

SEI

A Free Community Newspaper

County Hall redevelopment deal collapses

Clive Soley, the Labour Party's spokesman on planning and housing matters, last month called for the resignation of the Director of the London Residuary Body, following the spectacular financial collapse of the consortium of banks and property companies behind the proposed redevelopment of County Hall on the South Bank. News of the collapse of the deal was greeted with jubilation by Waterloo community groups and residents who had opposed the redevelopment.

County Hall Development Group (CHDG), which won the auction last year to buy County Hall at a cost of £185 million, went into receivership after failing to raise the whole of the estimated £1 billion cost of redeveloping the County Hall complex of buildings. Their losses were estimated at £50 million, including a £20 million deposit they had already paid on the building to the London Residuary Body.

CHDG had planned to redevelop the County Hall complex to provide 1.5 million square feet of offices, a shopping mall, a conference centre and a hotel in the main building, and luxury flats on the riverside overlooking Jubilee Gardens, part of which they intended to turn into a private courtyard, with restricted access for the public. These plans were vigorously opposed by local residents and at a recent public inquiry into the proposals, they succeeded in convincing the Inspector that the plans should be revised. A decision on CHDG's plans is still awaited from the Secretary of State for the Environment, Chris Patten MP.

Considerable political controversy surrounded the disposal of County Hall by the London Residuary Body (LRB), appointed in 1986 to wind up the affairs of the Greater London Council. The failure of County Hall Development Group to complete

the purchase of the building, after the hype which surrounded the redevelopment proposals, is a severe blow and an embarrassment to the LRB.

Lambeth Council, and the Labour and Liberal Democrat Parties, opposed its sale to private developers and argued that the building should be retained for local government uses since it was purpose built, with funds from public subscription, at the beginning of the century to serve as the seat of London government.

Speaking at a recent press conference on the future of County Hall after the demise of the County Hall Development Group, Clive Soley accused the Director of the LRB, Sir Godfrey Taylor, a Government appointee, of incompetence and called for his resignation. Both he and Simon Hughes MP committed their parties to acquiring

County Hall as the seat of a future regional government for London.

For its part, the LRB has acted as if nothing has happened. It has said that it intends to await planning approval from the Secretary of State for the Environment to transform the building into offices and then re-open the bidding process for the sale of County Hall.

At the same press conference, however, Bob Colenutt, former Chair of Lambeth's Planning Committee, said that the LRB had lamentably failed in its duty to London in relation to County Hall and called on Sir Godfrey Taylor to withdraw the planning application and discuss with interested parties how the building could be restored for public uses. He also called for an independent, expert report on the state of the County Hall after reports of damage to the interior of the listed

building including the unauthorised removal of decorative objects.

Cllr Joan Twelves, the Leader of Lambeth Council, said that the borough had written to the LRB asking for the £20 million deposit forfeited by County Hall Development Group to be immediately distributed to the London boroughs. Proceeds of sales of GLC assets are divided among London councils and Lambeth had built its expected contribution from the sale of County Hall into its budget. No reply from the LRB had yet been received to Cllr Twelves' request.

In a further move, the London Charitable Trust, of which Simon Hughes MP is a Trustee, which came second last time to CHDG in the bidding for County Hall, is putting together another bid for the building which would see its eventual return to public uses.



The North Wing of County Hall, overlooking Jubilee Gardens, part of which the developers intended to turn into a private terrace

New leisure centre proposed at the Elephant

The Elephant & Castle Leisure Centre, owned and operated by Southwark Council, is a much used and valuable recreational sports complex in the north of the borough. It does, however, suffer from a number of problems. It was developed piecemeal and consequently is poorly laid out. This limits the number of users for a given staffing level because of the difficulties of supervision. The swimming pools and the dry sports areas for instance are in separate buildings connected by a bridge.

Access to the building is poor, especially for people with disabilities, and does not mark the building out as a leisure centre.

The Centre's range of facilities is also limited, especially in relation to modern leisure centres. The building itself is unattractive, while the grassed areas surrounding the leisure centre do not serve usefully as public open space and contribute little to the local environment.

Now, Southwark's Planning Department has come up with proposals to redevelop the leisure centre site as a way

of meeting a number of objectives which will contribute to the regeneration of the Elephant and Castle area.

According to the planners, the site could accommodate both a major new leisure centre and a commercial development, such as offices, on the upper floors. The aim is to attract a developer willing to build a new leisure centre in exchange for the office floorspace. The borough's valuers regard this as a viable proposition.

The proposals for the new leisure complex are ambitious. They include a new 25 metre competition pool, a teaching pool, a leisure pool, changing facilities for 500 people with disabled provision, a weights room, sports hall with seating provision for 2,500, a combat practice room, dance studio, indoor bowling area, 6 squash courts, a creche, community meeting rooms, conference theatre and a local library.

Out of the proposed redevelopment, not only would local residents and workers and students in the area get a new leisure facility, but environmental improvements



Elephant & Castle Leisure Centre

associated with the development would benefit the area as well, incorporating a direct footpath link between Brook Drive and Elephant & Castle.

A commercial partner will be sought early next year once councillors have given their approval to the scheme and public opinion has been canvassed about the idea. An informal exhibition of the proposal was held at the leisure centre at the end of

October where public comment was invited.

The proposal, were it to go ahead, would mean the likely demolition of the present centre and the redeployment of its staff until the completion of the new building sometime in 1993.

For further information about the proposal, contact Simon Bevan at Southwark Council's Planning Division on 071 703 0911.

Keeping Public Works on their toes

After the Housing Department, Southwark Council's Department of Engineering and Public Works probably comes in for most criticism from residents for the quality of services it provides.

The arrival of a new Director early this year, together with the pressures to cut costs or face the contracting out of council services, has seen a major reorganisation of the Department. Some residents have said that as a result household refuse collection has improved in recent months while street cleansing, though by no means satisfactory, has also improved.

Residents themselves can play an important role in keeping the Public Works Department on its toes. While the Department itself has staff who patrol the streets to look for lights not working, bollards knocked over, abandoned vehicles, and so on, it still depends very much on members of the public reporting such problems. The sooner these problems are reported, the sooner the defect can be put right.

Recently, in common with a number of other councils in London, the Department of Public Works has introduced defect report cards. These can be filled in by residents reporting any problem which requires attention and sent post free to the Department. The cards are available at libraries and district housing offices.

Experience has shown, however, that report cards filled in by members of the public are taking up to two weeks to reach the council officer responsible for dealing with the problem. The most effective way then of reporting any problems with public services is to ring directly the officer concerned. Many residents complain that they can never speak to the right person and their complaint ends up lost in the system. To help overcome this we print below a list of relevant officers at the Department of Engineering and Public Works who can be contacted with queries.

Street sweeping, refuse collection, cleansing matters

in general - Mr Mohideen Azeez, 703 5464 ext 2018 or Ms Penelope MacLachlan ext 2194.

Footpath and highway defects, highway enforcement (abuse of pavement, obstructions), road maintenance (including potholes) - Mr Dave Eskrick, 703 3434 ext 222 or Mr Jamie Maltby ext 245.

Abandoned vehicles - Mr Roger Kandeeun 703 3434 ext 213.

Public lighting - Mr Mel

Woodruff, 703 3434 ext 273.

Most faults should be put right within a fortnight, many a lot quicker than this. The Department says that most defects should be put right within a fortnight of being reported, such as a street light not working or a yellow line which needs reinstating. It pays when ringing with a complaint to make a note, as well as the date and the name of the officer you speak to, in case you have to ring again about it.

From

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Date _____

Please note that the following requires attention:

Road name plate ☐ Bollard ☐ Traffic sign* ☐ Street lamp* ☐
Abandoned vehicle ☐ Litter bin ☐ Glass ☐ Mud ☐ Debris on road ☐
Road surface ☐ Trench ☐ Footway ☐ Overhanging vegetation ☐
Blocked gully ☐

Any other matter: _____

At/Outside _____

Please tick item above and quote Post No* if possible. Post No. _____

Report Card

Engineering & Public Works Dept

Tel: 071-703 5464



Southwark Council

New Jubilee Line stations confirmed at Southwark and Bermondsey

The Transport Minister, Roger Freeman, announced at the end of last month in Parliament that new Underground stations would be built at Blackfriars and Bermondsey on the proposed new eastwards extension to the Jubilee Line. There had been much speculation in recent months that they would not be built because of their cost, estimated at £60 million.

The news was welcomed by Simon Hughes MP and Southwark Council who had both lobbied hard for the new stations, in order to improve local access to the West End and new jobs in Docklands.

Cllr Jermy Fraser, Chair of Southwark's Development Services Committee, said that 'this result will go a long way in helping to regenerate the Bermondsey and Southwark areas, as well as relieving our congested roads and reducing environmental pollution.'

For his part, Simon Hughes MP, who has long campaigned for extensions to the underground system in South London, praised the 'contribution and cooperation between officers and

councillors of the London Borough of Southwark, officials at London Underground, and Ministers and officers at the Department of Transport', in the decision to approve the two new stations.

At the same time, however, Cllr Fraser expressed concern about the environmental impact of constructing the line which will run from Green Park via Waterloo, London Bridge, Canary Wharf on the Isle of Dogs and terminate at Stratford. Southwark Council, he said would be doing everything possible to minimise nuisance to residents during the construction period which is expected to last 53 months. Work could begin on the line late next year.

There are 15 sites in Waterloo, North Southwark and Bermondsey which will be used for tunnelling, as work sites or as ventilation shafts and emergency exits, including Jubilee Gardens, The Cut, London Bridge Station, Druid Street, Jamaica Road and Southwark Park. Fuller details of all of the sites concerned will be published in the December issue of SE1.



The Cut/Blackfriars Road station site

Official reopening of Solarium

Lewisham & North Southwark Health Authority will be holding an official reopening of the Bermondsey Health Centre (Solarium), 108 Grange Road, SE1, at 1pm on Friday 9th November 1990.

As SE1 wrote in our last issue, the Centre was originally opened in Bermondsey in 1936. It closed in May 1988 for extensive refurbishment and services recommenced in July this year. Dr W Mumford, who for

many years was a doctor at the Solarium, will perform the official re-opening.

The public are welcome to view the building on 12th November when there will be an open day at the Centre.

The Solarium is closely associated with the life and work of Dr Alfred Salter. In the next issue of SE1 we will be publishing the first part of the story of his contribution to the Bermondsey.

Bryan Gould tours Southwark docklands

As Docklands local authorities express mounting concern over the London Docklands Development Corporation's current cash crisis, the Shadow Environment Minister Bryan Gould MP visited some of Southwark's riverside housing estates last month to examine the implications first hand for the borough.

Mr Gould visited the Swan Estate which is being refurbished with funds from the LDDC as well as other estates that urgently require similar renovations which, while promised, have failed to materialise. So far, nineteen estates in Southwark's docklands have been earmarked for improvements by an LDDC-sponsored survey carried out this year.

The LDDC had committed itself to provide the lion's share of the £38 million cost of refurbishment of these estates but so far no discussions have taken place between Southwark Council and the LDDC about implementing the programme.

As we pointed out in our October issue, the LDDC is facing a serious cash crisis due to the rapidly rising costs of its roads programme. The Limehouse Link section of the proposed new Docklands Highway has blown out in cost from £170 to £300 million, threatening the LDDC's recent commitment to a social housing programme in Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Newham.

Adding to the air of crisis at the LDDC was the resignation last month of the Corporation's Chief Executive, Michael Honey.

Office station

The owners of the old ambulance station on Waterloo Road, next to Waterloo Station, have won planning permission on appeal to the Department of the Environment to turn the building over to office uses.

The Grade II listed building, which opened in 1910 as the Waterloo Fire Station, will be refurbished and extended by Shipshape Investments to provide 25,000 square feet of office space. Local residents and Lambeth Council had opposed the conversion of the building into offices.

New Cut Co-op housing development back on course

Many readers will have noticed that the new housing development on The Cut, just past the Young Vic, has come to a standstill in the past few months. The builders, Lawsons, went bankrupt and receivers were called in to wind up the affairs of the company, a medium-sized building firm which built the first phase of the homes on the former Courages site on Park Street.

A spokesperson for the New Cut Housing Co-operative, which were hoping for handover of the completed development this month, told SE1 that the building contract had been successfully re-tendered and builders would be back on site at the end of November.

The site itself was formerly owned by the Greater London Council which originally supported the construction of a supermarket there. However, because of parking difficulties, no major supermarket group could be enticed to take it on.

The New Cut Housing Co-operative, which will own the completed homes, was set up especially to provide fair-rent accommodation for those in housing need, with funds from the Housing Corporation.

The development, when complete, will comprise 18 one-bed flats, 9 of which have warden alarms, and are designed for elderly residents, 2 four-bed family houses, 5 two-bed flats for single people sharing, 2 four-bed flats for single sharing, and 3 one-bed flats designed especially for wheelchair users.

In addition to the accommodation, the development will comprise a community room, office facilities for the self-managed Co-op, and laundry facilities.

When the Co-op invited applications for the flats from those in housing need, over 750 were received, mostly from people in the Waterloo and surrounding areas. All of the flats have now been allocated and successful applicants look forward to the expected completion of the homes in May 1991.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

The Evelina Children's Unit at Guy's Hospital is internationally renowned for its treatment of heart, kidney and neurological diseases in children. 200 heart operations are performed there each year, as well as between 25-30 kidney transplant operations.

Children are admitted with a range of other serious illnesses which often require lengthy treatment in hospital and often just as lengthy follow-up outpatient treatment. The Unit's 108 beds are full almost every night, accommodating not just children from North Southwark and surrounding areas, but from all over the country, referred to Guy's by hospitals lacking specialist expertise.

When a child is taken ill and has to spend some time in hospital, families are faced with the problem of where they can stay to be close at hand, particularly if their children are referred to hospitals far from where they live. All too frequently, this means the parent virtually camping out in corridors and day rooms of hospitals. Evelina Children's Unit, which has an open visiting policy, provides camp beds for parents who wish to stay overnight with their children, but there are no washing or cooking facilities, and no chance of privacy. The parent must cope as he or she can and this adds considerably to the stress caused by the child's illness.

To help overcome this problem, it has been Health Department policy since the 1970's to encourage hospitals to provide accommodation facilities in the nearby community for relatives of sick children. Unfortunately, few resources have been provided for this purpose and up to the present, only Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, Bart's Hospital, the Children's Cancer Unit at Bristol, and now Evelina Children's Unit at Guy's have such accommodation.

The accommodation for parents associated with Evelina Children's Unit was provided entirely by charitable efforts. In 1986 McDonald's Restaurants chain approached Dr Brian Neville, then a Consultant Neurologist at Guy's, offering to lend their expertise in setting up a Ronald McDonald House and by providing some of the initial funds. Dr Neville, together with other colleagues and

parents of sick children at Guy's set up the Evelina Children's Family Trust Limited, an independent charity, to oversee the project.

This came to fruition in June this year with the opening of Ronald McDonald House, over the road from Guy's Hospital in Snowfields, whose main purpose is to provide accommodation for parents and relatives of children who are ill in Guy's, so helping to solve a practical problem and ease the burden of emotional stress.

It is the first Ronald McDonald House in Great Britain. The first such house was built in the United States in 1974 and since then over 130 have been built worldwide. They have all been built with financial assistance from the McDonald's Restaurant chain, with the condition that the house should be named after their clown mascot, Ronald McDonald.

Helen Power, Resident House Manager at Ronald McDonald House, describes it as a 'home away from home' for the parents and relatives of children who are ill in Guy's. Although it is finished, and furnished, to the highest standards, Ronald McDonald House is not a hotel. It aims to provide a comfortable family environment offering private facilities while encouraging people to participate in the communal life of the House.

There are 14 family bedrooms which can accommodate up to fifty two people at a time, not just to parents, but to any member of the family who is supporting a sick child. Bathroom facilities are shared between every two bedrooms. There is a very large dining room with four fully-equipped kitchen galleys, a TV room, a quiet room, a smoking room, and laundry. For children who may be discharged at weekends to stay with their parents at the House, or for children staying there with a parent while receiving outpatient treatment, there is a games room with computers, a rocking horse and dressing-up clothes.

On the day SEI visited the House, we spoke to Mrs Oakshot from Eastbourne whose daughter Hilary had become unable to walk and was having tests at Guy's which were expected to take several more weeks to complete.

Mrs Oakshot had been staying at the House several days since hearing about it from a mother of another child at Guy's. Up till then she had been sleeping on a folding bed in the Evelina Children's Unit's playroom. Now she was able to cook a meal in the evening and enjoy a good night's sleep after seeing her daughter off to sleep on the ward. She is back on the ward at 8am to give her daughter breakfast. For Mrs Oakshot, the House eased the worry of a child in hospital.

All of the rooms, according to Helen Power, have a telephone connected to Guy's internal system. Parents are encouraged to give this number to the ward sister so that they can be contacted if necessary during the night. Parents can also ring the ward at any time to enquire about their children.

There is no set charge for staying at Ronald McDonald House. Families are asked for a weekly donation if they can afford one. Helen Power estimates that the cost of a room at the House is about £25 per night. Most families though, particularly those with young children who face many financial demands, cannot afford this and pay what they can.

House users are responsible for cleaning the rooms and the kitchen and Helen says that this arrangement has worked very well to date. There is no restriction on the length of time a parent or family can stay at the House. One mother stayed for over three months while her child was in Guy's, other parents stay as little as one night.

Ronald McDonald House in Snowfields cost £1.3 million to build and furnish. Apart from McDonald's Restaurants, many individuals and private companies donated either time, money or furnishings. In addition, says Helen Power, 'the House couldn't run without the assistance of volunteers. We have about 55 people who come and help, doing anything we ask of them, cleaning, typing, fundraising. A number of volunteers come from the American Womens Club in London, who are familiar with the idea. They have raised quite a lot of money for us.'

Building Ronald McDonald House says Helen was a work of love. She recounts how enthusiastically the building workers on site set about their task when they knew the purpose of the building. A number donated part of their first week's wages to the Trust. Now, the next task is to guarantee the future running costs of the House. These, which are around £90,000 a year, are entirely dependant on voluntary contributions since not a penny is provided to the House by way of public funding.

The Evelina Children's Family Trust, which runs Ronald McDonald House, is just about to launch the second phase of its appeal for funds to guarantee its annual running costs. Ideally, they are looking for around £3/4 million which would provide them with an income.

Donations to the appeal can be made to the Evelina Children's Family Trust, Ronald McDonald House, 115-122 Snowfields, SE1 1ST.



Helen Power, Resident House Manager, and Clare Spittle, Secretary, of Ronald McDonald House

ST JOHN'S, FESTIVAL AT FORTY

Next month, on 8th December, there will be a special celebration of the Parish Communion at the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist at which the Archbishop of Canterbury will be presiding. It will be an occasion to commemorate the bombing of St John's, in Waterloo Road, in 1940, and to give thanks for the spirit that sustained the people of Waterloo during the dark days of war.

Next year, between 26th April and 29th September, there will be a festival to celebrate the rebuilding of the church and its rededication forty years ago in 1951. This Festival at Forty, as it will be called, will also be an opportunity to look forward to restoring the church and developing its ministry.

What is the story behind the celebrations?

As many Waterloo people will know, it begins fifty years ago on the night of 8th December, one of many terrible nights for the district. For the parish church, the date is particularly important, because that was when a bomb fell on it. The explosion ripped off the roof and demolished the interior, leaving only the weakened tower and walls standing. People were sheltering in the crypt and, miraculously, they escaped unhurt.

Canon Hutchison, the Vicar from 1925 to 1943, described the occasion like this: 'This Waterloo church, stoutly built by fine builders, took the shock and shuddered to her depths. In those depths, the people, including her Parish Priest, were

assembled. The old Church, the mother of souls in the parish, true to her maternal instinct, gathered the full fury of the blow into her heart and gave her life for her children. Nobody was hurt. Give God the praise. We now take the crypt for our worship, as many better Christians have done before us, until the church shall rise again, glorious from the ruins.'

And rise from the ruins it did, the restored Parish Church of Waterloo, to serve as the Festival Church and focus for Christian worship during the 1951 Festival of Britain.

The spirit that enabled the people of Waterloo to survive the war without thought of defeat was part of the hope which sustained the people of Britain as a whole. It is good to be reminded that as early as 1943 the idea took shape for an exhibition in 1951 to celebrate the centenary of the 1851 Great Exhibition.

There was no certainty, only the hope, that there would be peace by then. In the event, the hope was justified, and the nationwide Festival of Britain took place. Many still remember the South Bank Exhibition beside the newly built Festival Hall.

St John's was so near the Exhibition as to be almost part of it, and yet, not being on the actual site, it was truly 'a place apart'. Here people could get away from the hurly-burly of the South Bank for times of quiet and spiritual refreshment. They could also share in the varied worship, both Anglican

and Free Church, and enjoy the programme of music and drama which was offered there.

Thanksgiving to God and service to people have always been important aspects of the life of St John's. If we go back in time, more than forty or even fifty years, to between 1822 and 1824, we find that it was one of the churches built at a time of thanksgiving for the victory at Waterloo, to serve a population that was growing rapidly.

It was built in an improbable place - on a marsh, so that strong timber piles had to be sunk to support the walls. They were 'driven into horseponds and swamps to obtain a firm foundation.' Over a century later, they proved strong enough to withstand the shock of enemy bombing.

The building was a fine, imposing one, designed in the classical style by Francis Octavius Bedford. From the time of its consecration in 1824 by the Bishop of Winchester, and throughout its ministry, it has been closely identified with the lives of the people of Waterloo.

There have been times of great hardship in this area, and from accounts in old parish magazines, we can learn of many struggles for better social conditions. We learn, too, of times when people enjoyed themselves and had fun, and of links with the theatre. In earlier years of this century, the Old Vic crops up, as does the name of Lilian Baylis who loved St John's.

All churches have milestones in their history. One for St John's was the amalgamation with All Saints' Parish Church which used to stand in what is now Leake Street off Lower Marsh. Demolished in 1899 to make way for an extension to Waterloo Station, All Saints lives on, as we are reminded when we use the full title, the Parish Church of St John the Evangelist with All Saints. A more recent milestone was the formation in 1983 of the Parish of Waterloo when St John's was united with the neighbouring parish of St Andrew with St Thomas. The Festival at Forty will not be concerned only with celebrating the past, but, to return to a point at the beginning, it will be a time of looking forward to the challenges ahead.

When the Queen, who was at the time the Princess Elizabeth, addressed the Festival Council of the Festival of Britain, she said: 'I hope that in emphasising our achievements of the past and present you will stress no less sharply our responsibilities to the future. Then the Festival of Britain 1951 may prove not simply an end in itself, but a beginning of many good things.'

Can you help? During the Festival at Forty there will be an exhibition at St John's to illustrate the history of the parish of Waterloo. If you have any pictures or other memorabilia which would be appropriate, and which you would be willing to lend, we would be pleased to hear from you. Ring 071 928 0898.

Contributed by Pamela Searle



St John's, Waterloo, 1880



St John's, 1929



St John's, 1990

Heliport proponents fail to consider south bank

The opening of the public inquiry into the proposed City Heliport at Cannon Street railway bridge, was greeted with a demonstration by local residents, MPs, councillors, and the Shakespeare Globe Centre who are building an open air theatre at Bankside. Demonstrators complained that their 'environment would be totally destroyed' and their lives would be 'hell' if the proposal goes ahead.

The public inquiry has been sitting for over a month, and is set to run for at least another month and possibly up to Christmas. Evidence has been heard from the heliport's backers (City of London Heliport Ltd - CLH) on a number of issues including design, air traffic control, and the most important matter of all - noise.

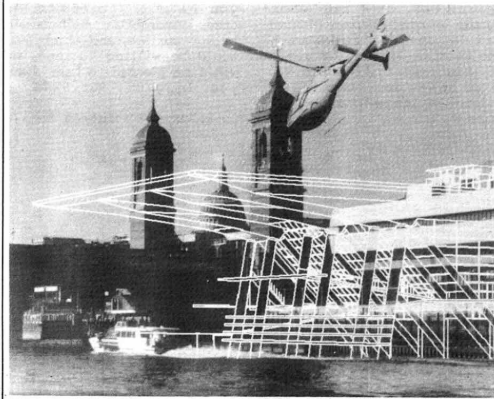
CLH told the inquiry that no consideration had been given to the South Bank and its residents when preparing their Environmental Assessment. The noise that residents along the riverside will experience had not been assessed. And information on the level of noise which would be heard inside people's homes had not been disclosed. In the early stages of their proposal CLH had carried out studies to determine how much noise would be heard inside buildings if the heliport was

to go ahead. However, they failed to include the results in their final reports.

The special effect that helicopter movements and their level of noise would have on people's enjoyment of open spaces and the riverside walk had not been examined either. Anti-heliport campaigners fear that our parks and gardens along the South Bank, from Jubilee Gardens to Cherry Gardens, will be unusable if the heliport is built.

CLH also confirmed that the special needs of buildings and facilities which require peace and quiet had not been assessed. The Shakespeare Globe Centre are building an open air Elizabethan theatre along Southwark's riverside not far from the heliport site. They complain that performing Shakespeare plays there with helicopters flying as low as 200ft, every few minutes.

The objectors will be putting their cases to the inquiry's inspector over the coming weeks, and for one evening the inquiry will be held in the SE1 area, so that more local residents can have the chance to attend. This is expected to take place on 29th November, the details are to be confirmed. If you want to have your say or would like more information, contact Deborah on 928 0711.



If you want to have your say about the City Heliport, you don't have to travel to the Guildhall.

Come and give your views to the Inspector at the Borough Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, on

Thursday 29th November, at 7.00pm.

Minibuses can collect Waterloo and Bermondsey residents if you find it difficult to make your way there. Ring Deborah on 928 0711 for further details.

World AIDS Day in Waterloo

World AIDS Day, 1st December, falls this year on a Saturday. The focus this year is on Women and AIDS. Local people may remember the event organised by Waterloo Employment Project with the Waterloo Health Project last December when balloons, condoms and information sheets on AIDS were distributed to shoppers on Lower Marsh.

This year, during the week of World AIDS Day, Waterloo Health Project will be organising displays on women and AIDS at local venues including Waterloo Action Centre and local GPs' surgeries.

At the Health Project's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 4th December they will be hosting the actor

Anthony Preston who will put on a show of his one-person production called 'Who's Problem?', which deals with the feelings of a 16 year old boy whose mother has AIDS and is in hospital. The play will follow the business part of the meeting.

The Waterloo Health Project welcomes enquiries from local people wishing to become more involved in their work by joining the Management Committee. They are particularly interested in hearing from black people and from minority ethnic groups. Any local person wishing to know more about what this involves can phone the Project on 633 0852. All readers are also welcome to the AGM on 4th December. For details, see the advertisement below.

THE WATERLOO HEALTH PROJECT

Invites you to their

annual general meeting

on

Tuesday 4 December, 7pm at Waterloo Action Centre,
14, Baylis Road, SE1

Business: 7.00pm

Theatre production: "Who's Problem?" by Anthony Preston: 7.30pm

followed by discussion and refreshments

all welcome

if you need a creche place, please book in advance on: 633 0852

In the SE1 postbag

Dear SE1

Thank you so very much for the wonderful page 6 in the August edition.

Those of us who attended St John's School during the Headmastership of Mr T E Nicholson were very fortunate to know a dedicated and gentle man, who seemed genuinely to like children - not always an essential prerequisite in the teaching profession!

The photograph was particularly welcome, as I do not think I have seen Mr Nicholson since, probably, 1939, and my memory of his face was a little hazy with the years. It is nice to see the face I knew so well during my formative years.

And the Revd. C W Hutchison was the Vicar of St John's Church and many's the time I've sat in a pew and listened to one of his strong sermons, delivered with all the strength of his burly frame.

I wonder if "the trust founded by Major Lawrence" had anything to do with one thing which sometimes puzzled me? My mother was a widow and we were consequently very poor. Even so, she always did her best to give us what she could.

On two occasions I was able to go on the annual School Journey to the Isle of Wight - in 1936 and 1937 - even though my mother could not afford to pay more than ten shillings towards it. The full price was, I think, about ten pounds or so for two weeks. I never knew how the balance was made up. Perhaps it was from this trust?

Anyway, thanks again for the article, and thanks to Mr George Nicholson. I am sure he knows that all us ex-pupils have the pleasantest memories of his grandfather.

John Gillis
Herne Bay, Kent

Stonesend send-off

Stonesend Day Centre for the Elderly and Elderly Disabled last month assembled nearly 60 members at a lunch and afternoon of music hall entertainment in honour of Jenny Morgan, the Centre's former Handicrafts teacher.

Jenny wrote in last month's SE1 of the staffing cuts in Southwark's Social Services Department which saw the end of handicrafts teaching in the borough's day centres. Jenny has worked in handicrafts for Southwark for the past ten years, the last five of those at Stonesend Day Centre where she arrived soon after the opening of the Centre in 1985.

Jenny's skills will be greatly missed by the members and remaining staff at the

Centre and SE1 wishes her well for the future.

On a brighter note, work has started on the landscaping of the Centre's forecourt with money provided by the Department of the Environment in a scheme proposed several years ago by North Southwark Community Development Group together with staff at the Day Centre.

The scheme has been devised by Southwark's landscape architects. New planting beds, brick paving, timber planters, trellis fencing to cover a blank wall, and 2 pergolas trained with roses will help to create a greener and more pleasant sitting out environment for the Day Centre's users when it is completed in December.



**GARDENING
WITH
JACKIE POWER**



The continued mild weather has meant that Autumn's arrival this year is a little later than usual - however the leaves are now falling fast and the Summer bedding plants are all but gone so the evergreen shrubs and plants take on the role of providing colour and interest in the garden, window box and tub.

Some may still be flowering such as Hebe (Veronica) and Lavender. The Winter Jasmin, which does lose its leaves, comes into flower quite quickly as soon as they have dropped - sometimes as early as November. Many other evergreen shrubs will be producing berries - Pyracantha (firethorn) cotoneasters and berberis to brighten up the Winter garden and can be seen in the open spaces of SE1.

Perennial plants are beginning to die back and the dead foliage should be trimmed off. Prepare your

garden soil for next years planting - by digging to allow the frosts to break up large clods and kill any larvae of garden pests, add peat or well rotted manure. Take care not too dig up any bulbs you may have planted.

If you planted bulbs in September (in pots) for indoor flowering at Christmas time you should check their progress and make sure they are not too dry.

Some good plants for your window boxes and tubs at this time are winter flowering heathers and the winter cherry with its bright orange berries. Cyclamen will also survive if the weather stays mild. Most of the shrubs previously mentioned will also be suitable, if bought when they are fairly small. Ivy is always a good standby for Summer and Winter displays, there are so many varieties to choose from, they are fairly cheap and root easily from cuttings.

Awaydays from SE1

As Winter approaches, but with the weather so far staying fine and sunny, readers may wish to make the most of the mild conditions and leave the built up environment of SE1 and spend a day in the countryside. This doesn't always mean a long trek before reaching green spaces. There are two 'rural areas' within fairly easy reach of SE1 - within an hour you could be walking through woods enjoying the shades of Autumn.

Oxleas Woods is one of the oldest and most intact areas of woodlands left in England. Located on the edge of London, it borders Kent at Falconwood. The ecology is said to be unaltered and it has remained in its present form for a thousand years, though much reduced in size.

Readers may have heard of the threat to these woods from a Department of Transport roads scheme which will cut through the heart of this remaining piece of unique woodland. Local campaigners have made sure that the scheme has not gone unchallenged, and are working hard to persuade the Department of Transport not to go through with it.

Readers might wish to visit Oxleas Woods while they remain intact. It is a very natural woodland with a fine collection of trees and a good bird population. It is fairly hilly but there are

plenty of places to rest, including a hilltop cafe from where there are fine views of the distant countryside.

Trains run from London Bridge to Falconwood every half hour and a cheap day return costs £1.90. At Falconwood Station, turn right and walk past the smaller Shepherdsleas Woods and Oxleas Woods is located a few minutes further on, just off Rochester Way.

Epping Forest is another remnant of ancient woodland, located on the eastern edge of London and stretching into Essex. It is criss-crossed with roads and areas of development. However, large parts of the Forest remain and it is possible to 'get lost' in the many hornbeam and oak trees which exist in great profusion throughout the forest.

There are also areas of ponds and lakes. Queen Elizabeth's hunting lodge still stands in the forest and is now a museum of natural history. Trains run from Liverpool Street Station to Chingford every twenty minutes and a cheap day return costs £2.50. At Chingford Station, turn right and in a few minutes the Forest begins to stretch out either side of the road - carry on up the hill towards the Warren Ponds and then choose your path through the Forest.

Jackie Power

Childminding event

An event is being organised at the Moffat Health Clinic to promote registered childminding in the Waterloo and Kennington area.

Information will be available on 'How to become a childminder' and 'How to find a childminder'. The event is being organised by Health Visitors in the Moffat Neighbourhood in conjunction with Suzanne Devenarda, team leader for the Childminding Section at Mary Seale House.

Ms Devenarda will be available to give information to interested persons. Janice Burton from the Lambeth Women and Work Project will also be available. Refreshments and a creche will be provided without charge.

The event will take place on Monday 12th November from 12-3pm, at the Moffat Health Clinic, 65 Safford Street, SE11. For further information, please contact Bridget or Patsy on 071 735 4169.

South Bank on ice

The proposals to redevelop the South Bank arts complex have been put on ice by the developers, Stanhope Properties, and the South Bank Board following a rethink of their original proposal which included building an office block on Jubilee Gardens. Their latest idea involves shifting the Hayward Gallery to this site.

The rethink is an attempt to make the proposals more attractive. The original Terry farrel-designed scheme to privatise and commercialise the South Bank came in for a lot of criticism with proposals to build shops and offices out to the river walk.

Any proposals though which interfere with Jubilee Gardens will meet strong local opposition. Last month, after intensive lobbying by Waterloo Community Development Group, Lambeth Council designated the Gardens Metropolitan Open Land.

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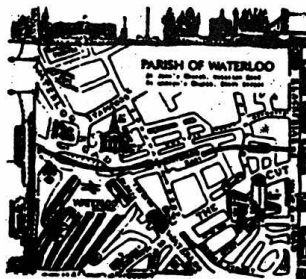
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SE1

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 November issue is Wed 28th November. Publication date is 5th December. All contributions and correspondence of any kind concerning the paper should be sent to: The Editor, SE1 newspaper, 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.

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