

SE1

OCTOBER '82

15p MONTHLY. NUMBER 9

AT LAST - A LOCAL GARDEN NURSERY

An exciting project had its official launch on 16th September, and 'SE1' hopes it will thrive, even though it is (just) in SE1!

'Roots and shoots' provides training for mentally handicapped young people in a variety of skills related to horticulture. There are between fifteen and eighteen "trainees" (usually over a period of twelve months), doing woodworking, bricklaying as well as gardening.

Greenhouses provide vegetables for sale, and the current task

is building cold frames. At the same time, the young people work hard at brightening the neighbourhood, and a well-established ornamental garden is evidence of their hardwork.

Adding to the brightness, Stanley Rothwell - author of "Lambeth at War" and a local resident - has donated some of his paintings to Roots and Shoots for sale. He has also helped design and paint a mural at its site, in Walnut Tree Walk, off Kennington Road.

The project has been so successful in its short life, having been in operation for just a few months before its official opening, that there are plans for expansion. The site next door is derelict, and it is hoped that Roots and Shoots will be able to rent it from the GLC for a nominal sum, and use the land to create an ecologically balanced environment. That is a garden in which there are certain plants (and even a pond?) to encourage the return of birds and butterflies to the inner city. In such a built up area, this would be most welcome.

Perhaps similar projects could be encouraged in the SE1 area, where many sites have lain vacant and derelict for so long. Let's hope that Roots and Shoots continues to flourish and grows, and it does indeed send out roots and shoots into the area through local groups and people in the community.

inside!

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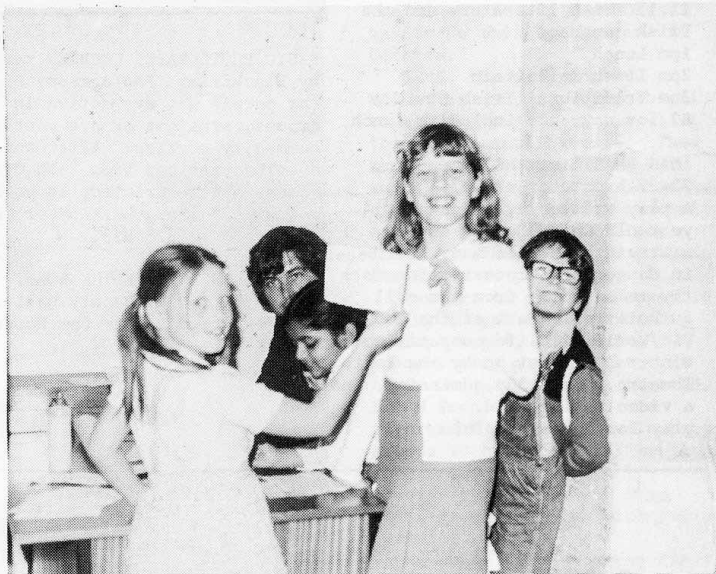
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ST. JUDES YOUTH CLUB'S SPECIAL 'SE1' FEATURE GETS PUT TOGETHER. SEE PAGE 5.



NOT ANOTHER ONE!

Michael Heseltine has done it again. Another office block is to be built at St. Mary Overy Wharf near Southwark Cathedral on the south bank.

After a public inquiry at which local people put their case against any more empty speculative offices, the official inspector agreed that the scheme by the developers, European Ferries Ltd, should be thrown out and the 100 year old wharf building not demolished.

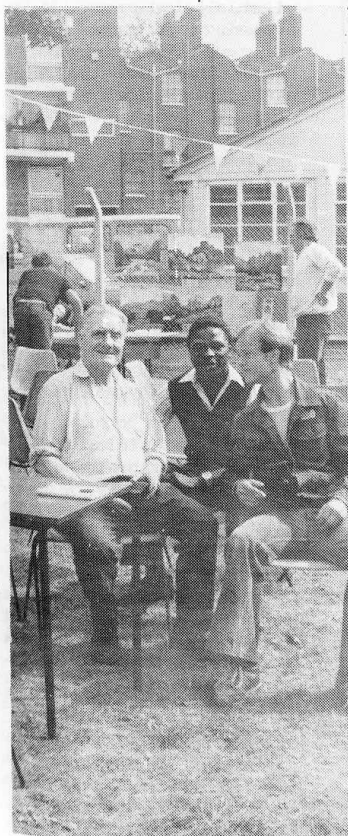
But without batting an eyelid Mr Heseltine tore up the inspectors report and gave the speculators the go-ahead. So another 100,000 sq.ft of offices will go up and this nice, atmospheric bit of the riverside will be transformed into another glass and concrete wilderness. It is the more surprising that this Tory minister gave the go ahead against recommendations when the developers are so closely linked with one of his Tory colleagues - it leaves him wide open for allegations of

unfair and partial treatment.

At the inquiry local people argued that the area was already blighted by empty offices and that the scheme had nothing to offer the community's homeless or jobless.

Ted Bowman of the North Southwark Community Development Group told SE1: "We have been fighting for ten years for development which benefits the community such as housing and jobs for local people. How can Mr Heseltine believe that this scheme will regenerate our area? Only 2% of the jobs will be new - the rest will simply be people moved from jobs elsewhere, and the eight flats in the scheme offer little hope to the 8,000 on the council waiting list."

The GLC estimate that there is 20 million sq.ft. of outstanding office permissions in central London, which is why they have a policy of resisting further office development in central London, a policy shared by Southwark.



The Local Newspaper!

MOTHERS GROUP at Borough Community Centre. Autumn programme 12.30pm opening, talks start 1.30pm.

October 13th Children and sex education Part II
Oct. 20th Crafts
Oct. 27th Half-term
Nov. 2nd Crafts
Nov 9th Your feet: talk by a chiropodist.

Contact Linda Kerley on 928 6476 for further details.

IRISH STUDY DAY, Saturday 16th October 10am to 4pm at Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1. Contact 928 8501.
10am Early Ireland
11am coffee
11.15 Irish literature and the Irish language
1pm Lunch
2pm Irish in Britain
3pm Traditional Irish Music
£2 for day, not including lunch

'**MAN BEAST**' at the Young Vic, 25-27th October at 8pm.
A play written by a Peckham 14 year old Chike Motune about a creature is half man, half beast in danger, and conservationists try to save it from the evil authorities. Part of the Young Vic/World Wildlife competition winners, and put on by the Youth Theatre. Only 50p admission, and a video is included. A local play for local people!

GRAND HALLOWE'EN DANCE

Yet another joint fundraising event by Borough Community Centre and Mint Street Adventure Playground.
To be held on the 30th October from 7.30 to midnight at the Borough Community Centre, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1.

WARLOCKS AND WITCHES WELCOME.

LICENSED BAR AND LIVE MUSIC. SUPER RAFFLE.

PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED WARLOCK AND WITCH.

Menu: Pumpkin Pie
Hot sausages
Pizzas
Jacket potatoes
Bat wings

HALLOWEEN PUNCH BOWL

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY £2.50

BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY COURSES run by Blackfriars Photography Project for people who are active in groups, campaigns or are youth/community workers. Afternoon or evening sessions from 26th Oct. Places are restricted, so book now with Barbara Hartley or Neil Martinson on 928 9521.

CAN LONDON SURVIVE THE BOMB?
An exhibition at County Hall until 29th October. 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday.



'taster' sessions and will be available to help with any ideas for new sports activity in the area, using any space and facilities which are handy and available (special areas or just a space on an estate).

If you are in a group which thinks it would like to get involved in sport in some way, even just once off, get in touch. (Mothers & toddlers, pensioners, unemployed etc). Or if you want to know for yourself what is going on in the area, or want just to try out a sport, without any further commitment, get in contact;

Danny and Yvonne 'Action Sport' at Colombo St. Sports Centre, SE1 (off Blackfriars Rd) or phone 261 1658.

baylis road multisports

One area which is now available for sports use after a lot of work by local people is the Baylis Road Multi-Sports Area. It can be used for football, hockey, tennis, volleyball, netball and basketball.

The space and equipment can be booked by phoning - 633 9635 on Thursdays between 5pm and 7pm. For a years membership (£5 for groups, £1 for individuals) you get free use of the facilities. And you can use the space even if you haven't joined when nothing has been booked.

TENANT'S TALK

Marshalsea Road

A number of new tenants associations have started up, or revived, in the SE1 area recently. All estates are different, but many share similar problems, so it is useful for tenants in it in other places to hear what is going on in the various TAs. Jim McDougall from Borough Community Centre reports on one:

Last week I went along to the Marshalsea Road Estate Tenants Association meeting, and listened with interest at what was being said. It would appear that on some parts of the estate, the tenants are going through GLC and London Borough of Southwark schemes. I believe they call it the 4 day Redevelopment Scheme.

The council are re-furbishing the flats and have a 'Show Flat' which all the flats should look like after they are re-furnished. But it seems some tenants are experiencing some inconvenience. The contractors don't appear to be taking much interest in the tenants wishes, and some of the work is very shoddy. And tenants can feel that their complaints fall on deaf ears, although after all it's their homes.

Other issues raised on the management of the estate were filthy fore-courts, rubbish piling up all over the place, vermin running around, such as rats. I myself have seen this, and with children around this is no joke.

The tenants association formed themselves some months back, so that they could bring to the notice of the council their grievances and complaints. They do invite council officers from their various departments to their regular meetings. But in most cases the tenants complaints are met with complacency, and get little relief. The association are quite firm in their intention to be heard, and have set up a committee, with chairperson and usual officers.

To spotlight one issue which I think should be given top priority: the appalling state of windows and doors on some parts of the estates which are so cracked and warped that the tenants find it difficult to close them. I understand that there have been several break ins, and no doubt the doors and windows make it a burglars delight. As yet the council has done nothing, so it would appear that whilst the council are counting their money, the tenants' possessions disappear from sight out the door.

The association have a very good complaints officer, who has a very trying job, and does it well. But everyone at the Town Hall passes the buck, and he gets little joy.

I would say the TA at Marshalsea Road are growing in strength daily and are never lacking for action, and no longer intend to be fobbed off by excuses and delays.

So let's cut out the economy drive, and do something concrete down there at the town hall.

Jim McDougall.

St. Thomas'

Before the days of multi-storey flats with lifts, supermarkets and the family car, people used to walk up and down the concrete steps of the buildings, to pass each other in the streets of terraced houses. There seemed to be more time to chat and acknowledge neighbours. In the Upper Marsh Area were these meeting places: Elsie's little grocer's shop, with one customer waiting at the back to get her stuff 'on tick'; Rowland's Dairy; the bakery on the corner of Wexwell Terrace; and the Spread Eagle Pub.

Demolition has taken its toll, many inhabitants moved away. Those who remained were rehoused in Canterbury, then in Stangate House opposite St. Thomas' Hospital. Over the years the numbers of original tenants (many of them railwaymen) has declined, and the prosperity of the 60's and middle 70's brought about an increase in car ownership and problems of parking.

Newer residents are staff from St. Thomas', people with different backgrounds to the original residents. More cars have taken up the space in Canterbury House, and it is this problem, together with associated grievances, that gave the impetus to the formation of St. Thomas' Residents Association.

Tired of complaining individually, a few tenants decided to act collectively. A circular asking for support for a residents' association was distributed to every flat in Canterbury and Stangate. As a result the inaugural meeting took place in Northcote House on 28th May 1982, and officers were elected to committee.

Negotiations are now being held with the Estate Surveyor to improve parking arrangements. A raffle is run every week, we've had our first Social, and are planning a second. The Association of Waterloo Groups have accepted us as a member. Our kids are forming a five-a-side football team: things are stirring in the Upper Marsh, let's hope our association will bring back the spirit of neighbourliness and new life to the residents!



NELSON'S COLUMN

JAMES NELSON REVIEWS 'A STORY OF WATERLOO' - a tape/slide show:

I found this film, which is a history of the Waterloo area over the last 200 years (and in some ways going back further), very interesting. It was also hard to take at times, as I believe it gave a feeling of the togetherness and struggles of working class people. The community spirit was there then with the large families and poverty. I think that the community today, though smaller, still has that spirit.

The rivalry between the south and north of the river in some ways is still with us, as the slide show depicted. Except, that is, where we have worked together to stop more office building on the south of the river, we hope.

The beginning of this film showed the overcrowded slums and the large amount of people living in them, which must have caused a lot of hardship, and it must have been a struggle. The contrast between the overcrowding and empty space now shocked me. It seemed strange that where County Hall now is, it was like this, and it is hard to visualise in my mind what it was like there before it was built.

I do remember though the Festival of Britain and the Festival Hall being built in the few pressing months before 1951, and the way the river was used in them days and the docks. I think it is a tragedy that the view of the river and notable skyline buildings like St. Pauls and the Tower of London cannot now be seen owing to the heights of empty office blocks and riverside penthouse flats that are not used.

I know that in the near future it is hoped that there will be a follow up on this film, bringing it up to date. I would personally like to contribute towards that. We must put across a massive effort, and that is not saying that we haven't with two Coin St inquiries behind us: We must continue the fight for inner London and the Coin St. sites for housing for our children who will need to live and shop in Waterloo and North Southwark and not want to walk by empty hotels, penthouses and monstrous empty office blocks.

Barbara East, who lives and works at Blackfriars Settlement, writes:

factory. One of our jobs was to make sure the ammunition boxes were correct. We had to make sure

MEMORIES

I watched the film *Rosie The Riveter*. It brought back memories to me as I worked in an aircraft factory during the war. I was in service in the little village of Colyton in Devon where I lived. There were not many jobs to choose from. I would have liked to have joined the A.T.S. but my parents wanted me to work in the factory. The work was totally different to what I was used to.

There were six weeks training then we moved to a big aircraft

the gauges would fit and also did a lot of drilling, cutting tubes to size, and filling the ends to make sure they were smooth. A lot of girls worked in the machine shop operating very large machines, making different parts for the aeroplanes. They found the work very interesting, very hard, but felt we had all done a job.

There must be many people who have had some experiences working in a factory during the war...

If you would like to write to us to let us know of your wartime experiences, we will be only too happy to print them.



NOVEMBER...

NOVEMBERS SEI: will appear November 6th. Deadline for all articles, letters etc to reach us by 27th October. We welcome contributions and would also like more people to get involved in writing, paste up, or distribution.
Phone Nick on 261 9119, Rob on 735 5168 or John on 633 9557 for further details.

PROBLEMS? NEED ADVICE?

Your local member of the GLC and the ILEA

BRYN DAVIES

is at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1 on

NO IDEAS SHORTAGE

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY?

Voluntary groups have submitted a large number of worthwhile projects for 'Urban Aid' funding in Southwark. However, with the number of projects which the Department of the Environment is willing to fund only 15, many are bound to be disappointed.

The DoE funds 75% of the cost of the approved projects, which are intended to start in April 1983, with the rest coming from Southwark Council. So the council puts forward the final list to the DoE: it has to do this by the end of October.

SCVS, the grouping of voluntary groups, tried to put together its own priority list for the 52 applications. They range from a Womens Refuge worker, through advice centres, elderly support teams, community centres (3 in SE1), various childcare facilities to a worker for this newspaper!

However, it proved impossible trying to get a quart into a half-pint pot, and in the process many groups felt that their needs were being ignored. It is ironic that with the government looking to voluntary groups to help re-vitalise the inner city they will not provide enough funding when these groups come up with the ideas!

We await with interest the outcome of the applications.

LAMBETH SHAMBLES

Funding for voluntary projects in Lambeth under the 'Inner City Partnership' seems no better organised.

None of the public meetings have been without their display of sparks flying. This time it is the divided nature of Lambeth Council which seems to be causing the problems. With the SDP/Liberal Alliance holding the balance of power in full council, the decisions which are taken by the Tory controlled committees may be overturned when they come to full Council meetings.

In the week before SE1 went to press, a large number of employment projects were thrown out by the 'Employment and Economic Activities' committee, but some were referred or deferred elsewhere.

As one of the main aims of the Inner City Partnership (once again the Department of the Environment is involved) is to regenerate the inner city economy, this seems an odd way of going about it.

Wednesday October 27th 6 to 6.30pm
and at the same time on the last Wednesday of every month.
VAUXHALL LABOUR PARTY

LIFE IN LATVIA

Mr. Olgerts Vilnitis is one of 12 Latvians who live in Pearman Street. Latvia lies to the North of Poland, on the Baltic Sea. The language is Indo-European and shares even today certain words with current Indian tongues.



Mr. Vilnitis was one of 6 children. As his father died from gas poisoning in the First World War, he was raised by elder sisters, who were greater taskmasters than his mother. He started school at the customary age of 7, and unfortunately his education was disrupted in 1940 when he was 14 and the Russians re-entered Latvia.

Latvia was very forward thinking: minority groups, including Russians and Poles, had equal rights, and Latvian girls were more extensively educated than any others in Europe, and beat us in getting the vote in 1919, one year after independence was proclaimed from Russia.

-25°C

Mr. Vilnitis remembers the weather comprising short, hot summers and drier, harsher winters than in England. The average year round temperature was zero degrees Centigrade, but the cold did not have such a severe impact as our damp winter weather. Children were excused from attending school only when the temperature fell below minus 25°C. Everyone had to have a wool coat lined with sheep skin for protection from the cold.

Independent Latvia was self sufficient in food production. Most Latvians lived on isolated farms, meeting regularly for church, markets and festivals. Prosperity was at the mercy of the weather, but the Latvians studied their soil and animal husbandry so that they could make the best of all types of weather.

Some cereals were grown, including wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat and rye, the latter used extensively for bread. Root crops included sugarbeet and also potatoes, which make better vodka than rye. Each farm kept cattle, sheep and used horses to plow the land. No farm was complete without its fruit, oak and plane trees - the plane trees were tapped for their sap, which made a refreshing sweet drink. Excess summer fruit was made into jam. Apples would be sliced and dried in rings which hung across the ceiling. Mushrooms were preserved in salt and strung up in the loft. Beer was made from barley.

MIDSUMMER NIGHT

It was a tradition to celebrate midsummer night in June, when everyone stayed up all night, going round houses. Strangers were accepted with open arms, and visitors received beer and cheese. Young people might find a marriage partner. The men wore a crown of oak leaves, the women a crown of flowers. Latvia also celebrated both birthdays, by drinking and eating within the family, and name days, which outsiders could attend without invitation.

Latvia exported flax and linseed oil in competition with Ireland and Belgium, and also timber and butter. Before the 1914-1918 War, one Latvian factory supplied the whole of Tsarist Russia with its writing paper.

Clothes were traditionally made of wool, with blouses of linen. Single and married women could be distinguished by their different crowns of cloth. The vivid colours of clothes came from mosses, barks and flowers. Violet cloth was produced by burying cloth in cow manure for some months.

In 1941 Germany attacked Russia and entered Latvia. In 1944, Mr. Vilnitis was put to dig anti-tank trenches by the Germans, then to dig encampments for their anti-aircraft guns, and to polish shells and gun brasswork.

TO ENGLAND

He was then shipped to Germany to clear rubble, and when the American forces entered Germany, he was taken prisoner of war because he was in German uniform. His health suffered due to starvation and the cold, and he had to be hospitalised. In July 1947 Mr. Vilnitis came to England as a European voluntary worker. He had been hungry for 3 years. From Hull he was transferred to a Cambridgeshire transit camp. Later he spent 3 years in Scotland working in agriculture, and then at a new hydroelectric plant, and finally in a shipyard.

Mr. Vilnitis then moved South to Oxford before joining the merchant navy in order to save money to study. Whenever his boat docked he tried to find other Latvians. He left the navy in 1963 to study computer engineering at West Norwood College. His sisters still live in Latvia, but he does not wish to return home while his native country remains under Soviet occupation.

RESOURCE BANK

All groups and tenants associations in Waterloo will be interested to hear news on the 'Resource Bank' which was originally set up a couple of years ago. Its aim is to be able to provide equipment for use by these groups which they would not usually be able to afford to hire or buy.

Unfortunately a robbery at the Colombo St. Sports Centre stopped the resource bank just as it was getting going. But a new Resource Bank group is now getting together to re-purchase equipment now that the insurance money has come through, and they would welcome more people to expand this very small group.

The original group has already discussed what equipment is needed, and a good hiring system. The system then was a £5 fee for each group which wanted to join the resource bank users list. After that, authorised members of the group could borrow items of equipment on a weekly basis.

It is quite likely that the system will be changed in future: if you want to help decide how it should operate, and make any suggestions on equipment which the resource bank should have, contact Barbara West, at 140, Henry House, Coin St, SE1.

PARIS GARDENS

A meeting was held on 16th September in preparation for a public meeting on the future of the Paris Gardens Site opposite the Rose & Crown off Blackfriars Rd. Colombo St. Centre, Society for Co-operative Dwellings, Waterloo Community Development Group, North Southwark Community Development Group, Meymott St and Coin St. Action Group were all represented.

The meeting agreed to such possibilities as an all games area, housing with games area and also to housing with open space.

There will be another meeting on 14th October to finalise these options before they are presented to a public meeting. For further details phone Andy on 261-1404 (daytime).

QUENTIN HOUSE

Tenants of Quentin House, Gray Street have been meeting for about 2½ years, and achieved recognition by Southwark Council about a year ago. Their TA, or tenants' association, is still waiting for its own flat, but they could be waiting for some time, because a fire-damaged flat intended for their use is only being repaired on 2 days a week. The TA hopes to start a mother and toddler group in the flat as soon as possible, then also a kids' club, a pensioners' group plus a bingo night.

The many empty flats have sometimes been squatted in, but Southwark acted quickly to get them out. It seems to take ages for empty flats to be relet. Quentin House has no resident caretaker, but has to share a caretaker with Roland Hill House in Blackfriars Road. Southwark will not supply the TA with a phone number in case of emergencies.

The TA has carried out a survey of outstanding repairs. Dampness is a problem in 3rd floor flats. The parking of commuters' cars on the estate is a problem, so the TA is still fighting for a barrier to keep out unwanted cars. Officially the estate has 3 carparking spaces, and the courtyards should be for the kids to play on. There are also problems with overloaded rubbish chutes and blocked drains.

Anyone who would like to become involved with the TA is welcome to contact Alec Green at 53 Quentin House for further information.

start Here

Samantha McCausland.
St Jude's
youth club
Rules ok!
age 8

At Culb we do cable-
bennis snooker foot-
ball cable games
its good why not
come along
by steven
Age 11

I prefer to come
to the club
instead of watch-
ing TV
Michael
10 Back

ST JUDE'S YOUTH CLUB

The Canteen
is very cheap
because They
have got lots
of sweets and
Crisps and
drinkers.

Kelly Bowles 7 years
Kellie Walters 7 years

I like the club
because it is very
good and you can
buy sweets, you can
play table tennis and
snooker.

Teresa Thorpe
age 2.

I think the
club rules
are ok but
I never
get a go of
the snooker
Table.
Lee

I like the
club its good
and I go
to ballet
before the
club
Tammy Piteri
age 7

I've been
coming to
St. Jude's
club since
it started
and it's ok?
Riccardo
Fernandez

Girls Lib for
Snooker.



you can't always
have a go cause
the boys are
nearly always
on it Amanda
age 11. Duke

Everything about
St Jude's club
is very good.



Age 8
sheba

Some of the
games are
alright the
canteen is
cheap. Nicky age 8

The games are
good and the
Snooker is
the best
Karen 11
age 9½

I like the
club its
good and
we play table
tennis and
snooker.
Sarah Smith
age 9.

St Jude's club
needs a good
scrub
it needs a
good clean
Apart from
that it's jolly
great
things we do is
just great
it's brill
come and see
kids it's great
by Eileen
age 11

Typical
ST. JUDES
MEMBER.

MIGUEL AGE 10

Industrial Mission

Laurie Roberts is a Liverpudlian who works with South London Industrial Mission, otherwise known as SLIM. The Mission is based at John Marshall Hall in Blackfriars Road. Laurie is on the management committee of the Waterloo Employment Project and of GERU - the Greenwich Employment Resources Unit, and he is also involved with Tabard Centre's Project for the Unemployed.

Laurie has built up a picture of the unemployment problems in South London together with the resources to combat them. He relays his findings back to SLIM, which aims to relate to corporate society as an industrial and technological entity. This includes a commitment to people and the problems which they encounter at work. SLIM aims to seek a Christian response to industrial life, such that by visiting various industries, which range from a mail order company in Stockwell through to a Fleet St. paper and British Rail, trust can build up such that Laurie and the other 7 SLIM workers may be consulted, perhaps in crisis situations, by unions and management alike, to act as a go-between where needed, or to advise on areas where human health and happiness are at stake.

Laurie is South London's link person with Church Action with the Unemployed, a national movement of all denominations which began in response to the difficulties of mass unemployment. The movement aims to stimulate discussion and self-help, and has published a directory of self-help/job creation schemes initiated by churches, and material to advise on the setting up of job creation schemes.

It is not Laurie's aim to convert you to Christianity, but if he could be of assistance to you in matters of work or of unemployment, don't hesitate to write to him at
37 Ravensbourne Park
London SE6 4XY

indians in st. john's

The Rev'd Geoff van der Weegen, Curate at the Lambeth Parishes in Waterloo, has submitted this story, which is based on 'The History and Antiquities of London, Westminster, Southwark and parts adjacent.' It is the story of the 'Death of an Indian Princess'.

This is the second and final part, continued from the August issue.....

The Chief wears a number of totems of his ancestors around his neck, and the totem which appeared to be his own represented a tortoise, so

that the mark he used was a rough outline of that animal. Great pains were taken to explain that his wife's grave had not been disturbed, but he was not convinced. He was told that the law, as lately altered, prevented the acts of resurrectionists, or body snatchers, who sold the bodies for medical research. The Chief said that the laws might be good, but the people of this country might not like an Indian to be buried in the same ground as themselves. Had only a handful of earth been removed to show him that his wife's coffin was safe, he would have been satisfied.

By this time the new grave had been filled up, and he was at last satisfied that he should be assured of the safety of his wife's coffin on a future day. He said he would depend on that promise, and added, 'If I do not find that it is so, my heart will swell as big as...' and here he made use of gesticulations to imply vast bulk. When they returned to his lodgings, he renewed the subject, but was again appeased, and throughout there was a marked dignity in his manner, but he manifested all the characteristics of a good-tempered and business-like firmness of purpose.

Then he addressed the company, and his interpreter repeated after him 'There were many men, they were of different colours of skin; but they had the same blood and they had all the same hearts. The same Great Being who made the sun, and the moon, and all that we see,

had made them, and they were all as brothers sprung from one father. He was grateful for the respect that had been paid to his wife, and now to the interment of one of his tribe. And his manner, whilst delivering this brief speech, was exceedingly impressive.

Employment Project

In our August issue, we introduced you to Steph Blackwell, the Waterloo Employment Projects new worker. Now here are some details of what is already on offer from the project:

1. A 'One, to One' scheme: Using a team of trained volunteers we hope to link an unemployed person with someone who has a job. In this way they can gain from individual support and practical help on all aspects of jobhunting. We particularly aim to help those who have lost confidence in their own abilities and those who are isolated because of lack of family and friends. (In co-operation with Morley College and Capital Radio Jobmate scheme)

2. An Employment surgery: one evening a month a solicitor, a personnel officer and a specialist in employment for

those with a criminal record will be available to help anyone with an employment problem, whether they are unemployed, in work or running a small business. If there is sufficient demand, the service will operate more frequently.

3. An Employment Preparation Course.

This will cover every aspect of finding and keeping a job, and the sessions will be taken by specially trained personnel professionals. Who better to pass on first hand information about getting a job than those who work in recruitment?



4. A 'Drop-in' scheme: Thursdays afternoons, the office will be open to anyone from Waterloo who is unemployed to drop in for help and advice on any matter related to employment eg setting up their own business, writing a letter of application or claiming unemployment benefit.

As well as these projects, we are also looking at some of the disused buildings in the area with a view to converting one into small work units, at the possibility of setting up a co-operatively run super market. Short courses on top such being a Market Trader will also be run depending on the demand.

Get in touch for further details: Steph Blackwell, Colombo St. Community Centre, SE1 (off Blackfriars Road) or phone 928 8024.

A NEW APPROACH TO LEARNING FOR ADULT STUDENTS IN THE SOUTH OF LONDON



The Further Education Colleges and Adult Education Institutes of Lambeth and Southwark have combined together with the Polytechnic of the South Bank to provide open access and fresh start courses to make it easier for adults to return to study.

They can be taken for their own sake or can be a foundation for further study

Are You Unemployed?

The Open College may have the Course for you

If you are unemployed and living in London these can cost as little as a £1
If you are working it's not much more

For Further Details
Phone
Mrs Mason 928 898 ext 2468
Weekdays
Or
Sue Anstey 947 0225
Thurs-Fri 5-9pm Sat 9-5pm
Or Write to:
The Polytechnic of the South Bank
Borough Road
SE1 0AA

PENSIONERS' ACTION

Members of Southwark Pensioners Action Group, including members of North Southwark Pensioners Action Group, have been busy in their campaign to win a fairer deal for pensioners in the borough.

A group of Southwark pensioners, joined by some of the Labour members of Southwark Council, took part in a march and lobby of the Trades Union Congress at Brighton last month. Along with others from throughout the country, they were trying to persuade the TUC to take action to back the demand for a decent pension.

And Southwark Council's social services committee have agreed to SPAG's request that they adopt the National Pensioners Conventions declaration of intent. This sets out the steps that pensioners feel are needed to ensure "that every pensioner has the right to choice, dignity, independence and security as an integral and valued member of society".

The declaration continues: "These rights require an adequate state retirement pension. There must be an immediate commitment to a pension level of not less than one half of average gross earnings for a married couple, and not less than one third for a single person, uprated at six monthly intervals.

In addition to an adequate income a pensioner should, as of right:

- * live in accommodation which is appropriate to personal need and circumstance with a reasonable degree of choice including sheltered housing;
- * be able to call on the full range of community and personal social services to give full support as need arises, including for example, home helps, meals on wheels, chiropody, television and telephone;
- * be able to use a National Scheme of substantial concessionary facilities on all public transport in all parts of the country;
- * have ready access to comprehensive free health care on demand;
- * be able to maintain a warm and well lit home with adequate heating allowances covering all fuels;
- * have full access to a varied and extensive range of education and leisure facilities;
- * be paid a regular tax free Christmas bonus of £20, adjusted in future in line with inflation;
- * be eligible for an adequate retirement pension on ceasing work at any time of his or her choice after the age of 60, without being subject to an earnings rule;
- * be entitled to an adequate death grant irrespective of age.

DOES WATERLOO NEED A

WELL WOMAN CLINIC?

... Women of all ages are invited to a public meeting on Wednesday 15th October at 7.30 at Barley Mow Clinic, Frazier St SE1.
A speaker from the 'well woman' clinic in Manchester will talk about the kind of service it could be.
Contact Maureen or Katrina for more info.... 261 1404

OVER 60s BUREAU

The Over Sixties Employment Bureau has a new organiser. Sam Hutton, who lives in North Southwark, and is retired himself, took over the post in July, and is keen to see the service expand.

The Bureau, which started in 1973, tries to place retired people, still keen to work and boost their pensions, in jobs where the employer is looking for a part time worker with experience.

"Many people look forward to retirement, and then find themselves at a loss end, and fed-up" says Mr Hutton. "People are delighted to find a part time job"

"I would ask anyone who has registered with the Bureau in the past to re-register with us so we can bring our records right up to date."

The Over Sixties Employment Bureau is based at St. Albans Hall (first floor) Manor Place, Walworth, SE17 (phone 703 5066).

EMPTY HOUSING

With the shortage of adequate housing in London, it seems criminal for homes awaiting demolition, renovation or conversion to be left empty. The Southwark Federation of Short-Life User Groups has demonstrated for over 10 years the value for money and success of short term use of property. There is no overall shortage of such property in Southwark suitable for short term use for the provision of valuable accommodation.

Public sector housing often remains empty because of poor management and delays in repairs. But a major reason is government cuts in expenditure on rehabilitation and redevelopment programmes, so that housing acquired for this purpose are emptied waiting for works which are long delayed.

Southwark Council had 4186 empty properties in 1979-80. In financial terms keeping properties empty costs hundreds of thousands of pounds each year, in lost rent and rate income, and the extra cost of boarding up, security, vandalism and deterioration. This waste of housing assets is compounded when placed alongside growing homelessness and lengthening waiting lists. Single people, and especially the young, are increasingly the victims of the housing crisis.

The Southwark Federation (SFSLUG) represents most of the groups operating in Southwark who are making an attempt to solve their own housing crisis and is actively campaigning to get publicly owned empty property back into use.

We see our role as both meeting part of the needs of a much neglected minority (the single homeless), while at the same time contributing to the borough in the form of increased rate income and eliminating the additional costs of keeping property empty.

In the Labour Group's manifesto, they stated that: "where property is empty waiting demolition or improvement, we will try to ensure maximum use by giving licences to short life user groups."

SFSLUG aims to keep them to their words, and hopes SE1's readers will support this having found out what it is about.

They can be contact c/o HARU, S.C.V.S 135 Rye Lane, Peckham, SE15.

Worker needed

North Southwark Community Development Group seeks a COMMUNITY/RESOURCE WORKER for planning pressure group. Experience in any of the following an advantage: Town Planning Housing Employment Publicity Transport

Salary pro rata £8379 (incl) Funding only guaranteed until April '82, with possible extension after this date. Please write to NSCDG, 56 Southwark Bridge Rd, SE1 or phone 928 6476 for details & forms. Closing date for applications: 22nd October.

SKIP

Lambeth Council provides 'strategic skips' for use by local residents to dispose of large rubbish, on a six week cycle.

15th Oct to 22nd Hercules Rd 29th to 4th Nov. Great St 5th Nov to 11th. Cedar St 12th to 18th Nov. Pearman St

SE1/SE11 Gingerbread campbell buildings

In the next few weeks, a local Gingerbread Group will be formed. It will offer sympathy, friendship, support, advice and social activities for adults & children. The group will be called Kennington and Waterloo Gingerbread, and hopes to hold weekly meetings at Lambeth Mission in Lambeth Road. For further information phone Bob Flett on 353 8523.

ARE YOU, OR DO YOU KNOW, A ONE-PARENT FAMILY?

The following facts and figures were produced by Gingerbread, the association for one parent families, for 1981:

- * 1 in 8 families in Britain are one parent families
- * In the last 10-years, the number of lone parents has increased by 66%
- * There are 950,000 such parents bringing up 1½ million children in Britain
- * The largest number of lone parents are divorced and separated women
- * Nearly one in three marriages end in divorce
- * There are over 100,000 fathers bringing up children on their own.
- * In 1979, the average disposable income for single parents was £70.46 per week, while that for a 2 parent family was £123.30
- * One parent families make up 58% of families on supplementary benefit
- * The average payment on SB for them was £38.05 per week
- * In 1977/9, 22% of lone mothers worked full time, and 24% part time, compared with 15% and 37% respectively for married women.
- * It is estimated that over 50% of children in care are from one-parent families.

We who help to make up these statistics are well acquainted with the problems. There are the obvious ones like finances - how to pay the bills and make the money stretch as far as possible - the sudden need for a warm coat or new shoes for school - the hassles over supplementary benefits.

problems

But this is only the tip of the iceberg, especially for victims of a marriage breakdown or bereavement. There are many effects on the children and these are not always apparent immediately. There may be tantrums, bedwetting, personality changes, effects on schoolwork - even stealing! The lone parent may often have to cope with children 24 hours a day, for days on end without a break. There are problems finding babysitters, and finding the money to pay them, and often much loneliness and isolation.

Friends do not always want to listen to problems, and often married friends feel threatened by someone who is single again. A husband may undertake decorating, electrical or plumbing jobs to help a woman coping with a family on her own, and find he incurs the wrath of his wife! Or the wife may cook or wash for a 'poor, helpless male' with the result that the husband may feel threatened. This can result in rows, jealousy and even further marriage breakdowns.

Some other losses that affect many are loss of self-esteem and confidence, and sexual loss. There are no quick and easy answers for these, and it can be a very long time before the wounds heal and a stable relationship is formed again.

Plans for new housing and a children's home on the site of Campbell Buildings in Baylis Road have taken a new turn with the acceptance by Lambeth Council of the Association of Waterloo Groups' ideas for the site.

Council officers had produced plans which included 46 family houses and a 16-bed children's home. This was opposed by AWG which thought the home was too large and the layout of the houses was bad. A sub-group of AWG and local residents put forward alternative ideas. They

suggested the children's home should be smaller and built as part of the housing instead of being a separate block, and road access should be from Baylis Street instead of Westminster Bridge Road.

At a meeting at Lambeth Town Hall in September objections by Council Officials were overridden by Councillors who agreed that the AWG ideas were better. Officials said it would cause a delay in extra expense to redesign the scheme.



Summer may be over, but here is a parting shot from an SE1 worker who has escaped to warmer weather in Sudan:

LOCAL KIDS ENJOY INFLATABLES PROVIDED BY THE GLC (with Howard Johnson in attendance) IN ARCHBISHOPS PARK AT THE END OF AUGUST.

channel tunnel

Back in May, SE1 reported on the proposal for the terminalxf for the Channel Tunnel rail link to be built at Waterloo Station. It would include customs facilities, extra approach track which would mean demolishing some buildings; and lead to more road traffic, pressure for more offices and hotels in the area, even if they were never actually built or occupied, and so blight and even more problems for local residents.

Still nobody knows if the Channel Tunnel is going to get the go-ahead, but an announcement is expected at the opening of Parliament this month. So Lambeth Council have decided that they should hold

public consultation. But they seem to want to rush it through so that they can have a ready response to any government announcement.

It is vital, though, that sufficient time and effort is given to this consultation by the council if it is to mean anything. The Association of Waterloo Groups will be doing its best to see that this happens, and would welcome more involvement in a sub-group to deal with this. Contact Andy Roscoe or Tony Phillips on 261 1404 if you want more information.

And look out for details of public meetings etc in 'SE1' and around the area!

job losses

Elephant Jobs has had to cut several of its workshops as it has proved impossible to meet Manpower Services (a government agency) demands on how they should operate. This means that EJ, based in Stamford St, will only be operating YOP schemes (for those under 21). So several workers have been made redundant, including Crafts section head, Beth Falkingham.

not prudent

Prudential Assurance has appealed against council decisions which refused permission for over 48,000 sq. ft of offices and just over 10,000 square feet of industrial.

This means that there will be a public inquiry into the site, 14-22 Southwark Bridge Road. Although small by South Bank terms, it is still important, as it will be the first time both Southwark and the GLC have been in agreement on their office policy.

Look out for further details in our next issue: the inquiry is expected at the end of November, or contact North Southwark Community Development Group at 56 Southwark Bridge Rd, SE1, or phone 928 6436.

PECKHAM

A local worker will be fighting the Peckham by-election for Labour in October.

Harriet Harman works for the National Council for Civil Liberties which is based in Tabard St, SE1.