

SE1

NUMBER 23 15p MONTHLY. MARCH '84

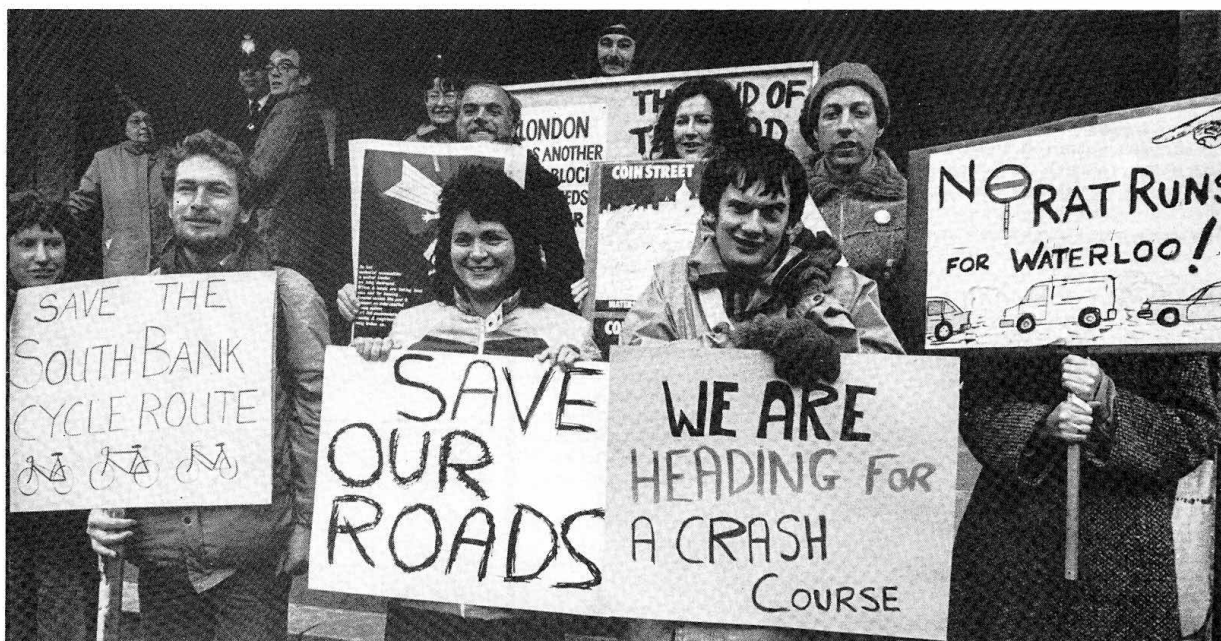
THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR INSPECTOR,

NO.....!!!

NO.....!!!

NO.....!!!

NO.....!!!



inside!

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By-election.

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Health Emergency.
:-A New Campaign
Called (SAGA)..?

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Holy Trinity.

Centre Page SE1 Art
Show..

SAY NO TO GREYCOATS.....!!!!!!

WHILE North Londoners have been using guerilla tactics of all sorts to rid themselves of one Air Marshal (Inspector at the Archway Road Inquiry), in Waterloo another Air Marshal has been presiding over long-drawn-out trench warfare in the Coin Street Road Closure Inquiry.

It's something of a mystery where they get these people from. Someone up there seems to think that people who were only fit to be Air Marshals are qualified to make decisions about OUR future. This one, after listening to four weeks of detailed arguments, seems no brighter than when the Inquiry opened on February 7. Whether this is because his ears are closed or because there's nothing between them, it's hard to tell.

The Inquiry looks set to end on March 15th. Its purpose is to decide whether the office developers, Greycoats,

should be allowed to close Upper Ground and other roads in order to build their office development.

The Inspector started off by refusing demands for an adjournment of the Inquiry; and has since shown that he sees local residents and other objectors as second-class parties to the Inquiry. So have Greycoats, one of whose lawyers called a session of the Inquiry at which local residents were giving evidence a 'Mickey Mouse show'.

Despite this, there has been a tremendous response from residents and workers in the area. Some 60 individuals and organisations have given evidence about how the proposed road closures and the office development would affect Waterloo and North Southwark.

One frustrating feature is that it has never been clear whether the whole Inquiry was

not a waste of time: Greycoats may not be able to build their scheme anyway - either because they can't get the land they need from the GLC or because they can't find anyone to put up the money to build useless office blocks.

The Inquiry, from the local point of view, has meant a lot of work to ensure that they don't get their road closures - and so drive a final nail into the coffin of their scheme.

April 14th is the deadline: by then, Greycoats either can or cannot fulfil their side of the agreement with the GLC. If they can, it will allow them to buy the Coin Street sites; if they cannot, their scheme is truly dead.

And a great victory will have been won for local residents. So watch out for more news next month!



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The local newspaper!



BISHOPS WARD BY-ELECTION: MARCH 22nd. VOTE...VOTE...

Bishops Ward in Lambeth which comprises Waterloo and parts of North Lambeth is going to the polls! Liberal Councillor Paul Reynolds has resigned due to work commitments and the resultant by-election will be held on Thursday March 22nd. Residents of Bishops Ward should be experienced in voting by now as this is the fifth by-election in the ward in four years, with the prospect of the European Elections in June still to come.

Polling Stations are open from 7am to 9pm on March 22nd and all electors will receive details of their polling station from Lambeth Town Hall before the election.

Candidates in Bishops Ward By-election:

Kathy Connelly : Labour
Tom Cornwall : S.D.P.
Mary Starling : Conservative

Previous Results June 1982
John Medway (SDP) 999, Terry Rich (Lab) 982, Paul Reynolds (Lib) 981, George Whyte (Lab) 956, Christopher Sutton (Lab) 944, Tom Cornwall (SDP) 877, Christopher Cox (Con) 551, Ian Seaton (Con) 521 Tony Shakespere (Con) 484.

The Labour candidate Kathy Connelly should be well known to readers of S.E.1. She lives locally in Waterloo and until her selection as Labour

Candidate was Chair of the Association of Waterloo Groups. Her principle interest has been in housing in our area. As a tenant of Campbell Buildings, Kathy was closely involved in the campaign to demolish the tenements there and have family housing built on the site (work should start soon). She has also been involved in the development of Hatch Row Housing Co-Operative in Roupell Street. Hatch Row provides family housing at rents local people can afford in marked contrast to the rest of Roupell Street where terraced houses are now sold for over £60,000. Rates which threatened to be a major issue in Lambeth this year now look less likely to be a predominant concern. Despite warnings early in the year of a 41% increase in rates to protect the existing level of Council services it now looks likely that the actual increase will be considerably less.

Latest estimates indicate that a rate rise of 15% is necessary now to maintain the existing level of Council services and allow new developments such as the housing on the Campbell Buildings and Grey Street sites in Waterloo. Previous council elections in Bishops Ward in 1981 and 1982 have been very close. So whoever you support your vote is important!

WATERLOO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

A vacancy now exists for a temporary part-time office worker with our group. Applicants should be able to type and preferably have previous office experience. At least 4 weeks work guaranteed from March 12th. Rate of Pay : £68 for 18 hours work (hours by arrangement)

Please contact:
Margaret Mellor
12 Roupell Street
S.E.1.
928 5510 (after 4pm.)

SOUTH LONDON ANTI-APARTHEID Southwark Branch



PUBLIC MEETING

"How can we make Southwark an Anti-Apartheid Borough?"

Thursday, 22nd March at 7.30 p.m.

at PECKHAM TOWN HALL, Peckham Rd.

Shoppers in Tower Bridge Road may have noticed that work has started on paving over part of Bermondsey Street. The idea is to make the area safer for pedestrians, and generally more pleasant to shop in.

The rest of the £130,000 scheme includes a new bus shelter further down Tower Bridge Road, improvements to the "Trocette" site open space, and a wider traffic island at the corner of Grange Road.

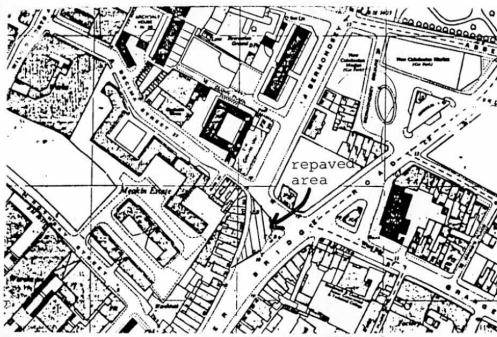
The improvements are being carried out by Southwark Council. Last summer they held two consultation meetings where local people were able to give their views on what needed doing.

Some of the suggestions put forward have now been taken up.

However the scheme has caused some concern to market stallholders in Tower Bridge Road, who fear that the repaving work will affect their trade, especially as it coincides with an increase in stall charges.

Southwark Council is to be asked to postpone the increase for Tower Bridge Road stallholders, until the improvements are completed.

In the long term, though, the stallholders along with the rest of the local community, should benefit from the more pleasant shopping environment which will be created.



WHATS ON THIS MONTH. & ADVERTS.

UPB supermarket
Flat Iron Sq, Union St.

Try us..for food, drink and household goods.

The cheapest shop between Long Lane and Blackfriars Rd in a recent SE 1 shopping survey.

THURSDAY MARCH 29th DEMOCRACY Day

National Rally For Local Democracy Jobs and Services

March across London - Rally in Central Hall, Westminster - Major speakers - Community Groups - Trade Unions - Local Authority Floats - Cavalcade of Municipal Vehicles - Bands - Street Theatre - Balloon Race - Display of Local Services - Lobby of Parliament - Evening Social.

RE-OPENING MARCH 7th 1984

CHARTERHOUSE TOY LIBRARY.
CROSBY ROW, S.E.1.
(next to Boerumund school)

EVERY WEDNESDAY 1-30 - 6.00pm.
ALL CHILDREN 0-10 YEARS OLD WELCOME.

ANY ENQUIRIES TEL:
403 3214.

The next issue of 'SE1' should appear on April 9th. The deadline for articles, letters, pictures ETC. is the 28th of March 84.



WEST LAMBETH HEALTH EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN

Health Cuts - Protest Campaign Launched.

"No cuts in the health service" was the clear message from a protest meeting on Thursday (16th February) held to launch a campaign against spending cuts in the West Lambeth Health District. Health workers and local people heard from Opposition Health spokesman Frank Dobson and local M.P. Stuart Holland how Government cuts in the N.H.S. were putting lives at risk. West Lambeth District Health Authority (DHA) member Cllr. Steve Bubb explained how this was affecting local services. "Over £2 million is coming off this years budget," he said, "which will mean over 100 jobs being lost and a drastic reduction in the standards of patient care". Last Monday (13th Feb) the DNA decided, by 7 votes to 6 to

make compulsory redundancies so as to stay inside the Government cash limits. As the DHA Chairman was forced to admit, "no one can pretend that this will not affect patient care."

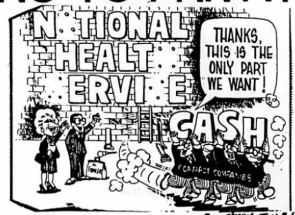
Now the West Lambeth Health Emergency Campaign plans to work to get that decision reversed. A petition was launched and a series of lobbies, meetings and other protests are planned over the next few months.

The Health Emergency Campaign expressed particular concern over the secretive nature of the DHA. At the DHA meeting on Monday the Chairman first ruled out of order a resolution to hear a delegation from the health workers union, COSHE, and then tried to have the discussion on next years budget taken in private session; Councillor Bubb was threatened with removal from the Authority for reporting back to Lambeth Council on the proposals for cuts.

"The Health Service must be accountable to the community." Campaign convener Greg Tucker told the meeting. "We cannot let small groups behind closed doors take decisions which will put lives at risk. We must inform and arouse the people of Lambeth. We deserve a decent health service - we will defend our N.H.S."

West Lambeth Health Emergency Campaign
c/o 1 Alverstone House,
London, S.E.11 5TS
Contact: Greg Tucker 582-2955

NO TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS



Bermondsey people and health workers have started planning a spectacular event to publicise the building of a private hospital on Chamberlains Wharf at the same time as NHS beds are being closed at Guy's and St Olave's.

Patients and health workers will be driven out of Guys by a giant Fowler and Thatcher imposing the latest round of health cuts. A strange procession of patients on trolleys, nurses and porters will wind its way along Borough High St, across London Bridge Station to Tooley St where the hospital is being built. Here the patients will ask to be a

admitted but they are turned away by the private doctors, the owners of the hospital and the LDCC. THE HOSPITAL IS FOR THE RICH - NOT THE LOCAL PEOPLE!

The procession will then link up with the RIVER EVENT being organised by all the community groups in Docklands. They are planning for a boat to come alongside HMS Belfast to collect people for further events in Jubilee Gardens and to present the DOCKLANDS MANIFESTO to parliament.

The private hospital is being built on part of Hay's Wharf, planning permission was given by the LDCC with no regard for the needs of local people. The hospital, which is due to be completed next year will charge about £156 per day (£155 per week) excluding treatment! The cost of a major operation will be £4000 to £6000 on top of this.

The event will be at lunch time on April 17th. For more information ring Martin on 928-0711.

WHO ARE THEY....?

A new campaign, called Southwark Against Government Attacks on Local Democracy (SAGA) has been set up to campaign in Southwark against four government Bills. These are:

1. The Rates Bill, to "rate-cap" local councils, in other words set their rate for them.
2. The Public Transport in London Bill; to take London Transport away from the GLC's control, and sell off the profitable parts.
3. The "Paving" Bill, to abolish next year's GLC elections.
4. The Streamlining the Cities Bill, to abolish the GLC altogether.

SAGA includes trades unionists, pensioners, tenants' associations, and anybody else who wants to fight these Bills. Our aim is to bring together all those who will suffer from the government's attempts to control local councils and force them to make cuts in jobs, public services, and grants to community groups.

On 23rd March we are holding a "Funeral for Local Democracy, Jobs and Services". A minibus will carry a "coffin" symbolising the death of local democracy around the borough. People will come out from workplaces, schools, shops and housing estates to lay "wreaths" on the coffin as it passes. When we reach County Hall at the end of the day the wreaths will be presented to Southwark's MPs as a protest at the Government's plans.

If you would like to take part in this protest please phone Roger on 928-0711.

On 29th March we will be supporting the Democracy Day march which has been called by the Trades Union Congress as a national protest against the same Government Bills. Transport will be going from north Southwark to the march in Central London. Again Roger has the details.

The funeral may sound a bit sombre to some people, but we believe that the government's attacks will have serious and tragic effects. However the event will not be pessimistic: it is the start of a campaign which will defeat the government's proposals.

TANSWELL:- THREAT TO IMPROVEMENT...!!

Tenants on the Tanswell Estate in Waterloo received an unwelcome surprise from the government recently.

After years of neglect, tenants on the estate with the help of their own architect Georgina Livingstone and in consultation with Lambeth and the G.L.C. agreed a major improvement programme. These include the re-surfacing and leveling of the rapidly sinking courtyard, the improvement of the refuse chutes and chambers and the re-building of the external walls and fences. Other features of the scheme were traffic restrictions to prevent speeding through the estate and commuter parking and a possible entryphone system for the flats. All these improvements are desperately needed to make the Tanswell Estate a more pleasant place to live and obtained the approval of the G.L.C. who were

to provide the finance. Yet in a move which astonished everyone concerned with the scheme the Department of the Environment refused to sanction these improvements. Such agreements from the Department is normally a formality once the G.L.C. has checked and approved the modernisation scheme. Neither the tenants nor the GLC are prepared to let the Department of the Environment get away with this decision. The G.L.C. for the first time ever, have registered an appeal and are confident of winning. It is still expected that work on the improvements will begin in the next two months.

The tenants on the Tanswell Estate have waited a long time for such modernisation. With the help of the G.L.C. and Lambeth, let's hope they don't have to wait much longer!

SEI WHAT IS ART SHOW? SEI READERS, what do YOU THINK ART IS?

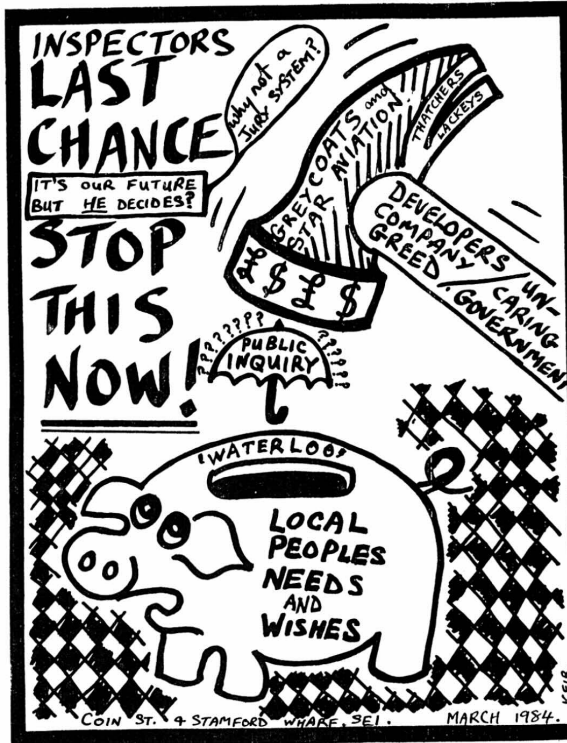
Is it something for its own sake? IS IT ON THIS PAGE? OR IN THIS ISSUE!

IS IT POLITICAL CARTOONS OR DRAWINGS OF DAFFODILS? Is a sketch of a friend or the estate you live on art? WRITE AND LET US KNOW.
IF YOU DRAW, CRAYON OR PAINT IN BLACK & WHITE... PLEASE LET US SEE IT! We would enjoy giving any local artist a FIRST CHANCE to show their work to our SEI readers. Is there an artist in your family or street? PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US. Keib Thomas. Telephone 928 8501. Write to 12 Meymott St., SEI.



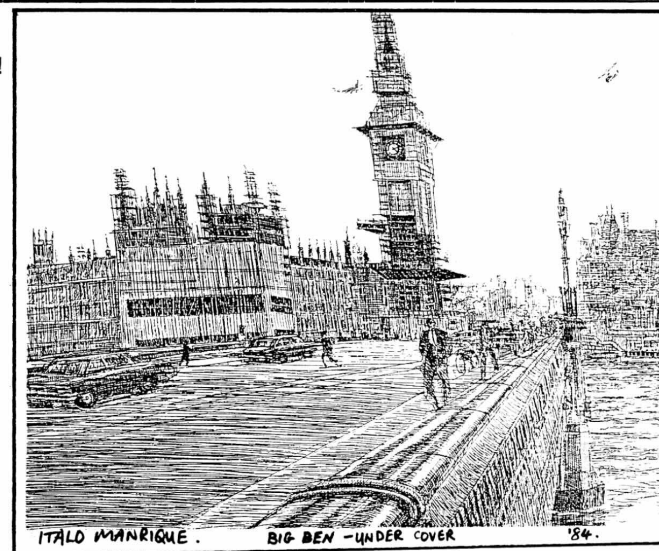
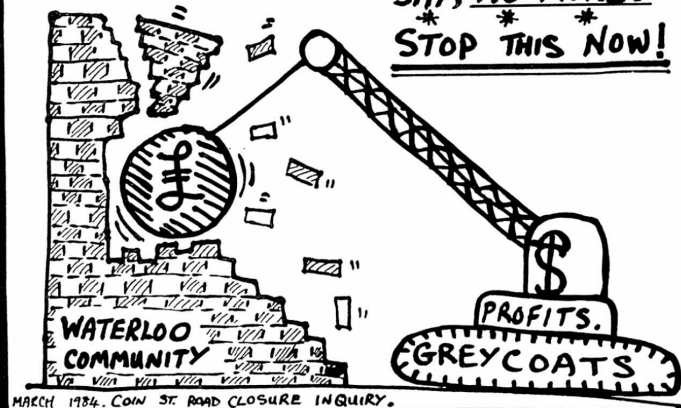
FRED WEBB - CARDINALS HOUSE, BANKSIDE, SEI. FEB. '84.

LOCAL ARTIST, FRED WEBB FROM SUMNER BUILDINGS, SUMNER ST., SEI, TOLD US "I'VE BEEN DRAWING FOR MY OWN PLEASURE FOR YEARS, I'VE NEVER HAD AN ART LESSON AND THIS WILL BE MY FIRST PUBLIC SHOWING OF MY WORK. RECENTLY I WAS MADE UNEMPLOYED AND MY DRAWING HAS HELPED ME FILL MY DAYS."



DEAR (EXPENSIVE!) INSPECTOR,
PUBLIC SERVANTS? NOT A JOKE!!!

SAY, NO MORE!
* * *
STOP THIS NOW!



MORLEY GALLERY

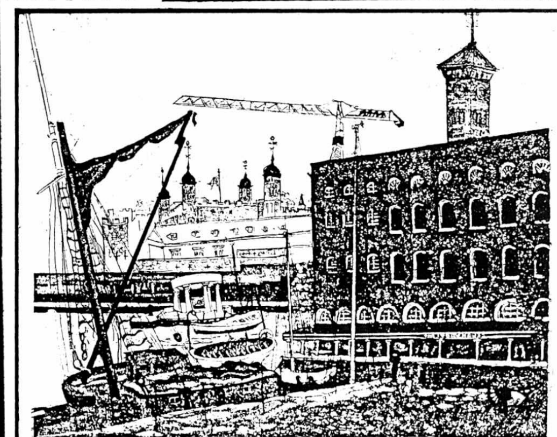
61 WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD,

S.E.I.

TO SEE THESE AND MANY MORE PRINTS, DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS, VISIT THE EXHIBITION OF WORK BY STUDENTS OF THE MORLEY ART DEPARTMENT. IT'S FREE, WARM AND WELL WORTH SEEING, IF YOUR PASSING NEARBY DO DROP IN AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND. OPENS TUES. - 13 MARCH TILL 28 MARCH 1984. Monday to Friday 10a.m. to 6p.m.



ALL WELCOME
IT'S FREE!!



ST KATHARINE'S DOCK BEFORE REBUILDING 1779

Lynn Graphics '84.

GARDENING

WITH KEIB THOMAS

GEORGE & MARGARET'S GARDEN STALL. LOWER MARSH MARKET, WATERLOO.SEI.

March certainly has "come in like a lion" (cold and cutting East Winds), let's hope the old saying is right and it "goes out like a lamb" - as always we gardeners can only cross our fingers and hope! March, April and May are exciting months in the garden diary, because this is the time of year when plants, bulbs and seeds are mainly put in for the summer display of flowers or the vegetable harvest.

Over the past couple of years I have recommended several local places where SEI readers may buy their stock. This month I shall focus on "George and Margaret's Garden Stall" in the Lower Marsh Market in Waterloo. In 5 years of careful buying from their stall, which is at the Westminster Bridge end of the market, I haven't suffered a single failure (where the blame lay with them!)

George and Margaret are a husband and wife team who run their stall Monday to Friday with the help of Julie and other assistants. They have their own nursery and raise as many of their own plants as possible. George has been working a stall for nearly 30 years, Margaret has been on their garden stall for the last 7 years in Waterloo. With that sort of knowledge and experience they are always happy to offer friendly advice or information to local people new to gardening. They always have a very wide range of plants and are always ready to look for or order any plant that you require which is not in their stock.

At the moment they have a wide range of indoor and outdoor plants, bulbs, perennials, biennials, shrubs, trees, herbs and onion/shallot sets. Most are very reasonably priced between 50p and £1. Here's a small selection of what's on offer to tempt you to visit them - Lilies, Lupins, Rockery bulbs, Gladioli, Dahlias, Red hot pokers, Forget-me-nots, Pansies, Pinks, Primroses, Ferns, Hardy Orchids, Sage, Thyme, Parsley, Azaleas, Jasmine and Roses. The best time to visit them is 12.00 - 2.30 pm any day of the week!



MARGARET

PHOTO - PETER SIMMONS.

JOIN THIS NEW GARDENING CLASS.

Why not join the Gardening for Beginners Class at Morley College - 2nd May to 20th June or 27th June to 18th July. Both classes are on Wednesday evening 7.00 - 9.00 pm, tutor Mike Jackson who trained at Kew Gardens! For more details ring Morley Education, 928 8501.

SEI RESIDENTS TELL INSPECTOR TO SCRAP THE HELICOPTER BARGE



STAMFORD WHARF, SEI.

LOCALS SAY "NO" TO HELIBARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS....

IT'S TOO NOISY.
It even disturbs us indoors with doors and windows closed
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
There were two helicopter crashes in 1975 on the SEI section of the river.
THERE'S NO CUSTOMS.
Who will check on the transport of dangerous and/or illegal substances over and into SEI.
IT'S GOT NO PLANNING PERMISSION.
Incredible isn't it!
THERE'S NO PROVEN STRATEGIC NEED FOR PRIVATE HELICOPTERS IN CENTRAL LONDON.
IT PROVIDES NO SERVICE WHATSOEVER FOR LOCAL PEOPLE, as can be clearly seen by reading the advertising blurb of this VESTEY (yes him again!) company.
Below is what they say, do you think any of this claim has any relevance for SEI residents?

Where The Helicopter Scores

The trip during, or at the end of the day, to attend a seminar, exhibition or conference

To catch a scheduled flight from Heathrow, Gatwick or Luton, or to pick up the executive jet at Biggin Hill or Stansted

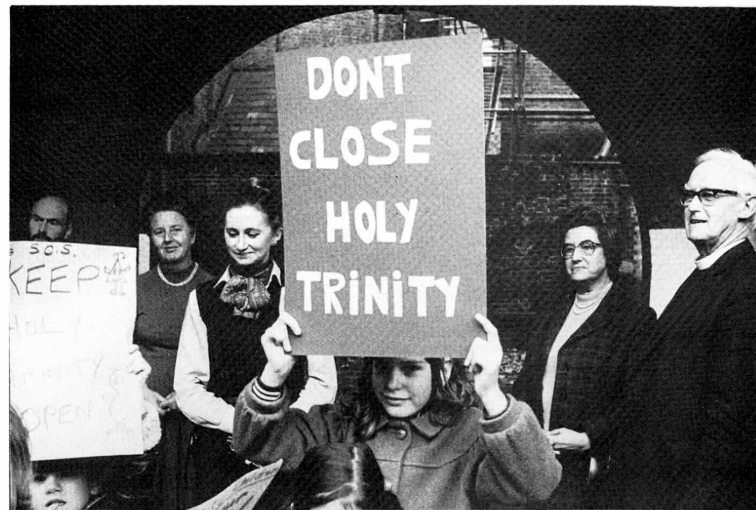
To visit the site to make a personal survey, have discussions on the spot and bring back pictures

To get that replacement part fitted and the installation running again - quickly

To move a casualty quickly to hospital

For a trip with clients to Ascot or Brands Hatch - perhaps to Le Touquet for lunch

ASCOT! BRANDS HATCH!
LE TOUQUET (the one in FRANCE!)
IT'S NOT REALLY SURPRISING THAT SEI RESIDENTS HAVE FLOCKED TO THE PUBLIC INQUIRY TO GIVE AN OVERWHELMING "NO" TO ANY FURTHER HELICOPTER FLIGHTS FROM STAMFORD WHARF.



EXPLORING LIVING MEMORY.

The Exploring Living Memory Exhibition at the Festival Hall, February 17th to March 4th 1984, brought together the memories of people from all over Greater London. As the organisers rightly said: "This was an exhibition that truly represented the multi-cultural and diverse history of London and its people." This wasn't the sort of history you can find in books,....and that's what made it so interesting to Londoners and people from elsewhere.

This was the story of ordinary people and it wasn't surprising that many of the visitors were inspired to think and talk about their own lives. Cecilia Rothwell from Walnut Tree Walk, SE11 told me that this exhibition had brought back thoughts of her childhood in Lambeth Square (off the Cut). Her mother had 13 children and like many poor people at the beginning of the century was visited not by a doctor but by medical students from St. Thomas Hospital. One of these students who visited her mother was Somerset Maugham (who later wrote the novel 'Liza of Lambeth'). Cecilia's mother's name was Liza,

but as she told me "It was a very common name at the time, but we like to think that the book (later a film, play and musical) may have been inspired by our mother."

Cecilia's husband (Stan Rothwell) had his book 'Lambeth at War' exhibited with Dolly Davey's book 'A Sense of Adventure' on the SEI Peoples History screen. On several visits I met many other local people who told me how much they enjoyed it. Mary Trehearne from Kennington said "It is quite an education and very good, but it needs several visits as there is so much to see."

Ian and Jan from Meymott St. particularly liked the Italian part and hope that next year there will be another exhibition but with a theme running through it. Mrs McCarthy from the Borough wished the Festival Hall would fit a ramp for the handicapped.

Many people thought it would have been so much better if the exhibitors could have been present to speak to, to have had someone present for general enquiries.

This was an excellent first exhibition and I am looking forward to next year's.

Keib Thomas



SAVE HOLY TRINITY

Parents and Friends of the School are continuing their fight against closure.

Notices were published by the ILEA in January stating they would no longer maintain the School after July 1985.

Despite that decision we are using our right of appeal to the Secretary of State for Education.

We have been in touch with Stuart Holland M.P. who is arranging for us to see Sir Keith Joseph.

We are collecting signatures and anyone wishing to sign our petition will find copies at the Waterloo Action Centre in Baylis Road. Or you could write to the Education Officer, ILEA County Hall, S.E.1 (Ref.EO/DE4) as quickly as possible. The final decision on the future of the school is expected before the end of the summer term.

Susan Prime

PHOTO - BLACK/WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT.

DOCKED

BUTLERS WHARF - THE LDDC
THE SERVANT OF THE RICH.

An application has been submitted by Conran Roche to the London Dockland Development Corporation, to redevelop Butlers Wharf, Shad Thames. He wants to provide a mix of uses including luxury housing, boutiques and wine bars.

There are 9,000 unemployed in North Southwark, the majority of whom need industrial employment. This scheme will do nothing for the unemployed of Bermondsey. What it will do is take away our last remaining site of any significant size that should continue in industrial use.

Luxury flats are to be provided at a cost of £250,000. But the 2,000 families on the waiting list desperately need a council house.

Lil Patrick chair of Tooley Street Tenants Association commented "We are going to love this when our places are falling about our ears." What about the shops? "You can just imagine all our OAPs going down to those boutiques, wine bars and squash courts."

Butlers Wharf itself is an area of warehouse. Some are still in use providing employment for 100 people, and the occupying firms wish to remain. With investment, the buildings could be modernised in a way that would preserve existing firms and provide premises for new start up

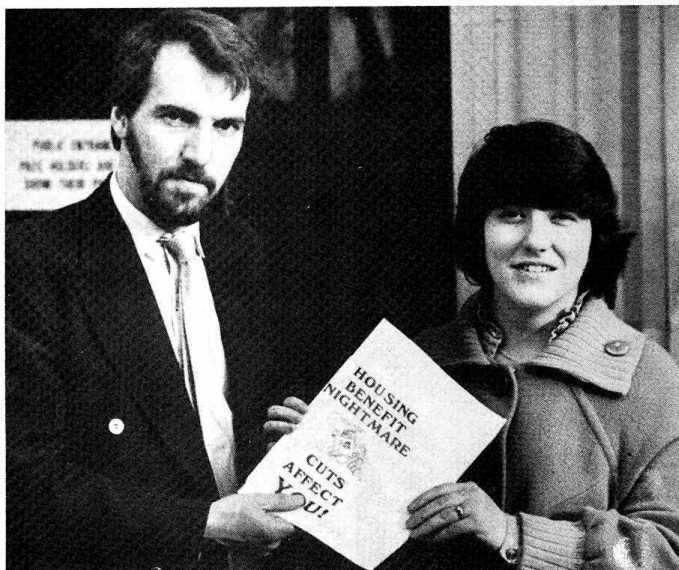
firms and local based initiatives. This is what the local community want and need; this is what the 9,000 unemployed want; this is what Southwark council have identified the site for, following full public consultation, in the North Southwark Plan.

If the L.D.D.C. grant permission, as they did for offices and luxury housing on Hay's Wharf and the Anchor Brewery sites, they will once again have shown a complete and utter contempt they have for the views and needs of the local community and for the policies of the democratically elected local council.

SUCCESS!

OFFICE SCHEME REJECTED BY INSPECTOR

Plans to build a speculative office scheme on land at the rear of Beckett House in Lambeth Palace Road were decisively reflected at a recent planning inquiry. The site was zoned for light industrial use in the Waterloo District Plan and the developers wished to overturn this planned use. It soon became clear that they had no particular tenants for the development and merely wished to indulge in the well known game of property speculation. Thankfully the combination of the Association of Waterloo Groups, Lambeth and G.L.C. mounted a successful campaign to stop this. The message should at last be getting through in the world of property finance across the way in the city: Waterloo means business - Speculators keep out!



AN OPEN LETTER TO SIMON HUGHES.

DEAR SIMON HUGHES,

HOUSING BENEFIT CUTS — NO REAL CHANGE.

The changes in the housing benefit cuts proposed by the Government are mean and dishonest. The cuts have not been reduced, they have simply been redistributed. There is no change but a cosmetic one. The Government is not giving the money back, but changing the way that it takes money from people.

POOREST PEOPLE STILL AFFECTED

Mr Norman Fowler has stated that the aim of the changes is to help people on the lowest incomes. But even pensioners and families on supplementary benefit, the poorest people in Britain, will still be affected by the cuts.

CUTS DELAYED, NOT STOPPED.

Some of the worst aspects of the cuts are now to be put off until November 1984. It will be six months longer before they are implemented, but the cuts will still be made. Local councils have told the Government that they cannot possibly put the changes into force by April anyway. To cap it all, this delay will be paid for by depriving people of the promised increase in the children's needs allowance. The Government is saving its face at the expense of poor families with children.

CITIES ATTACKED AGAIN.

In November the Government wants to change the High Rent Scheme so that far fewer councils can operate it. Southwark would certainly lose its High Rent Scheme if the new proposals came into force, and thousands of Bermondsey tenants would lose money. This cut mainly affects poor people living in cities like London. The Government has made cuts on city dwellers again and again. This aspect of the cuts is particularly unfair.

POVERTY TRAP FOR LOW EARNERS

The cuts make the poverty trap for families with low earnings even worse. On 12 February the Sunday Times quoted a figure of half a million families losing 70p in the £ of every £1 they earn, under the new cuts. The richest businessman in Britain loses only 60p in the £. The Government is once again taking from the poor to give to the rich.

DIFFERENT RULES FOR RICH & POOR.

The same amount of money as is being 'saved' by the housing benefit cuts could be saved by some very small changes in the help given to owner occupiers with mortgages. If the Government restricted mortgage interest to the standard rate of taxation (standard rate tax is paid by people earning up to about £17000 per year), and reduced the ceiling on mortgages eligible for relief from £30000 to £25000, the saving would be exactly the same. Such cuts would affect only richer owner occupiers, but the Government prefers to make cuts that affect the poorest people.

REVIEW

The Government has at last agreed to review the whole Housing Benefit Scheme! But it is making sure that it gets the answers it wants to hear. The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) is the Government's expert watchdog body. But the SSAC criticised the housing benefit cuts, so they are not being given the job of reviewing housing benefit. Instead Mr Norman Fowler will appoint for himself "a small review team". This is yet another shameful abuse.

We therefore unite in asking you to fight these cuts and to fight for a fair review of the whole Housing Benefits Scheme.

BERMONDSEY CONSTITUENTS....

Blackfriars Advice Centre is actively helping the local community to obtain their welfare rights and benefits. Last week they visited the House of Commons to urge Simon Hughes to fight the cuts and work for a fair review of the Housing Benefits scheme.

If you would like our help ring us at BLACKFRIARS ADVICE CENTRE.

66 NELSON SQUARE
SOUTHWARK SE1.
TEL...928-9521.
And ask for Mick,
Chris or Andrew.

Simon Hughes
MP for Southwark, Bermondsey
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Most of the co-ops in Lambeth are small. They don't often have vacant jobs so people who want to work in a co-op generally have to set up new ones themselves.

Lambeth Co-operative Development Agency has set up a Skills Exchange to help people who want to set up co-ops get in touch with others with compatible skills.

The Skills Exchange is essentially a list of names and addresses, skills and experience, as well as ideas for setting up co-ops. With this list, the CDA can put suitable people in contact with each other.

Remember, this is not an employment exchange - to set up a co-op requires a great deal of work and commitment before there are any jobs to show for it. The attitudes of the group of people from whom the co-op will grow are just as important to its success as the skills and finance invested.

If you want to set up a co-op, if you have a particular skill or just a good idea for a co-op, write to us giving details, and we'll put you on the Skills Exchange.

On the Skills Exchange at present we have the following potential co-ops and people looking for other co-operators:

1. Asian Restaurant - looking for somebody with sales experience - not necessarily in catering, and not necessarily with experience in Asian cooking.
 2. Women's despatch riders co-op - needs more women riders.
 3. A soft toy maker is looking for others with similar skills.
 4. Several people with typing/clerical skills need more to set up a co-op.
 5. An enquiry has been received from a panel-beater, welder and car-sprayer.
 6. A furniture-restorer has been in contact, looking for others with compatible skills.
- If you are interested in contacting any of the above people, or would like to be put on our Skills Exchange, please write to: Lambeth Co-operative Development Agency 460 Wandsworth Road, S.W.8.

For further information please contact - Kate Whittle on 720 1466

MESSAGE HOME

**Left Home?
Let your family
know how
you are.**

**No need to say
where you are.**

We'll pass the message on!

Phone **LONDON (01) 799 7662**

NO QUESTIONS ASKED