

SEI

Borough Market will carry on say Trustees

A coalition of interests in the Borough Market area of North Southwark is taking shape to oppose plans by British Rail to widen the railway viaduct which runs from London Bridge Station to Redcross Way.

At a meeting last month with a British Rail representative to hear about the proposal, the Trustees of the Borough Market, the market porters, market traders, the Vice Provost of Southwark Cathedral, residents and businesses in the area, all spoke out against it.

The Trustees of the Borough Market, who are playing a leading role in opposing the viaduct widening, are determined that come what may, the Market will carry on working. George Nicholson, Vice Chair of the Trustees, told SEI that their main aim was to halt the proposal because of the disruption it would cause to the Market's activities. To safeguard the Market's future, in the event that BR gets parliamentary approval for the track widening, the Trustees' surveyors had already been instructed to bring forward proposals to ensure the Market carries on working effectively.

As we wrote in the last issue of SEI, British Rail wants to build a new 2-track free-standing railway viaduct alongside the existing one across the Borough Market. On completion the viaduct would be 10 metres wide though during the construction phase a working width of 20 metres would be needed in places to facilitate building. At this stage, no detailed plans of the viaduct yet exist, but the indications are that British Rail intends to proceed with the proposal up to the deposit of a Bill in Parliament in November which, if approved, will give it the powers to build the new viaduct.

Ostensibly, a new railway viaduct out of London Bridge Station would allow British

Rail's only cross-London service, Thameslink, to be upgraded to a 'Metro' frequency, with more trains running to more destinations in the Home Counties north and south of London, including Luton and Gatwick airports. British Rail has been emboldened by the overwhelming success of Thameslink which was opened in May 1988 not only to upgrade the service but to recommend to the government the construction of one and perhaps two new London cross-rail links in tunnel.

Construction of a new viaduct over the Borough Market, however, is intimately linked to British Rail's long-term strategic aim, of which Thameslink forms only a part, of eliminating commuter congestion at the key London rail terminals in the peak rush hours.

One such key terminal is London Bridge, the major rail interchange in South London, where capacity constraints

lead to overcrowded and delayed through trains to Charing Cross and Canon Street. British Rail would therefore kill two birds with one stone in choosing to widen the Borough Market railway junction. For this reason British Rail appears to have discarded the option of upgrading the Thameslink service through Herne Hill rather than through London Bridge.

Residents and businesses in the Borough Market area are opposed to the track widening proposals for a wide variety of reasons. In the first place, it is a conservation area with rich historical associations and many fine buildings. No less than eight listed buildings would be demolished if the proposal were to go ahead. Significantly, the Government's recent 'Strategic Planning Guidance for London' states that the development of transport systems "must have proper respect for the environment." It will be interesting then

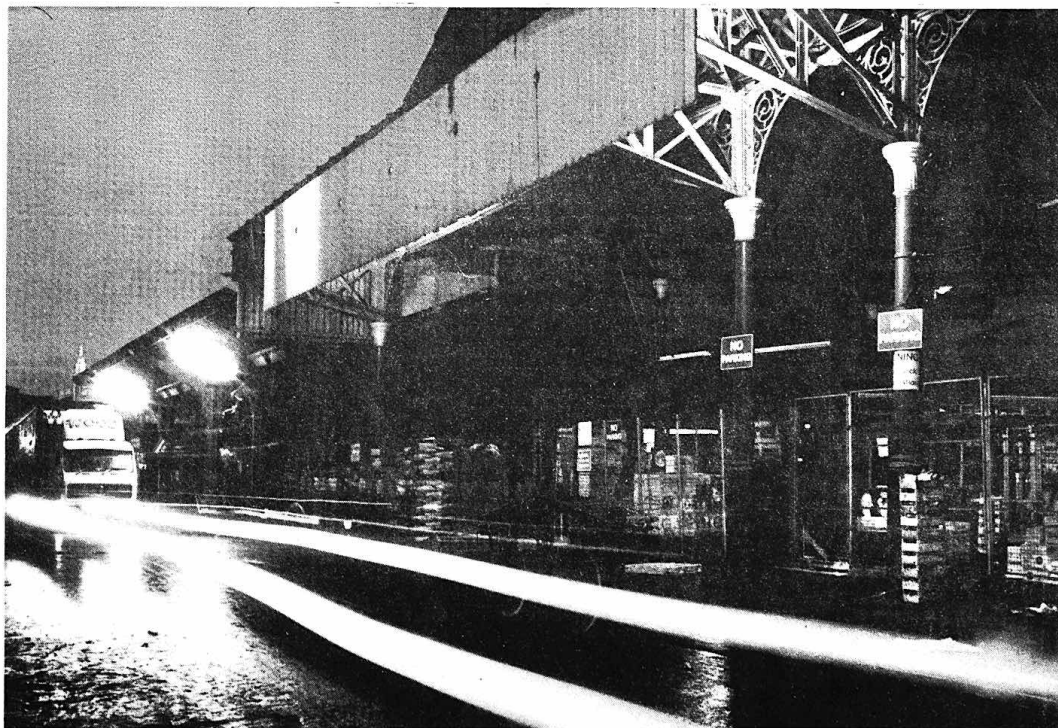
to see the Government's reaction if this new proposal comes before it in November this year.

The Trustees of the Borough Market, the market traders and the market porters have all been vehement in their opposition to the proposal. The Borough Market is the oldest wholesale fruit and vegetable market in London, in existence in its present form since 1754.

Mr Fred Cullen, Superintendent and Clerk to the Trustees, said that they would fight the proposal tooth and nail. If the viaduct widening went ahead, he said, the disruption would be immense. With traders, porters, drivers, greengrocers and other staff, there were nearly 200 jobs to be considered.

Mr Heyland, Vice Chairman of the Borough Market Tenants Association, believes the

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Borough Market lights will not go out say Trustees

Borough Market will carry on

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market has gone from strength to strength in the past five years with confidence in its future very high. He is concerned that construction work across the Market would dent this confidence and perhaps see greengrocers take their trade elsewhere. Mr Brian Rolt, Chairman of the TGWU branch at the market, said that the livelihood of his members, the market porters, was at stake if the proposal went ahead.

Residents of the area consider that the track widening would not only disrupt the work of the Market but also the life of the community. Demolition would affect local businesses and residents and other residents might feel obliged to move out because of the disruption to their lives.

The Cathedral Area Residents Association, whose members live in the Borough Market area, have formed a special sub-committee to oppose the Thameslink proposal. The have leafleted homes and business along the route of the viaduct and have asked Southwark Council to hold a public meeting about it.

Southwark Cathedral, said its Vice Provost, is very concerned about the effects of a second viaduct. Train vibrations and noise already disrupt church services and concerts and cause damage to the boundary wall. Danger and nuisance would, he believed, be increased by a second viaduct.

All of those affected, the Market, its employees, residents, businesses and the Cathedral, are planning a joint campaign of opposition to the viaduct widening proposal. For its part, British Rail, through its representative at the meeting last month, Mr Richard Malins, has undertaken to commission an environmental impact study of the proposal.

The Trustees of the Borough Market want this study to be as comprehensive as possible, examining not only possible alternatives to upgrading Thameslink through London Bridge, but highlighting every possible aspect of disruption to the activities of the Market and the surrounding area, how this disruption would be mitigated and what arrangements would be made for Market to carry on working normally if the proposal went ahead.

Green light for Docklands developers' tube line

After a false start in 1988, when property developers Olympia & York's proposal for a new underground rail link from Waterloo to Canary Wharf failed to secure the support of London Regional Transport, the Department of Transport announced at the end of July that the Jubilee Line underground will be extended to Docklands.

As we wrote in the last issue of SE1, the Secretary of State for Transport, Cecil Parkinson, was awaiting the recommendations of the 'East London Rail Study' before making a public announcement. Adding a further twist, however, to this whole bizarre saga, he gave permission to London Regional Transport to go ahead with preparing a Bill to submit to Parliament in November for the necessary powers to build the line, but said no decision had yet been taken on whether the proposed line would actually be built.

This will depend on how much developers along the route are prepared to contribute towards the construction costs. It is estimated that the cost of building the new line from Green Park, via Waterloo, London Bridge and on to Canary Wharf on the Isle of Dogs and Stratford is £900 million. It is reckoned by some observers that costs could rise to around £2 billion if the line is built and comes into operation around 1996.

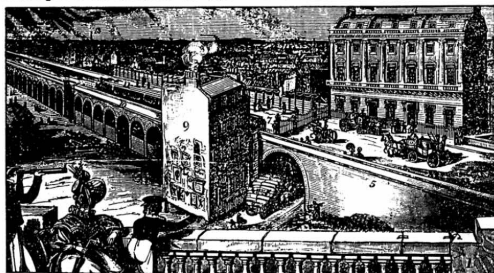
It is evident that the choice of alignment of the line, via Waterloo to London Bridge, was designed to entice as much as possible from the very deep pockets of Olympia & York, world's largest property developer presently building 12 million square feet of offices at Canary Wharf. A direct rail link to Waterloo and London Bridge is regarded by them and other developers as crucial to the

success of Docklands as a new office location. These two stations bring in up to 30% of commuters arriving in central London on British Rail. London Regional Transport itself appears to have favoured a northern alignment of the line via Ludgate Circus to London Bridge, because under the Waterloo option Bakerloo Line trains will no longer run to Charing Cross.

While the property developers have successfully lobbied the Department of Transport to sanction the Waterloo option, there are many who consider that the new Jubilee Line extension will not be the saviour of the Docklands property market the developers envisage. Sceptics point to the downturn in the economy, the reluctance of commercial firms to decentralise to Docklands, and a whopping 20 million square feet of office developments in the pipeline in Docklands currently filling up at the miserably slow rate of 100,000 square feet in the last 6 months.

So concerned are they in fact that the Government's flagship of urban regeneration could turn into a huge white elephant, the London Docklands Development Corporation has just contributed £2 million to a £6 million fund raised by developers to tell the world what a great place Docklands is to come to.

London Regional Transport has not finalised details of the Jubilee Line extension. They are considering new stations in Union Street and Bermondsey where local residents and Southwark Council favour one. At Surrey Quays there would be a new station which would provide an interchange with the East London Line at Surrey Docks. All assuming of course that the line is built.



1890: London Bridge Station looking east

Time for a new census

In the last issue of SE1, Lutfur Ali, the Neighbourhood Worker at Blackfriars Settlement whose initial specialist task is to work with the Bangladeshi community, wrote about the need for Southwark Council services to be more responsive to the borough's minority communities. Below, he says that there is a need for more information about these communities.

There is an overwhelmingly pressing need and demand for more up to date information about the composition of Southwark's population. Currently, the most recent information comes from the 1981 Census. I would call upon Southwark Council to undertake such a survey of the borough's population.

In order for the costs of such a population survey to be minimised, the survey could be carried out in conjunction with the electoral registration process which requires sending forms to every household in the borough.

Such a survey would determine the following: changes in the size and distribution of households. This would mainly be of interest to the housing and planning departments; changes in the size and distribution of the ethnic minorities population, which would be of particular interest to the Social Services department; the growth and distribution of the elderly population, of special interest to Social Services, but of interest to all departments; the concentration of young children and single parent families in certain parts of the borough. This would be of particular use to the Education Department, but again of wider interest; updated labour force estimates, enabling better estimates of local unemployment rates.

As far as the ethnic minority population is concerned, this would allow the council to monitor more closely the racially disadvantaged groups in the population and to accurately know its size and distribution. On the wider scale, I am certain that a new population survey would be welcomed by everyone and I would be happy to offer my support to the council.

Lutfur Ali

Developers to build offices over Rose Theatre

Southwark Council recently gave planning permission for a redesigned office building to be constructed on the site of the Rose Theatre. This followed weeks of consultation with the developers Imry Merchant, English Heritage and the Rose Theatre Trust who managed to delay implementation of the original plan for the site which would have completely destroyed the Theatre remains.

Earlier in July Southwark Council deferred a decision on the redesigned scheme and asked the then Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, Nicholas Ridley, to call in the plan. The Rose Theatre Trust was also granted a Judicial Review of the Secretary of State's decision not to schedule the site as an ancient monument. However Nicholas Ridley refused Southwark's request to call in the scheme for inquiry and the Rose Theatre Trust failed to win their Judicial Review, although they were given leave to appeal to the House of Lords, which in the end they failed to do.

The new design of the building has subsequently been modified to try and accommodate some of the objections raised by the Theatres Trust and others. However, one aspect of the redesign which has failed to convince many people including the Museum of London's archaeologists, who originally found and excavated

the Rose Theatre, was the need to completely explore and excavate the site before any building work commenced. This request was never really addressed and it is believed that many features of the Theatre remain covered and will be damaged by the construction of the new building.

Contractors Costain had been carrying out preparatory works to the site prior to a final decision being made, and construction work began immediately planning permission was granted. However, there are suggestions that they are being less than careful with the remains of the Theatre, which although encased in concrete to protect them from light pressure during construction work, have been subjected to the weight of heavy plant machinery which is being moved across the site.

Park Street residents are also having to put up with the road being closed at weekends, something they were not consulted about during the planning process.

Nevertheless there are still many people who believe that a site of such historical importance and of national and international interest should not be just another office development, with the concession of a viewing gallery in the basement to accommodate the thousands of people who will come to visit the site each year.

Lights out hotline

Lambeth Council has set up two telephone 'hotlines' for complaints about faulty street lights. They will operate 24 hours a day, using answerphones outside of normal office hours. Anyone who sees a light not working in Lambeth can report it by phoning 627 5790 for street lighting, or 627 5765 for lights on housing estates.

Some lamp posts have numbers on the column to help the council identify them when a complaint is made. People who report lights out or order repairs should quote the column number, if there is one, or describe the location as clearly as possible.

The Council says that repairs will be carried out as quickly as possible although sometimes the fault lies with

the LEB supply and there may be some delay while this is put right.

Pools open 1990

In 1987 Southwark Council closed its open-air swimming pools to cut its costs and since then they have remained dry. However, at the July meeting of the council's Leisure and Recreation Committee it was decided to restore Southwark Park's Lido, unfortunately not in time to be enjoyed during the present hot summer. It will be brought back into use for the summer of 1990.

It is also hoped that Geraldine Mary Harmsworth paddling pool will be restored at a later date for the use of local parents and their children. Peckham Rye pool will be demolished and re-landscaped.

All roads lead to Rome

Since 1984, with funds from Southwark Council and English Heritage, archaeologists from the Museum of London's Department of Greater London Archaeology, have been carrying out rescue excavations on the site of the former Courages Brewery in Park Street.

These excavations have revealed new evidence for prehistoric occupation in Southwark as well as a wealth of information on the Roman settlement there.

The Roman discoveries from the earlier excavations include large clay and timber buildings, industrial workshops where blacksmithing and smelting would have taken place, and a large oak timbered warehouse in an exceptional state of preservation. Some of these remains date from shortly after the Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43.

This year, archaeologists have been continuing their work in Redcross Way. According to Sophie Jackson, one of the on-site archaeologists, this site has revealed an unusually large area of undisturbed Roman remains, providing a unique opportunity to investigate the layout of part of the Roman settlement.

The remains of several phases of clay and timber buildings, with rough partition walls and clay floors have been uncovered, together with gravelled and cobbled yards and a previously unknown

Roman road which runs at right angles to a Roman road uncovered on the main part of the Courages site in 1984/85.

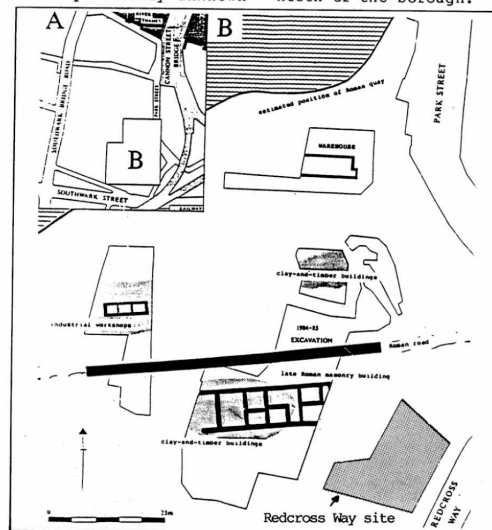
Part of a Roman 'concrete' floor survived and pieces of red, green, yellow and black painted wall plaster.

Some nearly complete Roman pots have been recovered. These include black burnished ware cooking pots and pieces of 'mortaria', or grinding bowls, and some of them are stamped with the mark of their makers.

So far, evidence from the Redcross Way site suggests that the settlement, believed to be about 40 acres in size, was occupied by the Romans for about 200 years.

The Roman suburb of Southwark went into decline in the mid 4th century. A site on Southwark Street by the railway viaduct revealed that the area was used as a burial ground, perhaps for those remaining on the north side of the river. The Romans actually retreated from Britain in 410 AD to shore up the crumbling Roman empire and Rome itself.

According to Mike Hammons, an archaeologist responsible for the Southwark sites, there is virtually no archaeological evidence of settlements in North Southwark between the mid 4th century and the 10th century. Rome remains the richest seam of discovery in the present wave of redevelopment in the north of the borough.



Barley Mow Clinic aims at more users

There is a new Health Visitor based at the Barley Mow Clinic who has taken over from Jenny Fairfax. Her name is Lin Jarrett. Many mothers of young children local to Waterloo will already have met Lin. She runs a baby clinic on Wednesday afternoons.

She also runs the new service for pensioners along with District Nurses Jean Lockley and Alice James. This service offers all pensioners in the Waterloo area a chance to receive checks on their general state of health (including blood pressure and urine checks) plus health advice and information. All pensioners in the area will receive soon an invitation to attend these sessions.

The Barley Mow User Group is made up of workers at the Clinic and users of the services and premises. The Group was formed in 1981 and has played an important role in the development of clinic services and the upgrading of premises. All users of the clinic are welcome to attend the meetings of the User Group which take place every 2 months on Friday mornings. The dates of the next two meetings are 13th October and 15th December at 9.30am.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the User Group but are unable to attend, you can get more information from the clinic reception or from the Waterloo Health Project (633 0852). There is a suggestion box in the clinic reception for your use.

The User Group is currently preparing a leaflet advising the Clinic's services which will be distributed to households in the Waterloo area.



Lin Jarrett

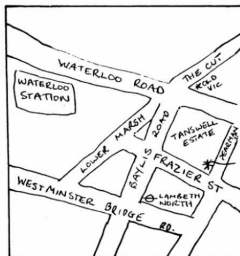
For those readers who do not know about the Barley Mow Clinic, it is a health clinic located on the Tanswell Estate (see map), Frazier Street, which provides the following services for people in the Waterloo area:

Baby Clinic - Wednesdays 1.45-4pm;
Dental Service - Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9-5pm, for school age children, pregnant women and for up to one year after the birth;
Chiropody - Tuesdays morning and afternoon for children and pensioners;
Family Planning and Well Woman Clinic - Fridays 9.30-11am. This includes general health advice for women, contraception advice and supplies, pregnancy testing, and cervical smears. Any woman who has not had a normal smear result in the past 3 years should ask to have a smear done;
Age Well Surveillance - Thursday afternoons, for all pensioners in the Waterloo area. For health advice and information including checks on blood pressure and urine;
Toy Library - Tuesdays 10-12 noon.

For further information on any of the above services phone the Barley Mow Clinic on 928 5921.

Other users of the Barley Mow Clinic include the Pensioners Health Group which meets on Wednesday mornings and the Waterloo Community Counselling project which provides individual counselling on Thursdays and on Tuesday evenings.

Mary Price
Lou Shepperd
Waterloo Health Project
c/- St John's Church
73 Waterloo Road
SE1



* Barley Mow Clinic
Frazier Street

Mutual support group for women starts at BCC

'Got along without you before I met you,
Gonna get along without you now.'

In this song, Viola Willis expresses her determination to cope with the pains of separation from someone she loved - but it's not always as easy as she makes it sound. 'Women Alone' is a group being run at the Borough Community Centre for women who are working at coming to terms with the loss of an important relationship, and is a place where some of the pains and difficulties can be experienced and made sense of in a warm and supportive setting.

The group is run by counsellor and therapist Polly Plozman. She explains: 'Women Alone' is for any woman who is grieving, or who is missing someone who was formerly an important part of her life. It is for the bereaved, the divorced or separating, for women whose children are leaving home, or who are separated from ones they love by outside circumstances, like illness, working away from home, imprisonment and so on.

New worker at Waterloo Health Project

The Waterloo Health Project has a new worker. Her name is Alison Elgar and she has been at the Project since 10th April. Alison's background is quite varied. She has worked for a local rape crisis line and a local women's refuge. She has done advice work on welfare rights, working for a number of years with a charity that supported the families of prisoners. Her most recent work has been as a counsellor for a national abortion charity.

Since Alison started working for Waterloo Health Project, she has been getting to know the area, and meeting other workers from various projects.

She has been finding out what facilities there are in the area and specifically what other health projects are doing. She has been visiting some local housing estates to try to establish what the health needs of the area are, and from this information, she hopes to set up various

Times of loss and separation can be among the most stressful we ever have to live through, and many of us find we are taxed to our limits and beyond by pain and problems of these periods. We all know that the crisis that threatens to break us is often the very thing that uncovers hidden resources in us. Help and support of the right kind can be very hard to find. 'Women Alone' is a place for allowing what we feel among others who understand better than anyone else what we're going through, to gather new strength for the future at our own pace."

The group starts on September 7th and has a total of ten meetings on Thursday afternoons, between 1pm and 3pm, with a creche available if needed. It costs £5 per head for the series, and members must claim a place in advance by contacting Ruth Ford, Borough Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, tel 928 6476, or Polly Plozman, tel 403 4854. All local women are welcome. If you know someone who might be glad of the group, encourage her to come.

support and self-help groups along with other workers, to meet these demands.

Alison is also interested in trying to establish what the health needs are of the local lesbian and gay community, and from this to make sure that those needs are recognised and met.

Alison, and the other workers at the Project can be contacted on 633 0852.



Alison Elgar

London planning guidance threatens SE1 area

The Chair of Lambeth Council's Planning Department, Councillor Bob Colenutt, has criticised the Department of the Environment's recently issued 'Strategic Planning Guidance for London' for ignoring the interests of Londoners.

Bob Colenutt told SE1 that he considered it "outrageous that the Secretary of State for the Environment has ignored the views of Londoners and their democratic representatives in formulating the Strategic Guidance. The document falls far short of what's required to tackle the serious problems of access to housing, inadequate public transport, safeguarding jobs and communities."

The Guidance was issued in draft form in May this year and nearly 500 responses poured into the Department of the Environment most of them arguing for significant changes. This was not to be as the final Guidance emerged at the end of July virtually unaltered.

The Strategic Guidance provides the legal framework for the planning policies of all London boroughs, including Lambeth and Southwark. Local authorities will now have to draw up new statutory plans for their area which are known as Unitary Development Plans. These plans govern the use and development of land and determine what gets built where.

The Strategic Guidance will have serious implications for North Southwark and Waterloo. It identifies these areas as

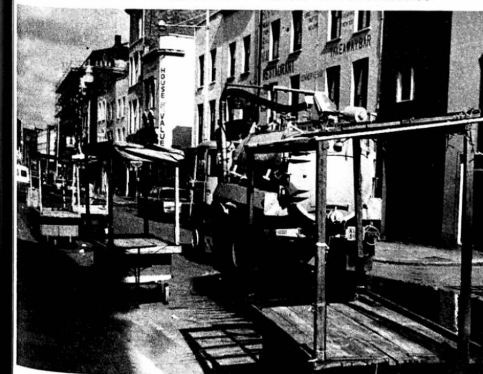
suitable for new office developments and says that the local authorities should make every effort to accommodate such development.

Many local residents have for years resisted office developments along the riverfront because they have led to the loss of local industry and warehousing and storage activities, forced up land prices making it impossible for Housing Associations or Coops to buy land and build housing for rent, and brought in their wake a constant stream of traffic and illegal parking. In addition, much of North Southwark is now a permanent building site, as one office block after another goes up, causing great inconvenience to residents.

The Strategic Guidance also identifies Waterloo and neighbouring parts of Southwark as suitable for hotel, tourist and leisure developments. This is due to the expected influx of tourists arriving at Waterloo Station, one of two intended terminals to serve the Channel Tunnel trains.

Already, several hotel chains have been actively buying up properties in Waterloo and residents fear they will be forced out to make way for new hotel, bed and breakfast and commercial developments.

According to Cllr Colenutt, "Strategic Guidance aims to reduce the ability of Councils to plan in the interests of their areas. If that happens, local people will be left virtually powerless to influence what happens to their environment."



London guidance threatens Lower Marsh market

GARDENING WITH JACKIE POWER

September is the first of the Autumn months. However, after the exceptionally dry Summer it is likely to provide spells of warm dry weather, but the warmth of the sun is decreasing and the shortening days will be more noticeable.

This years long hot Summer has seriously affected lawns and many in the open spaces in the SE1 area are looking dry and parched. Now is the time of year to repair any damage, during showery weather if possible. Aerate the lawn by spiking and remove debris, re-seed the worn areas. Most dry and browning lawns will recover during the Autumn months.

Continue dead-heading plants, keep watering tubs and window boxes and discard plants past their best, prepare containers for planting spring bulbs, which should soon be appearing in shops and garden centres or start ordering from catalogues.

If you are thinking about buying trees and shrubs prepare the ground later in the month. Houseplants need slightly less water at this time of year and start to cut down on feeding. Re-pot any

plants that look as if they have outgrown their containers (except busy lizzies which need to be pot bound to flower) and take off any dead or dying leaves, check for signs of pest and disease attack.

For indoor displays of flowering bulbs for Christmas time and beyond prepare pots and bowls, without drainage holes and use a bulb fibre which is available at garden centres etc. Pack as many bulbs into the container as possible to produce the maximum amount of colour.

Stand large bulbs such as hyacinths and daffodils well into the container but allow about an inch of bulb to be exposed, after watering thoroughly wrap the bowls in sheets of newspaper and place them in a cool room in a dark corner or a cupboard, after two or three months the roots will have developed and filled the container. The bulbs will then start their top growth of leaves and flower stems, they can then be brought into a lighter area and after a few days can be placed in their flowering situation.

Borough Community Centre survey shows way ahead

In June this year, a placement student at the Borough Community Centre, Mark Tuohy, carried out a survey of local people on how the Centre is used and how it might be used in the future. Below we summarise some of Mark's comments and recommendations for improving the use of the Centre by residents.

A significant result of the survey was that 80% of people interviewed had heard of the Borough Community Centre, but only 29% of them used it. The most common reason for people not using the Centre was that they didn't know what went on and many echoed the comment that the Centre "should be publicised more."

Of the people who used the Centre, hiring the hall was the most popular, followed by jumble sales, advice sessions and bingo. Many people who had used the hall for functions, such as weddings, were unaware of the other activities which went on there. When people asked what

type of services they most favoured at the Centre, 46% said they were interested in advice sessions and 30% in Counsellors' surgeries. Keep-fit for women was popularly suggested as a new activity which could be started at the Centre.

In his report to the Centre Management Committee, Mark Tuohy recommended that as a result of the survey, a monthly Centre Newsletter would be welcome, new Centre users should be welcomed, especially to the pensioners Pop-in, new activities are needed such as womens Keep-fit, together with more advice sessions.

Demands are tough on firefighter trainees

In a smoke-filled dark labyrinth under Southwark Bridge Road, figures bearing heavy breathing apparatus drag themselves through narrow sewerage pipes, heave themselves over and under unseen obstructions and tread cautiously over treacherous flooring where sudden gaps could send them plummeting into the pit below.

This is the 'rat-run', just one of the rigorous training drills new recruits brave daily in preparation for service in the London Fire Brigade. The Training Centre in North Southwark is responsible for making firefighters out of the 350 raw recruits who every year join the Brigade's operational strength of some 7,000. According to Divisional Officer Adams, who is in charge of the Centre, around 15% of recruits either drop out or are rejected before the end of the course.

"It's hard going", he explained. "Some recruits can't take the pace physically; some discover they are claustrophobic or scared of heights. Other can't cope with the study - 50% of the course is classroom work." Before being sent to a Fire Station on a year's probation, the recruits have to pass final examinations in theory, including science and maths, First Aid, and all the practical drills.

Apart from having perfect vision (no glasses or contact lenses can be relied on in a fire), would be fire-fighters have to be strong, well



London Fire Brigade training school

co-ordinated and agile. One of their regular drills consists of carrying a colleague down a ladder from five stories up. Psychological endurance is also necessary; another drill places recruits under 10 feet of foam to accustom them to disorientation.

Firemen, says Mr Adams, "have to be able to cope with great distress; it would be easy to say they should put their feelings aside but of course many experience trauma." The Welfare Section of the Brigade is about to increase its trained counsellors from two to seven.

There are physical dangers in the job as well. Firefighters have lost their lives, most recently Colin Townsley at Kings Cross. In 1988 the London Fire Brigade sustained

a total of 2,150 injuries, of which 150 were serious.

So what makes people become firefighters? The answers from the recruits at Southwark Bridge Road were as various as their backgrounds. Junior, 24, used to be a musician: "I joined for the job satisfaction - seeing the faces of the people that you've saved." Mark, also 24, a land surveyor before entering the service said: "I wanted something that wasn't mundane - every day is different in the Fire Brigade." Divisional Officer Adams said that most people join "for life" and that it is not uncommon to find children of firefighters joining the service as well. Over the past five years the London Fire Brigade has seen an increase in the number of women firefighters, but they

still represent under 1% of the force. As long as women fulfil the height and strength requirements demanded of all firefighters Mr Adams says that they match the performance of their male colleagues.

"We have to rely on technique rather than strength alone in some of the drills, especially when lifting dead weights", explained Angela Atherley, one of only two women training recently at the Centre. Angela, 29, has two young children and had been a florist for twelve years before joining the Brigade.

Carol Hanson, 25, was formerly a lifeguard at a local swimming pool and she found the team spirit particularly attractive. "It's like being part of a large family", she said. It wasn't like that at the beginning though and the women said that they had to shove themselves right in the middle of the men in drills until they were accepted.

The Fire Service is a life of great physical exertion, discipline and undeniable danger. It is unlikely to be the pay - £12,000 a year, which hardly reflects the risks and demands involved in the job - while outstanding heroism is rewarded with a medal or commendation, such as at the Kings Cross disaster where six such medals were awarded. Whatever the motive for joining, London must be grateful to these young men and women who are prepared to risk their lives for the safety of the public.

TA complains of illegal parking

The Blackfriars Tenants Association, Paebody Trust, have asked Southwark Council to act against illegal parking in Webber Street and Blackfriars Road where many yellow lines have been obliterated by building rubble, often deliberately claim the tenants.

The Tenants Association have also complained about the rubbish littering the streets in the area, a complaint common throughout the borough.

Southwark recently introduced new street waste bins, but collection is not yet frequent enough to prevent rubbish spilling onto the streets.

FRIDAY
Certified Open College Fashion Course, 10-12 & 1-3pm
Parents & Toddlers, 1-3pm
Dressmaking, 7-9pm

FRIDAY
Certified Open College Fashion Course, 10-12 & 1-3pm
Parents & Toddlers, 1-3pm
Bingo, 7-10pm

The Beormund Community Centre is at 177 Abbey Street, SE1.
Drop in or ring 237 9313 for further information on all activities and classes.

by Susan Demuth

Southwark libraries are places of discovery

This weekend I shall be keeping company with a black middle-aged widow, an Irish fiddle player, I might drop in on Jane Austen and if I can find the time I will be dining with some ancient Celts as well.

Where you might ask do all these wonders come from. They are housed in the red-brick library at Borough Road, St George's Circus, which was founded in 1898 by Passmore Edwards, a journalist, who also founded two other libraries in Southwark, Nunhead and Dulwich.

Quite apart from the books in the library, the building itself is a delight, set back from the road with a weeping lime tree in the garden and the Tree of Knowledge carved over the entrance.

To the left of the building high up against the beautiful main window stands the angel of Truth holding up a mirror to Nature. Ironically, opposite her gaze is the small square of trees on St George's roundabout which overnight has been grabbed by developers, fenced off and turned into a car park.

This example of everyday vandalism in the inner city is a familiar and depressing sight but once inside the library all is peace and quiet. Apart from the books available for loan, there are magazines and newspapers to read, a special corner for young people and lots of pamphlets from housing to horticulture.

There are also photocopying facilities for library users

Heavenly Hues

Some folk say that at the end of a rainbow you may find a pot of gold, but in Bermondsey it is more likely to be -- a church.

You will have to look carefully though for the church is not obvious to the passer-by: it has no spire, no visible stained glass windows, only a large stone cross on the roof. And to confuse you further, the doors are bright red and painted with large rainbow signs.

St Hugh's, Crosby Row, is part of a complex known as the 'Rainbow', and is one of the buildings belonging to the Charterhouse-in-Southwark. The Toy Library and the Youth project, which are also in the building, are more familiar to local residents.

downstairs, a junior section and a whole wall of information on activities in London. Did you know for instance that there is a London Ramblers Association which meets once a month for rambles around the London area. Or that you can volunteer to help with archaeological finds in Southwark which is rich in history.

But its the books which is the main purpose of the library. When the library first opened 70,000 people joined. They were only allowed one book each and had to choose the title from an indexed catalogue.

Now, about the same number of books are borrowed each year, but the number of subscribers has declined as the local population has fallen and television and the ubiquitous video have replaced the joys of reading.

Rumours about the lovely little library come and go. At one time it was rumoured it would close, now it is rumoured that Southwark are going to convert the ground floor into one large space combining both the children's library and the main section.

The top floor, the best space naturally, would be rented out as offices, presumably to help with the upkeep of the library. But the main thing that will keep the place open is people. The more it is used, the more its future is guaranteed.

So put a smile on your face and on the face of the lovely angel of Truth and become a



The Leader of Southwark Council Anne Matthews officially re-opened Harper Road Library last month, in a ceremony shown in the photo. The library has been refurbished and re-stocked. Opening times are Mondays and Thursdays: 9.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.00; Tuesdays: 9.30-12.30 and 1.30-5.00; Saturdays: 9.30-12.30 and 1.30-5.30. The library is closed on Wednesdays and Fridays.

subscriber to the Borough Road library. It costs nothing and is open to anyone who lives or studies in Southwark. You will forget about the problems of urban living for a day, and you never know what interesting people you might 'meet'.

Borough Road Library is open 9.30am-8.00pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9.30am-5.00pm Fridays and Saturdays.

Their address is 12 Borough Road, SE1, tel. 928 5562.

Anne Critchley

people with deep psychological problems but will be a place where we can share our experiences and support one another in an increasingly difficult and changing society.

If you would be interested in joining such a group, please write to me c/- SE1 Newspaper, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1.

Anne Critchley

HEALTH SERVICE NEEDS IN WATERLOO

Public meeting called by Association of Waterloo Groups.

Monday 2nd October, at 7.00pm, at WAC 14 Baylis Road, SE1

Ring 633 0852, Waterloo Health Project, for further details.

I would like to start in the Autumn a self-help group for older women, particularly those in the Menopause. The group would meet in one another's homes on a weekly or fortnightly basis and we would be discussing things like health, lifestyle, work, problems of inner city living, etc.

It will not be a forum for

Weekly activities at The Beormund

MONDAY

Southwark Law Project, 2-5pm
Parents & Toddlers, 1-3pm
Keep Fit
Music Workshop, 6-9pm
Bermondsey Chorus, 8-10pm
After School Fashion Club for the Under 16's, 5-7pm
Fashion Course in conjunction with Cambridge University Mission, 8-10pm

TUESDAY

Keep Fit, 12.30-2pm
Drop-In Sewing Surgery, 10-12am and 1-3pm
Parents & Toddlers, 1-3pm
Happy Aces Card Club, 1-5pm
English, 7-9pm

Judo, 6.20-7.20pm
Mens Stress Management, 7-9pm
Weight Watchers 7.30-9.30pm

WEDNESDAY

English, 10-12am
Womens Photography, all day
English as a Second Language, 1-3pm
Parents & Toddlers, 1-3pm
Woodwork, 1-3pm
Self Defence, 6.30-7.30pm
Young Trade Union Rights Campaign, 7-9pm
Old Time Dancing, 1.30-3.30pm

THURSDAY

Bermondsey Memories, mornings
Womens Health & Food, 10-12am



United St. Saviour's Charities

Flats for retired people of North Southwark

We have vacancies for retired people who at present live in the North Southwark area (including Newington and Walworth) and who would like to move to our attractive sheltered housing scheme at Hamilton Road, West Norwood.

There are flats available for people who would normally live alone, but sometimes we can offer adjoining flats to sisters, to brothers, or friends, if the situation warrants it.

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To be eligible for an appointment to a flat, applicants must have lived in the North Southwark catchment area for at least three years, be of limited means (i.e. basic income the Old Age Pension), be of good health and be able to look after themselves.

If this applies to you or someone that you know and you would like more information about it, please contact:

The Clerk
United St Saviour's Charities
The Offices
8 Southwark Street
London SE1 1TL

Telephone: 407 5961



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SHOTOKAN KARATE:

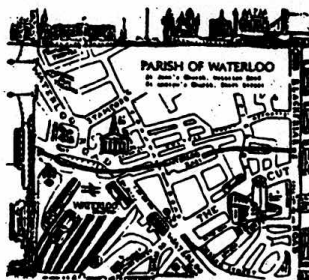
TUESDAY & THURSDAY CLASSES, 7.30-9.30PM. BEGINNERS WELCOME, ALL GRADES AND AGES, QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR. COST - AS PER KENDO.

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St John's, Waterloo Road

6.30pm Evening Worship
St Andrew's, Short Street

During the week

12.30pm Holy Communion
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Tel 407 7210, or come
and see us at our advice
session at St Hugh's,
Thursday 10.30-1pm

We want to hear from you.

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 October issue of SE1 is Wed 27th September, 1989. Publication date is 5th October. 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, Morley College, 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 Vignola on 928 0711.

FINANCIAL HELP

SE1 acknowledges the financial help of North Southwark Community Development Group, Coin Street Community Builders and the Association of Waterloo Groups. Any financial contributions will be gratefully received.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriber rates to SE1 newspaper are £5 a year for individuals and £12 for institutions. Cheques should be made payable to 'SE1 newspaper' and sent to 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 OAS. We publish ten times a year with double issues during the Summer and at Christmas.

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