

SEL

ISSUE 50 APRIL 1987 FREE COPY

Blind Workshops under threat

A recent planning application has threatened the future of the Royal School for the Blind (RSB) workshops at 252 Waterloo Road. Oscar Friedheim Ltd, who operate from the property next door, want to buy the workshop and eventually redevelop the site to expand their printing machinery import business. While the RSB and Friedheim entered their own negotiations over the sale of the workshop, it took a demonstration by the workers to alert the public to their fears over possible closure.

The RSB workshop employs 47 blind workers and 12 sighted support staff. Their connection with Southwark goes back to 1799. The management and Charity Committee of the RSB claim that

the present building, built early this century, is too old and unsuitable for its present use. They want to look for more suitable premises. They say they will use the money gained from the sale of the freehold to lease a new building.

The workers and the National League for the Blind and Disabled fear that this is a way of eventually closing down workshop activities in Southwark. A union delegate explained to SEL that there had been no discussion with the union or workers over the proposal to sell the property. The first workers had known of the sale was when people came to survey the building. Coupled with the facts that the RSB have been running down the skilled side

of the workshop and have invested little in the building, their fears grew.

Hariet Harman M.P. has led the campaign to ensure workshops for the blind remain in Southwark and preferably in Waterloo Road. Any relocation of the workshop would mean considerable difficulties and expense in travelling to work. The union fear that the RSB may even relocate the facility outside London.

On 25th March, Southwark Council approved the planning application to redevelop the site. They did, however, put two conditions on their approval which they hope will keep the workshop in Southwark. The workshop forms only part of the site that Fried-

heim want to buy. Apparently Friedheims do not need to demolish all of the workshop building immediately. As the RSB do not want to sell the site in bits and pieces, Friedheims will buy the freehold and lease back two thirds of the workshop space to the RSB for a five year period. The RSB have also agreed with Southwark to search for alternative premises within the borough with the money they get from the freehold sale.

The behaviour of the RSB over this issue raises serious questions about their commitment to the future of the workshop and the way the charity is run. SEL will be keeping a close eye on future developments and the RSB's efforts to find new premises.

Bermondsey residents oppose luxury high rise flats on riverside

Bermondsey residents have been galvanised into action by a proposed development scheme at Jacobs Island on the site of the Spillers mill, currently occupied by a film studio. The residents have formed the Jacobs Action Group (JAG) to oppose the scheme which is the brainchild of New Concordia Wharf developer Andrew Wadsworth and includes 408 flats along with shops, offices and leisure uses plus 620 car parking spaces. Not only would the scheme involve building a 22 storey tower

block in a conservation area, the density of the scheme would be four times greater than the planning standards which Southwark Council uses as guidelines. Calculations performed by people with experience of the property industry reckon that Wadsworth is aiming for a profit margin of 150% against the more usual margin of around 20%.

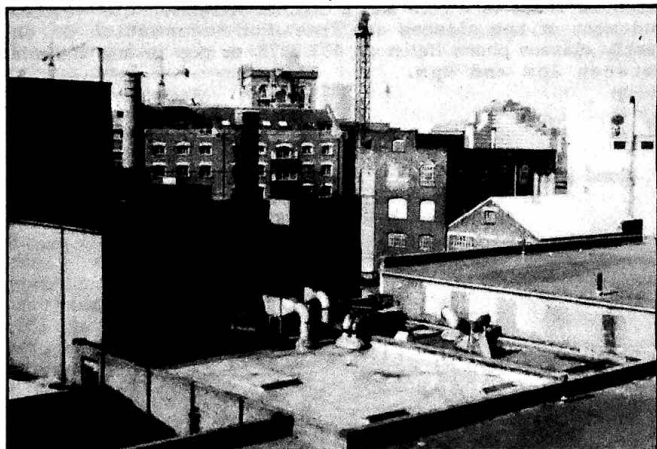
He already has permission for a scheme which was granted three years ago which is low rise and retains several of

the existing buildings, so it is clear that the current proposal reflects the massive increase in land values in the area, yet none of that increased value would be enjoyed by local residents. Instead they would have to put up with the loss of yet another riverside site and possibly years of disruption caused by the massive building works. At the end of it there would be further problems caused by the huge amount of traffic generated by the scheme.

JAG is calling for a complete rethink to the development of the site and has agreed a number of principles which should guide it. These include mixed tenure for the residential element, a substantial light industrial

element, the retention of certain buildings on the site, open space on the riverfront and into the site and a strict height limit on the development. Wadsworth's views on homes for rent were made clear in an interview with the Rotherhithe Community Planning Centre when he said "it is a simple financial exercise to work out as a private developer it is not economically viable to rent houses compared with selling." JAG's message for Wadsworth is equally clear. People are not prepared to see their lives disrupted on the commercial whims of developers any more. The fight is on in Bermondsey.

JAG is holding regular meetings. For further details phone 928-0711 or 231-0916.



The Jacobs Island site



Artists impression of proposed development

Windmill Street pedestrianised



What can we say - "at last!", "I can't believe it" - Wonderful Windmill Walk has been pedestrianised. It is a pleasure to go shopping and walk along a walkway where once we took our lives in our hands with cars speeding along it, with lorries so large that you had to hug the wall in case they took you with them clinging to their wing mirrors.

Greet Street is now one-way but at the moment some motorists don't seem to notice the signs. We hope they soon learn and drive carefully all around that area. We would like to say thank you to all those people who helped in the campaign to pedestrianise Windmill walk, to the local residents who signed the petitions and to Lambeth Council who took notice of their plight. It was a long campaign but worth it. In future I hope the street will be kept clear of dustbins and rubble. Then it will be really nice.

Lou Shepperd

Union Street and Great Guildford Street one-way?

Readers will recall that in the last issue of SE1 - in our Public Hazards column - we suggested that Union Street might be made one-way, with no entry from Southwark Bridge Road. In this case, Great Guildford Street would also need to be made one-way going south so that traffic could not enter from Southwark Bridge Road. We feel that this would benefit the residents of these and neighbouring streets.

to and from school.

The North Southwark Community Development Group wrote recently to the Director of Engineering and Public Works who is responsible for the borough's streets with its suggestion for making Union Street and Great Guildford Street one-way. He replied by saying that he has instructed his officers to carry out surveys of the traffic in the area and possible diversion routes. Discussions would also need to be held with the police and residents would also be asked for their views on the proposal before the matter was brought before the Council for a decision.

If you have any comments on the suggestion to make Union Street and Great Guildford Street one-way, contact Gerry on 928 0711. We will pass your views onto the Public Works Department.



Pirates return to southwark riverside

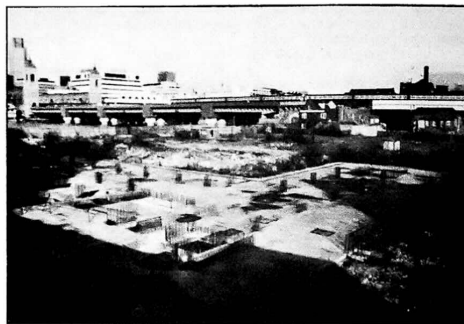
Property developers have twisted the knife yet again for those in need of homes and jobs in North Southwark. Regalian - a company well known for buying council estates and converting them into pricey yuppie paradises - have paid no less than £16m for the 3 acre "Laing" site on the riverfront by Southwark Bridge.

SE1 readers will recognise this site as one that has lain vacant for many years, yet with the foundations of an office development in place which meant that the owners would not have to keep renewing the planning permission. The site has had several owners over this time, with profits being made each time it has changed hands yet not even a crumb has come the way of the local community.

It is likely that Regalian will be seeking to develop the site for luxury housing as well as offices - which

are precisely what North Southwark doesn't need. It is scandalous that land should be hoarded in this way depending on the state of the market, and that land owners should make such obscene profits out of it when so many people are homeless, living in poor accommodation and without jobs.

The North Southwark Community Development Group has been campaigning for 15 years against this sort of development and for development in North Southwark to match the needs of the residential community. It holds regular monthly meetings to discuss these issues which are open to all who share its aims and live or work in the area. If you are interested, why not come along to one of them, which are held 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month at 56 Southwark Bridge Rd. Give Gerry or Alan a ring on 928-0711 for further details.



The Laing site next to Southwark Bridge

Rockingham Womens Project

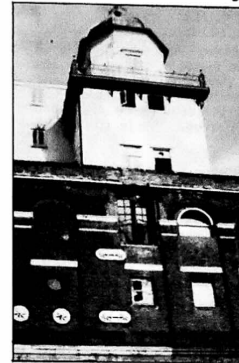
Rockingham Womens Project is held every Thursday at Rockingham Community Centre, Rockingham Street, SE1. We have a range of classes and activities for women including keep-fit and aerobics. There is a cafe and a creche. All women are welcome, and most of the classes are free. For information on the weekly classes phone Helen on 403 7475, or pop in any Thursday between 2pm and 9pm.

*** PARTY ***

Come and find out about the Rockingham Womens Project at the Rockingham Womens Party, Thursday April 16th at 7.30pm. Food, music, drink, creche. All women welcome.



Big Bang hits Bermondsey



The £2.5m flat has arrived in SE1! This is the crazy asking price for a 4 storey penthouse in the converted Anchor Brewery next to Tower Bridge. Nor has there been a shortage of inquiries, mostly from companies based over the river in the City where the Big Bang mega-salaries are fuelling the spiralling housing costs in Central London.

Right by the brewery is the old boilerhouse, now converted into flats. 35 have been sold and only it's penthouse remains with an asking price of £1m. Other flats in the area are on the market between £300,000 and £800,000.

The other side of the coin is highlighted in a report to be launched by the Docklands Forum next month called Housing in Docklands. The report shows that the housing need in the three Docklands boroughs which includes Southwark is huge. It calls for a rethink of the policies which have produced this situation and an immediate introduction of policies which meet the needs of the local communities. It is clear from the report that those in the area who could benefit from owning their homes have already done so and that further development of housing for sale will do nothing more to meet local housing need. Local incomes of the majority of the population fall far short of what is needed to raise a mortgage for the cheapest of the properties available, and the possibility of buying what is most needed - family homes - completely out of the question. The report concludes that it is only through public investment in homes to rent can the desperate housing need of our communities be met.

Further details of the report can be obtained from the Docklands Forum on 377-1822.

New holiday venue opens for southwark pensioners

In January this year, Southwark council unveiled a new holiday scheme for the borough's elderly residents. Over 90 Southwark pensioners so far have enjoyed week-long holidays of fresh air and fun for just over £15 a week at a specially converted mansion known as Fred Francis House located just a stone's throw from Royal Tunbridge Wells. Already the Social Services Department which runs the holidays has been flooded with thank-you letters from holidaymakers.

Fred Francis House is set in three acres of grounds in Camden Park. It specialises in holidays for the elderly and has the most up to date facilities and can accommodate 23 people. There are single and double rooms and a french chef produces fine food to everyone's tastes, even those requiring special diets. There is also a licenced bar. Outings and other activities are organised by the staff. The council provides transport to and from Fred Francis House from pensioners' homes

in Southwark.

Any pensioner in Southwark is eligible for the holiday which runs from Wednesday to Wednesday. Easter and summer look like being the most popular times so there will be a bit of a waiting list around these dates. Otherwise, according to the council, pensioners wanting holidays here shouldn't have to wait too long. You can find application forms for the holiday at your local library or Area Social Services office.



Southwark Mayor, Cllr Jesse Cannon, opens Fred Francis House

WOMEN & WORKER CO-OPERATIVES

An introduction to co-operative business management for women

Learn about putting together a business plan, working collectively and putting your plan into action.

Three days per week for eight weeks
Wed, Thur, Fri 10am-3pm
April 22-June 12

ENROLMENT: THURSDAY APRIL 9
at
CHRISTCHURCH HALL
98 Brixton Road, London SW9
11am-2pm

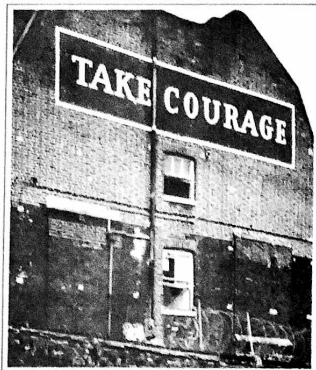
Tea/coffee will be served from 11am
'Co-ops at Work' introductory video will be shown at 11.30, followed by a discussion

Training area and toilet wheelchair accessible.
Free full-time creche.
Travel allowance within the Borough.



For more information, phone Kate at Lambeth Co-operative Development Agency on 01-582 0003.



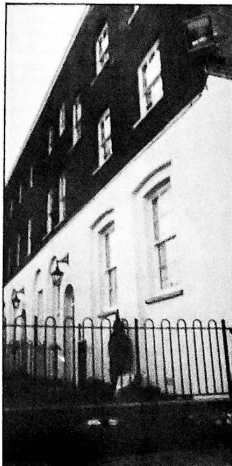


The Courages site is coming back to life

In 1981 the old Courage's Bottling Plant on North Southwark's riverside closed down with the loss of 2,000 jobs. Because the site is in a prime office location - just across the river from the city - there was great pressure for offices and other commercial developments on the site. Local residents know that if there was one thing that North Southwark needed, it was not more offices: there are 4,000 families on the housing waiting list and unemployment is around 25% in the borough.

Local community groups, like the North Southwark Community Development Group, argued that the site should be redeveloped to provide new homes and jobs for the community. In 1983 the GLC intervened under its Community Areas Policy and bought the site. Plans were drawn up in conjunction with Southwark Council and local organisations and in another couple of years Courages will have been transformed from an abandoned site to a thriving development, providing up to 150 new homes and 30 industrial units. Some of the developments are outlined below.

The Gatehouse



PHOTOS: SEI newspaper

Another stage in the development of the Courages site was successfully completed in January when the Gatehouse on Southwark Bridge Rd was handed over to Southwark Council. The Gatehouse is providing 12 one bedroom flats and 3 two bedroom flats for rent and these are in the process of being tenanted from those on Southwark's Housing Waiting and Transfer Lists. Any resident needs to be on either of these lists in order to be considered for rehousing on the Courages site. Enquiries should be made through your District Housing Office.

The next completions on the site will be the sheltered housing next month. The sheltered housing complex will have 37 units and give the elderly tenants the independence of their own home. The scheme is specially designed to cater for the frail and those with disabilities and will also provide the security of warden cover in the event of emergencies. The new building will also have a guest bed-sit flat, a lunch club, a residents'

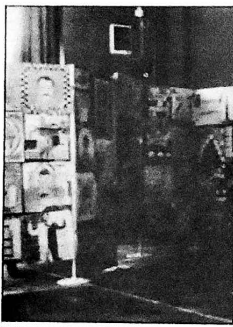
lounge and a laundry.

And the first phase of the housing - 10 houses, 5 maisonettes and 5 flats - should be completed and ready for occupation in the summer.

Schools mosaics competition

Local schools have been involved in a mosaic design competition sponsored by the ILFA, the North Southwark Community Development Group, Southwark Council, the LRB and Langley Tiles. The winning designs will be set into the ground on the Courages site next to the Gatehouse on Southwark Bridge Rd to complement the sculpture funded by the GLC.

Over a hundred entries were received, and 32 winners were recently picked whose designs will be converted into tiles over the next two or three months. Winners came from Snowfields, Alwyn, Tower Bridge, St Josephs and St James Schools.



Courages sculpture

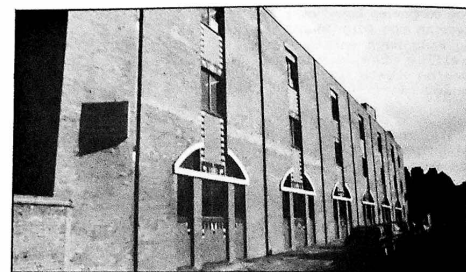
Brian Yale, an artist worked for the GLC for many years before its abolition, has been commissioned to make a sculpture which will be placed on the open space on the first phase of the housing. The design, which

incorporates a figure and the river, is symbolic of the community's fight to see the Courages site developed to meet local need rather than speculators greed.

The sculpture, which will be

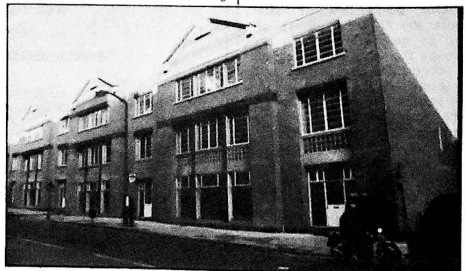
made of bronze, is hoped to be ready in time for the opening of the first phase of the housing in the summer. It will be a focal point for the open space on the site and it is hoped that a seat will be incorporated into the base.

Courages Industrial Units



The London Residuary Body, the Tory appointed body set up to wind up the GLC's affairs, is still holding onto the 6 large industrial units on Southwark Bridge Rd. The local unemployment rate is nearly 30% yet these units are being kept empty, presumably while the LRB looks for the highest bidder. With the loss of the GLC, the local community lost its voice in how these units should be let and to what sort of operation. It is unlikely that the LRB will have any regard for the needs of the local labour market when it disposes of the building, all it is looking

for is the highest price. Meanwhile on the other side of the site on Park St, the 24 smaller units which the LRB agreed to lease to Southwark are already half let to a range of light industrial users and the Council says it hopes to have them fully let by Easter. After negotiations with the North Southwark Community Development Group, the Council agreed to put a local labour clause in the leases, which means that all vacancies will initially have to be advertised locally in an attempt to direct jobs to the unemployed in North Southwark.



MORLEY MORLEY MORLEY

FOR MORE DETAILS OF

THE COURSES LISTED BELOW

PICK UP A COPY

OF OUR SUMMER LEAFLET from:- 61 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1

Morley College

61 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HT
01-928 8501

Welcome to Summer at Morley.

If you are new to Morley, you will see there is no shortage of things to do here in the Summer. We hope you will come and sample one course or many, that you will bring your friends or come and make new ones!

You may be surprised to know that we have two summer terms:
Third Term: 27 April to 2 June (Half-term 25-30 May)
Fourth Term: 22 June to 18 July

There are other courses which started in September (see full prospectus) some of which it is possible to join for the first time in the Third Term. For instance, if you speak a bit of Arabic or Bengali (or Spanish, French or German for that matter) there is nothing to stop you 'tipping in' on one of these classes and then joining if appropriate. We'll be very pleased to discuss with you which of these classes (and not just languages, of course) would be suitable for joining in the third term.

Did you know that Morley College grew out of 'penny lectures' set up by Emma Cons for local people at the Old Vic a century ago. The College moved to its present site in 1924, since when it was rebuilt, enlarged and added to. Until 1980 Morley was a literary institute; in 1981 the College took on more general adult education work for local people - back again full cycle!

Morley College has an anti-racist and anti-sexist policy, which broadly speaking means that we are trying today, as we were in the 1880s, to counter prejudice in its many forms, and indeed to encourage people to examine their attitudes to one another.

The area we now serve in our seven local branches and off-site buildings stretches from Vauxhall to London Bridge and includes the Oval and the Elephant.
(For addresses of the branches, see back page)

Crèches and Playgroups

Book a place for your children at our modern, purpose built crèche or playgroup in the community building in King Edward Walk. Ring them on 928 8501 extension 51

Playgroup Hours: 10-12 and 1-4 (both terms)

Crèche Hours:

3rd Term:
Pink Crèche - Monday - Thursday 10-12 & 1-3
Green Crèche - Tuesday - Friday 10-12.30 & 1.30-4.00

4th Term:
Both crèches - Monday - Friday 10-12.30 & 1.30-4.00

For details of Lillian Baylis Branch crèche ring 587 1826

Access and Facilities for Disabled People:
The main building has good facilities including car-parking. Full details available upon request.

The Library, Bookstall, Refectory and Bar are some of Morley's many amenities. Come and sample them.

JOINING YOUR CLASS

When to Enrol for Summer courses:
In the Main Building during the 2nd and 3rd terms we are open for enrolment Mon-Fri; 11.30-12.30, 1.30-2.30 and 4-7. In the 4th term evening enrolment is on Tues and Wed only.
At Lillian Baylis: enrol Mon-Thurs after 6pm
At Henry Fawcett: enrol Mon and Wed after 6.30pm
At John Harvard: enrol Mon-Wed after 6.30pm
At London Nautical: enrol Mon-Thurs after 5.30pm
At West Square: enrol at Main Building

What the Courses cost:

You'll be astonished how little summer classes cost. If you live in Inner London, a third term 2-hour a-week course is only £6, a second one £3. A fourth term 2-hour a-week course is £4. Concessionary fees for Inner Londoners only £1 for any number of classes.

Who is entitled to Concessionary Fees?

- Inner Londoners who are over 60 or under 18;
- receiving family income supplement; supplementary, unemployment* or invalidity benefit;
- those Inner Londoners who are dependent on another member of the family in receipt of a benefit;
- Inner Londoners enrolling in Family Classes and/or in literacy (including mother tongue), basic education, ESL, and courses concerned with special needs.

If you are in none of the above categories but find it hard to pay the fee please see the Principal. She will give you every consideration and will treat the matter as confidential.

*Those registered as unemployed are entitled to study for up to 21 hours per week.

If you do not live in Inner London you pay one and a half times the standard fee and there are, unfortunately, no concessionary fees. For complete information, see the full prospectus.

Lambeth housing benefit chaos continues

Tenants at a meeting in Waterloo Action Centre on March 17th were disappointed and angry to hear that they could not expect their Lambeth housing benefit problems to be sorted out for at least another year. As well as having to wait for their benefit, several tenants spoke of their frustration of not being able to speak to anyone in the housing department because of an industrial dispute.

Peter Mountford Smith, Vice Chair of Lambeth's Housing Committee, came to report on the "progress" that has been made in the last 6 months in getting Lambeth's housing benefits system working. He said that they had met problems in finding accommodation for staff, getting the right

staff, reaching agreement with the unions and getting a computer system which worked.

He denied a report in the South London Press that it would all be working in 4 months time and said that although they expected to clear up the backlog of council tenants in that time, private and housing association tenants would have to wait another year. He also admitted that people had been evicted as a result of the chaos in the system through no fault of their own and had had to be rehoused by the Council.

The phone lines for Lambeth housing benefit private tenants are now open again, while the counters are expected to be open on June 1st.



PHOTO: Lou Shepperd

Deaconess Casemore ordained

As many people know the Parish of Waterloo has been without a Vicar since David Wickert left us to take up a different post. Since then we have been carrying on with a great deal of help from Deaconess Penny Casemore. Penny has put a lot of work into our Parish and although she can take part in a lot of the services she cannot give Holy Communion. She can baptise but she cannot marry people.

On the 15th March, however, at Southwark Cathedral, Penny along with forty other women made history by becoming the first women to be ordained into the church. This means that they can now perform marriages as well as burials, wear a clerical collar and be called Reverend. The struggle for women's ordination took a long time and over 500 letters were sent from Waterloo in support.

Rev Casemore has been in Waterloo for almost two years and as well as helping to run the parish, she has also started a children's holiday club for the summer, opened the church of St John to the homeless during the cold weather and is currently cook-

ing and distributing donated food to local pensioners.

A lot of work has also been put into the parish by the Church wardens Rosa Wright and Len Shepperd. They are responsible for St Johns and St Andrews. They have also interviewed a number of candidates for Vicar. Let's hope we find one soon who is interested not only in churches but the whole community as well.

Lou Shepperd
Steph Blackwell

Lambeth holds its rents

There will be no rent rise for Lambeth tenants this year. This was agreed by the council's Housing Committee at the end of February. This is the third year in a row that rent levels have been frozen for the borough's 45,250 tenants.

According to Housing Chair, Fred Taggart, many households have seen a drop in the incomes over the past 7 years and by holding down rents the Council hopes to ease the burden on the most vulnerable members of the community. Average rent in Lambeth is £16.30 a week which is below the inner London average of £19.43.

Residents present evidence on Chunnel Terminal



Channel Tunnel Volunteers Group at work

On Wednesday 25th March, Waterloo and North Southwark residents went into battle again against the proposed Channel Tunnel Terminal at Waterloo Station which would turn the area into a wasteland of traffic chaos, fast food shops and hotels. This time we were presenting evidence to a House of Lords Select Committee which is considering amendments to the Bill which the government hopes will be law in July. Residents repeated their previous demands to drop reference in the Bill to Waterloo as a single London terminal and for a Public Inquiry to be held.

Despite the limited time in which to lodge petitions, we managed to double the number of petitions that were lodged in the Commons. This was due to the magnificent efforts of the Channel Tunnel

Volunteers Group who staffed a stall in Baylis Road every day for three weeks. The stall attracted an enormous amount of interest from residents, commuters and shopkeepers and stallholders in Lower Marsh market, all worried about the consequences of the Terminal.

Only 4 hours - a "day" in the House of Lords - were set aside, however, for Waterloo and North Southwark evidence to the Lords Select Committee. AWG petitioners spoke about Waterloo's history, of its traffic problems, jobs and the threat from office developers. Quentin House TA, Borough Road & Lancaster TA, Brook Drive TA, SE1 newspaper and NSCDG put North Southwark's case. We have been promised extra time to give evidence on April 8th when the bulk of Waterloo petitioners will be heard.

If you have petitioned the House of Lords and you want to support your petition in person, or even if you have not petitioned but want to come along to give your support to those who are

speaking, please get in touch with Sally Marullo on Ross Phillips on 633 9291, or call into Waterloo Community development group at 99 Upper Ground, SE1, opposite the National Theatre.

New Nursing Home at St Olaves

Tuesday 31st March saw an open day at St Olave's Hospital in Rotherhithe for residents to look over St Olave's House, a new NHS nursing home. The home is the result of a long struggle put up by the St Olave's Hospital Campaign which came into existence some years ago to oppose the closure of the hospital. Since then it has

argued that the site should be used as a community health resource.

St Olave's House will provide care for 17 elderly people - residents of the borough - who can't look after themselves. The home hopes to be in operation at the beginning of April.



Parish of Waterloo

The Parish of Waterloo is the Church of England in the Waterloo area.

You are welcome to any of our activities.

Parish office telephone: 633 9819

Tenants demand clean sweep

Cleaning services have all but disappeared. That was the message from tenants reps from Waterloo and Kennington at the first "Neighbourhood Strategy Meeting" to be held for the estates served by Lambeth Towers Neighbourhood office.

The meetings are meant to get officers from every department in the same room with tenants, so that all aspects of the council's service to tenants can be discussed - without tenants coming up against the usual brick wall of "it's not our department".

That's the theory! And tenants from China Walk, Bryant, Tanswell, Munro Matheson, Windmill and Stamford/Aquinas/Climsland TAs turned up to take advantage of a rare opportunity.

Which is more than can be said for the officers. Housing management, Environmental health, housing development and Caretaking sent staff to the meeting, but from the key departments of DCS who do repairs and Borough Development who handle estate improvements, there was not so much an apology. The council had not arranged for anyone to chair the meeting or anyone to take minutes. Councillor Jenny Stiles, a strong supporter of these strategy meetings, ended up taking the notes.

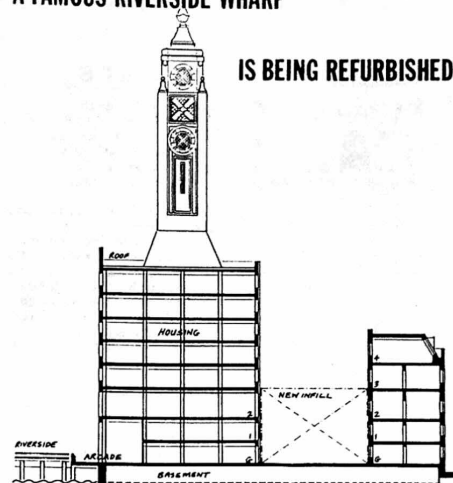
As you'd expect, the tenants had plenty of problems to air, and the meeting was wide ranging. But with so few departments represented, the officers could only note the complaints and say they'd look into them.

But neighbourhood strategy meetings were set up to look at issues affecting tenants from all estates and where necessary get changes in policy, or how jobs are done by the council. Which brings us back to cleaning. Mr Farr, the officer from caretaking cleaning at the meeting, agreed with tenants that cleaning was not being done. At present, he has 353 hours per week of cleaning not being done on his patch because of unfilled jobs or long term illness of staff. Caretakers take leave at the same time leaving tenants without cover, when holidays should be organised on a rota. And most of all, the council is not getting jobs filled.

The tenant's response was unanimous. Scrap the present system of individual local cleaners, and set up mobile teams of 6 to 8 cleaners with a supervisor/driver. Cllr Stiles agreed to take this back to the council.

A FAMOUS RIVERSIDE WHARF

IS BEING REFURBISHED



Coin Street Community Builders received a good response to their invitation for proposals for the non-residential parts of Stamford Wharf. They advertised widely for proposals to create new jobs, to encourage public access, and to make the wharf lively and attractive. They are especially interested in providing a chance for projects which find it difficult to compete on the open market. They are not interested in suggestions for luxury flats or offices.

They will now sift through the 81 main proposals which could fill the building 12 times over, and do more detailed feasibility studies on some of them.

Tooley Street Open Space gets off the ground

After several years in the pipeline and recent doubts about its future, the Tooley Street Open Space next to Tower Bridge is at last going ahead, with the site being cleared prior to the commencement of works. It is on the site of what was once Mark Browns Wharf where the boats from Poland used to unload their cargos and until some months ago was partially used as a lorry park.

over the Open Space and have been involved with the Planning Department in its design. Hays Wharf site developers, under a deal made with the pre-1982 council, are paying for the landscaping which will be integrated with the present Tooley Street Playground.

The Open Space will be three acres in size and will include the rehabilitation of the Playground. The park will have excellent views of the river and a new riverside walkway will be built. Completion is expected some time in 1988.



Bermondsey Lighting Campaign

The Bermondsey Lighting Campaign which was formed to campaign for improved levels of street lighting and street lighting maintenance is now drawing to a close.

The last two months have seen the campaign workers conducting questionnaires and a survey of the streets at night to find out what areas are in particular need of attention and to report faulty lights to the Communications Officer: tel no: 01 703 3434 ext. 242.

February saw the council release its own consultation leaflet distributed through the "SPARROW". The council's leaflet talks of their own consultation of the last year with the residents of Southwark! We would like to draw their attention to the fact that their leaflet ignores the participation of North Southwark residents in the Bermondsey Lighting Campaign and the campaign's efforts to inform the council of the urgent need for improvements in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. This is an oversight that the Lighting Campaign regrets. A final report including the survey results should be available in May.

Repairs

Steve French, Chair of Construction Services in Lambeth has agreed to come to Stamford, Aquinas, Climsland TA's Annual General Meeting to answer questions of the council's repair service.

This follows a survey by the TA last year which turned up a huge list of repairs outstanding in Stamford Street in particular. The TA will be visiting tenants on the street again shortly to find out exactly which repairs have been carried out, but the information they have so far is not encouraging.

While some repairs have been carried out quickly, it is not unknown for people to wait over a year to have roof leaks fixed, and even longer before damp is tackled.

But the tenants are hopeful. New staff at District and Neighbourhood level have been helpful but say the system itself isn't helping. Which is where Steve French comes in. Tenants hope to hear from Steve what changes he proposes to make in the repairs system to make it more efficient.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 14th April at 7.30pm at the Coin St offices, 99 Upper Ground, opposite the National Theatre.

ENTERTAINMENTS IN LAMBETH

TEA DANCES

SURREY HALL, BINFIELD RD,
WID STOCKWELL, SW4
THURS 9TH APRIL, 14TH MAY
at 2.15pm
Your Hostess: Eve Willett
Dancing to: Russ Pinder Trio
Tickets: 60p
Ring 622 6655 x 361

TOWN HALL, ACRE LANE, SW2
TUESDAY 7TH APRIL &
TUESDAY 2ND JUNE, 2PM
Your Host: Trevor Jackson
Dancing to:
The Louis Mordish Trio
Tickets: 60p
Ring 274 7722 x 2922

LAMBETH AMENITY SERVICES
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Tel: 622 6655 (x30-31)




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April 15th: Lambeth Music Hall
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April 29th: The Golden Days of
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Special Guest:
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A new deal for children in care

Southwark Social Services Department is currently putting the final touches to its plan to radically improve its residential services for children in care.

The department aims to reduce the number of children living in homes outside Southwark and to bring as many of them as possible into homes within the borough. The majority of Southwark's out-borough children's homes will be closed and replaced with smaller high quality homes within the borough.

Five new homes will be built during the next three years, including one for children with a mental handicap. The department has found sites at Long Walk, Bermondsey; Orient Street, Elephant & Castle; Talfourd Place, Peckham and Galleywall Road, Rotherhithe and will be applying for planning permission. A fifth site is currently being sought in the Queens Road area.

Each home will offer about to ten places and will be fully staffed 24 hours a day. The staff will aim to prepare children for a possible return to their family home or to provide them with skills necessary for independence once they leave long term care.

The proposed home for children with a mental handicap at Orient Street will provide respite care facilities to enable parents to have an occasional break from the stress of caring for a child.

Council architects are currently drawing up designs for some of the new homes. Local people have been given an opportunity to comment on the designs and the proposal itself at a series of open meetings which were held recently.

An open evening on the proposed home at Galleywall Road will be held on Tuesday 7th April in the Tenants Hall, Galleywall Road, from 6 - 8.30pm.

Waterloo Adventure Playground

EASTER PLAYScheme

April 10th - 26th
for children 5 - 14 years

Activities: adventure camp,
puppets, clowns,
theatre shows, pottery,
painting, pool, etc.
No daily charge, cost on
certain excursions.

SE1 NEWSPAPER

SE1

SE1 newspaper is produced for residents of Waterloo and Nth Southwark by people living & working locally. We welcome your letters, news, photos or other contributions. SE1 particularly welcomes contributions from the area's ethnic communities. We would also appreciate more articles from the Waterloo area.

NEXT COPY DATE

Copy date for the next issue of SE1 is Wed 22nd April. Publication date is 1st May. All contributions should be sent to 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 OAS.

SE1 AVAILABLE AT

If you want to receive your copy of SE1 regularly, it is available from the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Rd, or from the Borough Community Centre at 56 Southwark Bridge Road.

ADVERTISING IN SE1

SE1 newspaper is run on a tight budget and is entirely financed by advertisements. If you would like to advertise your activities, events, organisation, jumble sales, products, services or whatever, you will find our rates very reasonable. To find out more about advertising in SE1 telephone Gerry on 928 0711.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriber rates to SE1 newspaper are £5 a year for individuals and £15 for institutions. Cheques should be made payable to 'SE1 newspaper' and sent to 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 OAS. We publish ten times a year with double issues during the summer and at Christmas.

SE1 EDITORIAL GROUP

Mary Dimond, John Howes,
Dave Scott, S Lievesly
Keib Thomas, G Vignola

JOINING IN

SE1 always welcomes people who wish to help in producing or distributing the paper. Get in touch with us at 56 Southwark Bridge Road.

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FOR LAMBETH PEOPLE



PUBLIC HAZARDS NO. 4

The photograph this month shows an extreme example of a common public hazard throughout the area - pavement parking. It was taken on Redcross Way off Southwark St. The pavement here is often obstructed by careless parking and if nothing is done about it real problems will be caused for the future residents of the sheltered housing on Park St. This is due to be completed by the end of next month so urgent action needs to be taken if they are to be able to walk safely to and from their homes.

The massive amount of office development in the area is a main cause of hazardous parking in North Southwark with floods of commuters looking for places to park without a thought for those of us who have to live here. Firm action needs to be taken by the responsible authorities to clamp down on these drivers who seem to think that pavements are their personal parking spaces and not for pedestrians at all.

