

SEI

Self-governing status contested at Guy's Hospital

A group of senior managers at Guy's Hospital last month responded to the Government's proposed changes within the National Health Service. They told the Government that they are interested in further information which might result in Guy's becoming a self-governing trust.

The Government's idea is that hospitals would be free to opt-out of the control of their District Health Authority and become responsible for their own services and finances.

Opposition to this move, however, has been widespread, both within the hospital and from among the local community. Criticism has been made of the way the 'expression of interest' in self-governing status was bulldozed through Guy's by a small group of senior managers and consultants without any consultation of staff. The gravest concern though is about the future of health services provided by Guy's should it become self-governing.

Many consultants at Guy's are opposed to self-governing status. So are other medical and non-medical staff at the hospital. It is also opposed by the health service trades unions. At a public meeting held by Lewisham & North Southwark Community Health Council last month, addressed by Simon Hughes MP, speaker after speaker from the health service and the local community condemned the attempt to change the status of Guy's Hospital.

There is widespread suspicion that Guy's Hospital has been chosen by the Government as the flagship of its health service reforms. These suspicions were detailed in an article in 'The Guardian' newspaper. If such a prestigious teaching hospital were to express an early interest in becoming self-governing it was thought that other hospitals would follow and public opposition would be stilled. It has also

been suggested that funds for the next phase of Guy's building programme were under threat if the hospital didn't opt for the Government's self-governing route.

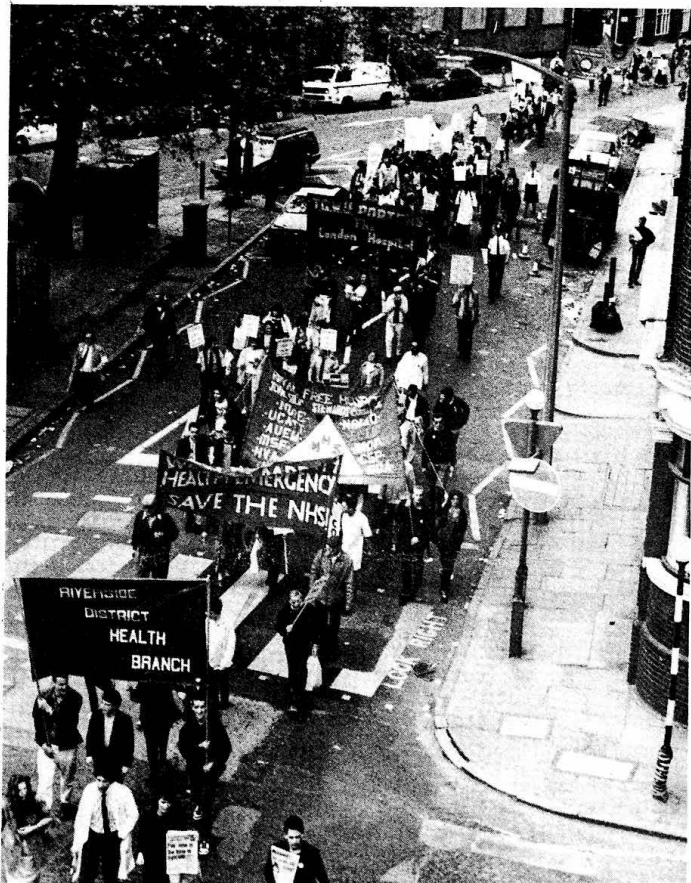
One of the Prime Minister's confidential medical advisers is Professor Ian McColl, Director of Surgery at Guy's, said to have influenced the Government's thinking on the future of the NHS. He is also said to have convinced Dr Hugh Saxton, Chair of the Unit Management Board at Guy's Hospital, that Guy's should take a leading role in becoming a self-governing trust.

Dr Hugh Saxton was the most vocal supporter of Guy's becoming self-governing, in the hope that this would bring the Hospital financial rewards, but he rubbed the majority of the 240 consultants at Guy's up the wrong way by his reluctance to ask them what they thought about the proposal.

What made many people suspect a conspiracy was the announcement at the end of April that Mr Peter Griffiths, the Regional General Manager of South East Thames Regional Health Authority, was to take up a post as the effective Chief Executive at Guy's Hospital in the run-up to self-governing status in 1991.

His post is to be funded by carpet millionaire and public benefactor Sir Philip Harris, whose family charitable trust is also contributing £1 million to another of the Government's hotly contested policy innovations in education, transforming Bacon's School in Bermondsey into a City Technology College (see story inside).

While many consultants had reluctantly come round to agreeing to 'expressing an interest' in self-governing status in order to get more information from the Government about what this would involve, the appointment of Mr Peter Griffiths



March last month against Guy's and St Thomas's opting-out

made it look as though it was already a foregone conclusion that Guy's would adopt this course.

Subsequently, Dr Saxton has agreed that all consultants at Guy's will be balloted in the future before any final decision is taken on the hospital becoming a self-governing trust.

This position, however, does not satisfy the Community Health Council. They want the Lewisham & North Southwark Health Authority to ballot all members of staff at Guy's Hospital, from ancillary workers to medical staff, on whether Guy's should change its status or not. They have also asked Southwark Council to commission a survey of public opinion about the

matter to be undertaken by a professional polling company.

The undemocratic and under-hand procedures which were used to attempt to propel Guy's towards self-governing status are of less concern though than what might happen to the services the hospital provides for the local community if it does take this route.

The Government's proposals are concerned with introducing 'market forces' into the National Health Service. The idea is that Health Authorities would purchase services on behalf of local populations from whichever self-governing hospital provides them

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Guy's opt-out

Continued from front page

cheapest. Competition among self-governing hospitals in London to provide these services would make them more efficient, increase the revenue of the most efficient and provide a better service for patients. So the theory goes.

The fear expressed by opponents of the Government's proposals is that Guy's would develop its profitable specialist services, such as heart surgery and hip replacement, at the expense of its time consuming general medical services to local residents and would therefore no longer be the local district general hospital it is today. The link to the local community might therefore be cut in future.

The Health Authority might decide to place its contract for general services outside the borough or even outside South London. People would then have to travel further afield to seek many forms of treatment. It is feared that the elderly would suffer most from these changes. Health Authorities may not be able to afford to keep them in hospital and would have to send them further away to lower cost hospitals.

If profit becomes the primary motive in the provision of health services, many doctors feel that patients would suspect their motives about the type of treatment they undertake. They also fear that hospitals would be turned into competitors instead of collaborators and that less efficient self-governing hospitals might be forced to close altogether.

Many people in the health service fear that if hospitals opt out of local control, there will be a danger of a two-tier health system developing. The most vulnerable in our community, the elderly, the chronically ill, the mentally handicapped and mentally frail, will be those to suffer most.

Meanwhile, in Lambeth, where St Thomas's Hospital has also expressed an interest in opting out of the control of West Lambeth Health Authority, Lambeth Council has frozen its dealings with the Authority in protest.

The Council has suspended the sale of an elderly people's home to the Health Authority and has also threatened to end the joint running of community care services.

Regenerating Stamford Street

Stamford Street Short-Life Housing Group (SSHG) - whose members are the two sons, daughter, brother and two friends of council tenant families living for over 18 years in the street - have set about rescuing 3 empty flats from neglect and despair.

A strong campaign has developed in support of their proposal to get short-term leases from Lambeth Council and thereby allow the group to develop into a housing co-operative.

The problems of doing expensive essential repairs to both the 160 year-old terraces stems from the GLC days. Many flats were left vacant when problems occurred and this situation continued after Lambeth Council took control in 1982.

The council explained publicly in April that their plan to begin major works this year had been quashed by government restrictions on housing spending and by their own staffing and resource problems.

During the ten years of waiting for rehabilitation, the tenants have had to live amongst the delay, careless squatters, spreading dampness and dryrot, leaking roofs and rats.



A backwards step

The Management Committee of St Jude's Community Centre Association are inviting members of management committees of other voluntary organisations in North Southwark to an important meeting.

This will discuss the formation of a united front against a new proposal of

Anthony Alexis, campaign organiser for SSHG says "the support for our proposal has been tremendous and we thank everyone for their support. Besides gifts of furniture, plates and cutlery, local people have helped us to repair and paint the flats. We are very lucky and proud to be members of a caring community and as young people we want the chance to continue that community spirit into the future."

The group intends to absorb other empty council homes in the area to provide more short-life housing for a well balanced mix of multi-racial, young single people in housing need, a demand not currently met in Waterloo.

South London Family Housing Association are 100% behind the group and are committed to providing the finance and co-op training development support. The Waterloo Community Development Group are providing the campaign resources. Local MP Stuart Holland also supports the initiative.

Anthony told SEL that "this is an opportunity the council should not miss. The group is inspired by the achievements of the Coin Street campaign nearby and we echo their belief that 'there is another way'."

Bad landlords face crackdown in Lambeth

Private landlords who own poorly maintained and equipped multi-occupied premises are facing a crackdown in Lambeth.

The Council's Environmental Health Department has set up a team of fifteen field officers to look into conditions in bedsits, hostels and bed and breakfast accommodation. The aim is to ensure that these types of accommodation are upgraded.

The pressures on housing in London today, especially in the inner city areas, are so great that many private landlords charge extortionate rents for poor, unsafe and overcrowded accommodation.

With the doubling of homelessness in the capital in the past ten years, bed and breakfast accommodation in particular has expanded rapidly with few statutory controls over this form of housing. Thousands of Lambeth residents live in multiple accommodation, many in the conditions described above.

Lambeth's new team will be investigating as many properties as possible, and paying special attention to their means of escape in case of fire and toilet, bathing and cooking facilities. If these facilities fall below standard, owners will be forced to make improvements.

The Council has powers under many Housing Acts and Public Health Acts to oblige landlords to comply with health and safety regulations and provide adequate toilet, bathing and cooking facilities. They can order the work to be done by the landlord or can do the work themselves and make the landlord pay. Last year, Lambeth carried out £500,000 worth of such works.

The team is asking for information from anyone who lives in this type of multiple occupation who thinks their housing conditions are poor. Tenants can ring 622 6655 x 240.

Calls will be treated in the strictest confidentiality and tenants should not fear that their names might be disclosed to their landlords.

Rose Theatre given temporary reprieve

On Monday 15th May a temporary reprieve was given to what has become one of the most important archaeological sites in London, that of the Rose Theatre at the foot of Southwark Bridge, on Park Street.

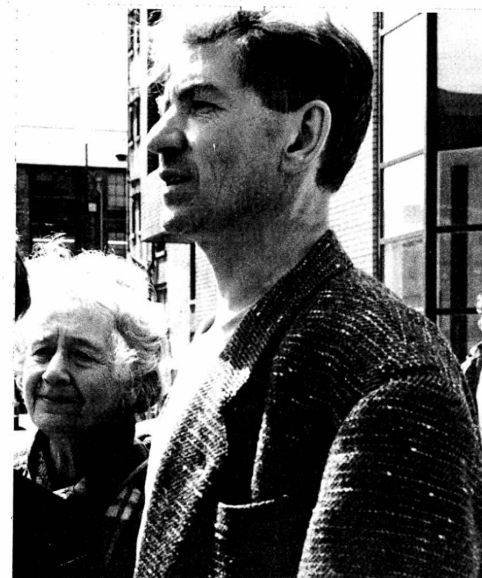
The reprieve was granted by the owners of the site after an all night vigil by Simon Hughes MP, Cllr Hilary Wines, archaeologists from the site and many others keen to see the site protected including the actor Ian McKellan.

However, the Government was not prepared to intervene and save the site and has left it up to the developers to decide its future with the many people concerned about the Rose. By the middle of this month though, at the end of the 28 day reprieve, the ruins may still be buried and gilles driven through the old theatre as yet another office block goes up in North Southwark.

Apart from the many famous actors who have visited the site, including Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Judi Dench, Dustin Hoffman, Charlton Heston, Timothy Dalton and many more, hundreds of people have come to visit this remarkable site including local residents who live close by, Councillor Anne Matthews, Leader of Southwark Council, and Cllr Geoff Williams, Chair of Southwark's Planning Committee.

Since the Secretary of State for the Environment announced

Photo: Marg Nicol



Dame Peggy Ashcroft and Ian McKellan at the Rose Theatre

the 28 day reprieve in the House of Commons last month, after much pressure behind the scenes and a private notice question from Simon Hughes, a constant presence has been maintained at the Rose since it had been left up to the developer to look

after the remains until the final fate of the site is decided.

Some local residents have been providing refreshments for the determined group of guardians who have chosen to stay at the Rose Theatre and

the 'Rose Committee' has now been set up to coordinate information and organise an around the clock group of volunteers who now guard the site.

In the meantime, Southwark Council's Planning Department has been quietly negotiating with the developers to save the site and have said they would look favourably on a re-design of the office block which would preserve the Rose Theatre for public access.

The Rose Theatre was built in 1587 and despite subsequent frequent redevelopment on the site the remains of the Rose are surprisingly intact. They have revealed information hitherto unknown about Tudor/Jacobean theatres, such is the condition of the remains. Considering the uniqueness of the find, many can't believe that its future should be in doubt. It seems inconceivable that an office block and underground car park could take precedent over such a historical asset and that its future is even in question.

English Heritage, responsible for the national patrimony, has been unable to 'schedule' the site as an historical monument because their annual £700,000 grant from central government is not sufficient to enable them to compensate the owners and developers of the site, Imry Merchant Developers, who bought the site last year from the Heron Corporation for £20 million.

Water rats

Thames Water Authority has announced a major cash cut in the money for sewer maintenance in Lambeth.

The Council, which has the job of looking after the sewers, was told by Thames Water at the end of last month that they would receive only £256,000 this year compared to £483,000 last year, a cut of nearly 50%.

Councillor Stewart Hunter, Chair of Lambeth's Public Services Committee, said that "this sum will mean more power blockages and a higher level of rat infestation because of a lack of funds to deal with the problems. Many people may be unaware that the sale of our sewerage privatisation includes systems and I am sure they will be as concerned as I am over these developments."

Open Day

The John Harvard Community Education Centre on Union Street is presently undergoing development work to build a new creche and better canteen facilities.

Community Education staff at Morley College, including Cass Breen and Keib Thomas, formerly gardening correspondent of SEL, have been working very hard to turn the centre into a community education resource.

The Centre, access is by Copperfield Street, is having an Open Day on Thursday 8th June, from 2.00-5.00pm. Free refreshments will be available. All local people are welcome and there will be activities for children. Southwark Council Leader Anne Matthews will be there lending her support to the Centre.

Keep keep-fit

Elderly users of St George's Clinic on Blackfriars Road were dismayed to hear rumours that a keep-fit class for the elderly held at the Clinic every Monday morning from 10.30 to 11.30am is in danger of closing.

The Clinic is run by the Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority's Community Services and provides many valuable health services for local residents.

One of the members of the keep-fit class, Mrs May, has written to the Director of Community Services saying that users "enjoy the class very much; the time and location are ideal for us. In addition to our exercises, we are weighed each week to encourage everyone to maintain a healthy lifestyle."

Upper Ground

Southwark and Lambeth Councils are jointly funding roadworks on Upper Ground, on the boroughs' boundary. The road will be narrowed, as a traffic calming measure, and a new pedestrian crossing will link the two new parks.

These improvements have been requested for the past several years by residents and Coin Street Community Builders. Fortunately, the Councils were able to include the cost of the works in their budgets for the last financial year.

Work has begun and is scheduled for completion in mid-July. Yellow lines will be reinstated on the road to prevent commuter car-parking. Selfish commuters have been having a field day on Upper Ground and it's high time they were booted out.

4 Developers threaten Lower Marsh market

Readers will recall in the last issue of SE1 that we reported on the current property developments taking place in Waterloo and North Southwark. Further investigations since then by Waterloo Community Development Group (WCDG) have filled in the picture further.

In particular, WCDG has discovered who is behind the buying up of properties in Lower Marsh. The property agents Nigel King Lumsden, who have been offering up to £200,000 to shopowners on Lower Marsh for their properties, is acting on behalf of Sir John Mactaggart and David King of Central City Properties, one of the country's largest property development companies.

They have created a company called Thamespace which has been providing the money for the offers made by Nigel King Lumsden. So far at least 9 shops have been purchased. The properties are being re-let on 12 year leases but with an option that the developer can cancel any time with 6 months notice, thus ensuring the property developers vacant possession of all the properties in 6 months.

Central and City properties built the enormous £130 million, 290,000 sq ft office complex in Fenchurch Street using the same tactic of carefully and slowly buying up existing properties and piecing together their landholding.

WCDG has made contacts with the National Federation of Small Businesses and the Self Employed. They have their London office in Lower Marsh and are helping to get together all the market traders and shop owners who want to stay.

Local residents have started to get more involved in all this and there have been articles in the press on the matter. If Lower Marsh goes

it will be the end of Waterloo as a shopping centre, since all of the remaining shops in Lower Marsh would suffer a drop in business.

The stakes are so high that WCDG feels it is difficult to underestimate the damage that could be caused to the area if redevelopment goes ahead. Waterloo has won many battles in the past, saving the North Lambeth Library, stopping building on the open space next to the War Museum, and the new homes at Coin Street are three such examples. The area has its problems, and many things could be improved, yet to lose the market and the surrounding area to developers would be disastrous.

WCDG believes that the Channel Tunnel terminal has encouraged the developers to swoop like vultures onto Waterloo. Their eyes must be lighting up with pound signs when they see places like Lower Marsh. Businessmen will want luxury flats next to the terminal, tourists will want to eat pizzas and buy their 'I Love London' T shirts.

WCDG plans to step up its activity around these issues. If the Channel Tunnel can be stopped it will relieve a lot of the pressure on areas like Lower Marsh. Traders like L&N Cohens and Lawrence Pet Foods have said publicly that they want to remain. Mr Cohen was born in the Marsh and he believes that the terminal will be good for business, but not his type of business. Mr Cohen reckons that a clothes shop like his depends on the settled local community, whereas the terminal will bring amusement arcades, trinket shops and hotels.

Thamespace has bought property on Tennyson Way, on Lower Marsh, on Westminster Bridge Road and the old OCS building on Baylis Road. If anyone has more information, Waterloo Community Development Group would be pleased



Lower Marsh ... developers go to market

to know about it.

It is unlikely that British Rail is ignorant of Thamespace's plans. Though true to form the local community are the last people they will tell. We do know more details of BR's planned office development with P&O on York Road. BR has made things very difficult by asking Lambeth Council to approve their Channel Tunnel plans without giving any of the details of developments which they know are planned on all sides of the station.

Kay Turner, one of the governors of Johanna Primary School, is very worried about the situation. Obviously, whatever is built on Lower Marsh will create enormous nuisance and danger for the school children during construction.

The government has encouraged a lot of this speculation by telling Lambeth Council to look favourably on applications for hotels and offices in Waterloo as a result of the Channel Tunnel

terminal.

The London Residuary Body, in its role as London's largest asset stripper, plays its part by selling off public buildings like County Hall, and a public open space like the Jubilee Gardens and the riverwalk to a private developer. The developer says that the area will be kept open to the public but there will be no legal obligation on him to keep his promise.

WCDG believes that people have a right to live and work in Waterloo. Big money must not be allowed to destroy the lives of the local community. Working class residents on Waterloo have as much right to a decent life as the middle classes of Sutton. Always it is up to the people of Waterloo to stick up for themselves.

If you are interested in working with WCDG to oppose any change of use on Lower Marsh from a shopping street then contact them at 99 Upper Ground, or ring Dave on 639 9291.

heavy fine and loss of licence. My message to the barrow boys down The Cut is clean up your act and clean up The Cut. I would be London to a brick that Buster cleans up around his flower barrow before he packs up outside Waterloo Station.

Alfie Boylett
Seven Hills, Australia

5 Bermondsey Memories Panorama work in progress



Mary Sawyer and Lil Patrick dyeing a picture of Jamaica Road in preparation for the 'Bermondsey Memories Panorama', a unique 20 foot photo collage telling the story of Bermondsey.

The exhibition of the panorama will open on Sunday 2nd July at Butlers Wharf.

For further details phone 237 9312.

Developers try back door route on Arnold Estate

No sooner have tenants of the Arnold Estate on Jamaica Road fought off a property developer's efforts to buy part of their estate than battle looks like being joined again.

We reported in the March issue of SE1 that the owners of 4 Jamaica Road, known as Phoenix Wharf, were negotiating with Southwark Council officers to buy a piece of land on the estate that was previously used as a football pitch and has now become semi-derelict. Councillors, including ward councillor Coral Newell, had no knowledge of these negotiations. The pitch adjoins the developer's property and if they had successfully purchased the land, they intended to increase the size of their proposed office development on Phoenix Wharf by 50%.

When tenants heard of the proposed sell-off, they demanded a meeting with councillors, council officers and the developers. At this meeting, tenants voted overwhelmingly to oppose the sale of the land despite promises from the developer that money would be made available for environmental improvements on the estate in

exchange. It was thought then that this was the end of the matter.

Now, the Secretary of Arnold Estate Tenants Association, Bette Crickmar, has received a letter from the Valuers Department of Southwark Council saying the developers of Phoenix Wharf are interested in renting the same plot of land during building works on their site. It would be used as a contractors storage area during the construction period, scheduled to commence in July and last 18 months.

Bette Crickmar expressed astonishment that the Council could even consider this proposal given the feeling of the tenants. The Tenants Association, said Bette, is presently fund raising among local charities to raise enough money to resurface the football pitch as a multi sports area for the children of the estate.

"There is no way we will let go of this land", Bette told SE1. "We are doing what the tenants wanted us to do and that is trying to bring the pitch back into proper use. Who do the developers think they are kidding? We don't trust their motives."

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

At the John Harvard Community Education Centre, Union Street, (entrance on Copperfield Street), London SE1.
Tel: 01-928 4601

CAR MAINTENANCE FOR WOMEN
Basic maintenance. Every Wednesday 10.00-12.00 in the morning. Starts 7th June for six weeks. All women welcome. *Jen Pearce.*

WOODWORK FOR WOMEN
Make a shelf unit or work on your own project by agreement with the tutor. Starts Wednesday 7th June for 6 weeks. 1.15-3.15pm. *Jenny Nutbrown.*

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT FOR UNDER 5's
For local parents and children. Two hours of songs, storytelling and music. In the canteen every Wednesday and Friday 1.00-3.00pm. *Stephene Ely and Laurie McLeod.*

IRISH PENSIONERS GROUP
A friendly and informal class for elderly Irish people and their friends. Refreshments available. In the canteen every Thursday 2.00-4.00pm. *Liz Mellon.*

TIN WHISTLE AND BODHRON
Come along and learn to play these Irish instruments from scratch. Tuesday 20th June for four weeks. 1.30-4.30pm. *Suzanne Hennigan.*

WOMEN AND HEALTH
Shiatsu (acupuncture), homeopathy and aromatherapy every Monday from 10.00-12.00 and 1.00-3.00pm. Starts 5th June for six weeks. Local women especially welcome. In the canteen. Please bring a blanket. Shiatsu in the mornings, homeopathy and aromatherapy in the afternoons. *Joe Casey, Ingrid Mullings.*

COMPUTERS FOR WOMEN
A one week course for absolute beginners using Nimbus networked machines, including word processing, spreadsheets etc. 3rd - 7th July. 10.00-12.00 and 1.00-3.00pm each day.

COMPUTERS FOR ALL
A one week course for absolute beginners using Nimbus networked machines, including word processing, spreadsheets etc. 10th-14th July. 10.00-12.00 and 1.00-3.00pm each day. *Susan Martin.*

SPEAKING WITH CONFIDENCE
Learn how to say what you want to say, when you need to say it! Lots of role play and group interaction. Every Monday and Tuesday from 5th - 20th June. Mornings 10.00-12.00. *Cynthia Blazey.*

AFRICAN CLOTHES-MAKING
Make up your own African clothes and hope for an African summer! Tutor with specialised knowledge. Every day from 26th-30th June. 10.00-12.00 and 1.00-3.15pm. There will be an extra materials charge.

MAKING CLOTHES FROM REMNANTS
Bring along the contents of those boxes under the bed you've always been intending to 'do something with', or raid the local jumble sale. 10.00-3.00pm on the 7th and 8th June. *Cathrine Marry-Smith.*

MACHINE KNITTING
Learn how to machine knit. Machines provided. Two Fridays in June - 9th and 16th. 10.00-12.00 and 1.00-3.00pm. Cost of materials not included. *Alex Knight.*

IRISH LANGUAGE INTENSIVE
An introductory and refresher course for beginners and near beginners for one intensive week from 19th-23rd June. 10.00-12.00 and 1.00-3.00pm. *Silbhara Uí Néill.*

COMMUNITY COMPUTER GRAPHICS
If you're a local community group struggling to put over your message, or just plain communicate, come along and learn how to do it more effectively. Learn about desktop publishing on an Apple Macintosh. Individuals also welcome. Two two-day intensives. i) Mon and Tue 5th and 6th June. 10.00-12.00 and 1.00-3.00pm. *Debra Harrison.*

At the Borough Community Centre
56 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 (01-928 6476)

WOMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHY
A beginners course. If you have a camera, please bring it. If you don't, don't worry! Basic black and white 35mm photography. Every afternoon for a week. 1.00-4.00pm. Starts 3rd July. Local women especially welcome. *Creche available. Debra Harrison.*

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ALL
A beginners course. If you have a camera, please bring it. If you don't, don't worry! Basic black and white photography. Every afternoon for a week. 1.00-4.00pm. Starts 10th July. *Creche available. Debra Harrison.*

Please enrol on the day one half hour before the course starts. The fee is 5p per hour for the concessionary rate. This includes those on income support, the unemployed, under eighteen and over sixty. Otherwise the rate is 50p per hour. A creche will be provided for all courses.

Advice on The Cut from down under

Dear SE1

It's a long way from SE1 to Australia. However, my sister and brother in law, both life time residents of The Cut (65 years), sent a copy of SE1 over to my Australian wife and I. We both found it a very informative local newspaper, something we lack in Australia and an action

group of people dedicated to make councils think before going ahead with developers and real estate people.

Your article on refuse collection interested me a great deal, being an ex-barrow boy down The Cut during the 1940's. We paid the council a few bob each day licence fee to trade.

Part of the deal was to take away our rubbish with us after the day's trading. However, now after they do their trading they pack up and go home and leave all of their rotten fruit and garbage in the gutters.

This could not and would not happen in Sydney, Australia. It would cost them both a

Backup for women

Violence in the home is more widespread than commonly believed. The Metropolitan Police estimate that 1 woman a month dies as a result of domestic violence, while they receive 1,000 calls from women a month in the London area requesting assistance.

Domestic violence, from a slap to serious assault and mental cruelty, occurs in families from all walks of life. In the majority of cases, men are the perpetrators of the violence.

Acts of Parliament in 1976 and 1978 were attempts by the Government to respond to the serious problems of domestic violence. However, it continues without outside intervention because the family is considered a private area of human activity. Often when a man assaults a woman within the home it is considered a 'domestic dispute' rather than assault.

Black women without many of the traditional support systems of family and friends are often particularly isolated. They are often reluctant to seek help for fear of hostility and discrimination from the authorities.

Most women say that they stay in a violent relationship because they have nowhere else to go. Though some boroughs like Southwark have taken positive steps to address the difficulties women face, the problem is the lack of decent, affordable homes. Evidence suggests that up to 70% of homeless families are female

headed households, many of whom are fleeing domestic violence.

Women are often portrayed as victims and helpless but are actually experts in minimising exposure to violence; from dodging a slap, fighting back, leaving or developing their own support systems outside the home. However, many women need to regain their self-confidence in order to take control of their lives. In most cases this can only begin with help and support.

BACKUP is a mutual support group composed of women which meets each week and uses a telephone line service for those women who have or are experiencing domestic violence. BACKUP believes there is strength in women. The aim is to provide a safe environment for women to give each other support, encouragement and acceptance, so that they can begin to take control over their own lives.

If you are experiencing domestic violence, and feel this service could benefit you, please contact BACKUP for some further information.

We are a confidential and independent service. There is a 24 hour answering service in operation or alternatively ring on Wednesdays between 4-6pm when there is someone available to speak to you. The number is 928 7642.

We believe it is every person's right to leads a safe and happy life, free from violence and the threat of violence.

BACKUP

Go to the Clink, go directly to the Clink

An exhibition opened to the public recently in one of North Southwark's most historic areas, located in a warehouse which is due for demolition in Clink Street, SE1.

The 'Clink Exhibition' traces the history of the locality and the early prisons from 850AD to 1780AD. There are objects, photographs, drawings and a reconstructed prison cell, illustrating the appalling conditions in which prisoners were held - sound effects add a chilling dimension.

This exhibition is based on the 'History of the Clink' by EJ Burford and recalls most

aspects of life in this part of Southwark. One of the paradoxes of the English language is that the name of the prison of the Bishops of Winchester in Southwark, the Clink, should have become a synonym for all prisons and should also for several centuries have given its name to the 'Liberty' over which the bishops exercised jurisdiction. The Clink owed its notoriety to its extreme unpleasantness.

The Bishop of Winchester's 'Liberty', or manor, known as the Clink consisted of about 70 acres, most of which were included in the park attached to Winchester House - the Bishops Palace. The park, by

Mint Street adventures

In the past 3 months, a lot has happened at Mint Street Adventure Playground. The Playground is now open from 3.30 until 8.00pm in the evenings, Tuesday to Friday, and from 10am to 5pm on Saturdays.

A new heating system has been installed in the main hall of the building thanks to money raised from ILFA, the Greater London Playing Fields Association and Southwark Playgrounds Trust. This will make for a warm building during the winter. The Playground has also raised £1,240 to provide a crushed bark safety surface under the climbing structures, thanks to Gatesley Charitable Foundation.

The Playground has been replacing older structures

with new ones. The new large swing should be finished by the start of the half-term playscheme. The Playground had a successful Easter playscheme, involving an outing to Greenwich, swimming, go-karting and lots of activities on the playground.

Future events include the IVS work project to build a new round the world swing at the end of June. On August 5th the Playground will hold its celebration festival of 20 years of play at Mint Street.

The staff, Ian, Belinda and Colin, always welcome visitors, while the Playground itself would also appreciate any donations of money, equipment or materials, in its pursuit of free, safe, supervised play.



Mint Street kids enjoy an outing to Greenwich

price is £2.50. Concessions, for local residents, OAP's, students and UB40's, are £1.50. A family ticket is also available. Light refreshments are available.

Jackie Power



Apart from the prison and the brothels, the Globe, the Rose and the Hope playhouses were situated in the liberty of the Clink, which was a very diverse area.

The 'Clink Exhibition' is located at No 1 Clink Street, SE1 on the original site of the Clink prison. It is open from 10am until 10pm seven days a week. The entrance

Who's who and what's what at Southwark Council

The services Southwark Council provides to the borough's residents are overseen by a number of committees composed of elected ward councillors. Each year there are elections among the majority party members on the Council, presently the Labour Party, to elect new committee chairs and vice-chairs. These elections took place last month. The new committees with their chairs and vice-chairs are listed below:

Administration Committee: Cllr David Fryer, Cllr Jessica Mannamaker
Building Services Committee: Cllr Coal Newell, Cllr Mary Elery
Education Committee: Cllr Debbie Welch, Cllr John McTernan
Health & Community Services Committee: Cllr Piers Corbyn, Cllr Mike Geater
Housing Committee: Cllr Mark Howarth, Cllr John Lauder
Jobs & Industry Committee: Cllr Mick Brennan, Cllr Mike Geater
Planning Committee: Cllr Geoff Williams, Cllr Nick Snow
Policy Committee: Cllr Anne Matthews, Cllr Margaret Pedler
Public Services Committee: Cllr Roy Kennedy, Cllr John Morris
Race Equality Committee: Cllr Winston Stafford, Cllr Marjorie Henriquez
Social Services Committee: Cllr Liz Alden, Cllr Jeremy Fraser
Women's Committee: Cllr Debbie Smith, Cllr Debbie Welch

You can write to any of these councillors, as well as your own ward councillor, by addressing letters to them at: Members Lobby, Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5.

While all of these committees are important to the work of the Council, some oversee departments with large budgets providing front line services to residents. The terms of reference of the main committees, with the name of the department whose work they oversee in brackets, are:

Education Committee (Education Department): With the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority in April next year, this department will be responsible for the provision of education in Southwark, including adult education. There are over 120 primary and secondary schools in the borough. All of the teachers at these schools will become employees of Southwark Council. The address to write to is as follows: Education Action Team, Town hall, Peckham Road, London SE5.

Health & Community Services (Department of Public Protection): This department is responsible for environmental health matters such as pest control, health and safety at work, noise and environmental pollution, trading standards, consumer services and advice, etc. Their address is: Public Protection Department, 19 Grange Road, SE1.



GARDENING WITH JACKIE POWER

This May was one of the warmest on record and the plants are crying out to be watered regularly, especially pots which dry out quickly. By June, it can be safely said that Summer has arrived, herbaceous borders really begin to look good and as the June days lengthen and get warmer roses become even more numerous.

This is the time of year for summer feeding and weeding of the lawn, it may need cutting twice a week if the soil is moist. However, hot weather may have baked the surface soil - in which case it is a good idea to prick the surface lightly before watering. Spring bedding plants should now be cleaved, divide primroses, auriculas and polyanthus.

As mentioned in the April gardening column, greenfly and blackfly are likely to be more of a problem this year because of the mild winter and spraying with an insecticide may be unavoidable. Some of my plants grown in tubs and pots are already heavily infested and whilst I would usually resist using chemicals I may have to resort to them.

There are a few insecticides available which are relatively harmless to humans, warm blooded animals and bees. These are DERRIS, FIRIMICARB and PYRETHRUM. Follow the manufacturers instructions carefully and if used on food crops you should allow at least up to two weeks between use and harvesting.

Housing Committee (Housing Department): The Housing Department is responsible for the provision and maintenance of Council housing for letting. It is also responsible for homeless families and housing benefit. The condition of estate roads and walkways is also their responsibility. The Housing Department has various area offices. The main office is: Housing Department, 36A Rye Lane, SE15.

Leisure & Recreation (Department of Leisure & Recreation): This department is responsible for library services, museums, the arts, public baths and laundries, parks, leisure facilities, sports and recreation, one o'clock clubs, public allotments and leisure gardens, etc. Their address is: Department of Leisure & Recreation, Chatelaine House, Walworth Road, SE17.

Planning Committee (Development Department): This Department brings together planners, architects and valuers. Approval for the change of use of any premises or property must be obtained from the department. They also formulate town plans for the borough to guide the type and pace of development throughout Southwark. The Development Department also manages the Council's commercial properties and undertakes certain environmental improvements. The address is: Development Department, Angel Court, 199 Borough High Street, SE1.

Public Services Committee (Department of Engineering & Public Works): They are in charge of the construction and maintenance of public roads and footpaths, for traffic signs and other street signs, for car parking schemes such as residents parking, for street lighting, sewers and drains, refuse collection, street sweeping, removal of abandoned vehicles, cemeteries and crematorium, street naming and numbering, building regulations control, etc. The address is: Department of Engineering & Public Works, Municipal Offices, Walworth Road, SE17.

Social Services Committee (Social Services Department): Social Services provide day centres for the mentally ill, facilities for people with learning difficulties, are concerned with the welfare of the aged, the blind and the disabled, provide sheltered workshops for the disabled, provide a meals service for the elderly and the disabled, provide holidays for the elderly and the disabled, provide day centres for the elderly and the disabled, provide home helps and home bathers, have wide ranging responsibilities in regard to children's welfare, including children in care, provide day nurseries and work with voluntary agencies in many fields of welfare. The address is: Southwark Social Services Department, Castle House, 2 Walworth Road, SE1.

Pupils at Notre Dame School mount exhibition on Guatemala

The visit of two women from the Central American country of Guatemala to the Notre Dame High School in St George's Road last year became the focus and inspiration for a project which involved pupils from all years at the school.

The women were from GAM, a support group for families whose members have 'disappeared' all over Guatemala, usually abducted and murdered by death squads linked to the government of that country.

Michelle Purcell, a fourth year pupil at Notre Dame, said 'We gave our visitors a warm welcome by greeting them with hundreds of cards and prayers. We were deeply moved by the women's stories which were translated for us by

Spanish speaking pupils from different years and conducted a small number of presentations - dances, songs and plays to show that we cared for them and to give them hope for the future.'

Since the visit, the girls at the school, with the professional help of the Cockpit Gallery, have produced an exhibition about the country because they feel that more people should know about the terrible injustices which are going on in Guatemala today.

The exhibition on Guatemala by pupils of Notre Dame School is on show at the Cockpit Gallery, 15 Wilkin Street, NW5, until 14th June. Admission is free and there is wheelchair access. Ring 482 2551 for more info.

Bacon's School controversy

Church leaders in Southwark have criticised a proposal to turn Bacon's School in Bermondsey into South London's first City Technology College.

Bacon's School, which has been in existence since 1703, is located on two sites, one in Pages Walk and the other in Delaford Road. Discussions are underway to relocate the school in Surrey Docks and re-open as Bacon's City Technology College in September 1991.

The London Docklands Development Corporation has agreed to provide land on a 5.4 acre site in Surrey Docks for the new College for an undisclosed sum. Although the sponsors of the College have denied it, it is understood that membership of the Church of England is the criterion on which new pupils are to be admitted to the new College.

The Ecumenical Borough Deans of Southwark, representing the Anglican, Pentecostal, Methodist, Catholic, Baptist and United Reformed Churches, have attacked the proposal as "unfair and divisive."

According to the Deans, "the money which has been needed for years to improve facilities at Bacon's never seemed to be available; now, suddenly sufficient funds seem to have been found, but only on condition that they are used to promote a scheme wholly outside the structure of the locally elected educational authority."

The Deans also expressed the fear that because the school will take pupils from a wide area of South London, the competition for places will discriminate against "black youngsters, children from poorer families and girls."

Bayou comes to south bank

Ever wondered what on earth Hank Williams was singing about? Ever wondered who Hank Williams was? Here's your chance to find out.

On Sunday 25th June at the riverside marketplace at Gabriel's Wharf, Upper Ground, there will be an afternoon of Cajun music, food and dancing. Free to the public, the music will be provided from 1pm to 5pm by two bands, the 'Buttermountain Boys' and the 'Poorboys'. Studio Six restaurant will be serving

The Chairman of the Board of Governors of Bacon's School argues that the school can no longer operate on a dual site and the introduction of a national curriculum obliges the school to find a new site a re-equip completely. The City Technology College option, he argues, would mean that Bacon's could have a new, purpose built college.

City Technology Colleges are the idea of the present Government. They are special schools run by unelected Trusts and outside the control of the local education authorities. Although they are meant to be private schools, they receive considerable government funding. Bacon's College would receive £10 million from the government towards the £13 million cost of establishing and running the College. They would not receive this money if they wished to remain as a school with the existing system. The carpet millionaire Sir Philip Harris will donate £1 million through his family trust.

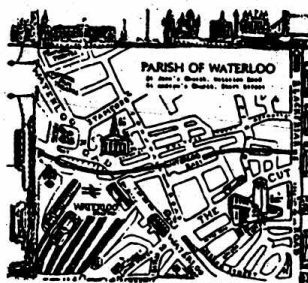
The fact that the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education would provide the rest of the funds shows that there is some support within the Church for the Government's changes in education. They have, however, been accused of being politically naive in associating themselves to the project.

Southwark Council, which will take over responsibility for all schools in the borough next year when ILEA is abolished, wants Bacon's School to remain in local authority control and has proposed the relocation of the school on the present Scott Lidgett School site in Rotherhithe.

traditional cajun dishes for the event.

Cajun describes the music, food and lifestyle of the French Canadian settlers in the swamplands of Louisiana in America's Deep South. The music is folk style but also related to Tex-Mex, Rhythm and Blues and even Rock. Both bands at this event are becoming increasingly well known and have been well received wherever they play. So get on down to Gabriel's Wharf for some free entertainment on 25th June.

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

SOUTHWARK PLAYGROUNDS

Rockingham, Mint Street,
East Dulwich
Adventure Playground,
require

3 SUMMER PLAYWORKERS

Experience of working with
school-aged children in a
play environment essential.

Apply with SAE:
Susan Shaksparr,
c/o Cambridge House,
131 Camberwell Road, SE17
Closing date: 19th June

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING OF BEORMUND COMMUNITY CENTRE

to be held at the
Centre,
Thursday 8th June, 1989,
at 7.00pm,
concerning decisions about
policy and general
management of the Centre.

Details of the agenda will
be available at the
meeting.

Tom Sawyer
Chair
Management Committee

The Beormund
177 Abbey Street
Tel: 237 9313



SE1

SE1 newspaper is produced for residents of Waterloo and North Southwark by people living and 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 July/August issue of SE1 is Wed 21st June, 1989. Publication date is 1st July. All contributions and correspondence of any kind concerning the paper 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, from the Borough Community Centre at 56 Southwark Bridge Road, Charterhouse-in-Southwark at 40 Tabard Street, John Harvard Library, Borough Road Library, and Blackfriars Settlement at 44 Nelson Square.

ADVERTISING IN SE1

SE1 newspaper is run on a tight budget. We are largely 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.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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EDITORIAL GROUP

John Howes, Mary Dimond,
Gerry Vignola