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THE STANDARD, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1984

Action groups win £30m South Bank scheme

Homes victory in battle of Coin St.

Would-be office developers Greycoats Commerical Estates have pulled out of the Coin Street battle and sold all their land interests to the GLC. For the first time, the entire Coin Street area is now in the hands of one owner.

Bermondsey Councillor and GLC Planning Chair George Nicholson told a press conference on April 3rd: "After a determined battle, the GLC deal with Greycoats is now finished. This clears the way for an immediate start on the mixed scheme proposed by the Association of Waterloo Groups which received outline planning permission from the Environment Secretary last year."

He praised the people of Waterloo and Bermondsey "who have carried out the struggle when many others doubted."

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 4 1984

Five-year struggle over site ends

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

After five years of controversy, the attempt by Greycoat Commercial Estates to develop the Coin Street site close to County Hall on the South Bank of the Thames has ended. The Greater London Council yesterday announced it had purchased the land from Greycoat for £2.7m.

Fred Miller of the Coin Street Action Group told the press conference: "I have lived in the area for 72 years and so far as the local people are concerned this is the finest thing that the council has ever done."

The Save the Oxo Tower campaign also expressed delight. The Tower and Stamford Wharf were sold to the GLC by Lord Vestey as part of the agreement.

The Press Conference marked also the official opening of the new design and exhibition centre at 99 Upper Ground and the new park behind the National Theatre. Both the park and the new centre will be opened to the public this month. A party for those who have supported the Coin Street Action Group since its formation in 1977 is planned for May.

Architect Max Nasatyr



George Nicholson

COIN STREET S.E.1

homes here

RESIDENTS WIN £30m HOMES BATTLE

SOUTH LONDON PRESS

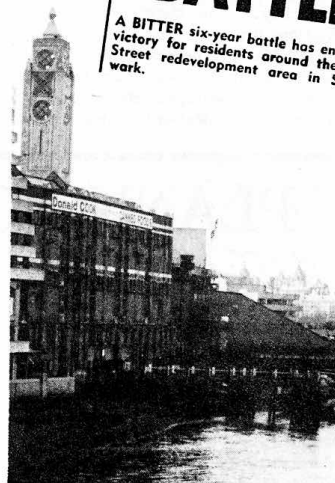
The team of architects working on the detailed plans of the AWG scheme are currently moving into the new centre alongside the staff of Waterloo Community Development Group, and the Coin Street Implementation worker, Theresa McDonagh. Theresa is co-ordinating the work of two groups of local people overseeing the detailed design of the housing and social facilities, plus the industry and shopping. There is still quite a lot to do in working out the different possibilities within the overall plans. Theresa and the community groups involved are hoping that more people will want to play a part in helping the scheme along, now it has got this far.

Funding for what is planned to be an eight year programme of building is likely to come from a variety of sources, including the two boroughs (Lambeth and Southwark) and the GLC. It is hoped that a start on the actual building could be made this financial year.

There will be more details here as they become clear, or you can contact Theresa in the new building at 99 Upper Ground

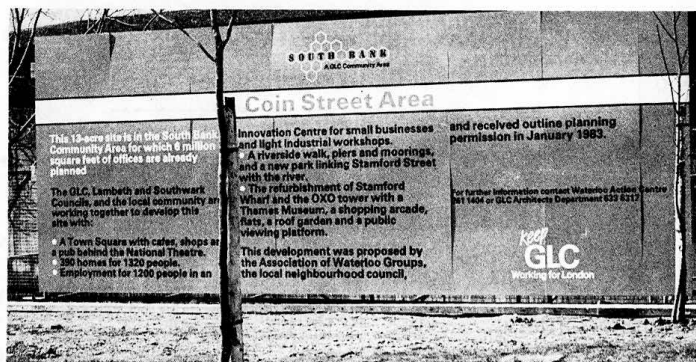
(633 6402). Come along and see the designs and make your comments!

A BITTER six-year battle has ended in victory for residents around the Coin Street redevelopment area in South.



WELL DONE TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF WATERLOO AND NORTH SOUTHWARK WHO FOUGHT FOR SO LONG FOR SUCH A VICTORY!

OTHER NEWS INSIDE



The local newspaper!

STOP PRESS

As we put together this paper on 7th/8th April, we were stunned by the news of the death of Bernie Spain. In the odd moments away from the SE1 office, everyone I met had the same reaction.

Bernie gave an incredible amount of time and energy to the Waterloo community, and it certainly isn't possible to do complete justice to her here.

Many people involved in the battle for a better Waterloo turned to Bernie for support, ideas and encouragement. She believed intensely in the ability of the Waterloo community to fight off the office speculators, and to improve housing and services, taking control of matters which affected their lives. Setting high standards herself, she was somebody you would be ashamed to let down.

Bernie originally got involved in community issues through health concerns: the Community Health Council, then being on the District Health Authority. She then got involved in the wider issues which affect the area, becoming the chair of the Association of Waterloo Groups. She was active in the Waterloo Health

BERNIE SPAIN



Project, on the Waterloo Action Centre management committee and Coin Street Action Group, as well as participating in many other initiatives begun by the Waterloo community.

With all the work she put into Waterloo and Coin Street, in particular, we cannot allow it to go to waste when it has

got this far with her help. We must ensure that the revival of Waterloo is a lasting tribute.

As people said to me in the streets: a lovely person, and a great loss to Waterloo.

John Howes

READING

Extend your Reading. Come to a new group at Lilian Baylis. School, Lollard St, SE11. We start on Wednesday May 2nd, 6.30 to 8.30 with 'Ma Parker' by Katherine Mansfield. The tutor is extremely lively and understanding.

COMING UP

ASSOCIATION OF WATERLOO GROUPS next ordinary meeting is on April 17th, 7pm at the Waterloo Action Centre. It is open to all interested local residents.

AQUINAS STREET SITE Wednesday April 25th, 7pm at Edward Henry Co-op Community Hall.

SITE 'D' - next to Jubilee Gardens (not County Hall!). Consultation meeting on how this site should be developed for the community in future. More details: Waterloo Community Development Group on 633 9291.

STAMP OUT DECAY

To co-incide with the Post Office's issue of its 'Urban Renewal' series of postage stamps, Shelter, the campaign for the homeless and badly housed, issued its own 'Urban Decay' set.



With more than four million substandard homes in this country, Shelter Director Neil McIntosh says

"There couldn't be a worse time for the Post Office to blow the trumpet about urban renewal. The huge cuts in spending on new and improved homes over the past few years meant that a celebration of this kind is totally out of place."

Shelter's stamps are available from its office in Waterloo: 5th Floor, 157 Waterloo Road, SE1. Letter writers should note that these urban decay stamps are NOT official stamps, and you still need to buy a Post Office one as well!

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 SE1 shopping survey.

People of Bermondsey — Take to the River

Tuesday 17th April

Join Us... Lets have our say

PROGRAMME

8.30 Local Homes

chase unwanted office blocks across London Bridge into the City. Join us to leaflet commuters as they cross the bridge to work.

12.30 Giant Maggie Thatcher

closes wards in Guy's. Meet outside Hunts House, Guy's for street theatre.

1.00 Procession

of banished patients and NHS staff set off for the new hospital via Borough High Street and London Bridge Station.

1.30 Faceless Bureaucrat

refuses to let poor patients into the new private hospital at Chamberlains Wharf, Tooley Street.

2.00 Peoples Armada

arrives at Tower Bridge and is joined by a boat from HMS Belfast (Ticket 928 0711). The armada will move off at 2.30 passing under London Bridge.

3.00 Welcome

from Ken Livingstone as the armada arrives at Festival Pier, there will then be a reception from the GLC, food, music and theatre.

4.15 Delegation

to No 10 to deliver The Peoples Charter.

For further information contact the North Southwark Community Development Group on 928-0711.

A PEOPLES ARMADA

A chance to have your say

The Government and the London Docklands Development Corporation have refused to listen to local people. We only too well know what we need. We want and have a right to decent housing at a rent we can afford, to jobs, shops, good schools and a decent health service, here in Bermondsey.

On Tuesday April 17 there is to be a river procession to Parliament.

Groups from North Woolwich to Bermondsey will be coming together in a Peoples Armada, that will make its way up the Thames on a series of boats, led by a banner clad flag ship, calling in at all the areas on the way and ending up at Parliament. There a Peoples Manifesto for Docklands will be presented to local MPs. There will then be a GLC reception in Jubilee Gardens, along with exhibitions, street theatre and music. There will also be in each local area local events to highlight the problems and needs of the area.

This is going to be an important day. Local people will be coming together to put over a powerful message but in a fun and enjoyable way. If you want to take part or have ideas for local events or for more info please ring Stewart at N.S.C.D.G (928 0711)



CHANGE AT WATERLOO ROUNDOABOUT

Slowly but surely the GLC is changing the face of the South Bank.

Part of the plan, to encourage use of the area by other than just theatre goers, has been the setting up of a leisure/recreation area in the Bullring Roundabout at Waterloo.

Originally just an empty concrete space serving only as a pedestrian thoroughfare for those heading for Waterloo Bridge or the South Bank complex; this ideal spot has undergone a transformation.

The whole area has been scrubbed clean. Bright signs and seating for up to 150 people are set among the specially planted shrubs.

The roundabout also plays host to Ros' Kitchen, a very smart refreshment service which gives a fast take-away service, both freshly cut sandwiches and hot food, such as home-made beefburgers. Its used by many office workers, but also local residents who enjoy sitting out during the summer months.

Plans are now afoot to develop a select 20 stall market. When completed, these plans should provide a focal point and hopefully encourage others to come to the area.

Meanwhile, why not drop in at Ros' Kitchen and see for yourself. You can have a cup of the best tea in London and sit and watch the world go by for half an hour.

Mr Mansfield

PLANNING BRIEFS

WATERLOO RD

Shaws in Waterloo Road plus the travel agents next to it are in danger of being turned into a restaurant. 'Caesars Restaurant' have appealed against a decision by Lambeth Council to not give them planning permission for this. So there will be a public inquiry at Lambeth Town Hall on April 26th. Further details from Waterloo Community Development Group on 633 9291.

99-101 Waterloo Road - what was the Moveable Gardens and is currently a builders yard for works on the tower block next door - is also up for a public inquiry. This time it is into a proposal for another office block. Not until July 10th; for this hearing though!

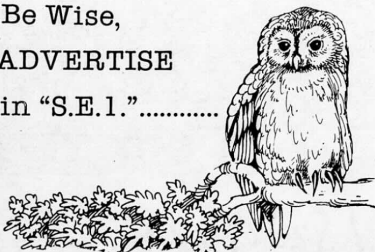
OVER BUT NOT OUT

Both the inquiry into the helicopter barge off the OXO Tower and the inquiry into the Greycoats proposals for closing Upper Ground ended in mid-March. They have been a bit overtaken by events with the withdrawal of Greycoats from the Coin Street battle (see front page).

It is quite possible that the GLC could stop the use of the helibarge now that they own the Oxo Tower and Stamford Wharf, which gives access to the barge, without having to wait for the Inspector to produce his report.

While on helicopters, the Association of Waterloo Groups adopted a policy of opposing all commercial and private helicopter flights over central London at its last meeting in March.

Be Wise,
ADVERTISE
in "S.E.1."



LABOUR
working for you locally...

TERRY RICH &
KATHY CONNELLY
your LABOUR councillors
on Lambeth council

Surgery

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING 6.45-7.30
at China Walk Tenants Hall,
Lambeth Walk, SE1

KEYBOARD CO-OP

We are a group of women who live in and around Waterloo and North Lambeth. Some of us have children, the one thing we have in common is we are all unemployed and all have skills mainly in typing and office work.

Each of us have recently contacted either Lambeth Women and Work or Waterloo Employment Project to see if we could get help with finding paid work, we have now got together and are in the process of setting up a CO-OPERATIVE.

We intend to set up in the Waterloo area a typing bureau and office services co-op. This means we will do typing, probably word processing, provide a photo-copy service and any other office services requested.

We want to be a co-op because we don't feel we need to be supervised. We will all get equal pay rather than someone else taking a share of profit from our work.

We hope to obtain a grant to help us set up our co-op but in the meantime we would appreciate if anyone has any space in their premises that we could use. We have very little money for rent but we would pay for the use of a phone etc. so if you have a small room in your Community Centre or offices we would like to hear about it. We would also appreciate it if anyone has a couple of old typewriters that some of our members could use to get our project off the ground. We have to produce evidence that our project will be used and that people will buy the service we are offering. If you think you would use us at anytime for a job, large or small please write us a letter.

Our address is:
KEYBOARD CO-OP
c/o, 34 York House,
Carlisle Lane,
S.E.1 7LE

If you want to give us a ring we can be contacted via Kath at Women and Work 622-9208



BUILDING WORK?

While 'SE1' was at the printers, there was a meeting for men and women in the Southwark area interested in setting up a BUILDING WORKERS CO-OP. If you are interested in finding out more, and perhaps become a worker/member, contact Bob Gordon at 11 Dunlin House, Osprey Estate, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, SE16 (phone 237 8861) or contact Rotherhithe Community Planning Centre on 231 0916/77.

4 PETITION AGAINST HEALTH CUTS.....

On Tuesday 27th March representatives from the Lewisham and North Southwark Health Campaign handed in a petition with 10,000 signatures to Parliament protesting at the disastrous health cuts. The petition was received by Harriet Harman and Simon Hughes who will present it to Norman Fowler, Minister of Health and Social Security.

Harriet told the representatives about a recent meeting between the health administrators and MPs where they had been told about plans to close all NHS hospitals in the district except Guy's and Lewisham. Meanwhile 2 private hospitals would be opened.

Harriet said she would oppose any attempts to close hospitals in the district; perhaps acute services could be concentrated on 2 sites but the other sites were desperately needed for non-acute services and the development of primary care. Simon Hughes was in broad agreement with this and stressed the need for an alternative plan for the District.

Harriet Harman said she was opposed to all privatisation of services, explaining how it resulted in lower standards as well as cuts in workers pay and conditions. Simon Hughes was basically against privatisation unless benefits could be clearly demonstrated.

Harriet was very concerned at the expansion of private hospitals in the district, opposing all private medicine as damaging to the NHS. Simon declared that although he personally was not attracted to private medicine he recognised peoples right to choose. The petitioners pointed out that only the rich could choose.



C.H.C. NEWS....

If you live in the North Southwark part of SE1, the local Health Service watchdogs are keen that you know more about what they are up to, and how they can help with any problems you might have with the National Health Service.

The Lewisham and North Southwark Community Health Council holds monthly meetings which are open to the public - agendas are provided, with supporting papers, so anyone can follow whats being talked about. Also there is a chance for anybody, whether on the CHC or not, to raise matters for their consideration.

The Community Health Council

considers a wide range of issues such as the proposed closure of hospitals or the services available to handicapped children. The specialist working groups which deal with mental handicap, paediatrics, community medicine, the elderly and mental health report on their activities at the monthly public meeting.

The CHC meetings alternate between their offices in Catford Broadway and Guys Hospital. On May 1st, it will be at Catford at 7.30pm, June 5th in the Court Room, Guys Hospital at 7.30pm. Further information from Penny McVeigh on 690 8777, or write to 13 Catford Broadway, SE6.

N.A.G. — an initiative by Nurses in the District

HOW AND WHY

The Nurses Action Group, or NAG as it is more commonly known, is a diffuse but, nevertheless, potentially strong group of nurses who have developed cohesion and identity over the last few months.

To see how and why NAG began, it is necessary to go back to October 31st 1983 when the District Health Authority (Lewisham and North Southwark) voted at their meeting to put into effect cuts of £12million over the next ten years.

The "Lawson Cuts" were the latest round of Helath cuts - an addition to the RAWP (Reallocation Working Party) cuts which were moving funds out of London. The DHA wasted no time and swiftly decided to close five acute medical wards at Guys Hospital, a total of 109 beds (and over 80 at Hither Green) by the end of 1983. (Closures have been called "temporary" - a useful term which seems to allow for no formal consultation.)

Confusion, anger and shock were just some of the feelings flying around Guys. Some nurses had attended local 'Health Emergency Campaign' meetings and felt frustrated by the lack of involvement of hospital staff. One particular question we were asking ourselves was: Where were the nurses? They work on the wards, they know the pressure of work and increasing stress, and yet they are often a silent voice in health campaigns.

NAG is an attempt to correct this and encourage nurses to have a voice through their own organisation.

AIMS AND ACTION

The first meeting on Nov. 16th was an unusual occasion. It was attended by over 100 nurses of all 'status', all contributing to a general discussion. The idea of a Nurses Action Group got unanimous support, and went forward pledged to spreading information, exploring ways of protesting, liaising with other groups inside and outside the hospital, and acting to keep wards open.

Pressure from senior staff, despondency on jobs, and the speed of events all created difficulties. But NAG did go on to collect 15,000 sign-

atures on a petition against the closures. 50 nurses met MPs at a meeting at the House of Commons, and Simon Hughes MP presented our petition in the House.

Our second event was a Day of Mourning held at Guys on 6th January, when ward closures were almost complete, as reported in February's 'SE1'.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Nurses have been active in various ways. Trying to talk to consultants with little success; taking part in union meetings and as shop stewards; voicing concerns at student councils; and writing to GPs.

Talking with people in the local community we realised the support for what we were saying. We intend to keep up our contacts with local political parties, community groups, the Community Health Council and other nurse and hospital campaigns.

THE FUTURE

Contributing to a broadbased health campaign has to be an integral part of NAG's future, especially as even more savage cuts are likely to come and we need to be prepared.

At the moment NAG is focusing on two specific issues. First the possible loss of an independent Nurse Councillor at Guys, used extensively by staff and students. With nurses under increasing stress, this is even less acceptable.

Secondly, we are starting a project to monitor details of incidents due to the lack of funds and facilities in the District, such as patients being sent home early, or waiting seven hours in casualty. This will give us valuable evidence to show how the cuts are biting.

More news on further action very soon.

Meanwhile the Nurses Action Group continues to meet monthly at Guys Nurses Home, Front Sitting Room 4.30pm on the first Tuesday. We wish to restrict this to nurses, but we would particularly welcome those from other hospitals or areas in the Health District.

Anyone can contact us on 635 0430 for further information or discussion.

Sarah Leyland
Member of Guys NAG

HEALTH RIGHTS COURSE.

A short course on some of the issues in relation to health rights is to run on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12 noon, at Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.

Each session will be started off by a talk from an invited speaker. This will be followed by an opportunity for questions and answers and general discussion. The sessions include a break for coffee.

PROGRAMME:

1 May: Hospital Patients' Rights

8 May: How to change your doctor.

15 May: Contraception and abortion

22 May: Health related benefits

29 May: Supplementary benefits and exemptions

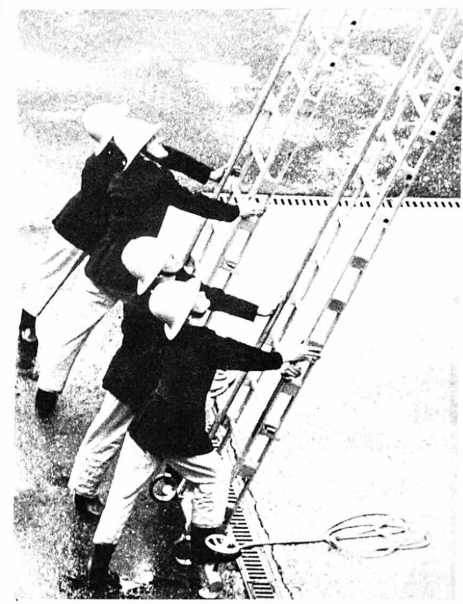
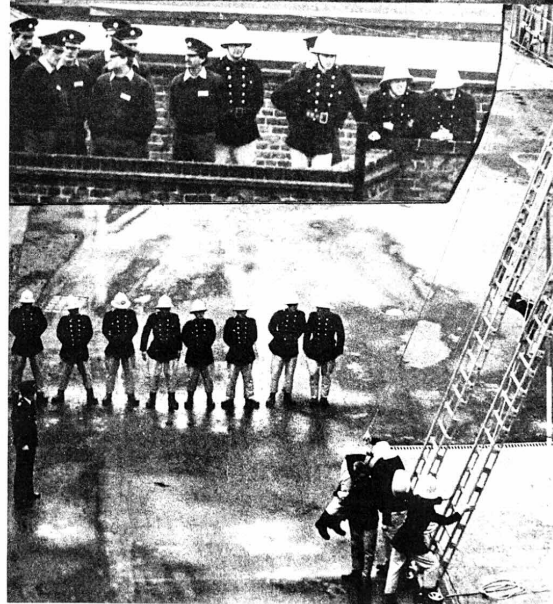
5 June: Health & safety at work

12 June: Maternity Rights

19 June: Review

If you are interested in joining the course, or would like further information, please phone Anne or Katrina 633 0852, at the Waterloo Health Project, St Johns Church, Waterloo Rd.

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHY AT BLACKFRIARS



PHOTO

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CLUB.

This is at the London Fire Brigade station, Tony, Perry, John and Vivienne were at the station on Thursday the 15th March. It is down Great Suffolk street. The firemen put on a display for their passing out day.

There were smoke bombs, different sorts of ladders and lots of different fire engines. We tried to drive an engine and Perry and Tony started one. Make a visit any time.

PHOTOS AND WRITING: TONY AND PERRY, PHOTOS JOHN. PRINTING AND WRITING:-- NICOLA FROM BLACKFRIARS PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT. (PHONE NEIL OR VIVIENNE ON 928-9521. IF YOU WANT TO JOIN IN).



FOR BEGINNERS ON WEDNESDAYS 7.00 - 9.00 pm.

TEL.928-8501

Including questions and discussions covering aspects of PROPAGATION PRUNING GARDEN PLANTS WINDOW BOXES HOUSE PLANTS PESTS & WEED CONTROL SPECIAL INTEREST PLANTS COLOUR SCENT & TEXTURE PLANT NAMES & IDENTIFICATION. 2nd May - 20th June & 27th June - 18th July 1984. Tutor MICK JACKSON.

Morley College
61 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7HT.

MORLEY ADULT EDUCATION



BOB'S RECIPES.

BOBS BURNT OFFERINGS

This month's recipe is an economical vegetable dish that goes particularly well with pork and chicken, but can be served as a vegetable at any time.

FRIL BAKED TOMATOES (enough for 6)

Ingredients:
14oz tin tomatoes (drained)
2 spanish onions (sliced in rings)
3 or 4 slices bread (brown or white)

margarine
dried basil (1-1½ teaspoon)
Sugar (1 teaspoon)

Method: Grease a fairly large fireproof dish. Cover the bottom of the dish with a layer of sliced onions. Slice the tinned tomatoes and put half on top of the onions. Sprinkle with dried basil (about ½ tsp) and a little sugar. Repeat these layers once. Grate bread into crumbs and sprinkle generously on top. Dot all over with margarine and bake in the middle of oven for approx. ½ to ¾ hour until browned on top. Gas mark 4, 175°C or 350°F.

HELP WITH HEATING BILLS.

Many people don't know that they can claim extra money for their gas and electricity bills if they are on supplementary benefit (social security).

If you take your bill down to the DHSS, they won't usually help you to pay it. This is because they don't give one-off payments for bills except in special circumstances. But many people can get extra money on their WEEKLY benefit to help pay for their heating.

ONE-OFF PAYMENTS

You CAN get a one-off payment for your heating bills if you have moved to a new home in the last six months, or have had a new heating system put in. You can sometimes get a one-off payment if the weather has been very cold.

WEEKLY ADDITIONS

You can get weekly heating additions for many different reasons, like:

*BAD HEALTH If someone in your family is in bad health and

needs extra heating, you can get an extra £2.05. Things like bronchitis, arthritis, rheumatism, anaemia, or not being able to move very much, all count for this money. If one of you is seriously ill, or housebound, you get more - £5.05 a week.

*HARD TO HEAT If your home is special difficult to heat for any reason, such as damp, draughty doors and windows, or large rooms, you can get £2.05. If it is very hard to heat, you can get £5.05. This could be because it is very damp, or in a very exposed situation, like at the top of a block.

If your home is hard to heat AND one of you is in bad health, you can get £5.05.

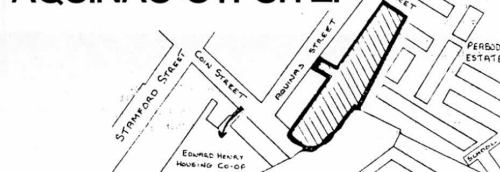
*CENTRAL HEATING If you have central heating, you can get extra money. Count the rooms in your home (don't count bathroom, toilet or hall). If you have between 1 and 4 rooms, you get £2.05. If you have 5 rooms or more, you get £4.10.

are going to face this massive increase.

Such a rise seems hardly justified with the present difficulty of finding an actual PLACE in a residents parking area even with a permit in most parts of Waterloo. It also seems unfair to place the cost of the controlled parking scheme onto local residents who apply for permits. Many people have cars because of their work or family commitments, and it is only the rich in areas such as Waterloo who can afford garages.

Lambeth is asking for comments on its proposal to increase parking permits by 100% by the end of April 1984. Anyone who wants to write should put their views to Cllr. Pat Newman, chair of Public Services, Lambeth Town Hall, SW2.

AQUINAS ST. SITE.



As you may know, discussions have been going on for several years about how to use the land at the back of Aquinas Street. Now at last something is going to happen. The GLC has agreed, in principle, to fund the development of about 13 houses on the site.

To make the scheme a success the Association of Waterloo Groups is calling on local people to get together at a meeting on 25th April (a Wednesday) so that it really meets the needs and wishes.

The meeting will be at 7pm in the Edward Henry Co-op Community Centre - entrance by the main gates in Coin St or Cornwall Road, press the buzzer in the archway to be let

in. The Society for Co-operative Dwellings has already drawn up outline plans for the site. One of the architects will be at the meeting, so that they can be considered in more detail.

It is hoped that this meeting will be able to set up a steering group to oversee the development of the scheme, and that the criteria for who will be selected for the housing will also be considered.

If you can't get to the meeting and want to express a view, leave a note at Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road before 25th April, or have a word with John Austin there.

*SPECIAL ESTATES Some estates in Southwark and Lambeth are now agreed to be especially dear to heat. These include Silwood, and parts of Canada, Gaywood, Kipling, Lawson, Haddonhall and Tabard Estates in Southwark, and Matheson Lang in Lambeth. There are some more estates which may be counted for this in the future. If you live in one of these places and get supplementary benefit, count your rooms (don't count bathroom, toilet or hall). If you have 1-4 rooms, you can get £4.10. If you have 5 rooms or more, you can get £8.20 extra.

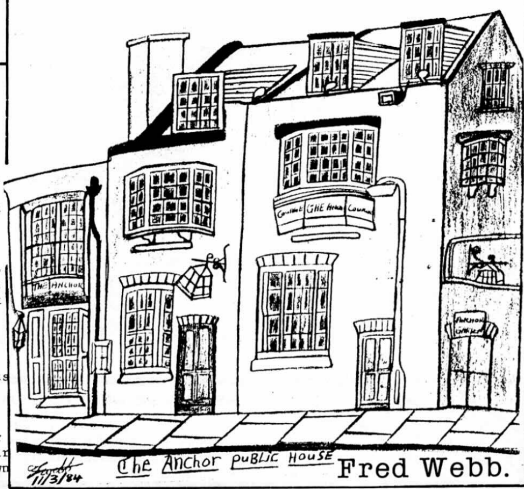
*AGE if you or someone in your family are over 70 or under 5, you can get extra £2.05.

*DISABILITY If you or someone in your family get attendance allowance or mobility allowance, you get £5.05 a week.

You may be confused about all the different ways of getting this extra money! If you think that you may be entitled to one of these additions and are not getting it, or if you are not sure whether you are getting it, come and see us at Blackfriars Advice Centre, 44 Nelson Square. We are open Tuesdays 10-12 noon, Wednesdays 2-4pm, and at the Borough Community Centre, Fridays 10am to 12 noon. Or drop in at the Waterloo Action Centre, 10am to 2pm any weekday.

Chris Thornton

The Anchor, Bankside, SE1.



Fred Webb.

GARDENING.

WITH KEIB THOMAS.

It's Spring at last. I wonder if William Shakespeare was living in his house in S.E.1. when he wrote - "spongy April"? "Well appalled April" or "proud-pied April"? Certainly no S.E.1. gardener would quarrel that April has its fair share of showers or that it is well blessed with flowers. After a bare winter the new green leaves are especially striking and fresh.

By the end of this month Spring will be well established. On April 30th the sun doesn't set until 8.20pm. This is a delightful month for gardeners the evenings lengthen and the sun warms the soil and our dreams of a colourful summer.

April begins with forsythias' blazing yellow, daffodils, primroses and flowering currant. At the end of the month the streets are full of cherry blossom, the chestnut tree succeeds in being the first to cover itself with leaves and the tulips take over with forget-me-nots. The apple and pear trees flower and bedding plants like lobelia, alyssum, marigolds and geraniums are on sale in those handy strips.

Buying and selling plants is the business that Gerald and Veronika have built up over the last four years in Waterloo.

They run that well stocked garden shop with its colourful pavement display above the building on Waterloo Bridge (opposite St. John's Church on Waterloo Road).

They have worked in the premises for 14 years but after being life-long gardeners it was not until 4 years ago that they thought of selling plants, seeds and all kinds of garden equipment and materials. They've put their hobby talents to commercial use, "It's Veronika who's got the green fingers who's got the green fingers ... right up to the elbows if you know what I mean," said Gerald.

"The garden part of the business is still more hobby than work for us. We get up early most mornings and visit a nursery or Covent Garden Market, it's as much fun for us than business. Chatting about plants and the challenges of balconies, window-sills and other odd corners of Edward Henry Co-op or Roupell Street with local people is almost a therapy. Of course we hope they'll buy but we often advise people not to buy something if it's not suitable for the conditions they've got for it. After all if they're not happy customers they won't come back! As gardeners ourselves we want to encourage successful planting as the Inner City needs brightening up. It really gives us an extra burst of job satisfaction when we recognise our old plants thriving in a local window box or tub".

April is a marvelous month, it begins with winters bare trees but by its end there's heat in the sunshine, it's still light and Gerry and Veronika will have bedding strips of alyssum, lobelia, begonia, geranium, sweet william, pinks and marigolds on sale. Visit them and make this a more colourful spring and summer in S.E.1. Have a Happy Easter!

PLAN & plant-up for Summer.

PLANTS
BULBS
SHRUBS
HERBS
HOSES
PEAT
SEEDS



Because most people round here have small spaces we always keep a stock of small alpine rockery plants so that even a large pot or window box can have a variety of plants growing in it. Our dwarf conifers and herbs can add to this range of plants suitable for limited space.

Gerry and Veronika specialise in herbs which have been organically grown, they keep a wide stock of which the following are but a few examples - chives, fennel, feverfew (megraine cure), lavender, mint, parsley, rosemary, sage, thyme etc. Like most small scale traders they also specialise in Service... they will deliver your bale of peat or heavy plants or equipment to your home. "We often deliver up to London Bridge or down to Kennington, it's amazing how far some of our customers travel to see us"

At the moment they have lots of shrubs and climbers on sale roses, climatis, russian vine, ivies, camellias, conifers etc. They stock "Mr. Fothergills" seeds, there's a very wide selection of easy to grow annuals and herbs that you can grow in a pot from seed. There are bulbs, corns and tubers of gahlias, gladiolus, begonia and lilies which are now ready for planting out. If you're interested in growing your own food there are large rhubarb crowns, onion sets, potatoes and shallots ready to go into the ground (or tub or window box).

April is a marvelous month, it begins with winters bare trees but by its end there's heat in the sunshine, it's still light and Gerry and Veronika will have bedding strips of alyssum, lobelia, begonia, geranium, sweet william, pinks and marigolds on sale. Visit them and make this a more colourful spring and summer in S.E.1. Have a Happy Easter!

It's SPRING in S.E.1.



A dazzling display



Photos by Peter Simmons

join us

'SE1' is run entirely by volunteers, and exists to act as a community mouthpiece, for YOUR views and interests. We are still very short of help, and this issue is yet again one week late.

You don't have to have special skills to be able to help with the paper - you can learn what you need as you go along. We are a small, friendly and informal group, where you are free to do as much as you want, and to share in making decisions.

If you are interested in helping, by typing, writing, 'lay-out' or distribution, please get in touch. Contact Keib Thomas at the Community Education Project at Morley College (928 8501) or Martin Whiteside at North, Southwark Community Development Group on 928 0711.

With luck, the next issue will appear on May 8th. Deadline for all contributions is April 25th, with paste-up on April 28th/29th.

We welcome readers letters, articles and photographs on anything which could interest 'SE1' readers, and 'whats on' information for the area.

We look forward to hearing from you!

COUNCILLOR KATHY !!

Local resident, and past 'SE1' volunteer, Kathy Connelly, overwhelmingly won back a Lambeth Council seat for Labour in the recent by-election in Waterloo/North Lambeth.

It is almost 3 years after the SDP/Liberal Alliance won one of their first victories, here in Bishops Ward. They gained two (out of three) seats in a by-election in July 1981, when the Labour vote shrank to little over 30% in what had been a safe seat. This was the start of the disastrous split in the anti-Tory vote that culminated in the re-election of the Thatcher Government.

This time round, in the same Ward, Labour not only regained one of the seats but significantly won over 50% of the entire vote cast, with a much larger turnout. Even more significant was the humiliating result by the Tories.

Labour's recovery in Bishops Ward (which includes all of the Lambeth part of Waterloo, and stretches down Lambeth Walk to the Ethelred Estate) began during the General Election in June 1983 with a rise in party membership. During the past year, Labour Party membership has tripled, and now includes both the youngest voter in the

recent by-election and an 82 year old veteran member of sixty years standing (you can sit down now!)



According to Paul Wheeler, the assistant election agent for Labour for the by-election:

"Our strong, active local membership and record of involvement throughout the years made it impossible for the SDP/Liberals to succeed in their usual attempts to brand Labour as extremist, irresponsible and unrepresentative. Voters had come to know Labour Party members as friends, neighbours and fellow workers engaged in trying to defend jobs and services of benefit to everyone"

He went on:

"The SDP/Liberal Alliance were increasingly seen by the voters as being irrelevant to these crucial issues of the defence of local services and indeed local democracy. During the election campaign it was quite clear that the SDP candidate (Tom Cornwall) had no views on any of these major issues. His main technique was to conduct a smear campaign against the Labour Party. Thankfully in Bishops Ward, such tactics got the result they deserved!"

ELECTION RESULTS

		Highest vote		
		May 82	23.7.81	1978
Labour	22.3.84	982	712	1671
SDP/Lib	1650 (53%)	999	1153	-
Conservative	1104 (35%)	551	331	834
	255 (8%)	37.6%	32.3%	36.9%
Total turnout of those able to vote	41%			

FUNERAL FOR DEMOCRACY

Members of Southwark Against Government Attacks (SAGA) held a "Funeral for Democracy"

around the streets of the borough recently. A brightly decorated "hearse carried the



"coffin" of local democracy and "wreaths" were laid as the procession passed by. The event was held to protest at Government plans to abolish the GLC and limit the spending of local councils. People in shopping centres were keen to take leaflets and sign petitions against the plans.

However, SAGA members were threatened with arrest in Rye Lane for displaying an 8 foot model of Maggie Thatcher (pictured above). The police claimed she was "insulting and threatening and likely to lead to a breach of the peace". While not disagreeing with this description, SAGA are putting a formal complaint in to the police. Has insulting the Prime Minister become an arrestable offence? Despite this setback the "Funeral" received coverage on both T.V. channels and in the local press. Local M.P. Harriet Hazman and Simon Hughes turned out to meet it at Westminster along with Labour G.L.C. councillors.

A spokesperson commented, "It's one more nail in Maggie's coffin"

Local contact for SAGA : Roger Clews, tel.928 0711

WATERLOO READERS, WATCH OUT!

For a special issue of 'SE1' coming out in a few weeks. It will be FREE (!!!) and produced to highlight the threat to the local community, local groups and services presented by the Government's attempts to force Lambeth to cut back, and to abolish the GLC.

Copies will be available at Waterloo Action Centre if you don't get one through your door.

PRINCELY SUM

Prince Philip made a 1½ hour visit to Guy's on Tuesday 21st March to open a new machine in the laboratories. The cost? - £9,000 in lighting alone plus undisclosed sums for two lots of tropical plants (the 1st lot died before he arrived).

Hospital workers gathered to protest at this shocking waste of money when Guy's recently closed 109 beds! What sort of priority is this?