

SEI

Community opening for riverside park

Bermondsey's new riverside park by Tower Bridge had its second opening last month. Lil Patrick, life-long local resident, named the park Potters Fields in a community organised fair to commemorate the event.

Located in one of the most privileged positions in London, with magnificent views of the Thames, the Tower of London and Tower Bridge, the new park was an unbeatable location for a community celebration.

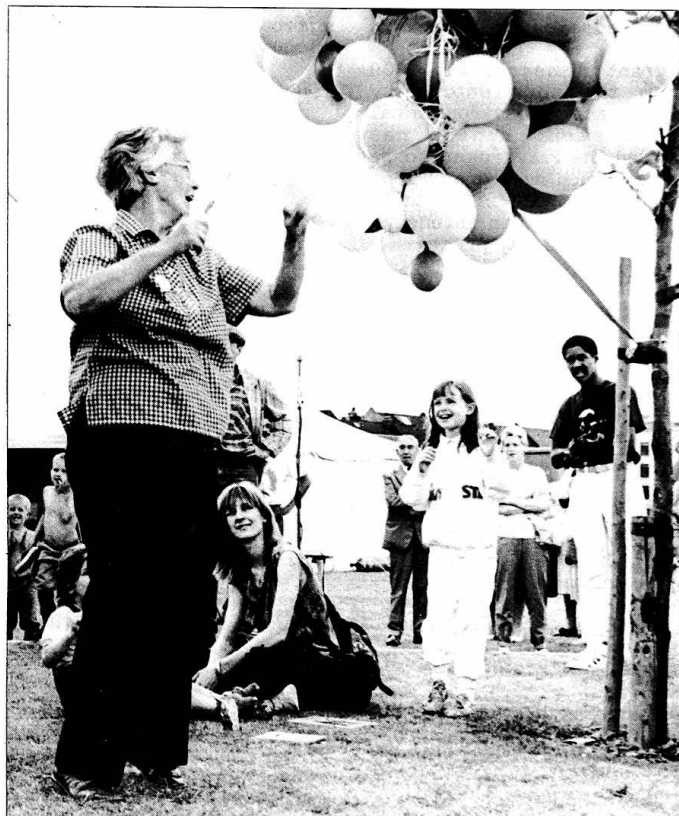
Lil recalled the times when dockers lined up for a day's work in all weather on the site of what is now Potters Fields. Hundreds of children were born in local tenement blocks like Vine Street Buildings, for whom a blade of grass was a rare sight indeed. "Some of those children are here today", said Lil.

The park was officially opened by the Mayor of Southwark, Rita Sergeant, at the end of June. But local residents decided to organise their own opening after the Council had neglected to invite them to the official one.

In a short space of time, and with few financial resources, Tooley Street Tenants Association and North Southwark Community Development Group organised the 'Potters Fields Opening Fair' to celebrate the long campaign local residents have waged to open up the riverside to public use.

Despite the lack of means, the Fair was a great success attended by nearly a thousand people in the course of the afternoon. In particular, the many young children present enjoyed the activities and entertainments put on especially for them, including a play 'The Island' performed by the locally based Upstream Children's Theatre.

The success of the 'Potters Fields Opening Fair' contrasted with failure of the 'Surrey Quays Festival' organised by the London Docklands Development Corporation the week before. Despite all the money and organisational resources available to them, their event resembled a 'ghost town', according to a report in the South London Press.



Lil Patrick declares Potters Fields open

North Southwark under threat

North Southwark is currently under threat from a further wave of developments which threatens the future of our community.

Proposals for office and tourist developments are reaching a new high in the area. Ted Bowman, Chair of the North Southwark Community Development Group, warned that "this threat to the local community is greater than it has ever been."

The location of North Southwark, just across the river from the City of London, has always made it a prime target for office expansion. As developers run out of land in Southwark's Docklands, they are shifting their search to North Southwark. Planning policies which sought to restrict developments to those which would benefit the

community, have sadly been rejected by the present government.

A walk along the river front between Tower Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge - if the path is not closed for construction work! - highlights the amount of new office building going on in the area. At Southwark Bridge the 210,000sq ft "Black Box" owned by the Financial Times combines the worst in office developments and architectural design. Unfortunately the building dominates the public housing and industrial workshops being built on the old Courages Brewery site.

Next to the Financial Times building approval has already been given for "Red Lion Court", which will stand 12 floors high. On the west side of Southwark Bridge, "City

Gate" offers 70,000sq ft of office space. The Midland Bank have recently received permission for 210,000 sq ft of space behind the site of the Globe Theatre, on Bankside. Initially operating as a cheque sorting operation this building may become an office block in the future.

Many more massive developments are currently being fought by the local community. At Hays Wharf, St Martins development Company wish to build an office block resembling a larger version of the Houses of Parliament. This involves 1.2 million sq ft of offices! At Clink Street, Clarke London Ltd, want to build a 21 storey tower of luxury flats on the river. A Heritage Museum on Stoney Street, next to the Borough Market, threatens horrendous traffic problems

in an already congested area.

The developers are even moving into residential areas. Tenants in Weston Street recently fought off an office development next to Guinness Trust properties. Southwark Council have even been approached by a developer who wishes to build a staggering 400,000 sq ft of offices between Borough High Street, Redcross Way, Southwark Street and Union Street.

While Southwark Council's new Interim Planning Policies attempt to restrict office development to below 30,000 sq ft they are proving to be completely ineffective. Many office developments are being given permission at appeal by the Secretary of State.

Continued back page, col. 1

'The Barge' in dry dock

Residents of the Tanwell Estate and others in the Baylis Road area will have noticed that Waterloo Adventure Playground, otherwise known as 'the Barge', has lately been conspicuous by its lack of activity.

In fact there is much happening behind the scenes. Although the Playground is closed at the moment it will shortly see the most dramatic changes since the Thames river barge was first delivered some 12 years ago.

A grant of nearly £150,000 from the Inner City Partnership's environmental improvement scheme has enabled the Playground to be given a much needed and long overdue facelift which is to be followed by an intensive structure building programme.

The building works, drawn up by architects Philip Lancashire in consultation with Lambeth Council and Playground staff and management, include the complete resurfacing of the site and the completion of the new perimeter fencing.

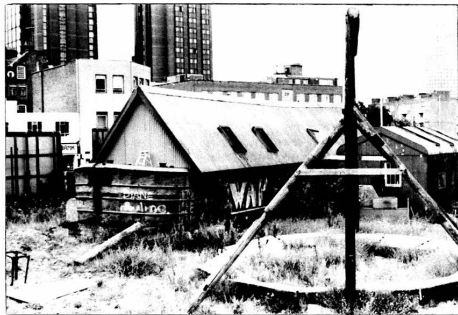
There will be turfing throughout, with special safety surfaces at strategic

points, and a new under-7's corner with a sandpit and fixed apparatus. A patio is to be added to the barge extension and this will be ramped for disabled access to the playhut.

Because of the major machinery involved in this work and the need for speed and safety it was decided to close the playground until the major part of it is completed. Unfortunately, delays in obtaining final planning approval have meant a longer closure than anticipated.

Blackfriars Settlement, which manages the project, assure local people that everything possible is being done to complete this major project and reopen the playground as soon as possible. There will be a public announcement of this and anyone wanting further information in the meantime can contact the Senior Playleader, Adrian Voce, on 928 9521.

Adrian will also have details of alternative after-school provision available from Blackfriars Settlement for the period of closure.



'The Barge'

Final roundup at the Elephant Coronet

Controversy has broken out over the partial demolition of the Coronet Cinema, formerly the Odeon, at the Elephant & Castle, which adjoins Alexander Fleming House.

The freehold owners of the site, Imry Merchant Developers, knocked down part of the roof and one of the walls of the cinema when they got wind of Southwark Council's intention to issue a Building Preservation Notice on the cinema. This would have prevented demolition work pending a decision by the Department of the Environment on whether or not to list the building so guaranteeing that it could never be pulled down.

The 1,000 seat Odeon Cinema opened its doors in 1966. It was designed by the Hungarian-born architect Erno Goldfinger who won a competition in 1959 to design the office block which is now Alexander Fleming House, the headquarters of the DHSS. As part of the conditions of the competition, the developers of the office building were obliged by the London County Council to build a cinema to replace the 3,000 seat Trocadero Cinema, designed in 1930 by George Coles, which stood previously on the site.

Alexander Fleming House, despite winning a Civic Trust Award on its completion in 1964, has been dogged by controversy in recent years. The main criticism of the building has come from users who say it is too hot to work in and that it hasn't been designed with the user in mind. With its western elevation exposed to the afternoon sun, the building heats up intolerably for those who work there.

In an attempt to overcome this problem, anti-solar mesh screens were installed years ago which considerably altered the architect's original facade. The building also suffers in the public mind from its association with the brutal 1960's environment of the Elephant & Castle, described by architectural historian Nicholas Pevsner as "one of the least loved creations of London's post-war planners."

The building's defenders, among them architect James Dunnett, want to see it listed by the Department of the Environment. They also wished to see the Cinema listed. James Dunnett is an admirer of Erno Goldfinger, who died in November last

year. Goldfinger lived in Paris from 1920 to 1934, at the beginning of the modernist movement in art and architecture. He was a disciple of the french architect Auguste Perret, a modernist innovator in the use of concrete in buildings. Goldfinger came to England in 1934.

James Dunnett regards Alexander Fleming House as one of Goldfinger's great works and a building very close in its structural design and use of materials, particularly in the use of concrete, to the pioneering modernist spirit of the 1920's and 1930's despite the fact that it was built in the 1960's. He believes that the building should be restored by removing the mesh screens, cleaning the concrete and installing modern air conditioning.

He, together with English Heritage, have opposed recent proposals by the site's freeholders, Imry Merchant Developers - who were the building's original developers and who also own the Coronet Cinema - to re-clad the facade of Alexander Fleming House. The re-cladding they believe would completely destroy the originality of the building.

Day Trip

In conjunction with the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, London Regional Transport are offering disabled people who use Mobility Buses, and their escorts, a free trip to the very attractive Lee Valley Regional Park in Hertfordshire on Sunday 11th September.

Places can be reserved on a "first come, first served" basis. You can book your space by telephoning the Unit for Disabled Passengers, London Regional Transport, on 227 3312 during office hours. Each disabled passenger may bring one able-bodied escort, provided that this is notified at the time of booking.

The Lee Valley Regional Park is wheelchair-accessible and has a number of attractive features even if the weather is disappointing. You can take a scenic cruise on the River Lee (but bring some cash for the boat fare) and the Mobility Bus will stop if required at the Rose Garden adjoining the historic Waltham Abbey and at the fascinating Hayes Hill Farm.

Pick-up point for SE1 residents will be Spurgeons' Tabernacle, Elephant & Castle, at 10.50am. Return from Broxbourne will be at 5.00pm.

When they became aware that the lease had expired on the Cinema and that it was empty they also wanted to see that building listed. They believe Southwark Council acted too slowly in issuing a Building Preservation Notice. For its part, Southwark said the owners began demolition before they had time to act. Pantom Films operated the Coronet before their lease expired. They also operate the Elephant & Castle Film Centre across the road. The upkeep of both the Coronet and the Film Centre leaves a lot to be desired. There are no plans for the closure of the latter.

The Cinema Theatre Association were also annoyed at the partial demolition of the Coronet. In their opinion, the old Odeon is "perhaps the most interesting and innovative building in cinema design since the heyday of the 1930's". It is the only cinema built after 1939 which they wish to see listed.

Southwark Council's Planning Department says that no planning application has yet been submitted for the site's redevelopment, although it is expected that the owners will want to build offices there.

A bookbinder's art

In his workshop in an arch under Cathedral Bridge, facing Southwark Cathedral, Robert Hadrill is keeping alive an art form which has today all but disappeared. Robert is a hand bookbinder and printer, one of the few still practising these crafts in London.

He trained as a hand bookbinder at Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts and on being promised a job which never materialised at the finish of his course eight years ago he determined to establish himself in his trade. Working part-time at odd jobs he was able to gradually set himself up on his own at Rotherhithe Waterside Workshops. Here, he became interested in the whole process of creating a book from printing to binding and learned more about the hand printing side of it.

The workshops were cooperatively managed by around twenty sole traders all practising their own trades such as propmaking, illustrating and bookbinding. The rents were inexpensive and Robert valued the contacts and mutual support found among the other crafts-workers at the workshops.

Some years later, together with another handbinder, Jane Holo, Robert established Bookworks. This was a gallery for book arts set up at Green Dragon Court, in the Cathedral Bridge arches, where Robert today has his workshop. He has been established there for two years and rents his premises from British Rail.

Robert's output consists of commissions and work he

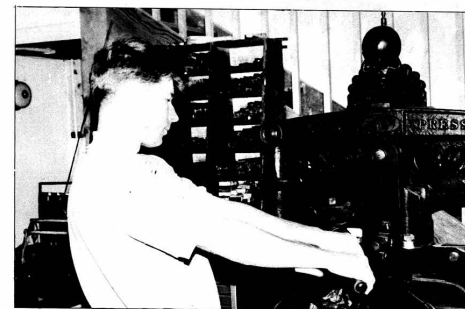
initiates himself. Typically, much of his work is concerned with artists. From linocuts or woodcuts done by the artists, Robert hand prints and binds limited editions of books. This can be in black and white or in colour. One limited edition book he recently made was hand coloured in watercolours by the artist. The resulting works are beautifully and skilfully done.

Robert also established New Pyramid Press where he collaborates with artists, illustrators and authors in the design and production of limited edition books. To date he has published five books under his own imprint.

Another aspect of Robert's work consists of boxmaking. One of his main clients is an American woman from Pennsylvania who has a valuable collection of french 'lives d'artistes' - original editions of artists' designs and texts. For her Robert produces tailor-made, decorative protective book boxes in leather. He also makes boxes for photographic archives or display.

Robert's printing equipment consists of a beautiful Atlas letterpress printing press made in England in the 1860's. It isn't its age, however, which determines its value to Robert but the fact that with this well engineered and designed piece of equipment it is possible to achieve greater control over the printing process and produce work of excellent quality.

Letterpress printing, now almost completely in decline with the advent of modern



offset printing, is also known as relief printing. That is, it prints from raised images, known as blocks, which are inked up, in Robert's case by hand with a rubber ink roller. A sheet of paper is then placed over the block and pressed to transfer the inked image to the paper. The paper is first dampened by hand to make the surface more receptive to the ink.

There is often a great deal of preparatory work before final copies can be printed. This is called 'make-ready'. Proof copies are made on the press from which it is possible to tell where there are irregularities in the block. The block may have to be built up in certain places so that the ink will be correctly distributed. It can take Robert a day to 'make ready' on a large image.

The image can be either a picture or text. Robert keeps metal and wood type in about 15 different type faces while the artists normally supply the woodcuts or linocuts.

The printed copies are dried between drying boards under pressure and then hung in racks. These can take two to seven days to dry before the other side is ready to be printed.

It is the hand bookbinding though which is time consuming. They are sewn by hand with a needle and white linen thread and a sewing frame and are then collated and cut. They are then either case bound in hard covers or leather bound. Hand leather bookbinding is a highly intricate and skilled process. A book can take anything from a few minutes to bind for a simple structure to several weeks for an elaborate fine leather binding.

It is difficult to imagine that in Robert's small but well organised workshop, using the few instruments of his craft, such beautiful objects could result. Robert Hadrill is at Arch 3, Green Dragon Court, near Beadale Street, SE1.

Correction Weston Street offices defeated

Due to a typing error in the last copy of SE1, Helen Coombe, Administrator of St Georges Health Centre, Blackfriars Road, would like to make the following amendment.

"With the decentralisation of health and North Southwark Health Authority Community Health Services, there were now firm plans to work more closely with local GPs and voluntary organisations to provide health care to fit more closely with the local population. This decentralisation is not totally related to costs but to providing a better service for the public."

Due to typing error, for which SE1 apologises, we had incorrectly stated that there were no plans for closer links and that it would reduce costs.

In an intensive campaign local Guinness Trust residents, supported by North Southwark Community Development Group, successfully opposed a four storey office block being built on their doorstep.

Residents in the Guinness Trust blocks in Snowfields, behind Guy's Hospital, were all vehemently opposed to Dawnford Properties scheme to build the office block on an adjoining site.

Access to the site would have had a major impact in Snowfields and on Guinness Trust residents. All construction and delivery lorries would have run down Ship and Mermad Row, a tiny one-lane road just feet from the bedrooms and living rooms of L Block Guinness residents.

Apart from this huge disrupt-

ion to residents' lives, the proposed block would have cut out light and damaged the privacy of Guinness residents. And the scheme would have brought lots more unwanted traffic into the area, already burdened by large scale illegal parking by City commuters.

In harshly deprived North Southwark, residents made it plain that they did not want an office block in a residential area. The campaign against the offices began after local residents visited Southwark Council planning offices to view the plans and complain about lack of written consultation; the Council had sent letters to the wrong addresses.

Despite the short timescale to oppose the office block at the Area Planning Sub-committee meeting,

residents mobilised to sign petitions, write letters, lobby councillors and planners and inform all residents of the negative impact of the development. The Committee agreed to defer the planning application.

At a specially arranged meeting in Bermondsey Village Hall in the middle of July with Planning Chair Geoff Williams, 30 residents turned out to sharply attack the office plans. The meeting became heated when the developer turned up to justify his block, worth an estimated £1 million a year in rents alone.

Days later the final Area Planning Sub-committee rejected the office block scheme, proving that local residents can take on the developers and planners and win!

POTTERS



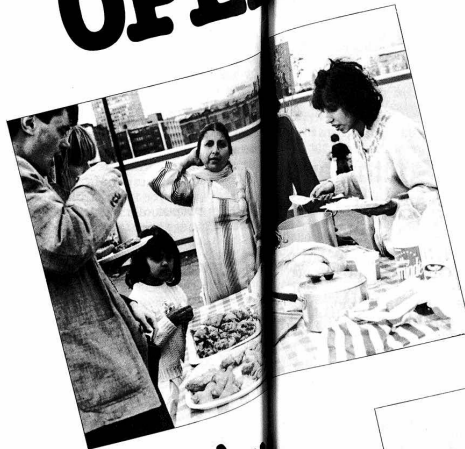
FIELDS



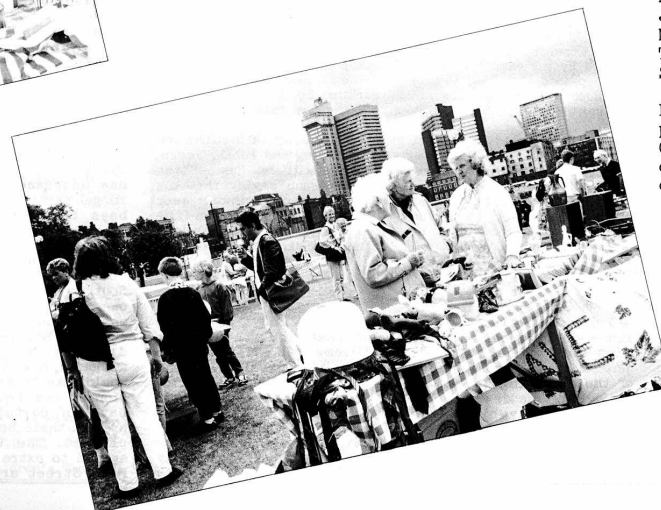
*Bermondsey
new park
by Tower Bridge*



OPENING



FAIR



The 'Potters Fields Opening Fair' was organised by Tooley Street Tenants Association and North Southwark Community Development Group.

Thanks to the following organisations and individuals who participated in making it a successful day:

Beormund Centre
Mint Street Adventure Playground
Bermondsey News
Southwark Gingerbread Mrs Gavillet
Coin Street Community Builders
Bermondsey Pensioners Action Group
Stonesend Day Centre
Bermondsey Care for the Elderly
Nelson
Justice & Development Office, Anglican Diocese of Southwark
St John's Childrens Holiday Scheme
Buster Theatre Company
Sabena Catering
Rockingham Asian Women's Centre
Sandra Buchanan
Cherry Garden Action Group
Cathedral Area Residents Association
Southwark Council
Leisure & Recreation, especially Sammy and David
Bob Taylor's Roaring Twenties Jazz Band
Upstream Childrens Theatre
Maudy
John Pole
McDonalds
Thames TV
Sainsbury's

Photographs on this page are by Maria Luisa Carvalho. Hand prints of these photos can be ordered through SE1.



Churches' Holiday Project

St Matthews and Crossways Churches, both on the New Kent Road, organised a Holiday Project at the beginning of August for 6-11 year olds from the Rookingham, Heygate and Lawson estates.

On the day SEI visited Crossways Church Hall, there was real excitement in the air, with numerous children busily engaged drawing, making models with plasticine, cutting out things, and generally enjoying themselves and one another's company.

Some 40 children participated in activities organised by 12 volunteers, all local mothers and church teenagers. Activities included theatre workshops and a presentation by Upstream Children's Theatre, a visit to Greenwich Park, a ride on the Docklands Light Railway, a visit to Crystal Palace, the Zoo, Margate, and a trip swimming.

Funding for the Holiday Project was provided by the Churches and by Southwark Council.



Fair rent homes for Tabard Street

At Southwark's Planning Committee meeting in June, outline planning permission was granted to Ujima Housing Association for two phases of a development on Tabard Street, near Borough Tube Station.

The sites lie on derelict council land remaining after the demolition some years ago of the Hayles buildings, adjoining shops, and the sale of parts for office development. They had been identified for residential development in the North Southwark Plan prior to its rejection two years ago by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The proposals envisage a total of 30 flats, at fair rents. Ujima is an association that specialises in housing ethnic minorities. Half the flats are to be made available to those currently on Southwark's waiting lists. They will be predominantly for young single people and couples without children.

Ujima and Walter Wenteth Architects have proposed that Silver Street be closed to enable the building of a bridge of housing linking two derelict sites on opposite street corners. The limited grant available can thus be used economically to develop land that would not otherwise

be viable for Housing Association development.

The sites are of considerable interest to the Museum of London who want to investigate the archaeological remains beneath, as this junction was formerly the exact location of the junction of two important Roman Roads, Watling Street and Stane Street.

Under recent legislation, however, the Housing Association is required to pay for such excavations. Although funded by the same Parliament which passed this law, grants for such excavations are not currently available.

The development will commence when a road closure has been enacted and agreement on parking bays is reached, as these are a separate process to the planning applications, while it is hoped that resources for archaeological research will be available soon.

The new housing development will dramatically improve the rich and historical environment along Tabard Street, removing and removing some of the overbearing impact of the ugly office developments that currently blight the locality, repairing the scars created by such derelict sites, while providing desperately needed homes.

Circus spirit at Mulberry Coop

The circus came to the Mulberry Housing Coop on Coin Street at the beginning of last month. Luckily the weather had perked up when Tina Glover and Suzi Oddball arrived at the central garden to put on a workshop for children.

Tina and Suzi were part of the 'London Festival of New Circus' performing on the South Bank in August. They managed to control practically every child in the Coop with their bags of fun. Out of the bags came juggling equipment, diabolos, baggy trousers, bow ties, hats, braces, jackets and face paints.

Many natural talents were apparent. Some kids went in for juggling, some for

uni-cycling, others for still-walking, acrobatics, spinning plates on sticks, clowning, and almost every other circus activity imaginable other than lion-taming, although we soon discovered that a circus is just as much fun without animals.

There was something for everyone and by the end of the two-hour workshop a display on the tumbling mat, which served as a stage, took place. All the participants took part in the finale and with smiling, painted faces babies and teenagers alike tumbled through two hoops.

Hopefully the circus spirit will remain with Mulberry, allowing all that natural talent and ability to flow into positive outlets.



Wheel clamp in North Southwark to be considered by Council

Following the call by a local community group, North Southwark Community Development Group, for the introduction of the wheel clamp in North Southwark to deter illegal commuter parking, Southwark Council is to consider this possibility.

The Director of Southwark Engineering and Public Works, Mr Tony Williams, has written to the Group saying that his department is going to seek councillors views on the matter. A report on wheel clamping will go to members of the Council after the summer recess.

"Before doing so, and expressing a firm recommendation", wrote Mr Williams, "I would wish to familiarise myself with the experience of other authorities which have adopted this practice."

The experience seems to be very positive. In its reply to North Southwark Community

Development Group's call for the wheel clamp in the north of the borough, the Department of Transport, which approves requests to introduce the wheel clamp, says that "wheelclamping has certainly proved to be the most effective deterrent against illegal parking in London. Surveys since 1982 indicate that parking on yellow lines has decreased by 40% and illegal parking in residents' bays by over 30% in the clamping area."

Wheelclamping is already in force in part of North Southwark in the property owned by the Borough Market where it has been used with success. Before its introduction by the local authority, however, residents would like to see an extension of residents' parking bays in certain areas to prevent their being unfairly clamped. The Council has agreed to extra bays in the Park Street area.

Docklands overlords slammed on jobs

In a report published last month, MPs have criticised the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) for its failure to provide training and employment opportunities for Docklands residents.

The LDDC was set up by the government in 1981. It became the planning control authority for the riverside areas of the boroughs of Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Newham. It is the LDDC which says what gets built where in London's Docklands.

Its introduction was strongly opposed at the time because it was an unelected body responsible only to the government. Since then it has been the constant target of local community groups which accuse the LDDC of following

a regeneration strategy which puts the profits of developers ahead of the needs of the community.

The great majority of jobs which have come to the Docklands as a result of the development boom, such as Hays Wharf by London Bridge, have been office jobs. These have mostly been transferred from other parts of London and in any case are not the sort of jobs which local residents need.

The MP's report on the employment effects of the LDDC states in part: "It is not good for the health of the community for the original inhabitants of an area to see others benefiting, as they see it, at their expense, while they suffer from increased road

traffic congestion, higher house prices and associated ills. Nor is it just."

The report lends weight to a study by a firm of management consultants last year which found that the approach of the London Docklands Development Corporation to education, training and employment was "very limited, poorly monitored, and not at all successful."

Southwark and Bermondsey's MP Simon Hughes said that the MP's report was "a damning indictment of the failure of the government and of the LDDC to provide jobs for local people. The number of unemployed in the London Docklands is now higher than when the LDDC was set up seven years ago."

Chaucer Day Hospital

One in four people they say will suffer some form of mental illness every year. Before you scoff at this figure consider this: if you have a bad cold are you physically ill? Maybe you wouldn't say "I'm ill" but instead "I'm not well".

So if you are anxious, overtired or depressed, you also feel "not well" - mentally. If this anxiety or depression deepens (like bad cold symptoms turning into something worse) you may see your doctor and you may have to go into hospital. If the illness is severe you could take quite a long time to convalesce.

Of course, if you have been mentally ill you have nothing to show you are convalescing - no bandages, no crutches, no wheelchair - but you still need the same kind of care and sympathy.

This is what a local day hospital begins to provide - a place to go, to meet people, to talk, to learn about recovery. The local place is at Chaucer, on the site of the old St Olave's Hospital in Rotherhithe, where upwards of 100 people attend each week.

Chaucer is run by the Health Service, but just as physical illness hospitals and clinics use volunteers to help the staff, so does the psychiatric unit rely on voluntary help to add the extras - special interests, extra equipment, friendship.

You might well have come across mental ill-health personally, or in a relative, neighbour or friend. If you would like to know more about it, and if you can spare a little time, let us know. Phone us on 407 7600 ext 5001 and talk to Geoff Russell, the Voluntary Coordinator, or to any member of staff.

South Bank sculptures

Some of the highly acclaimed sculptures exhibited at the 111-fated 'Festival of London' recently have been re-erected at Gabriel's Wharf Marketplace on the South Bank.

Works by David Gross, Robert Jakes and Yan Fletcher will be displayed at Gabriel's Wharf over the next few weeks, where they have been offered an alternative venue. The Marketplace is in Upper Ground next to LWT on the South Bank. The market opens Thursday to Sunday.

COIN STREET NEWS

The partial demolition of Stamford Wharf is ahead of schedule and should be completed this Autumn. It will leave a riverside building crowned by the Oxo Tower and part of a curved crescent known as the Bargehouse building. Coin Street Community Builders will be refurbishing and managing the wharf buildings in partnership with Urban Space Management, CSCB's partners at Gabriel's Wharf, and Inner City Enterprises.

There will be a rooftop restaurant and cafe and approximately 70 cooperative flats in the riverside building. A glazed performance and exhibition space will connect the riverside and Bargehouse buildings which will also contain approximately 50,000sq ft of workshops, a museum about the history, ecology and use of the Thames, and a 'hands-on' children's experience centre. Refurbishment is scheduled to start next Spring and be completed within two years.

Both sides of the new riverside park are now open as is the riverside arcade in front of Stamford Wharf. A formal opening of Mulberry Housing Cooperative (bottom right in the picture) is planned for October.



Photo: Iain Tuckett

TERM - TIME WORKSHOPS

FOR THOSE TO FURTHER THEIR KNOWLEDGE

UPSTREAM CHILDREN'S THEATRE

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, SHORT STREET, SE1

10.00 PER SESSION

WHAT'S

UPSTREAM CHILDREN'S THEATRE

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, SHORT STREET, SE1

10.00 PER SESSION

Clink Street fights back

At the begining of this year Southwark Council refused planning permission for the development of a 21 storey tower of luxury flats on Clink Street, site of the original Clink gaol. Southwark's decision, over a site that incorporates Clink, Soho and New British Wharves, was supported by local groups and national bodies alike.

The developer, Clarke London Ltd, has now submitted revisions to that scheme in the hope of getting a favourable decision from Southwark Council. However, at a recent public meeting held in the threatened Soho Wharf, local residents and businesses made it clear that these revisions were equally unacceptable.

The developer has appealed to the Secretary of State over Southwark's original decision and a public inquiry is to be held on the 25th October 1988. The revised proposals, which rise to 15 floors on the riverfront, will be determined at Southwark's Area Planning Committee on the 3rd October 1988. While the original scheme was all luxury flats, the revisions suggest the alternative of over 70,000 sq ft of offices.

Nearly thirty people came to the public meeting to voice their opinions. The overwhelming feeling of the meeting was that Southwark should reject the revised proposals. Clink Street is in the Borough Conservation Area and

such a massive development is out of keeping with the area.

Recent buildings in the area have respected the importance of Southwark Cathedral, as the dominant building along that stretch of the riverfront. Even the developer's 15 storey version is higher than the Cathedral spire. Current riverfront buildings are a maximum of 6 floors in height.

The developers want to demolish Soho Wharf, putting several small businesses and over 60 people out of work. These businesses, including a recording studio, provide useful local employment and a tremendous local facility. Finally, the traffic generated by the proposed building would worsen an already desperate situation and interfere with the workings of the Borough Market.

A local group called the Clink Street Preservation Society, have been exploring an "alternative" proposal for the area. This Society was formed by the businesses within Soho Wharf and they have held discussions with Architects Rock Townsend, about working up ideas for the area around Clink Street and the Borough Market. Such a study would involve all interested groups and would seek to promote acceptable development in the area. This would give local people and local groups a chance to be actively involved in the area's future.



Clink Wharf

Nth Southwark under threat

It is clear that community campaigns have to react to this pressure in an attempt to secure a decent future for the area. One of the local organisations leading the fight against office developments in the area is North Southwark Community Development Group. You can contact them at 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1, or ring them on 928 0711.

Unhealthy

West Lambeth Health Authority faces a further financial crisis this Autumn unless more government funding is forthcoming, West Lambeth Community Health Council has warned.

The Health Authority faces a £900,000 shortfall in its budget this year. This is mainly due to Government underfunding of the nurses' pay award, despite the much-publicised promise that the costs of the award would be met in full. In many parts of the country in the past few weeks, the government's false promises has been met with industrial action by nurses.

The Community Health Council has protested at the possibility that the authority could be asked to make further cuts. It was only in April this year at a marathon meeting that the Health Authority agreed a cuts package involving the closure of 137 beds at St Thomas's Hospital, and major reductions in mental health and community health services.

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

The South Bank Centre, on the south side of the Thames and close to Waterloo and Charing Cross, is one of the world's biggest and busiest centres for arts and entertainment attracting over five million visitors a year to its unsurpassed range of events at the Concert Halls and Hayward Gallery.

ELECTRICIANS

We now have vacancies for Electricians to join a team of skilled staff to carry out installation, maintenance and modification of all kinds of electrical plant and equipment together with specialised lighting and sound work to ensure the smooth running of the Concert Halls.

Candidates must have a recognised electrical apprenticeship and be qualified to at least City and Guilds standard. A willingness to become familiar with specialised lighting and sound equipment used in the Halls is essential together with the ability to work under pressure in a flexible and reliable manner.

You will work a shift pattern giving coverage over a seven day period and some overtime working may also be required.

Salary will be according to experience and qualification, within the range £11,238 to £12,596 including London Weighting and a shift allowance plus premium payments for weekend working.

Benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme and subsidised meals.

For further details and an application form please phone Karen O'Connell on (01) 921 0659. Closing date for return of completed application forms is Friday 16 September 1988.

The South Bank Board welcomes applications from all sections of the Community regardless of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, disability or religious beliefs.

The World's No.1 Centre for the Arts

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH OF WATERLOO



Come and worship

Sundays:

10.30am Parish Communion
St John's, Waterloo Road

6.30pm Evening Worship

St Andrew's, Short Street

During the week:

12.30pm Holy Communion
St John's, Waterloo Road

Vicar:

The Revd. Rob Yeomans
633 9819 or 928 4470

TADWORTH PLAYGROUP

AUTUMN BAZAAR

Jumble, books, raffles,
lucky dip, tombola,
new, game, tea, and other
great stalls.
Admission 10p

October 3rd, 4-6pm
Borough Community Centre
56 Southwark Bridge Road

SE1

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

NEXT COPY DATE

Copy date for the next issue of SE1 is Wed 28th September. Publication date is 6th October. All contributions should be sent to 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 OAS.

SE1 AVAILABLE AT

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

ADVERTISING IN SE1

SE1 newspaper is run on a tight budget. Sometimes it is necessary to produce a 6 page issue to cut our costs. We are 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.

BLACKFRIARS PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

Blackfriars Photpgraphy Project are running a series of photography workshops for women of Afro-Caribbean, Asian and other ethnic minorities living and/or working in South London.

No experience or previous training is necessary to take part. The workshop and materials are free and a creche is provided, but must be booked in advance.

For further information speak to Brenda Agard or Dave Lewis on 237 9312. Blackfriars Photography Project is located at Beormund Community Centre, 177 Abbey Street, SE1.