

ISSUE 43

JUNE 1986

FREE COPY

Taken to the cleaners

Over 300 people, mainly domestic and ancillary staff, demonstrated last month at Guy's hospital against management proposals to bring in private contractors to clean hospital wards. They came from hospitals all over Lewisham & North Southwark Health District.

Despite much opposition, the Health Authority decided to put ward cleaning services out to tender. If the present workers wish to keep their jobs they would have to put in a tender themselves which would slash their wages and worsen their working conditions. The present wage of hospital cleaners is a shockingly low £72 a week.

jobs to be axed at Guy's

At the same time, management is looking to axe 20 jobs among cleaning staff at Guy's in the run-up to the private tendering. The health trade unions are opposing the redundancies and the proposed

privatisation. As a District Nurse told SEl: "Experience has shown that privatisation means dirty hospitals."

The National Health Service in North Southwark is on a dangerous slide; it has been hijacked by Thatcherite managers and consultants who prefer their lucrative private London Bridge Hospital recently opened opposite Guy's with the backing of many of Guy's consultants. The very day it opened, consultants sent over to Guy's to borrow surgical and orthapedic equipment!

closures still to come

The Lewisham & North Southwark Health Authority is proposing the closure of New Cross Hospital in the near future and the eventual closure of Sydenham and Hither Green Hospitals. Services will be concentrated at Guy's and Lewisham Hospitals. How will these two hospitals



possibly cope? They are already groaning under the strain of lengthening queues and fewer beds. Staff numbers have been cut and now more redundancies are demanded. Outpatients appointments will be cut at Guy's during the summer to save money.

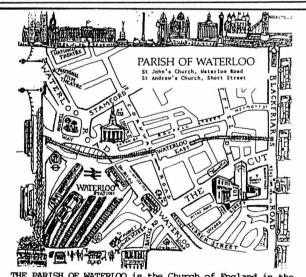
Before our own eyes in North Southwark, we have evidence of a two-tier health system - one for those who can afford it and a crumbling NHS for the rest. Concerned residents should support those health workers who are fighting to maintain jobs and services. They should make their voices heard on the state of our health service through local councillors who are members of the District Health Authority and via the Community Health Council.

Woolworths to close its Lower Marsh store

The prospects for better shopping facilities in Lower Marsh took a major turn for the worse with the news that Woolworths is to close its store there. The closure is part of a major rationalisation at Woolworths and and many more of their shops in Lewisham and elsewhere will close.

None of this is any consolation to staff at Lower Marsh nor to local shoppers. What makes the decision even worse is that it comes at a time when the future of Lower Marsh as a shopping centre was beginning to look a little brighter. The Lower Marsh Working Group, composed of local residents, street traders and Lambeth council officers, was beginning to look at ways of improving the street market.

The immediate impact of the abolition of the GLC has been less disastrous than many feared in Lower Marsh. Now with the closure of the last major retail store, the future of Lower Marsh is once more in the balance. Something needs to be done and quickly: any suggestions?



THE PARISH OF WATERLOO is the Church of England in the Waterloo area.

All are welcome to any of our activities. Parish Office tel: 633 9819.

the local newspaper!

Association of Waterloo Groups comes out in opposition to Channel Tunnel Terminal at Waterloo

The following statement about the proposed Channel Tunnel Terminal at Waterloo Sation has been endorsed by the Association of Waterloo Groups and is being sent to the press and to some MP's.

by souvenir shops and

fast-food parlours for tour-

ists; there would be greatly

increased traffic and parking

problems in an area that

already suffers both; greatly

increased noise through the

night from arrivals and

departures of Channel trains,

shunting and platfrom

announcements which are

already a serious nuisance

There has been no consider-

ation of any of this by BR or

by the Department of Trans-

port which is driving the

Channel Tunnel Bill through

Parliament without adequate

research and without a Public

Inquiry into its conseq-

uences. Neither BR nor the

Government have provided

plausible explainations for

not dispersing the expected

millions of travellers over

the national railway system

instead of concentrating them

all at Waterloo. The osten-

sible reasons for a single

London terminal - costs, and

for residents.

British Rail's proposal to make Waterloo Station the sole London passenger terminus endangers of struggle by the Waterloo community to revitalise the area. Waterloo consisted of some 20,000 people a century ago, four times its present population; then its people found employment in the Thames transport and warehouse system and at the Station. Since World War II, these jobs have disappeared abd so has a great part of the housing as a result of the pre-war clearing for County Hall, wartime bombing, and post-war clearings for the Festival of Britain and massive office development.

Slowly, over the past 14 years, these destructive pressures on Waterloo have begun to be checked by community efforts. The obvious sign of this is the successful Coin Street campaign to create fair-rented housing on a sixteen acre riverside site in the place of a gigantic office development that was

office development that was customs and immigration control - have never been justice.

The British Rail proposal for the waterloo terminus threatens the achievements that have been made by the community. In 1933, when the Channel Tunnel traffic commences, BR predicts that ten million additional passengers would throng Waterloo Station each year; they would add over four million passengers to the Underground there, over a million additional taxis, a half a million private cars and 35,000 coaches.

Stemming from this, and from other developments being considered by BR, would be a set of devestating changes in Waterloo: renewal of severe pressure for office and hotel developments with attendant speculation and blight; the small proportion of owner occupiers in Waterloo would be under great pressure to sell to the purveyors of bed-and-breakfast accomodation to serve the millions of travellers: retail shops essential for residents would be replaced

tified. On the other hand, the establishment of a single London terminal would facilitate the future privatization of the entire fixed link system.

We believe that justice and

good sense require that all references to Waterloo in the Bill be removed and that a full Public Inquiry consider the consequences of such a project, consequences which are now blandly brushed aside by BR and the Government. Here there are none to share in the promised twenty percent dividend for investors in the Channel Tunnel scheme and few who would benefit from the jobs in offices and hotels that are likely to result from the development. Instead, residents, who for the first time in a generation have begun to glimpse the possibility of a healthy and growing residential community in Waterloo, would once again become hostages to a fortune that never seems to be theirs to share, but merely to bear.

ILEA ELECTIONS It could be a re-run in Bermondsey

Bermondsey Labour Party has lodged an appeal at the High Court which could result in a re-run of the Inner London Education Authority elections for Bermondsey constituency. In a closely fought contest, which saw several recounts, the Liberals won both seats at the recent election which was conducted at the same time as the local government elections.

The Labour Party is claiming in its High Court action that many polling stations were very badly run. This resulted in an abnormally high number of spoilt votes for the local and ILEA elections in Bermondsey, much higher than in comparable London areas. In one polling station, more than 400 ballot papers were declared null and void by the returning officer because the

reverse of the ballot papers had been marked with the numbers of individual voters.

At many polling stations, woters were offered rather than given ILBA ballot papers as the law requires. At one polling station, the returning officer was challenging some people to show proof of their identity, something usually unheard of. The Labour Party also says that an unusually high number of unfranked votes went into the ballot box which were thus declared void.

John Mulrennan, Press Officer for the Bermondsey Labour Party told SE1: "The way the election was conducted effectively meant that a large part of the voters were disenfranchised. The Labour Party believes that the people of Bermondsey deserve better."

Educational opportunities for all in Engineering

Access courses Open Evenings

A brand new course is offering unqualified adults a unique opportunity to obtain qualifications in Engineering. The offer comes from South Bank Polytechnic and South London College, whose special Access course will prepare adults without previous qualifications for Higher National Diploma courses in Chemical, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering.

They are holding Open Evenings at the college on Monday June 9th and the Poly on Wednesday June 11th from 6 to 8 pm, to launch the course and to explain how to apply.

Good career opportunities exist in engineering for suitably qualified men and women. Yet last year there were not enough qualified school-leavers to take up all the available places leaving over 1,000 unfilled vacancies in engineering courses in Britain's Polys.

South London College is running the Access course that will prepare students for the Poly. Both the college and the Poly are keen to provide new educational opportunities for local residents and are committed to equal opportunities for all members of the community, and thus welcome enquiries from women and black people.

If you can't make the Open Evenings, ring tutor Alan Howes on 670 4488 for more details.



TASTER PROGRAMME OF during enrolment week

An introduction to classes at Morley

A chance to try something new

Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th September

between 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30

Creche places available

Classes in Art, Craft, Music, Dance, Drama, Social Studies,

Humanities, P.E., Languages, Basic Education.

Come along and try something new.

For details of the programme Phone or write to : Steve Glennon 928 8501 x 161 Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1.

WORKING IT

We are offering a series of short courses (of 5 days spread over 2 weeks) for all those people who are unwaged or unemployed who would like an opportunity to look at their ideas and choices, their wants and needs in work, education and leisure.

In the second week of 2 days we will be offering classes to cover a range of different skills and interests.

The course runs for three weeks from July 2nd

You do not need any special experience or qualifications for this course, it is for all those people who are unwaged and want to try something different.

For further information contact: Steve Glennon on 928 8501 X 161

A free eight week course covering all aspects of setting up a co-operative business. Organised by Lambeth Co-operative Development Agency and Morley College to run from

July 2nd to August 22nd

Interested?

Come to the introductory session at Morley College

For further information contact:

June 18th from 10 to 12 noon

- Free Creche
- * Travel allowance available
- * Sorry, no wheelchair access

Steve Glennon on 928 8501 X 161 or Mukesh or Sheila on 582 0003

MORLEY COLLEGE, 61, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HT

ENROLMEN Prority enroloment for those living in SE1/SE11

Main Building Thursday 11th September 1.30-3.00

(Exceptions to this are courses where the students have to see the tutor before enrolment)

Enrolment for present students and new students in SE1 and SE11 June 23rd - 27th 12-7.00

July: Tuesday & Wednesday, 1st, 2nd, 8th & 9th.

Priority for people living in Inner London Boroughs preferential enrolment for classes likely to be oversubscribed.

Enrolment week 15th - 18th September Monday 1th 12.30-2.00 and 4.30-8.00

Tuesday to Thursday 5.30-8.00. Outer London from 7.00pm. only.

Saturday June 21st 2 - 7pm Come along and try something new.

SOUTH LONDON OPERA ART DISPLAY DEMONSTATION CRECHE DEMONSTRATION PLAYGROUP

LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP PAPER MAKING SOFT SCULPTURE MAGAZINE WORKSHOP

VOILIN AND VIOLA WORKSHOP LILIAN BAYLIS CLASSES POETRY HERALDRY WRITERS' SKILLS/WRITING A NOVEL EGYPTOLOGY T.V. PRODUCTION CRAFTS

TREASURES OF LONDON REIGN OF GEORGE III JEWELLERY EMBROIDERY

BOOKBINDING POTTERY AND POTTERY SALE CALIGRAPHY P.E ACTIVITIES

DANCE DEMONSTRATIONS ETHNIC CLOTHES QUILTMAKING FAMILY WORKSHOPS

June 23rd - 28th

OPEN WEEK will give local lpeople a chance to 'sit in' on the classes of your choice, as many as you choose and for as long (or as short a time) as you choose, throughout the week.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE - to sample as many classes as you can

-ASPECTS of ASIA: Study Day

Saturday 28th June 10 - 5

10.15-1.00 Lectures in art, music and literature of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh

> Children's workshop and Indian crafts plus creche and playgroup Cookery demonstration. Bengali "taster" class

1.00-2.00 INDIAN BUFFET

2.00-3.00 Bengali songs and dances by CHYANOT -(young performers)

3.00-5.30 THE HOME AND THE WORLD (Ghare Baire) based on the novel by Rabindranath Tagore directed by Satyajit Ray

Enjoy a day of Asian culture . Bring your children. Enquire about our Bengali classes for native and nonnative speakers and many other interesting courses at very low fees.

For further information contact: Kate, Norma, Ravindra or Keib on 928 8501

MORLEY COLLEGE, 61, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HT

BERMONDSEY WOMEN'S CENTRE CAMPAIGN

"A dream has finally become a reality". These were the words of one member of the Bermondsey Women's Centre Campaign after Southwark Council agreed to fund the proposed centre. The news that Southwark council had agreed to provide funds to set up the centre came at the same time as the news that the premises the Campaign wanted - three empty shop fronts next to Tesco's in Southwark Park Road - have been turned over to Southwark Council Women's Committee.

The money allocated means that the shop fronts can be converted into a centre that will really serve local

women's needs. The Campaign has done a survey of local women to find out what they would like to see the centre provide. Ideas include a shopping creche, training classes, a cafe, counselling services and recreational activities.

The real need for a women's centre in Bermondsey is summed up by a comment made by a women who answered the survey: "I've been living in this area for six years and I haven't yet made a single

For further information contact Julie, Joanne and Maggie on 231 0916.

Bishops Ward Labour Party

FOR THEI TREMENDOUS SUPPORT IN THE COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MAY 8.

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES FOR GRAHAM NICHOLAS. JENNY STILES

JOAN TWELVES

EVERY THURSDAY AT CHINA WALK TENANTS HALL, LAMBETH WALK SEI BETWEEN 6.45PM & 7.30PM

For Information on the Labour Party contact Maureen Corcoran on 928-8806

New councillors - Joan Twelves, Graham Nicholas, Jenny Stiles



Our results were excellent

Even with election results that were generally favourable to Labour throughout Lambeth, the result in Bishops Ward was a big success.

In 1982 Labour scored less that 1000 votes and only returned one Labour candidate with a majority of less than 20. In 1986 Labour averaged 1700 votes and returned all there candidates with majorities of well over 1000.

The result was clear confirmation of popular support for Lambeth's policy of defending jobs and services against government cuts. It was also the result of four years of hard work by the local Labour Party in defence of the interests of the local area.

As Jenny Styles, one of the successful candidates said: "Unlike other parties, the Labour Party in Bishops Ward works all year round for the local area. We have helped local people in their campaigns against the closure of Holy Trinity School, for improvements to Tamswell Estate and many other campaigns. Local people realise that the Labour Party cares about the issue which affect them."

Bishops Ward labour Party has always ensured that Lambeth Council is aware of the needs of the area. On consequence of this is that there are more new homes for rent being built in Bishops Ward than in many other London Boroughs!

The labour Party locally has also taken up the issue of Housing Benefits where many private tenants in particular get a bad deal at the moment.



SAY IT WITH ROSES...

April was the coldest for 40 years and May has been gener-ally 4-5°C below average. It was only towards the end of the month that we had a few days where the temperature reached 19-20°C. The earth has been slow to warm up and plants have come into leaf and flowered up to a month later than usual.

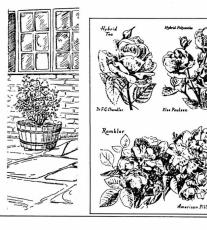
In early June, any real risk of night frost is past and we can get on with potting up all the bedding plants that are appearing in Lower Marsh Market and other shops (and pavements) throughout SE1. For a good selection of well grown (and CHEAP) perennials, bedding plants and herbs in pots, why not make a trip to Roots & Shoots in Walnut Tree Walk (off Lambeth Walk).

Now is the time for saving annuals and planting out summer bulbs and tubers (gladiolus, dahlias and lilies etc.)

June has long been known as "the month of roses" as this time of the year brings us the first full flush of Hybrid T roses, Floribunda as well as many of the species or shrub roses. Modern roses continue to flower throughout the summer and right up to the first frost. Last year I spotted a Queen Elizabeth rose in Westminster Bridge Rd still flowering in mid-Decemb-

So, if you choose wisely, a rose will give good value for money by flowering longer than almost any other plant.

As long as they are fed and watered roses will thrive tubs or in the garden. Minature roses will do well in window boxes or 10 inch pots. The minatures are grown in pots and now is the best time to buy and plant them out. They are perfectly hardy and are 9-11 inches tall. Their flowers are small but perfectly formed in a wide range of colours, though generally without a scent. However, if it's fragrance you're after and you have a tub or garden-...why not try "Alec's Red", "Fragrant Clouds" (red) or the apricot coloured "Whisky Mac".



FOOTBALL FUNDRAISER



On Sunday 18th May, Buster Young Peoples Theatre held a sponsored football match on Southwark Park Astro Turf as a fund raising event to enable the company to tour its plays. Three hundred pounds was collected from sponsors.

Buster has been based at the Borough Community Centre for the last 3 years. It is a young peoples theatre which performs plays at schools and youth clubs. Buster will be going to the Edinburgh Festival in August and will be touring Southwark in



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT Stuart Holland MP

The clear message from last month's local elections throughout the country is that Thatcher's government has been given notice to quit. After 7 years of despair and misery there is at last hope that the Labour party will be elected soon to tackle the chaos caused by the Conservatives.

Nowhere is this chaos more evident that in the National Health Service. Locally, St Thomas's Hospital is still threatened with closure in August. The uncertainty must be adding to the tremendous stress felt by staff and patients alike.

Thankfully, the residents of Bishops Ward have given their verdict on such Tory policies. The tremendous support for Joan Twelves, Graham Nicolas and Jenny Styles as

Lambeth councillors and Jan O'Mally and Irma Critchlow as ILEA representatives is extremely heartening. Four years ago there were 2 SDP/Liberal councillors for Bishops Ward. In 1986 there has been a 75% increase in Labour support. This shows something of the hard work of the local Labour Party. They have ensured that the interests of local people on Coin St, St Olave's Mansions, Holy Trinity School and many other cases are fully represented.

I hold four surgeries each month and if people need help or advice then my most convenient surgeries for SEl are at the Citizens Advice Bureau, 381 Kenning Road on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 7.30pm. No appointment is needed. On the 1st and 3rd Mondays, my surgeries are held at Lambeth Town Hall.

Waterloo Young People's **Health Project**

Kay Kaur is the new worker recently appointed by the Waterloo Young People's Health Project. The aims of the Project are to promote an interest in broad health issues amongst young people. It is a channel whereby young people can gain access to health information and resources and enable them to explore attitudes and feelings in relation to health issues relevant to them.

Kay is keen to develop contacts with workers at other projects/clubs with the aim

of setting up and running group workshops for young people. These sessions would aim to provide information, discussion and to explore attitudes and feelings on a wide range of subjects in the areas of health, such as the health rights of young people, sexuality, contraception, abortion, relationships,

If you want support from Kay in any project planned, or for more information, contact her at St John's Church, Waterloo Road, Tel: 633 0852

From sleeping-out to Stamford street hostel

The area around Waterloo and into central London has for years been 'home' for hundreds of men and women who, without access to decent accomodation, sleep outdoors. Sleeping on the streets in this area they are in a real sense 'local people'.

Though homelessness is a national issue needing a national response, London based answers are needed too. Thames Reach Housing Association aims to provide such a response in the shape of a small good quality hostel in Stamford Street (due to open in June). It will be a place where people who have slept out for a long time can live and make decisions about their future, away from the

pressures and hardships of the street. A supportive team of experienced staff will be on hand 24 hours a day to manage the hostel and assist in securing long-term accomodation for the residents.

The hostel will make only a small impact on the problem of homelessness which is now on a massive scale. But by enabling some men and women to leave behind the awfulness of having to sleep outside and by showing that it can be done is important. Once open and given time, we at Thames Reach hope that SEI will be proud to host such a new initiative.

Stamford Street Team



CLAIM IT NOW!

If you're on Supplementary Benefit or Housing Benefit Supplement and you think you might be entitled to a grant for household items (bedding, furniture, kitchen utensils etc.) then get your claim in

From July nobody, whatever their circumstances, will receive payments for curtains, floor coverings, tables, chairs, kitchen cupboards, wardrobes or chests of drawers. Instead, some people might be able to claim a one-off payment of £75 for "miscellaneous furniture".

Once you've had this payment you will never get it again and fewer people will be able to claim a bed, cooker, heater or bedding.

SO DON'T FORGET - IT'S IMPORTANT TO CLAIM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

If you want advice on this or other benefits, contact: Blackfriars Advice Centre 44 Nelson Sq SE1 (928-9521)

Waterloo Action Centre 14 Baylis Rd SE1 (261-1404)

3RD BORD FESTIVAL = ||SAT 12TH JULY| > OPEN SPACE 2PM TILL LATE SIDESHOWS

ENTERTAINMENT MUSIC STALLS

BAR

DANCING

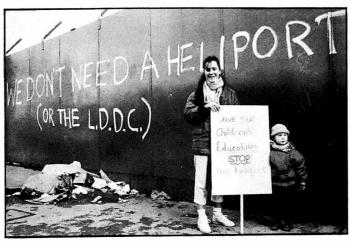
HELIPORT INQUIRY FINISHES

The public inquiry into the proposed heliport at Chambers Wharf, Bermondsey, ended in May with Star Aviation - the applicants - appearing to be on the run.

They had confidently started out seeking permanent permission for an operation involving up to 12,000 helicopter movements a year; by the end of the inquiry they were prepared to accept a three year permission and a limit of 7,700 annual movements - a big climbdown.

Local residents, who had formed the organisation CHOP to fight the proposals presented a strong case to the inquiry assisted by Sarah Ackah from the Southwark Law Project. The inspector could not have failed to be impressed by the turnout of local people at the evening session set aside for hearing CHOP's evidence. The hall in Rotherhithe Civic Centre was packed to overflowing with objectors who gave rounds of applause to the witnesses.

It was clear from the evidence given by Star that the



heliport would be there to serve the needs of a small number of City businessmen. They admitted that there would be jobs for only a maximum of eight local people.

CHOP gave evidence that the Heliport would be of no benefit whatsoever to the community and would only bring noise, danger and inconvenience.

Sister Anne, head of St

Michael's School - the closest of the three local schools to Chambers Wharf strongly opposed the heliport saying it would greatly disturb the childrens' education.

The Inspector's report of the Inquiry will not be published for some time and then goes to the Secretary of State for the Environment for final consideration. CHOP is holding fire until then.

SEl Newspaper

SEl Newspaper is produced for residents of Waterloo and Nth Southwark by people living & working locally. We welcome your letters, news, photos or other contributions. SEl particularly welcomes stories which reflect the multiracial and multi-cultural character of our area.

NEXT COPY DATE

Copy date for the next issue of <u>SEl</u> is Wed 25th June. All contributions should be sent to 12 Meymott St, SEl.

SEL AVAILABLE AT

If you want to receive your copy of <u>SEl</u> regularly, it is available from the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Rd, or from the Borough Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road.

ADVERTISING IN SE1

SEl Newspaper is run on a tight budget and largely financed by advertisements. If you would like to advertise your activities, events, jumble sales, products, services or whatever, you will find our rates very reasonable. To find out more about advertising in SEl Newspaper, ring Gerry on 928 0711.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriber rates to <u>SEI</u> Newspaper are £5 a year for individuals and £15 for institutions. Cheques should be made payable to <u>SEI</u> Newspaper and sent to 12 Meymott St, SEI.

SE1 EDITORIAL GROUP

Mary Dymmond, John Howes, Dave Scott, Chris Smith, Keib Thomas, G Vignola, Paul Wheeler

IN MEMORY OF EILEEN MURRAY

Windmill House WATERLOO

Eileen was born in this community thirty-five years ago, a lovely happy girl always laughing. Suddenly she was taken from us and a light has gone out in our area of Windmill House.

Our hearts go out to her parents Kit and Pat and their family. Our thoughts are with them. God Bless.

Lou Sheppard & Friends

Progress on the Courages site



Work on the site of the Courages bottling plant by Southwark Bridge is progressing well. The 37 sheltered flats should be completed by January next year, and the first phase of the new build housing should be ready by May, providing 10 houses, five maisonettes and five flats. The refurbished houses on Park St and Thrale St have been handed over to Southwark and are now tenanted.

Design work for the second phase of the housing is already under way. The industrial units on Park St should be ready in August and those on Thrale St in September. A sculpture or some other artwork has been proposed for the site. Community involvement in the design is welcomed, paticularly from schools, community centres etc. Anyone interested should contact Ted or Simon on 928-0711.

OUR SIDE OF THE RIVER

The Rotherhithe Community Planning Centre has just published a booklet on the the redevelopment of Southwark's Dockland over the past 5 years. Its main focus is on the activities of the London Docklands Development Corporation — the Thatcherite quango which rules docklands—its housing and employment policies and its relations with the local community.

The Report contains interviews with many local residents who have long been active in struggles to ensure that new developments benefited the community as well as with property developers and LDDC functionaries whose aim is to change docklands in a different direction.

The Report is free and is available from Borough Community Centre and Advice Centre in the Blue, 190 Southwark Park Road.