

SE1

LRT wants new station on Borough High Street

London Regional Transport has plans to build a new station entrance and ticket hall complex on Borough High Street to serve the Northern Line at London Bridge.

This proposal follows the recommendations of the Kings Cross Fire Inquiry. The public inquiry into the Kings Cross tube fire found that safety exits at many underground stations were inadequate in the case of an emergency. Following the inquiry, London Underground has undertaken an intensive review of public safety. London Bridge in particular is considered to be one of the most urgent priorities in guaranteeing that in future, as recommended by the inquiry, passengers have alternative routes to the surface in the event of an emergency.

In addition to the safety aspect, London Bridge has become a very busy station in recent years as an important transport interchange with British Rail mainline services and as more offices have sprung up along Southwark's riverside. Passenger use is expected to increase considerably in the coming years as employment in the capital grows. The Northern Line ticket hall and platforms at London Bridge are now dangerously overcrowded at peak periods.

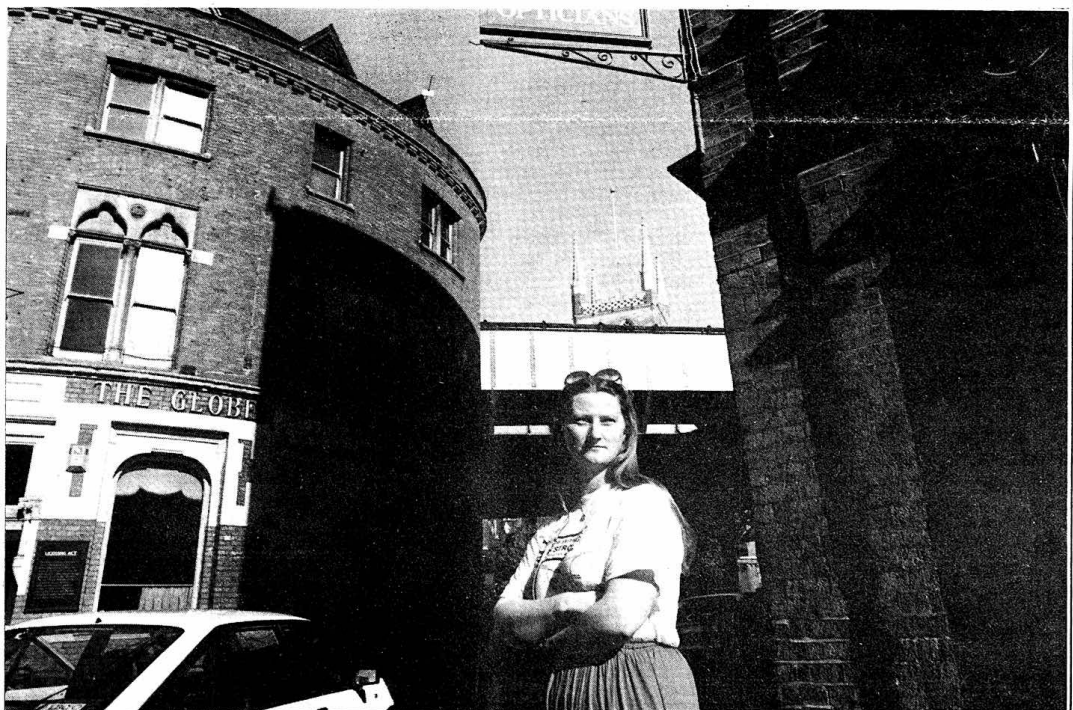
To overcome these problems of safety and congestion, LRT is proposing to build a new sub-surface ticket hall for the Northern Line beneath the junction of Southwark Street and Borough High Street. A new street level entrance would be provided on Borough High Street at the junction of St Thomas Street involving the possible demolition of the Barclays Bank branch and three adjoining shops.

A further street-down entrance only would be built in front of the NatWest Bank on Southwark Street. To achieve this, the footpath would be built out and the traffic island opposite

Proposals for new railways continue to agitate the residents of North Southwark and Bermondsey. On this page we provide details of a proposal for a new Underground station on Borough High Street. Further details have been provided by British Rail about tunnelling sites and ventilation shafts in the north of the borough on the underground Channel Tunnel rail link from Warwick Gardens in Peckham to Kings Cross. London Regional Transport has announced the final alignment of the new Underground extension to the Jubilee Line, running from Green Park to Stratford with the possibility of two new stations in The Cut and on Jamaica Road.

At a recent public meeting residents and businesses overwhelmingly rejected British Rail's proposal to cut a swathe through the Borough Market conservation area with the construction of a new railway viaduct. Homes and livelihoods would be lost, a community destroyed say opponents. Local MP Simon Hughes has called on the Secretary of State for Transport, Cecil Parkinson, not to allow British Rail to proceed with a Bill this year to Parliament seeking approval for the project.

No less than three public spaces along the SE1 and SE16 riverfront - Jubilee Gardens, Bankside and Anchor Gardens in Rotherhithe - would be lost to public use for up to four years as working sites during railway construction. SE1 has news in this issue of all these proposals.



Jackie Power, of Cathedral Area Residents Association, in front of the Globe pub, threatened with demolition by British Rail's proposal for a new viaduct across Borough Market

removed to widen the road for two-way traffic.

In addition, LRT want to build a new section of south-bound tunnel which would run under Southwark Cathedral. The tunnel would be dug by hand and the spoil would be taken away by lorry. LRT hope to present a Bill to Parliament this month for the necessary powers out the work. Work would take three years to complete.

Local residents are worried about the disruption to the area which the works will cause. They are asking if the scheme is necessary considering that the new Jubilee Line extension will have its own ticket hall and entrance complex under the London Bridge Station concourse. Why, residents ask, can't a new Northern Line station be integrated with the Jubilee Line complex. This, if feasible,

would cause much less disruption to the community and commercial life, and also save LRT the expense of two new stations at London Bridge.

LRT Northern Line spokespersons say they want separate powers for a new ticket hall in case the Jubilee Line extension does not go ahead. Residents hope, however, that they can knock LRT heads together.

New SE1 underground rail link stirs little enthusiasm among local residents

At two public meetings held last month in North Southwark, there was little enthusiasm shown for new underground stations in the north of the borough, one in The Cut and the other on Jamaica Road.

The new stations have been proposed by London Regional Underground as possible intermediate stations on the new eastwards extension of the Jubilee Line. As we wrote in the last issue of SE1 the new underground extension will run from Green Park via Westminster to Waterloo, then to London Bridge where a new underground station complex will be built, Surrey Docks (to be named Canada Water), Canary Wharf, Canning Town, with an eastern terminus at Stratford.

London Regional Transport has made it clear, however, that the new underground line will only go ahead if funding for it is guaranteed. Central government wants developers and landowners along the line to put up a sizeable proportion of the total cost. Giant property developers Olympia & York, responsible for the 12 million square foot office development at Canary Wharf, have apparently promised to contribute one third of the estimated £1 billion cost of the line. Other developers, however, whose schemes would benefit from the new Tube link, have supposedly refused to contribute.

Concern was expressed by residents at the public meetings, which were addressed by representatives from London Regional Transport, about a number of factors. Bermondsey residents complained about the location of both the Jamaica Road station, on the corner of Keeton's Road, and the Surrey Docks station, immediately next to the Canada Estate's tenants hall. Residents feared that the entrances to these stations were too close to housing estates and thought that the noise of the trains would disrupt their lives.

Concerning the station at The Cut, on the corner of Blackfriars Road, one resident thought that this would be little used by residents and questioned whether it would be open in the evenings and at weekends. Much concern was expressed about the temporary loss of the open space in the north of the borough as these were required as working sites for this and other rail developments.

LRT propose to use Jubilee Gardens as a major tunnelling site for the new line. This means the Gardens would be closed to the public for three or four years. In addition, Anchor Gardens on the river in Rotherhithe would also be closed for use as a working site. Adding in the Bankside Power Station open space, which British

Rail intends to use for its tunnelling purposes, this means Southwark and Waterloo would lose their principal riverside open spaces.

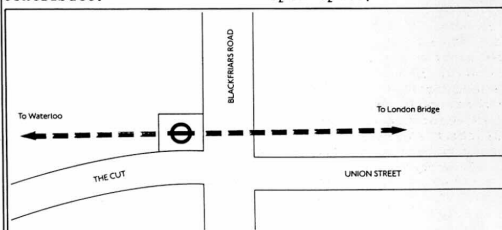
Simon Hughes MP strongly supports new stations in The Cut and at Bermondsey. He believes that they will allow much greater mobility for residents, especially because these two areas are presently badly served by public transport. A new station in The Cut would also be useful, he says, for tourists to visit the Rose Theatre and the recently uncovered Globe Theatre.

Speaking on behalf of Southwark Council at the meetings, Councillor Nick Snow, Vice Chair of the Planning Committee which organised the meetings, said that while the Council supported the principle of the line, big businesses in Docklands must not be the only beneficiary. The line should be used to open up access to public transport to all Southwark residents, in particular in Peckham.

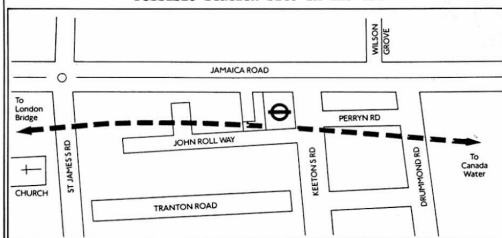
He argued strongly that the East London Line be extended from Surrey Docks, where there will be an interchange with the new Jubilee Line extension, to Peckham, thus giving access to residents here to Docklands and the West End. The General Manager of LRT's East London Line told SE1 that they hoped to be able to get government approval in November 1990 to submit a Bill to Parliament to extend the East London Line to Peckham and East Dulwich.

A further concern of residents and the Council was disruption while construction work was going on. Major tunnelling sites will be located in Jubilee Gardens and near Jamaica Road. There will be working sites on The Cut, Lavington Street, London Bridge and Jamaica Road. Thousands of tons of spoil will have to be removed, much of it by road, adding to the inconvenience to residents already suffering from large scale office developments and growing volumes of traffic.

London Regional Transport will be presenting a Bill to Parliament this month seeking powers to build the line. Approval is expected to take up to two years with construction beginning in 1992 and completion and opening of the line in 1996.



Possible station site in The Cut



Possible station site in Bermondsey

Channel Tunnel route finalised

British Rail has announced final modifications to the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link which, in Southwark, will run underground from Warwick Gardens in Peckham to Kings Cross Station. Of concern to residents of North Southwark, BR has also finalised the tunnel construction sites and the location of the ventilation shafts.

The public open space by the riverside in front of Bankside Power Station will be the main construction site for the underground tunnel. This is intended, according to BR, to allow the movement of tunnel spoil and construction materials by river barge. On completion of the tunnelling work, a ventilation shaft housing will be constructed on the restored riverside gardens. A further ventilation shaft in SE1 will be located on the corner of Spurgeon and Deverell Streets.

If parliamentary approval is granted to BR's high speed rail link, expected to take up to two years, construction would begin in 1992 and continue for four or possibly five years. The open space at Bankside would therefore be closed to the public for the whole of this period. It is believed that BR is still discussing with the Central Electricity Generating Board, which owns the Bankside Power Station, the possibility of using the power station as part of its work site.

The tunnelling site on Bankside, next door to the Falcon Point housing estate, will operate 24 hours a day, during the construction period with a total of four giant tunnelling machines working in both directions. The ventilation shaft on Spurgeon Street, which will involve tunnelling by hand, will be on a site presently leased to British Telecom.

At meetings with BR to discuss the route of the underground link, residents expressed their opposition to the loss of public open space on Bankside while residents of Falcon Point envisaged large-scale disruption to their lives through noise, dirt and traffic. Southwark Council itself opposes the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, its present form, preferring a route which would take the line from the coast to Stratford, where Newham Council is still lobbying the strongly for the Channel Tunnel terminal.

Tooley Street tenants demand better service

Residents of Tooley Street have in recent years suffered more than their fair share of disturbance and inconvenience. North Southwark's riverside has in the 1980's become a key focus for property developers moving south from the City of London. Commercial and high-density luxury residential developments, either completed or under construction, line the riverfront. Heavy lorries now rumble continuously along Tooley Street and narrow side streets dropping building rubble in their wake, everywhere site workers' cars are parked illegally, roads are constantly dug up and badly reinstated, the volume of traffic along Tooley Street has increased enormously.

Residents might regard it as some small compensation if they could enjoy the comforts of their own estates. Alas, on this score as well, their patience is sorely tried. The Tooley Street Tenants Association represents residents of over 500 Southwark Council owned flats in a complex of estates comprising Devon Mansions, Coxon Way, St John's Estate, St Olave's Estate, Lewes House and Fair Street flats.

Tenants Association Chair, Lil Patrick, told SE1 that at its monthly meetings the TA Committee receives a succession of complaints from tenants about conditions on the estates. At other times, Lil only has to set foot outside her door before her ears ring from a similar torrent of complaints: stairways used as public toilets, lifts out of order, lights not working, rubbish on the estates not swept up, inadequate refuse collection, dogs fouling the common areas.

If willingness worked miracles, Lil would have these problems solved in a

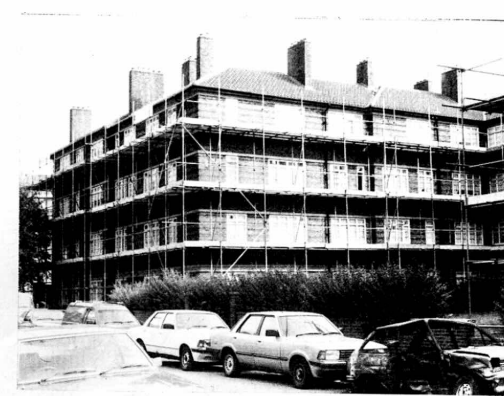
trice. Unfortunately, more ordinary mortals at Southwark's Housing Department are responsible for the communal maintenance of these estates and they are not always up to the task.

Lil, however, is not quick to condemn the Housing Department out of hand. Lil concedes that Estates Officers, part of whose job it is to attend Tenants Association meetings and see that tenants' complaints are investigated and put right where necessary, are frequently bogged down with paper work and consequently desk bound.

At the same time, the Council's Housing Department is in the throes of reorganisation. Government legislation to introduce compulsory competitive tendering for all council services, including housing maintenance, from 1990, has seen a freeze on recruitment as the Housing Department seeks desperately to slim down its workforce in order to be able to submit a competitive tender to the Council in the hope of hanging on to the services it provides. Even the top-heavy management structure of the Housing Department, which has proved so ineffectual in managing Southwark's housing crisis, has been re-structured with the creation of three new area directorates.

The Council has recently begun work on its first Neighbourhood Office and will open a further 17 over the next 15 months in order to provide a more localized housing service.

The freeze on recruitment though is one of the key sticking points for the tenants, Lil Patrick told SE1. Devon Mansions, the largest of the estates on Tooley Street with 300 flats, has been without a caretaker



since 1987. These flats were built at the end of the last century, before the construction of Tower Bridge, and were taken into council ownership in the 1960's during the controversy of the Rachman era.

Without a caretaker, says Lil, problems have accumulated. The lifts are constantly out of order, stair lights are not replaced when they fail, there is no-one to keep a watchful eye on the estate's many elderly residents, flats are vandalised. Recently, police carried out a raid in the flats smashing down doors with sledgehammers in search of drugs dealers. What Devon Mansions needs, according to Lil, is a caring resident caretaker so that many of these problems, and subsequent complaints, would not arise.

A number of the Tooley Street estates are in need of external repairs. Lewes House, where Lil has lived since its construction in 1956, was not well built to begin with. The bricks were apparently not well baked and

are now visibly crumbling, concrete window sills are breaking up and concrete balconies are coming down in lumps, windows urgently need replacing.

A programme of repairs has been announced for St Olave's Estate, including roof and window repairs and external repainting. But while the scaffolding has been in place around the estate for over a month, there is no sign of work commencing.

All these, and a further catalogue of complaints some going back years, including fire safety, the installation of sleeping policemen in estate service roads, better lighting in flat entranceways, were recently brought up at a meeting of the Council's Housing Management sub-committee by a deputation from Tooley Street Tenants Association. The Committee said that the complaints would be looked into and a detailed response given to the TA in 6 weeks time.

The indefatigable Lil Patrick lives ever in hope.

Nature conservation in Southwark

Southwark Council laid claim last month to be the first major London borough to have its own nature conservation handbook. Launched by Council leader Anne Matthews, the handbook, 'Nature Conservation in Southwark', was written by members of the London Ecology Unit.

The handbook has details about all the significant wildlife sites in the borough. Not surprisingly, in the north of the borough is

highly built up, there are not many open spaces with great nature conservation value. The Bricklayers' Arms site, however, off the Old Kent Road, was considered one of the best wastelands in London, home to many plants and wildlife. This will disappear as the site is to be developed for housing.

Smaller wasteland sites, such as the Galleywall Road Rough in Bermondsey, Leathermarket Gardens, and parts of Surrey

Docks, contribute towards the wildlife habitat of North Southwark. Efforts to remedy the lack of good wildlife sites here are being made by the Council and ILEA with the creation of school and community nature gardens, for instance at Benhill Road, Goldsmith Road and Marlborough Grove.

Naturally, the south of the borough, with Nunhead Cemetery and Sydenham Hill Woods, is better served for

sites with a greater variety of habitat and wildlife.

The handbook lists a total of nearly 40 sites in the borough which are considered as being of conservation value. These are all described in detail, often with interesting historical background.

The well produced handbook is available to borrow or for sale at all Southwark libraries.

Viaduct widening controversy grows

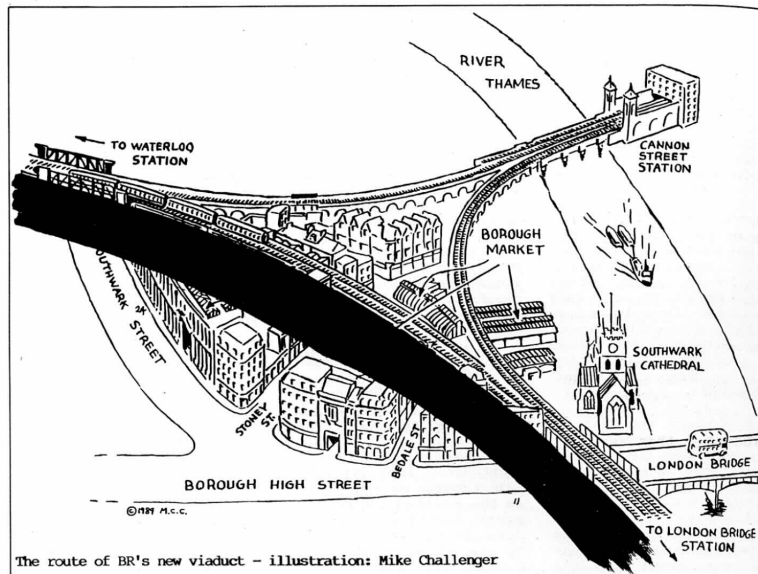
Southwark and Bermondsey MP Simon Hughes has called on the Secretary of State for Transport, Cecil Parkinson, to halt British Rail's plans to submit a Private Bill to Parliament this month seeking powers to widen the railway viaduct across the Borough Market.

Residents, businesses and the Trustees of the Borough Market are all opposed to BR's plans. They believe building a new viaduct would seriously threaten the future of the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade at the Borough Market and kill off the thriving community in the area. The proposal would require the demolition of a number of fine buildings in a Conservation Area, including the recently restored Hop Exchange on Southwark Street, leading to loss of homes and businesses.

In his letter to Cecil Parkinson, Simon Hughes says that environmental considerations have not been taken sufficiently into account by BR in choosing to widen the viaduct through the Borough Market, nor do alternatives appear to have been properly considered.

BR maintains that the purpose of the track widening is to allow it to upgrade its cross-London Thameslink service, providing greater frequency through-services between Luton and Bedford in the north and Gatwick and Brighton in the south. BR also says that London Bridge suffers the worst congestion of any railway junction in London, especially at peak periods. Building a new two-track viaduct from London Bridge Station to O'Meara Street would not only allow an improved Thameslink service but would also improve through-services to Waterloo East and London Bridge.

British Rail has commissioned an independent Environmental Assessment Study of its Borough Market proposal, at the insistence of the local



The route of BR's new viaduct - illustration: Mike Challenger

community and Southwark Council, significantly omitting, however, any consideration of possible alternatives to improving the Thameslink service either via Herne Hill or Denmark Hill.

Meanwhile, as more details of the proposal are made available by British Rail, it is becoming clearer that the scale of destruction and disruption that would be caused if a new viaduct was built, are greater than were originally feared. The potential property take, that is properties which may be demolished to make way for the new viaduct or working sites, is more than was first admitted by British Rail. It now includes the whole of the Hop Exchange, for example, whereas previously it was said that only the rear of that building would be affected.

The Southwark Tavern is also potentially at risk, having

been included by BR in its so-called 'Limits of Deviation', which allows it to compulsorily purchase property if necessary within a defined boundary. Three pubs in the Borough Market area - the Globe, Wheatstheaf and Southwark Tavern - are thus threatened with extinction.

In addition, it is evident that new problems are constantly emerging for BR's engineers. For example, they recently informed Southwark Council that arrangements for buses entering and leaving London Bridge Station may have to be radically altered if a new viaduct is built. This is because headroom would be reduced meaning that buses would no longer be able to enter the station as at present via Station Approach. Consideration is therefore being given to widening the junction of Borough High Street and London Bridge Street in order to make the

latter two-way. This solution would require the demolition of buildings at this junction. BR is presently discussing alternatives with London Buses.

British Rail has also told Southwark Council that the two new tracks would be used exclusively to carry passengers on its through-services to Waterloo East and Charing Cross. This has strengthened the belief of opponents of the scheme that the ostensible purpose of the new viaduct - to upgrade the Thameslink service through London Bridge - is not its real purpose at all.

In the meantime, the 'Save the Borough Market Area Campaign' is gaining adherents and intends to oppose BR all the way in Parliament if they go ahead this month and deposit a Private Bill. The campaign can be contacted by writing to 13 Park Street, SE1.

Following are well worth considering for a variety of reasons. They are native broad leaved trees, fairly compact in growth and are suitable for smaller gardens, although it's never advisable to plant any tree too close to the house. All have interesting features.

Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) snow white blossoms in Spring and has shiny chestnut brown bark which peels in

horizontal strips - height up to 35ft. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) often found growing in hedgerows, has ribbed grey or light brown bark. Grows up to 20ft. Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) has beautiful autumn colours with red berries, height up to 35ft. Finally the Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) easily recognised by its slim silvery white trunk and graceful habit, height up to 35ft.

GARDENING

As the days get shorter and the leaves fall, evergreen trees and shrubs begin to take on a new importance in the garden. Many shrubs such as *Pyracantha*, *Cotoneaster* and *Berberis* have highly coloured berries and can be seen in some of the open spaces in SE1.

If you are thinking about plants for a winter display

Activities at St Judes Community Centre

St. Judes Centre Community Association is an organisation based on St George's Road in the Elephant and Castle area of North Southwark. St Judes has a Management Committee made up of local people who run the community centre based in the Crypt of St Judes Church, a redundant building leased from the Southwark Diocese of the Church of England.

St Judes Centre has a new Community Centre Worker, John Donnachie, who started in the post in April this year. Although John is from Scotland, his background is in Community Work based in Salford in Greater Manchester.

St Judes has many long established groups based at the Centre, as follows:

PLAYGROUP - this service for under 5's is open from 8.15am till 12.45, Monday to Friday and costs 40p per day. The importance of play is stressed with the playgroup, play being seen as an educational activity and each child is encouraged to be independent, self confident and to reach their full potential. The group caters for up to 16 children with a strong emphasis on parental involvement in the running and management of the Playgroup.

PARENT & TODDLER - sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 1.00pm and 4.00pm when parents can meet together with their young children. These sessions are free and run on a 'drop in' basis, anyone with a toddler is welcome.

COFFEE CLUB FOR WOMEN - the coffee club meets every day at the Centre between 9-11am. All women are welcome to attend for a chat, a tea or coffee and to meet others.

PENSIONERS FRIDAY CLUB - This group has been running since 1969, since the opening of St Judes Centre. It meets on a Friday afternoon from 1.30pm till 3.30pm and its activities include Bingo, Games, tea and coffee and day trips.

SLIMMING CLUB - this group meets every Wednesday evening from 7.30pm. They discuss the importance of healthy eating, offer advice on diets, and offer mutual support.

YOUTH CLUBS - on a Friday evening during School terms St Judes run two Youth Clubs. The first is open from 6.00-7.30pm for 5 to 9 year olds and the second club runs from 7.30-9pm. Activities include table tennis, pool, sports, arts and crafts and much more.

VINGT WING KUNG FU CLUB - this club runs on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm. Ving Tso Kung Fu is a hard, no-nonsense martial art form. Potential karate kids should reconsider joining as this form of martial art has nothing flashy about it.

With a new Community Worker at St Judes Centre come new ideas which increase the services St Judes Centre offers as a community resource facility.

STRETCH - is an Ante-natal group for pregnant women offering pregnancy exercises

and relaxation classes in a controlled environment. The class meets every Thursday 3-4pm. The group is organised by Wendy Pearce, Health Visitor with the Princess Street Group Practice.

KEEP FIT - This group begins on Wednesday 1st November from 3.30-5pm. This is an adult education course run in co-operation with Morley College. It is hoped it will become a club.

FOR CHILDREN

DANCE CLASSES - these are run for two age groups of children every Wednesday evening from 5-6pm for 5-8 year olds and from 6-7pm for 9-14 year olds. The combined emphasis is on basic movement skills, jazz, modern and classical styles of dance. The charge for these classes is 75p per hour.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB - this club meets every Thursday from 4-6pm for children 5 to 11 years old. The Club is initially funded by the BBC Children in Need appeal for workers and equipment and will eventually rely on voluntary donations and local fund raising. The club is not free play.

AFTER CARE GROUP - for people of any age who as children were taken into Local authority 'care'. Often difficulties are experienced settling back into the local community. St Judes will offer a place to meet in a friendly atmosphere, with advice and information and mutual support. This will begin on Sunday November 1st from 1-4pm.

DISABILITIES GROUP - Monday 20th November will see the launch of this group for people with severe learning difficulties, problems of mental health and other forms of disability. All welcome. This group will organise socials, day trips or just use the Centre and its facilities. The age range is 25-35 years.

HOME START - St Judes is looking at the possibility of initiating a project that offers support to single parents in the home. Community Worker John Donnachie would like to hear from people experiencing the difficulties of single parenthood. He would also like to hear from people who would like to volunteer to staff such a project.

ADVICE SHOP - St Judes would like to start an advice shop and is looking for volunteers who could give advice at day-time sessions. Evening training would be provided for volunteers so no experience of advice work is necessary. Contact John Donnachie at the Centre on the number below.

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL - On Sunday 3rd December, from 3-5.30pm, St Judes is holding at the Centre entertainment for pensioners, organised by Silver Wings Variety. Bookings should be made in advance. Entrance is free to pensioners in the St Judes catchment area.

Further details about all of the above activities from John Donnachie, Community Worker at St Judes Community Centre, on 928 9840.

New community minibus takes to the road

Thanks to the generosity of Thames/LWT Telethon Trust and a number of local charities, including United St Saviour's Charities, Newcomen Collett Foundation, Christ Church United Charities and many others, the Bermondsey Community Minibus Project recently took delivery of a new fully-equipped 15-seater Ford Transit van.

The Project, which is voluntarily-run, has been in existence since May 1984 when it bought 2 minibuses for community use with the aid of a grant from the Greater London Council. Around twenty local community groups joined forces to establish the Project.

Last year, its 15-seater bus was stolen and the Project then spent many months fund-raising among charities for a replacement vehicle. Those efforts came to fruition last month with the delivery of its new vehicle - paid for entirely by charitable contributions, for which the Project would like to express its heartfelt gratitude.

Apart from the 15-seater, fitted throughout with seat belts and a roof rack, there is a 17-seater ambulance style vehicle with a tail lift to take wheel chair-bound passengers. The minibuses are available for hire by bona fide local voluntary organisations only. They are not available for private hire. Ring Gerry Vignola on 928 0711 for further details.



pupils of Charles Dickens School get set to use the new bus

Poll Tax battle looms

Most Southwark residents will by now have seen or filled in the Poll Tax registration form, otherwise officially known as the 'Community Charge'. Southwark Council is obliged by law to compile a register of all residents over the age of 16 years, while anyone over 18 will be eligible to pay the new tax which will replace the present system of domestic rates. The tax will be introduced in April 1990, in stages.

The government says that the new tax is fairer because everybody who uses local services will pay for them instead of just households and businesses who now pay rates. This means, as one government Minister put it, that a duke will pay the same as a dustman.

Critics of the Poll Tax say that it's a tax on people with no regard to the amount they earn or to the size of the place they live in. The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, for instance, who owns a luxury home in Dulwich, would pay about £80 a week in rates under the present system. When the Poll Tax comes into effect next April, she will be paying around £12 a week instead.

Southwark Council estimates that next year the Poll Tax, which will be phased in, will be a minimum of £305 a person, rising each year over the next four years to £800 per person. This means that next year the average working household with two adults will pay around £12 a week in total compared to the average £9 a week they pay at present. This amounts to a 33% increase over the current rates bill.

New community counsellor

Pauline Brumwell is the new co-ordinator at Waterloo Community Counselling Project. She started work at the Project in July and has spent part of her first month setting up a new system to shorten the length of time people will have to wait before seeing a counsellor.

For most people, Pauline will be the first point of contact for the Project - giving them the opportunity to discuss their difficulties and how counselling might help. This is familiar work for Pauline, who has a background of ten years' experience in a variety of counselling and community projects.

Poll tax rebates will not be as generous as the present system of rate rebates. Everybody must pay - even pensioners, the unemployed, the sick and disabled must pay 20% of the tax. Only those earning less than £57 a week will qualify for a reduction or less than £137 a week if two partners are earning. Southwark Council itself estimates that 70% of residents will be worse off under the new Poll Tax.

Anti-Poll Tax unions have been formed in Scotland where the tax has already been introduced and some estimates say that up to 1 million Scots are refusing to pay the tax. While local authorities have the powers to take non-payers to court, not one court order has yet been issued in Scotland for non-payment, the government evidently fearing the electoral consequences of the first Poll Tax martyrs.

In England and Wales, hundreds of Anti-Poll Tax unions have also been set up. In Southwark there are now over a dozen such unions on various estates, including Tooley Street, Arnold Estate and the Rockingham Estate. A Southwark Steering Committee of Anti-Poll Tax Unions has been formed to co-ordinate the campaign against the tax in the borough. It will be organising lobbies and meetings, producing a regular newsletter and advising people on how to deal with registration and the poll tax bills next April.

If you want to become part of the campaign against the Poll Tax, contact Maggie Lough, Southwark Anti-Poll Tax Unions, 96 Vauban Estate, SE1 or ring 231 0916 (daytime).

The counselling service is free to anyone in the area experiencing personal or emotional difficulties.

For further details contact Pauline on 928 3462.



Community Health Council criticises opt out proposal

West Lambeth Health Authority General Manager, Dr Stephen Jenkins, has put forward revised proposals for St Thomas's Hospital and West Lambeth health clinics and centres to 'opt out' of Health Service control.

The proposal to allow hospitals to 'opt out' is one of the major features of the Government's proposals for changing the way the NHS operates. Hospitals which 'opt out' will not necessarily offer the full range of medical services they now provide to the local community, will be responsible for the own finances and be managed by Trustees who will be unaccountable to the community.

Critics of these proposals have expressed concern that local people would be obliged to travel all over London for various medical services and that services to the elderly and the chronically ill would suffer as hospitals which decided to opt out concentrated their attention on more profitable specialities. Hospitals would therefore be run along commercial lines and would not have any particular responsibility to the local community.

Initially, Dr Jenkins had proposed virtually the whole of the services provided by West Lambeth Health Authority as candidates for 'opting out'. In his revised version, putting forward a plan of implementation for his proposals, services for the elderly and mentally frail are excluded.

West Lambeth Community Health Council has criticised Dr Jenkins for proposing St Thomas's Hospital as a candidate for self-governing status since he is employed as the Chief Officer of a health authority - West Lambeth Health Authority - which has publicly stated its opposition to the government's opting out proposals.

In the meantime, due to the constant pressure of the Community Health Council, West Lambeth Health Authority has agreed to the re-opening of a number of hospital beds originally closed as an economy measure in October 1987, 19 beds in William Ward should be re-opened this month.

Bike accidents on the increase in Lambeth

Cycle accidents are soaring in Lambeth according to the Council's Safety Officer. In the first three months of the year accidents involving bicycles went up by 28%, partly because of the large number of new cyclists attracted by the warm summer. The Council says that new cyclists need to learn the rules for road safety.

As a result, the Council plans to research cycle safety problems and trouble spots. The major cycling trouble spots are concentrated in the north of the borough. For example, Westminster Bridge roundabout is a bike rider's nightmare. At Lambeth Bridge roundabout a new cycle track will cut down risks by next Spring. But at Waterloo Bridge roundabout, according to the Council, a new road system for cyclists has already proved very successful.

The Council wants cyclists to report trouble spots and problems. Write to: The Director, Public Services, George West House, 2 Clapham Common Northside, SW4 0QN.

Bermondsey Memories

SE1 residents will have a second chance to see the acclaimed Bermondsey Memories Panorama - a 21 foot photo-collage telling the history of Bermondsey, made by local older people, recently on show at Butler's Wharf.

You can also meet the people who made it along with their personal mementoes of a life lived in Bermondsey. All this will take place on Saturday 11th November from 2-5pm at the Beormund Community Centre, 177 Abbey Street.

Recycling waste in discussion

There will be a meeting at Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, at 7pm on Monday 20th November, to discuss ways of re-cycling rubbish, including tin cans.

A speaker from Friends of the Earth will address the meeting and all residents are welcome to attend. Entrance is free. The meeting is sponsored by the Association of Waterloo Groups.

Traffic dodging risk at Elephant & Castle

People are risking their lives daily because of the partial closure of pedestrian subways at the Elephant & Castle roundabout. Although alternative tunnels have been signposted, many people are ignoring these and rather than walk an extra 100 yards are crossing the 6 lane road at the nearest point, often dodging the traffic.

Three tunnels linking the shopping centre and Underground to the London College of Printing and DHSS will be closed for 6 months to be upgraded by Southwark Council. The subways have been a source of many problems and are badly lit with graffiti-covered walls. Built in the 1960's, they are not popular with local residents.

Rupert King of Southwark's Planning Department said that the improvements being carried out at present are part of a £20,000 comprehensive improvement to upgrade all of the existing subways.

The Council consulted residents and businesses and staged an exhibition of proposals two years ago concerning large scale environmental improvements at the Elephant & Castle. Feedback led to plans to re-tile the subways in bright colours, improve the signing system and put in new lighting, handrails, paving and ramps.

Children from the local Jeffery Chaucer school have designed murals on historical and wildlife themes and these ideas will be used by a professional painter for the final work. It is hoped that the three tunnels presently undergoing refurbishment will be completed by Christmas this year and the full scheme by the end of the following year.

Meanwhile, many pedestrians ignore the dangers of traffic



Dodging the traffic at Elephant & Castle - photo: Marg Nicol

and the council is unable to do more than signpost the alternatives routes through

the subways and hope that people will be sensible enough to protect themselves.

Southwark's history at Cuming Museum

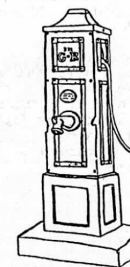
With the appointment of a new Keeper, Caroline Ellis, plans are underway to raise the public profile of Southwark's very own museum. The Cuming Museum, the Museum of Southwark's History, is being reorganised to prepare its collections for new displays, a programme of temporary exhibitions and special services for schools.

The collections of the Museum are based on the founding donation of Richard and Henry Cuming. Richard Cuming was born in Walworth Road in 1777 and began collecting historic and scientific objects at the age of five. With his son Henry, he built up a vast collection of over 30,000 objects. When Henry Cuming died in 1902 he left his collections to the borough and the Cuming Museum was opened to the public in 1906.

Originally the Museum was a miniature 'British Museum'. Bomb damaged in 1941, when the Museum re-opened its doors in 1959 it had changed its emphasis to Southwark's history with new material about the area which had been donated and excavated.

The Cuming Museum now shows the history of Southwark from its early importance as a Roman crossroads to today's busy London borough. Much of Southwark's Roman and pre-Roman history is known from archaeological finds and

new digs are constantly turning up further information. The Museum shows all sides of Roman life, from costume and jewellery to trades and domestic life.



Marshalsea prison pump

Fragments from Southwark Cathedral show the religious life of the Middle Ages. Travellers to Canterbury usually started from inns in Borough High Street and their possessions have been found along the route and in the Thames. These include riding spurs, shoes, buckles, purses and pilgrim badges - souvenirs brought back from the shrines.

Tudor Southwark saw Shakespeare's Bankside theatres and a model of one of these is shown alongside

some fine wooden bed panels from the Three Falcons Tavern in the Walworth Road. By this time, Southwark was an important industrial area and in the 1600's and 1700's was well-known for its production of delftware - a commonly used tin-glazed earthenware - at potteries in Bankside, Bermondsey and Lambeth. Dalton of Lambeth was a famous factory of later years, and the Cuming Museum shows several sculptures by their designer, George Tinworth.

By the early 1800's, when Charles Dickens was growing up in the area, Southwark was busy, crowded, and the site of many of London's prisons. Among the Museum's collections is the pump from the Marshalsea Prison. The darker side of London life is shown in the Lovett collection of London superstitions.

Due to its current transformation, the Cuming Museum will have temporary limited opening hours. It will be open until further notice on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Schools and adult groups can visit at other times by arrangement.

The Cuming Museum can be found on the first floor of the Newington Library building at 155-157 Walworth Road, just a few minutes walk from the Elephant & Castle.

Lambeth Community Play

With a cast of 35, Two Cities is this year's Lambeth Community Play. Written by Tash Fairbanks of Siren Theatre, the play is a lively comedy about the inhabitants of a typical London borough.

They discover that whatever their age, sex, or race, they have one thing in common - they are either comfortable or uncomfortable. The Comfortable ones want to redevellop the area, and are putting on a festival to promote their plan. The Uncomfortables have been 'had' this way before. They don't want their community destroyed, and do their best to make the Comfortables' lives less comfortable at every turn.

Two Cities resulted from drama classes with local people of all ages and backgrounds. They have developed their own characters and written the plot and presents their views of how local people view life in the inner 'two cities'.

The play will be performed at Dick Sheppard School, Tulse Hill, on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th November, and at the Oval House Theatre from Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th November.

Ticket prices are £3.50 and £1.50 concession; 50% discount for ten or more. Ring 281 4545 for bookings.

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.

All our flats are rent and rate free and are provided with central heating and constant hot water at no extra cost.

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



Womens Week at Borough Community Centre

There will be a week of Women-only events at the Centre during the week of November 27th - 1st December 1989.

Activities will include: photography, patchwork, relaxation, advice on education and training, theatre, self-defence and a writing workshop for lesbians. A cafe and creche will be available all week.

Come and try something you fancy!

For a programme of events, pop into the centre or ring Ruth or Janette on 928 6476.

The Borough Community Centre is at 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 (the old Library).

For women of all ages

5th November Fireworks displays

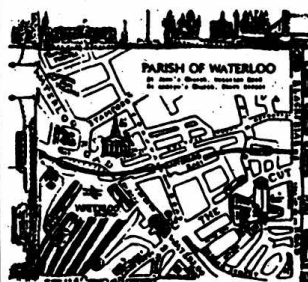
This year Lambeth celebrates fireworks at four different venues:
Streatham Common, Kennington Park (St Agnes Place), Clapham Common and Brockwell Park.

There will be funfairs at all four parks from 4pm. The fireworks displays will begin at 7.30pm, followed by the lighting of bonfires.

It's all free so please do not bring your own fireworks to the display.

Have a safe Guy Fawkes Night!
(For further info, contact Lambeth Amenity Services, on 978 8622 x 3070).

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

STEEL & SHAMASH SOLICITORS

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WE HAVE VACANCIES AT QUEENSBOROUGH PLAYGROUP

for 2 1/2 - 5 year olds

at Queensborough Community Centre
Scovell Road, SE1
(off Southwark Bridge Road)

9.30-12.00

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 December issue of SE1 is Wed 29th November, 1989. Publication date is 7th December. 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.

EDITORIAL GROUP

John Howes, Mary Dimond,
Gerry Vignola

CATHEDRAL WARD LABOUR PARTY

PUBLIC MEETING

Queensborough Community Hall
Scovell Road, SE1
(off Southwark Bridge Rd)

Thursday 16th November
at 8.00pm

Cllr Anne Matthews,
Leader of Southwark Council
will answer questions on:

'Council services - for better or worse'

All welcome