

# SE1

## New SE1 underground rail proposed

Many Waterloo and North Southwark residents were recently taken completely by surprise when representatives from a company called TerraQuest knocked on their doors. They were informed that their homes were directly above the route being planned for a new underground rail line.

The reason for their astonishment is that virtually nothing is known publicly about this scheme which the developers are calling the 'second rail link to Docklands'. The proposal involves building a new underground line, the first in London since the completion of the Jubilee Line in 1977, running by the River Thames. The line would run east from Waterloo with stations at Union Street, London Bridge, Surrey Quays, Canary Wharf on the Isle of Dogs, Blackwall Point and would terminate at Westcombe Park in the borough of Greenwich.

The driving force behind the proposal is a giant north American property company, Olympia and York. This company is soon to begin work

on a £6 billion office development at Canary Wharf on the Isle of Dogs which, when completed in the 1990's, will see over 50,000 office workers employed there. Olympia and York will apparently be contributing one third of the cost of the new underground rail line, estimated in total at over £400 million, with London Regional Transport contributing the rest.

Both Olympia and York and LRT are seeking with great haste to put a Private Bill before Parliament this month, which will have the support of the present government. The timetable envisages the passage of the Bill through Parliament by June 1989 with work to commence soon after. It appears that the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, Lewisham and probably Southwark will all support the proposal though expressing some concerns.

At first glance, a new underground line might seem a very welcome addition to the capital's hard pressed public transport system. But many

concerns are beginning to be expressed about this particular proposal.

In the first place there is the lack of public knowledge about the proposal and a distinct lack of public consultation. Unlike a proposal for a major new road, new railways do not require planning permission. There is therefore no opportunity for the public to question the wisdom of the proposal and possibly have it overturned.

Next, it appears that the principal objective of the proposed line is to serve Olympia and York's office development at Canary Wharf, bringing in commuters via a shuttle service from Waterloo. It would also open up the Isle of Dogs and the London City Airport at Newham to Europe via the new Channel Tunnel Terminal to be built at Waterloo.

This raises the question then of what effects the line would have on the residents of Waterloo and North Southwark, with a probable influx of tens of thousands more

commuters with the attendant road traffic this would invite as well.

It is understood, further, that the line will operate on new transport technology and that while it will be operated by London Regional Transport it will not necessarily be integrated with the rest of the underground system. It also raises the possibility that the line may be privatised in the future making it less accessible to the poorer travelling public.

It might also be asked why LRT has decided to invest such enormous resources in this project when other extensions to the Bakerloo Line for example have been talked about for years. Such extensions would bring into the underground network many areas of south east London not presently served, such as Peckham.

Waterloo and North Southwark residents are presently well served by the Underground,

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## Mulberry Co-op officially opened

At a well-attended and well-organised ceremony, favoured by a beautiful autumn morning, Mulberry Housing Co-operative was formally opened on 24th October. The Co-op is the first phase of the largest community development project in the country, proving that affordable rented housing can be built in inner London for ordinary inner Londoners.

The Co-op was opened by Sir George Young MP and local MP's Simon Hughes and Stuart Holland. It was Sir George Young who, as Housing Minister in 1986, gave the go-ahead for the Mulberry development, the culmination of a 15-year community struggle for affordable homes and jobs on the South Bank.

Lil Patrick, Vice Chair of Coin Street Community Builders which is carrying out the developments on the Coin Street sites, said at the opening that more

resources were needed for similar schemes all over London if the problems of homelessness, poor housing conditions and insensitive housing management were to be solved.

Recalling the spirit of reconstruction at the end of the second world war, Lil, addressing herself to Sir George Young, said "give us the tools and we'll get on with the job." Simon Hughes and Stuart Holland were equally outspoken in their support of Coin Street and the co-operative housing movement.

Tina Worms, a Mulberry tenant and recently elected Chair of the Co-operative, echoing Lil's sentiments, said that "a pie in the sky dream had become a reality. The ordinary person, single parent family, ethnic minority, people in housing need on low incomes and the wheelchair bound, now have beautiful

homes, giving us a feeling of permanence and security which

some of the families at Mulberry had not had until now."



Sir George Young chats with Mulberry residents

## Paris Gardens' still fallow pastures

Nearly two years ago we wrote in the columns of this newspaper that Southwark Council was about to begin landscaping part of the derelict Paris Gardens site. Bounded by Meymott Street, Colombo Street and Paris Gardens, this council owned site was part earmarked for open space as long ago as 1984.

There was no action for a year or so, however, until workmen appeared last year to erect some new fencing and clear half of the site, presumably in preparation for the long awaited open space. Alas, it was not to be.

The weeds have grown up again and residents appear no closer to seeing a little more greenery in their neighbourhood than they were two years ago. It seems valid then to ask of Southwark Council what the delay is.



Paris Gardens, awaiting attention

SE1 knows that around £40,000 has been contributed to the Council for the purpose of landscaping Paris Gardens by developers of adjacent office and industrial sites.

We hope the money has been wisely invested and that the final result is worth the wait. But, some residents are asking, how much longer will we wait?

## Mobile library running out of gas

Tooley Street residents are up in arms over cuts to their mobile library service, now reduced to one hour a week of a Friday lunchtime where many years ago there was a public library on the spot.

The St Olave's Library, on the corner of Tooley Street and Potters Fields, next to where the new riverside park now stands, was pulled down in the late 1960's. At the time, residents campaigned to save it but to no avail. It was rumoured that the old and decrepit library stood in the way of a proposed hotel development for the site. The Council argued that as the

docks had moved down river, demand for the service had fallen off.

Residents were promised and got a mobile library service which over the years has been whittled down to a single hour a week. If there is no driver available on the day, then the service is cancelled.

The only alternatives available for residents are John Harvard Library in Borough High Street and Spa Road Library, both of which have also had their opening hours cut. These are not convenient for all residents of the

Tooley Street area, however, because of the large number of elderly people who live there. One resident recently complained to SE1 that he had waited for 40 minutes for a no 78 bus to Spa Road library.

The is a home delivery service provided by the Library Service for the housebound, but it comes only once every 6 weeks and there is a long waiting list. Residents, the elderly and children alike, argue that they are badly served and would like an increase in the hours of the mobile bus and an improved home delivery service.

## SE1 underground rail

continued from front page

with stations at Waterloo, London Bridge, Borough and Elephant & Castle. Why then add further stations at Waterloo, Union Street and London Bridge?

Part of the price to pay for any, usually welcome, rail development is the disruption to residents' lives while construction work is going on. Residents might like to visit Monument at the top of London Bridge where excavations are presently under way for an underground extension of the Docklands Light Railway from Tower Hill to Bank. The provision of a ventilation shaft here demonstrates the extent of the disruption.

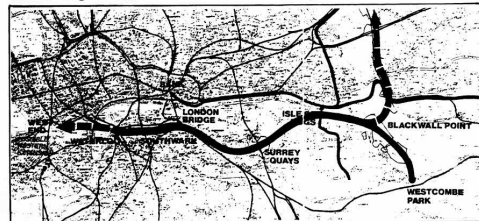
In Waterloo, the parade of shops in Tennyson way would be demolished to make way for a tunneling shaft. The Revd

Rob Yeomans, Vicar of the Parish of Waterloo, rejected an approach by the developers to use the churchyard at St John's Church as a site to store equipment and portacabins. It appears that part of Jubilee Gardens might be used for the same purpose.

For the Union Street Station, on the corner with Gambia Street, the proposed tunneling site, which will

later become an air shaft, will be on the corner of Lavington Street and Great Suffolk Street. The volume of spoil removed from tunneling would mean heavy lorries moving constantly through the area's narrow and already overcrowded streets.

Will the benefits of this proposed rail link to Canary Wharf outweigh the disadvantages for residents?



Route of the proposed new rail link to Docklands

## Maxwell steamrollers Waterloo

Fleet Street magnate Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group Newspapers are presently facing a public inquiry over their extensive changes to the Reveille building in Stamford Street, Waterloo.

Maxwell's company had built two extensions to the long disused print works before bothering about applying for planning permission from Lambeth Council, and has now started colour printing the Mirror there. They are gearing up for 24 hour working, 7 days a week.

Ignoring the planning laws that most ordinary mortals have to abide by, Maxwell began in early 1987 to 'rehabilitate' the Reveille building, working evenings and weekends to the annoyance of local residents. Work continued unabated until, as a 'goodwill gesture', Mirror Group Newspapers applied for planning permission in September last year.

After various delaying tactics by the Mirror Group, Lambeth's Planning Committee finally heard the application in February this year. Many local residents and community groups appeared before the committee to oppose the application and Lambeth consequently kicked it into touch as 'out of character with the surrounding Conservation Area and detrimental to the amenity of residents.'

Undeterred, Mirror Group Newspapers carried on building. Lambeth Council then served them with an Enforcement Notice, ordering them to comply with the decision of the Planning Committee and to stop work immediately.

Money being no object, Mirror Group Newspapers wheeled in its legal big guns promising to 'vigorously resist through the courts' any attempt by Lambeth Council to stop them building, threatening that 'any subsequent claim for compensation would be enormous.' Understandably, Lambeth got cold feet.

Mirror Group Newspapers then lodged an 'appeal' with the Department of the Environment against the Enforcement Notice, the subject of the public inquiry which started on November 1st and is being heard at Morley College's Community Education Building.

Residents are concerned about the increase in traffic caused by employee's cars and especially about the lorries which deliver paper rolls and distribute the newspaper.

## High living in Great Suffolk Street

A Housing Association has plans for an unusual housing scheme which will provide 58 homes for working railway staff in North Southwark. Railway Housing Association, established in 1919 to provide low cost rented homes for railway workers and retired railway staff, and which today works closely with British Rail, intends to develop the Grande Vitesse Goods Yard, a currently disused railway goods siding, up until several years ago in use for freighting goods to the continent.

The unusual aspect of the scheme is its location - some 50ft above ground level. The Grande Vitesse site is parallel to, and on the same level as, the stretch of railway viaduct which runs between Ewer Street and Great Suffolk Street. The entrance to the site is via a ramped road, closed to public use, commencing at the corner of Gambia Street and Dolben Street.

The site is owned by British Rail Property Board which is discussing with Railway HA

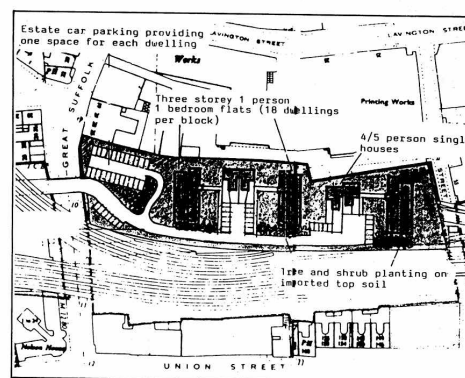
the terms of sale of the lease. The Board is keen to see the development go ahead. British Rail is facing a critical shortage of staff in the London area due to spiralling housing costs. Because of these shortages they have been forced to permanently cancel many trains in the London area and up to a further 100 trains face daily cancellations.

Perversely, while they struggle to cope with staff shortages in London, BR has been laying off staff in other parts of the country. For this reason, Railway HA wishes to provide a proportion of the new homes on the Grande Vitesse site for job movers from the provinces.

Financial support from the Housing Corporation is crucial to the Housing Association's plans to build 54 single person flats and four family homes on the Grande Vitesse site. Local community group, North Southwark Community Development Group, has written to the Housing Corporation in support of Railway Housing Association's appeal

will own and manage the housing, and of which they will all be members.

Selection and training of members is about to begin. Applications forms are presently being printed and will be shortly available to those who are interested in



for funds to carry out the development.

If the Housing Corporation does fund the construction of the new homes, and Railway HA is confident they will, then Southwark Council will have the right to 50% of nominat-

ions to the scheme from their own housing waiting list.

Should everything go according to plan, Railway HA hopes to start building work on the site around June 1989 with a probable completion date about a year later.

## New Housing Co-op invites applications

The new build housing scheme on the site behind Aquinas Street in Waterloo is now half completed, with a finish date of July 1989. By that time the occupants of the new dwellings will have been chosen and trained for their parts in the work of the Housing Co-operative that

the new homes.

The development consists of seven three-bedroom houses, two one-bedroom flats for people of restricted mobility, one one-bedroom bungalow for persons of restricted mobility, two two-bedroom bungalows for wheelchair users and one two-bedroom flat.

Half of the homes will be for people nominated from Lambeth Council's housing waiting list. The other half will be selected from those who apply directly to the Co-op. Sadly, with so few places available, most applicants are going to be disappointed.

Applicants who apply directly to the Co-op will only be considered if they are in housing need. That means that you have nowhere to stay or the place you are living in is in bad condition or unsuitable for some reason. For instance, you might be living several floors up and have a medical condition, or small children, and no lift. Your household size must also match the size of one of the houses or flats available.

Applicants must also be willing to learn how co-ops work and agree to play an active part in running the Co-op if successful.

Unlike tenants of the Council or of private landlords, Co-op members jointly own the

houses or flats they live in. They also control their management, collecting the rents, organising repairs, keeping the accounts, etc. The price of this control is that every member has to do a certain amount of work, according to their abilities, and according to whether the Co-op decides to do all the work itself or to employ someone else to do it for them.

The houses and flats belong to the Co-op as a whole. Co-op members do not own their own individual homes, but pay rent to the Co-op. Members do not have the 'Right to Buy'. All decisions are taken on the basis of one member one vote, and are taken in the general meetings of the Co-op, or in committee meetings about particular matters - finance or repairs for instance.

How to apply: If you are a Lambeth Council tenant and are on the transfer list, you should ask to be nominated to the Co-op. If you are on Lambeth Council's waiting list you should ask the waiting list section to consider nominating you to the Co-op. Anyone can apply to the Co-op direct.

Application forms can be obtained from: Gill Green, 99 Upper Ground, SE1 Tel - 620 0544, weekday mornings only



Some time ago I made one of my irregular visits to London. Perhaps it would be more correct to say return visits, for I am a Londoner born and bred — and proud of it!

As usual on one of my day trips to London from my home in Harne Bay, I visited the South Bank and went into the office of the Coin Street Community Builders, 99 Upper Ground, London SE1. I paused for a moment, lost in memory. You see, this is where I had been born — not, I hasten to point out, in the Coin Street Community Builders' office, but in the last house to stand upon this spot, which I believe to have been 57 Commercial Road, London SE1.

Generations of my family had been residents of Waterloo. My great-grandfather, James Gillis, married Julia Tierney in October 1858 at St John's Church in Waterloo Road. They lived first at 23 Commercial Road, but moved shortly after to 18 Salutation Place where, the following year, my grandfather Samuel was born. It is an interesting reflection on the educational standards of those days that neither of my great-grandparents could write their names, and were obliged to put a cross against their entry in the register.

My own father, John Gillis, was born at 23 Bond Place, Bazon Street, on 25th July 1895. It was at 57 Commercial Road that I was born on 15 June 1923. My sisters were also born in the same house. Having served with the Kings Royal Rifles throughout the 1914-18 War and survived without a scratch, my father contracted lung fever within a few years of coming home, probably caused by the rigours of trench warfare, and died while we were still babies.

Widowed early as she was, my mother had to work very hard to keep us, and it was by no means easy. The only State Benefit she got was a weekly 'show's Pension of £1.10 (£1.05p). She was forced to go out to work to supplement this pittance, but things were often so difficult that she had to send me round with a note to the local private moneylender in Howley Place (just beyond the arch of old Waterloo Bridge in Belvedere Road, where the Royal Festival Hall now stands) asking for the loan of two or three shillings. They were indeed difficult times for poor parents, but even more so for my widowed mother. But they were wonderful times for a child, and it is this which colours my memories of childhood.

By the 1920s, when I came on the scene, the houses in Commercial Road were well past their best. They were not slums, but a lot depended on the people who lived in them. Some of the houses were allowed to deteriorate, while others were maintained in reasonably good order. They were fairly tall, having basement, ground floor, and two upper floors. We lived in the basement of 57 when I was born, but later moved up to the first floor. This was probably after the flood of the late 1920s, when the River Thames rose over its banks and poured down Commercial Road and the surrounding streets, in the process I remember it knocked our garden wall down! On the first floor we had just two rooms, kitchen and bedroom. In the earlier days we had just one bed and slept in a 'two up-two down' formation.

Although not slums, this area was working-class accommodation. But even so there was a great deal of domestic pride. Front steps were regularly whitened, curtains, even if patched, hung at windows. At frequent intervals front doors were re-varnished with wood-coloured varnish, and mock wood grain applied by stroking the wet varnish with a wooden comb. Most children were kept as clean and tidy as possible — although we did our best to change that when we went out to play in the street!

I remember vividly a strange phenomenon which appeared at the Cornwall Road end of Commercial Road in, I suppose, the early 30s. A length of wire was fixed to the fronts of the houses just above the ground-floor windows. Day by day this mysterious wire reached further and further along the street, whilst other pieces of wire branched down from it and disappeared into the houses. What could it be? We soon found out the thrilling truth, electricity was coming to Commercial Road! Until then, of course, we had used gas lights with their fragile mantles. Now we were to be modernised! We could hardly wait until the wiring was complete, and the men came into our homes to fix lamp-holders and switches. How magical it seemed to us children. After the power was first switched on we would crowd into a room after dark, turn out the light, wait for a few thrilling moments in the dark and then switch on — as if by magic the room was flooded with golden light. It really was magical.

In those halcyon days the streets were alive with the happy shouts of children playing. Whenever I go there now I cannot reconcile the silence with the noise I used to know, and contribute to! Our territory consisted of Commercial Road, Cornwall Road, Coin Street (where my paternal grandfather lived), Stamford Street, Dooon Street, Bazon Street and Belvedere Road as far as Tenison Street. Behind Bazon Street was a

rather grubby little alleyway which consisted of the backs of houses in Bazon Street on one side, and of the shops on the approach to Waterloo Bridge on the other. But this grubby street was not a nice place to go, especially after dark when some of the local 'ladies of pleasure' would take their customers there! We simply called it 'The Back', although its official name was Commercial Buildings.

In our particular territory there were two pubs. 'The Dover Castle' was on the corner of Commercial Road, and at the other end of Commercial Road, where it turned towards Belvedere Road and just before the arch under old Waterloo Bridge, was a rather unusual pub. As far as I know, 'The Feathers' was rather unique in that it had two bars on different levels to cater for the trade down below in Commercial Road and Belvedere Road, and up above on the approach to Waterloo Bridge. I can remember being sent to 'The Feathers' to fetch home a pint or two of draught beer in a jug. Or a pennyworth of mustard pickles served from a gigantic earthenware jar into a paper cone. A finger dipped into that cone on the way home was rich reward for my trouble!

On our way to school every morning we would turn from Commercial Road into Cornwall Road. The 'Dover Castle' would then be on our left. A few yards further on, before reaching Dooon Street, would be a most wonderful place, especially on a cold winter morning, a smithy! We would pause for a moment enjoying the warmth of the roaring fire, and smelling the unmistakable odour of burning horse hoof as the smith clanked and banged with his hammer, fitting a new shoe on to a huge and patient draught horse. Further up the road on the left-hand side before we reached up Stamford Street was another favourite place of ours, Sally Lunn's the bakers! We always called the shop Sally Lunn's, but I have an idea that this was in fact the name of the baker's chief concoction, a sponge cake with either pink or white icing on it. This was baked in huge squares and cut into smaller pieces for sale.

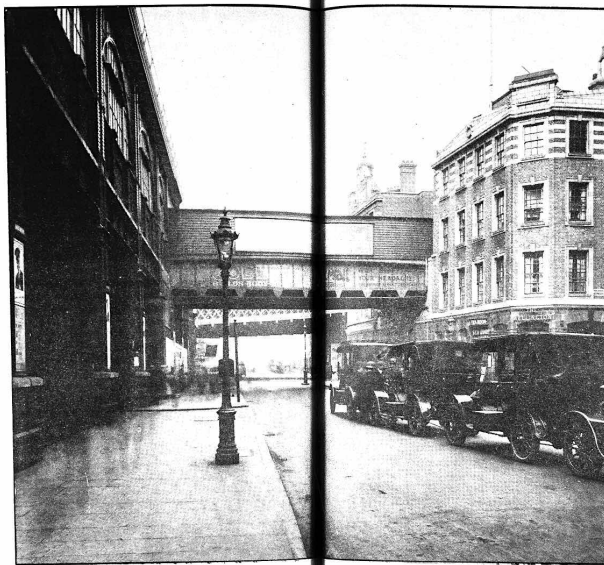
A quick scuffle across busy Stamford Street and we headed on down Cornwall Road, past Edward Henry Buildings on our left — these were police flats. Then came Hood's the sweet shop, where I spent many a penny, halfpenny or farthing! And so to Exton Street, where the school was, and where we began the real serious business of the day. I attended St John's & All Saints Church of England School from the age of four until I left to go to work as an office boy in the City of London as a grown man of fourteen. I can remember during my earliest days at school seeing cows and sheep herded in Exton Street in front of the school. I suppose it was the last staging post from the farms of Kent and Surrey before the meat markets of London. It is interesting to note that the headmaster during my entire school life was Mr. Thos. Nicholson, a scholar and a gentleman indeed, kind and caring, and using the final deterrent, 'the cane', only as a last resort. I believe Mr Nicholson's grandson was chair of the late (and much lamented) Greater London Council Planning Committee. I remember with affection most of the teachers at school: Mrs Cathcart, Mrs Trott (who had red hair), Mrs Cass (who had white hair but was always beautifully dressed with a brooch at her throat), Mr Jackson, Mr Ford (who would offer a naughty boy, brought in front of the class and invited to 'bend over', a performance with a glove or without), and dear, kind Mr Baker, who got me my job in the city.

I enjoyed school, but I enjoyed, far more, life in the streets when school was closed. Oh, the games we played in summer sun and winter gloom. Cricket and football in season, with a ball made from a rolled up newspaper, an old piece of wood for a bat, lamp-post for wicket, a couple of jackets or pullovers in the road for goal posts. Also, there were rounders, 'touch' — sometimes called 'he' — marbles, fag-cards (flipping cigarette cards along the ground), leap-frog (a fav-cigrette card used for which was the line of bollards, fashioned from old gun-barrels, which were spaced along the wharf side of Commercial Road), and perhaps the most exciting games in the whole world of make-believe, Cops & Robbers and Cowboys & Indians. There were many other games and pursuits which had no other name, no specific name. There was always something to do. No boredom in the streets in those days. We had great fun with spinning tops. There were two kinds: one you kept going with a whip, but these were difficult to get started; the other type was spun after being wound with a piece of string. Then there were stilts, box-carts and scooters, all home-made. The scooters were particularly popular, being made from two pieces of planking, a tar-block caged from road workers, a pair of screw eyes and hooks, and a pair of ball-bearing wheels which could be bought fairly cheaply at a local ironmongers. Scooters were great fun, they gave speedy mobility and made a lovely noise as they clacked over the paving slabs on pavements.

# REFLECTIONS OF A WATERLOO CHILDHOOD

BY JOHN GILLIS

John Gillis sent this article in after he moved to Coin Street, where he saw the work going on "so that people could again live in this area which was so vibrant with life..."



Top photo: Charing Cross Bridge Scheme, Waterloo

Bottom photo: Waterloo Road and New Cut, 1930

Summer school holiday was particularly wonderful. Very few people in our community went away for a holiday, except those families who went 'hopping', down to the farms of Kent to pick hops for four weeks or so. I wonder now if the sun really shone all day, or if it was just a memory of me. I did! Perhaps not, but in retrospect it seemed so. We wore as little as possible as we played in the sun, just short trousers and slippers for boys, a light frock for girls. Some went barefoot from childhood, not from necessity. Further up Commercial Road towards Blackfriars Bridge there were steps leading down to the river. Some bolder children actually went swimming there, but it was a dangerous thing to do because of the strong tides. I, not being much of a swimmer anyway, only went as far as wading my feet in the deliciously cool water of the murky Thames. During the dark, cold days of winter we would play out in the streets until ordered in for bed. On many painful occasions I found the insides of my short trousers all boys wore until they were about thirteen, when they got their first pair of 'long uns'. We also wore boots with long socks, the latter invariably falling down over our ankles. I can still hear my Granma Gillis saying 'Pull your stockings up Johnnie!' during our weekly visit to his in Coin Street, after which she would give me a penny, which I would immediately spend on a lead soldier at a stall laden with such treasures in The New Cut. No self-respecting boy would be seen in a pair of shoes, which were considered as being rather silly.

The inspiration for our street games of make-believe came mostly from visits to the local cinemas, we called them 'pictures'. If we were lucky we could go to the pictures every week. Those were truly the golden days of cinema, the era of silent cinema was coming to an end, and exciting new films were being made with sound! No longer did we merely have the accompaniment of a pianist to set the appropriate mood for the film being shown. Now, with the advent of sound we could hear not only the players speaking and singing but, more exciting for boys particularly, we could hear the shots from the guns of cops or cowboys, the wild howls of Indians as they chased the inevitable stage-coach or circled the beleaguered wagon train, the engines of cars, trains, or planes as they hurtled across the screen. Or the guns booming from pirate ships as they pounded Spanish galleons loaded with treasure.

There were two cinemas within easy reach. Both were situated in Westminster Bridge Road. Between Lower Marsh and Waterloo Station Approach was Gatti's, whilst opposite Lower Marsh was an old theatre, converted to a cinema, the Canterbury. In the early years of the century the Canterbury had been a music-hall, and featured such great names as Charlie Chaplin (who was born about half-a-mile away off Kennington Road), Victor Mlagen and Stan Laurel in the days before he went to Hollywood and began his world-famous partnership with Oliver Hardy. The Gatti's was our favourite, and on Saturday we would go to the special children's programme. Now I remember the feeling of anticipation as we sat waiting for the performance to begin, while uniformed attendants went up and down the aisles using sprays filled, I presume, with some sort of pleasant-smelling deodorant. And what a roar went up from the hundreds of young throats as, at last, the lights went down and the screen came to life. We got seeing a serial episode, something like Flash Gordon or Buck Rogers, a cartoon (often Felix the Cat), coming attractions; and a main film. Here we saw all our favourite cowboy heroes: Hoot Gibson, Ken Maynard, Tom Mix, and best of all, Buck Jones, who had one trick which endeared him to us. He would walk quietly up behind the villain and tap him lightly on the shoulder and, as the villain turned round, felled him with one mighty blow to the jaw! How we cheered as right once again triumphed over might! A trip to the cinema would cost us threepence (1½p) for a seat in the gallery (it was sixpence — 2½p — downstairs in the stalls), and, if we were lucky, a penny for a bag of peanuts.

On Friday nights music would take us to the South London Palace theatre at the Elephant and Castle. This was a marvellous night out. The twenty years just prior to the outbreak of the Second World War saw the final flowering of the music-hall as it had been enjoyed for almost a century. And what entertainment it was! Nobody, just nobody, who has ever been to a proper music-hall in those far off days can possibly imagine how good it was. It would often be a family night out at theatres all over the country, and they would settle down for three or four hours of such a variety of entertainment, colour and bubbling excitement as followed act (they were usually called 'turns') with scarcely a break except during the interval, when a huge safety screen was lowered on stage, decorated with advertisements for local police, health-salts, brilliant, hot beefy drinks, biscuits, starch, etc. In the centre of this screen was a plain square where slides were shown with adverts for local shops and

businesses. In the show were jugglers and comedians, acrobats and singers, virtuoso musicians and conjurers. One turn I do remember is an impressive, large lady who sang a patriotic song whilst statuesquely standing swathed in flags!

Commercial Road was occupied by houses on one side only. The area alongside the river was devoted to firms who were able to use the wharves for the movement of their goods by river tugboat. Wilment's, the building contractors, had a large site. So did the immense Corporation Refuse Yard which was served by a fleet of horse-drawn dustcarts. Returning from their collections, the carts would line up along Commercial Road awaiting their turn to pass over the weighbridge into the yard to discharge their loads into the waiting barges. At these times, Commercial Road was a great place for manure. Here it was that I first heard that hoary old joke: "We put manure on our rhubarb." "Do you?" We put custard on ours! Once a year some of the carts would be cleaned and beautifully decorated, and horses made spick-and-span with polished hooves and braided manes for entry in the Easter Parade in Hyde Park.

Further along, opposite Cornwall Road, were the printing works of one of London's three evening newspapers. I think it was The Star. As the evening edition came off the press and the morning edition went out to waiting delivery vans who would then come tearing out of the yard in their haste to beat the other two papers The Evening Standard and The Evening News to the paper-sellers. The vans bore placards on their sides with the evening's headlines: AMY JOHNSON REACHES AUSTRALIA; HOBBS AND SUTHERLAND GREAT START FOR ENGLAND; THE KING: GRAVE NEWS. The latter, of course, referred to King George V, who died on January 20th, 1936.

Other companies with premises along Commercial Road were Youngers, the brewers, and Oxo, whose distinctive tower dominated the area. In the other direction, round the corner adjacent to the steps leading up to old Waterloo Bridge, was BBC Studio No 10. Night would be broadcast.

When I was twelve, and a very small twelve-year-old I was too, I got my first job — as a paper boy for Boxall's. Boxall's shop was on the corner of Cornwall Road and Rouppell Street. It was a dark little shop selling newspapers and periodicals, cigarettes, tobacco and snuff. Its window was decorated with advertisements for various products, and the front page of The Police Gazette was hung there every week. This, as I recall, was a pink-coloured publication (it was often referred to as 'The Pink 'un') with graphic drawings of current villains or incidents. Some of them were quite horrible! I would arrive at the side door just after six o'clock every morning and rouse Mr Boxall. Then, while he got himself dressed, I would take down the shutters from the windows, open up the shop, and in the morning I would serve the first early customers. And I could barely see over the counter! The morning papers would arrive and be put in order for delivery and my bag would then be filled. When I slung it over my shoulder it almost reached the ground, but somehow I struggled into the street and started delivering them. My area was Rouppell Street and Whittesley Street. For a morning and evening delivery Monday to Saturday and morning delivery on Sunday I received five shillings (25p) each week!

It is easy for me to recall the excitement and bustle, the very feeling of those streets of my childhood. In the 'camera obscura' of my mind so much of it is clear, so many scenes vivid, that it is almost as if it were only yesterday. But it was over fifty years ago when we moved away from Commercial Road and went to live in Kennington. I think the house was there for demolition, and indeed, when I went back a few years later they were gone. The site remained empty throughout the war; afterwards it was a coach and lorry park until the Festival of Britain in 1951, when it became a car park. I have often wondered why the area was flattened and nothing done with it afterwards. Perhaps the outbreak of war interfered with the plans.

Over the past few years I have noticed the publication of various plans to use much of the area for hotels and office blocks. It is a great relief to learn that Coin Street Community Builders have campaigned vigorously against such plans, and have constantly stressed the need for the inclusion of a large proportion of dwellings so that people may once again live in this wonderful area. As a child of Commercial Road, who knew much happiness there, I would like to thank all who labour to preserve and foster community spirit. When the site has been fully rebuilt, let there be something of us left, all of us who shared a common childhood in Commercial Road — the Salathouses, the Goughs, the Battys, the Bases, the Chandlers, the Gills with advertisements for local police, health-salts, brilliant, hot beefy drinks, biscuits, starch, etc. In the centre of this screen was a plain square where slides were shown with adverts for local shops and

## Lambeth Community Care Centre

The Lambeth Community Care Centre in Monkton Street, SE11, has been established since 1985. It is a purpose built health care facility located on the site of the old Lambeth Hospital. It serves the residents of North Lambeth and part of North Southwark.

It is quite a unique National Health Service facility offering an intermediate level of care between home and hospital, with the atmosphere more of the former than the latter. It has a 20-bed ward, a day unit, a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist, a speech therapist, a dentist, a chiropodist and a social worker and a community worker.

All patients are referred by their GP's who must be contracted to the Centre. GPs also treat their patients when they are admitted. Since its foundation, a large number of health related groups have sprung up at the Centre, including a stroke group, a post-natal group, a children's health club, a black women's club, there is marriage guidance, AA meets there, there is a back school, among other activities.

The Centre wished to involve the local community in the running from the outset and in 1987 a Centre Advisory group was set up with elected representatives from local community groups and centre users. One of the community representatives forms part of the management team of the Centre responsible for day to day management and the formulation of policy.

The Centre is planning a local household survey to find out how much local people know about the centre and what they would like to receive from it. For more information about the Centre you can contact the Link Worker, Leslie Nixon on 582 5513.

## Rubbish problem

Rubbish has always been a problem around the Borough Market area but during the past few years it has increased for a variety of reasons.

The Borough Market incinerates some of its rubbish and has regular collections by Southwark Council. However, a certain amount of discarded produce finds its way onto favourite dumping sites via green-grocers who bring it back to the Market and dump it in Park Street, Bedale Street and Stone Street. The Cathedral Area Residents Association has drawn the Borough Market's attention to the various problem areas in the Market. For the residents it is a continuing nuisance, it makes the area unsightly, encourages fly-tipping and is a health hazard.

With the tireless help of Councillor Hilary Wines, Cathedral Area Residents Association has made many representations to the Cleansing Department of the London Borough of Southwark, and have recently sought legal advice as to how best to remedy this unpleasant problem of rubbish dumping and fly-tipping.

Some progress has been made but there are still areas which attract the tippers. Residents' lives are not made any easier by the fact that they have a sporadic and unreliable domestic rubbish collection.

## Park Street parties

Park Street residents held their annual street party early in September. It all went well for them this year, including luckily enough the weather, although there wasn't as big a crowd as last year.

The street was decorated with bunting, chinese lanterns, balloons and lights which made for a colourful atmosphere. St Georges Church loaned tables and chairs for which the residents express their gratitude. There was plenty of food available, including a BBQ where people did their own cooking when they wanted to. The bar was looked after by Austin. A singer/guitarist provided entertainment, while later there were fireworks.

A number of children were in fancy dress and enjoyed themselves playing games. Alistair made a giant cutout figure with holes in it for people to put their heads through and be photographed.

This year, some of the residents of the sheltered housing complex on Park Street were at the party and the organisers hoped they enjoyed themselves. The organisers would like to thank all those who helped or donated things for the party - Market Porter, Wheatsheaf, Globe, Bunch of Grapes, White Hart, Tealings, Goodwins, Elsey and Bent, John, Paul, Billy, Ivory & LeDoux, as well as all the residents.



Park Street partygoers

## Upstream puppet project

Upstream Children's Theatre has a new craft project going on Thursday's, in which this term we are making puppets... and these are no ordinary puppets. They are lifelike with foam faces a bit like the ones in Spitting Images or the Muppets.

You make a body for them like a coat-hanger, dress them in old clothes, hold them in one hand, use the other arm and your legs as the puppet's arms and legs and hey presto, they are alive.

They usually come out looking like cartoon characters with big noses and round cheeks, or else bags under their eyes and lots of wrinkles, but it is up to you to choose exactly what they look like and what sort of people they are.

The project is open to children between

the ages of 6 and 12 and costs 20p per class. Each class runs from 5-7pm on Thursday evenings with a break in the middle for orange and biscuits. The class begins with some warm-ups and games led by Ollie, then a craft session with Al and then some storymaking and practising with the puppets.

We will be making a story with the characters we produce and then doing a show for family and friends sometime around Christmas.

Upstream Children's Theatre is at St Andrew's Church, Short Street, Waterloo. The telephone number is 928 5394. It also does other workshops, including drama leading to video on Tuesday's from 5-6pm and drama on Saturday evenings. Ring for details if you are interested in any of the classes, or see you Thursday!

## Irish in Southwark conference

Southwark Council, together with a newly forming Irish group called Failece (Welcome), is organising a conference for the borough's Irish community. It will be held on Saturday 19th November at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5, from 10am-4.30pm.

The conference is open to everyone and there will be discussions about Irish Women, under-5's, the elderly, employment, sports and leisure provision, housing, and a lot more which affect the Irish in Southwark.

## Time off for women

Last month, local women's group 'Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Women' celebrated "Time off for Women '88" by launching their exhibition on the theme of "Counting Women's Work in the History of Welfare". It is on view in the Blue Anchor Library.

As in previous years they marked the occasion by asking women in the Market Square to take 'time off' by having a free cup of tea and a piece of magnificent 'time off' cake. 'Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Women' can be contacted on 0511, asking for Alenka.

## Elephant & Castle subway to get facelift

With a £200,000 grant from the Department of the Environment, Southwark Council is soon to start work on the first phase of a complete facelift of the Elephant & Castle subway system, which contains 9 subways altogether.

One of the priorities will be a completely new subway signing system, making it easier than at present for pedestrians to get to their exit destinations. The lighting of the subways will be much improved with the installation of lamps twice as bright as those currently in operation. Another feature of the renewed subways will be their comprehensive retelling with a design done by Southwark's landscape architects.

One of the highlights of the scheme will be 6 pairs of 'walk through' murals, that is, murals on opposite walls, which will be designed with community participation around the themes of local history and community. The works will be executed by a firm of specialist mural painters, and will be graffiti-proof.

Work is expected to begin in early January on the 3 subways which form the first phase and will take 3 or 4 months to complete. These subways will be closed during the period of renovations and signs will indicate to pedestrians what alternative routes are open.

Further meetings will be held to consult the local community on the theme of the murals. You can find out more information about the scheme by ringing Southwark's Planning Department on 403 3322 ext 2154.

In the meantime, a new Elephant & Castle Cycle Route was opened last month by the Mayor of Southwark Rita Sergeant. It stretches from the Old Kent Road to Southwark Bridge Road and Newington Causeway providing a bypass around the busiest junction in the borough.

With the safety of the cyclist in mind, the Route features sets of cycle-activated traffic signals, a contra-flow traffic lane on St Georges Road and a special cycle lane on Southwark Bridge Road.



Elephant & Castle, looking north, 1907

## Children's hospital welfare craft fair

The Blackheath Craft Fair is the major fundraising event for the Blackheath Branch of NAWCH (National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital). It will be held at the Welfare of Children's Hospital. It will be held on Saturday 19th November from 11am to 4pm in the Blackheath Concert Hall.

NAWCH was started 25 years ago to help parents gain the right to be with their children at all times, when they are admitted to hospital. It is now generally accepted that children recover much more quickly if a parent is allowed to stay with them. NAWCH therefore moved on to other things as providing beds for parents' use and asking

hospitals to provide space for parents, like the Mother's Suite in Guy's Hospital.

The Blackheath Branch of NAWCH covers the five hospitals in the North Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority, including Guy's and Lewisham hospitals. Members visit the hospitals on a regular basis to see if there are any items the hospital may need. At present they are having a Wendy House built for Guy's and have re-covered a settee and supplied a rug and television for the Parents Room at Greenwich Hospital.

## SE1 readers write

Dear SE1

CURRIE'S FROSTY RECEPTION

I am writing on behalf of the pensioners in the Over 60's Project at Charterhouse-in-Southwark.

Recently there was much bad feeling when Edwina Currie, the Junior Minister for Health, appeared on television advising pensioners to wrap up in woollies to cope with the cold weather. With the bitterly cold months in 1986 and 1987 still fresh in our minds we all agreed this was a bit too much.

In our project we offer help and advice to those who are having problems with fuel bills and cold flats, but by the time a pensioner comes in they have often been through a great deal of hardship and anxiety.

One of our pensioners was moved by the artistic impulse and came up with the following poem which was sent, care of Simon Hughes MP, together with one of our handknitted hats, to Edwina.

'All we need is a bit more money  
Not you getting paid for being funny  
We know how to sew and knit  
Without you telling us how you twit  
We dressed our babies for the snow  
before central heating you know.  
Shame on you for treating us thus  
It will not be long before you're one of us.  
What with one thing and another  
We don't think you had a mother  
And if you ever had a gran,  
you were not her greatest fan

We are aged but have our brain  
So don't be so damned insulting again.  
And when you appear upon the box  
Wear this lot and don't forget the socks.'  
(by Muriel Mulley)

From the pensioners of Bermondsey and North Southwark

Dear SE1

DOWN MEMORY LANE

As I was given a copy of your paper, I was so surprised to see a drawing of the Church of England Parish of Waterloo where I was married. It brought back many memories of where I lived.

Our family name was Terry and our father was the local chimney sweep. We lived in Peartree Street just off The Cut. Now I see that it has been made into a garden called 'Emma Cons' who had something to do with the Old Vic where with others we would go and see some of the plays.

The many stalls and friendly stallholders, the cat's meat shop, Peartree Pub, George's the pudding shop, 'Beehive' Morgan's, 'Harvey & Thompson's', 'Gospel Hall' where we went every Sunday afternoon (what a quiet rest for mum), Thomas the sweet shop, Percy's, etc.

Oh dear, so many remembered. Perhaps some of your readers now stroll down memory lane. I am sure they could add so much more. So thank you for giving back more thoughts of the happy times that we all shared.

Mrs A Moriarty née Terry  
Isle of Sheppey

**NAWCH**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL  
12 children go to hospital by the age of seven. Please help us to help your children in hospital.

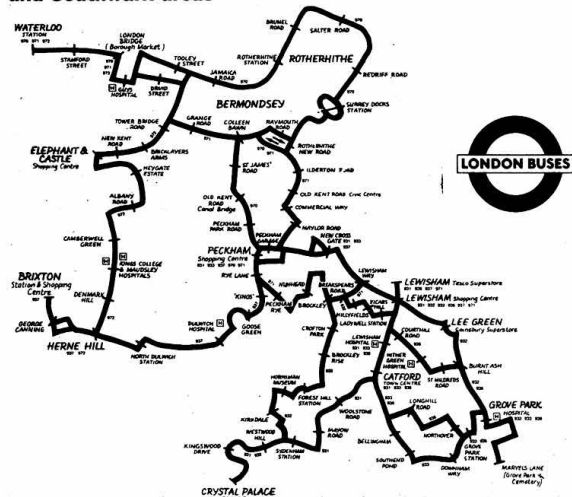
**BLACKHEATH CRAFT FAIR**  
Sat Nov 19  
11am-4pm  
Blackheath Concert Hall  
Lee Rd, SE3  
(Next to the station)  
Refreshments served all day  
Selling: Art, Pottery, Jewellery, Books, Games, Toys, and many more gifts.



# Mobility Bus Services

for people in the Southwark  
and Lewisham areas

Map of Mobility bus  
services in the Lewisham  
and Southwark areas



## ROUTE 970 - TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

	CLOCKWISE	ANTI-CLOCKWISE
Waterloo Station, Taxi Road	1110 1420	1103 1410 1630
Stamford Street, Blackfriars Road	1115 1425	1058 1405 1625
Guy's Hospital	0902 1119 1429	1054 1401 1621
Tooley Street, Tower Bridge Road	0906 1123 1433	1049 1356 1616
Rotherhithe Station, Brunel Road	0916 1133 1443	1040 1347 1607
Salter Road, Redriff Road	0925 1142 1452	1030 1337 1557
Surrey Docks Station, Lower Road	0929 1146 1456	1025 1332 1552
Rotherhithe New Road, Galleywall Road*	0934 1151 1501	1020 1327 1547
Southwark Park Road, St James's Road	0939 1156 1506	1015 1322 1542
Old Kent Road, St James's Road	0944 1201 1511	1010 1317 1537
Peckham High Street, Hill Street	0950 1207 1517	1004 1311 1531
Peckham, Aylesham Centre	0953 1210 1520	1002 1309 1529
Peckham Garage	0955 1212 1522	1000 1307 1527

\*Buses towards Waterloo stop in Raymouth Road.

## ROUTE 971 - WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS

	OUTWARD	RETURN
Waterloo Station, Taxi Road	0915 1315	0909 1209 1609
Guy's Hospital	0924 1324	0900 1200 1600
Tooley St, Tower Bridge Rd (towards Lewisham)	0928 1328	
Druid St, Tower Bridge Rd (towards Waterloo)		0855 1155 1555
Rotherhithe New Road, Ilderton Road	0940 1340	0843 1143 1543
Naylor Road, Meeting House Lane	0948 1348	0835 1135 1535
Peckham Hanover Pk, Rye Ln (towards Lewisham)	0952 1352	0832 1132 1532
Peckham Rye Ln, Shopping Ctr (towards Waterloo)		1125 1525
Peckham Rye, Kings on the Rye (towards Waterloo)		1124 1524
Peckham Rye, Nunhead Lane	0959 1359	1119 1519
Nunhead, Inverton Road	1006 1406	1119 1519
Brockley, Friendsbury Road	1010 1410	1115 1515
Brockley Cross	1016 1416	1109 1509
Brockley Road, Wickham Road	1021 1421	1104 1504
Lewisham, Duke of Cambridge (stops in Loampit Vale)	1031 1431	1054 1454
Lewisham, Tesco Superstore	1040 1440	1045 1445

## ROUTE 972 - FRIDAYS

	OUTWARD	RETURN
Waterloo Station, Taxi Road	0915 1115 1415	0910 1110 1310 1610
Stamford Street, Blackfriars Road	0920 1120 1420	0905 1105 1305 1605
Guy's Hospital	0924 1124 1424	0901 1101 1301 1601
Tooley Street, Tower Bridge Road (towards Herne Hill)	0928 1128 1428	- - - -
Druid Street, Tower Bridge Road (towards Waterloo)	- - -	0856 1056 1256 1556
Elephant & Castle, Tabernacle	0939 1139 1439	0845 1045 1245 1545
Albany Road, Thurlow Street	0947 1147 1447	0837 1037 1237 1537
Camberwell Green, Denmark Hill	0955 1155 1455	1029 1229 1529
Herne Hill Station	1008 1208 1508	1016 1216 1516
Herne Hill, Dulwich Road	1010 1210 1510	1015 1215 1515

Some journeys provide connections with Route 937 at Herne Hill.

Revised services from 10th September 1988

## 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

# 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 30th November. Publication date is 8th December. All contributions should be sent to 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 OAS.

### SE1 AVAILABLE AT

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

### ADVERTISING IN SE1

SE1 newspaper is run on a tight budget. 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.

SE1 acknowledges the financial help of the Southwark Community Development Group, Coin Street Community Builders and the Association of Waterloo Groups.

### 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.

### NEW SE1 FORMAT

With this issue, SE1 has gone over to a cheaper form of printing in order to cut costs. Unfortunately, this means that we cannot use the same quality of paper as previously. We hope readers find the new paper acceptable. Besides being cheaper it has allowed us to increase our circulation to 3,000.

### EDITORIAL GROUP

John Howes, Mary Dimond  
Gerry Vignola, Keib Thomas

## JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 12th November  
2.00pm onwards,  
at Rockingham  
Community Centre,  
Rockingham Street, SE1  
10p entrance

Bargains galore!!!

In aid of  
Rockingham Action Group

## XMAS FAYRE

Saturday 19th November  
St Jude's School,  
St Georges Road, SE1  
Starts 2.00pm

Father Xmas, Tombola,  
Crafts, Cakes,  
Refreshments,  
Xmas Decorations

## HYPNOTHERAPY

Can help with relaxation,  
confidence, stress,  
emotional problems,  
phobias, smoking,  
weight loss, etc.

### FREE CONSULTATION

Tel: 261 1277  
(Waterloo)

Member of the  
Inst of Curative Hypnotherapy

## CHRISIMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 12th November  
at 2.00pm  
Queensborough  
Community Centre,  
Scovell Road, off  
Southwark Bridge Road, SE1

Stalls, home-made goods,  
raffles, bric a brac

Always a success!!!  
In aid of Scovell TA