variety of factors in the ultimate defeat, but he does make one clearly stated point. 'Our eventual loss was not due to the lack of work (by ordinary members of the party). It was the half heartedness and sabotage of the (national) leadership!' It is perhaps a little unfortunate that a parliamentary candidate whose 'straight talking' worried the establishment MPs and officials, has not managed to give any straight and simple conclusions on WHY the defeat happened but spread the blame widely. But then that's politics.

But you shouldn't get the impression that it's just a dry history of events. Explanations of Peter's views and principles are inserted where he feels appropriate, eg on extra-parliamentary action. For a book on politics it is relatively jargon free, and I only had to resort to a dictionary once! Peter also does his best to clarify how the Labour Party machinery works, but in limited space.

One disappointment was the avoidance of giving names to local party members, apart from his main adversaries. Maybe nobody outside SE1 would have been interested!

Peter also manages not to mention 'SE1' anywhere but then that is probably because we gave him fair coverage. By the time this issue gets back from the SE1 printers, Peter will probably have made half a dozen appearances on TV over the week of the book's publication. It will be interesting to see what treatment he gets this time round.

John Howes

\* Get your copy of the book from South Bank Bookshop, 113 Borough Road, SE1 (by St Georges Circus)

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WE MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7.30PM

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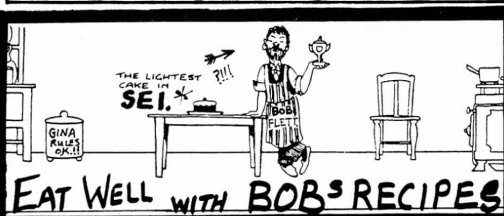
ALL AGES WELCOME

# GARDENING

WITH KEIB THOMAS

If you are thinking of brightening up your estate or open space with some trees or shrubs, do remember to include a selection that will give you some autumn colour. Here are some that are especially colourful in November. A wide variety of Japanese and North American Maples, Crataegus Primifolia (planted around Windmill House, SE1) Mountain Ashes and Virginia Creepers (especially 'Veitchii'). Why not visit Kew Gardens, Hampstead Heath or Greenwich Park in the next couple of weeks for an autumn treat!

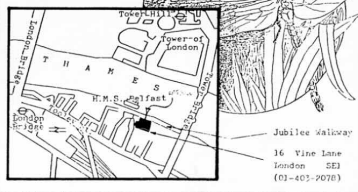
As the leaves begin to drop the conifers and evergreens show their real worth by giving us infinite shades of greens, golds and blues. Without these the bare months of winter would be bleak indeed. In next months issue I shall concentrate on giving you a wider selection of shrubs that can be planted out between November and April. The photograph below clearly demonstrates how tree and shrub planting on rooftop containers at the National Theatre have softened the otherwise harsh concrete environment.



## EAT WELL WITH BOB'S RECIPES

- MEDITERRANEAN CHICKEN**
- This Month I thought that I would go slightly Continental, and bring a little bit of sunshine now that the cold weather has set in. The original recipe does not have any red or green peppercorn in it. Adding them gives the dish a nice colour, and a much better flavour. I hope you enjoy this recipe as much as my family do.
- 2 medium onions
  - 6 rashers streaky bacon
  - 4oz mushrooms
  - 1/2 small green pepper
  - 1/2 small red pepper
  - 2oz butter or marg
  - 4 chicken joints
  - 1 1/2 pints boiling water
  - 1 heaped teaspoon salt
  - 1/2 level teaspoon turmeric
  - 8oz long grain rice
  - 1 level tablespoon chopped parsley
1. Peel and finely slice onion. Remove rind and bone from bacon; and cut into strips. Wash and slice mushrooms. Sliced and green pepper
  2. Remove rack from grill pan and prepare moderate grill.
  3. Cook chicken joints in oven (200c/400f or gas mark 6) for about 1 hour.
  4. Melt butter in grill pan, add onion, bacon, mushrooms and peppers, toss in butter.
  5. Grill for 30-35 mins, stirring the bacon mixture occasionally.
  6. Place boiling water, salt, and turmeric in a large saucepan. Add rice and cook for about 12 mins. Test by pressing a grain between thumb and finger. Drain and rinse with boiling water.
  7. Remove chicken from oven and place in grill pan with bacon mixture to brown.
  8. When brown, remove chicken from grill pan, add rice to bacon mixture; stir until well mixed. Turn onto a warm serving dish; sprinkle with parsley. Arrange chicken joints on top. Serve with a green salad.

## WILLIAM CURTIS ECOLOGICAL PARK



### NATIONAL TREE PLANTING WEEK

Each year vast numbers of trees are lost due to disease, modern agricultural methods and urban pollution. Almost a million trees a year are lost in England and Wales alone. If this practice is allowed to continue, and trees are not replaced, our environment will suffer as a result.

At the current rate of urbanisation, it is possible that future generations will only be able to see trees in living museums, and wild fauna as we know it will be just a distant memory. Unless more interest is taken in protecting our environment, nature conservation will be brushed aside in the quest for change.

Already there is talk of development making inroads into London's Greenbelts. The National Tree Planting Week will take place between the 17th and 26th of November. In conjunction with this, tree planting will take place at the William Curtis Ecological Park during the week. Local schoolchildren will be helping with the planting and anyone who is interested is invited to join in. The Park is situated in Vine Lane (off Tooley Street). Please refer to the map below. The Park is open each day between 10 am and dusk and tools will be available from the wardens hut throughout the week. Approximately 450 whips have to be planted and these include Grey Alders, Limes, Field Maples, Poplars, Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

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## DORRIT YOUTH CLUB 1969-1983.

### Brief History

The Dorrit Clubs were started after a series of discussions initiated by local children, parents and residents with the Inner London Education Authority and Blackfriars Settlement. On June 18th, 1969, a petition was sent to the ILEA from local people, asking for a place suitable to run a youth club. In September of that year, the Dorrit Youth Club committee was formed of local parents and residents. In November, it became a registered youth club with ILEA.

The first club was opened on January 6th, 1970, and this was followed by a second club in September of the same year. However, it was felt by the Dorrit committee that the two clubs were not enough for the age range, which was 5 to 19 year olds, so they opened a third club on February 18th, 1971. In September, 1973, a fourth club was opened which catered for 8 to 12 year olds exclusively. In 1977 the clubs moved to new premises (Pickwick Youth & Community Centre) which brought about its own changes. The smaller premises have meant smaller numbers and the average attendance is now 30 to 40 per night.

### Finance

The clubs maintain their independence with the small profit from the club canteen and members subscriptions (5p nightly). The club also gets a donation each year from the South London Industrial Mission which enables them to have a Christmas party and to give each member a small present. The clubs also hold raffles and jumble sales to help funds.

### The Clubs

The clubs have always been very flexible with few written rules. About 60 members use the various facilities which include football, dancing, table-tennis, woodwork, painting, model-making, candle-making and Pool. The club has also opened (this month) a Drama Group. Although the clubs were originally intended for children in the immediate vicinity, they have become a gathering place for children from a much wider area, the boundaries being Waterloo, Blackfriars, the Elephant & Castle and the Borough. Local residents and parents generally support the clubs and three of the original founders who are also local residents are still, after fourteen years, on the management committee. In a survey, it emerged that the local residents felt that there would be more difficulties in the area, with the children, if the clubs did not exist.

Inevitably, the clubs have changed since they first opened, the age limit is now 5 to 12 years (although this is not strictly kept to) and there are definite plans to open longer on Mondays for the older members (up to 16 years).

The club is open two nights weekly, Monday, 6.30pm to 8.00pm and Tuesday, 7.00pm to 8.30pm. There are 5 volunteers and 3 part-time paid workers, one of whom is a local mother. ILEA has been giving a grant for these salaries since August, 1973, when the first worker was employed. The constant problem of getting local volunteers involved consistently and the quite different needs of older members led to the Senior and Intermediate clubs being closed. Added to this there have always been financial difficulties in keeping the clubs open.

Club members have been taken on outings which have included, "Top of the Pops", "Speakeasy", canoeing, horse riding, the cinema, ice-skating, Young Vic, London Zoo, Canvey Island and All Hallows-on-Sea.

### Dorrit Committee

The committee has found and established its own identity and recognises the need to work together as a group, sharing decision-making, responsibility and experience. It also relies on adequate and continuous information, and though once loosely-knit, has become more organised, and turning its attention to the provision of appropriate services to its members.

The main strength of the Committee is its joint decision-making and its roots in the community.

In meeting various problems which have arisen in the clubs, e.g. drug-taking, glue-sniffing, sexual and drinking problems, the committee has liaised with various voluntary and statutory bodies such as General Practitioners, Police, Social Services, Blackfriars Settlement, Juvenile Bureau, ILEA, London Union of Youth Clubs and Southwark Council.

### Thought on the Group

Evaluation of the club by the Dorrit committee is an ongoing process and is balanced between people, roles, methods and objectives. The club is geographically situated in an urban area where there are few community resources apart from Blackfriars Settlement. As a result of this, committee members have had to develop skill and confidence in handling their own affairs. The strength of the Dorrit club does not depend upon the provision of prestige projects but rather on its being interwoven closely with the local community. As a result of this, committee members and workers have to be particularly sensitive to local needs and to local opinion. It does demonstrate the existence of untapped human resources in terms of local people managing their own affairs. It also provides opportunities for satisfaction by participation in community affairs and for doing and being together in a self-programming community group mobilising resources and working towards self-chosen goals.

Joe Chandler



Continued from front page

## 8 HAYS WHARF

cuts and particularly the proposed closure of St Olaves only a mile or so away.

Another fact revealed for the first time was that the St Martin's scheme is planned in two phases. Phase 1 nearer London Bridge consists almost entirely of offices. Phase 2 nearer Tower Bridge will only be built if Phase 1 is a success. In other words the public park, and 1.7 acres of public housing which form the only community benefits in the St Martin's plans, may never come about - bearing out the opinion of many local people that these benefits are no more than a bribe.

Last month's demonstration showed that despite St Martin's smooth P.R. operations local people are still determined to fight the Hay's Wharf scheme and ensure that the land is used to benefit the community.

## SE1

The next issue, apart from being our 21st and also the start of our third year, will be a bumper Christmas edition. So we look forward to getting our traditional Xmas adverts from local groups and businesses sending greetings to local residents!

The issue will appear on December 5th. All adverts and articles, letters etc should reach us at 12 Meymott St, SE1 by November 23rd. Meetings are on 9th and 23rd November.

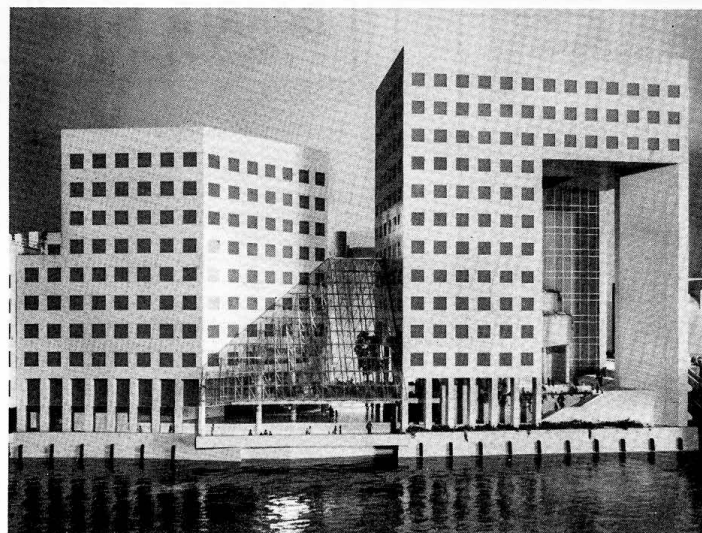
For more details of how to advertise, rates etc, contact John Howes via Waterloo Action Centre (261 1404) or try him on 928 4748 evenings. You can also contact Martin Whiteside at North Southwark Community Development Group on 928 0711 if you are in their area.

## HIT FOR SIX

The Colombo Street Sports & Community Centre is in danger of closing next April through an amazing decision made by Southwark Council's Community Affairs Committee.

Many SE1 members will know the centre - about 1000 residents of, and workers in, the Waterloo/Blackfriars area go through its doors every week. Many children and young people are involved in its activities ranging from the pre-school playgroup to roller skating, boxing, table tennis and badminton. Older residents will remember the building as the former Sainsbury's Canteen which became disused and derelict in the early seventies.

It was local people who decided not to let the building remain an eyesore but to turn it into something really useful. SE1 residents took it over, cleared out tons of rubbish, fundraised to convert, improve and equip the building and have



PART OF THE HAYS WHARF MODEL - What the whole riverside may look like if the developers and the LDDc are not stopped.

## WATCHING OUT

The police have been operating a neighbourhood watch scheme in Devon Mansions and St. Olaves Estate since September 1st. The Tooley St. Tenants Association were first informed about the scheme in a discussion document from the police which layed out the whole scheme right down to prizes for the most vigilant residents. This approach was rejected as top down and patronising by the Tenants Association chairperson - Lil Patrick - and has since been withdrawn. Since then the home beat policeman has been personally visiting people in the area, collecting a questionnaire about people's experiences of crime and giving advice on crime prevention.

The beat policeman has also been working with the estates officer to prevent St Olaves estate courtyard returning to the state of breakers yard

which it was before the recent deputation to the council from the T.A. The police have recently notified tenants of crimes reported in their neighbourhood watch area in September which amounted to one theft from a shop, one from a motor vehicle and one from a non-residential property. Only in the first case, money snatched from the Tower Mini Market till, was an arrest made.

Lil Patrick concludes that it is still too early to judge the scheme but she has got no complaints so far.



quarter. The original five year grant now needs renewing if it is to continue, but incredibly the Centre has been left off the list of Council sponsored projects sent up the government by the Community Affairs Committee for approval.

No reasons have been given and no criticisms of the project have been made. Indeed, the part of Southwark Council which knows the Centre best, the Amenities Committee, thought that not only should the grant be continued, but that it should be increased so that more staff could be employed to provide a better service to the community!

Don't let a council mistake close your centre! Protest now so that other money is put to good use in funding staff posts at Colombo Street. Write to your local councillor and put your view. Write also to Chris McKie, chair of the Amenities Committee, Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5 to ask her to make sure the Centre doesn't have to close. And watch this space for more news of the campaign!



SPORTS  
AND  
COMMUNITY  
CENTRE

Southwark's decision goes unchallenged. Even more important, the efforts of all the people of SE1 who have shown that they can create and run a Centre for local people will be wasted.

Why is there a danger of closure? Money to employ staff to work for the project comes from a scheme called 'Urban Aid' - the government gives 1/2 of it, and the council gives the other

## M&T

The Tanswell Mothers and Toddlers Group is still housed in the tiny flat at 4 Santley House, Frazier Street, SE1, opposite the Barley Mow Clinic, although we have talked about larger premises every now and then. We are hoping to get a larger play area at the back with a safer surface and a pram shelter and a secure lock up for some of the toys, for example dolls prams and push-chairs etc.

In the meantime, the room can get very full and noisy, especially in the afternoons. Some of the floor space has been taken up by a Wendy House and a telephone booth - children of all ages love these. The older ones turn up during the school holidays with their smaller brothers and sisters.

The yoga class started by the group has moved to the Community Education Building in King Edward Walk and is still held on Thursday mornings from 10 to 12. There is a creche and playgroup here for people wishing to attend. If there is no space there, the children can be left at the drop-in at Santley House.

If there is enough demand, we can get someone in specially to look after the children. We used to have a full class and lots of children looked after at Morley plus the group's flat, but attendance has unfortunately fallen after the long summer break. As a result the class is threatened with closure, and we have been given until Xmas to build up our numbers. Anyone who is interested should come along and help themselves to something wonderful being offered for their own good.

We have had a management course for the Management Committee and plan to hold refreshers as required. The committee members learnt their roles and responsibilities and discussed problems on the course.

There has been a very successful home maintenance course, and another is planned as demand exceeded supply at the first one.

Currently a first aid course is being held at Morley for the mothers. Again there are plans for more courses as demand arises. Creche and playgroup facilities are always laid on.

We had a truly wonderful day out at Littlehampton in the summer. The day was perfect - not too hot - I have to say that now so we can remember the wonderful summer just for a moment.

We have made a tape-slide show about the group and its activities which will be shown at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 23rd November at 7pm at the Community Education Building. New officers and committee members will be elected so those who haven't been at the group lately who are interested, and others, please do come.