

SE1

JULY 15p MONTHLY. NUMBER 7

save our centre!

Lambeth's new Tory controlled council will close down the 'Consumer Advice Centre' in Lambeth Walk if they get the expected support from the 5 SDP/Alliance councillors voted into the Vauxhall, Kennington and Waterloo areas which form the Bishops and Princes wards.

The proposal to axe Lambeth Walk CAC and the one in Streatham High Road comes up at a council meeting on July 21st. Upon hearing of the plan, a campaign to save these very necessary centres was instantly launched by angry local people and consumer advice workers, none of whom were consulted beforehand about this important issue.

A petition in support of the campaign has collected more than 7,000 signatures in just 10 days. It was only the protests of angry members of the public and the persistence of the Labour councillors prevented the decision to close the centres being taken at the earlier meeting of June 17th. More than 60 people packed the public gallery and picketed outside when the item came up for discussion at about 11.30pm



inside!

MERL AND EMIL TRAVEL THE WORLD
AND WATERLOO. PAGE 7

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The meeting itself went on until 6am the next morning.

The consumer Advice Centres in Lambeth in the last 5 years have dealt with over 250,000 people who have experienced seemingly ever increasing problems about buying or using goods and services. They also help to sort out fuel bills and how to cope with them; much of this work concerns helping people claim benefits that they are entitled to, but not getting.

They will help sort out H.P. problems, and in some cases make home visits where necessary. In fact about half the people using the Lambeth Walk centre last year were having to exist on supplementary benefit.

The Tories say the centres are an expensive luxury, and by

sacking the staff and so denying access for local people to this vital service, they hope to save about 2½p of our rate bills. Compare this with the £131,000 that the centres saved local people in the last 12 months. They have said publicly that the people of North Lambeth will just have to go to the Brixton Consumer Advice

Centre at a cost of up to £1.20 return by bus. That's providing you have got the money & the time, because at Brixton they are already so busy that people often have to queue to see an adviser.

The Tories, as a result of this action, are also totally ignoring the value of having a community service that is locally based and in tune with the problems of the area, and therefore more capable of offering specialised help.

SE1 thinks that most of us as consumers in general are badly enough represented when it comes to tackling big organisations or large shopping chains, as well as the small businesses, and that the CACs are one vital place where we can go for help.

So if you have a complaint, about some consumer item or feel you need help with that winter bill that just seems more than you can afford, go along to the Lambeth Walk Centre. If you feel strongly enough about this issue and wish to support the campaign or sign the petition then they will be glad to see you at the centre.

housing threat

Tenants in Lambeth have been expressing their anger at the new Tory administration's stated policies.

At the first Lambeth Council Housing Management Sub Committee meeting, where in the past there have been five seats given to representatives on the Lambeth Federation of Tenants, the reps took up their seats as usual. But the Conservatives have said that they are not going to appoint such people. So the chairperson of the committee asked them to leave, but they refused, being supported by other tenants in the public gallery.

And again at the main Housing Committee, Jean Stiles, the LFT elected representative, took up her seat, but the Tories refused to recognise her. Nearly 100 tenants were there behind her in the public seats. They were also demanding that there should be fair rents, no use of 'distrain', and that all council housing should be kept in a decent state of repair. (Distrain is where property is seized to help pay for a tenants rent arrears.)

A spokesperson for LFT pointed out that the neighbourhood management system set up by the old Labour administration

wasn't fully sorted out when the Tories came in and changed things again. Now tenants are left with the worst of two systems, with the neighbourhood offices having no powers. They will only take notification of repairs, and deal with rent arrears.

It is feared that repair notices are being lost along the way, never actually reaching the Direct Labour Organisation which carries out the work. This may well lead to the absurd situation where the council run DLO has nothing

to do, although there are piles of jobs waiting to be done, as the information is not getting through. What happens to the DLO, which the Tories have no love for, is open to speculation.

The Lambeth Federation of Tenants are rotating their monthly meetings round the 5 districts so that local tenants have a chance to find out what is going on. The next one will be on Thursday 5th August, 7.30 at China Walk Tenants Hall, Lambeth Walk, SE11: why not go along and add your voice.

the local newspaper!

Dr. WATSON's Dram

Thursday July 8th and fortnightly 2.30pm at Borough Community Centre: N. Southwark Pensioners Action Group meetings.

Friday July 9th: Waterloo Moveable Murals go public: to be put up in Frazier St, alongside the Campbell Buildings site.

Sunday July 18th: Waterloo Festival: see back page.

Saturday July 24th: Jumble sale at Borough Community Centre starting at 2pm.

Thursday August 5th: Meeting organised by LFT on housing issues: see front page.

Friday August 6th: Meeting opening of Baylis Road Multi Sports Area, at 7pm.
Also next issue of SE1 out!

ABOUT TURN

Southwark Council has announced a major about-turn in its planning policies in the SE1 area which will tilt the balance away from supporting offices and speculative property development towards the needs of local people and local areas.

As promised in the election manifesto, Southwark has declared a restriction on any further office building in the area which includes SE1. The only exceptions to this office ban will be if the proposed offices are ancillary to industry or replace existing offices.

This gives Southwark a policy similar to that of the GLC which banned new office developments over a year ago, and which has developed a new policy of 'community areas' where local communities will be protected against the encroachment of speculative development.

The new policy provides the opportunity for local people to press for what they have always wanted to see: developments which put the local community first by allowing land to be used for housing, open space, amenities and jobs suited to the skills and needs of local workers.

Welcoming the new policy, Ted Bowman, chairperson of the North Southwark Community Development Group, told SE1:

"We are pleased that the new Labour Council has recognised the deep feelings of the community and its attitude towards office development which has up to now deprived us of much needed land for community uses."

The GLC's community areas policy is in the GLC's own words to define "areas of inner and outer London with a predominantly working class population, where development sites are needed for new housing, community facilities and industry for the benefit of the local community - where these sites are either under

pressure from commercial development, or are blighted for any other reason."

The GLC has highlighted six areas, one of which is

basically the SE1 area (see last issue). There is a special budget of £5million allocated for use in these areas. In addition, there is a further £600,000 which will enable community groups to undertake specific projects within these areas. A Community Areas Working Party has been set up by the GLC so that very soon we should know just how this money will be made available and what it will be for in practical terms.

Southwark Council's new leader, Alan Davis, told a meeting of the Campaign to Restore Democracy in Docklands at the end of last month, that the new council would be opposed to the Docklands Development Corporation, and would refuse to co-operate with it. This is because the LDDC has snatched away the powers of the councils we have elected and substituted an undemocratic 'junta' which is appointed by the Government. It will give the go-ahead to massive office developments and luxury flats, regardless of the wishes of the local people.

All in all, it looks as though the new Southwark Council is off to a good start, but they will still need pressure from local people to keep them on our side.

SMELLS GOOD!

A good time was had by all at the Fancy Dress Fish and Chip Dance in the Borough Community Centre (see SE1 issue 5).

The Dance, organised by Mint St Adventure Playground and the Community Centre, was a fund-raising event and was very successful. Many came in fancy dress with prizes for the most thought-out one.

The Fish and Chips went down well, and over £200 was raised.

ADULT LITERACY PROVISION

This month we would like to tell you know about the wide range of classes which are available for anyone who would like to improve their reading and/or writing. Numeracy classes, which help you to learn about maths, are also offered at the places where the literacy classes are held.

MORLEY COLLEGE & BOROUGH JOB CENTRE

Phone 633 0053, ask for literacy department. Morley College took over the literacy classes which were supplied by the former South Bank Adult Education Institute in December 1980 before adult education was reorganised. Literacy groups are held in the afternoons and evenings. They are NOT advertised in the general prospectus, which is distributed over the whole of London. Morley's literacy classes are only available to local people, the area being roughly between the Oval, Kennington Road and Borough High St, going North towards the river. Numeracy classes have also been introduced.

NUMERACY

Recently literacy classes have started at the Borough Job Centre, on the corner of Borough High St. and Union St. These classes are funded by Morley, and general advice about education is also available. The classes are now held on Thursday afternoons, and will continue through the summer. Starting in September a class will also be held on Tuesdays at the Job Centre.

At Morley starting in September advice will be given on literacy on Monday mornings. For people who either do not need to, or who have already improved their reading and writing, Morley offers second chance courses in English and maths. English as a second language is also offered.

TABARD BRANCH

Phone Phyllis Thompson, or Adeola, Leslie, Maureen or Sue on 407-3230.

On 15th June the Tabard Branch of Southwark Adult Education Institute opened its doors to everyone interested in its Project for the Unemployed. A very warm welcome greeted all visitors and extended to liberal refreshments. The Project aims to provide the opportunity for improving your reading and writing and maths if you are currently out of work, and also to show its members how to use the community to the best of their ability.

SUMMER

The Project is open during term time, and during this summer term it has arranged for speakers to broaden member's horizons in many areas, including first aid, consumer advice, the new Nationality Act, how to cope

with stress, home safety, eating on a budget and for good health. Possible the most important area is preparation for employment, which includes how to make a favourable impression when filling in application forms and personally at interviews.

People attend the Project not only from SE1 area, but also from surrounding areas, eg, Camberwell and Peckham. The huge increase in bus fares has caused financial problems for those who don't live locally. Attendance at the Branch varies between members, eg, it could be 2 days a week for one person, yet four days for another.

JOBS

Most people hear about the Project through Job Centres, but newcomers are welcome to make use of the Project. It costs £1 per year and is open all day Tuesday, on Wens. and Thurs. afternoons, and Friday morning, but only up to 15th July. The Project then recommences after its summer break on September 14th. If you, or anyone you know, would like to improve your reading and writing, and you are out of work, don't hesitate to contact the Project on the number given above. Tabard Centre offers creche facilities and classes in car and bike maintenance, so don't forget to ask about these as well!

BLACKFRIARS LITERACY SCHEME

Phone 928 9521 afternoons or early evenings and speak to Caroline or Charlotte.

This scheme is based at Blackfriars Settlement, off Blackfriars Road. Literacy is either taught in groups or one-to-one, ie, one student with one volunteer tutor. Groups are held both during the day and on Monday and Wens. evenings. On Thursday evenings there is now a numeracy class for those who want to improve their maths.

HEALTH

Blackfriars Literacy Scheme offers occasional workshops in conjunction with other projects at Blackfriars Settlement, such as literacy and photography, or literacy and health. From time to time a writing weekend is arranged out of London (see article p.5) as a student remarked, 'The weekend away is a well-needed break, we had a good time, did some writing...you can relax. Also evenings are sometimes arranged of play reading or poetry reading between this Scheme and others in central/South London.

The invitation to either get help, or to give help as a volunteer tutor, is repeated here. Both students and volunteers cover a very wide age range and wide backgrounds. You won't know how you can help/be helped until you make the first move by phoning the number above.

literacy in se1

PENSIONERS UNITE!

NORSPAG

Thursday June 23rd saw the launch of the North Southwark Pensioners Action Group (NORSPAG). A lively meeting, arranged by Peter Fifth of Blackfriars Settlement and Linda Kerley (Borough Community Centre), was chaired by Denis Clarke from the Peckham branch of the Southwark Pensioners Action Group.

Attended by fifteen local senior citizens, many subjects concerning pensioners rights and well-being were discussed.

There will be further meetings starting on July 8th, and then fortnightly on Thursdays at 2.30pm at the Borough Community Centre.

It is hoped that local councillors and social services workers will be invited to these meetings to discuss problems and to explain how each works in the community to the benefit of the pensioners.

All pensioners are invited to join these meetings and to make their voices heard. Please come along and add your support.

Unity IS strength

Anne Gough

PENSIONERS MEETING IN WATERLOO

The rainstorm on Friday June 18th didn't deter local pensioners from turning up at the Waterloo Action Centre for the 'Pensioners Rights' meeting. It began with a stirring film called 'The Pensioners': a documentary featuring pensioners organising amongst themselves to campaign nationally about their inadequate pensions.

The film was followed by a hearty discussion where local pensioners voiced their own opinions and problems. Cathy Glennon from North Lambeth Law Centre was available to give advice. There was a good display of leaflets on pensioners issues, plus publicity for the Pensioners Health Club and the newly formed 'North Southwark Pensioners Action Group'.

Hopefully there will be another meeting like this one in the not too distant future at WAC..... so watch out!

JUMBO JOB

Could you do with an elephant? As reported in the last issue, Elephant Jobs (based in Stamford Street) has won its battle for existence, but lost the war on what it is allowed to do as a job creation company. Instead of trying to operate in a commercial way, but providing jobs rather than profit, it is now obliged to only do things which are of 'community benefit'.

So Elephant Jobs is looking for suggestions on what their workshops in jewellery, pottery, tufted carpets and silkscreen printing can do which would be of benefit to the community. Some ideas so far are posters for advertising community activities, church kneelers, maybe bloodgroup and donor bracelets, rentaplant for community halls (this last including the pottery and horticulture sections of EJ).

It's these workshops which have to change their ways of working. But EJ are taking this opportunity to look at the whole range of activities that they do: offset litho printing, carpentry, light engineering/cycle workshop, horticulture, construction, design, photography and secretarial facilities. If you or your group has any thoughts on what these sections could be doing, or you think you

could make use of them, get in touch with....

Andy Burton, Development Manager, Elephant Jobs, Tress House, Stamford St, SE1 Phone 928 1851

He can also give you more details on what the workshops do, and would be pleased to arrange visits to them, or get somebody to talk to your group about their activities.

JUMBLE

JUMBLE SALE

Please come along and support yet another fund-raising project at the Borough Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road on Saturday 24th July at 2pm. Plenty of bargains for all.

STOP PRESS

After 10 years of publication, Lambeth Local, the free paper produced by Lambeth Council, is to be discontinued, as part of the Tory's cuts. The last issue has just been distributed by the Post Office. Now you will need SE1 more than ever to know what is going on in the council and elsewhere.

OPEN HOUSE

Work is progressing apace on the building of the houses for the Hatch Row Housing Co-operative on the corner of Roupell Street and Hatfields. It is organised by a group of Waterloo residents, with funding from the GLC. Like other housing matters in the area, it is the local people who have had to take the initiative to get things moving.



The expected completion date for the housing is Summer 1983. Applications are now being taken, and forms are available from the Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road, SE1 10am to 2pm during the week. The closing date for all applications will be on 16th August 1982.

Once built, there will be 12 houses for 4 people, 3 for 6 people, and 4 one-bedroomed flats for couples or elderly single people. The houses are small, with small gardens, but there will be a communal open space.

Rents will be assessed by the Rent Officer, to give a 'Fair Rent'. Any profit from rents etc will be used solely for the improvement of the co-op, and nobody will gain financially from it.

All maintenance and management will be done by the future tenants, which will be a great responsibility, and a great deal of work. This will have to be shared fairly between all tenants. So every adult living in the co-op will have to make a serious commitment to help with the work in any way that they can, on a regular basis, for as long as they live there. This work will be very varied, including such jobs as rent collection, gardening, baby sitting, doing the accounts, typing, joinery and plumbing.

Because the co-op can only survive if this work is done properly, there have to be safeguards. Therefore every adult in every household will be required to sign a tenancy agreement which will include a clause saying that if they do not do their fair share of the work, they will have to leave the co-op and so lose their housing.

Living in a co-op will not suit everybody, so there will

be the opportunity for applicants to find out what living in this co-op would involve for them personally. The present management group (who have set the co-op on the road) also need to find out whether they think each applicant would be helpful and suited to the co-op. So there will be a selection process, with short-listed applicants

being interviewed in their own homes by a member of the co-op. This means a lot of work, so there will unfortunately be a wait of a few months before some applicants know whether they have been selected or not. This is bad news for those in desperate housing need, but it is unavoidable with this scheme.

Because of the serious housing shortage we expect to be overwhelmed with applications, but the selection will be made on the basis of:

1. The ability to co-operate with other people.
2. Local connection (past or present)
3. Housing need
4. Personal reliability.

Before tenants are selected, there will be meetings to attend, and after, there will be even more: probably every week, and possibly more often, but these should become less frequent after the first year.

There are obviously disadvantages with living in a co-op: it is a time-consuming, responsible and long term commitment. If you are thinking of applying, you should carefully weigh these up against the advantages, and decide whether it is for you. There will be a series of discussions and training sessions to help the selected tenants take over their responsibilities: after 6 months they will have total control.

In a successful and well-run co-op the tenants have the advantages of living in good housing that is well maintained, the support of friendly and helpful neighbours, and the satisfaction of being able to control many aspects of their own housing and their own environment.

Waterloo water babies

Tanswell Mums and Toddlers have taken to the water - thanks to Community Education at Morley College. Every Wednesday we go by minibus to Guys Hospital for an hour of tuition in the Staff Swimming Pool. Cost? only 50p.

We also have a weekly yoga class - Thursdays 10.30 to 12 noon at Barley Mow Clinic, Frazier St. Cost is 25p, and a creche operates at 4 Santley House for under 5's to give the mums a well earned break.

There are other activities planned for the summer including barbecues, coach trips, a childrens party and a disco.

We are holding a disco on Friday 13th August (we're not superstitious!) to raise money for 2 coach trips, one to Littlehampton and the other to Butlins at Clacton.

It will be a super evening with Rudy's Roadshow: five great guys - Keith, Kevin, Paul, Steve and Trevor with great sounds and even greater lighting effects! We hope to hire Colombo Street Centre's Hall for this, or alternatively John Marshall Hall (also in Colombo St). Tickets £1.50 adults or 75p children. Price includes free food and there will be a licensed bar. Come and give us your support! For enquiries and tickers call or phone Tanswell Mothers and Toddlers Group, 4 Santley House, Frazier St, SE1 phone 633 9441. Opening times 9.30 - 12.30 and 1.30 - 4pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



Mushroom stuffing

½lb mushrooms
2oz butter
1 heaped tsp Marmite
6oz brown breadcrumbs
1 egg yolk
salt and pepper.

Wash and roughly chop mushrooms and fry in butter until tender - about 5 mins. Stir in all the other ingredients and season.

Courgette and orange salad

1lb courgettes
3 large oranges
2 or 3 tbs. mayonnaise
2 tbs yogurt or single cream

Wash and top & tail courgettes, and thickly slice (½ inch). Blanch in boiling water for 3 mins, then strain and drain on kitchen paper.

Red Cabbage and Sweetcorn salad

½-¾lb red cabbage
large tin sweetcorn
½ cucumber (diced)
½ pint french dressing
1 dessertspn clear honey

Finely slice or shred cabbage drain sweetcorn, combine all ingredients and mix well. Serve as soon as possible as this will discolour after a few hours.



Finely grate rind from oranges, then peel and cut the flesh, discarding any pips. Combine courgettes (when cool), orange segments and all other ingredients, mixing well.

Bounce back

Interested in five-a-side football, hockey, tennis, netball, volleyball, basketball? Then come along to the grand opening of the Baylis Road Multi-Sports Area on August 6th at 7pm.

All are welcome to find out what facilities are available, and how you can join the users. There will be refreshments, a celebrity to open it, and not forgetting some sports!

Summer is synonymous with salads and strawberries, and this week (24th June) at Tanswell Mother and Toddler Group we had a lunchtime food tasting session. There were nine mums and five children and all tucked in with gusto.

The menu consisted of:
Nutmeat with mushroom stuffing
Green salad
Courgette and orange salad
Red cabbage and sweetcorn salad
Strawberry mousse

Here are some comments of the food tasters:

Cooking

Nutmeat with Mushroom Stuffing

1 large onion
2oz butter
1 level tsp. mixed herbs
1 heaped tbs. plain flour
½ pint milk
8oz grated cashew nuts or walnuts, or ground almonds.
½ tsp ground mace
½ tsp nutmeg
2oz fresh breadcrumbs
juice and rind of ½ lemon
1 egg white
salt and pepper

Peel and chop the onion, cook gently in the butter with the herbs for 10mins. until soft. Add the flour and milk and stir until thickened. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. Season to taste. Grease a pound loaf tin or casserole,

put in half the mixture, spread the stuffing, and then add the rest. Cover with foil and bake in a moderate oven, 350°F gas mark 4, for 1 hr. Carefully turn it out on to a large plate, serve with roast potatoes, garnished with parsley and lemon slices. The mixture can be prepared several hours beforehand, if left in a cool place covered with foil ready for baking.

Summer

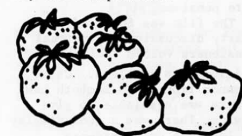
Nano Donoghue (Toy Librarian, Barley Mow Clinic): "Delicious! It was a new experience and Claire enjoyed it too."

Catherine Muller (local mum): "How nice it is to have healthy food."

Iris Layzell (yoga class member): "It's nice to try something unusual and vegetarian, and it was delicious."

Pat Corcoan (chairperson, mother and toddler group) on looking at the recipe after going back for a second helping "This has got marmite in - I don't like Marmite!"

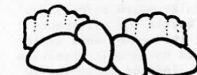
You've read the comments, now try the recipes.....



Strawberry Mousse

1 small tin evaporated milk
1 pkt. strawberry jelly
1 tin strawberries (or ½lb fresh, lightly cooked with a little water and 2 tbs sugar)
2 egg whites, whipped to fullest volume

Make up strawberry jelly using ½ pint boiling water and leave until cool. Whip evaporated milk to fullest volume. Sieve or liquidize strawberries. Mix together with jelly and evaporated milk. Lightly fold in egg whites and pour into 3pt dish. Put in fridge and leave to set for 2 or 3 hours.



and more!

by Tanswell Mother & Toddler Group

Baby Walker (folding if possible) and Baby Relax chair. Must be in good condition. Call at 4 Santley House or ring 633 9441 with details of items and price required.

Minibus driver - we need a volunteer to take a group of mums and toddlers to swimming classes at Guy's Hospital on Wednesday mornings 9.30am to 12 noon. Apply as above.

Cathy is still coming home

Cathy arrived at the Borough Community Centre on Friday 4th June, courtesy of the Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama. The cast was made up of students from the college who gave their services free.

There was a small entrance fee, which was passed on to Shelter, the housing charity. I thought that this was quite appropriate as Cathy and the cast portrayed the ever increasing agony and strife that befalls the homeless today.



Understanding the serious situation which the cast very capably put over, I felt that they were doing themselves an injustice by calling themselves amateurs. They put on a wonderful performance. The audience, including myself, enjoyed ourselves very much. I am sure we will see more of the Rose Bruford Players in the future.

Jim McDougall



I go to Literacy

There are different kinds of places to go to for adult education and help with reading, writing and maths. You can find out which is the nearest for you by ringing us.

I am on the management committees at Cambridge House and Blackfriars Settlement Literacy Schemes. You don't have to pay to go to classes at these schemes, though you do in some others. Some of us are in the National Students' Association. It's for all students in reading, writing and maths schemes. We want to improve student participation in our schemes.

Bill Bebington.

Why?

Well, we are from Blackfriars Settlement and Cambridge House Literacy Schemes. We are out in Kent on a weekend away writing about superstition. Well, trying to. Why, you ask?

Well, for one thing it gives us a chance to get out of London. And for another, it's what everybody voted for.

Plus, we get to know each other here a lot better, and have a good laugh.

Chris.

I have been to Aylesford six or seven times now with Blackfriars and Cambridge House and every time I've found it very useful for my literacy needs. Also with the weekends we get more time to do the writing because most classes in the year are for two hours, once a week.

Bill.

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH READING AND WRITING

RING 928 9521 or 701 4221

It's bad to drink from a cracked cup. Or - cracks collect germs and dirt - you might get sick from this. If you drank from a cracked cup you could cut your mouth.

You must cross a fortune-teller's palm with silver or you will have ill-fortune. Or - fortune tellers earn their living by their craft. This superstition saves them from having to ask for money which might be embarrassing.

BODY SNATCHERS

In the 18th century there was a growing interest in medicine. People wanted to discover the way the body worked. So there was a big demand for bodies to experiment on.

Despite all the superstitions surrounding graveyards, grave robbers dug up bodies and sold them to the medical schools. They had to get newly buried bodies, before they rotted. In a place like Edinburgh there were many body snatchers as there were a lot of medical schools: two famous ones were Burke and Hare.

It was often poor people who robbed graves because they needed the money for food. They took a hand cart and wrapped cloth around the wheels so that they made no sound. The police tried to stop this. They patrolled the graveyards and looked out for people selling jewellery and valuables taken from graves.

If someone found a dead body or suicide and there were no relatives, the medical profession would claim it for dissection. Sometimes, people who could not afford to bury a relative pretended it was the body of a stranger so they could get money for it.

These days some people give their bodies or organs to science. In the war the Germans carried out experiments on the Jews in concentration camps. Recently police arrested a woman for this offence.



KATHLEEN'S TRIP



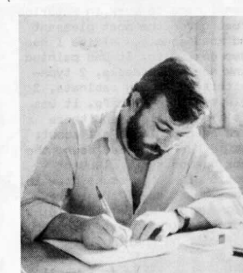
A long journey away from home - I've been here before. It's nice here. We walked to the village for shopping. I like it because it's got the shop here because you can buy stuff like things about Jesus and God.

I brought a picture of the Pope today - for my Mum. They're nice here and it's nice and hot.

Wicked witches were invented by frightened men.

This page on 'SUPERSTITION' was laid out by Literacy students and tutors on a residential weekend. The second part of it will appear in the next issue.

Don't walk under ladders - it's unlucky. Or - a can of paint may fall on your head. Or you may knock the ladder so someone falls.



6 MINT ST. PLAYGROUND Exciting First Six Months

Last week, I had a 'pleasant experience': I was invited to sit-in on the Mint St. Adventure Playground's first annual general meeting since they moved from their old place.

A lot of very hard work has been put into their new premises. It is most pleasing to walk through the gates and the atmosphere can become quite 'electric' when you walk around, seeing the children playing on the structures. These include a large swing, a rope cat-walk and large platform.

The Playground is steadily building more and more structures with the capable guidance of the senior playleader and that of assistant Garry. Hopefully there will be another assistant.

The 'Hut' (a new brick building) has in one corner a couple of lovely rabbits, which the children love, and maybe in the future there will be a few more pets, and have an 'Animal

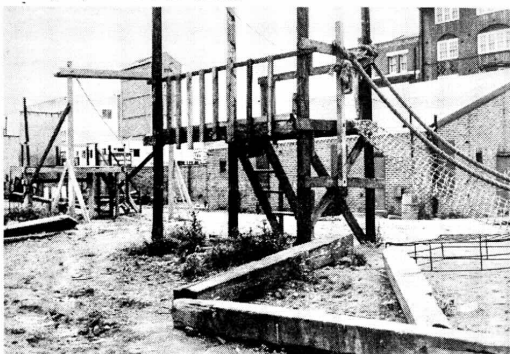
Sanctuary'. It is pleasing also to see murals surrounding the inside walls.

Last year, the kids, during their summer holidays, were able to go canoeing, camping and swimming and even a group of the kids spent some time on the Thames. From the photographs which adorn the walls of the Hut, they seemed to have enjoyed themselves. I would like to see this take place again this year.

With all the plans that are being made for the future, I am sure that I am sure it will be a success, with the co-operation of the various agencies concerned. A lot can be achieved. To see the kids enjoying themselves should be satisfaction enough.

So let's all make sure we give our support to this worthy ad-venture, especially the parents!

Jim McDougall,
Borough Community
Centre.



Short Story

THE PINK ROOM

It is with relish that we print a humorous article about Waterloo Action Centre behind the scenes. It is written by Marshall Coleman, who set up the Employment Project, but who has recently moved on to pastures new. We wish him every success.

When I came to work in Waterloo I was given the most pleasant and most spacious office I had ever worked in. It was painted pink and had 4 desks, 2 typewriters, 4 filing cabinets, 2 telephones and a safe. It was lit by a skylight and there were potted plants all about. Soon after I settled down, the door opened and a cloud of exotic cigarette smoke blew in. From the midst of the smoke a voice said, 'Hello, I'm Elaine Hoxter, like doctor, but with a D. You'll be sharing this office with me.'

'Which typewriter do I use?' I asked. 'You can use both of them,' she said, 'Neither of them works.'

The door opened again, and a man came in carrying the longest list I had ever seen. It contained over a thousand items of which nine hundred had to be completed by lunch. After lunch he was going to have a nervous breakdown, and in July he was going to have a baby. His name was Maish Ernst, though he was sometimes called Ernst Maish.

Unlike the typewriters, both telephones worked, and they worked all the time. Instead of ringing, however, they made a high pitched whine as if their terminals were being granulated. I answered one phone, Elaine answered another, and Maish opened the drawer of a filing cabinet. How quickly the Pink Room had filled up!

The door opened again. Maish had to close the drawer, and Elaine had to move the phone. It was Frances Gorman, winner of the Queen's award for Industry. Frances could run 6 Health Clubs, 10 Drop-Ins and 24 Groups while juggling 6 Indian clubs and spinning a dozen plates.

Health corner hayfever

Do you suffer from hay-fever?

.....runny nose, constant sneezing, heavy feeling in the head, streaming eyes, headaches, itchy nose, feverishness? Just as the sun comes out, and you can begin to enjoy going out, hayfever can be the most miserable, irritating and depressing experience.

We tried to find out a bit more about it, as many people seemed to be suffering from it this year, the pollen count being particularly high at times during that hot and humid spell.

Hayfever is not taken very seriously, as it is not a 'life threatening' disease. Also the fact that there are so many treatments offered by doctors for it shows that no-one has really found an effective 'cure'.

We looked at some of the ways doctors deal with it, and found that most of the drugs have some unpleasant side effects. Pippa Oakshott, local G.P., felt that none of the treatments were effective, and she does not like prescribing for hayfever. A course of injections of pollen are sometimes offered, but these are not particularly effective, and can be dangerous. Occasionally, you can get 'anaphylactic shock' from it, and it has been known to cause death.

The anti-histamine pills, 'Piriton' are not harmful; you can buy them in the chemist. But they make you sleepy, and you shouldn't drink alcohol with them.

This she proceeded to do in the little Pink Room, and the wires of the two phones got badly tangled.

There was a knock at the door. Before it opened, we had to move one of the desks and untangle the phones. It was Jeanette Copperman, who was a small person who fitted in quite easily, but she carried an extremely large bag - a cross between a haversack and a Pickford's removal van - and we had to put two of the chairs on top of the filing cabinet to let it in. Frances and Jeanette were looking for somewhere to live, and were thinking of moving into Jeanette's bag.

Elaine lit another exotic cigarette. She had given up herbal cigarettes and was now smoking cheroots made out of tea bags. The plants on the filing cabinet died. Then the phones began to squeal. I picked one up: 'There's a man at the front, asking whether we want any eggs'

The nose-sprays are OK for their short term effects, but should not be used for long periods. They have steroids in them.

The capsules (Rhynacrom) the doctor may prescribe only work if you use them all the time, and Pippa does not recommend this.

Adrenalin pills have short term benefits: they restrict the blood vessels, so reduce the effects of hayfever, but again it is not good for you to use them for long.

Her message was "You just have to put up with it!"

The South London Natural Health Centre offered general advice about diet and lifestyle, but did not want to suggest any 'remedies'. Hayfever is a very individual thing, and some people get it someyears and not others. Some suddenly get it after years of sneeze-free summers, others just as suddenly find they have recovered.

Acupuncture has helped some, and a change of diet others. Some find cutting out milk products and tea and coffee helps.

The Natural Health Centre stresses that you have to take your whole body into account, and not just deal with symptoms. They recommend 'alternative' practitioners such as herbalists, homeopaths and acupuncturists, but all of them charge a fee (some have a sliding scale). All will encourage you to look at your diet and lifestyle.

You can ring them on Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9pm for advice on alternative treatments on ?????

One man tried putting comfrey leaves up his nostrils, but it looked very funny. Another puts vaseline around the nostrils to help prevent pollen entering the nose.

In the meantime - this has not helped your sneezing. Have you found an effective remedy? Please write to SE1 with your ideas about hayfever.

-He must be cracked, said Frances.

-Shell we ask him in? said Elaine.

-You must be yolkling, added Maish. Humour had broken out.

But the man did exist, and he did have some eggs, having just bought a job lot of ostrich eggs at bargain price in a local market. And he came into the Pink Room. 'This is Fred,' said Elaine so I extended an arm to shake his hand, but there were too many people milling about between us, so I had to make do with a wave. Meanwhile Frances and Jeanette started pounding on the typewriters, pounding with their fists, because neither of them worked, and there were the eternal interruptions by the phone, which worked all too well.

Merl & Emil

MERL & EMIL

We feature here a mother and son from Sri Lanka, who are active members of the Kid's Health Club at Waterloo Adventure Playground. While we're used to saying, 'Today London, tomorrow the world', in Merl's case it is 'Yesterday the world and Sri Lanka, today Tanswell Estate'.

When first approached to tell her story, Merl's exasperated comment was, 'Mine is a very long story. I could write a book about it', so we can only glimpse at the full life she has led.

HERE AND THERE

How does our life compare with that of Sri Lanka? In Sri Lanka there is much sharing, whereas here we can fall back on Social Security. Even the poorest family has a piece of fertile land to farm, which is rent free and there are free rations of rice to the poor. Sri Lanka is nice if you have money. However our transport system is better (when it is working) than in Sri Lanka, and life generally is easier than in Sri Lanka.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

How does food compare with here? A typical breakfast would be fruit with either steamed rice flour noodles, or with rice flour cooked in coconut milk. Lunch is traditionally served on a long table, and consists of rice or Chinese noodles with meat or fish and several vegetables. Common alcoholic drinks include coconut liquor and toddy, a white fermented product of coconut. And of course plenty of tea is available!

Merl had 3 sisters and 2 brothers at home. Her father worked in a golf club, but died of heart failure when very young. Merl went to a Catholic Convent school between the ages of 5 and 16. She remembers Christmas Day as being like our Guy Fawkes Day, with plenty of fireworks. Sri Lanka has several religions, Buddhism and Hinduism included, and each tries to outdo the others when they celebrate their festivals. Although Sri Lanka is blessed with summer all the year, there are colder, foggy and hilly areas where the tea is

grown. The soil is rich and so coconut and rubber are also grown, together with some rice, coffee and cocoa.

HOSPITAL NURSING

Merl learnt English at school. She belonged to the Young Christian Workers (YCW) and through this she became involved in social work. A Dutch priest worked at the YCW, and it was her intention at one time to go on a scholarship to Holland to study social work. But this was not meant to be. Instead she found herself in nursing training at Whipps Cross Hospital. Merl sees nursing as a worthwhile career and vocation. Her first impression of England was 'Cold, miserable and raining.' She specialised in ophthalmic nursing and finished her training in 1967 at Moorfields Eye Hospital.

HER FRIENDS' HAIRDRESSER

Since 1967 Merl has gained experience at many hospitals, and on one occasion she herself underwent surgery at the Brompton Hospital on Fulham Road to have mended a hole in the heart. Merl returned home to nurse her mother for a year, then returned to England to do part time work at St. Mary's on Harrow Rd. At the same time she attended a 2 year course at Morris School of hairdressing, and uses this talent regularly on her friends. On one occasion at St. Mary's she unwittingly interrupted 3 individuals who were breaking into a phone coin box outside her ward, and informed them that the visiting hours were over!

WORLD TRAVELER

From a bedsit in Harrow Merl moved to 'Tanswell Estate' in 1973. She did agency nursing at Guy's, St. Thomas', Westminster and Lambeth Hospitals. She liked agency nursing because she could take longer holidays.

In her travels Merl has visited Moscow, Ireland (it reminded me of home because of the very green, open fields. Dublin reminded me of Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, and the Irish people were very friendly), California, various countries in Europe, Egypt and Cairo,



where she climbed in the dark with only a candle to light the way to the top of a pyramid. All these tours she embarked on alone, in the knowledge that, 'I always meet people wherever I go', but is equally always glad to come back to London.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CLUB

Merl married in 1973, and her only son, Emil, was born in 1976. She would like her husband to come and live here if this were possible. It was in 1980 that she started assisting on Wednesday afternoons at the Children's Health Club, and she has taught the children simple first aid, eg, what to do if someone is burnt or faints. She attended a creche workers course at Morley College, and runs occasional creches as needed in this area. Merl is trying to teach Emil to speak Sinhalese which is the native tongue of Sri Lanka, but enthusiasm would appear to be lacking!

If you would like to nominate anyone in SE1 to be featured, please call Chris after 9pm on 261 9710. I look forward to hearing from you.

Suddenly we heard a crash. Someone had dropped in through the skylight and landed on one of the desks, and the typewriters suddenly started working again. 'Sorry,' he said, 'I've come to repair the burglar alarm.' Then catching sight of a newcomer he added, 'My name's Gerry, I live on the first floor - at least that's my storey.'

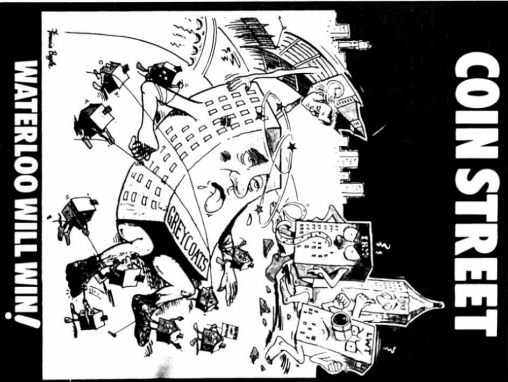
How crowded the little Pink Room had become, and what a hive of activity! The sixteen of us were writing madly, typing badly, opening drawers, filling chits, holding meetings, repairing things, breaking things, trying to revive the spider plant, smoking furiously and giving up smoking, putting our elbows in each others' ears,

losing things, looking for them and finding them, making cups of tea, buying eggs,.....

It had become the Pink Hole of Waterloo. But there was one thing to be said for working there. You got really close to your colleagues.

COIN ST POSTCARD

This postcard is one of a series of four available from the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Rd, SE1, at 50p for 4. Keep your friends in the picture and use these cards when writing to them!



letters

Dear SE1,

Now that summer is drawing in, I hope that the new Amenities Committee is looking into the re-opening of Southwark Park open air swimming pool.

The dearth of recreation facilities in Bermondsey is a serious problem - all the more so as boredom is the surest path to petty crime. Moreover, as a woman may I suggest that in the past the council has, to put it kindly, lacked imagination in its allocation of recreation

facilities. Football enthusiasts are very well catered for in Southwark Park with several grass pitches and even for special occasions an astro-turf one. However, girls, women, children and non-football playing men hardly get a look in as they wend their way around the pitches looking for somewhere to sit or play.

As far as the open air baths are concerned, if the Brockwell Park pool is anything to go by, no-one could say that local demand would be lacking.

As a swimmer & local resident I strongly urge the Council to re-open Southwark Park Baths immediately, so that they can be used this summer by the people of Bermondsey.

Yours with concern

Viv Talbot
(161 Abbeyfield Rd, SE16)

EDITORIAL NOTE: Although Southwark Park isn't (quite) in SE1, these would be the closest baths for many people in SE1, even if you include the Elephant and Castle.

Bulbs

Lambeth Council took over Matheson Lang and Munro House, Tanswell Estate and Windmill House on April 1st 1982. Two caretakers now live on Tanswell, but they are still 'non-resident' until a probationary period of 6 months is completed.

Courtyards and stairwells are looking cleaner than they have done for years. Tanswell's caretakers also work on the other houses named above. Their day begins at 8 am and includes daily sweeping of each courtyard. The chutes are swept out at least twice a week, and stairwell lights are checked for dead bulbs every other day. The stairwells are now swept & washed once a week by a cleaner.

Tanswell still has problems with its drains. Our caretaker assured me that they are booked in to be thoroughly flushed out again, using high-power water jets. Also Tanswell has a problem with furniture being dumped round its chutes. 'You name it, we get it!' as the caretaker remarked. It is his job to store these items in the intake rooms next to the chute until Lambeth council removes them.

But rather than dumping unwanted things in the courtyards, did you know that Lambeth will actually come and collect them free of charge? For further information, please phone 720 2177 during office hours.

ALL EVENTS
FREE! STARTS
WITH PARADE
AT 12.15!

LOWER MARSH
SE1.

118 JUL

WATERLOO Festival

GAMES
MUSIC!

8200

BUSBY
JUGGLER
INFLATABLES

PUNCH
&
JUDY

STALLS



Any help on the day, between 9.00 and 6.00 would be appreciated: Contact Rita Wood at the Waterloo Action Centre 261 1404.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS Issue 6

Across: 1 Blackfriars, 3 Octopus, 6 Orate, 10 Rye, 11 Ratio, 8 Rasps, 14 Ohio, 16 Yonder.
Down: 1 Biography, 2 Actor, 4 Kippers, 5 Resort, 7 Area, 9 Splendid, 13 Sin, 14 Or, 15 Id.

join us

The SE1 group warmly invite you to come and take an active part in your local paper.

We need people to help out with all aspects of writing, producing and distributing it (you can spend as much or as little time as you please). We also desperately need contacts - people who are involved in some local group or just individuals who are prepared to give us a ring when they hear about something interesting happening. You needn't even write the story yourself although we would be happy to give you help and advice if you want to.

So, if you would like to offer us a bit of your time and energy (there are no skills involved which we can't teach you) then why not come to one of our meetings? They are always advertised in the paper,

or if you prefer, give us a ring and find out a bit more.

STOP PRESS

If you can help out with distribution by delivering a few copies to your newsagent or selling some in your local pub or tenants association, please ring Chris (our new distribution co-ordinator) after nine in the evening on 261 9710.

Meetings are usually the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 7pm at 12 Meymott St, SE1. This month that means 14th & 28th July.

These are also the dates for our 'drop-in' sessions at the office, 1.30 to 3.30pm if you want to chat about the paper, or discuss something.

Deadline for all contributions is 28th July, with the August issue appearing 6th Aug.