

SEI

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Coin Street comes on stream

The 15-year campaign by local people to provide rented family housing on the South Bank bore its first fruits last month when a new park and riverwalk were opened and cooperative homes for nearly 300 people were 'topped out'.

Ted Bowman, Chair of the non-profit community company responsible for the development of the Coin Street area told SEI that "at a time when the rest of London's riverside is being developed with towering office blocks and flats costing £250,000 upwards, we are proud to be meeting the real needs of our city; good homes which ordinary people can afford, and a park and riverwalk which everyone can enjoy."

The Coin Street area, which is being developed by Coin Street Community Builders, comprises 13 acres between Waterloo and Blackfriars Bridges. The Builders bought the freehold of the site in 1984 from the GLC after a long battle against various property developers, notably Greycoat London Estates which proposed to build a wall of office blocks along this stretch of the Thames.

The local community, through the Coin Street Action Group, put forward an alternative mixed development scheme to build houses, industrial workshops and recreational facilities for the site. They argued their case at numerous public forums and inquiries, to local authorities and



New housing, park and river walkway on Coin Street

central government and their determination finally won the day. There plans are those which are coming to fruition now. Eventually, there will be 400 new homes on Coin Street which will house 1,300 residents, bringing a new lease of life to an area for too long living in the shadow of office blocks.

The new riverside park and

riverwalk will soon be complemented by an arcaded walkway through Stamford Wharf (under the Oxo Tower) and past the Kings Reach office block to be opened to the public in November. This will complete the South Bank walkway through Central London. The southern part of the new park should be open to the public in early summer next year.

The new homes which were 'topped out' in last month's ceremony should be ready to move into in the Spring. There are 56 homes in all on a site which has been a car-park since the war. These will be owned and managed by Mulberry Housing Cooperative. The Coop will be allocating all the homes to households nominated in equal shares by Lambeth and Southwark.

Hays Wharf fight still on

At Southwark's Full Council Meeting of 28th October, councillors heard a speaker from a delegation of Tooley Street Tenants Association members. Lil Patrick, Chair of the TA, told councillors that they must reject any deal with St Martins Property Corporation, owners and developers of the Hays Wharf site between London Bridge and Tower Bridge, which sells out the Council's landholdings on the site suitable for fair-rented public housing.

Lil's stirring speech was greeted with ringing applause from a packed public gallery,

but much to the disappointment of the public, councillors voted against holding a debate there and then on the issue to cry of 'cowards' from those present. The Policy Committee of the Council later decided to postpone for a month any decision on a deal over the site between the developers and the Council and to consult the local community over the deal. Below we reprint Lil's speech.

"To those who are new to the area and are ignorant of the intense struggle that has gone on for a long time, may

I give you a short history of the struggle dating back to the late 1970's.

Here we had a prime site ready for development and, as over a dead body, the vultures began to gather. The local council in 1982 did a deal with St Martins Property Company which we, the local people, did not agree with and eventually forced a public inquiry, where we fighting not only the developer but our own Council.

Over 6 weeks, 70 local people came to object to the plan. Three evening sessions were

held which were attended by over 300 people. We warned then that once the development started, the onward march of the bulldozer would annihilate any community that stood in its way. This is now happening aall along the riverside except for a small space in Cherry Garden in the east and Courages and Coin Street in the west.

According to the 1982 agreement, St Martins are to hand over to the Council 1.75 acres of housing land for £1 and contribute £2.5 million

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Last chance on free insulation

The coming winter will be the last chance for people on supplementary benefit to get free insulation for their homes, a local energy action group has warned.

Lambeth Heatwise, a government-funded community draughtproofing scheme, is urging anyone receiving benefit to call them now, before the cold weather really sets, to see if they are entitled to the group's free draughtproofing service.

Heatwise is particularly concerned to help the elderly and from families with young children, who are likely to be hardest hit by the cold. Next year's changes to the social security system have prompted the energy group's "last chance" warning.

One of the changes will be the abolition of the single

payment system, under which claimants can get extra money from the DHSS to pay for draughtproofing. It will be replaced by a new 'energy grant' scheme. Under this, people will have to pay ten per cent of the cost of insulation materials.

But by calling Heatwise now, people on benefit can find out if they are entitled to a single payment, and be in time to have the work done before winter arrives, and before the new grant scheme is introduced. Heatwise will take care of all the DHSS paperwork, and once a payment is approved, install the materials free of charge.

For more details on how Heatwise can help beat the cold, and to arrange for a draughtproofing survey, call Lambeth Heatwise on 675 6822.

Cathedral School raises cash for hospice

Tuesday 20th October saw the annual production of the Harvest Festival by the children of Cathedral School, Redcross Way. From the youngest to the oldest, all the pupils took part in entertaining the parents, teachers and invited guests present, with songs, acting and mime.

Highlight of the occasion was the presentation of a cheque for a magnificent £562.50 by the School to St Christopher's Hospice for the terminally ill in Crystal Palace. The children raised the money through a sponsored run. They re-enacted their feat to music during the Harvest Festival.



Harvest Festival performance



Headmistress Mrs Holman (left) and Miss Marshall of the Hospice

Stamford Wharf alternatives

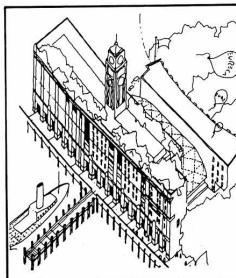
After the opening of the new riverside walkway, the new park and the 'topping out' of the first housing scheme on Coin Street, further new developments were recently announced by Coin Street Community Builders (CSCB), the non-profit making community company which controls the development.

The next major development will be on Stamford Wharf where demolition has just begun on the middle part of the rear of the wharf. The riverside section and the curved Bargehouse Street building are to be retained.

Of 90 proposals submitted, CSCB is carrying out detailed feasibility studies of two alternative futures for the Wharf. Both involve restoration of the Oxo Tower, both include 5 storeys of co-operative housing, both include exhibition space. The scheme submitted by Eureka is mainly devoted to a children's discovery centre and also includes shopping facilities, workshops and a cafe/restaurant. The scheme devised by Thamesworld would combine an adventure museum about the River Thames with workshops to be built and managed by Southwark Council.

On other fronts, CSCB is planning a joint venture with the operators of Camden Lock to turn a Festival market with stalls, craft workshops, a garden centre and catering facilities on the currently derelict Gabriel's Wharf site, adjacent to the new park and river walkway. This would be for about 5 years as the site will be eventually developed for cooperative housing.

Meanwhile, Southwark and Lambeth Councils have submitted the names of households they would like to see rehoused in the Mulberry development. Founder members of the Coop have been interviewing them and selecting some to receive training so that the feel confident to take over the Coop before moving in next Spring.



A Story of Waterloo

Premiere showing of the new episode: "The War Years at Waterloo"

Many SEL readers will already have seen the mega tape-slide show produced by Mike Broome tracing the history of the Waterloo area from the Roman times to the beginning of the last war. A new episode (Part 4) has just been completed covering the war years at Waterloo and will receive its first showing on November 12th at 7.30pm, Community Education Building, 100 Edward Walk (next to Morris College). Everyone is welcome and entrance is free.

The show has been made for local people and largely for local people. The sound track consists largely of interviews with local residents and workers about life at Waterloo during the last war. Sound effects and two projectors are used to make a show which is nearer to being a film than a slide show.

Waterloo received an appalling battering from German bombs during the war, being close to a number of prime targets, such as Parliament, the Thames Bridges and Waterloo Station. Many local people remember the destruction right at the beginning of the blitz of a large section of St Thomas' Hospital, the dreadful loss of friends and relatives in the explosion of a land mine at Walkley's Bakery in the Cut, and the miraculous escape of all the shelterers in the crypt when St John's Church received a direct hit which removed its roof.

Many people have vivid memories of the horror and misery because they worked in the thick of it as Voluntary Aid Detachment Workers in the Heavy Rescue Squads in the Mobile Canteens set up to help feed those who lost their homes. They also remember the camaraderie and mutual support of those days and the breath of fresh air brought into the drab days by American and Canadian Servicemen.

The sound track has plenty of those old war-time songs, as well as extracts from old broadcasts (including Tommy Handley in 'ITMA') - some come along and enjoy yourselves at the premiere showing. It last 35 minutes but before that there will be a showing of the first three episodes - this lasts an hour and 20 minutes, you should learn a lot about the extraordinary Story of Waterloo. All the tape-slide shows are available for showing to local groups by arrangement with Mike Broome on 607 0144.

New sheltered housing scheme opens

Although not yet officially opened, the new Sheltered Housing Scheme on the former Courages site in Park Street has opened its doors to its first residents in the middle of June this year.

The 37-flat Sheltered Housing Scheme is just part of the mixed development which has come to fruition on the seven and a half acre site since it was bought by the GLC under the Community Areas Policy in 1983. Following a two-year campaign by local community groups like North Southwark Community Development Group when the Courages Bottling Plant closed in 1981 with the loss of 2,000 jobs, plans were drawn up in conjunction with Southwark Council for the building of homes, industrial workshops and sheltered housing.

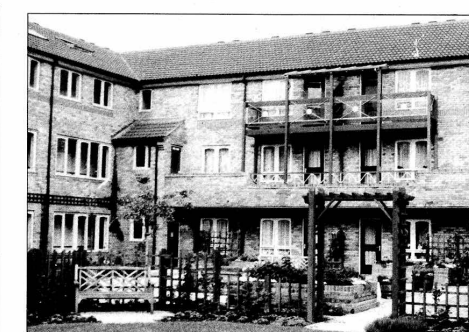
The Sheltered Housing complex on Park Street is managed jointly by Southwark Social Services and the Housing Department. There are 27 other similar sheltered housing schemes in the borough housing over 780 people, with a waiting list of 300. The Park Street scheme has two resident wardens, Kamilla and Bob. Kamilla, who has worked for 10 years with the elderly, is very pleased so far with developments and believes that a lot of thought was put into the design of the scheme. Many of the flats overlook a well planted and well kept courtyard, while those which don't have a back terrace.

Built on three floors, all of the flats are linked by corridors which are beginning to take on a homely appearance with chairs dotted here and there and plants displayed on the window ledges. The building of course has two large lifts which take wheelchairs and are also fitted with windows to make those who don't like lifts to feel more at ease. Bob remarked that the design of the complex has already encouraged some less mobile residents to move about more.

COUNTY HALL DECISION OVERTURNED

Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, has decided in typically controversial fashion that County Hall, the former home of the London government, should be sold off to private developers.

His decision overturns the views of his inspector who advised against the sale. After a five week planning inquiry held in April this year, while Ridley rejected the proposal to convert the main block of County Hall to luxury flats, he accepted that the building could be used for commercial offices. He also said that the conversion of the building to a first class hotel could go ahead "if a satisfactory solution could be found to the listed building considerations."



Courtyard of Park Street Scheme

Of the 37 flats, 33 are presently occupied, 2 have been allocated and just 2 are vacant. There are 37 residents in all so far. The flats themselves are double-bedded with the exception of two 2-bedroom flats. Four have extra large bedrooms which can accommodate single beds in the case of sisters sharing for example. All of the doorways are wider than normal for wheelchair access. The extra-large bathrooms are off the bedrooms for obvious convenience and the pleasant kitchens come fully fitted with cooker and fridge. All of the flats are fitted with ansaphone systems and all the rooms have alarm cords linked to the wardens' office in case of emergency. The flats are also fully carpeted and have central heating. The residents are all tenants of Southwark Council with their own rent books and are fully entitled to all of the services offered to the elderly, for instance meals on wheels. The scheme aims to allow the residents to be as fully independent as possible.

The scheme also has a communal laundry with two washing machines and a drier, a lovely courtyard with seating, a guest room where relatives can stay free of charge if they are caring for unwell residents, and a very

large and comfortable common room with a small library. It is in the common room that many of the residents gather around 4pm to talk and have tea together. They have already organised their own tea-club.

Mrs Curtis, who is 87 years old, became a resident at the beginning of October. She's thrilled with her new flat and told SEL she "always knew I'd end up living in Buckingham Palace." Compared to the flat she describes she lived in for 22 years on the St Olave's estate in Tooley Street, we can see her point. The home help who works full-time at the Park Street scheme does her shopping for her and also her washing. She has a lovely garden at her back door and the railings around the corridors help her to be mobile within the sheltered housing complex. She cooks for herself and likes to do her own cleaning though she has home help. She was also pleased with a day trip to Eastbourne organised for residents.

One common complaint, though, among residents was the feeling of isolation. It's true that the area along Bankside has become a bit cut off from the rest of Borough because of the office developments along Southwark Street

and the volume of traffic. Mrs Bonney, a resident for three months now who came from the Peabody Estate in Rodney Road, Walworth, says Walworth was a lot livelier but she still thought her new accommodation lovely, especially the central heating because her previous flat was so cold.

Mrs Ellison also comes from Walworth and finds her new home "lovely and quiet", though it is a bit far to the shops, either Flat Iron Square or the Elephant. They have the home help though to collect their pensions, make their payments and do their shopping. Mrs Bass, at 90 years of age the second oldest resident at Park Street, also preferred the convenience of Walworth, but likes it at her new home.

Bob and Kamilla, the wardens, also spoke about the distance to the shops. They have written to London Regional Transport to see if the new North Southwark Mobility Bus could be extended to take in Park Street at least one or two days a week. This is a good idea which SEL hopes LRT will support. It will help residents to have better access to and feel part of the wider community which will surely welcome this new sheltered housing scheme in North Southwark.



Mrs Curtis

Development, Bargehouse Street carpark, local groups had to battle hard just to put their case to the Inspector. When Coin Street Community Builders tried to argue that the developer's proposals were against statutory planning policies, the Inspector said "we cannot enter into discussions over London's parking policies over a twopence halfpenny site like this."

Apart from blatant bias towards the private developer, the final irony is that the site is worth millions of pounds given the South Bank's inflated land values.

It was 7.50am, Saturday 5th September. Time to get the Festival into shape. We were all set, wellies on, macs on, umbrellas up. Lianne, my 3 year old daughter and I made our way purposefully to Mint Street Gardens, site of the 4th Boro' Festival.

At the park we met Linda and Shirley, the community workers at the Borough Community Centre, and the reason for our being out so early in this foul weather. About 9 weeks before the Festival, I, along with other members of the community, received a letter asking me to join the festival Organising Committee. I took up the challenge. It was short notice but those of us who turned up for the first meeting felt we had to do something.

Alan got in touch with Southwark Council asking permission to use Mint Street Open Space as on previous years. Permission granted, all systems go! The Council were approached about the provision of Port-a-loos, bunting, tressle tables and chairs, and a PA system. They were all agreed over the phone. Linda and Shirley sent out letters to local businesses asking for donations, and also arranged for the hire of marquees and insurance.

Robert and I took over the entertainments. Luckily we managed to rope in Rankine McFarlane, who had organised the entertainment for the Greenwich Festival, so apart from liaison, we were relieved of our duties. I then became responsible for organising the provision of generators.

Southwark Gingerbread, used to organising similar events, offered a lot of helpful advice, and loaned us a couple of games stalls which were run by our Youth Club on the day. Gerry and Maureen arranged the allocation of stalls. Letters were sent to numerous community groups asking if they wanted a stall at the Festival. We had 19 confirmations plus the Lord Clyde who set up a beer tent and gave us a commission on their profits.

Not Southwark's ideal

Plans for 1500 homes for sale on a £40 million site close to London's Docklands have been refused planning permission by Southwark Council. Talks with the developers, Ideal Homes, are now planned to amend the scheme and avoid the need for a lengthy public inquiry.

Ideal Homes, a subsidiary of Trafalgar House, were planning to create a suburban island in the heart of Bermondsey on the derelict 40 acre Bricklayers Arms site behind the Old Kent Road near

4th Boro' Festival

Gerry had the programme and posters printed and we distributed them to all households in the immediate area. Things were looking good until 10 days before the festival the Council got in touch saying we would have to pay a phenomenal amount for the installation and hire of the toilets. We couldn't possibly come up with this amount, nor could we let people come to the festival with no facilities. We weren't about to cancel the festival after all we'd done.

Eventually the Council arranged for some chemical toilets, but we had to foot the bill. The acts were booked, equipment hired, insurance arranged, stalls let, publicity taken care of. Just one problem - no money. We did not receive a grant as we had from the Council in previous festivals. Fewer local firms donated.

I did a lightning tour of shops, pubs and off-licenses in the area asking for donations of goods we could use as prizes on the stalls. There response was good but there wasn't much time. The day before the Festival, Nigel Downes and Ralph Cooper collected the bunting, tables and chairs.

Back to the day itself.



Last year's festival

Around 9.30 people started to arrive. Gerry, Rankine and Ralph came to get things ready. Everything started to happen at once. The marquees arrived and were erected. The toilets arrived and the commercial stalls - Pandora's box, coconut shy and so on. We set up the tables and chairs around the park for the stallholders. Things were beginning to take shape, the sun broke through the clouds and spirits were lifted. Stall holders began to arrive to set up. The area was a hive of activity. The generators donated by Sandell Perkins arrived. Time to nip home and get into my costume. Organisers and stallholders had been asked to wear fancy dress and it certainly added to the festival atmosphere.

At 1 o'clock the festival was officially opened. We had a wide range of stalls, old clothes, bric a brac, homemade produce, face-painting, tombolas, information. I had a great time going around chatting to friends and enjoying some of the entertainment on offer.

And then it happened, what we dreaded most. The heavens opened. It didn't just rain, it came down in a sheet. Those who didn't head for home ran to the protection of the marquee and beer tent.

Numbers had dwindled, but spirits were still high. Stallholders struggled throughout the afternoon's intermittent rain while many of the entertainers were unable to perform.

We squeezed a few acts into the marquee - a circus band, a puppet show, a couple of comedy routines. The first eaters and clown who swallowed razor blades stayed beyond our scheduled finishing time to perform once the rain had packed away. And then it was over except for clearing up. Tables and chairs were stacked and stored, the generators stored, the rubbish picked up and bagged, the bunting taken down. In anything we left the park cleaner than when we started.

Personally, I gained a lot by participating in the festival organisation. Apart from learning about the practicalities of such an event, I met a lot of interesting people I would not normally come into contact with.

And it's not over yet. We are busily fund-raising to try and reduce the deficit with a social evening with fish and chip supper to be held at the Borough Community Centre on 21st November. If you want to join in fund-raising activities contact Linda or Shirley at the Centre on 6476. Or call in at the Centre some time. There is a lot of regular activities there you may not know about.

Dianne Hargrave
Local Mum

The Festival received financial donations from: Shell Goldsmiths Arms, Rotary Club, Jose Gil Del Palacio Charterhouse, Suffolk Stores, NSCDG, Union of Communications Workers, Hampton Coaches, Hughes, John Dales. Goods and equipment were donated by: UPB Supermarket, Marinas Fish and Chicken Bar, Union Square Newsagents, Ray and Joan at the Red Lion Pub, Bob and Nita at the Union Jack Pub, Ralph Cooper, Dianne Hargrave, Anchor Buttery, Letts Diaries, Sandell Perkins, J Hiles Butcher.

integrated community with housing affordable to local people. "It is just another example of private developers cashing in on the renewal of our inner cities and making vast profits at the expense of local communities", said.

Southwark Council now has 30,000 people on its Housing Waiting List, while because of government cutbacks its housebuilding programme has fallen from 1,000 new homes a year in the 1970's to just 100 new homes built last year.

Childhood Memories • 1910-20

SEL received the following contribution from Pauline Ripley, a tutor at Morley College, who runs a discussion/remembrance group. They were written by older women who attend the group at Lambeth Towers Day Centre.

Childhood homes 1910 - 1920

When we were children we lived in small house or flats of about three rooms. The houses were arranged one room on top of another with the attic, as in Gladys' house, often reached by a spiral staircase. One room would be the living room and kitchen all rolled into one and the other two would be bedrooms. As many as a dozen children might be brought up there though usually the older ones would have left home before the youngest were born.

One room would be for the parents and smallest children who often slept, mother in one bed with the girls and father in another bed with the boys. Children often had to sleep "top to tail" leading to many complaints of brothers or sisters "toes up your nose". If there was only one bedroom, parents, or parents and children, would make up a bed in the living room.

A grandparent frequently lived with the family and children would share with her. Mollie remembered sharing a bed with her Gran and wearing her button boots in bed to save time when

getting up for school in the morning, until her mother found out poor Granny was being "kicked to bits". Anne had a little cot bed in her grandmother's room and as her grandmother got up very early in the summer Anne had the luxury of her big bed all to herself for the rest of the night.

The lavatories were usually outside as few ordinary people had indoor bathrooms then. Mollie recalled that her house was near a bus stop and sometimes several passengers would use their toilet facilities and then compliment her mother on their cleanliness! Her mother used to scrub the seat so hard the wood was gleaming white.

Because the lavatories were

outside a "jerry" under the bed was a necessity. There could be accidents sometimes. Mary remembered her father emptying one out of his window straight onto her husband-to-be and Mollie remembered sitting down too hard on a cracked one which broke and she bears the scar to this day.

Bathing could be difficult too as water had to be carried in from an outside tap. Charlotte remembered that though their landlady had a tap in her scullery she wouldn't let them use it. Baths were taken in a tin bath in front of the fire so that if there were several in the family it was best to be first!

Everyone remembered the bugs.



On the subject of childhood, Mr Terry of Mitre Road, Waterloo, sent SEL this photograph of Class 1, Hatfield School, taken in 1931. Anyone recognise themselves or their friends? We'd be pleased to hear of your childhood memories.

Jacobs Island: developers and LDDC see eye to eye

A revised application for the Jacobs Island development was submitted to the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) earlier this month. Following a public meeting at the end of October called to explain the revisions, Jacobs Island Action Group (JAG) was confused as to why LDDC officers appear to be "happy" with the changes.

In March of this year Chris Farrow, Area Director of the LDDC Surrey Docks Team, had told JAG that he wanted to see a 33% reduction in the density of the original scheme. According to the developers own calculations the latest scheme only represents a 23% reduction in density.

In May of this year the developers submitted their first revision to the original scheme. Hounded by JAG the LDDC officers decided, in their wisdom, to recommend their planning committee refuse the scheme. The developers then asked for another chance. Their latest

scheme only offers a 5% reduction in the number of luxury flats from the proposal LDDC officers wanted to reject. The commercial, leisure and parking space remains exactly the same. Coral Newell, chair of JAG told SEL, "I cannot see why a tiny change in the number of flats suddenly makes a bad scheme good!"

The message to Chris Farrow and the architect Piers Gough from the public meeting was loud and clear. The proposal was still completely unacceptable. One local resident summed up this feeling when he said the scheme reminded him of "a dirty old cooling tower".

JAG need the support of local residents to consign this development to the history books. If you would like to join the group, or just want more information, contact Alan Caldwell on 928 0711.

Hays Wharf fight still on

Continued from front page

to the cost of building housing there. If the Council can no longer provide housing for its people, is it not possible to turn the land over to a Co-operative, or are we so moribund that we cannot see any alternative to the greedy developer?

Remember that we have lost more than 60 units of housing in disposing of the Bethel Estate that has been carried away in tipper trucks spilling their contents all over Tooley Street.

Whatever happens on this site is there for another 150

LETTERS

Dear SEL

THOSE DOGS AGAIN

I am sick and tired of the silly lame excuses that dog owners use for not cleaning up after their dogs. Dogs cause environmental and health hazards to everyone, particularly children. The owners insist on their rights to the benefits of dog owner-

ship while making everyone else share the penalties.

The main piece of furniture in the living room was the dresser where all the family treasures were displayed often full of cottons, collar studs and other things that might "come in useful". Mollie's father who was a sailor brought an ornament back every trip, so they had plenty to dust. There was often a large horse-hair sofa that felt very prickly to young legs. But when the fire gleamed in the newly black leaded range the room looked very cosy. At family gatherings everyone had their party piece and took it in turns to entertain the rest.

People though poor do "seem" to have been kinder and more honest then. People didn't need to bother to lock their houses and if they did the key was usually hanging on a string inside the letterbox. Neighbours usually helped out and a common distress call was to bang on the back of the fireplace with a poker.

by Connie Wright, Molly Regan, Anne Knell, Gladys Gutteridge, Mary Fiddaman, Lil Vincent, Charlotte Bailey

years or more and will complete the rape of Tooley Street, with the haves on the north side and the have-nots on the south side. What kind of legacy is this we want to leave to future generations.

I would remind the Majority Party of the slogans of the past: 'Homes not Offices', 'People before Profits'.

Before starting her speech Lil read out to councillors her horoscope for that week: 'You've got a lot to say and are abundant with ideas, but will anyone listen. You're banging your head against a brick wall, especially with officialdom or authorities.'

It should not require a rule or a law before dog owners take responsibility for their pets, nor should it depend on the control of other types of litter and rubbish. They should do it now.

Dorothy Stein
Pearman Street, SEL

Traditional Acupuncture Centre

Do you suffer from backache, rheumatism, stress - are you in your menopause or pregnant or just full of odd aches and pains? These are all conditions that can be treated by the ancient art of acupuncture at a special centre in Roupell Street, Watrelool.

The Traditional Acupuncture Centre is housed in what was once a former garage and has been so cleverly converted that a passer-by would hardly notice it hidden behind plants and honeysuckle. Once inside you have an immediate feeling of balance and harmony which is heightened by the green plants and the beautiful kilns in the reception area. Natural light comes pouring in through the green roof which has been retained.

It is the feeling of balance and harmony that is an important part of acupuncture. It is a system of medicine which has been practised in China for over 5000 years and is still widely used there. In this country it is a growing form of treatment despite the scepticism of some members of the medical profession.

Basically the treatment consists of very fine acupuncture needles placed at specific points in the body so that a proper balance and

flow of energy can be reestablished. If this sounds gruesome and painful it certainly isn't.

"There is a sensation but it's like a dull ache," said Helen Fielding, one of the practitioners at the Centre. But the feeling is nothing like a dental injection for example and has such a healing effect on the patient that any slight feeling of discomfort is well worth it.

Helen used to be in publishing and took three years to train as an acupuncturist. She finds her profession and the intricate philosophy behind it utterly fascinating. Helen has also assisted at childbirths using acupuncture both at home confinements and in hospital. Patients have to book well in advance for this unusual way of assisting with childbirth. "It is a rare occurrence but it is on the up and up," said Helen who has also lectured at Morley College in T'ai Chai.

She spent a long time explaining to me the complex philosophy behind acupuncture which encompasses an astounding wealth of subjects including art, astronomy and geology. The aim is to treat the person not the 'illness' and to this end the practitioner

will spend several hours with the patient when they first visit the Centre.

Not only will they discuss their lifestyle, family background, and medical history. How a person dresses, the colours they are wearing, the colour of their skin and even their body odour can give the acupuncturist important clues about the patient. There may be many people suffering from a bad back for example, but every one of them will have a different personality and background and it is this whole person that the practitioner treats not the back pain.

It's important to mention too that acupuncture is not used just to cure illnesses but also very much as preventive medicine. About half the patients at the Centre in Roupell Street are young people who receive regular acupuncture treatment so that in later life they will have a reduced chance of contracting illnesses which may be prevalent in their families like high blood pressure or rheumatism.

As the NHS is being attacked on all sides and the interest in alternative medicine grows, the number of patients at the Acupuncture Centre is increasing rapidly. Many



people come in despair as a last resort because orthodox methods of treatment have not worked. But most people come because they have a genuine belief in the healing power of acupuncture whatever traditional medicine thinks.

Patients at the Acupuncture Centre are from all walks of life - manual workers, old-age pensioners, artists, students, several members of the aristocracy, and even young children. Many of them are local people who have only just discovered the Centre. And for a lot of people, just to sit in the calm and peace of this lovely building makes them feel better.

Anne Critchley

Elderly keeping healthy

Monday 19th October was the day when the Beormund Centre in Abbey Street hosted the fourth in a series of five days dedicated to the theme 'Over 60's - Who Cares?', looking at elderly peoples' health needs. It was the first of the days to be held in North Southwark.

Organised jointly by the Health Education Unit of Lewisham & Nth Southwark Health Authority, Southwark Social Services, Community Health Council members and community workers and volunteers from voluntary organisations, the day begins at 9am and finishes at 4pm.

The 40 or so elderly people present at the Beormund heard talks about what makes you healthy and ill, what health services are available for the elderly, who is responsible for what in the Health Service, what gaps are there in the provision of services and what is needed. This is where, in discussion groups, those present had the chance to say what they thought were the shortcomings of the Health Service. On the lighter side, there was an exercise session and tea and coffee and lunch were provided at a cost of 50p.

Mr Irshad, a member of an Asian old peoples' club, came

all the way from Camberwell to Bermondsey to join in the day. Mr Irshad's day begins early with prayers at 5am after which he does his daily exercises. He thought the day at the Beormund well worth the trip.

Mrs Swift, a pensioner and member of the Community Health Council, is a member of the planning group which organised the day events. She told SE1 that "pensioners have no direct line to the Health Service, their voice can't be heard. A lot of old peoples' health needs are not met." The idea of these day events is not only to inform but also to listen, so that the elderly can say exactly where the Health Service is failing them. After the last of these five days, a report will be written and presented to the Strategy Review Group of the Health Authority in the hope that its recommendations will be acted upon.

Lil Patrick, a long time campaigner for better health services for all North Southwark residents, told SE1 that she thought the day was valuable in bringing people together, but she was sceptical that any new resources would be forthcoming for the needs of the elderly when there are so many cuts being made to existing health



Exercises at Over 60's Health Day at the Beormund

services.

Two other people present at the Beormund, sisters Misses Pratt who live behind Nelson Square off Blackfriars Road, thought the idea of the days very good. For them, what most elderly people lacked in particular was information about just what was available; the information was not getting to them. They go regularly to clubs and advice centres, such as Blackfriars Settlement or Waterloo Action Centre, were leaflets, help, advice and information are available. To keep fit they

go to an exercise class at Morley College.

There will be one final day in the present series about health care for the elderly. It will be held on Wednesday 11th November at Drapers Tenants Association Hall, beginning at 9am. All over 60's are welcome to attend. If you wish to, please ring 690 4311 ext 6289 and ask to speak to Jane Miller, Health Education Officer for Lewisham & North Southwark Health Authority.

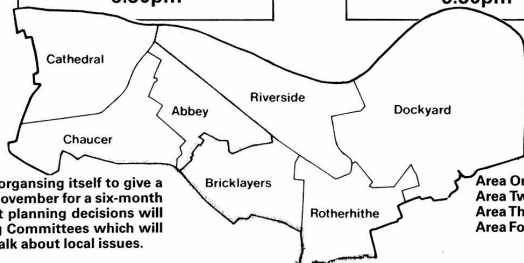
SOUTHWARK PLANNING

NEW LOCAL COMMITTEES

Southwark meetings will be held at

THE ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
Falmouth Road
the last Monday in every month starting
November 30th 1987
from
6.30pm

THE BEORMUND CENTRE
Abbey Street
the first Tuesday in every month starting
November 10th 1987
from
6.30pm



Southwark Planning is re-organising itself to give a more local service. From November for a six-month experimental period, most planning decisions will be made by Area Planning Committees which will meet at local venues and talk about local issues.

For planning purposes, Southwark has been divided up into four areas, each with its own team of planners who take on all the planning tasks related to their area.

Area One - Borough
Area Two - Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
Area Three - Walworth, Camberwell and Dulwich
Area Four - Peckham, Nunhead and East Dulwich

By creating four committees, one in each planning area, Southwark hopes to improve links with the local community and make it easier for local people to get involved in the planning process.

United St. Saviour's Charities

Flats for retired people of North Southwark

From time to time we have vacancies for retired people who live in North Southwark, at our attractive sheltered housing scheme at St. Saviour's College, Hamilton Road, West Norwood, and one of them might suit you.

To be eligible, applicants must have been resident for at least three years in the North Southwark catchment area, should be of limited means, of good health and be able to look after themselves.

Residents, who are known as "the Collegians", live rent free, pay no rates and are provided with central heating and hot water at no charge, though they must pay for extra heating.

If you would like more information about applying for a flat or you know of someone who might be eligible and you would like to put them in touch, please contact:

The Clerk to the Wardens
United St. Saviour's Charities
8 Southwark Street
London SE1 1TL
Telephone: 407 5961



Riverside treasure trove for skull collector

Cardinal's Wharf, a fifteenth century house on Bankside, is on the market at a price which would leave you little change out of £1 million should any SE1 reader decide to put in a bid. For most of its life a riverside tavern, the house was said to be where Christopher Wren stayed while St Paul's Cathedral was under construction.

Its present, less illustrious, owner, one Mr Guy Munthe, is said to be tired of living among eight million people and is off in search of somewhere a little quieter. Ah, the perquisites of the rich; £1 million should see him on his way nicely.

It is thought locally though that the main reason for the sell-off by Mr Munthe, who is apparently a skull-collector by profession, is the undesirable prospect of hordes of tourists tramping past his front door in a few years time when the recon-



structed Globe Shakespeare Theatre is completed right next door to Mr Munthe's presently detached residence.

KNITTER REQUIRED
Mens and Womens Jumpers
No sewing up involved
Ring Jackie on 735 3038

PUBLIC HAZARDS NO. 10

This photograph of broken paving stones in Southwark Street near Redcross Way was taken nearly three months ago. This hazard is evidently known to Public Works Department since at one time there were a couple of warning lanterns alongside. These have since disappeared but the paving stones remain unfixed. Is this a record?



Planning Policies in North Southwark CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

Workshop (1)

(Bermondsey & Rotherhithe)
Saturday 28th November 1987
1.30-5.30pm
Downtown T.A. Hall Downtown Road SE16
Chair: Cllr. Geoff Williams

Workshop (2)

('The Borough')
Saturday 5th December 1987
1.30-5.30pm
Borough Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1
Chair: Cllr. Nick Snow

FAMILY SOCIAL AT THE BOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

56 SOUTHWARK BRIDGE RD, LONDON SE1
TELEPHONE: 928 6476

ON
SATURDAY NOV. 21ST

FROM

7.00 - 11.30PM

PROFESSIONAL ENTERTAINERS

AND LOCAL TALENT

FISH & CHIP SUPPER (ADULTS)

SAUSAGE CHIP SUPPER - (CHILDREN)

COST: £2 (ADULTS) £1 (CHILDREN)

TICKETS ON SALE FROM THE CENTRE UNTIL 13TH NOV.

LDDC land sales bonanza

The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) is sitting on a bank balance of £50 million while local authorities are being starved of funds. This figure was revealed in the LDDC's recently published Annual Accounts for 1986/7. The Docklands Consultative Committee, supported by Docklands Boroughs, are demanding that the Secretary of State for the Environment, Nicholas Ridley, redistribute this surplus to the Dockland boroughs.

This incredible bank balance has been accumulated from LDDC land sales, land that was taken from the boroughs when the LDDC was established in 1981. Earlier this month the LDDC sold a five acre site next to St Katherine's dock for an astonishing £100 million! At £20 million per acre this represents the most expensive real estate in London and shows an increase in land values of 100 times the LDDC's first land sale six years ago.

Strong arguments exist for the redistribution of this money to the Docklands boroughs, as the local communities have not benefited from the existence of the LDDC. Since 1981 there has been a net loss of jobs in the LDDC area. Over two thirds of the jobs created have been direct transfers, with the existing workforce coming with the relocated industry. Housing waiting lists have doubled in docklands boroughs as have those registered as homeless. These stark facts show only too well that the LDDC's "regeneration" of the Docklands offers nothing to the local communities.

LAMBETH FUNERAL SERVICE

As well as the tremendous feeling of loss, a death in the family is often the occasion for important decisions about burial or cremation - which usually involve considerable sums of money and carry serious implications for the family's finances.

Understandably, the bereaved need to be certain that the funeral service provided meets with the best professional standards, and that the funeral is carried out in a solemn and dignified manner by a reputable undertaker.

The Lambeth Funeral Service has been designed to this end.

The funeral is in every way comparable to other funerals on offer in the high street, but the price has been substantially reduced through negotiation by the Council.

The basic cost of the service is currently £280, with extras, called disbursements, which include such things as doctor's and minister's fees and cremation or burial charges.

With these extras a cremation is likely to cost between £335 and £370.

The Funeral Director will also provide any extra requirements such as additional limousines at a fixed price.



To arrange a funeral simply take this leaflet to:
The Cooperative Funeral Service
114 Brixton Hill,
London SW2
674 5298 (24 hour service)

SE1 NEWSPAPER

SE1 newspaper is produced for residents of Waterloo and North 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.

NEXT COPY DATE

Copy date for the next issue of SE1 is Wed 2nd December. Publication date is 10th December. 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 £12 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

M Dimond, John Howes,
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.

NORTH SOUTHWARK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Our quarterly newsletter has just been published and a copy is included inside your SE1. In this issue we outline important changes in Southwark Council's Planning Department. Contact us on 928 0711 for more information.