

# SEI

Issue 58 February 1988 Free Copy

## St Olave's sell out gets thumbs down

A packed public meeting held at St Olave's Hospital at the end of January voted overwhelmingly to reject plans to turn over part of the Hospital site to private developers to build luxury homes for sale. In a meeting charged with emotion, speaker after speaker from the local community criticised the plans of Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority to allow private housing on the site in return for the developer building a number of new community health care facilities there.

Many of those present have been involved for years campaigning to bring back health care to the site. The now derelict St Olave's Hospital, formerly a general hospital, was built in the 1890's and occupies a 7 acre site. The run down of the Hospital by the Health Authority began in 1979 with the closure of in-patients as a first step by the Authority to cut its expenditure.

It was effectively closed in 1981 when the accident and emergency department was shut, although this was described at the time as 'temporary'. The Chaucer Day Hospital for the mentally ill, Community Physiotherapy and the Ambulance Service are all that remain, housed precariously in Portacabins, which urgently need rebuilding.

Protests by local residents in 1981, including taking the Health Authority to the High Court to try and reverse the closure and pickets outside the hospital for four months to prevent the removal of equipment, led to the formation of the St Olave's Hospital Campaign whose aim was the reopening of the Hospital.

As government cuts in health services bit deeper throughout the following years and the Health Authority devised a strategy to concentrate health services at Guy's and Lewisham Hospitals to save money it became clear that St Olave's would never reopen. The Campaign then formulated demands to have community care facilities developed on the site, particularly for the elderly. The residents campaign resulted in the recently opened 17-bed nursing home for elderly people who cannot look after themselves, St Olave's House Nursing Home, being built at the Hospital.

Further battles and negotiations, resulting in the formation of the St Olave's Steering Group, at the end of 1985, consisting of Health Authority and community representatives, produced a list of other possible developments. These included a Domus nursing home for the mentally ill, a GP's bed unit, and care facilities for the mentally frail among others. A part of the site was also earmarked for public housing to be provided by Southwark Council, in exchange for a package of sites in North Southwark to be developed by the Health Authority as community-based care facilities.

Then, immediately following the June general election, under pressure from the South East Thames Regional Health Authority to dispose of half of the St Olave's site, the local Health Authority came up with a proposal to invite developers in. In exchange for building a new Domus, a new Chaucer Day Hospital, a 10-place respite care centre for the elderly, and new facilities for Physiotherapy and the Ambulance Service,



1981 picket at St Olave's Hospital

the developer would nearly half of the site, running along Southwark Park, to build private housing for sale. No money would change hands. The Health Authority intended to invite tenders from developers in February, anticipating up to 50 applicants.

Local residents and campaigners at the public meeting accused the Health Authority of drawing up the health facilities for private homes proposal behind the back of the community. Why had the land swap with Southwark Council been abandoned, they demanded to know? Why hadn't the Housing Corporation and Housing Associations been approached as possible providers of social housing on the site? Why hadn't private trusts and benefactors been invited to contribute to the approximately £3 million cost of the new health facilities wanted at St Olave's? The Authority was attacked for falling victim to the fever of land speculation rife in Surrey Docks.

The three community representatives on the St Olave's Hospital Steering Group, Lil Patrick, Tom Sawyer and Tom Nelligan, resigned their positions in protest at the Health Authority's plans for the old 'Dockers Hospital' in Rotherhithe, as St Olave's was known locally. They feel that they have wasted years of effort to see the hospital redeveloped with new health facilities in a plan which would also have resulted in new homes being built to be let at reasonable rents, in an area where such a need is pressing.

Their protest, however, has not been in vain. As a result of the public meeting which they asked the Health Authority to call, the Authority gave an undertaking that no deals would be struck with developers until the community had been fully consulted on all the alternatives. Ten members of the audience at the meeting were chosen as the community representatives to investigate these alternatives with the Authority.

## Mint St. Adventure Playground

Mint Street Adventure Playground, which has been going since 1969, is in danger of closing. Two temporary workers have been appointed in a last ditch attempt to save it.

Since last Summer, when the

Playground was obliged to close through staff resignations, some members of the management committee also left and the remaining members are in need of the support of other local parents if it is to survive into the future.

Now, there is a last chance to show that the kids and parents of the area want a free and safe place for their children to play.

There will be a public meeting on Sunday 6th March at the Playground at 3.00pm

for all parents and children wanting to take part in getting Mint Street Adventure Playground working again. If you care about your community, be there!

Ring Ian for further details on 403 3747.

# Benefits - all change in April

In April 1988 major changes are being made to the Social Security system which will affect all sections of the community, the young, pensioners, disabled, unemployed and those in low paid employment. If you are in receipt of any form of means-tested or non means-tested benefit at present, this will affect you.

**INCOME SUPPORT** will replace the present Supplementary Benefit system. After April 1988, benefit income will be calculated by allowing a Personal Allowance for each individual. This amount will vary according to age and marital/family status. The rates will be lower than the current long term rate which is payable at present to lone parents, people over 60, and long term sick and disabled. The new personal allowance rates are:

## PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

Single claimant aged 18-24	£26.05
Single claimant aged 25+	£33.40
Lone Parent less than 18	£19.40
Lone Parent aged over 18	£33.40
Couple both less than 18	£38.80
Couple one aged over 18	£51.45
Children 0-11	£10.75
Children 11-16	£16.10
Children 16-17	£19.40

In addition to the above rates, certain categories of claimant will be entitled to an extra fixed payment in the form of a Premium. The groups who will qualify are families with children, pensioners, the sick and disabled. There will be no extra payment for the unemployed, single or childless who fall outside these groups. The amounts of the premiums will be:

## PREMIUMS

Family	£6.75
Lone Parent	£3.70
Pensioner	single £10.65
Higher Pensioner	couple £16.25
Disability	£18.60
Severe Disability	£13.05
Disabled child	£49.50
	£6.15

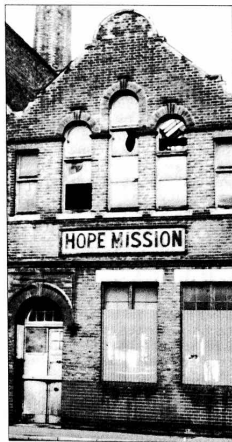
## Hope yet

Lenta Properties, specialised in workshop conversions, plans to restore the presently empty buildings on the corner of Blackfriars Road and Webber Street and the Hope Mission in Webber Street.

The company has been granted planning permission by Southwark Council to convert these buildings into small workshops, shops and offices. The front of the buildings will be altered but the developers have guaranteed that the character of the present facades will be retained. These are some of the last remaining buildings of any character along a Blackfriars Road ruined by previous developers. Alterations include a colonnaded walkway on Blackfriars Road.

The company, a joint venture of Shell, BP, Midland and Barclays Banks, has done similar developments in Hackney and Tower Hamlets and a spokesperson told SE1 that they were not doing the refurbishment to make a 'quick quid'. They believe that they are meeting a

demand which exists in London for small workshop space. Lettings will be on an 'easy in-easy out' basis, that is monthly licenses with a minimum of fuss. There will also be office support facilities provided for users. They weren't prepared to say, however, how much rents would be.



In the article below, Kathy Glennon of the North Lambeth Law Centre outlines for SE1 readers the changes to the Supplementary Benefit system. In future articles we will explain to readers the present government's changes to Housing Benefit, State Earnings Related Pension Scheme and Family Income Supplement.



The higher pensioner premium is payable for the over 80's or 60-79 year olds who are sick or disabled. The disability premium is payable for under 60's and will only be paid if the person already qualifies for either Invalidity Benefit, Attendance Allowance, Mobility Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance or is registered blind or has sick notes for more than 28 weeks. The severe disability benefits will only be paid to people receiving Attendance Allowance who live alone and have no one caring for them who is receiving Invalid Care Allowance.

Apart from Family Premium and Disabled Child Premium which are paid in addition to any other premium there will normally be only ONE premium paid to a claimant unless s/he is severely disabled.

Claimants will lose the right to claim the extra money which can presently be claimed for Special Diets, Heating, Laundry, Baths, Furniture Storage, Special wear and tear on clothing/shoes, Extra expensive clothing or shoes, Help in the Home, Attendance Needs, Fares to visit close relatives in hospital.

It is therefore very important to CLAIM NOW for any of the above items before April, 1988, to make sure you are not missing out on any benefit that you are entitled to which will be lost if you delay. People who get the extra payments before April 1988 will have them safeguarded after that date.

THE SOCIAL FUND will replace Single Payments (ie Grants from the DHSS). The Social Fund will be a fund with a fixed cash budget. Claimants will therefore have to compete against one another for a repayable loan from the fund.

The loans will be discretionary and for the majority of claimants will have to be repaid by deductions from weekly benefits. There will be no right to appeal to an independent tribunal as at present. The fund runs out of money there will be no loans granted however desperate the need. In very limited circumstances a grant may be paid which will not have to be repaid from benefit, namely maternity needs, funeral expenses and community case grants.

Claimants will lose the right to single payments which can presently be claimed for Furniture and Household equipment, Bedding, Clothing and footwear, Removal expenses, Repairs to the home, Expenses for starting work, Draughtproofing, Fuel debts due to severe weather or unfamiliarity with heating system.

CLAIM NOW before April 1988 while you are still entitled. For further information contact your local advice centre.

## Rose Stewart

Rose Stewart, lately of Aquinas Street, SE1

The new year began sadly with the death of Rose Stewart, one of the founder members of some of the community activities in Waterloo.

Rose was one of those responsible for the setting up of Edward Henry House Co-op and was actively involved in the Stamford/Aquinas/Climsland House Tenants Association of which her husband David was the first Chairperson.

Even before the development of most of the community groups in Waterloo in the 1970's Rose and Dave Stewart were already involved in their own initiatives to improve life in SE1. Local who were teenagers in the 1970's will remember the football club which Dave organised in the Mitre League.

A stroke a few years ago had confined Rose much more to the house and her husband's death in March 1982 was also a sad loss. Rose will be

remembered by many long term residents of SE1 for her warmth and personality.

Rose (nee Lloyd) grew up in SE1 and lived here all her life, although her husband David Stewart, as the name suggests, was a Scotsman. They met during the war.

David and Rose are survived by their three sons David, Andrew and Ian. Andrew lives locally in Roupell Street.

Jenny Stiles



# LRB sell-off opposed

Negotiations between Midland Bank and the London Residuary Body (LRB) over the sale of 6 newly built industrial units on the corner of Southwark Bridge Road and Thrane Street have run into strong local opposition. Residents accuse the LRB of asset stripping and Midland Bank of trying to bulldoze Southwark Council into agreeing to their proposals for the site without full details and discussion and consultation with the community.

The units cover 47,000 square feet of floorspace, in addition to a loading and service area at the rear. They became the property of the London Residuary Body when the GLC was abolished by the present government in April 1986. The LRB has advertised them for sale as a single freehold property, thereby discouraging their use as separate industrial units despite such enquiries.

Midland Bank is interested in the site because it has been looking for a central London location to construct a purpose built 'factory' for its cheque sorting operations which handles 3 million cheques a day. It considers Southwark Bridge Road an ideal site as the bank claims that it needs to be within a one and a half mile radius of the Bankers Clearing House in the City of London.

Midland Bank had informed Southwark Council's Planning Department of its intentions. They also sent representatives to the January meeting of the Area 1 Planning Committee, which decides on issues of planning policy and on planning applications in North West Southwark, where they asked for 'in principle' agreement from councillors to their proposals for the Southwark Bridge Road units.

In outline, the bank proposes to demolish the existing 6 industrial units and build a new 180,000 square foot complex on the site.

The carrot held out to Southwark Council was the promise of 200 new jobs to be advertised locally where unemployment among adult males is 29% and where there is little offer of semi and unskilled work. Presently, Midland's cheque sorting operations employs 900 people, 70% of them women, in a variety of unskilled and semi-skilled jobs. No doubt reflecting the monotony of the work, staff turnover is a high 20% a year. The bank's other arm twister was that their proposal for the site would be preferable to another currently being considered by the London Residuary Body which might result in offices.

The Midland Bank left the meeting disappointed. Their proposals met with a torrent of criticisms from local residents and from members of the Committee. George Nicholson, who was Chair of the GLC's Planning Committee when the site was purchased for community use under that council's Community Areas Policy, said that he could not understand why buildings constructed for the purpose of providing industrial jobs should have remained empty so long and why they should now be demolished. There was a recognised demand for this type of workshop in inner London and the success of the 24 new build industrial workshops on Park Street, part of the Courages development as well, demonstrated this. Their demolition would result in a net loss of industrial floor space in the borough.

He was also sceptical about



Courages industrial units on Southwark Bridge Road

the uniqueness of this site. Why couldn't it be located at the Bricklayers Arms site or in Surrey Docks? As Midland Bank's operation had to be located in central London the new jobs would be created in any case. George was also critical of the lack of information provided by the bank to the Council and said no decision could possibly be taken if favour of the proposal when we knew so little about it. Furthermore, he argued, the issue should be put to the local community for consultation before any decision is taken.

The Chair of the Area 1 Planning Committee, Cllr Geoff Williams, described it as the "right proposal in the wrong location". He also thought that at 180,000 sq ft, the site would be greatly overdeveloped causing a loss of amenity for neighbouring residents on the Courages site. Cllr Williams said also that it would be setting a bad precedent for the Committee to give 'in principle' agreement to Midland Bank's proposal. That wasn't the way the planning

process worked. It was only on the basis of a full planning application that the merits of a proposal can be fully assessed.

The Committee did, however, vote unanimously to send a letter of censure to the London Residuary Body for the way they have acted over these industrial units. The LRB was accused of 'asset stripping', of selling public assets regardless of the social consequences, of betraying the original purpose of this much needed industrial floorspace.

The LRB wasn't prepared to disclose to SE1 the selling price of the site. The units occupy 1.7 acres of land which at current values for the area would be worth at least £10 million. Added to the £3 million construction costs of the units and £400,000 in rental income forgone in the year that the LRB has kept them empty, SE1 calculates that what the LRB is rumored to be asking amounts to a lot less than this.

## A cracker of a party



Stonesend Day Centre for the Elderly and Elderly Disabled, located at its present site on the Scovell Estate since November 1985, held its annual Christmas party for members in December. 110 Centre users sat down to a three course meal and were entertained during the evening by tenor John Murphy and the Pearl Kings & Queens of Southwark who had revellers jumping in the aisles. Local bobby Peter Horner, this time in a Santa uniform, distributed hampers to all those present at the end of a great evening and a great year for the Centre.

## Upstream Children's Theatre

Upstream Children's Theatre has been asked by the Fringe Benefit Committee to make a contribution to the Comic Relief Day. The proceeds from our regular Saturday workshop on 13th February will therefore be donated to the fund.

The workshop for 4-6 year-olds will be held between 11am - 11.45am; for 7-9 year-olds between 11.45am - 12.30pm and for 10+ years from 1.30pm - 2.30pm.

Upstream Children's Theatre is a project of the Parish of Waterloo and is funded by LEA. We have strong links with the local community and always welcome new contacts for us to visit or for groups to come to our theatre. We are committed to a policy of anti-racism, non violence and anti sexism in all our work.

This work involves both plays and performances for children; drama workshops on specific learning areas, storytelling and improvisation sessions, to enable the children to experiment creatively and imaginatively, and learn the skills which will help them to express their ideas. Our work takes us into Junior schools, parks, play-schemes, community centres and small theatres.

The workshops will be held at The Upstream Children's Theatre, St Andrews, Short Street, Waterloo, opposite the Young Vic. For further information ring Roy Poole or Sue Payne on 928 5394.





At its December meeting last year, West Lambeth Health Authority agreed in principle to further cuts in health services in this district. This comes on top of a progressive reduction in health services by the Authority over the past several years. These new cuts will mean longer waiting lists while beds lie empty, longer waiting times for out patient appointments and greater anguish, distress and pain for those awaiting treatment and people caring for patients at home.

A well attended rally of local people and health service workers was held at St Thomas' Hospital on the day the Health Authority agreed on the new round of cuts. They were there to add their voices to calls to the Authority not to go ahead with further reductions in services. Speakers included Tony Benn MP, John Frazier MP and Steve Bubb, Labour member of West Lambeth Health Authority who has long argued against cuts in health services by the Authority.

Lou Shepperd on behalf of the Waterloo community told the rally "I am a member of Waterloo Health Project and we have campaigned over the

## Defending our NHS



Tony Benn MP addresses the rally

years for the health of our community, and for the defence and improvement of health services. Now, we are going back to the 1930's when only the rich could afford health treatment. We are concerned about the elderly, the homeless, the unemployed and the children, who are our

future. I call on everybody to join with us to save the NHS which we have fought and paid for."

Sadly, the speakers went unheard by the Health Authority members. They agreed to the permanent reduction of 137 acute bed

places at St Thomas' Hospital which have been temporarily closed since November 1987. An additional 44 bed places temporarily closed in 1986 were also permanently axed. A final decision will be made in April this year but because of the serious effect these cuts will have on local services there will be public consultation.

Waterloo residents are invited to come to a public meeting on the proposed cuts to services on Tuesday 8th March at 7.30pm at Lambeth Town Hall. It is being organised by the Community Health Council and you will be able to make your views known to District Health Authority members. Be there to defend your Health Service!

If you want to join with Lou and others in Waterloo in defending the health services in this area then get in touch with the Waterloo Health Project on 633 0852. West Lambeth Health Emergency, an organisation made up of health service workers and community groups to defend the NHS, meets every second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at Lambeth Town Hall. The next meeting is on February 11th.

## Helping the children

### St George's Tavern

We wish to say a big thank-you to all the regulars at the St George's Tavern, Lambeth Road, SE1, for their marvellous generosity in raising £618 by way of various raffles, spread over 12 weeks leading up to Christmas.

The total sum was divided between the Church of England Children's Society and the Roman Catholic Children's Society.

Jun and Cath Corcoran & Fred and Cathy Chart

### Lancelot Andrews House

#### Scrabble -in

Congratulations go out to 5 residents of Lancelot Andrews House, the DHSS resettlement unit in Great Guildford Street, which caters for single homeless men.

The men, Keith Crawford, Paul Rhodes, Barry Abbott, John Nichols and Martin Crowe, did a 24 hour sponsored scrabble in mid-December and raised over £100 for 'Children in Need', a national charity, which on BBC TV has been national Teletthon Appeal every November.

North Southwark Community Development Group

## Protecting the public

Smoking is one of the biggest health hazards in Southwark according to David Wells, Director of the Council's Public Protection Department, based in a huge, faceless office block in Grange Road, Bermondsey.

The Public Protection Services employ 230 staff to tackle a maze of health problems in the borough and cigarette smoking is just one of them. "It's our biggest avoidable health problem", said David when I interviewed him. Incredibly, cigarette smoking related diseases kill more people in Southwark than road accidents, and according to one Council report, 442 people die each year through the effects of smoking.

The Council are having an all-out drive on the problem, not just educating people, but also persuading local cafes and restaurants to install non-smoking areas. There are plenty of other problems, though, that the

Public Protection Department has to tackle - noise pollution, AIDS, dog fouling, food labelling, debt problems, to name a few.

Noise pollution is very much an eighties problem, ranging from noisy neighbours to all night parties and discos - "we're very hot on that one", said David. Then there is noise from building contractors, particularly in the Docklands area. At the weekends Southwark Noise Patrol take over, following up complaints about noise - usually loud music from parties. Officers can monitor sound on the spot and if it's beyond an acceptable limit they can - and do - take people to court.

Another problem of our time, and sadly a very serious one, is AIDS. Twenty people died last year in Southwark from the disease and 88 cases are projected for 1989. Two Environmental Health Officers work in this vital area in

liaison with local health authorities. The Council's prime aim in this area is education and the Council has also decided to install condom vending machines in all public buildings owned by them.

Money problems are mounting in Southwark and affect people at every social and financial level. One frightening dimension of the problem according to the Department's Julian Blackburn, is food on credit. Problems of debt, shoddy goods, hire purchase and so on are dealt with at the justly famous Consumer Advice Centre in Walworth Road, run by the Department.

Food is another area of concern. The Public Protection Department is educating people to eat properly, telling them where to buy healthy foods and testing food bought locally or eaten in restaurants. David Wells pointed out that

cheap healthy food is available in the form of fresh fruit and vegetables in East Street market. Last but not least on the agenda is women's health and here, as in other areas, the Public Protection Department is anxious to educate and empower local people as much as possible. To this end the Women's Bus from Pecham Women's Centre will be touring Southwark in March giving advice and information on all aspects of women's health, including screening for breast and cervical cancer and AIDS.

The list of problems tackled by the Public Protection Department is truly staggering but David Wells appears undaunted. "People are much better educated now and their expectations are so much higher." And despite all the setbacks his staff seem to be working very hard to protect local people from the worst excesses of living in Southwark in the eighties.

## ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY NURSERY

Next month sees the official opening party of the newly built Rockingham Community Nursery, near the Elephant & Castle. The Nursery, which has just moved into its new purpose built premises, provides 26 full and part time places for children aged 2 - 5 living on the Rockingham Estate. It is the proud result of a number of years of effort by local people, financially assisted by the former Greater London Council.

Some years ago, people living on the Rockingham in desperate need for nursery places came together to discuss the lack of child care places available in the area and what could be done about it. With the help of Rockingham Estate Play Association and Anne Keane a Steering Group was formed of local parents and tenants, St Matthews Church, Social Services and the Housing Department.

Under the Community Areas Policy of the Greater London Council's Planning Committee, then chaired by George Nicholson, GLC member for Bermondsey, the Steering Group was given a grant for its proposed new nursery. Architects Greenhill Jenner drew up plans for the building in 1983.

In January 1984, Brigitte Reimer was employed as Nursery Development Worker to co-ordinate all aspects of the development and to set up the Rockingham Nursery Association.

Now, thanks to community involvement, funding from the GLC and later from Southwark Council, to the support of the architects, the Development Worker, the local councillors, the people on the Rockingham Estate now have the benefit of their very own, very attractive Community day Nursery.



This time last year we were all struggling in the grip of snow, ice and sub-zero temperatures. What a contrast this winter has been! There have been one or two nights when we have had the lightest touch of ground frost, but overall it has been extremely mild.

Most of us are probably rather happy to miss out on the cold, but the plants are rather confused by it all. In the SE1 area I have seen several geraniums still flowering in January. All of these were in pots or

windowboxes above the ground floor. Many roses have also continued to bloom right up to the present time, and this shows what excellent value they are.

During mild weather the bare root roses can be planted up till the end of March. Roses grown in containers and out of doors at garden nurseries may be planted out any time of the year, though Spring and Autumn planting is best for the plant.

The Spring bulbs are all pushing up and the crocus is beginning to open. This unusually mild weather will encourage some early leaf growth in many plants. Should we get a heavy frost in February or March this new

soft growth will probably get cut back to the ground. However, in most cases the plant will quickly recover in Spring. This is a good time to clean up the garden and window box of old or dead growth from last year.

Other than that, it is time to get out the seed catalogues or garden books and decide on next year's display. This winter has convinced me of the value of Coreopsis 'Sun Ray'. There is one in Copperfield St Community Garden that began flowering in June '87 and is still flowering at the end of January '88. These plants were on sale at Waterloo Market last Spring and are just as happy in a large pot or window box.

### SESSIONAL CRECHE WORKERS

are required for creches at Morley and its Branches. If you are interested please write a letter containing your name, address and telephone number (if applicable) and date of birth. Could you also indicate any experience or courses you have attended in connection with this sort of work. The letter should be sent to Janet Evans, Creche Co-ordinator and you will be contacted for an interview.

If you require any further information, please contact Janet Evans at Morley College, Community Building, Kink Edward Walk, SE1, tel 928 8501 ext 140.

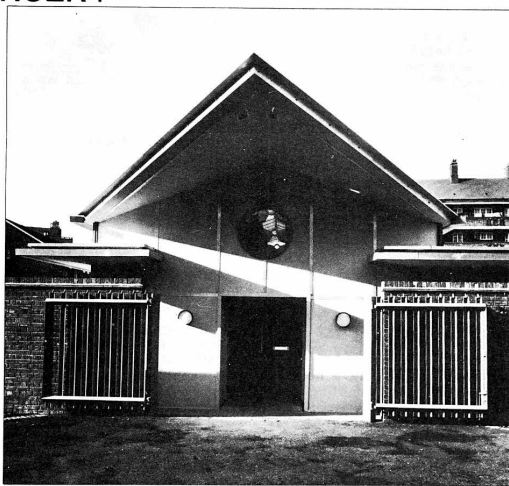


PHOTO: Michael Heffernan

## Reveille hijinks

Local people in Waterloo have been fighting to stop newspaper publisher Robert Maxwell from setting up a large-scale printing operation in a mainly residential area.

The story began in early 1987, when 'refurbishment' started at the Reveille Building in Stamford Street, which is owned by Maxwell's company BNPC. The building was once a printworks, but has not been used as such for many years. It seems that BNPC now wish to use it for printing purposes again.

However, it soon became clear that the proposed alterations involved more than refurbishment. They included a substantial side extension and the addition of plant on the roof. In June 1987, Lambeth Council instructed the developers that they must apply for planning permission.

This the developers did. But the fact that they did not have planning permission did not stop them from carrying on with the building works as before. They have continued to do so ever since, despite the fact that they still haven't got permission.

Local people object strongly to the development. The roof plant will affect the daylight and view for many residents of a nearby housing co-operative. It will also, they fear, be noisy, possibly

at night. The side extension is ugly and towers over the neighbouring open space and church. People are also worried about the noise and nuisance of delivery lorries using the site, and about the effects of overspill parking, as there is no parking provision on the site.

To add insult to injury, the contractors have caused extreme nuisance to local residents, blocking roads and pavements and making noise at all hours.

Lambeth's Planning Applications Sub-Committee considered BNPC's application in December 1987. Decision was deferred because some of the members felt that they didn't have enough information. Some councillors were worried about the employment implications of rejecting the scheme. Significantly, BNPC refused to give commitments on numbers employed or what hours the plant would operate. The most likely result is a jobs loss, as production would be relocated from elsewhere.

The local community will continue to resist this attempt to ride roughshod over both local people and the planning system, and has continued to urge Lambeth Council to reject the application. But the whole episode has illustrated the weakness of the planning system in protecting people from those who try to abuse it.

## Heard any good books lately?

12 Lant Street, SE1 is the home of a national charity - Talking Books for the Handicapped - which provides a postal library of books on tape for anyone who cannot read a book in the normal way. This may be due to physical disability, illness, or learning difficulties. People who have visual disabilities should contact the RNIB, who run a very similar Library.

The reasons for not being able to read books are as various as people themselves. Library members include victims of accidents, strokes, or thalidomide; dyslexics (especially children), cerebral palsy, polio, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, mental handicap and many other lesser known conditions which involve loss of co-ordination, limbs or digits, or paralysis.

Some of our members are connected to life-supporting equipment and would endure many boring hours were it not for talking books. One old lady actually said, "I never appreciated anything like it in my life. If it wasn't for these books I don't know how I could live." She refers to her specially designed talking book player as 'my best friend'.

Talking books can become companions, especially in the lonely, sometimes painful hours of the night when television and radio provide no escape. They help in many ways. Elderly people who have a poor memory for recent events can find it helpful to listen to books about the recent past, such as 'The Avenue Went to War'. This morale boosting exercise is known as 'Reminiscence Therapy' - by relating to the past well, they may be better able to relate to the present.

At the other end of the age scale, the

At the other end of the age scale, the charity helps dyslexics, who can read the unabridged books on tape and in a printed book at the same time. These children often pass their literature exams with our help, then resign membership, having become so good at reading they no longer need Talking Books. One mother recently wrote, "my son who has a very bright and enquiring mind found it more and more frustrating the older he became not being able to read the books he was interested in. To say it has changed his life is no overstatement. He is probably better read now than many of his contemporaries and the enthusiasm with which he rushes to listen to the tapes when they arrive can only prove their success in breaking through the reading barrier."

### HOW THE LIBRARY WORKS

When new members join the Library they receive a catalogue which gives information like the name of the reader and the length of playing-time, together with a few sentences about each book. Books are listed in categories and also alphabetically by author. Members are asked to begin by selecting thirty titles, which they mark on a selection card and return to the Library, who then send off the first two 'books'. Cassettes are easy to return, using the special container with its reversible prepaid addressed label and each time one arrives back, another from the selection list is sent out.

### THE COST

No charge is made for the loan of the cassette player. The annual subscription of £15 covers postage both ways on an unlimited number of books. Members may prefer to pay their own subscriptions, or to seek sponsorship.

### THE BOOKS

There are over 2,000 titles to choose from, including classical and popular fiction from adults to very young children. There are also biographies, and books on archaeology, country life, history, politics, psychology, religion, sport and travel. Most are completely unabridged, and are recorded in a studio by professional readers including well known actors.

### THE EQUIPMENT

The books are recorded on long-playing cassettes capable of playing for over 12 hours at a non-standard speed. They can only be played on National Listening Library machines designed for ease of use by handicapped people. A national network of volunteers is available to repair or service these machines on the spot, if necessary, for no charge.

Although the Library currently has very good supplies of equipment for loan, they still need funds urgently. Donations or help as a volunteer would be greatly appreciated. Last year 57 people ran in the London Marathon, raising nearly £18,000 in sponsorship money. The one who raised the most was Barry Hearn, manager of Steve Davis, who was chosen to present the winners with their prizes. Thus it was that Steve Davis was able to give Barry Hearn a break - in Amsterdam.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from the Library, contact them by FREEPOST, The National Listening Library, 12 Lant Street, London SE1 10H, or telephone 407 9417.

## Save Morley Campaign

SE1 readers may have heard that the Government is intending to make sweeping changes in the country's educational system. The proposed changes for secondary schools have been particularly highlighted in the press. A handful of parents will be able to decide that your local school will go independent and then you and future generations will have to live with it - or rather without it.

Desperate though the future of our schools looks, my main concern as a community representative from the North Southwark area on Morley College Council is what the Government is proposing to do to the Inner London Education Authority and Adult Education in London.

The Government proposes to allow the rich boroughs in London (such as Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and the City of London) to leave ILEA. They are wealthy enough

to provide some sort of educational service on their own, especially if all their schools go independent, their colleges and polytechnics get taken over by big businesses and they cease to provide adult education.

Poorer boroughs such as our two of Lambeth and Southwark could not afford to take on education. They would remain part of a massively depleted 'rump' ILEA. If eight boroughs chose to leave ILEA, then it would be abolished. Many Conservative MP's are now campaigning for the immediate abolition of ILEA rather than a slower wind down through the opting out arrangements.

There are enormous implications in all this for London's education service. Not only could Morley College be facing a 30% reduction in funding from this April, but there is no provision in the Government's proposals for colleges like Morley to receive an funding at all once ILEA ceases to exist. It

will fall on the local boroughs who, even before having responsibility for education, are having to make massive cuts to balance their books this year. It will be down to Lambeth and Southwark to find the resources to keep Morley providing its high standard of adult education, in addition to Southwark and Lambeth Institutes, which also provide adult education.

Much more likely is that Morley will have to charge students what it costs to put on courses. This would be in the region of £150-£200 per course per year, as opposed to the £14-£35 you pay at the moment. Local residents who need Morley's classes are unlikely to be able to pay such fees so Morley's local provision will end. It will only serve those who can afford to pay, thereby destroying all the work of the last seven years trying to make Morley's superb resources more available to local people.

To challenge such an attack on Morley, we are organising a campaign to try and make

the government think again. As part of this campaign, both the MP's for the SE1 area, Simon Hughes and Stuart Holland, have signed an 'Early Day Motion' (a parliamentary procedure where MP's bring issues to the attention of Ministers) highlighting the threat to Morley College and calling for amendments to the Bill to safeguard the College's future.

It is vital that as many MP's as possible sign the motion so if you, as a supporter of Morley, live outside Vauxhall, or Bermondsey constituencies, please write quickly to your MP getting him to sign the motion. Also ask them to support any amendment which may be put forward to safeguard the future of Adult Education in London and in particular Morley College.

If you want to know more about or join in the campaign for Morley, contact the 'Save Morley Campaign' at Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.

John Bussy

# COIN STREET NEWS



## GABRIEL'S WHARF MARKET

From Saturday 5 March 1988 there will be a big weekend market in full swing from 9.30am - 6pm every Saturday and Sunday. It will be run by a partnership between Coin Street Community Builders and the company that built up the market and weekend activities around Camden Lock.

Gabriel's Wharf site is right next to the river with great views of St Pauls and the north bank. It is between LWT in upper Ground and the new park, pier and riverwalk next to the Oxo Tower. It will eventually be a housing site for one of the seven Coin Street co-operatives.

Part of the market will be open seven days a week, including a Garden Centre, a cafe and a

number of workshops with shop fronts (200 sq ft with services). Studio Six Cocktail Bar will be relocated in the market place and a new pub/brasserie built where it (and the old "Rose and Crown") used to be. At the weekend things will really liven up with over eighty stalls selling all sorts crafts antiques clothes food games furniture books records flowers jewellery. There will be free live entertainment on an outdoor stage, and all the variety, bargains and novelty that make markets interesting for anyone to have a good wander round.

If you want to know more about setting up a stall or renting a workshop contact: Simon Gray on 482 2323 or 620 1516 and he will give you details.

## OTHER NEWS FROM COIN STREET...

The first phase of the new park and riverwalk was opened in October 1987 and the second phase south of Stamford Street is due to be open to the public by May. It will be planted with flowers and bushes and there will be a small scented garden in the centre. No dogs will be allowed in.

The shared garden in the middle of Mulberry has been turfed and play equipment will be installed later.

The partial demolition of Stamford Wharf has started. It will produce two separate buildings with a new performance space in between them.

A new extension to 99 Upper Ground is being designed and built by colleagues of the late Walter Segal who pioneered self-build in this country. You are welcome to visit the Design Centre.



Members of Mulberry co-op at one of the Training sessions which all members are taking part in before they move into their homes in the middle of March. There are 12 sessions which will help them to run their own housing management and be active members of Mulberry.



## ENTERTAINMENTS IN LAMBETH



### Saturday Sausages

Children's Shows  
First Sat of every month

**NETTLEFOLD HALL**  
1 Norwood High Street, SE27

**SATURDAY 5TH MARCH, 2PM**  
'THE TOWN & COUNTRY MOUSE'  
Avena Puppet Company  
For 3 - 7 years

All Tickets: £1.25

From: Lambeth Smetities  
Box Causage  
164 Clapham Park Road, SW4  
Tel: 622 6655 x 355 or  
from any Lambeth Library

### TEA DANCES

**TOWN HALL**  
ACRE LANE, SW2  
TUESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY  
2 - 5PM

Your Host: Trevor Jackson  
Dance to: Louis Mordish Trio  
Tickets 60p  
From: Age Concern  
Tel: 274 7722 x 2922

**SURREY HALL**  
BINFIELD RD, SW4  
THURSDAY 10TH MARCH  
2.15PM

Your Hostess: Eve Willett  
Dance to: The Dave Kent Trio  
Tickets: 75p on the door

LAMBETH AMENITY SERVICES  
164 Clapham Park Road, SW4  
Tel: 622 6655 x 355 or  
from any Lambeth Library

### CHILDRENS SHOWS and STOP-OVERS



Children's Shows  
Last Sat of every month

**Longfield Hall**  
50 Knatchbull Road, SE5

**SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, 2PM**  
'RIDDLE OF THE GOLDEN KEY'  
Flying Fox Theatre Coy  
For 6 - 11 years

All tickets: £1



**SATURDAY 26TH MARCH, 2PM**  
'THE GREAT MAGIC  
BANANA MYSTERY'  
Frantic Antics  
For 5 - 8 years

All Tickets: £1

From: Box Lolly  
Lambeth Amenity Services  
164 Clapham Park Road, SW4  
Tel: 622 6655 x 355 or  
any Lambeth Library

## United St. Saviour's Charities

### Flats for retired people of North Southwark

We have vacancies for retired people who at present live in the North Southwark area (including Newington and Walworth) and who would like to move to our attractive sheltered housing scheme at Hamilton Road, West Norwood.

There are flats available for people who would normally live alone, but sometimes we can offer adjoining flats to sisters, to brothers, or friends, if the situation warrants it.

All our flats are rent and rate free and are provided with central heating and constant hot water at no extra cost.

To be eligible for an appointment to a flat, applicants must have lived in the North Southwark catchment area for at least three years, be of limited means (i.e. basic income the Old Age Pension), be of good health and be able to look after themselves.

If this applies to you or someone that you know and you would like more information about it, please contact:

The Clerk  
United St. Saviour's Charities  
The Offices  
8 Southwark Street  
London SE1 1TL

Telephone: 407 5961



## LDDC slammed over lack of employment policies

The Docklands Consultative Committee, set up by London's Docklands Boroughs including Southwark in 1986, has attacked the London Docklands Development Corporation over its jobs policy - or rather, its lack of one.

In evidence to the House of Commons Employment Committee, the Committee slams the LDDC for failing to tackle the problem of rising local unemployment and says that the Corporation has no policy to safeguard existing industry or ensure that incoming firms are suited to the employment needs of local people.

Since the LDDC took over as the planning authority for London's Docklands in 1981, it claims to have created 7,987 jobs. Recent figures indicate, however, that 5,059 of these jobs were simply transferred by firms from other locations outside of Docklands. Most of these new jobs are in the office sector. Manufacturing industry though has continued to decline. The LDDC itself says that 7,000 industrial jobs have been lost in Docklands since 1981 through closures and redundancies. Thus, there has been a net loss in Docklands of 4,000 jobs since the LDDC took over in the area.



The Docklands Consultative Committee accuses the LDDC of seeing industrial firms as a barrier to regeneration and has used public money to threaten, evict and compulsorily purchase such firms. In 1986 alone, for example, 386,000 sq ft of industrial floorspace was lost in Surrey Docks as a result of the LDDC giving planning permission for other uses, mainly private housing construction.

The report concludes that "Docklands is becoming a major office location. The LDDC's approach has led to an ever increasing level of speculative office developments which don't provide the type of jobs suitable to the local workforce nor those for which they can be readily trained to acquire."

## SE1 NEWSPAPER

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.

### NEXT COPY DATE

Copy date for the next issue of SE1 is Wed 30th March. Publication date is 6th April. All contributions should be sent to SE1 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.

## BERMONDSEY NEWS

Bermondsey's Paper

All the local news  
20p from your newsagent  
Every other Thursday

Tel. 232 1639/237 1578

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