

SEL

MID JUNE. 15p MONTHLY. NUMBER 6

NEW FLATS

only
£60,000!



JIM & LIL

Down Bermondsey Way

- Pensioners Unite - P2
- Council drama - P3
- Young Vic - P5
- Housing co-op - P6
- Southwarks Boss! - P7
- Pops + Elephants - P8

Rosie

the matter comes
to Waterloo - P2.

DYING FOR A P....

At long last Southwark Council is to take action on the Flat Iron Square public convenience in Southwark Bridge Road. Funds from the Industrial Improvement Area budget are to be used to spruce up the derelict toilets, which have been closed for five years in spite of calls from local people and ward councillors to get them re-opened.

The council became worried about the deterioration of the toilets and at one time were looking at possible alternative uses. This would have involved demolition and the creation of open space with seats and landscaping. But the pressure from local people was such that it was agreed to keep the toilets in the hope that when funds became available they could be re-opened. The main obstacle to the re-opening continues to be the cost of paying an attendant.

Southwark tried to interest advertising companies in taking hoarding space around the toilets in exchange for improving the appearance of the square and paying the council rent, but they weren't interested.

So what they have decided to do now is to re-furbish the outside of the toilets to stop further deterioration. This will involve the removal of the boards surrounding it, which are currently covered in illegal flyposting. Also the roofed shelter at the front of the toilets will almost certainly be demolished, as Southwark says it is in a dangerous state.

All this will not satisfy local people who want this facility re-opened, not just tidied up. It is significant that action is now being taken only because cash is available to tart up the area to retain and attract new businesses. Once more local people take second place to industry and commerce in North Southwark.

Acall for the abandonment of a scheme to build luxury flats in Mill St. on the east side of St. Saviour's Dock in Bermondsey, close to Tower Bridge has come from 3 organisations concerned with planning in North Southwark. The Joint Docklands Action Group, the North Southwark Community Development Group (NSCDG) and the Southwark Docklands Campaign have all thrown their weight against any further luxury flat developments in the area.

The latest planning applications submitted to the Docklands Development Corporation are for 84 flats and maisonettes, in the price range £30,00 - £100,000, as well as studios, workshops, offices, a pub/restaurant and even a private swimming pool in 2 old wharves. This is great if you are rich, but it offers nothing to the community and could put at risk jobs which are desperately needed in the area.

A spokesman for the 3 local groups said: 'Hundreds of jobs are at risk in St. Saviour's Dock. Both Mill St. and Shad Thames are busy industrial streets with operating warehouses. One of the firms, Vogans, still uses the River to import goods right up to the wharf. This area is part of Southwark Council's Butler's Wharf/Chamber's Wharf Industrial Improvement

Area, with the objective of protecting existing industry and encouraging expansion.

'The applications for conversion of warehouses into luxury flats make a mockery of this policy. Already 2 firms, Spillers and Vogans, have expressed fears that residents of the proposed flats would take legal action against noise and lorry traffic generated by their works. Equally, parked cars from the flats plus the pub/restaurant may make Mill St. and Shad Thames impassable for industrial traffic. If these applications are granted, there will be over 100 flats developed in Mill St. at St. Saviour's and Reeds Wharves, as well as New Concordia and Lloyds Wharves.

'Southwark Council and the London Docklands Development Corporation have made no attempt to try and get new industry into St. Saviour's. We will be demanding that the new Southwark Council draws up a proper plan for protecting jobs and bringing new industry into St. Saviour's as a matter of urgency. A Plan was promised in Southwark's Thameside Strategy Plan published in 1974, but has never been produced.

'Existing industry alongside St. Saviour's must be protected and new industry encouraged. We will oppose any attempt to strangle firms like Spillers and Vogans, whether by small fry property speculators or the LDDC.

The local newspaper!

Dr. WATSON's Diary

Wednesday June 16th 8pm:
Morley College Choir and Wind group at Southwark Cathedral perform various pieces, including Stravinsky's Mass, Percy Grainger's Four Lincolnshire Folksongs, Sonata for Wind

Thursday June 17th 11.30 to 12.30
event put on by Waterloo Amenities Group outside Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Rd
Also the following Thursdays: 23rd and 30th June, 7th July. Programme to be announced.

Thursday June 17th 2.15pm:
FREE FILM SHOW 'Rosie the Rivetter' at Waterloo Action Centre. Creche available, but it would be helpful to let them know how many children you are bringing. Second showing at 7pm at Blackfriars Settlement, 44 Nelson Square. These film shows are sponsored by 'SE1' and Waterloo Amenities Group. Contact Jeanette on 261 1404 for more information.

'Rosie the Rivetter' is a witty entertaining documentary on women's wartime work experience.

Friday 18th June 2 to 4pm:
PENSIONERS RIGHTS MEETING at Waterloo Action Centre. There will be a film show entitled 'The Pensioners Film' followed by a discussion plus tea & biscuits. Also displays, leaflets, pamphlets etc. Please come and ask your questions.

Saturday June 19th:
day conference on the Campaign to Restore Democracy in Docklands. Intended for members of trade unions, tenants associations, community groups and others in the Dockland Boroughs concerned about the commercial exploitation of their area and the lack of democracy in planning.

Contact JDAG at 2 Cable St, E1
Phone 480 5324 for further details.

Thursday June 24th 7pm:
Meeting about health facilities in Waterloo at Waterloo Action Centre, SE1

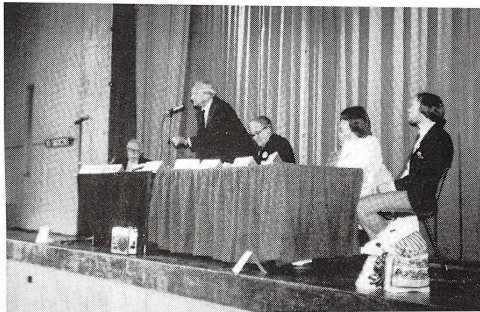
June 21st to 25th:
Housing week at Teenage Information Network, 102 Harper Rd, SE1 (corner New Kent Road) phone 403 2444 for details.

PENSIONERS UNITE! COUNCIL DRAMA FIGHTING FOR HEALTH

TO ACT

A meeting of Southwark Pensioners was held, with guest speakers, in mid-May. Here is a report of what happened and on the right is a pensioners personal viewpoint.

The meeting was very lively with over 200 pensioners questioning representatives or all three political parties on what they were doing for pensioners now and in the future. At one point the audience erupted with cries of protest as a Tory representative said how much the present government was doing for pensioners.



Issues of concern to many pensioners were raised by both speakers and questions from the audience. There was a lot of concern about the inadequacy of the death grant, currently £30, which needs to be raised to cover the costs of a funeral, around £450.

Street violence was discussed at some length, with agreement on all sides that something should be done about pensioners being too frightened to go out of doors after dark.

MONDAY CLUB

We are a group of 40 pensioners who meet regularly at Waterloo Action Centre, on Mondays between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. The favourite activity is bingo, but we often invite speakers along to talk about such diverse topics as crime prevention, hypothermia, and how to read your gas and electricity meter.

Outings are arranged from time to time. On 18th August the Club has a coach outing to Broadstairs, and any empty seats may be taken up by friends. We earn our own money from

The meeting closed with a speech by Jack Jones asking for justice and sufficient income for every pensioner to live with dignity in their retirement. The question of standing charges on electricity and gas led onto a discussion of the high cost of fuel and the numbers of pensioner deaths annually by hypothermia. Estimates range from 600 to thousands, and that if this number of people dies in the Falkland war there would be a national outcry. Finally Jack Jones talked of some of the provision available in other European countries, and how Britain is far behind.

As a result of the public meeting and interest from a number of pensioners in SE1,

we are trying to establish a local Pensioners' Action Group to take up local issues which affect pensioners. The first meeting will be on Thursday 24th June from 1.30 - 3.30 at Borough Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road. Please come if you are a pensioner concerned about bad treatment either locally or nationally.

For further details contact Pete Firth (Blackfriars Settlement) 928 9524, or Linda Kenley (Borough Community Centre) 928 6476.

jumble sales and raffles, so that outings are heavily subsidised for members. It is due to the Club's enthusiastic members that it keeps going even during August, when the co-ordinator takes a well-earned break.

SMALL ADS.

Daily MOTHER'S HELP/NANNY required to look after 7 month old girl. Must be willing to work flexible hours. Good pay and plenty of time off. Tel: 403 2613 evenings.

& SPEAK OUT

The right to be heard and to retain your dignity, security and independence: we must be heard and above all we must unite. Let us now make a stand and notify all and sundry, including those who were placed in power, and promised us so much, but gave us nothing in return.

On Wed. 19th May we heard our voices ring about our discontent at Peckham Civic Hall, where we were invited along to the public meeting. Several speakers were provided, including Jack Jones, who gave us a lot of encouragement and strength and who has done so much for us by making himself heard in the Temple of Powers.

Several other speakers seemed to be using the meeting for their own motivation, with promises of better things to come if they were elected. Listen to G. Bowden speaking on 'Law and Order', believing he could win support for his Scrooge-like party, which, along with their massive cut-backs, left everybody gasping for breath. He was asked by one pensioner whether the death penalty would be brought back as a deterrent against rising crime. Let me remind Mr. Bowden that the death penalty still exists: only last year over 600 elderly people died of hypothermia, in other words they died from lack of heat at home because they could not afford to pay their massive fuel bills.

Let's have no more Fuel Cut Offs! Let's have no more Means Test! Give us adequate money to live on. After all, we put you where you are, so come on, get off the fence and let's have some action.

So I say to you, my friends the pensioners and the elderly, let us UNITE, make our movement stronger, and above all, let us show Westminster that we will not be treated like things left on a pawn broker's shelf gathering dust. I hope we will be meeting soon to let them know that we mean business. Let our numbers grow larger!

Jim McDougall
Borough Community Centre

FREE DESK!

The SE1 office at 12 Meymott has a grey metal desk, 3 drawers, one side, 2 on other side. Approx. top area 2'6"x5'. Tel John at work 633 9557.

TERRY RICH, LABOUR COUNCILLOR FOR BISHOPS WARD, LAMBETH, REPORTS ON EVENTS AT LAMBETH TOWN HALL

The couple of weeks following the council elections here in Lambeth produced more drama, excitement and suspense than the whole of the election campaign. With Labour coming out victorious, though only just, would we be able to win the crucial vote to elect a Labour mayor so that we could form an administration? How would the SDP and Liberal councillors line up in this crucial vote?

Having been elected as the only Labour councillor for this area I felt particularly anxious that what shouldn't happen was for the Tory party, who after all have been rejected in this area since records began, to be allowed to take control and bring in the cuts in services, rent increases and redundancies that their rule would entail. I know from the hundreds of people I'd spoken to over the election campaign that whether they were voting Labour or SDP, there was no desire to bring in the Tories.

SE1 The local newspaper!

SE1 is a paper by and for local people in North Southwark and Waterloo. We welcome articles, news items, stories ideas and also help in producing the paper! The paper is produced entirely voluntary. Meetings are open to anybody who wishes to contribute, but any articles appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent the views of the group as whole.

Yet today Lambeth is Tory controlled, despite the fact that they have only 27 seats to Labour's 32 and the Alliances 5. How come? Because the SDP and Liberal councillors, including your own John Medway and Paul Reynolds, voted to put them there.

In a long and angry council meeting on May 26th, time after time the SDP and Liberal behaved as impeccable Tory voting fodder. They claim to have the word of the Tories that there will be no "major" cuts and "mass" redundancies, yet already cuts are being planned in major sections of council services in this area! What they seem unable to grasp is that their only bit of power is now spent.

In handing control of Lambeth to the Tories, who can now dominate every council committee, the SDP have both betrayed the people that voted for them and have shown themselves for what they really are and what Labour said throughout the election campaign: Tories under another name. It may be too late this time, but the people of Waterloo will not forget the contempt with which the Alliance treated their votes in 1982.

Meetings, at Blackfriars Settlement, are on June 9th and 23rd at 7pm. Or come along to our 'drop-in' on the same days at our office to chat about the paper or give us your news and views. between 1.30 and 3.30pm

Deadline for articles for the next issue is 23rd June, appearing on 2nd July.

Copy etc to SE1 Community Newspaper Group, 12 Meymott St, SE1.

All over the country Trade Unionists were striking on Fri. 4th June against the government's 4% pay offer for health workers. SE1 health workers were taking part to stop the Tory's plans to bolster private health care and sabotage the N.H.S. The workers, nurses, porters, cleaners and drivers are some of the lowest paid in the country.

Workers are incensed at the lies of the Fleet St. Press. Many professional workers are supporting the action and all the T.U.'s are having a mass recruitment campaign. The T.U.C. is supporting these workers, but they need local union support as well.

At St. Thomas' the COHSE steward, Raymond Harrison, was organising the picket. He said, 'There has been police harassment here. The police are calling out to people to break the picket line. I was told to keep my mouth shut, but we carry on organising, that's our job.'

Ron Lynn ASTMS is the joint TU organiser reckons there is a lot of support, including the nurses, who are allowing emergency cover and letting urgent medical supplies through. Thus 'life and death' cases, plus casualty, renal, radiotherapy patients and expectant mums would not be affected by union action.

It has not been reported that some ASTMS workers have been offered a zero % pay deal, and this when inflation is still in double figures.

At the picket line a doctor's car actually hit a picket, but he was not seriously hurt. Some judges got a rise of 21% and there is no shortage of money for the war in the South Atlantic. The miners are promising support if the campaign continues. Now other SE1 workers must come to the Health Workers' aid.



A cheerful new health project worker, Catrina McCormick.

CHANGE AT WATERLOO

There is a lot of movement of workers at local community projects at the moment, so we thought we would let you know what's going on. They are there for the local community to use, so do contact them if they can help you in any way.

WATERLOO HEALTH PROJECT based at Waterloo Action Centre.

Catrina McCormick started work there on May 17th, having moved down from Newcastle, where she was a community worker. She replaces Jane Miller, who has left after five years (having been in on the start) for a well earned break followed by doing a teaching course.

We wish them both success.

WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE

Maish Ernst is leaving at the end of June after two years working with local tenants groups, advice work, and not forgetting the Coin St inquiry. Details of the new worker next time!

BLACKFRIARS PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

Caro Webb is leaving as we go to print. After several years of valuable work with local groups and events, she will be missed, but she won't be disappearing entirely, living in Roupell St.

WOMEN IN PRINT

PRINTING UP TO A3 SIZE
Typesetting & Artwork arranged

Letterheads * Leaflets * Stickers * Posters * Booklets
Office Stationery etc

Ring or call in for estimates

16a Hiffe Yard, Off Crampton St.,
London S.E.17.
Ph: (01) 701 8314



INCONVENIENCE Half a mile to relieve yourself if you are caught short here! See front page article on the Flat Iron Square toilets.

Bermondsey Way

One of our continuing series of features on interesting local residents.....

Both Jim and Lil Patrick were born in Bermondsey. Lil's father grew up in Southwark Park Road, her mother in Spa Road. Jim's mother came from Walworth and his father from Edmonton-initially he walked all the way from Edmonton to Bermondsey daily to go to work for Spiller's.

Jim and Lil went to the same school off the Neckinger, which is named after an underground river below the Neckinger Estate that comes out at Shad Thames and was formerly used to feed the pits of a tannery. Next to the school was the vestry yard, the forerunner of the borough council, which supplied electricity at the country's cheapest rate to local residents. Spare light bulbs were also provided.

Bermondsey was full of odours: they came from Pearce Duff's, Peek Freans, tanners and fell-mongers, the last one being closed very soon. They were swamped by flies and TB. As Lil says, "We're the survivors. We've survived mass unemployment, disease, the war, but whether we'll survive old age is another matter!"

same as last week

There used to be a pawn shop in every street, and regular as clockwork on a Monday morning you would hear the phrase "Same as last week" when an item was pawned to pay the rent. The cost was 1d in the shilling. Every street also had its money lender.

"Tooley St. used to be the ladder of the country. My mother and sisters worked in the print. The last Metal Box factory closes in August," added Jim. Lil started work at the age of 14 at the Chamberwell Beauty printing firm in Peckham for just one week and hated it. So she moved to working for a leather firm nearer home and earned 10/- a week. Her hours were 8am-5pm with an hour for lunch. When overtime was available she would work from 8am-8pm.

wedding

Jim and Lil's wedding took place under difficult conditions. They married in 1940, and Lil was bombed out of both home and job in the same week. Jim was on embarkation leave. There were no invitations, but plenty of fog, and later in the day there was an air raid.

Lil's firm moved firstly to Butler's Warf but was soon to be burnt out. The second move was to Highbury on a temporary basis, then to Hampstead in Chappell's piano factory. Lil stopped work to nurse her mother, who died at 52 as a result of long-standing malnutrition. Lil was called up as an Air Raid Warden and was thus employed during the flying bomb era. Later Lil went to work in a day nursery, and after 38 years she still works there. "It's hard work, frustrating work, but never boring!"

Jim remained in the UK during the war, partly in the pay corps. Cycling was a recognised sport, and servicemen were allowed to wear sports gear, including shorts, which didn't go down to well with the Major.

in tandem

Even before the war Jim built his own solo bike, and a tandem, which saw Jim and Lil through a good few miles. On one occasion they cycled to North Wales in 2 days, and on another trip they started cycling from Manchester and headed for the Lake District and then for Inverness (That was on honeymoon-6 years later!) Yet another trip took them to Holland, where they covered some 400 miles.

Jim used to run a youth club. He pioneered youth hostelling abroad, and in fact it was during a holiday in Scandinavia that back home Lil gave birth to their son, Ian, in 1948. It is unfortunate that in time Ian and his family were compelled to take work outside London in Southampton in order to secure decent accommodation which was lacking in Southwark.

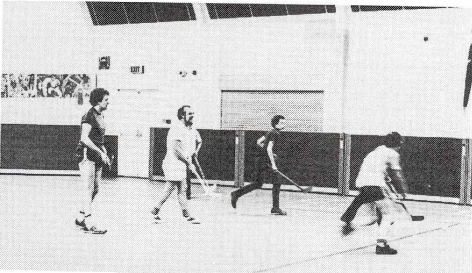
Jim started work in an army surplus firm in Long Lane, but he was made redundant when bread rationing was introduced after the war, as bread crumbs were no longer available to make cake decorations. He then worked for Crosbie & Blackwell and was sacked for trying to gain trade union recognition for the clerical workers. But for a blackened name he would have gone on to work at Chamber's Wharf. Since then Jim has worked in road haulage, including BRS, and had to clear up all the depots on denationalisation in the 50's.

"Local commitments have mushroomed on us," Jim and Lil are well involved in Bermondsey, and Lil feels that she was born into involvement, for her father was in the National Unemployed Workers' Movement. Since 1974 Lil has been chair person for her Tenants' Association.

Both Jim and Lil have belonged to the North Southwark Development Group since 1970 when it began.

They are interested in the development of Surrey Docks, and under the umbrella of the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Society contributed to the proposal that the Dockland should be used on a short term basis for leisure purposes. The Patricks are also members of the Bermondsey forum. If time had only allowed, we could have talked for longer, because we never got round to Jim's interests in photography, boat building and caravan building!

If you would like to nominate a current or previous SE1 resident who might wish to talk about his/her experiences please phone Chris after 9 pm on 261 9710. I look forward to hearing from you.



Community Education

NEW COMMUNITY EDUCATION BUILDINGS AT MORLEY COLLEGE

Fifteen years ago Morley College pioneered the idea of creche and playgroup provision for the children under five of students attending its day-time classes. We were the first college in the country to make such provision on a regular daily guaranteed basis rather than in an ad hoc way. Since then our example has been widely emulated. This provision was made in four 'pre-fab' houses on a bombed site belonging to the College. The pre-fabs, built in the early 50s as temporary housing, finally wore out and just had to be replaced.

At the same time it was thought obviously wise to develop the whole bombed site which backs on to a very attractive garden: indeed the Southwark planning authority have insisted that we ultimately develop the whole site, building a ground floor plus two extra floors to take up the line of the remainder of the terraced housing in King Edward Walk.

This stipulation gives the College a chance to develop in such a way as will not only replace and increase the creche and playgroups but also plan a

COLOMBO SPORTS CENTRE

Workers and management committee were at loggerheads at the Colombo St. Open Day. Hopefully it was only while playing 'uni-hockey' with a scratch team (see picture). This was just one of many activities which take place at this multi-purpose sports and community centre off Blackfriars Road: many of them going on some time during the open day with visitors watching or even taking part!

A hectic sports schedule followed in the evening by a well attended social.

If you want details of activities at the Centre, contact Bob, Jim or Ros on 261 1658.

YOUNG VIC THEATRE

DATES

Friday 9th July at City of London Festival;
Sunday 18th July Waterloo Festival;
Saturday 25th July at Lambeth Country Show;

dates to be confirmed include:
? Saturday 17th June at Festival of Sport, and
? Saturday 26th June at Brixton... During August it is planned to tour youth clubs, where appreciation is generally at its highest.

WE NEED UNITY

There is currently no contact between youth theatre movements in London, so Pete of the YV Youth Theatre hit upon the idea of a 'Face behind the Phone' evening, when several Youth Theatre groups will meet to discuss the setting up of a network to share resources.

Youth Theatre needs to unite to be able to fight proposals to cut their funding, and on a practical level to loan materials and to shift kids between groups according to their age.

introducing PETE DEBRA & STEVE

The YV Youth Theatre is made up of 3 actors, namely Pete, Debra and Steve, who are on a one-year contract from the Manpower Services Commission. The MSC also employs professional actors for the Young Vic Education and Community Service, known as Y.V.E.C.S. (pronounced eevex) which will be performing at the YV later this month. The play is called 'Some Enchanted Evening', by C. P. Taylor and deals humourously and sensitively with the problems of the generation gap, and will include songs to encourage audience participation. The musicians who will take part have also been heard in 'Lullaby of Waterloo', which appeared at the Waterloo Action Centre and at Colombo St Centre in April.

The photographs show: Top-Nicola performing a musical turn in 'Lullaby'; Middle-Y.V.E.C.S. musicians; Bottom-scene from 'Cuts', performed with 'Lullaby'.

I was lucky enough to have an interview at very short notice with C. J. Rushton, who is directing the project which will appear at the Waterloo Festival and is entitled, 'Jungle in the City'. This will be performed by kids from South London and is in three parts:

1) The first part shows the rivalry both between gangs, and found within gangs, of Skins and Punks, Dreads (Rastafarian) and New Romantics. These groups are depicted as animals, ie, the skins appear as bulldogs, the Dreads as lions, and the New Romantics as parrots and peacocks. The Culture Vulture character is seen to encourage the inter-gang rivalry, and takes the goods that they have to offer, eg their music.

2) The animal masks which have been worn during the first part are removed to reveal half masks, which are more human. The gangs realise that they have been ripped off, each gang shows what it has to offer, and they begin to trade these goods amongst themselves. The Culture Vulture returns, but this time the groups resist him.

3) In this final part all the groups attack the Culture Vulture, they remove their half masks and celebrate that they are all human, and finish by replacing the masks.

Three types of music are used during 'Jungle in the City': reggae, punk and electronic romantic. Against a background of recorded music there will be some live percussion.

and/or in future work. This room will have simple self-catering facilities and could also be used for weekend seminars, local meetings etc. * It will also house the offices of the social studies and community education department, the literacy, numeracy and English as a second language department, and the 'Community Education Project'.

What we eventually put into the other two floors depends to some extent on the outcome of ILCA plans for nearby buildings. But the top floor will certainly be a very fine multi-purpose studio/workshop. The middle floor may contain other workshops which could be devoted to training in skills for the unemployed and for other basic or community education subjects.

We know that the current changes in population structure a growing number of old people and less of school age, and with the call for a more flexible workforce and the threat of long term structural unemployment, the need for adult education is greater than ever.

BARRY TILL, Principal, Morley College



LOCAL RADIO

While SE1 is a stab at covering local issues which are not reported by the commercial papers and the South London Press, if you listen to local radio, you may wonder whether it manages to get as 'local' as London as a whole! This is the conclusion of a report produced by Local Radio Workshop on 'Local Radio in London'. They took a whole weeks programmes from Capital, LBC and Radio London and examined them to see what made them 'local'. Very little, it seems! If our local commercial press appears rather scanty on relevant news to SE1 readers, concentrating more on court reports and re-hashed press releases and shockstories, then radio is even worse in doing what it is supposed to. But

you cannot (legally) correct this by putting out an SE1 of the airways: who runs radio in this country is tightly controlled. (There are some pirate radio stations operating at the weekend in London, mainly on VHF). So we have to rely on what is available, and try to change it through pressure.

The report clearly shows that what new there is, is easy to get hold of, eg, court and police reports, items lifted from the daily press or official press hand-outs, or even from sales promotions for new books, records etc.

When both Capital and LBC got their licences to transmit (franchises), they said that they would specifically report

London news, but there is little more than traffic reports! There is rarely anybody other than officials, experts and the famous talking about it and never a chance for ordinary Londoners to properly air their views. Phone-ins are strongly controlled by the presenter, with callers rarely able to go into depth on matters.

Apart from this, much of the talk, particularly between records on Radio London and Capital is blatantly sexist. And if the stations are to broadcast mainly music with a chat inbetween, why not some LOCAL MUSIC. Again the report finds that there is almost none at all: it is dominated by records by the big record

companies, current or past 'hits'. How about some local recordings, or even live performances, of the many groups playing around town who have not made it big?

LBC, (the new station), has its broadcasting licence up for renewal at the moment: Local Radio Workshop are pressing for a minimum number of hours per week of programmes that will get seriously involved in London issues, with a clear amount of staff and resources attached. For more details of their campaign, see how you can help, contact them at 12 Praed Mews W2 tel: 01-402 7651. The report 'Local Radio in London' costs £2 available from them or try Southbank Bookshop 113 Borough Road SE1.

increases, it could be possible for the council to carry out a rent freeze policy themselves rather than tenants taking the initiative. But Alan Davis was not at all sure what they would be doing. He felt that such a TA controlled rents freeze put pressure on elderly people and others afraid of being evicted if they withheld part of their rent. In contrast, an SGTA spokesperson said that some of the elderly were in the forefront of the action.

SGTA has asked for an urgent meeting with the new council leaders, and are working to keep up the pressure by getting more people to join the freeze.

Contact SGTA at 190 Southwark Park Road, SE16 phone 231 7275



One area Alan Davis was reluctant to be drawn on was the 'Rents Freeze' issue. This is the campaign led by the Southwark Group of Tenants Associations to get people not to pay their increase in their council rent which was charged from April 5th.

SGTA are confident that the freeze is having an effect, and even before the new council was elected, the rent increases were reduced marginally for most Southwark tenants (by a fair chunk for ex-GLC tenants)



LAMBETH

Bishops Ward includes all of Waterloo which is in Lambeth. Terry Rich (Labour) Thursdays at China Walk Tenants Hall 6.45pm. Also Bryn Davies, GLC councillor last Wednesday of the month at Waterloo Action Centre 6pm. John Medway and Paul Reynolds are holding a joint surgery with the SDP councillors in Princes Ward, Thursdays at North Lambeth Neighbourhood Council, 73 Lambeth Walk, SE11 (24 hour ansaphone)

Chaucer Ward south of Cathedral Ward, down to New Kent Road: John Fowler, Anne Matthews and Jessica Wanamaker. First Friday of the month at Hankey Place TA, Tabard Estate, 6 to 7.30pm. Second Friday at St Judes 6 to 7.30pm. Fourth Saturday at Rockingham TA 10 to 12 noon. They wish to point out that they are willing to hold special surgeries for groups, going out to them (eg for mothers & toddlers, senior citizens) Contact John Fowler on 403 5275 (24 hour ansaphone)

CO-OPS AND REPORT

The Housing Corporation has just announced that the Brandram's Wharf housing co-operative in Rotherhithe Street, Bermondsey, can go ahead at a cost of £1,300,000. It will be the largest fair rent housing scheme approved in South London this year and represents a major success for the housing co-op in its long struggle to get public housing on this Docklands site.

The plan is to convert the Brandram's wharf warehouse into 38 flats - 20 for couples, 10 for single people, and eight for 'single sharers'. In the half of the flats which the co-op has the freedom to allocate, priority will be given to local people. The other half of the flats will go to Council nominations from their waiting list, so again local people should benefit.

The co-op is very keen to hear from local people who would like to get involved in the co-op. So if you are interested contact Dave Brown c/o Society for Co-operative Dwellings, 209 Clapham Road, London, SW9 or ring 403 5244.

The Directory costs £4.50 including postage, and subscribers will automatically be sent a free monthly newsletter which includes updating information 'HARU News'.

For further details contact Bartle Sawbridge at Housing Advice Resource Unit, SCVS, 135 Rye Lane, SE15 phone 732 3649

SURGERIES

All local councillors run regular 'surgeries' where local people can take their problems and complaints concerning local matters. They can't guarantee to be able to sort everything out, but most will do their best.

SOUTHWARK: Cathedral Ward the north east corner of the borough reaching to Borough Road and Borough High Street: Alan Davis and Geoff Williams hold surgeries 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, 7 to 8pm

at Blackfriars Settlement, 44 Nelson Square, SE1
Riverside Ward bounded by the railway line from London Bridge, down to Southwark Park: Barbara Burgess, Jim Patrick & Coral Newell. First Friday of the month at Area 2 Social Services, Tooley St. 7.30 to 9pm. Second Friday Lockwood Rent Office, Drummond Rd 7 to 9pm. Third Friday Area 2 Social Services, 7.30 to 9pm. Fourth Friday Tooley St Tenants Hall, Fair St. 7.30 to 9pm

ALAN

DAVIS



Although there was no change in party control of Southwark Council in the May elections, the new Labour group of councillors in charge is very different from that before.

The new Leader is Alan Davis who was, along with George Nicholson, a backbench councillor for Cathedral Ward on the old council. George's place has been taken by Geoff Williams, who lives in The Cut, and has become the chairperson of Planning and Development in the borough. Interestingly, one reason why George stepped down was because as the GLC councillor for Bermondsey, he is now vice-chairperson of that Planning Committee! It must be all the experience with grandiose office schemes!

FOOTBALL

Alan Davis found time before watching the FA Cup Final on TV to talk to SE1 on various matters. Although he intends leaving planning issues to Geoff in the future, he was pleased to report that the Inquiry into the North Southwark District Plan would not be re-opened (see last issue page 3) and that this plan would now go back to committee for re-consideration. This was a special item on the annual council meeting agenda: in fact the only item apart from setting up the committees for the following year.

As it was only two weeks into the new council, Alan was

the borough, and there was little report back of its activities to the council, even though it was council funded. It won't be until the new council representatives go to their first meeting of the company that the full picture will emerge.

Alan has doubts anyway about whether giving money to private employers is a very cost effective way of providing jobs, as there is no guarantee that it will be used properly in creating new work. Instead, as the council itself is a large employer of local people, he wants to see it fill the many vacant posts which have been left unfilled, and get staff back up to its full level.

As Leader, Alan also wrote within a few days of gaining that position to Norman Tebbit at the Department of Employment supporting Elephant Jobs in its campaign (see elsewhere in this issue).

themselves at P&R meetings, there will be more of a team approach (Alan supports Arsenal)

Did he think that there might be some problems with existing council officers who might not welcome this change in style? Alan agreed that it would be a new experience for many officers, as John O'Grady had been there for 14 years. This might make the officers have to re-assess their approach. There may well have to be some transfers in staff as departments are also re-arranged to suit, but the new council is committed to no redundancies, plus consultation with the workers.

The new council does not want to repeat the poor industrial relations record of the old.

WORKLOAD

PRESS PARANOIA

In the light of Ted Knight's problems in Lambeth, was he worried about how he would be portrayed by the press? (South London Press had already branded it as an extreme left wing council.) His reply was firstly that he regarded himself as always having been in the mainstream of the party, and would be labelled a moderate. Secondly, the council should be judged on what it did, not how it was labelled.

One thing it will be doing is changing what is a somewhat archaic and confusing committee structure. This is going to take a lot of sorting out, and so there won't be a summer recess, according to Alan, and councillors can cancel their holidays now!

RESHUFFLE

By autumn, the new committee structure should be created, providing all goes well. At the end of the process, there will be a more even spread of responsibility between councillors. This will give a more even workload, and more devolved, and hopefully involved decision making. As part of this the Policy and Resources committee, which in the past has made all the important policy decisions, will be abolished. Instead of the chair persons of the committees stitching things up amongst

DIRTY TRICK

Planning agreement had been rushed through for other schemes, including that reported in issue 4 for Running Horses Yard and Meymott St. As in some cases contracts had been exchanged, the new Labour group is now having to look at what they could do legally.

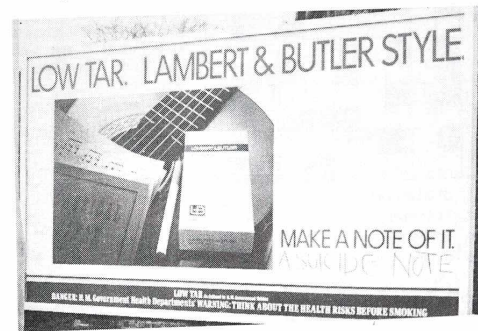
And with the London Docklands Development Corporation now controlling development for a fair chunk of the riverside, they can't do a lot there. Ex Southwark Leader John O'Grady is on the LDDC board, but he does not need to resign, and is unlikely to do so. It is unlikely that the new council would want to be represented on the board anyway.

Employment is another area where the old council preferred to hide what it was doing. They set up a private company to assist industry and commerce in

UNDER THREAT

Certainly, the views of local people are now more likely to be taken into account in decision making. As he says "these are the communities under threat, the ones at the north of the borough", and while he didn't have much success fighting for their interests under the old administration, as council leader he should be able to do more, if it not already too late.

Hopefully later in the year he will be able to tell which direction things are moving. Alan invited SE1 to talk with him again then. Watch this space!



POPE PASSING

It is not every day that the Pope visits SE1, so it was a good excuse for taking the Friday afternoon off work, especially as it was a beautiful day. Even so, the crowds were not very large: indeed the 8 mounted police didn't need to leave their temporary paddock in Kennington nick's yard.

But it was a major police operation with two 'look-outs' using high power binoculars perched high on top of St. Georges Cathedral, where the Pope was to give a service. The route and many side streets were lined with crush barriers.

The service itself was for the disabled, chronically sick and dying, and getting the congregation into the cathedral was another major operation. Virtually every hall in the immediate area was used for refreshments after the service.

Some locals were a little put out at their buses being diverted making it very difficult to go anywhere. Whether you are a Roman Catholic or not, perhaps giving some all too rare pleasure to the disabled and dying is not to be grudged too much.

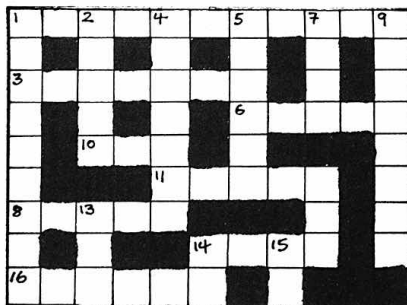
DONT STALL OUR FESTIVAL!

The Festival desperately needs more barrows/market stalls for Sunday 18th July. If you know of anyone who might be able to lend us some, please contact Rita Wood (see below) and leave a message.

STALL APPLICATIONS

The Festival Organisers would like to remind all groups who have applied for stalls at the Festival to return their forms as soon as possible to WAC. As we still have a shortage of barrows, applications may have to be dealt with on a first-returned, first-served basis.

Tel Rita 261 1404
Waterloo Action Centre
14 Baylis Road SE1



- 1 LIFE STORY
2 THESPIAN
4 BREAKFAST FISH
5 BLACKPOOL FOR EXAMPLE

- 7 LOCALITY
9 TERRIFIC
13 ITS WAGES DEATH
14 ALTERNATIVELY
15 NOT EGD.

DOWN :-

ACROSS :-

- 1 EXTREME NORTH WEST SOUTHWARK
3 ALARMING CREATURE SOMETIMES
6 SPEAK AS IF FOR AUDIENCE
8 ABRASES WITH UNPLEASANT SOUND
10 GRAIN
11 RELATION BETWEEN 2 SIDES
14 'OO 'HELLO' STATE
16 THERE!

Answers next month

ELEPHANT RISING



G.L.C. Money up front SUPPORT

SE1 residents have been in the forefront of battles to keep the inner city communities alive in the face of pressures for commercial development. At long last, this battle has been recognised officially by the GLC, and in fact they have set aside £5million for projects in six areas for this purpose.

They have come up with a 'community areas' policy. This will give special attention to such areas, in desperate need of more housing or community facilities but which are in danger of being swamped by offices and other commercial development instead, or faced with land being left derelict.

The South Bank (Waterloo and Bermondsey) is one of the 6 areas they are concentrating on this year. The other areas are Spitalfields, South Hackney, Fitzrovia, Hammersmith and Southall. At the moment the GLC is wide open to any ideas of how this money should be sent, and would welcome suggestions and applications.

Possible uses include reclaiming derelict land or buildings, converting buildings for community use, possibly even building new housing or buying equipment.

If you have any ideas, as a group or individually, contact either the Associations of Waterloo Groups c/o Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Rd, SE1 or N. Southwark Community Development Group, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1

Waterloo Health Centre?

Anybody who has got any views on the health facilities in the Waterloo area, or who is interested in health matters is welcome to come to a meeting on June 24th. It is at the Barley Mow Clinic Frazier St at 7pm.

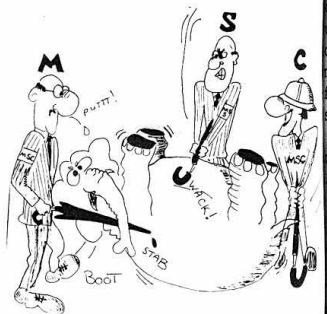
There will be information about what facilities are like in other areas, and your views are wanted on whether facilities are adequate locally. Is a health centre wanted, or could services be improved in another way?

See you there!

Some goods news on employment for a change:

After a large amount of lobbying by Elephant Jobs, plus support from local people, Southwark Council and others, the job creation company has been saved, along with 145 jobs for disadvantaged South Londoners! Until March 1983 that is, and as long as they meet certain conditions by September.

Elephant Jobs has still to make its craft workshops meet what is wanted by the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) in terms of providing 'community benefit'. This government agency which funds the Community Enterprise Programme does not think that training people in workshops which try to operate in a commercial market is a true community benefit. So if the unique tufted carpet making workshop is to continue they will have to find a non-commercial market for what is quite an expensive process. Other workshops producing silkscreen posters, jewellery and pottery will equally have to stop trading on the open market.



The MSC has also raised some points on the accounts of the organisation, but this is more a question of bookkeeping practice than anything else. They want to see details of all other funding that EJ gets, which has usually been raised to fund specific items which the MSC won't cover. EJ had up to now thought that this was none of their business, but it seems that as usual those in authority want more information than they need.

You've read the local alternative...
The national alternative is in your newsagent...

the Leveller

fortnightly on a Thursday

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An independent feminist/socialist magazine. Sexual politics, international politics, news, reviews & listings