

THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER NO 50

March 1981

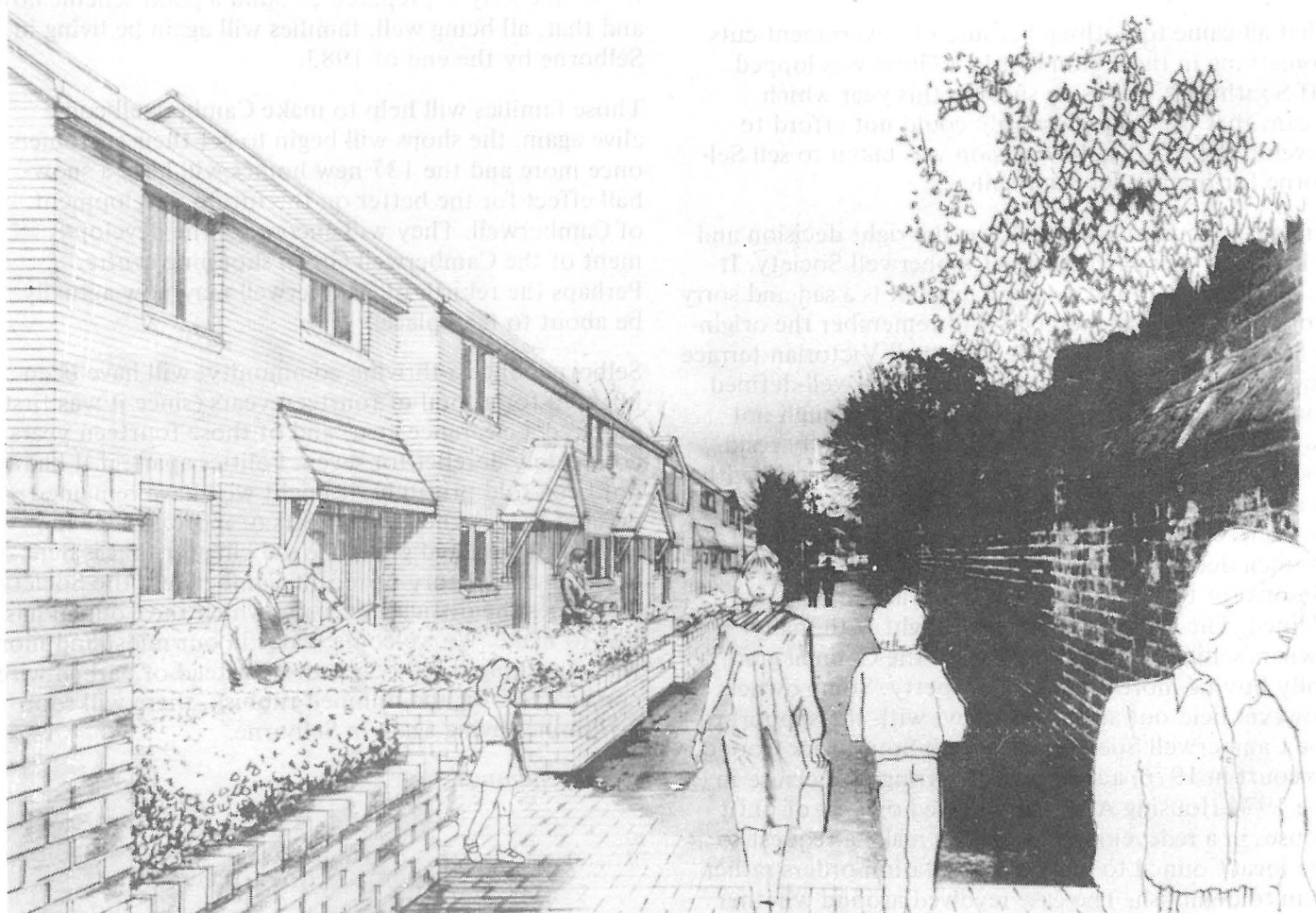
SELBORNE—FULL CIRCLE

"Under the circumstances—the right decision"

In January Southwark Council announced that they had decided to sell derelict Selborne site, off Daneville Road to Wates Built Homes Ltd. The site will now be developed and sold by Wates to private house-holders. The price Wates paid for the site was

reported to be about £1.9 million making a profit of about £400,000 for the Council. Wates are expected to sell their new homes roughly in the range of £33,000 for a one-bedroom flat to £65,000 for a town house with discounts on the smaller homes for existing Council tenants and their children living with them if they wish to buy.

Development is expected to start sometime between



View looking along Love Walk, a vista culminating in the steeple of St Giles Church

June and September this year and will take roughly two years to complete. So, all being well, there should be a new Selborne by the end of 1983.

Southwark's Planning Department have now sent plans to the Executive Committee of the Society for comment and we have had a useful discussion with Bob Maxwell, Director of Development, about them. First sight is most encouraging. There is a good mix of housing, plenty of space, pedestrian walkways and landscaping and the plans show the closure of the eastern end of Daneville Road for which the Society has long campaigned. Perspectives are reproduced, by kind permission of Wates, in this Newsletter and architect and former chairman of the Society, Jim Tanner, has written a brief summary and appreciation of Wates's proposals. The final planning details have yet to be approved by the Council.

"SELBORNE SELL OUT" was the phrase on the lips of many of the Labour members when the Council's housing committee finally decided to sell the controversial site. Their reactions were understandable. The site had been earmarked for Council housing and elaborate plans had been drawn up over the past four years by Sir Frederick Gibberd and Partners for council homes. The Society had been consulted about these plans, had twice requested important changes to them, which had been agreed, and had generally welcomed the scheme as an important development to the centre of Camberwell.

That all came to nothing because of government cuts. Something in the region of £13 million was lopped off Southwark's housing subsidy this year which meant that the Council simply could not afford to develop the site. So the decision was taken to sell Selborne for private development.

Under the circumstances, it was the right decision and it has been welcomed by the Camberwell Society. It is, we hope, the final decision in what is a sad and sorry story. Many of our members will remember the original Selborne, six streets with 174 small Victorian terrace houses and a pub in the middle. It was a well-defined community, architecturally attractive although not outstanding. The houses were ideal one-family residences, each with a small garden and easy contact with neighbours. Some of the houses were owned by the Council, others were privately owned. Southwark Council decided to redevelop the area in 1969. The reasons for this decision were never adequately explained. The effect was years of blight with many owners selling and getting out and the Council gradually buying more and more property. Some owners however held out and it was they, with the support of the Camberwell Society, who took Southwark Council to court in 1976, accusing it of infringing a clause in the 1974 Housing Act. This allowed owners of unfit houses in a redevelopment area to make a request to the local Council to make rehabilitation orders rather than to demolish. The case revolved around whether Southwark Council had acted properly in refusing to

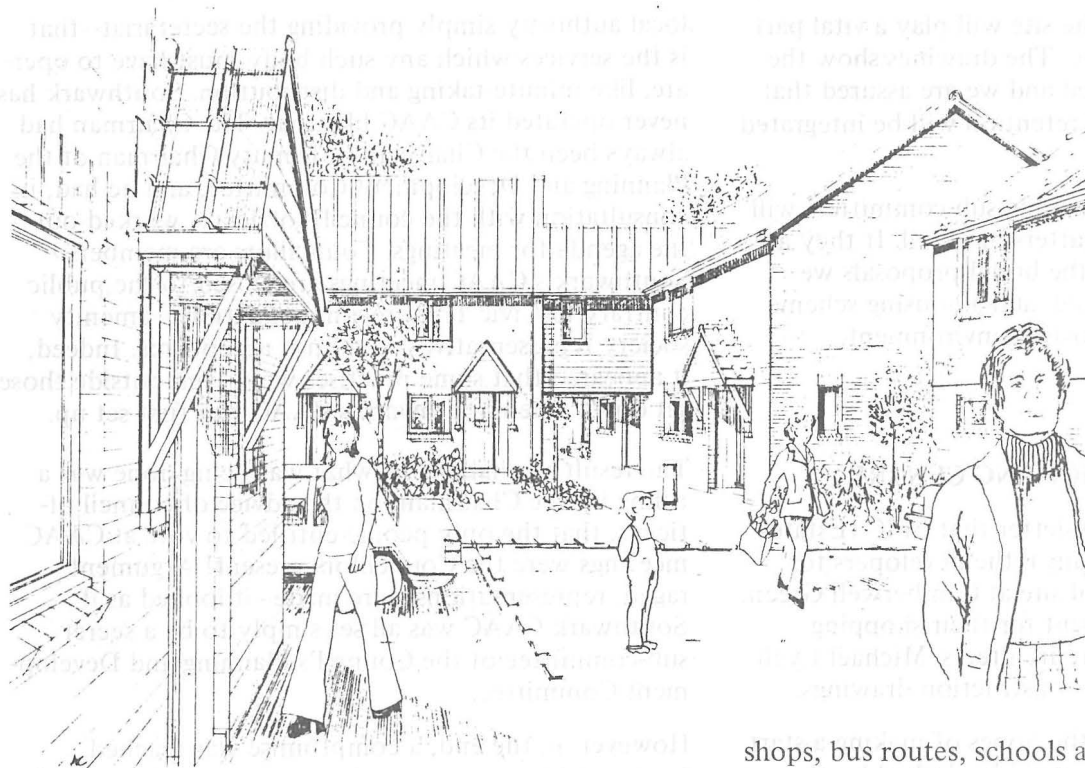
rehabilitate certain of these owner-occupied houses. In the end the case went to the Court of Appeal, which found for the Council. The case attracted a great deal of public attention and was widely reported in both the press and on television. It became something of a '*cause celebre*' and its impact on the Council was considerable. More than any other single factor it caused a major change of policy. After the Selborne case, the Council ceased to undertake large scale redevelopment and went over more and more to rehabilitation of existing stock. The sadness is that it took a case in the Court of Appeal and the dispossession of many families of their homes to prove the strength of local feeling and to prove what also was becoming very obvious—that is to everyone except the Council—that most people prefer to live on the existing street patterns in small houses with gardens than to be conveniently packaged into large, impersonal Council estates. It was particularly sad that the Selborne case was the *last* attempt at a large scale redevelopment and not the *first* at an imaginative rehabilitation scheme, incorporating both private and council housing, which would have preserved and not destroyed the local community.

That is all past history, though not forgotten by those who were removed from their homes to make way for what they were told was a necessary Council development, and the news of the Wates development is very welcome for one reason and one reason alone. That is that somebody is prepared to build a good scheme *now* and that, all being well, families will again be living in Selborne by the end of 1983.

Those families will help to make Camberwell come alive again, the shops will begin to get their customers once more and the 137 new homes will have a snow-ball effect for the better on the future development of Camberwell. They will encourage the development of the Camberwell Green shopping centre. Perhaps the rebirth of Camberwell may now actually be about to take place.

Selborne, once a thriving community, will have been blighted for a total of fourteen years (since it was first declared a clearance area) and of those fourteen years completely derelict for seven. Politics apart, if it had not been sold privately, it might well have remained derelict for another seven years or more. Under the circumstances, and given the sad chapter that is Selborne in the history of recent Camberwell, the Society welcomes the difficult decision which the Council has had to make. We welcome Wates in our midst and more than anything the thought that, instead of barbed wire, corrugated iron and dumped rubbish, there will soon be families living again in Selborne.

Jeremy Bennett



Left: View into typical court

The opening paragraphs of the report by Wates' architects on their proposals for Selborne accurately reflect the thought and skill that has gone into their scheme. It is worth quoting as it shows that they have done their homework.

'There is no corner of Inner London which does not yield its own characteristic examples of historical architectural interest. The Selborne site is no exception..... A walk around the neighbourhood reveals fine examples of mixed nineteenth century houses ranging from the magnificent terrace fronting Grove Lane to the two-storey detached and terraced cottages further south and along Love Walk. A visual record of the area leaves no doubt that this site should not suffer the oasis solution so many new housing developments appear to achieve with scant regard to life beyond the boundary.

'We have made a positive attempt to design a scheme with variety of building height, form and space, coupled with the use of good quality materials, and planned as an extension of the existing neighbourhood so that people would feel part of the environment and comfortably at home there.'

Primary vehicular access to the site will be from Daneville Road approximately midway between the link to Orpheus Street and Wren Road. The eastern approach through Kerfield Crescent will serve about 25% of the scheme. Roads will terminate in small housing clusters each linked with secondary footpath networks.

There will be a system of main footpaths which connect to principal pedestrian routes both existing and proposed in the immediate neighbourhood, serving

shops, bus routes, schools and so on. Small courts will be shared by cars and pedestrians. Pedestrian routes will thus cross the scheme from Love Walk to the new shopping centre at Camberwell Green and the proposals anticipate the closure of Daneville Road to the through traffic between Grove Lane and Denmark Hill. The Society, as its members and others will know, has battled for years to have the principle of direct pedestrian access from Selborne to the new shopping centre scheme accepted as a fundamental precept. Full marks to Wates' architects for recognizing this.

The scheme will comprise 137 dwellings in all producing a density of 74 habitable rooms per acre (gross area of site is 6.8 acres). It is proposed that there should be 25 one-bedroom flats, 15 two-bedroom flats, 4 two-bedroom 'link' flats (ie the flat spans across a pedestrian walkway at first floor level), 24 two-bedroom houses, 2 three-bedroom link houses, 20 three-bedroom houses for four persons, 27 three-bedroom houses for five persons, 9 three-bedroom town houses and 11 three-bedroom split-level town houses.

The scheme provides for 60% parking and all parking is in garages. Off-street parking for visitors is also provided.

Houses and garages are designed to have pitched roofs with concrete roofing tiles of a pattern and colour yet to be agreed with the Council's planning department. There will be projecting bay windows and, as mentioned above, links across pedestrian routes. The predominant external wall material will be brick with the links clad in tiles or timber. Some individual houses will have a rendered finish. External joinery will be stained to a uniform finish.

Clearly the visual quality of a scheme is also dependent on detail. The finishes of the building and the materials

used for hard surfaces on the site will play a vital part in the making of the scheme. The drawings show the site imaginatively landscaped and we are assured that all existing trees worthy of retention will be integrated into the scheme.

The Society, through its planning sub-committee, will be consulted on all these matters of detail. If they are dealt with as sensitively as the broad proposals we have seen, Camberwell should gain a housing scheme worthy of the best of its existing environment.

Jim Tanner

CAMBERWELL'S NEW SHOPPING CENTRE

We reported in our last Newsletter that EPIC (Estates Property Investment Company), the developers for the major part of the central site at Camberwell Green, had obtained planning consent for their shopping centre scheme and that their architects, Michael Lyell Associates were at work on construction drawings.

It now seems possible that the hopes of making a start on building works this year could be dashed by the recalcitrance of certain property owners who had previously agreed in principle to sell their interests to EPIC. Watneys, the owners of the Golden Lion pub and London Transport the owners of Tiger Yard appear to be showing little sign of reaching agreement with EPIC.

The Council is issuing compulsory purchase orders to the property owners who are showing unwillingness to sell but this process, though it should resolve the impasse, could set back progress on the scheme for Camberwell Green for a year or more. It is to be hoped that concern for the community will persuade these property owners to put aside self-interest for once and reach agreement without the cumbersome process of the law having to settle the matter.

THE YEAR WITH THE CONSERVATION AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Southwark Conservations Area Advisory Committee had a stormy start to its last year: indeed, it seemed very likely that the Committee would cease to exist, at least in the form in which it had for many years concerned itself with what happened to listed buildings and in Conservation Areas within the London Borough.

Conservation Areas Advisory Committees are set up by local authorities on the lines of recommendations in a Department of the Environment circular. In short this says that CAACs should be composed of representatives of local amenity associations, residents' groups national bodies like The Victorian Society and the Georgian Group, and so on. In many places these representatives compose the total membership, with the

local authority simply providing the secretariat—that is the services which any such body must have to operate, like minute-taking and distribution. Southwark has never operated its CAAC like that. The Chairman had always been the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, and he had, in consultation with the council's officials, worked out the agenda for meetings. Councillors are members. Southwark's CAAC meetings are closed to the public contrary to Civic Trust recommendations—amenity society representatives could not accept this. Indeed, it appeared that some practises were even outside those set down when Southwark's CAAC was first set up.

The result of challenging what was being done was a ruling by the Chairman, on the advice of council officials, that the only people entitled to vote at CAAC meetings were the Councillors present! Argument raged, representations were made—it looked as if Southwark CAAC was all set simply to be a secret sub-committee of the Council's Planning and Development Committee.

However, in the end, a compromise was reached. Voting rights were restored to amenity society delegates, assurances were given that all members could put forward items for the agenda. And with that, peace and harmony have been restored. The societies have lost out, at least for the moment, on taking the East Dulwich Society into membership—as Council officials point out, they don't have a Conservation Area within their area of benefit. (One might ask how they will get one, if they're not able to put their case to CAAC—but of course, they will be able to do so if they should so decide, through existing members.) Also the meetings remain closed. If that's something that the Camberwell Society's members feel is not right, then perhaps they might care to lobby their Councillors—for it will take a decision of the Planning and Development Committee to alter the practice. But it does seem odd—specially as all planning applications have, by law, to be available for public inspection.

So what has the CAAC done during the year? Many of the matters it considers are small, but none-the-less important, like a new bathroom extension there, a new garage here, replacement windows and railings somewhere else. The infamous new lighting in Camberwell Grove was, in your representative's view, one of the committee's failures—thanks to Councillors' voting. Major schemes the Committee looked at were massive redevelopment proposals in the north end of the Borough, in the main 'outstanding' Conservation area in Southwark round the Cathedral, where St Mary Overy dock may be obliterated, and at St Thomas's Hospital. The contrast between these two is amazing: considerable damage is proposed in the Cathedral Dock scheme, with a tearing-down of nearly everything that makes the area outstanding, just token retention of walls and ironwork being proposed, whereas the architects for St Thomas's Hospital have really done an excellent job under almost impossible conditions, with

minimum loss of what gives the area its character, and maximum gain in facilities that the hospital needs.

Down in Dulwich, a developer put forward a scheme for the grounds of Hambledon House, turning it in effect into a 'fake' Regency-pastiche mini-city. Not only did CAAC members give the architects a bad time at the meeting—but they also gave the scheme the thumbs-down in the form in which it was originally proposed. Nearer home, the Mary Datchelor School site was taken into the Camberwell Grove-Grove Lane Conservation Area, to preserve from possible damage or demolition, in particular the very fine late-Victorian buildings on the site. And now another extension of this Conservation Area is being considered, which would include the Maudsley Hospital and Institute of Psychiatry site, with the listed 111/113 Denmark Hill the fine 1905 Board School in Grove Lane and the Salvation Army premises in Champion Park. Members will have realised that this also means that Denmark Hill station will be within the area—sad that this wasn't the case before its partial demolition by British Rail. Extension of the area would mean additional sources of funds to assist with replacement of the demolished part of the building. (Don't let this stop your supporting the 'Save our Station Fund'—please send all you can afford to the fund at Barclay's Bank at Camberwell Green.) And speaking of Camberwell Green brings up another proposal—this time from the Council's own officials—that of making the whole area of the Green and its immediate surroundings a Conservation Area. This cannot but be of benefit, because again, it will increase the range of funds available for the very obviously needed maintenance of some of the buildings, it will control demolition and alteration, and perhaps stay the hand of road-builders a little too greedy for every centimetre of space.

Dick Oliver

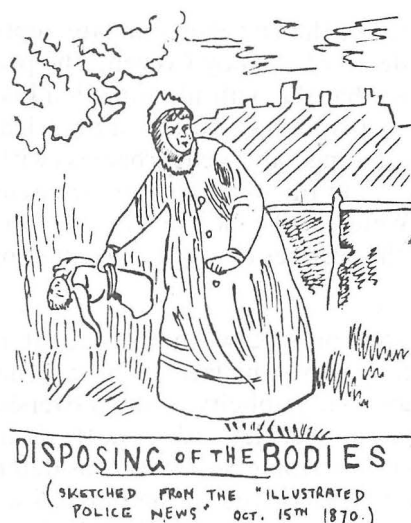
THE SEAMIER SIDE OF VICTORIAN CAMBERWELL

And now for something completely different. The Editors recently received a letter from Mr Lionel Rose of Romford, Essex, saying he had been carrying out researches into a little known but rather horrifying aspect of Camberwell life in the reign of Queen Victoria and would we like to publish an article by him. It's not for the squeamish but on the principle that we should concern ourselves with Camberwell past and present, good and bad, we decided to publish. Now read on.

Epidemics, workhouses, child labour and child prostitution are stock images in our impressions of Victorian life, but one social evil of that age that has perhaps made less vivid impact on the popular mind is the subject of infanticide. The half-wished-for death of unwanted babies by neglect, or their deliberate murder by distraught unmarried mothers or at the hands of callous midwives and baby farmers, was a

prevalent aspect of working class life (and occasionally of middle class life, too) that has not received its due exposure by British historians.

However, nationwide revelations about the activities of two Camberwell baby farmers during 1870 helped draw public attention to the methods of its more systematic and nefarious practitioners who turned infanticide into a domestic industry. But the cases also throw an interesting sidelight on Victorian hypocrisy. Margaret Waters, the less cunning of the two, was hanged as a sop to the public conscience, though the legalities were very doubtful, and as she self-justifyingly complained, her activities had only been possible because she had met a public demand. The more enterprising and repellent Mary Hall covered her tracks so successfully from a pretty stolid police surveillance that the authorities had to be content with a much less serious charge of fraud involving a "fake confinement".



Margaret Waters, a 35-year old widow, lived at 4 Frederick Terrace, Gordon Grove, Camberwell. Dick Moore of the Brixton Historical Society, informs me that the area (near Loughborough Junction Station) was newly-built in 1870, comprising two-storey terraced houses with some cottages; it was a seedy district from its beginnings and was demolished around 1965.

Waters had been a baby farmer for some five years and operated by placing advertisements in newspapers offering to "adopt" babies for lump sums ranging from £5 upwards. She also purchased babies from Mary Hall, and it was the wasted corpses of these among others originating from Hall's establishment, found in the streets of Brixton, Peckham and Battersea during 1870, that alerted the police to an extensive baby farming trade in the district.

Detective-Sergeant Richard Relf of P-Division, masquerading as an interested party, followed up one of Waters' advertisements; he made contact with her and traced her address. A few weeks before, a Mr Robert Cowen of 1 Langham Villas, Loughborough Road,

Brixton, had contacted Waters through an advertisement, as his unmarried 17-year old daughter had just given birth to a baby boy and he was anxious to have it adopted. Waters posed as a comfortably-off but childless wife who wished to "adopt" a child as her own, and on this basis Cowen handed the boy over. Waters promised that she would bring the baby from time to time so he could see how it was progressing.

The newspaper accounts are a little obscure, but somehow contact was made between Cowen (who became concerned when Waters did not call again) and Relf, who told him the true nature of Waters' establishment. Together they went to Waters' house and Relf effected an entry. Ten or 11 infants were found in varying physical conditions. Cowen's baby was badly malnourished; some were torpid and smelled of laudanum, and were lying in filth. Cowen's baby was rushed to a wet-nurse but died nearly a fortnight later. Of the others, who were removed to Lambeth Workhouse, four were to die subsequently.

Waters was tried at the Old Bailey in late September 1870 for the death of the boy Cowen. The prosecution set out to show that she willfully intended his death. For the defence it was claimed that a high death-rate was inevitable among hand-reared babies (without breast-milk) even in the most favourable circumstances; that Waters had called in a doctor, and was arranging for the services of a wet-nurse just prior to her arrest.

The jury had to choose between manslaughter and murder, and they chose the latter. The case had attracted nationwide publicity, though overshadowed by Franco-Prussian War news (even in the *South London Press*). The Home Secretary was determined that she should be sacrificed to the public's wrath even though it transpired that the jury had *not* been unanimous. A minority had plumped for manslaughter, but misunderstanding their role, had fallen in with the murder verdict as a majority decision; and even among this majority there were those who had seen some extenuation, and had not expected Waters, as a woman, to be sentenced to death. She was executed at Horsemonger Lane Prison on October 11th 1870 by the veteran executioner, William Calcraft (on his seventieth birthday!).

Almost simultaneously as a consequence of the trial the Infant Life Protection Society was formed, one of the forerunners of the NSPCC whose efforts were to lead to the first, albeit ineffective, statute in 1872, to curb the excesses of baby farming.

If Sergeant Relf was the hero of the hour through the Waters case, the police were to end up with egg over their faces in the case of Mary Hall. Between 1861-4 Hall and her husband had lived at 4 Denmark Road, Camberwell, and had then moved to 6 Chapel Place, Coldharbour Lane nearby; the *South London Press* described it as a "blank-looking white house next door but one to the Chapel". Another descrip-

tion has it as comprising seven rooms plus kitchen and 'usual offices', with a small garden at the front and a large garden at the rear. Mr Moore believes that this may now be 49 Coldharbour Lane, near the Denmark Hill Baptist Church, though there may have been another house standing in between. He suggests that, as the better-class end of Coldharbour Lane at that time, it would have been an unusual location for a baby farm.

However, Hall ran it ostensibly as a lying-in establishment, not necessarily a disreputable undertaking in a good neighbourhood; in any case, long-standing complaints from neighbours about the crying and burning and other smells emanating from her house, indicate that she stood out like a sore thumb locally.

The police had been aware of her establishment at least since September 1869, but with the scandal of the Waters case they (with Relf) began keeping a closer watch on it during the summer of 1870. Although pregnant women were seen going in, no babies were ever seen by the police coming out. Compared with the initiative shown over the Waters case, the police made no effort to gain evidence of conditions inside, to provide the legal excuse for entry. Moreover, Hall was in contact with people like Waters who were taking babies away which were later found in the streets as far away as Fulham and Kensington. What the police were doing while this was going on under their noses is a mystery.

Hall finally came unstuck towards the end of October 1870, when she was charged with fraud after conspiring to arrange a fake confinement. One Annie Augusta, the mistress of George James Loe of Manor Lodge, Queen's Road, Peckham, planned to deceive him that she was expecting his child. Hall smuggled a drugged new-born baby, acquired by deception as a bogus adoptive parent, into Annie's bedroom. Loe, who knew Hall's tricks from a similar episode three years before, grew suspicious and called the police. The true parentage of the baby became known and Hall was charged with exposing the baby, and conspiracy.

The police now searched her house. Relf discovered evidence of at least 46 confinements there, but there was no sign of any babies' bodies. Lurid but unreliable accounts from a disgruntled former servant about bodies being buried in the back garden in the dead of night proved inconclusive. Excavations in the back turned up "fatty earth" teeming with maggots, according to Relf, who must have been put out by his ignominy and inclined to lard his evidence with innuendo; but of bones and skulls there were none. In the absence of witnesses (who as accomplices would have incriminated themselves) as to the babies' fate, the police had to content themselves with charging the aforementioned misdemeanours, and Hall got off with two years' hard labour and £100 fine.

Lionel Rose

MARY DATCHELOR SCHOOL

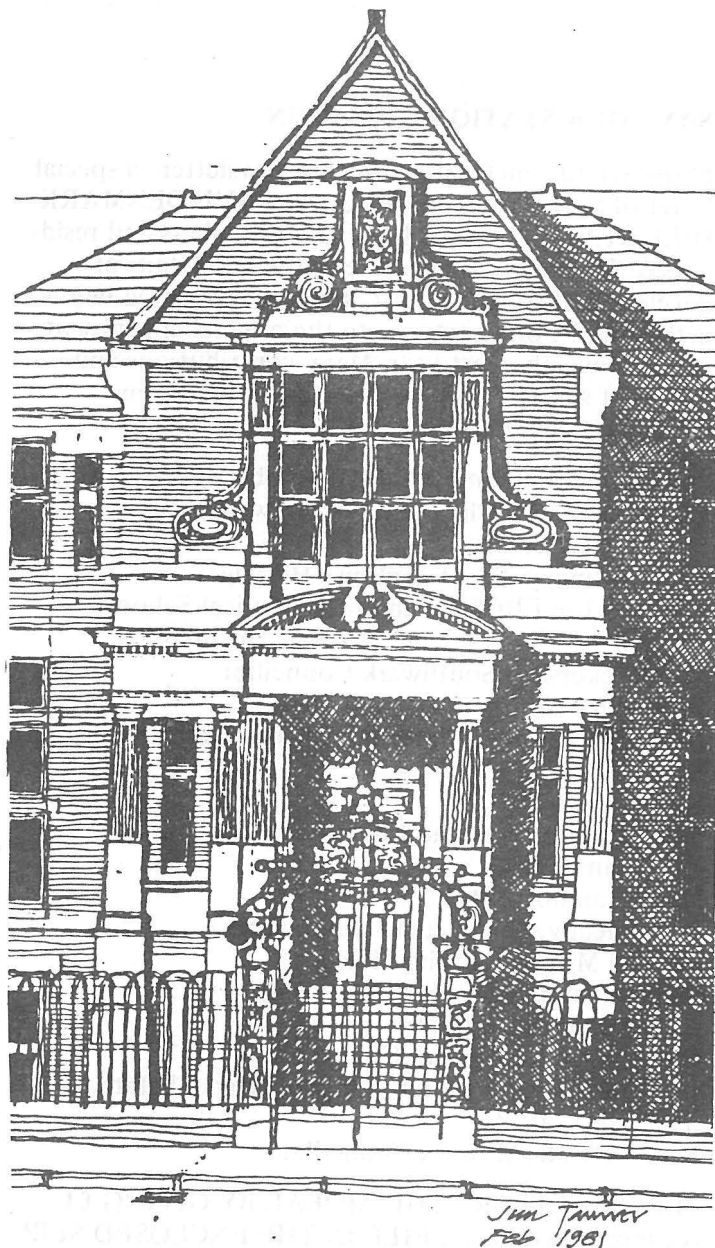
At the end of the summer term this year the Mary Datchelor School closes for good. It is sad that there will no longer be a school in those red brick buildings at the Church Street end of Grove Lane and Camberwell Grove.

Just before Christmas the Society recieved a letter from the Headmaster of St James's School, Queensgate, to say that they had decided after all not to put in a bid to the Clothworker's Company for the buildings. Readers of the Newsletter will remember that at one time this school had been a serious potential buyer. The problem was that many of their existing parents lived north of the river and to move south was likely to present real problems. Regretfully, said the Headmaster, they had decided to drop the idea. At about the same time we learnt that the SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND were looking for new offices and had their eye on the Mary Datchelor buildings. As they are a charity, the school could be sold to them without too many problems with either the Law or the Charity Commissioners.

We were then contacted by the SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND and one of their senior staff came to an Executive Committee meeting to talk about their plans. He explained that the buildings, if the purchase went through, would be used for offices for their headquarters' staff. They would not need all the space and he invited the Society to suggest ideas for community use for the unwanted space. We then wrote formally to SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND and the Director of Development for Southwark suggesting the following ideas:

- 1) That the Camberwell School of Art be invited to investigate the idea of starting a community arts project at Mary Datchelor. We know this is an idea they have wanted to try for some time.
- 2) That the possibility of moving the Library from Camberwell Church Street into the Mary Datchelor buildings should be investigated. We understand that the Library and Amenities committee of Southwark Council have been looking for new premises.
- 3) That the tennis courts, swimming pool and gardens should be made available on a subscription basis to local residents, perhaps on the basis of setting up a local Sports and Recreation Club.
- 4) That the very fine Hall in the School should be made available, on a reasonable hire basis for the people of Camberwell, for group meetings, social occasions and so on.
- 5) That the possibility of providing nursery facilities for working mothers should also be seriously considered.

At the meeting one member of the Society also asked that the school organ should be preserved and suggested that there could be a possibility of local groups making use of part of the building for musical recitals and concerts.



At the time of going to press negotiations are still going on between SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND, Southwark's Planning Department and the Clothworkers Company. Thanks to the community attitude of SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND, it is likely that some of the ideas suggested will be accepted and that there will be a benefit to local people of Camberwell. In particular we believe that the hall will be made available for local groups (something Camberwell badly needs), and that the swimming pool, tennis courts and gardens will also be made available for local residents on the basis indicated above. We also hope that preliminary discussions between SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND and the Camberwell School of Art and Crafts could lead to a trial scheme for a community arts project.

We very much hope that the sale proceeds smoothly and that these ideas prove workable. If this happens, the loss of a school might in the end lead to an unexpected gain for the people of Camberwell.

Watch out for more news in the next Newsletter.

Jeremy Bennett

SAVE OUR STATION CAMPAIGN

Please see the enclosure with this Newsletter—a special letter of appeal for support for the SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION appeal fund to all members and residents of Camberwell. The letter gives full details of developments since our last Newsletter. Printed below is the full list of signatories to the original appeal sent out in November last year. Many contributions and letters of support have been received since then.

The following signed:

Nadine Beddington, President, Camberwell Society
Jeremy Bennett, Chairman Camberwell Society
Sir John Betjeman
Marcus Binney, SAVE Britain's Heritage
L. T. Cotton FRCS, Dean of the Medical School
King's College Hospital
Toby Eckersley, Southwark Councillor
B. N. Ellard Smith
Philip Hugh-Jones, Consultant, King's College Hospital
Ian Jenkin
Jack Jones C. H.
Terry Jones, Actor and Film Producer
Victorian Society
Harry Lamborn, M. P.
Brian Meaby, Meaby and Co Solicitors
Michael Middleton, Civic Trust
William Payne, Mayor of Southwark
Robert Parker, Journalist
Cliff Potter, Southwark Councillor
John Robertson, Andrew and Robertson, Estate Agents
Sam Silkin, M. P.
Ron Watts, Southwark Councillor

PLEASE SUPPORT THE APPEAL BY GIVING £1
(or more if you can). FILL IN THE ENCLOSED SLIP
AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO
BARCLAYS BANK, 2 CAMBERWELL CHURCH
STREET, SE5.

CAMBERWELL SOCIETY SHOP

This year's Christmas good cheer for the Society came early in the form of a shop acquired from the GLC for a month. We had a new range of cards to sell and our growing collection of publications too. With the help of Andrews & Robertson, our chairman organised the use of the vacant "Rhinocerus" in Camberwell Church St for "the rent of a peppercorn should it be demanded." It never was! The shop needed only a little attention compared to our previous one. A band of willing helpers cleaned up and we were ready for business. We opened every day for a month and our goods sold well. It was a worthwhile venture—we took nearly £800 in publications' sales—and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who made it that way including the GLC, those who helped behind the counter, and those who cleaned. ANY IDEAS FOR THE NEXT SHOP?

Alison Sime

A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR CAMBERWELL

Last year, on the retirement of the headmistress of Lyndhurst Infants School in Lyndhurst Grove, the Inner London Education Authority proposed that the opportunity might be used to amalgamate the infant and junior departments of the school which have been in separate buildings and under separate management for some years. At the suggestion of teachers and parents and after much negotiation the education authority agreed to locate the new amalgamated school in the Junior School building in Grove Lane rather than in the smaller Infants building with its very restricted site. This decision allows a lot more scope and flexibility for the school in the future. The main school building in Grove Lane is to be converted to take both the junior and infant departments and a separate brick building in the playground will be altered to provide accommodation for the nursery classes. It is expected that the entire school will occupy the Grove Lane site before the end of 1981.

The headship of the new amalgamated school was advertised last year and Miss G Mallard was appointed to take up the post from January 1981. She is a young teacher who has worked locally and knows the area. She is full of energy and enthusiasm and has already done much to bring the two halves of the school together. We wish her all success in the future. It is very pleasing to have a thriving primary school in the centre of Camberwell once again.

Jill Westwood

ART IN CAMBERWELL— THE SOUTH LONDON ART GALLERY

The November meeting was a talk by Kenneth Sharpe, Keeper of the South London Art Gallery. The unassuming character of the South London Art Gallery, sitting quietly in the Peckham Road, gives little indication of its fascinating history. Kenneth Sharpe, Keeper of the gallery since 1974, filled in the details of its origins.

The gallery began as an exhibition held in a house owned by William Rossiter, as a result of the activities of the South London Working Men's Institute, which was formed in 1868 and met in Blackfriars Road. Rossiter's house in Camberwell became a centre for consulting books (it was later used as a free library) and for showing pictures on loan. The facilities were open, as they are today, every Sunday, in order that working people should have the opportunity to visit.

The gallery moved to its present site in Peckham Road in 1887. Private funding from an anonymous donor made the building possible, but the money ran out before completion. With the help of further donations from as far away as Cardiff, the gallery finally opened in 1891. It was a great success. The Pall Mall Gazette reported in 1889 as many as 2,000 visitors on one Sunday.

The following year, Passmore Edwards, a well known benefactor to libraries both in London and outside, donated £3,000 for a library and lecture room to be built onto the back of the gallery. However, private funding began to dwindle within a few years, and in 1896 an appeal was made to the Camberwell Vestry (forerunner to the Borough of Southwark) to take over responsibility for the collections. Since that time the Gallery has been administered by the local authority.

In the same year, the idea for the Art School was born and Passmore Edwards made a further donation towards its cost.

Sir Edward Poynter, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, opened the Art School in 1898. Southwark now became the first local authority to run its own art gallery, museum and school of art. They were administered by the same Principal until 1948. The gallery has exhibited collections on loan as well as some paintings which it has acquired since its opening. The purchase of contemporary work started in 1953, but the yearly allowance for purchases, maintenance and setting up exhibitions means that the gallery has to work within a tight budget.

Mr Sharpe's talk gave rise to a number of interested questions from the audience. Is there a catalogue of the gallery's own collection? What are the facilities for storing the collection? How much money is made available for new purchases? The answers indicated that the gallery could well benefit from an injection of more money and labour in order to promote a wider range of exhibitions and to bring the public in from all parts of London. It is unfortunately unlikely that the Library and Amenities Committee will be able to provide more in the foreseeable future.

The next exhibition runs from the 2nd to the 12th of March, the annual exhibition of the sculpture prize-winners from the School of Art and Crafts. Why not re-awaken your interest in what local people are producing, and visit the gallery?

Eleanor Lines

We print below a full list of the Exhibitions to be held at the South London Art Gallery during the rest of 1981. During exhibitions the Gallery is open weekdays 10-6 and Sundays 3-6. ADMISSION IS FREE. The Gallery is near the Town Hall on the Peckham Road and is on bus routes 12, 36 36A, 36B and 171.

27 March-16 April	Albert Houthuesen (1903-1979)— an exhibition of paintings and drawings
1-21 May	Ruskin and Victorian Camberwell
5-24 June	Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts— An exhibition of graphics, illust-

ration and printmaking by final
year degree students

10-30 July

South London Artists—
the 52nd annual exhibition

11 September-
1 October

British School at Rome—
an exhibition of the work of
recent holders of the scholarships
in sculpture

16 October-
12 November

Dulwich College of Art

27 November-
17 December

South East London Art Group—
35th Annual Open Exhibition

THE STORY OF WRITING

At the start, it looked as if all that was going to happen at the December meeting—with a particularly full hall—was a little nervous talk from Chairman Jeremy Bennett, and member Donald Jackson describing the film that Jeremy had made about Donald's work. Donald Jackson is a calligrapher—one of the two most famous in the world—the other is a Briton too. The nervous extemporisation was going on at the front of the hall, with frequent appealing glances to the rear, because there, equally nervous and hot under the collar, all members of the Executive Committee with a mechanical bent were trying to get the film projector going, so that the film could be shown.

After a few minutes with a screwdriver and the projector's instruction book, success was achieved, and the film could start. In it Donald traced the history of writing from the very beginning, illustrating his points with his own beautiful, firm confident calligraphy. It is to the ancient Egyptians, that we owe not only our Arabic numerals, but our writing also, though we speak of our alphabet as Roman. It all started as pictures setting down on clay tablets, sealed into pots, bills of lading, the contents of shipments as they left the shippers, so that the receiver would know that they were getting all that had been sent. "Falling off lorries" was a problem even then! Gradually the pictures became formalized, less like the objects they represented but easier and quicker to draw. Eventually 'our' alphabet emerged.

But then, as so often, came the splitting of the ways again, into contorted, inhibited, narrow spiky black-letter on the Northern European mainland, expressing in its every difficult stroke the holding-in against the cold, the crabbed movement of an icy hand. Then beautiful rounded Carolingian from warmer climes, further south, as easy for modern man to read after four hundred years, perhaps easier than today's shopping list. And the superb Italic, so popular today as 'educated' writing, but none-the-less free and flowing. On to Donald's modern exploitation of ancient techniques, tempera, colour mixed with egg, that has withstood the test of time, cutting a quill, gilding with

gold-leaf so fine that the merest whisper of breath smoothes it flat on the leather pad to be cut and stuck to a letter as fascinating under Donald's hand as an illuminated letter from an ancient manuscript.

The film was over all too quickly, half an hour had gone in a flash. We all wanted to know more. What did Donald do when presented with stilted artificial English, to turn into a presentation certificate? 'Persuade them to change it', he said, 'the old manuscripts were 'modern' language when they were written.' 'What about teaching to write in school—did it rob the hand of individuality?' 'Writing is communication—if it's to communicate it must be legible—and the only way of getting legibility is discipline. Within discipline there can be freedom. Without it there is only anarchy.'

Not enough time, not enough time. Those of us who hadn't seen the full version of the film—a whole two hours—at the Victoria and Albert Museum exhibition, comforted ourselves with the thought that there was to be a book of the film in due course. And then off we trekked, still talking and arguing, to Eleanor Lines's flat in Camberwell Grove, where after the food for eye and mind of the film the most magnificent spread for our bodies awaited us—the Society's Christmas Party. Cheese and wine, more talk, and.....Our thanks to Jeremy Bennett for his film, to Donald Jackson for being its fascinating subject, and to Eleanor and Mike for putting up with a huge invasion so enjoyable that, for their neighbours, it probably went on far too long.

Dick Oliver

SAVING CITIES: EXPERIENCE FROM SIX LONDON CAMPAIGNS

Member of the Society Paul Watkinson is to be Tutor to a special course (No SLO54A) to be held at the City Literary Institute, Stukely Street between 4 March-8 April. The course fee is £3 and members of the Society are promised some lively discussion about the way our environment is treated by planners, politicians and developers. Strongly recommended. (Apologies to our readers if you receive our Newsletter after the start of the course but you can join half way through and attend individual sessions).

This is a course aimed at bringing together people and groups who are concerned with saving London from the pressures of bad planning, traffic, office blocks, minicipal dinosaurs, redevelopment, ugliness and emptiness. Campaigners will be able to compare tactics in order to explore the soft underbelly of the planners, developers and politicians concerned.

If you care about your environment and wonder how you can help save parts of the city this should provide the ideal forum. Speakers will explain: how they have involved other people in their campaigns and raised finance for their activities; how to gain publicity and handle the media; where and how and on whom they

have applied pressure most effectively; and, conversely, where they feel they made major blunders—wasting time and resources.

What are the lessons from each campaign?

- | | |
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| March 4th | <i>Peckham Action Group</i> have fought the building of a new Town Hall and a multi-storey car park. They bring the experience to bear in countering the threat of the 'realignment' of the main road through Peckham. |
| March 11th | <i>The Archway Road scheme</i> has been fought off for 12 years. How has this been achieved? |
| March 18th | <i>The Islington Society</i> is concerned to maintain the habitableness of a unique part of London. As an amenity society it faces rather different questions, especially on finance, membership and long-term opposition. |
| March 25th | <i>Covent Garden Community Association</i> has contested the redevelopment of the area, and now battles to save the Jubilee Hall. |
| April 1st | <i>Coin Street.</i> The campaign to prevent a wall of offices growing along this section of the South Bank is won. But what will go in its place? |
| April 8th | <i>Eckersley v London Borough of Southwark.</i> The campaign of one man against a compulsory purchase order on his street, and the extraordinary events consequent on his legal victory. |

SOUTHWARK: THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Bob Maxwell, newly appointed Director of Development at the London Borough of Southwark, gained the distinction on 15th January of drawing one of the largest audiences to a members' meeting of the Society for some time. He did not disappoint his audience. His well-prepared talk, lavishly illustrated with slides and delivered in a disarmingly low key and his courteous and adept fielding of awkward questions impressed even those amongst the audience who do not regard Southwark Council as a truly trustworthy friend. They seemed prepared to trust Bob Maxwell even if they did not always agree with him.

Mr Maxwell started his talk by reminding us of the steady fall in the population of Southwark in the last ten years (260,000 in 1971, about 220,000 now and still falling). He told us that Southwark's unemploy-

ment rate of 9.7% of the working population is higher than anywhere else in the GLC area, which averages 8.7%, and substantially higher than in the South-East as a whole (5.6%). We were told that there was little prospect of new local authority housing in Southwark in the next few years. He pointed out that jobs tend to be concentrated in large firms and that if a large firm closes, or moves out of the Borough or makes staff redundant, hundreds can be affected. There is a steadily changing pattern from the traditional industries to offices and service industries.

The Council aims to set up improvement areas to attract public funds to save the best of old Southwark, for example the St Saviours Dock area. But funds must be attracted from a wide variety of sources and the best rehabilitation is unlikely to be profitable. He mentioned the deal done with Lloyds Bank when they built their huge computer centre on the southern approach to Blackfriars Bridge. A sum of £50,000 to £60,000 was made available to help build riverside flats on the adjacent site.

Mr Maxwell went on to describe other projects: the proposal to rebuild the Globe Theatre as a replica of the original theatre, the Burgess Park scheme and the Lysander scheme for the Surrey Docks.

It is probably a good indication of the success of a talk if it stimulates questions afterwards. The speaker had many to answer. 'What about privately-owned housing?' asked one questioner. Should be considerable opportunity in the future was the answer. 'What about telecommunications—a private line can take a year and telex 2 years?' asked another. When a new development is proposed the planners first move is to consult all services authorities and establish their capabilities. Another question referred to the likelihood of having proper cycle tracks through the Council Estates. Mr Maxwell, a cyclist himself, was very sympathetic but also realistic. 'We have to accept,' he said, 'that cycle tracks are often open to abuse such as by motor cyclists.'

One of the touchiest subjects locally is roads and motor traffic. Bob Maxwell faced questions square on. When asked if it is a good thing to allow sites to be designated redevelopment sites thereby causing blight or far better to try to help to rehabilitate and revitalise existing areas, he said that the Southern dock relief road has been shelved for maybe 15 years but he is sure that there will be an upsurge in major road building towards the end of the 80's. Even Dick Oliver, the Society's Jack the Giant Killer, failed to bring him down with this one: 'Petrol is inevitably going to become more expensive and scarce. The compact self-sufficient community will be the community of the future' (applause). 'What is the Council's thinking on future forms of transport?' 'People won't stop driving,' answered Maxwell, 'they will stop spending their money on other things, but they won't stop driving.' He believes that people should walk more, they should cycle more and they should use public transport, but he feels that the car is going to be around for a long

time.

Tough and uncompromising though some of Maxwell's views may seem to be, he has already demonstrated to your Executive Committee that he will consult us and that he will listen. He has already outstripped his predecessor in this and we look forward to a constructive working relationship.

Jim Tanner

DON'T LEAVE IT ALL TO THE COMMITTEE or SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE?

Don't leave it all to the Committee—here's an illustration of the sort of thing that is admirably done by individual members for the greater good. Effie Planker has been chasing up for two years now, among other things, the case of the brambles that grow through the fence from the 'garden' of the Fox on the Hill pub. Here is her horrifying history of letters to the Council and the Fox's owners

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|-----------|--|
| July 1979 | Letter to Borough Surveyor asking for removal of vigorous growth of brambles sticking through fence onto public footway. |
| 17.8.79 | Damaged stocking caught on brambles sent to Borough Surveyor. |
| 21.8.79 | Borough Surveyor says he has sent the letter and enclosure to Charringtons (brewers owning 'The Fox'). |
| 3.9.79 | Referred matter to the Town Clerk. |
| 11.9.79 | Letter from Charringtons saying that they would inspect the site and do necessary work, meantime inviting me to dinner! |
| 20.9.79 | Replied to brewers saying that I did not see the relevance of dinner. All I wanted was the clear and safe footway. |
| 20.9.79 | Replying to my further letter of 3.9.79, the Borough Surveyor said that the Legal Department of the Council had served an official notice under Section 134 of the Highways Act 1959 (this letter was apparently a prediction rather than a report). |
| 24.9.79 | Brewers reiterate that they will do any necessary work. |
| 1.11.79 | No action taken so I wrote to the District Auditor to investigate waste of Council time without action resulting. |
| 17.12.79 | Letter from Deputy Town Clerk saying that the Notice under Section 134 was served on 10.12.79. This required the owners to cut the hedges and brambles within 14 days, otherwise the Council had authority to do the work and recover |

expenses from the owners. A copy of the letter was sent by the Deputy Town Clerk to the District Auditor.

SURPRISE! The brambles were cut down.

- 22.5.80 Letter to Deputy Town Clerk asking for reappearing brambles to be dealt with.
- 4.6.80 Deputy Town Clerk referred the matter to the Borough Surveyor.
- 7.7.80 I again reminded the Borough Surveyor.
- 3.8.80 Another reminder. Also I reported that the bindweed from the pub grounds had now overgrown even the street nameplate.
- 19.8.80 I wrote to the Mayor, who is my local councillor, for help.
- 2.9.80 The Borough Surveyor wrote to say that the street nameplate had been cleared (but the brambles remained).
- 5.9.80 I wrote to the Town Clerk in another effort to elicit some life from the Borough Surveyor.
- 12.9.80 Letter from the Borough Surveyor (actually posted 17.9.80) mentioning several other matters which I had raised and got no satisfaction on but no mention of the brambles which still flourish between the post box and the bus stop by 'The Fox on the Hill'.

But London Borough of Southwark.....don't think I've given up.....

I'm also pursuing the condition of footways including the lagoons which appear after rain at some bus stops along Walworth Road and Camberwell Road, the condition of the patch of shrubs to the north of the junction of Denmark Hill and Champion Hill, parking of vehicles on pavements (in particular close to bus stops), and.....spring is coming.....the brambles will be growing again.

I am convinced that the condition of the Borough as a whole would be greatly improved if the senior officers of the Council lived in the Borough. If it is not good enough for them, this is only because they have failed in their duties which are to ensure that the Borough is well run.

Effie Planker

Effie Planker has a point here. Would the Borough Engineer, or the Town Clerk, be so willing to accept failure to carry out the provisions of the law for the proper running of Southwark, were their own wives to snag their stockings each time they left the house? Would the authorities regard footpath parking with such equanimity if it were their wives who were forced to push their children's prams into fast-

flowing traffic in the road, or be trapped within the house because someone had parked across the front step? And it's not just Southwark—would Lambeth's Environmental Health Department be so sluggardly at having King's College Hospital's chimney stopped from blacking washing with its filthy smoke if it were their washing? And above all, would they countenance the waste of money that all this ineffectual letter-writing causes, were it coming out of their own pockets? Don't leave it all to your committee and public-spirited members like Effie Planker. Get out your pens and paper and write to complain about things that are wrong. We shall then see whether it's an effective way of making the authority do its job, because it will be easier for the authority to act effectively than keep trying to explain why it hasn't acted. If cuts have to be made in local government expenditure, then perhaps the least damaging way to cut is to make sure that the job's done efficiently, promptly and effectively, without all the waste of time and money in making excuses. And let the Executive Committee know about failures: we might publish a few more "diaries" like this one.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE BLIGHT SURVEY?

It is many months since Society members trudged the streets making a catalogue of all those depressing corners which, added together, have given Camberwell its until now, rather run down image.

But that was not the end of the exercise. The Society sent off the resulting report (still available at 50p) to everyone it thought could help its case. It is understood that the Camberwell Blight Survey was the first of its kind in Great Britain, the professionals responded with great acclaim.

Our local council borrowed the survey map and looked at every parcel of land and every building they own which we had registered as blight. In a few cases they have taken immediate action using the Environment Fund: work was carried out at the Samuel Jones Junction in Southampton Way including the renovation of the old horse trough and pump; Kitson Road was decorated with railings; £100,000 has been spent in improvements to the area behind Grove Park; but the greatest benefit of all was in the help which has recently been given to shopkeepers in Church Street (an area peppered with blue on our map) to restore their facades—never was money better spent.

Southwark asked to meet us to discuss their numerous other troubled sites within our two square kilometre area. They wanted to discuss their plans and to ask us our suggestions. On Thursday 29th of January four Council officers and five Society members went through 80 separate areas of concern and for your information we will outline what action has or is about to take place:

<i>Rust Square</i>	Rehabilitating all but two (38 and 40 are being privately restored) of the dwellings. The open corner is to be tidied up and trees are to be planted to form an enclosure towards the extended Burgess Park.	the new road will be discussed in detail at a Camberwell Green Working Party meeting).
<i>New Church Road</i>	To be demolished to make way for Burgess Park. Planting to be carried out in forecourt in front of 54-72.	<i>Artichoke Place</i> Car Park to be cleaned up prior to Road Option 7.
<i>Addington Square</i>	South entrance from New Church Road to be demolished in anticipation of the extended parkland.	<i>Camberwell Grove/ Church Street</i> Rubbish tipping to be further investigated and warnings issued.
<i>Sears Street</i>	Some of Southwark's 150 houses currently for sale.	<i>Wren Road</i> West side (rehabilitated) to be let to single people. Nos. 10-12 to be rehabilitated by the Cargom Society for 'down and outs'. Nos. 13 and 14 to be leased to Wandle Housing Association.
<i>Wells Way</i>	Much of west side is to be demolished for road widening. This will allow other roads to be closed as part of the Burgess Park scheme.	<i>Denmark Hill</i> Council has made CPO on 3 properties to help EPIC assemble site for new shopping development.
<i>Newant Close</i>	A partly occupied estate handed over by the GLC, two 'ruins' are to be offered for sale whilst development of nearby sites await funds.	<i>Jephson Street</i> Rehabilitation by Wandle Housing Association (helped by the Environment Fund towards the cost of some of the detailing) nearing completion.
<i>Samuel Jones Factory (Southampton Way)</i>	Recently bought by Southwark and sold together with adjacent land, it is to be redeveloped. The Camberwell Beauty butterfly is to be relocated on the side of the Library in Wells Way (itself renovated with Environment Fund money) if planning permission is given.	<i>Grove Lane Shops</i> To be retained and relet.
<i>Havil Street/ Sedgemore Place</i>	Three listed buildings have been sold for rehabilitation. New housing in progress. Beacon House to be rehabilitated when funds available.	<i>Daneville Road</i> No 7 (empty for 7 years) may be sold.
<i>Harris Street</i>	Open area regrassed and knee high rail (a proven anti-tipping device) erected.	<i>Selborne</i> A new chapter in the saga is reported elsewhere in the Newsletter.
<i>Benhill Road</i>	British Conservation Trust has applied to use land south of school for ecology.	<i>Love Walk</i> Nos 13-17 (rehabilitated) have been let.
<i>Southampton Way/ Coleman Road</i>	Rehabilitated houses to be let.	<i>Dagmar Road</i> Terraces of 2 storey houses due to be completed by end of 1981.
<i>Camberwell Glebe</i>	Southwark now owns north and south of Glebe so plans to be drawn up for improvements.	<i>Maude Road</i> Part to be closed off following Dagmar Road development.
<i>Vicarage Grove</i>	Larger trees to be planted in future.	<i>Vestry Road</i> Southwark Entertainments building to be landscaped. No 7 to be sold.
<i>Harvey Road</i>	Neglected till Road Option 7 (this and other residential areas left by	<i>Graces Mews</i> Factory (Nos 1-2) to be let.
		<i>Graces Road</i> Houses let.
		<i>Vestry Road/ Gairlock Road</i> Two corner sites bought by Grange Road Housing Association.
		<i>Vestry Road/ McNiel Road</i> Has been landscaped but requires good maintenance.
		<i>Lyndhurst Grove</i> No 21 to be let.
		<i>Camberwell Grove</i> Improvements to be carried out to the crescent. Nos 200-218 improvements—convert back lands into car parking area and landscape frontage to the street with trees and railings.

<i>Grove Lane</i>	Nos 125-137 (adj to the Canning Pub) is allocated for sheltered housing; the London Science Centre in Wilson Rd would like to use it temporarily as a centre for urban ecology.
<i>Grove Park</i>	No 19 is for sale in March sales.
<i>Bromar Road</i>	Plans to improve corner.
<i>Champion Hill</i>	Fringe opposite The Hamlets to be grassed over.

The above notes are necessarily sketchy and cover only those areas in the Blight Survey which the council has direct control over. There is however much which will effect day to day life in most parts of Camberwell. Do you agree with what's going on in your patch? Do you agree with the general policy? What do you want to see happen in the next 10 years in your neighbourhood? Please put your feelings down on paper; if we don't pass on any comments to the Council they will assume we are happy with their plans.

Even better, join our Blight sub committee and become involved in changing the Camberwell environment for the better. Improvements are taking place but money is also being mispent. Care; you'll feel the difference.

Ian Sime

CONCRETE DESERT OR URBAN COUNTRYSIDE?

One of our members, Councillor Bob Smyth, has sent us the following article. As our readers will see, he talks about real sparrows—not the sort to be painted on the side of lorries or printed on letterheads—and also about the other forms of wildlife which, even though we are city-dwellers, we should be fostering. Anyone interested is asked to contact Bob Smyth, Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Rd, SE5

When I mentioned the subject of nature conservation in the city to the Civic News editor he asked if that included sparrows. (Note to new readers: the editor, who is also Southwark's public relations officer, has suggested introducing a sparrow as the Borough's symbol.) Well, yes and no. Certainly sparrows are a part of the city's wild-life, as are pigeons, feral (wild) cats and the other creatures that survive even the harshest urban environment. But what is more important is the wider range of plants, animals, birds and insects that will flourish in built up areas if given suitable encouragement.

Until recently the ideal city park was thought to be a well-trimmed mixture of lawns and flower beds, with perhaps a pond full of goldfish. During the last few years, however, people have begun to realise that the 'unofficial' parks—the bits and pieces of land alongside

railways, or bomb-sites, or areas cleared for redevelopment but not yet built on—provide a habitat for a variety of plants and creatures of beauty and interest.

This realisation flowered, in Southwark's case, into the creation in Jubilee year of the ecological park on the site of a former car park alongside Tower Bridge. The park, which is open to visits from schools and others (phone 403 2078 for details), has now been colonised by all sorts of species which would not normally be seen by Southwark citizens except on a day trip to the Kent or Surrey countryside. The Ecological Parks Trust is in the process of taking over another Southwark site in Farquhar Road, Dulwich, where—with the help of local residents and the Dulwich Society—they will lay out and manage a permanent 'eco park'.

One or two Southwark schools have established small eco gardens which they use as a nature observatory. In the Surrey Docks the urban farm has attracted wide publicity and much local curiosity. Groups like the Bermondsey Horticultural Society have nabbed unoccupied land for the purpose of creating allotments—which are themselves useful wildlife havens. At Nunhead Cemetery Southwark Council is preserving one third of the site as a nature reserve and using at least one of the gate-lodges as an interpretation centre.

As a step towards creating a borough wide awareness of preserving—or creating—wildlife habitats so that the city does not become a sterile desert, it is proposed to set up a Southwark Nature Conservation Group. Its aim will be to learn from the experience of existing groups and to apply that knowledge to appropriate sites particularly in the more built-up areas of mid and north Southwark.

There will be a meeting of the Southwark Urban Wildlife Group on 6 April at St John's, Meeting House Lane, Peckham at 8pm. The meeting will include a showing of the Open Door programme on Birmingham's urban wildlife projects. Guest speaker will be John Tyler of the Ecological Parks Trust which runs the William Curtis Ecological Park at Tower Bridge and the Farquhar Road site in Dulwich. There has also been a proposal from the London Science Centre in Wilson Road, Camberwell for temporary use of the vacant Council site at 125-137 Grove Lane as a centre for Urban Ecology. Anyone interested should try and attend the 6 April meeting.

Bob Smyth

NEWS IN BRIEF

Camberwell Beauty Finds a Perch

The Camberwell Beauty Butterfly—that is the large ceramic version which adorns the Samuel Jones factory in Southampton Way—is to be saved from the bulldozer. The Society has long campaigned for the rescue of the two Beauties—the one in Southampton Way and the other on the Samuel Jones building in Orpheus

Street which is also to be demolished to make way for the new Camberwell Green shopping centre.

The Council has announced that the Southampton Way species (large version) will be repositioned on the east wall of the Council's public baths in Wells Way, an expensive operation which will cost £30,000. We feel that it is worth spending this money to preserve one of Camberwell's major landmarks—full credit to the Council for listening to local views. Perhaps it is a pity that the butterfly will not be closer to Camberwell Green. There is however hope that the Orpheus Street species (slightly smaller) will be incorporated into the EPIC plans for the shopping centre. Then everyone will be happy, as this will be close to the Green. At the Society's request the Planning Department is checking this month with EPIC's architects to see that the Orpheus Street butterfly has not been forgotten.

Anniversary

The Camberwell Society has now been in existence for ten full years. We were founded in 1970 and grew out of the much smaller Camberwell Grove and Grove Lane Residents Association. We are pleased to say that now our interests are much broader, our involvement in local affairs much greater and our area much larger. Our membership is also nearly twenty times larger than in 1970. This is also our 50th Newsletter—a bumper issue.

Road Closures Cuthill Road and Grace's Mews

Cuthill Road will be closed permanently at the end of February as the first stage in the Selbourne redevelopment. This will prevent a certain amount of morning ratrunning through Love Walk.

The Council has also announced that, following a public meeting held on May 29 last year, it was decided to make an application for the closure of Grace's Mews. The road will be closed by means of two lockable bollards opposite number 4 Grace Mews. This means that while the Mews will be closed to through traffic, cyclists and pedestrians will still have access.

Camberwell Society Cards and Other Publications

The Society's large range of cards of local interest are always available to members and non-members alike. They are all printed with the one word GREETINGS inside and so are suitable for birthdays, anniversaries, get well wishes etc. There are also plenty of large maps of Camberwell (1842), copies of the Blight Survey and a limited number of Blanch (for sale to members only).

Publications can be ordered direct from Committee Member Albert Densumbe, 36 Grove Lane (Tel 703 4824) who also has the price list. Cards can also be bought at the Passage Bookshop, Canning Cross and the Bookplace, Peckham High Street.

More Books for Camberwell

For some years now Camberwell has been well served for new books by the Passage Bookshop (where Society publications, incidentally, are usually on sale). Now we have a bookshop selling second-hand books which will usefully complement the Passage Bookshop. Though sorry to see the early departure of the delicatessen in Camberwell Grove (opposite the Grove Tavern) we welcome the opening of Stone Trough Books in its place. The proprietor, George Ramsden, could be seen busily at work constructing bookshelves in the weeks prior to opening.

Stone Trough Books covers a wide range of subjects. There is a large literary section, mainly this century, including letters and diaries. There are modern first editions (1910-50) of authors such as Evelyn Waugh and E M Forster. There is also a large collection of books on art. Gardening and travel are also represented as well as history and historical biography.

Mr Ramsden tells us that his aim is to sell readable books more cheaply than central London.

Camberwell Forum at the May Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the United Reformed Church, Grove Lane at 8.15pm on Thursday 21 May. The main part of the evening will be devoted to a Camberwell forum when members and residents will be invited to put their questions about the state of Camberwell now and in the future to a panel of speakers.

Among those we will be inviting are a representative of Wates (developers of Selborne), Bob Maxwell, Director of Development for Southwark, a representative of the GLC (to discuss progress on Road Option 7), Dennis Poole, Director of EPIC (responsible for the Shopping Centre at the Green), Councillor Ron Watts, Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee of Southwark Council, and a representative of the SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (prospective purchasers of the Mary Datchelor School). It should be a lively evening. Make a note of the date now.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial year up to 30 April 1980

We reproduce below the report presented for the AGM held in May last year.

The accounts being presented are unaudited since the AGM is being held earlier than usual and it has not been possible to arrange the audit in time. I do not expect the audited figures to be very different unless the Honorary Auditor, Mr Lindsay Balleny, regards his comment as a challenge! I would like to thank him for his help.

Our income last year at over £2,000 was more than three times as large as for 1978/79, reflecting in particular the great success of publication sales through the shop. Sadly we are having to give up the lease. You will see that sales of Blanch brought in over £500, but we now have few copies left and are offering to buy back second hand copies. We have spent over £850 on printing new greetings cards and reprinting the Dew-hirst Map. This is in line with our policy to spend a large part of the proceeds of publication sales on printing new stocks of these so as to ensure a continuing supply.

We are proposing to increase subscriptions, which have

been unchanged for many years. We believe that subscription income should be sufficient to cover the costs of the Newsletter and general expenses. It is a great help if members pay subscriptions promptly. There are substantial arrears.

You will see that the cash balance is over £600 but we have some outstanding accounts to pay, including the electricity bill for the shop.

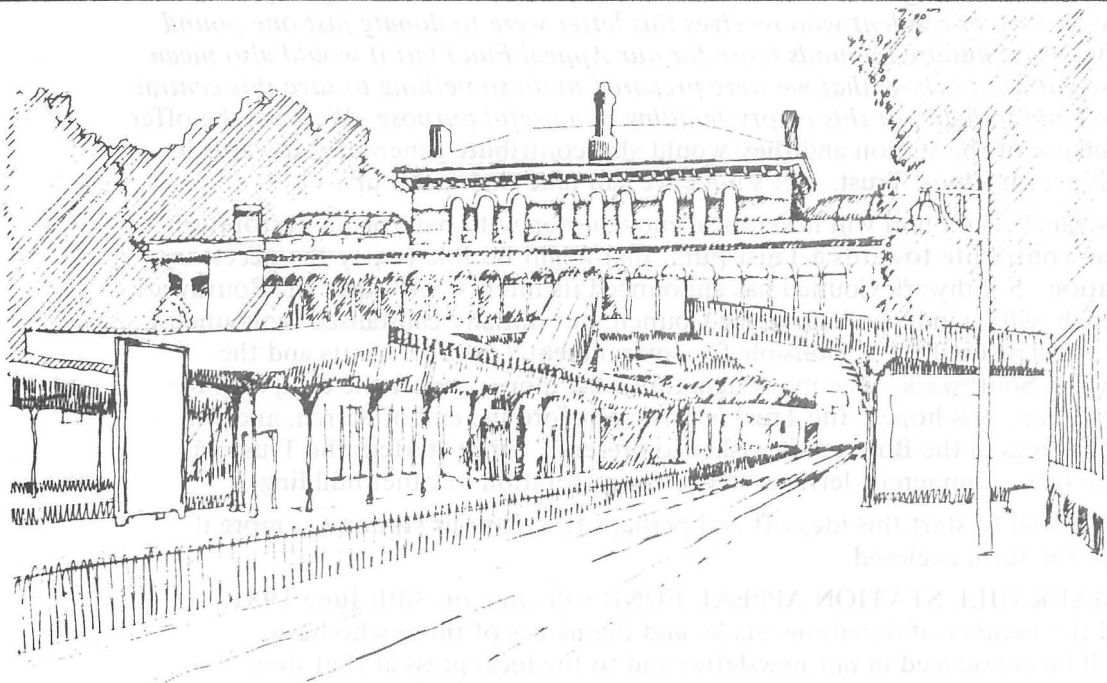
The costs of the shop (including fitting it out) come to nearly £500. Sales of publications through the shop were about £1,000 and in addition we recruited at the shop a large number of new members, bringing our total membership to over 600.

Nicholas Roskill

PAYMENTS		RECEIPTS	
£		£	
(10.00)	Hire of hall	37.50	Membership subscriptions
(256.53)	Printing of Newsletter	315.20	Donations
(98.12)	Other printing	853.18	Sale of raffle tickets
(10.00)	Subscriptions paid	13.00	Sales of publications:
(82.55)	General expenses	165.77	Greetings cards
—	Shop expenses	473.53	Blanch's History
—	Purchase of typewriter	15.00	Other (maps, etc)
			Interest received
(457.20)		1873.18	
(186.45)	Excess of receipts over payments	184.81	
(643.76)		2057.99	
BALANCE SHEET as at 30th April, 1980			
£		£	
(258.16)	Balance at 7th April, 80	444.72	Bank balances as at 30th April, 80
(186.56)	Excess of receipts over payments for period	184.81	Current account
(444.72)		629.53	Deposit account

The figures for 6th April, 1979, are shown in brackets.

SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION FUND



30, Grove Lane,
Camberwell,
London,
SE5 8ST.

01-703 9971

Dear

Some of you may have seen posters announcing the SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION FUND and others of you may have read in the press the list of those local and national figures whose signatures supported the Letter of Appeal sent out at the end of last year (for the full list of those who signed the letter, please see the current newsletter).

We are now writing to all members of the Camberwell Society and residents of Camberwell to draw your attention to the Appeal and ask for your support.

Denmark Hill Station is our local station, Camberwell's *only* railway station, and it is one of the finest examples of Victorian station architecture. Built in 1866 by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, it has always been a distinctive landmark of Camberwell, standing prominently on a railway bridge opposite King's College Hospital.

It is featured in at least two of the major references books on railway architecture and in his letter of support to us, Sir John Betjeman called it "a handsome, Victorian thing. A symbol of South London prosperity".

Last March, the central part of the station was burnt down by vandals. When British Rail threatened demolition of the station, the Camberwell Society organised the Appeal Fund and pressed for a meeting with British Rail to discuss the future of the station.

We can now report there has been progress. British Rail invited us to a meeting and told us that they could neither afford to restore the station as it was (there was no fire insurance and they have severe financial problems) but neither would they demolish it. They agreed to postpone a decision on the station's future for a few months.

Recently British Rail suggested that if the local community were to form a Charitable Trust, and could raise the money to restore the station, British Rail would seriously consider leasing out a large part of the station, not needed for operational purposes, to the Trust, which could then in turn let the available space for offices, a workshop or even flats on a commercial basis. Anyone who knows the station will realise there is a useful amount of space to let out which could be increased by the addition of an extra floor in the rebuilt central booking hall.

The significance of this offer should not be missed. Here is British Rail, for the first time, prepared to lease out a large part of an operational station for possible commercial use, to a Trust formed by the local community. Already, we have received a number of valuable suggestions, including some from our local estate agent, of how the available space could be let.

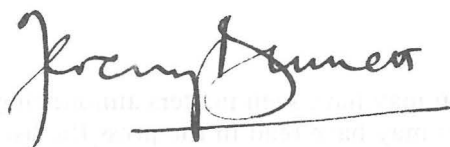
The question is — do we care enough and can we raise the steam — to use a railway metaphor — to make this work? Do we care enough? We hope so, and that is why we are writing to you now. *If every member of the Society or resident who receives this letter were to donate just one pound it would mean not only several hundred pounds more for our Appeal Fund but it would also mean several hundred more signatures to show that we were prepared to do something to save this central landmark of Camberwell and to help put this empty building to a useful purpose.* We have the offer from British Rail for the use of the station and they would also contribute generously towards its restoration in partnership with a local Trust. Let's hope we can take their offer up.

Can we raise the steam? The Fund will never raise enough money to pay for the restoration of the station, but it can contribute towards a Trust Fund that might be able to pay the necessary amount for full restoration. Southwark Council has announced its intention to form the Southwark Environment Trust, which will be independent of the Council, but initially capitalised by council and private funds, and this Trust will be responsible for environmental improvements and the preservation of buildings in Southwark. The more signatures, the more support the campaign to save the station will get when, as is hoped, the Trust is formed before the end of March, and will be considering which buildings in the Borough it wishes to preserve. Once started, the Trust will generate its own income from commercial lettings to pay for restoration of other buildings.

If you can spare a pound to start this idea off and perhaps to save your station (or more if you wish!), please fill in the form enclosed.

The SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION APPEAL FUND will close on 30th June 1981. The amount raised and the number of donations made, and the names of those who have supported the Fund will be announced in our newsletter and to the local press at that time. Please help to make it a respectable amount.

Yours sincerely,



JEREMY BENNETT
Organiser of the
**SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION
APPEAL FUND**

SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION FUND

To: SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION APPEAL FUND,
c/o Barclays Bank,
2 Camberwell Church Street,
LONDON SE5 8QX

I, (name)

Address:

.....

enclose my cheque/P.O. for (amount) for the
SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION APPEAL FUND.

* I wish that (a) if for any reason it is not possible for my donation to be used towards restoring the station, it should be donated to the Southwark Environment Trust or similar charity to be nominated by the Executive Committee of the Camberwell Society or (b) that it should be returned to me in the SAE provided.

* Please strike out whatever is not applicable.

Please pass on the slip below to someone else you know in the area.

SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION FUND

To: SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION APPEAL FUND,
c/o Barclays Bank,
2 Camberwell Church Street,
LONDON SE5 8QX

I, (name)

Address:

.....

enclose my cheque/P.O. for (amount) for the
SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION APPEAL FUND.

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* Please strike out whatever is not applicable.

THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

<i>President:</i>	Nadine Beddington, 17 Champion Grove, SE5
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jeremy Bennett, 30 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 9971)
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i>	Nigel Haigh, 50 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 2719) Dick Oliver, 89 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 4949)
<i>Hon Treasurer:</i>	Nicholas Roskill, 56 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 4736)
<i>Hon Secretary:</i>	Jill Westwood, 40 Camberwell Grove, SE5 (701 2325)
<i>Assistant Secretary:</i>	Alison Sime, 24A Vicarage Grove, SE5 (703 5254)

NEWSLETTER NO 51

April 1981

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 21st May, 1981

The Annual General Meeting of The Camberwell Society will be held at eight o'clock on May 21st at the United Reformed Church, Love Walk.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Previous minutes and matters arising
3. Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year 1980/81 (see below)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
(All the officers of the Society and the members of the Executive Committee retire annually in accordance with the constitution of the Society and are eligible for re-election. Nominations are required for the officers and committee. Any paid-up member may, together with a seconder, nominate candidates for the offices and committee. Nominations must be in writing and may be made at the meeting, but would be preferred before the meeting, delivered to the Hon Secretary, 40 Camberwell Grove, SE5.)
6. Camberwell Forum (see below)
7. Any other business

JILL WESTWOOD, *Hon Secretary*

CAMBERWELL—WHAT NEXT?

The main part of the AGM on Thursday 21st May will be devoted to a *Camberwell Forum*, in which members and residents can ask questions about the major issues facing Camberwell at the present—Selborne, the Green, traffic, Mary Datchelor, shopping, housing etc. We have asked the following to appear on the platform to answer your questions and to give explanations:

Bob Maxwell, Director of Development for Southwark Council
Miss Audrey Lees, or a representative of the GLC's Traffic and Transportation Department
A representative of Save the Children Fund

The Architect of the Wates' Scheme for the Selborne development

Dennis Poole, Director of EPIC (responsible for developments at the Green)

Ron Watts, Chairman of Southwark Council's Planning and Development Committee.

This forum will give you up-to-date information on the major issues which will affect *you* in Camberwell for the foreseeable future.

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY OF COMING TO HEAR AND PUTTING YOUR QUESTIONS.

**REMEMBER 8PM THURSDAY 21ST MAY
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GROVE LANE.**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1980-81

Selborne, the EPIC Development at Camberwell Green, Traffic and Road Option 7, Mary Datchelor School, the Blight Survey and Denmark Hill Station—all issues of major importance to Camberwell—have kept your Executive Committee busy during the past year. There has been considerable progress and some setbacks.

The Committee has continued to press for development at Selborne and the Green. The Society welcomed the decision to sell the Selborne site to Wates, in the present circumstances (see Newsletter No 50). We have now been shown the plans by Southwark Council and commented favourably on them. We will continue to press for rapid development of the site believing that this hole in the heart of Camberwell has been one of the major problems of the past few years.

Through our representatives on the Camberwell Green Working Party, the Society continues to press for the new shopping centre at the Green. During the past year we have had meetings with the Council over the plans and our comments and suggested alterations have in most cases been accepted. Planning permission has now been given to EPIC for a super-market and shopping precinct but we have to report one setback. London Transport and Grand Metropolitan Hotels—owners of the Tiger Yard and the Golden Lion pub respectively—are at the moment resisting purchase by EPIC, having, we understand, previously agreed in principle. We are pressing for a quick solution to this, feeling it unreasonable that the community should be held to ransom in this way.

The Committee has discussed the implementation of Road Option 7 and, while remaining committed to the principle of the traffic improvement scheme, is suggesting that some of the details might be improved now that implementation is getting closer.

The Mary Datchelor School is, at the time of going to press, to be bought by the Save the Children Fund and the Society has throughout the year been involved in making sure that there is some community benefit on the sale of the buildings by the Clothworkers' Company. We believe our suggestions on possible uses for the hall, the swimming bath, tennis courts and gardens have been largely accepted both by Save the Children and the Council. On this issue there has been close co-operation between all the parties concerned thanks to the initiative of Save the Children.

Members of the Executive Committee have been following up the Blight Survey report with the Council's planning department. Newsletter No 50 shows there has been considerable improvement and a new impetus on the part of the Council to tackle this inner-city disease.

The Save Denmark Hill Station Appeal continues. For full reports see Newsletters nos 49 and 50. This appeal will run until 30 June and any member who has not contributed is encouraged to send a pound (or more!) to the Appeal Fund at Barclays Bank, 2 Camberwell Church Street, SE5, preferably filling in the form issued with Newsletter no 50.

Last Christmas saw the publication of more cards, the sale of which was greatly helped by the temporary use of a shop at 12 Camberwell Church Street, thanks to the GLC. The Committee wishes to thank specially those who gave up time to man the shop. We hope to be able to find more premises next Christmas.

The Committee has discussed and positively welcomed the following: steps taken by Southwark Council to give a "facelift" to shops on the Green and in Camberwell Church St by imaginative use of the Environment Fund; the saving of the Camberwell Beauty Butterfly from the Samuel Jones factory in Southampton Way (see Newsletter no 50); the Camberwell Festival held last June and the performance of the *Son et Lumiere* in St Giles Church; the developments and rehabilitation schemes carried out by Housing Associations in Grove Park, Flodden Road and Jephson Street.

An important part of the Committee's work is taking up complaints on behalf of members. There have been several, but in particular the Committee has taken up with the relevant authorities the following issues: disturbance in Camberwell Grove caused by loading of lorries in the street at the rag yard; spread of the car breakers business in Orpheus Street; lighting in Camberwell Grove; infringement of Conservation Area regulations by offices in Camberwell Road; and the dilapidated state of attractive cottages off Albany Road. We are also pressing the Council to take action against what appears to be unlicensed use of amusement machines in Camberwell Church Street. Would members please contact the Committee if there are any local issues which they feel the Society should take up.

Members' meetings are the most important functions organised by the Society and the Committee owes a particular debt to Eleanor Lines for organising these which such success. The numbers attending have been rising steadily. We have had speakers on building preservation, the South London Art Gallery, old Camberwell, the Georgian Group, calligraphy (by a Camberwell artist), and Burgess Park. We have been shown films and slides. The Christmas meeting ended with the Christmas Party to which 80 people came. The highest turn out was approximately 200 people for the January meeting when Southwark's new Director of Development spoke with slides on "Southwark—the Next Ten Years". Bob Maxwell got a warm welcome and tough questioning. From the Committee he has a definite thumbs-up as he has already established a very useful and productive dialogue with us.

Most of the issues your Committee has dealt with will be with us next year and longer. We are all volunteers who believe the work we do is worthwhile and we enjoy it. However, at times the Committee feels overloaded and would welcome additional support. Any member may come to a committee meeting; any member may serve on a sub-committee if he or she is interested in a particular subject, say traffic or planning; and any member may be nominated to the Committee. Nominations for next year's Committee may be made to the Secretary beforehand or at the AGM itself in May. Please come forward if you are interested as the Society depends entirely on the energy and ideas of its members.

Jeremy Bennett, Chairman

LONDON AMENITY AND TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Your Society is a Corporate member of the London Amenity and Transport Association. LATA brings together all the major amenity societies in London, and a lot of individual members too, who have an interest in trying to bring some peace and sanity to our streets and make public transport work—the only way of coping adequately with the needs of a large city. To see just how badly London fares with public transport, just take a trip to Paris—we used to curse the demon French drivers, and laugh at its antiquated and picturesque 'Metro' (underground). But if you've been to Paris recently, you'll have found that, in the main, traffic is well regulated, the 'Metro' and even to some extent the bus services, quick, convenient and comfortable and, above all cheap, so that they are used. With low-priced Laker flights to the USA, many of us have seen how that country, once held to be the land of the brave and the free and the private motor car, has, in its large cities, set up public transport systems that again are quick, convenient and cheap. So it can be done.

LATA brings pressure to bear on the authorities in a way that individuals and groups can't hope to achieve because they are isolated. A current major battle is the underhand business of 'safeguarding' whereby reservations are placed many years ahead on routes that may be taken by roads that someone thinks it might be nice to build at some time in the future. The result, of course, is wide strips of blight stretching through our city, where building owners are naturally unwilling to maintain buildings properly because at some unspecified time in the future, they may be compulsorily purchased. The Docklands Southern Relief was an example. Indeed, why is anyone considering building roads for twenty years ahead, when North Sea oil will be on its way to being exhausted? Why, at the same time, is our public transport system—whats left of it—being forced, through the smallest subsidies in

any developed country, to price itself out of existence? In the future, because it is manifestly more economical with fuel for one 100hp bus engine to carry forty or fifty people, than to have that forty or fifty driving individual 40 or 50hp cars, public transport will be the only way in which we shall be able to move about. Similarly, when so many people and bodies put forward irrefutable evidence to the Armitage Committee briefed to enquire into freight transport by lorry, and the public attitude to even bigger lorries than we have now, did that Committee go against the evidence it received and suggest that the Government should sanction the bigger lorries that no-one except the road-builders, the lorry-builders, the oil companies and so on want? Certainly we, the residents, whose sleep is disturbed by them and whose nostrils are assailed by their stink and our ears by their noise, don't want them.

This is the sort of battle that LATA is fighting on behalf of all of us. As well as the support given to it by your Society, it needs your support, as an individual. The more members it has, the more authoritative and effective its voice. Further details from the Secretary, LATA, 133 Graham Street, N1.

Dick Oliver.

REOPENING OF DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

Many members will have seen in the national press that Dulwich Picture Gallery was reopened to the public in January after extensive redecoration of the principal galleries, the mausoleum and the entrance hall. The restoration of Sir John Soane's building of 1814 was directed by Mr Ian Bristow ARIBA, formerly Berger Research Fellow of the University of York, who has made a detailed study of paint colours used in historic buildings. The central suite of five rooms is now painted a deep red, the colour chosen by Soane and Benjamin West, the then President of the Royal Academy. The red used in the redecoration was matched to a near contemporary formula for a red 'for a picture gallery'. Soane's perspectives, preserved at his house and museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields, were followed in order that the architectural strength of the interior is more strongly revealed. The mausoleum, containing the tombs of Noel Desenfans who collected the paintings, his wife and his friend Sir Francis Bourgeois RA, to whom he left his collection and who subsequently bequeathed it to Dulwich College, has also been redecorated in accordance with the original drawings. The mausoleum is now open to the visitor to the gallery without impediment of coloured glass, so that the 'floating' dome can be more clearly appreciated.

Amongst the fine collection of paintings, most members will find old friends in new places, rehung by the Director, Mr Giles Waterfield MA to recapture the early nineteenth century atmosphere. However a number of pictures from the gallery's store have been cleaned and are on view for the first time for many

years, including paintings by Zuccarelli and by the donor, Sir Francis Bourgeois. I personally enjoy again my old favourites, notably Rembrandt's 'Girl at a Window', refound Raphael's delightful small panel of Sir Francis of Assisi for the first time in many years and greatly enjoyed the Murillos, now spectacularly hung at the north end of the gallery, and the portraits of various members of the Linley family by a succession of English artists.

Congratulations to the Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery who raised funds for the redecoration of this beautiful gallery that had become so shabby. The gallery is now open 10am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday, 2pm to 5pm Sunday (closed Monday). Entrance fee is 40p (OAP's, students and under 18's free).

Elizabeth Betts

I WAS A WALWORTH BOY

John Bennett was a Walworth boy, born at No 332 East Street the year after Queen Victoria's reign came to an end. It has been said that Victoria's death marked the end of an era, but that which followed—the era of John Bennett's childhood and youth—would have seen little change in the quality of life of the residents of Walworth.

Though life was not easy for the Bennett family and many like them, it did not lack interest, particularly for the children. For boys like young Bennett there were plenty of home-made pastimes—'cherry bobbing', street cricket, using a lamp post as a wicket, for the streets were fairly free of (horse-drawn) traffic, 'hot rice' and kite flying.

Bennett's father was a cellar man employed in a wine cellar in Eastcheap at the time of his marriage, but was soon thrown out of work when the business closed down. He tried to get work at the docks, but though he was a big, strong man, had little success. Eventually he found employment as a fitter's mate on the maintenance of hydraulic lifts. Although the family fortunes then took a turn for the better as the result of his more regular employment, the Bennett family did not have an easy time making ends meet.

East Street and other roads were paved with wood blocks and when the roads were repaired the discarded blocks would be sold to dealers with barrows who would hawk their 'tarries', as they were called, around the streets to sell for firewood. Lads like young John would hang about with sacks at the ready and would usually be given bits and pieces and the odd block or two which would be eagerly taken home to light the fire under the copper on washing day.

Later, while still at school, young John got a Saturday job working in a shop (a branch of E. R. Goodrich) in the Old Kent Road. He soon formed an attachment for Mr Burt, the energetic young manager and his wife and when war came and Mr Burt, along with millions of others, joined up, John continued to help Mrs Burt. He would open the shop on his way to school, put up the shutters, hang out the baths and pails at the front of the shop and then run to school. He usually got into assembly by the grace of the monitor just before the opening hymn.

The war brought its excitements and its hardships. John Bennett has vivid memories of the Silvertown munitions explosion, of the Zeppelin raids and later of aeroplane bombings. There were shortages of food and fuel and there was rationing, all imposed on a people who probably had never had enough of the essentials of life in peacetime.

All these memories and many, many more are packed into a slim but highly readable volume titled *I Was A Walworth Boy* by H. J. (John) Bennett. Characters like Sid Done, tobacconist and bookseller turned research chemist, who lit the fires of socialism in the young Bennett, and Dr Salter, who foresook what might have been a brilliant medical career to tend the sick and needy of Bermondsey and emerged from this as an ardent political campaigner for the working man, stride across the pages of this fascinating book along with many others and help form John Bennett's microcosm of London of a bygone age.

The author's highly successful venture into autobiographical writing started modestly. Ten years ago one of his grand-daughters had to draw a family tree for a school project. Naturally grand-father was asked to help and it was then that John Bennett decided to write down his memories as a record for his grandchildren.

He is far too modest a man to have contemplated publishing his memoirs, but several friends and others who read the manuscript urged him to do so. It was suggested that he offer a copy to the Southwark Library archives. Mary Boast, to whom he gave the copy at Southwark, immediately saw its value as a part of our local history and suggested to the Peckham Publishing Project at The Bookplace that they should consider publishing it. It is thanks to Mary Boast's foresight and the determination and faith demonstrated by the publishers that we now have available to us this fascinating account of life in Southwark in the first half of this century.

I Was A Walworth Boy by H. J. Bennett is available from The Bookplace, 13 Peckham High Street at the modest price of £1.50.

Jim Tanner

THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

<i>President:</i>	Nadine Beddington, 17 Champion Grove, SE5
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jeremy Bennett, 30 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 9971)
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i>	Dick Oliver, 89 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 4949)
	Ian Sime, 39 Crawthow Grove, SE22 (693 8250)
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	Nicholas Roskill, 56 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 4736)
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	Jill Westwood, 40 Camberwell Grove, SE5 (701 2325)
<i>Asst. Secretary:</i>	Graham Ash, 7 Oswyth Road, SE5 (708 0651)

NEWSLETTER NO 52

August 1981

THE SOCIETY'S NEW OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers of the Society, elected at the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday May 21st, 1981 at the United Reformed Church, Grove Lane, are listed at the head of this Newsletter. The members of the new Executive Committee, also elected at the AGM, are as follows:

Ian Barbie,	24 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 4564)
Andrew Burke,	103 Cobourg Road, SE5 (701 6685)
Ian Chown,	149 Chadwick Road, SE15 (639 9587)
Albert Densumbe,	36 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 4824)
Michael Griffith-Jones	156 Camberwell Grove, SE5 (733 4364)
Nigel Haigh,	50 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 2719)
Candida Hunt,	103 Camberwell Grove, SE5 (703 8179)
Eleanor Lines,	97A Camberwell Grove, SE5 (701 2079)
Alison Sime,	39 Crawthow Grove, SE22 (693 8250)

Co-opted members of the Committee:

Elizabeth Betts,	126 Grove Park, SE5 (274 6532)
Katie Crawley,	43 Grove Hill Road, SE5 (274 3701)

Michael Ivan and Stephen Marks were re-elected Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Society.

CAMBERWELL – WHAT NEXT?

More than 100 members of the Society attended the AGM on May 21st and provided a lively and responsive audience for the panel of speakers on the subject "Camberwell – what next?"

Vice-chairman Nigel Haigh, deputising for Jeremy Bennett who was unavoidably absent, explained that the GLC had also been invited to send a speaker but had declined. Mr Livingstone, having just assumed control at County Hall, presumably needed time to decide his Council's policies before exposing any of his colleagues or officers to the sort of searching questioning at which the Camberwell Society rank and file membership is so adept.

Indeed one of the most adept, Effie Planker, actually didn't wait for any of the speakers before levelling her questions at them. She is rightly concerned at the

condition of our streets and at the hazards facing pedestrians in the form of predatory motor vehicles, eccentric paving stones and rambling branches. It was necessary to restrain her, not because the speakers would have been no match for her, but because, having invited them to speak, courtesy required that they be allowed to do so. However we need more Effie Plankers in the Society and it is to be hoped that she will not relax her efforts to make Camberwell a better place in which to live.

Bob Maxwell, Southwark's Director of Development described plans for Road Option 7. He reported that it is in the GLC's 1983-84 programme but reminded us of Mr Livingstone, sitting brooding at County Hall. Until the brooding season is over a shadow obviously

hangs over all road schemes. Bob observed wistfully that signs are not good for saving the Father Red Cap.

Alan Kosh, the architect responsible for the Wates scheme at Selborne, spoke next, referring to the very full account of the scheme in Newsletter No 50. He reported that it is hoped to start work in September of this year and that building will take 18 to 24 months. In answer to questions he said that details of proposed materials had now been submitted to the Council's planning department. Basically external walls will be built in new London stock bricks, roofs will be clad with orange weathered tiles and joinery will be stained.

Dennis Poole, the director of EPIC responsible for the shopping development at the Green gave, as usual, a relaxed account of progress on their scheme. He is becoming something of a veteran at this exercise, having done it so many times before. He explained that compulsory purchase orders were to be served on London Transport, owners of the Tiger Yard, and on Watneys, owners of the Goldern Lion pub, as neither was willing to conclude negotiations. Work would start on site next year.

Finally Councillor Ron Watts, chairman of Southwark's planning committee and a former secretary of the Society, spoke of the Council's campaign in persuading shopkeepers at the Green to paint their shop fronts and generally give them a facelift with a Council grant. He referred to the Lomond Grove industrial scheme which is now under way, remarking on Southwark's excessively high unemployment rate. He reported that the magnificent ceramic Camberwell Beauty which has adorned the facade of the old Samuel Jones factory is to be taken down by the Council and re-used. He reminded his audience that Road Option 7 was first put forward by the Society and reflected on how much that the Society had campaigned for during his tutelage as secretary was now about to happen.

Question time, which followed, was as usual the opportunity for members to probe the issues which speakers do not always fully illuminate. Uncharacteristically Bob Maxwell fumbled a question from a worried local resident about the volume of traffic in Grove Lane in the Road Option 7 era. He did not know and Jim Tanner, who seems to have spent half a lifetime as the Society's longest-serving representative on the Camberwell Green Working Party, rushed to his assistance, carefully explaining that he didn't know either, though he should do, but adding that he was certain that there were plans for curtailment north-bound traffic. Bob coped better with questions about pedestrian access to the Green (suitably sited pedestrian crossings and traffic signals) and with the lorry problem (cannot be dealt with locally). Mr Pearce of King's College Hospital told us that the housing scheme for 83-97 Denmark Hill, which is owned by King's, will be starting in about six months under an arrangement with Orbit Housing Association.

Referring to the Goldern Lion pub the chairman — somewhat mischievously one felt — asked if the meeting had any feelings about it. Life being full of surprises, member Paul Watkinson evinced a devotion for its interior, if not its beer which, in your reporter's opinion, would never bring South London flocking to Camberwell Green.

An informative and stimulating evening was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the speakers by Nadine Beddington. The Society's President, in congratulating the speakers on having done their homework, said that the Camberwell Society had something to be proud of. Everyone, she declared, was on the same side and the sun, at last was beginning to shine through the clouds.

Jim Tanner

Sub-Committees of the Society

It may sound bureaucratic but most of the work of the Society is done by Sub-Committees. They meet regularly and report every month to the full Executive Committee Meeting. They succeed because of the energy and enthusiasm of their members. Since the AGM they have been constituted as follows:

Traffic and Transport

Ian Chown (Convenor)
Katie Crawley
Nigel Haigh
Dick Oliver

Planning

Graham Ash (Convenor)
Elizabeth Betts
Ian Chown
Michael Griffith-Jones
Dick Oliver
Alison Sime

Publications

Jeremy Bennett (Convenor)
Albert Densumbe
Jim Tanner

Shop

Alison Sime (Convenor)
Helen Chown
Albert Densumbe

Members' Meetings.

Eleanor Lines (Convenor)
Michael Griffith-Jones

Blight

Ian Chown (Convenor)
Katie Crawley
Denys Short
Ian Sime

The Sub-committees would welcome the help of any member of the Society who might be interested in joining the meetings. It is not necessary to be a member of the Executive Committee to take part in the various sub-committee meetings. So if you are interested please ring the convenor whose number is listed in this Newsletter.

Camberwell Green Working Party

The Society is also formally represented on the Camberwell Green Working Party along with Southwark Council and the GLC. The Working Party's brief is principally planning and development at the Green and the Society is at present involved in discussions about the proposed new shopping centre to be built by EPIC and the traffic management and environmental scheme known as Road Option 7. The Society's representatives on the Working Party are:

Jeremy Bennett
Nigel Haigh
Ian Sime
Jim Tanner

Conservation Areas Advisory Committee

Protection of the Conservation Areas in Camberwell is an important part of the Society's brief and the Society is represented on the CAAC by Dick Oliver.

"TAKING ITS PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT IS CAMBERWELL"

There was an Open Day at Love Walk Hostel on April 11th 1981. The Mayor came – and lots of people from Camberwell came too. That was one of the special things that marked the day. Love Walk Hostel for Disabled Workers has been in Camberwell since 1912, but though known to many far away for its high reputation for skilled needlework it has been relatively unknown in the neighbourhood. In 1981 the Hostel is taking its place in the community that is Camberwell.

Many changes have occurred over the years. Most recently a new wing, completed in 1976, gave the privacy of a separate room to each resident, specially designed kitchens added a new dimension to the lives of people who perforce must live in sheltered surroundings, and a new character has been given to the workroom. It is now a flourishing craft centre where, assisted by tutors from the ILEA, crafts such as dried flower work, basketry, soft toys, woodwork and jewellery are in full swing. Workers used to the exacting discipline demanded by needlework now have the freedom to experiment with different crafts. This freedom goes a long way to reflecting the goals of the International Year of Disabled People – one of the reasons for the Open Day; freedom to live in the community and to voice their opinions, recognition of their ability to contribute to that community and the right to consideration for their special needs. With the rebuilding of Camberwell about to begin – both

physically and in human terms – there is a feeling of hope and co-operation, a feeling much in evidence at The Open Day. The handsome entrance porch represents fruitful negotiations with the Borough of Southwark. The revitalised workroom promises much in the way of interest and employment for those resident at Love Walk and the interest shown by the hundreds of visitors on April 11th gave us all the feeling that in the regeneration of Camberwell the place of Love Walk and its residents would receive the recognition it deserved.

Phyllida Stewart-Roberts

Mary Datchelor and Save The Children Fund

Sadly, this July the Mary Datchelor School closed forever and the long history of the School's involvement in the life of Camberwell finally ceased. There is no point in raking over old ground and the Society has expressed its views on the School's closure in past editions of the Newsletter.

It has now been announced that the Save the Children Fund will be buying the buildings and converting them into offices for the headquarters' staff of the Fund. The Society has been closely involved in discussions with both the Fund and with the Planning Department of the Council. It has urged that there should be some community benefit as a result of the Fund buying the school and its resulting application for change of use and planning consent. At the time of going to press the result of our negotiations seems to have been successful. The school swimming bath is to be renovated by the Council and to be made available for more serious swimming – that is swimming clubs, school groups and those wanting swimming training. General "splashing around" will continue at the Camberwell Baths.

The school Hall will be made available to local groups for meetings at a reasonable hire charge through a booking system which will be arranged by the Fund and we have heard that the tennis courts and gardens will be open for local residents at certain times, again through a booking/subscription system which has yet to be organised. The Fund is not likely to move in until next year and the Society will be organising a Members' Meeting to welcome them, at which we hope to learn more about the Work of the Fund.

Southwark Environment Trust

The Southwark Environment Trust Ltd has now been formed to take over the work of environmental improvement in Southwark, previously done by the use of the Council's environment fund. The new Trust is an independent limited company, will shortly become a registered charity and will be funded, initially, partly by the Council and partly from private contributions.

Its brief is to improve the Southwark environment, particularly by undertaking the restoration of buildings,

landscaping of derelict areas and in general taking on schemes of repair and rehabilitation which could lead to a community use and/or to some commercial return on the funds spent.

The eventual use and the financial return on investment of funds are an important consideration in deciding which schemes in the Borough to support because income from investment made will provide capital for future investment in additional schemes.

Ron Watts is the chairman of the Trust. Jeremy Bennett, chairman of the Society, has received and accepted an invitation to become one of the eight members of the Council of Management of the Trust.

Jeremy is interested in receiving ideas — for small or larger environmental improvement schemes — from members which he can bring up at Trust meetings. He will be writing more about the work of the Southwark Environment Trust in our next issue.

The other members of the Council of Management are:

Martin Bunting, Deputy Chairman of Courage Ltd
Raymond Clarke, Chairman Southwark Council of Voluntary Service

Roger Davies, Director of P.A. International Ltd
Patrick McSorley, Chairman Southwark Council Finance Committee

Eddie Rowe, Chairman Southwark Council Highways and Works Committee

The Ven. Michael Whinney, Borough Dean and Archdeacon of Southwark.

Denmark Hill Station Appeal Fund

Our target for the Appeal Fund is £1500 and at the time of going to press the Appeal Fund has raised £1350. So we are approximately £150 short of our target.

The Appeal organisers feel that the target is attainable and so decided not to close the Appeal on 30 June as was previously announced.

The Appeal Fund will now remain open until 30 September and we hope that more contributions will be made.

IF YOU HAVE THOUGHT OF GIVING SOMETHING TO THE APPEAL FUND AND THEN FORGOTTEN TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW IS YOUR FINAL CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE. IF EACH MEMBER WERE PREPARED TO GIVE JUST £1.00 WE WOULD PASS OUR TARGET FIGURE EASILY. IF YOU CAN, PLEASE CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THE FUND. THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES IS ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AS THE AMOUNT. THE APPEAL FUND IS AT BARCLAYS BANK, CAMBERWELL GREEN AND THERE IS AN APPEAL FORM ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.

The final amount will be announced in the next Newsletter, with the list of those contributing.

The cheque will be handed over formally by members of the Appeal Committee either to the Mayor of Southwark or someone nominated by him. It is the Appeal Committee's hope that the Southwark Environment Trust will accept the cheque. At the moment the feasibility of full restoration and possible commercial use of a large part of the Station is being fully considered by the Trust. The Appeal Committee hopes that a large degree of local support for the Appeal Fund — and a cheque — will help sway the Trust to take over the job from British Rail of fully restoring the Station.

Watch the Newsletter for more news.

Publications

In the Autumn we will be publishing a new set of old postcards of Camberwell. This is because there has been considerable demand from members for postcards showing views of Camberwell taken at the end of last century and the beginning of this century. Over the past three years the Society has collected around 50 early photographs of Camberwell from various sources. The new set will be the first six from this collection and we plan to publish more sets as and when funds permit.

There will be further details in the next Newsletter of both description of the views and, of course, price. We shall also be publishing a delightful coloured illustration of the Camberwell Beauty — Camberwell's own butterfly — as a greetings card. This will also be available in the Autumn and the next Newsletter will carry more details. In the meantime could we remind members that we have a large stock of greetings cards — suitable for anniversaries, birthdays and for Christmas — showing views of Camberwell, as well as maps and reproductions of old prints.

These are available from ALBERT DENSUMBE, 36 GROVE LANE SE5 Tel no 703 4824.

Or they may be bought from:

The Passage Bookshop, Canning Cross, SE5 or
Stone Trough Books, 59 Camberwell Grove, SE5
or The Bookplace, Peckham High St., SE15.

Please support the Society's Funds by buying the Society's publications.

1981 SUBSCRIPTIONS

May we remind members who have not already paid that the 1981 subscriptions are now due.

Family or Household Membership for those living at one address is £3 per year.

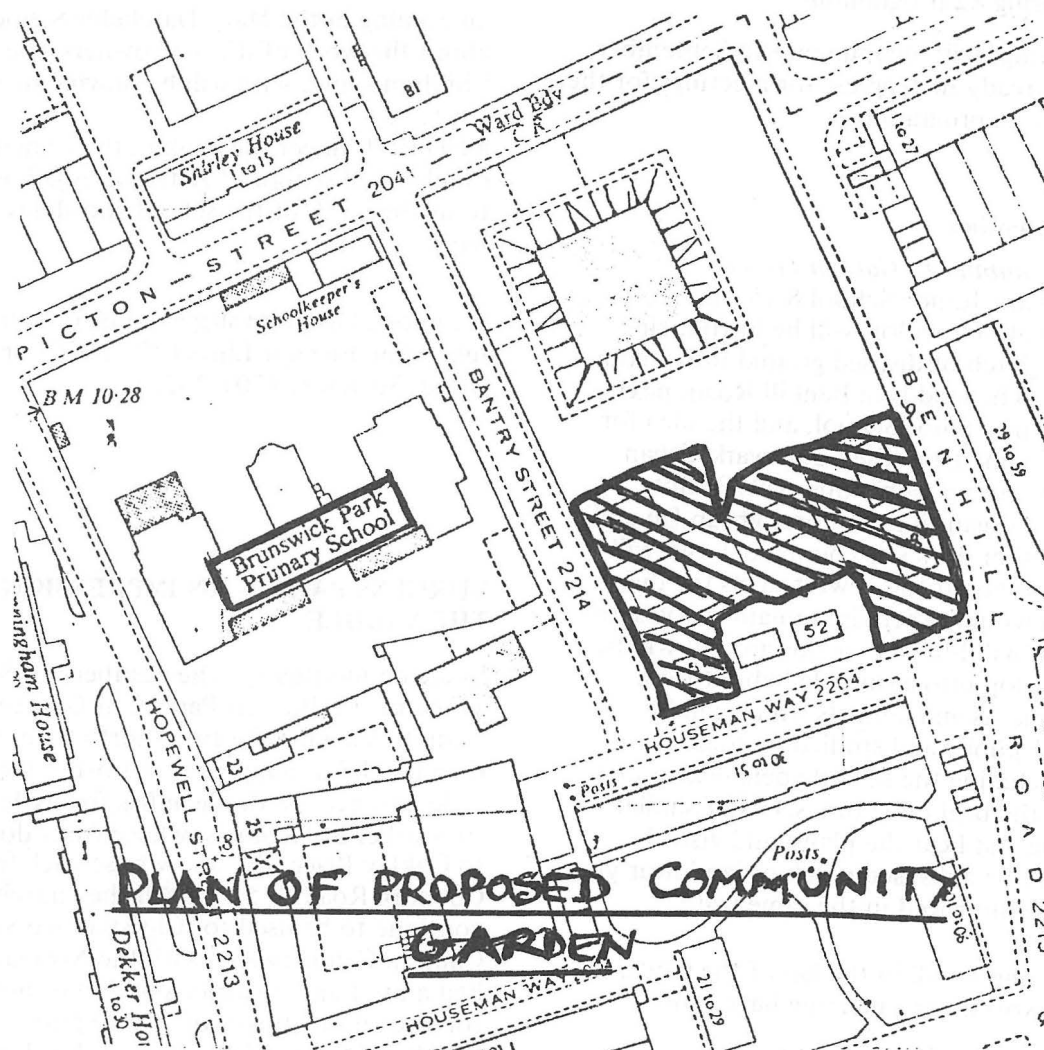
Individual Membership is £2 per year.

Students and Pensioners 50p per year.

Please pay promptly as the Society depends on members' subscriptions to carry out all its various activities on your behalf.

Please see leaflet enclosed.

"AN ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN" – IN CAMBERWELL



After the Tower Bridge "eco park" and the Farquhar Road "eco wood" at Crystal Palace, there is the prospect of a community garden in Benhill Road Camberwell. Southwark Council has offered a half acre patch of land – which it is not at present able to build on – for a 'conservation/environmental project'.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BT-CV) has drawn up a possible layout for the site. The two heads and governors of the Brunswick Park infants and junior schools have expressed interest in the educational potential of a mini nature reserve on their doorstep. The Elmington estate tenants'

association is being invited to participate in the scheme. And the Camberwell Society is holding a public meeting at the school on Thursday 24th September when a speaker from the Ecological Parks Trust will describe the sort of wildlife likely to flourish in such a community ecological garden.

Benhill Road is just one of the sites being examined in a borough-wide survey of vacant land being undertaken by the Southwark Wildlife Group. Its report, 'Wildlife in Southwark', is to be published shortly. Membership of the Group is £2 a year and subscriptions should be sent to: Southwark Wildlife Group, c/o The Peckham Settlement, Staffordshire Street, London SE15.

Bob Smyth

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Autumn 81/Spring 82 programme

Members' meetings will recommence in September, and plans are already in progress for meetings for the autumn and spring programmes.

Thurs 24th September

Benhill Road Community Garden Project.

At Brunswick Park Junior School 8.15 pm.

Bob Smyth, local Councillor, will be introducing plans to turn a patch of disused ground into a community garden. The land is in Benhill Road, next to Brunswick Park Junior School, and the idea for the garden has come from the Southwark Urban Wildlife Group (are you a member yet?!). Bob Smyth has been organising this local group [in addition to all his other duties as councillor] and will be able to tell us about the newest plans for the ground, which would otherwise remain an eyesore. [The link with 'wildlife' is that this ground will be allowed to develop into a suitable habitat for a succession of plants and animals which can be enjoyed by the public and studied by local enthusiasts, including the school-goers next door]. This could be the beginning of a series of similar projects. Come and hear the plans, and visit the site. There may be a disused patch of land near you which could be improved in the same way!

October's meeting is still in the lap of the Gods, but details of November's meeting have now been finalised.

November 19th

Solar energy in new and rehabilitated housing programmes

Several very successful plans for incorporating solar heating into houses have been developed by the 'South London Consortium', a group of 9 people working for the London Boroughs of Southwark, Lewisham and Lambeth as part of the National Housing Consortium established by the Government in 1968. Their work has been very favourably reviewed in the Guardian, South London Press, Time Out [and the Council Newsletter].

Andrew Burke, a Camberwell Society member who works for the Consortium, is coming with slides and plans and all the news on their contribution to energy conservation in Southwark.

December 10th

The usual frivolities for Christmas. Earlier in the month than usual, this meeting is timed to allow last minute preparations for Christmas to continue unimpeded. Details later.

Plans for the New Year include a meeting on Victorian life and architecture by Hermoine Hobhouse of the Victorian Society. . . .

an evening in the Mary Datchelor School hall hearing about the work of it's new owners, the Save the Children Fund, who will be moving in early next year

a chance to meet Ian Jenkin, the principal of the Camberwell school of Art, who is going to introduce to us the work of the school and slides of students' work.

If anyone has more suggestions for future meetings telephone Eleanor Lines (701 2079) or Jill Westwood, Secretary (701 2325).

Eleanor Lines

BURGESS PARK – AN IMPRESSION FROM THE MIDDLE

Eighteen months ago the Camberwell Society organised a meeting on Burgess Park in St George's Methodist Church. Viewing life from north Camberwell, since then much has happened, yet often there seems to be little advance. Methodism has finally left St George's (this other St George's, whose front door opens on to Oakley Place SE1 and whose back leads into Cobourg Road SE5) though the church is likely to continue to be used for Christian worship. St Mark's Church, Camberwell, (with the Norman Shaw roof) had a brief and inglorious period of housing antiques for sale and featuring on 'Checkpoint' as a result, before being let out for use as the local mosque. Conservation areas have been designated in Cobourg Road and Trafalgar Avenue. Such are the ebbs and flows of development in one corner of the lakeside of tomorrow. Only the 14 acre lake still remains dry – awaiting its 1982 baptism by immersion which is planned to make it the focus of the new development – the community of the people at play to replace the communities of the people at work and at home.

Around its shores meanwhile the numbers diminish. Over 100 households joined the BPRA soon after its formation. Not all now remain. The main needs of the residents 18 months ago were seen as two-fold: first, for information in detail as to what was to go around and happen to them and their homes and when; second, to use their more informed position to pressurise the authorities to remember and provide for the residents, short term and longer term, in the continuing development plans for the park. People had felt very much in the dark, and sensed demolition as the almost inevitable consequence of years of uncertainty. Not, you may remark, an unusual feeling.

Unusual, however, was the primary target. As a GLC park, the properties in its boundaries were not handed over like other GLC property in Southwark during 1980. It was the monster council, not our near and dear Borough, who were bound to be the enemy.

One of the problems was that in 1978 the Burgess Park Forum, which included local residents' representation in the consultation process for the park, had been replaced by the Conservative GLC with a Steering Group consisting only of elected representatives (GLC and Southwark, Lewisham & Lambeth Councils). At the same time a Parks Department Depot in Cunard Street (off Albany Road) was to be set up as an information centre for the park. It had been. The representation was less effective. The information was grossly inadequate. This was in spite of the fact that 1978 saw the next phase of the development planned in considerable detail. (The 1978 guidelines are still the governing document). The Association therefore drew up five requests: individual letters to all households setting out minimum guaranteed lifespan of the property and the right to remain in it; access to all relevant documents; three times yearly consultation with association officers; specific immediate improvements to the area (e.g. to curb flytipping, to provide adequate fencing, to fill empty properties) and an annual report to the AGM.

After much pressure and initial negative responses the Chairman of the GLC Open Spaces and Recreation Committee agreed to meet the Association Officers 'off the record', with the relevant GLC Officers. The meeting took place last September. The five requests were pressed. Representation on the Steering Group was also sought. So far there has been little joy. A renewed assault on the citadel (now sporting different colours of course) will shortly be made. We believe we are justified in hoping for more success.

Last year we were promised a newsletter for residents. One document of this type was produced at the end of last year — very short and containing no new information, and certainly no detail of the type sought. We were told of the GLC's intention to invite us to future Steering Group meetings. We were invited to the next one, and have heard nothing formally since. We have had no more news either of our representation on the Group. (The one meeting we attended seemed all but a formality and seemed to command the interest and attention of few of the members present, in one sense all the more reason why we should be members). The only relative progress has been the updating on a plan

dated November 1980 of the expected life of most of the residential property in the park. More precision was and is still needed, particularly for elderly residents who have lived in the area all their lives and may well have to be moved on in their declining years. We therefore secured promises from GLC candidates for last May's elections. We are glad to have a commitment to our five requests from Harvey Hinds the local member. We shall from now on be happy to keep him to it — and trust that he will be glad to keep his promises to us in return. So much for methods.

Of material issues, the lake, its surrounds and the gradual grassing of acquired sites progresses noticeably. On the other hand the scandalous neglect of the listed houses in Albany Road, retained after a public enquiry and much effort by the Society, has not changed. Councils should be made accountable for positive action in circumstances such as these. Although Cobourg Road and Trafalgar Avenue are now conservation areas in part, consolidation of the high pavement of shops between these two junctions with the Old Kent Road into the conserved area has not been approved, and with the deterioration of the shops seems increasingly unlikely. It is arguable that interest in their plight came too late to find sufficient support from the occupants. Elsewhere the limekiln has reappeared from behind the corrugated iron, St George's Church (the other one, and technically outside the park boundary though providing its most imposing contribution to the local skyline) awaits yet an imaginative scheme, such as conversion for housing units as proposed last year, to save it from the shame of complete ruin, and all around increasing numbers of events seem if not to justify the planners forecasts or at least to point in their direction.

Many of the remaining historic corners of the 135 acre site are to stay, though intended for park use. The Chumleigh Gardens almshouses are in this category — though not Chumleigh Street. Other plans are still more or less outlined, such as that for the 'flora and fauna centre' and the 'village green' (the latter between St Marks and Trafalgar Avenue bridge over the old canal). Yet more plans — to demolish many of the pubs, such as 'The Queen' by the canal footbridge — seem ludicrous. There are then the more mundane issues; reconciling back garden privacy with football in the park, compromising the planners eternal defence of every inch of park space with the continuing needs of the residents and the great desirability of enhancing the park with attractive buildings, well-used and cared for, where they now exist.

The park scheme is now 40 years old. It is intended that it be completed in a further quarter century.

Some of the battles the young association may be called to fight may be last ditch in more senses than one. We are always happy to know there are other troops in reserve.

Simon Hughes
(Chairman, Burgess Park Residents' Association)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Selborne on Schedule

At the time of going to press the planning and building of the new Wates Estate at Selborne is on schedule. Work is due to begin in September.

ACTION PLEASE ACTION PLEASE

In each Newsletter we plan to publish an **ACTION PLEASE** column in which we will list complaints made by members which we have taken up with the relevant authorities. Current issues are:

1) **Contravention of Conservation Area Regulations** at 123, Camberwell Road. These are the offices of a firm called Metropolitan Office Machines Ltd and two ugly air conditioning units have been fixed to the front exterior of this Georgian terrace house. Members of the Society complained, Dick Oliver our representative on the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee has taken up the matter but still nothing has been done. The units could be fixed on the roof out of sight. What is the point of Conservation Area and listed building regulations if they are not enforced?

Action required from Southwark Council

2) **Squatters in Orpheus Street.** Complaints have been received from members about the spread of the car breakers' business in Orpheus Street on the EPIC sight. These have been passed on to EPIC and Southwark Council.

Action please sooner than later from EPIC and Southwark Council.

Camberwell Green Road Scheme

This scheme, for improved traffic management at Camberwell Green and commonly known as Road Option 7, is now the subject of a planning application by the GLC. A map showing the scheme with a brief description has been on display in the Library in Camberwell Church Street. The scheme is however currently under review by the GLC. In principle the Society supports the scheme – indeed it was the Society which originally suggested it – and we have written to the GLC to confirm this.

We are however anxious that the important environmental improvements which form part of the scheme should be carried out to the full. We are currently discussing these with both the GLC and Southwark Council through our representatives on the Camberwell Green Working Party. More news of this will be in the next Newsletter.

Compulsory Purchase Orders on the Golden Lion and Tiger Yard, Camberwell Green

Members who attended the AGM will remember discussion about Tiger Yard and the Golden Lion. These have now been compulsorily purchased by Southwark Council to speed up the EPIC development. At the time of going to press we had not heard whether any settlement had been reached by the existing owners, Southwark Council and EPIC, whether the Lands Tribunal would be called upon to arbitrate on the values of the properties or whether it would be necessary to hold a public enquiry.

The Society's view is that, while we regret the need to demolish the Golden Lion, it is necessary for the greater good of the greater part of the people of Camberwell that the blight should be ended at the Green and the development should proceed as quickly as possible. We have therefore written to support the CPOs.

THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY

<i>President:</i>	Nadine Beddington, 17 Champion Grove, SE5
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jeremy Bennett, 30 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 9971)
<i>Vice-Chairmen:</i>	Dick Oliver, 89 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 4949) Ian Sime, 39 Crawthow Grove, SE22 (693 8250)
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	Nicholas Roskill, 56 Grove Lane, SE5 (703 4736)
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	Jill Westwood, 40 Camberwell Grove, SE5 (701 2325)
<i>Ass. Secretary:</i>	Graham Ash, 7 Oswyth Road, SE5 (708 0651)

NEWSLETTER NO 53

December 1981

DENMARK HILL STATION

£4170 raised by Appeal — Target Figure Doubled

On Wednesday 11 November a cheque for £4170 was handed over on the platform of Denmark Hill Station by three members of the Camberwell Society who had signed the original letter launching the SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION APPEAL in November last year — Jack Jones, C.H. former General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Terry Jones author and actor and Jeremy Bennett, Chairman of the Society and Organiser of the Appeal — to the Mayor of Southwark.

The Mayor received the cheque on behalf of the Southwark Environment Trust. This presentation is the first stage in the plans to restore Camberwell's only railway station which, in his letter of support to the Appeal, Sir John Betjeman described as "this handsome Victorian thing, a monument to South London prosperity". Plans for restoration are at present being drawn up and, subject to satisfactory costings being worked out, the rebuilding will be undertaken by the newly-formed Southwark Environment Trust (see report elsewhere in this Newsletter) in co-operation with British Rail.

A lease at a peppercorn rent would be taken on the station by the Trust from British Rail and the rebuilding is likely to take place in two stages. The first stage would be to rebuild the exterior of the central part of the station, destroyed by fire, as closely as possible to the original. The second stage would be to rebuild the interior with the needs of a commercial tenant in mind. The Trust is already looking for a commercial tenant for the large amount of space which will become available after restoration. A brewery has been approached as it has been suggested that the large amount of space in the station would make an

excellent pub/restaurant. The Southwark Environment Trust has expressed its firm intention of taking over responsibility for the restoration of the Station, following the tremendous response to the Appeal. However, the final decision has yet to be taken, particularly on the extent to which full exterior and interior reconstruction can be attempted and this will of course depend ultimately on satisfactory costings being agreed.

We will carry another report on the Trust's progress with the Station in our next Newsletter in the New Year.

Who Supported Us?

In just over a year since the Society launched its SAVE DENMARK HILL STATION APPEAL FUND, the people of Camberwell have raised over £4,000 for the restoration of the station. It is a magnificent response which has surpassed everyone's expectations. The target figure was £2,000 and this was reached in the last week of October a few days before the Appeal finally closed (9 November).

At the end of October an approach was made to Dickie Dirts, the large private clothing company which specialises in jeans and shirts and converting unwanted cinemas into clothes' supermarkets, when it was learnt that they would be opening at the old Odeon Cinema on Denmark Hill. Three days later a cheque for £2,000 was sent to Barclays Bank and a letter wishing the Appeal all success. We are extremely grateful to Camberwell's latest store for doubling our target figure in one go. What a wonderful way for a firm to announce its entry into a new community! We wish Dickie Dirts all success.

There are others we would like specially to thank. Barclays Bank ran the Appeal account for us free of charge and, very early on, made a donation of £500. This really set the ball rolling and we would like to thank Brian Ellard-Smith, the Manager at the Camberwell Church Street branch and his assistant Mrs Jean Baker, for their help in the past year. Other firms or businesses with local connections have also been very generous. Wates Built Homes Ltd gave us £250, Lloyds Bank donated £100, the Midland and National Westminster £50 each and the Chelsea Building Society also contributed £50 and a generous offer to allow us to set up an exhibition of the activities of the Society and the Appeal in their offices at Camberwell Green. To all of them we are most grateful. It shows they have faith in the future of Camberwell just as we do.

A number of local firms made substantial contributions, notably Andrews and Robertson, Duraty Radio, T. Clarke Group of Companies and D.A. Thomas and Co. Ltd., and we wish to thank them.

By far the greatest number of donations came from individuals, residents of Camberwell and people who come to Camberwell to work, many of them using Denmark Hill Station. They contributed amounts varying from £50 to 50 pence. The number of people prepared to give *something* towards the restoration of the Station was what pleased us most. Two hundred recorded their names at Barclays Bank and there were others who gave anonymously or contributed to collections.

The full list of those who contributed is published below.

Andrews and Robertson	Duraty Radio Ltd.	King's College Hospital	Scott, Dr G.L.
Annesley, Noel	Dyer, R.	Medical School	Seager, Mrs C.W.
Armstrong, Mrs M.			Sears Blok, Messrs.
Arthur, C.V.	Eagland, J.C.	Langkilde, Prof. H.E.	Seldon, Mary-Rose
	Eckersley, Cllr. Toby	Lapter, M.	Seward, Mrs D.
Bailey, Mrs I.E.	Edwards, S.H. Ltd.	Lines, Eleanor	Sharp, Elizabeth
Baker, A.J.	Ellard-Smith, B.N.	Lloyds Bank Ltd	Shorland, M.
Banty, Mrs	Elsebeach, H.W.	Lock, A.H.	Shorter, Ann
Barclays Bank Ltd	Esposito, G.A.	Longley, H.R.	Silkin, Rt. Hon. S.C.Q.C.M.P.
Bayntun, Mrs W.A.	Estates Property Investment	Longmead, David	Sime, Alison
Beasley, J.D.	Co (EPIC)	Lyle, M.J.	Sime, Ian
Beathe, M.D.		McCoy, J.	Simmons, Trevor
Beddington, Miss Nadine	Filbey, Miss D.	McKean, Charles	Smith, Miss R.E.
Bennett, Jeremy	Ford, R.A.	Magyary, Judith	Smith, R.N.
Bennett, Jill	Ford, Mrs E.E.	Marks, Stephen	Stack, Mike
Bennett, Mrs Tine	Fowler, P.E.	Marshall, W.W.	Stamp, Gavin
Betts, Miss Elizabeth		Martin, Lynda	Steel, D.
Betts, Mrs L.M.	Gelb, A.M.	Meaby, B.W.	Stewart-Roberts, A.K.
Birchenough, Mrs J.	George, C.	Midland Bank Ltd	Stewart-Roberts, Mrs P.
Black, Mrs D.F.M.	Gibberd, J.V.	Molyneux, C.M.	
Blair, M.C.	Gill, J.S.	Molyneux, Mrs C.M.	Tabor, Rosalind
Blanchard, Mrs R.J.	Great Expectations (L.G. Penney)	Morgan, E.L.	Tapp, Mrs I.
Boast, Mary	Griffiths-Jones, Mary	Morley, B.G.	Taylor, F.
Bomford, Rev Rodney	Grindley, Major C.J.	Morris, Ms M.E.	Thomas, D.A. and Co. Ltd.
Borom, Miss B.	Haigh, Carola	Murray, Andrew	Thorell, L.E.
Bowden, Russell	Haigh, Nigel	Mylne, Frank W.	Townsend, Miss J.
Bradley, A.S.	Haines, R.B.W.		Townsend, Miss J.O.
Brown, G.	Hales, G.R.	National Westminster Bank Ltd.	Tracey, S.G.
Brown, Mrs G.	Hallstrom, C.	O'Grady, Cllr. John	Tregarthen Jenkin, Ian
Burgess, A.	Harpin, Dr R.P.	Oliver, Dick	Tyack, Peter
	Harpin, Mrs R.P.		Tysall, C.J.
Calay, W.	Hoare, Miss L.M.		
Callinson, J.W.	Hugh-Jones, Mrs H.	Palin, Mike	Varreyer, S.A.
Camberwell Society	Hughes, John	Parker, R.R.	
Capon, Tim	Hutchison, N.J.P.	Parker, Elizabeth	Wates Built Homes Ltd.
Cappock, Lena		Pasley-Tyler, H.	Watson, C.B.
Cave, Alan	Innes, Mrs H.	Passage Bookshop	Welsh, B.C.A.
Charman, I.	Ivan, Michael	Payne, Cllr. W.H.	Williams, C.A.
Chelsea Building Society Ltd.		Pearce, M.J.	Williams, F.H.
Chown, Ian	Jackson, Donald	Peto, Helen	Woodd, Joanna
Clarke, T. Group of Companies	Jackson, Mabel	Phillips, J.	Woollacott, R.
Clay, W.H.	Jameson, Elizabeth	Phillips, P.	Worskett, D.H.
Conn, Eileen	Jeffries, Kenneth	Potter, Cllr. H.C.	Wright, Miss E.
Corble, D.G.	Jenkins, Mrs	Potter, Mrs D.	
Corble, A.M.	Jennings, R.D.Y.	Prechner, L.J.	
Crawley, J.E.	Johnson, Anne	Pugh, D.F.	Yung, J.A.
Crawley, Katie	Johnson, Peter		Yung, Mrs J.
Crawley, Mick	Jones, Miss G.	Quick, Diana	
	Jones, Terry		
Dawson, W.	Jordan, B.	Richards, Mrs A.	
Denis, L.R.	Jordan, Mrs O.	Robertson, G.	
Densumbe, A.	Jurecka, Mrs K.T.	Rodd, Trevor	
Densumbe, Mrs A.		Roskill, Nicholas	
Devlin, H.F.	Kidd, Ms D.E.	Ross, T.	
Dickie Dirts	Kidde-Hansen, I.	Salvation Army	
Dunn, Diana	Kidde-Hansen, P.	Sclater, H.D.	
Dunn, Mrs E.			

SOUTHWARK ENVIRONMENT TRUST

Earlier this year the Southwark Environment Trust Ltd was launched — its brief to tackle wasteland sites and derelict buildings in the Borough of Southwark. Its aim is to harness the resources of three key groups: the local community, industry and commerce and public bodies. It will take over the work previously done by the Council's Environment Fund which has spent over £2 million in the past two years improving many small sites left over by major housing and commercial developments and undertaking major environmental improvements. The most significant use of the Environment Fund in the Camberwell area has been to give grants to shop and property owners in Camberwell Church St to redecorate their shop-fronts. This provided Church Street with its "facelift".

The Trust has a similar aim to the Environment Fund — and eventually hopes to become even more ambitious, but there are significant differences. The Trust is an independent body and it is registered as a charity. Although it has three Councillors on its Council of Management and will continue to have three, the majority of the Council of Management are not in any way connected with the Council.

Questions were asked at a public meeting in September about whether the Trust was just another arm, or committee, of the Council. The answer is — definitely not. It is however reasonable — and helpful — to have Councillors on the Council of Management. Helpful because of their experience of local government and reasonable because, while the Trust is still spending money bequeathed to it by the Environment Fund and is receiving the help of skilled officials on secondment from the Council, the elected representatives of the Borough should have a role in deciding the policy of the Trust.

At the moment the Trust has a number of schemes under way or in the pipeline, mainly landscaping of derelict sites. Work is either going ahead or about to go ahead on schemes at Surrey Square, Caspian Street, Surrey Gardens, Braganza Street, Neptune Street and at the site adjoining the English Martyr's School. Plans have been drawn up for planting the embankments and cleaning the brickwork at Denmark Hill Station and, as our readers know, the Trust is intending taking over the restoration of Denmark Hill Station in conjunction with British Rail, subject to satisfactory costings being worked out.

The schemes mentioned above are principally landscaping and planting of derelict sites — very pleasing results at low cost. The Trust however is aware that it must soon undertake schemes for restoration of buildings, from which it can earn revenue to plough back into other schemes. People in Camberwell hope that Denmark Hill Station, once restored, will become a desirable commercial property which will

be let, probably to a brewery, and will bring income to the Trust.

Much of the work being carried out by the Trust will be done by Manpower Services Commission labour, for which the Government pays. Because, as a charity the Trust can apply to use MSC labour and does not have to pay for it, it does mean that schemes which on the surface seem expensive become much less so when the labour element is subtracted. For example a £20,000 scheme can cost less than £10,000 when the labour charge is met by the Manpower Services Commission and not the Trust. This depends of course on the type of work undertaken and whether it is labour intensive or not. The Trust is already working successfully with a team from MSC and it hopes to increase the numbers of its workforce in the next few months, and by doing this helping the local employment situation.

Financing of the Trust is critical. At the moment it is living on Council money designated last year for environmental schemes and now inherited from the Environment Fund. It is now exploring new ways of raising money, for example from the London Docklands Development Board, which it hopes will pay for schemes in the northern part of the Borough. The Trust can act as agent, using other people's money to complete schemes, or it can use its own money.

For some schemes it will *have* to use its own money but first it has to raise it. A campaign to persuade industries, businesses and the Banks in Southwark to contribute will be underway in the near future. Once a capital fund is added to the few thousands the Trust already has it should be possible to undertake more schemes which will generate income and so create a "rolling fund" to pay for additional schemes. The Council of Management are very concerned that the Trust should become self-financing and feel confident that it will.

The most important goal of the Trust at present is to build up its local membership and local membership is critical to the success of the whole idea. Anyone living in, working in, or simply interested in Southwark can become a member of the Southwark Environment Trust. For an individual it costs just £1 per year. As a member you are able to nominate and vote at the Annual General Meeting for candidates to be elected to the Council of Management. You can therefore have a direct say in who will be directing the activities of the Trust in future years. Also from the membership of the Trust will undoubtedly come nominations for future members of the Council of Management.

Members will also be in an advantageous position to suggest possible environmental improvement schemes to the Council of Management and officers of the Trust (although anyone may of course write to the Trust to suggest an idea for improvement).

Above all, by joining you indicate that you approve of and support the idea of an independent charitable Trust for the improvement of our environment in Southwark. So please join and each of you become individual members of the Trust! With this Newsletter you will find a Trust membership form. Please fill it in and return it with your subscription to:

Southwark Environment Trust Ltd
34 Peckham Rd, London SE5 8PX
Tel 701-3317.

The members of the Council of Management, appointed in the first year of the Trust's existence, are:

Councillor Ron Watts, as Chairman
Jeremy Bennett, Chairman Camberwell Society
Micky Bryant, General & Municipal Workers' Union
Martin Bunting, Deputy Chairman, Courage Ltd
Raymond Clarke, Chairman, Southwark Council for Voluntary Service
Councillor Ernest Davies
Roger Davies, PA International Ltd
Councillor Eddie Rowe
Richard Webb, Local Director, Barclay's Bank
(The Ven. Michael Whinney, Archdeacon of Southwark, who was originally on the Council of Management, has regretfully had to resign through pressure of other work.)

The Administrator of the Trust is David Mearns and he can be contacted at 34 Peckham Rd, SE5 8PX Tel 701-3317. He has copies of the Memorandum of Association of the Trust which can be inspected.

We will be inviting representatives of the Trust to come and address one of our public meetings early next year. In the meantime please show your support for the Trust by filling in the enclosed membership form. We would like as many members from Camberwell as possible.

Jeremy Bennett

COMMUNICATING YOUR VIEWS ON LOCAL HEALTH CARE

Gill Lucas, Secretary of King's Community Health Council, spoke to the Society's members' meeting on 15th October about the structure and function of Community Health Councils and the work of our local Community Health Council.

Community Health Councils came into being with the major reorganisation of the Health Service into a four-tier structure in 1974. Their purpose is to enable local users of the Health Service to present their views of the extent to which the Service meets their needs. Consultation is primarily at local district level, but with right of appeal to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security. King's Community Health Council consists of 29 members appoint-

ed variously by Southwark and Lambeth Borough Councils, voluntary organisations concerned with health problems and the Regional Health Authority. A membership list is published in the Health Council's Report for 1979/80-1980/81, available from the Health Council.

The Community Health Council holds a formal public meeting every two months. In addition, six consumer-orientated working groups consider the users' views on service in the areas of primary care, hospitals, child health, the mentally handicapped, the disabled and the elderly. Their work involves both looking into complaints and commenting on plans for new developments and reorganisations. Clusters of complaints can give a very good idea of where things are going wrong. For example, the treatment of children in the accident and emergency department of King's College Hospital was raising one very serious complaint a day during August, and these have been taken up.

Current planning issues include the new provision for mentally handicapped children required when the large, worn out and isolated South Darenth Park Hospital closes in ten years' time. The Area Health Authority plans a 72-bed hospital near Crystal Palace at a cost of £3-4 million. The Community Health Council argues that the mentally handicapped would have a better opportunity to share the every day pattern of living if their care was organised on a "core and cluster" model. This entails the provision of specialist and support staff distributed through a neighbourhood: in a "core" house with about ten patients and in smaller hostels nearby. The same staff would also provide specialist services to mentally handicapped children living with parents or foster parents. The capital costs of this scheme would be about half those for the Crystal Palace scheme, but running costs would be higher. At present the Area Health Authority is going ahead with the Crystal Palace scheme with the approval of Southwark Borough Council and opposition from Lambeth Borough Council which prefers the "core and cluster" proposal.

A recent review of radiotherapy services (and the renewal of the costly equipment used) has suggested that all King College Hospital's radiotherapy patients be transferred to Guy's Hospital; a petition signed by 9000 local residents and requesting the retention of the radiotherapy services at King's College Hospital has just been presented to the Regional Health Authority.

Gill Lucas also told members how the present four-tier structure of the Health Service (Department of Health and Social Security, Regional Health Authorities, Area Health Authorities and District Management Teams) will be amended on 1st April 1982. After this date, the functions of the third and fourth tiers will be combined. Under the St Thomas Reg-

ional Health Authority there will be three District Health Authorities; Camberwell (formerly the King's District), West Lambeth (formerly St Thomas' District) and North Southwark and Lewisham (formerly Guy's and Lewisham Districts). If you have any proposals or complaints about local health services, please contact King's Community Health Council at 75 Denmark Hill. The "shop" is open from 10.30 to 12.30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and at other times by appointment (703-9498).

The evening's meeting was altogether informative, constructive and friendly, for which the Society thank Gill Lucas. My only regret is that it was poorly attended; a great pity so many members missed this important topic. However, the small numbers allowed a very informal presentation, with ample opportunity to join the discussion. In particular, Helen Chown drew attention to ways one can suggest improvements to the service by speaking out on the spot; eg. to the hospital matron standing briefly at the bottom of your bed.

Elizabeth Betts

A NATURAL HISTORY OF SELBORNE OR A CAUTIONARY TALE?

During the Summer member Lucy Neville decided to make a survey of the wildlife on the Selborne site. She got there just before the developers moved in. She lists, in this article, the species that she and her ecologist friends found in one afternoon and presents her own personal viewpoint on why we should revise some of our attitudes to 'derelict' sites in the inner city areas.

Everybody who is a member of the Camberwell Society must have heard of the Selborne site; its terraces that were demolished and the neglect which followed the council's inability to develop and improve is notorious. But how many of you visited the real Selborne and know of the regeneration that happened there? How many of you appreciated the wild flora and fauna that lived in these acres for the last few years and realise what Camberwell has now lost?

In July I took two ecologists from the William Curtis Ecological Park to make a list of plants and creatures in the Selborne site before they were destroyed. It was only after I received this that I fully understood the urgency of saving something of the area before the bulldozers moved in to destroy the habitat that existed. This list accounts for only a very small area of Selborne and does not include those plants that had flowered in Spring or would in Autumn. It is limited also because of the short amount of time we could afford to take. The names may not mean anything in themselves but if you use an identification book most plants will be recognised and some of the

wildlife that depended on them. I have copied these names from my list without their respective Latin terms but if anyone should want these I will provide them.

List of species recorded during a 1¼ hour survey of the Selborne site:

<i>Sycamore</i>	<i>Yarrow</i>
<i>Couch Grass</i>	<i>Creeping Bent Grass</i>
<i>Sterile Brome Grass</i>	<i>Burdock species</i>
<i>Tall (False) Oat Grass</i>	<i>Mugwort</i>
<i>Spear-leaved Orache</i>	<i>Deadly Nightshade</i>
<i>Wild Oat</i>	<i>Black Horehound</i>
<i>Borage</i>	<i>Hedge Bindweed</i>
<i>Shepherd's Purse</i>	<i>Rose Bay Willow Herb</i>
<i>Fat Hen</i>	<i>Ox-eye Daisy</i>
<i>Feverfew</i>	<i>Creeping Thistle</i>
<i>Spear Thistle</i>	<i>Field Bindweed</i>
<i>Tufted Hair Grass</i>	<i>Wall Rocket</i>
<i>Teasel (Fuller's)</i>	<i>American Willow Herb</i>
<i>Great Willow Herb</i>	<i>Sun Spurge</i>
<i>Petty Spurge</i>	<i>Goat's Rue</i>
<i>Common Cleavers</i>	<i>Meadow Cranesbill</i>
<i>Herb Robert</i>	<i>Hawkweed species</i>
<i>Yorkshire Fog Grass</i>	<i>Wall Barley</i>
<i>Hop</i>	<i>Small Balsam</i>
<i>Prickly Lettuce</i>	<i>Meadow Vetching</i>
<i>Perrenial Rye Grass</i>	<i>Mallow</i>
<i>Scentless Mayweed</i>	<i>Black Medick</i>
<i>White Campion</i>	<i>Ribbed Melilot</i>
<i>Annual Mercury</i>	<i>Evening Primrose</i>
<i>Sainfoin</i>	<i>Poppy</i>
<i>Ribwort Plantain</i>	<i>Greater Plantain</i>
<i>Annual Meadow Grass</i>	<i>Polycnemum</i>
<i>Knotgrass</i>	<i>Redshank</i>
<i>Cherry</i>	<i>Bracken</i>
<i>Creeping Buttercup</i>	<i>Celery-leaved Crowfoot</i>
<i>Field Rose species</i>	<i>Bramble</i>
<i>Curled Dock</i>	<i>Broad-leaved Dock</i>
<i>Procumbent Pearlwort</i>	<i>Pussy Willow</i>
<i>Elder</i>	<i>Oxford Ragwort</i>
<i>Groundsel</i>	<i>Bladder Campion</i>
<i>Hedge Mustard</i>	<i>Eastern Rocket</i>
<i>Woody Nightshade</i>	<i>Prickly Sowthistle</i>
<i>Smooth Sowthistle</i>	<i>Hedge Woundwort</i>
<i>Chickweed</i>	<i>Tansy</i>
<i>Dandelion</i>	<i>Common Lime</i>
<i>Alsike Clover</i>	<i>Red Clover</i>
<i>White Clover</i>	<i>Coltsfoot</i>
<i>Stinging Nettle</i>	<i>Great Mullien</i>
<i>Common Vetch</i>	<i>Smooth Tare</i>
(The following are probably garden escapes:)	
<i>Yarrow cultivar</i>	<i>Tree of Heaven</i>
<i>("Golden Plate")</i>	
<i>Hollyhock</i>	<i>Snapdragon</i>
<i>Columbine</i>	<i>Butterfly Bush</i>
<i>Fennel</i>	<i>Cultivated Honeysuckle</i>
<i>Garden Mint</i>	<i>Garden Poppy</i>
<i>Locust Tree</i>	<i>Michaelmas Daisy</i>

Since this list was completed I have seen *Common*

Toadflax, Purple Toadflax, Lupin, Larkspur, Golden Rod, Privet, Fuschia, Everlasting Pea. Animals sighted include: *2-spot Ladybird, 7-spot Ladybird, Riband Wave moth, 6-spot Burnet moth, Large White butterfly, Meadow Brown butterfly, Honey bee, Buff-tail Bumble bee, Red-tail Bumble bee, and a charm of Goldfinches feeding on thistle-heads.*

Independently of this survey I have seen an unidentifiable bird of prey hovering over Selborne and many small burrow holes of an unidentified rodent, as well as Small Tortoiseshell butterfly.

As can be seen the list does not suggest the quantity of each species, nor does it convey how these plants provide food and shelter to Camberwell's wild fauna. In fact, for many people, it could appear as if the site is simply full of weeds or poisonous plants and insects that we would be best rid of. But think again. These plants have seeded and grown without the interfering benevolence of man. They can be said to have succeeded *in spite* of man. They control each other; they benefit each other and all depend on particular circumstances to enable them to flourish. The huge bushes of Buddleia that edge most of the sections divided by ugly corrugated iron, or the fields of thistle, for which we grow more exotic plants, revel in this very abundance. Like child that is given an expensive, gimmicky toy and finds it unappealing, so wildlife relies on 'old favourites' for survival. Unlike the child, however, lack of these could and will lead to extinction.

The notion that 'common' inevitably means less valuable dies hard. Many of those plants that have this unfortunate connotation will be ignored and lost without consideration of what effect this might have on the environment. The Selborne flora contains such plants which if intolerated elsewhere at least found a resting place within its boundaries. Fussy gardeners often dislike our native species unaware of the danger these plants are in. The idea that dereliction can lead to anything other than unsightliness is difficult to accept. Whenever the presence of human beings is revealed by broken glass and similar untidy objects they will dominate the scene far more than the wildlife. In viewing an ostensibly rubbish-filled location a more discerning eye than average is required. Where so-called weeds flourish often so does wildlife.

Human beings have very short memories when the tide of events overwhelm them, and when stretches of land are acquired for development protests soon give way either to despondency or acceptance. Making the best of a bad job is an option only for us and not for wildlife. This has been the fate of Selborne. At no expense to the general public Life has returned to Camberwell but as it is not *economic* life it really has not been noticed. It is a good thing that families could be attracted to the area, unaware of the history of Selborne, ready to spend their money to bring prosperity back to Camberwell. But it is surprising that no-

body that I am aware of suggested to the development company saving at least a portion of the wild Selborne (I came to the area only a short while ago).

Well the other day I walked past Selborne and watched the lorries and bull-dozers ripping it apart. I could not rescue the beautifully proportioned Sun Spurge or Campion or Prickly Lettuce, it would have been against the law if I had managed to. Rich irony that. But I have the seeds of a lucky minority who just happened to be ripe at the time. They are in egg boxes in a fridge awaiting germination at another place in the future. Most of Selborne's wildlife will not return to their old haunts, some have been smothered or crushed in the early stages of the site's development. Wildlife, when unrecognised or ignored, is vulnerable not only in the countryside but in our own backyards, and often disappears without anyone noticing. Wildlife does not understand boundary fences, and will not survive if restricted to well-cared for ecological parks. It may well seem sentimental to feel a sense of loss on behalf of Selborne but it must be understood that wildlife *everywhere* is in danger . . . even that residing in ecological parks.

In the final analysis what Selborne has demonstrated to me is the need for a system of retrieving material, similar to that which enables archaeologists to investigate building sites. This would lead to surveys of all potential sites of development no matter their age or location. Plants and creatures would be identified at every site and hence the possibility of saving either seeds, the entire plants or even complete areas. The places in danger may not be suitable for ecological parks, either because they are too large for management or perhaps they are too near existing parks. They might need complete isolation for their continued existence (even those who want to aid can damage). Selborne also shows how truly wild places, where no interference, be it ever so discreet, has occurred, can look after themselves. They do not need a designer to attempt to plan a picturesque temporary wild garden, they assimilate plants associated with town gardens and there is no scientific advisor restricted by an idea of ecology and balance. These areas are our only models of wildness, for all their tatty, and untidy appearance they are the *REAL thing*.

So, if you live near Selborne and you discover a weed or two taking advantage of your private plot, resist pulling the intruders out. Think where they might have come from and though you will not necessarily directly benefit, remember that the birds, butterflies, bees, and countless other insects depend on them.

Lucy Neville

ROAD OPTION 7 — AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEME FOR CAMBERWELL GREEN

The Road Option 7 Scheme was originally a plan for environmental improvement and "traffic management" at Camberwell Green, initiated by the Camberwell Society and supported by representatives of Southwark Council and the GLC Councillor for our area. The scheme has been regularly discussed in the past five years at meetings of the Camberwell Green Working Party. A large measure of agreement on it has been reached by the Society, the GLC and Southwark Council. There are however important details still to be sorted out.

The worry of members of the Society this summer was that, with the new GLC and its well-publicised lack of enthusiasm for spending money on roads, the Road Option 7 scheme might be cancelled unilaterally by the GLC, as in fact happened to other schemes in the Borough.

However, at the time of going to press, Road Option 7 survives. In August, the Chairman of the Society received a letter from Paul Moore, Vice-Chairman of the GLC's Transport Committee, confirming that the scheme was still on. Paul Moore wrote, "We are continuing with the scheme at Camberwell Green but as with all road plans, looking at the detail in the light of our overall transport policies. If any changes are envisaged I would expect them to be small, and of course you would be consulted".

In the two articles below, Jeremy Bennett argues (in a letter which was printed in the South London Press in August) that, if the principles of the Road Option 7 scheme are faithfully kept to, the results will benefit Camberwell considerably: and Jim Tanner outlines the important details that still have to be agreed and which, if implemented, will secure the environmental benefits for Camberwell which Road Option 7 was designed to achieve.

We reprint the following with acknowledgements to the South London Press:

"Why the GLC should approve Camberwell traffic scheme —

The *South London Press* (July 24 and August 4) reported that the GLC had cancelled some traffic schemes in Southwark and was reconsidering others. I would like to put on record reasons why the GLC should, in the public consultations promised in the Autumn, consider the Camberwell Green traffic management scheme favourably and to explain why the great majority of local residents support the principles of the scheme and wish to see it completed as soon as possible.

The Camberwell Green "Road Option 7" scheme is a traffic management scheme involving a bypass to the north east of the Green for traffic moving West-East. It will improve conditions for everyone living or working near the Green.

It is, above all, a local scheme initially proposed by local

residents to benefit local people. It is emphatically not a scheme to increase traffic capacity and if it were, all residents would naturally oppose it. It is the product of nearly 10 years of consultation between the GLC, Southwark Council and residents of Camberwell and it is publicly supported by our GLC councillor Harvey Hinds.

As planned, the principles of the scheme meet all the major criteria which the new GLC insist should be the priorities in considering any new traffic scheme. These criteria can be summarized as:

1. improving the environment
2. improved provision for buses, pedestrians and cyclists
3. better access to commercial premises and
4. greater road safety.

Taking these criteria in turn:

1. The environment in Camberwell will be improved by taking eastbound heavy traffic on the planned bypass away from the already congested Green, which is Camberwell's shopping centre. The bypass will involve minimum disruption because it will run through what is now a largely derelict area.
2. There will be improved access for pedestrians to the Green and shopping centre (planned to begin construction this year) with widened pavements, special bus lanes and reduction of non-public transport. We would like to see provision for cyclists brought into the plans.
3. Access will be made much easier to the new shopping centre both by public transport to the Green and for pedestrians. Particular local importance is attached to the plans to close Daneville Rd., to through-traffic, which will enable residents of the new Selborne Estate easy pedestrian access to the new shopping centre. This could, when the estate is complete in about two years time, involve the daily movement of approximately 500 people to the Green area who would not, if the scheme goes through, have to cross one of the busiest roads in Camberwell.
4. Road safety will be improved (a) with the closure of Daneville Rd., (b) by diverting heavy through-traffic away from the shopping centre at the Green and (c) by proposed restriction of traffic in Grove Lane, which also forms part of the "Road Option 7" plan. In September, as part of an ILEA re-organisation, a further 200 young children are being moved to a newly enlarged nursery, infants and junior school, Lyndhurst School, in Grove Lane.

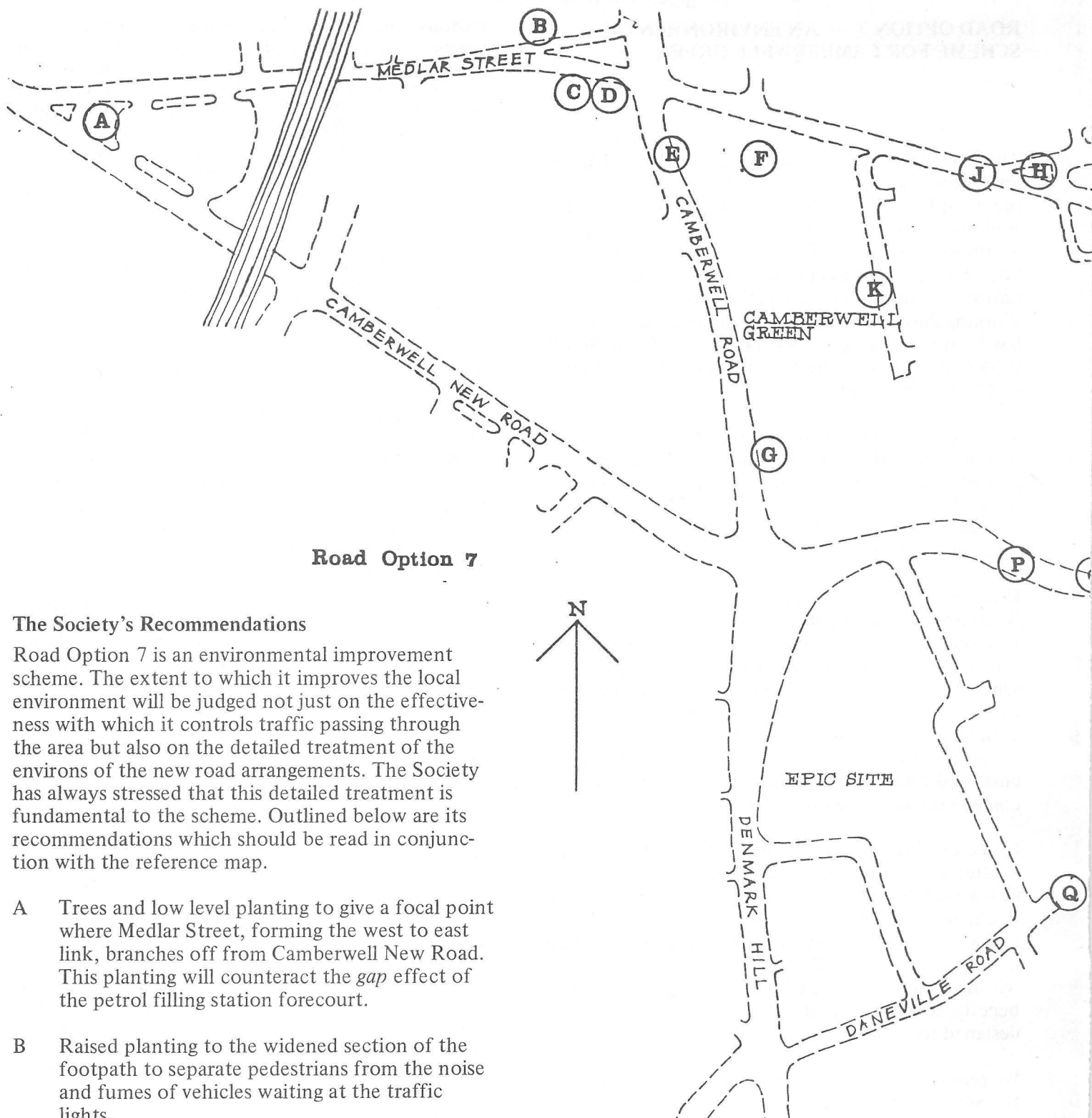
There have been several serious accidents in recent years from fast-moving rush hour traffic. The provision of a "lollipop lady" would not be sufficient to cope with the danger of a total of over 350 children in the 5-11 age group, many of whom will have to cross Grove Lane in rush hour. The scheme would ensure the safety of these children.

There is one further point worth making. The principles of the "Road Option 7" scheme are accepted by the Camberwell Society which represents over 600 residents of Camberwell and, we believe, by many others who come to work or shop at the Green.

However the detailing of the scheme to obtain the maximum environmental benefit is most important and still needs to be carefully considered.

If accepted as the environmental scheme it was always intended to be, "Road Option 7" may yet enable Camberwell Green to become once again the focus of life in Camberwell — a "village green" to be used by locals for fetes and festivals as for centuries it has always been.

In recent years it has been a patch of grass cut off on all four sides by heavy traffic — the green cut off from the heart of Camberwell. — **Jeremy Bennett**



Road Option 7

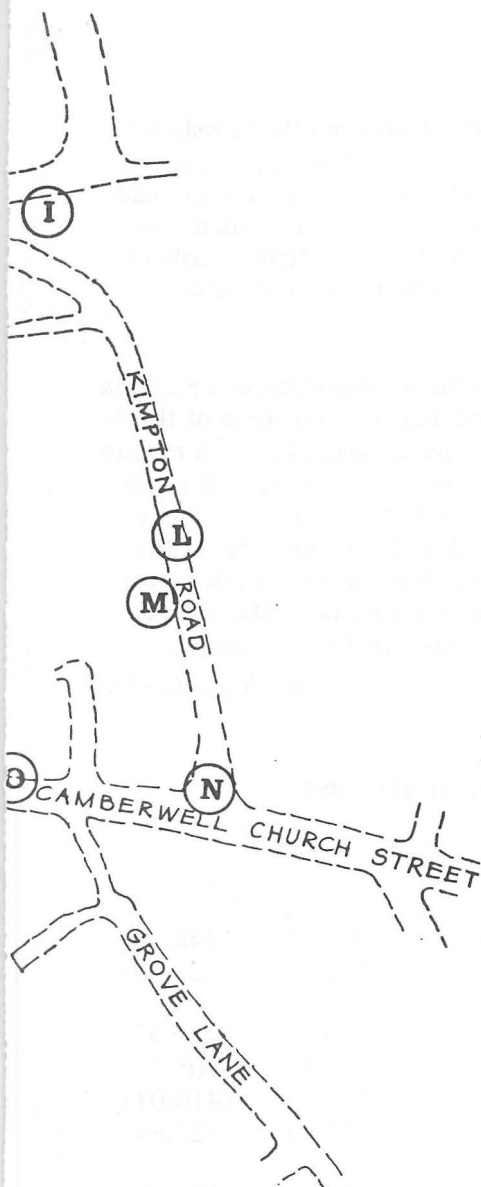
The Society's Recommendations

Road Option 7 is an environmental improvement scheme. The extent to which it improves the local environment will be judged not just on the effectiveness with which it controls traffic passing through the area but also on the detailed treatment of the environs of the new road arrangements. The Society has always stressed that this detailed treatment is fundamental to the scheme. Outlined below are its recommendations which should be read in conjunction with the reference map.

- A Trees and low level planting to give a focal point where Medlar Street, forming the west to east link, branches off from Camberwell New Road. This planting will counteract the *gap* effect of the petrol filling station forecourt.
- B Raised planting to the widened section of the footpath to separate pedestrians from the noise and fumes of vehicles waiting at the traffic lights.
- C The Camberwell Beauty (from the Samuel Jones factory in Orpheus Street) mounted on the proposed realigned high wall marking the approach into Camberwell.
- D Treatment to the end wall of the building otherwise left bare by demolition of adjoining buildings.
- E Two lanes of traffic in each direction (as at present) served by the existing road width with slight realignment of the footpath close to the junction. This enables the retention of the

Father Red Cap and the hedgerow which is important in defining the visual enclosure of the Green. It also gives consistency to the width of traffic lanes with the same road in Denmark Hill and will result in a substantial cost saving.

- F Retain the Father Red Cap (see above) and increase the enclosure of the north end of the Green by encouraging the construction of buildings along this line. A site of 0.1 hectares would be available with rear access to buildings facing south across the Green. The buildings should be three to four storeys in height and could accom-



modate such uses as covered market, library, shops, cafe, restaurant or wine bar, nursery, community arts centre, cinema club, theatre, community hall with offices above. It would make a suitable location for a tube station. Commercially developed, the site would bring revenue for further environmental improvements.

- G Retain the planting within the Green and the fence on the west and south sides only and introduce suitable park lighting.
- H Proposed junction realigned to reduce the scale

and area of unusable space by reusing the existing D'Eynsford Road/Harvey Road junction. This would discourage the use of Elmington Road as a rat run. It would also be cheaper than the official proposals.

- I New planting giving a focal point to the outside of the bend and helping shield D'Eynsford bedrooms from headlights. The inside of the bend should be landscaped but leaving traffic clear sight of the road ahead.
- J Additional pedestrian crossing for residents of the D'Eynsford and Elmington estates and elderly people on the Peabody estate (north). The crossing would encourage the use of the Green itself by residents of Camberwell.
- K Camberwell Road East to be terminated at the entrance to the Peabody estate. South of this the existing road should be removed, grassed over and planted.
- L New Kimpton Road should be realigned to follow more closely the existing line, thus eliminating the expanse of pavement on the east side on the official scheme and reducing noise nuisance to the D'Eynsford estate.
- M New planting along the west side of Kimpton Road.
- N Realignment of the proposed Church Street junction in order to lessen its visual impact and retain intact the terrace immediately to the west. This would eliminate the threat to the whole of this terrace implied in the official proposals.
- O Footpath widened as a consequence of reducing the eastbound traffic to one lane. This will improve the environment for the pedestrian and increase the commercial viability of the shops on the north side.
- P Reinstate the existing pedestrian crossing to the east of the proposed bus layby so as to minimise jay walking, improve safety and provide better access to the Green.
- Q Restrict the eastern end of Daneville Road to pedestrian traffic only thus providing better access to the shops for Selborne and nearby residents.

Camberwell Grove

The Society feels strongly that some form of restriction should be placed on through traffic along Camberwell Grove and it will shortly be putting forward plans to Southwark to this effect.

Jim Tanner

TREASURER'S REPORT 1980/81

The audited accounts for 1980/81 are set out below. Our receipts were about £700 more than last year but include some £200 from sales of T shirts and a very generous donation of £400 from one benefactor to whom we are most grateful. Sales of publications were rather lower but we perforce relied less on sales of Blanch's History, of which we have a very few copies now left. Subscription income reflects the new scale of membership dues introduced last year.

Payments include a large item of £1,086.75 for printing of new greetings cards which are mainly still in stock and will bring us additional income for the future. The costs of printing the newsletter continue to rise but we had one 'bumper' issue which alone cost nearly £300 to print.

We aim to cover the costs of printing the newsletter and general expenses out of our subscription income: once again I make a plea for subscriptions to be paid promptly; otherwise we have to give up much time and effort which can be better spent than in collecting subscriptions. Many subscriptions are still in arrears.

In total, payments last year slightly exceeded receipts but we have a useful bank balance and some of this is to be spent in printing some more cards which remain so popular. We also have substantial stocks of publications which are not shown in the accounts. Three years ago our total annual receipts were only £500. This growth in income has been an important factor in enabling us to expand our activities. Our thanks are due to the Honorary Auditor Lindsay Balleny.

Nicholas Roskill

THE CAMBERWELL SOCIETY AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30th APRIL 1981

PAYMENTS

	£
(37.50) Hire of Hall	52.50
(315.20) Printing of Newsletter	713.50
(853.18) Other Printing	1086.75
(13.00) Subscriptions Paid	20.00
Postage Stationery	
Copying and General	
(165.77) Expenses	236.76
(473.53) Shop expenses	128.88
— Purchase of T Shirts	195.53
— Xmas Party and Entertaining of Speakers	100.84
— Denmark Hill Station	
— Fund	100.00
— Art Competition Prizes	60.00
(15.00) Special Items	84.65
(£1873.18)	£2779.41
(CR 184.81) Excess of receipts over payments	—
(£2057.99)	£2779.41

RECEIPTS

	£	£
Membership subscriptions	697.60	(440.30)
Donations	416.00	(23.56)
Sale of Publications		
Greetings Cards	976.03	(545.33)
Blanch's History	240.50	(505.50)
Other	105.62	(410.01)
Interest Received	72.95	(23.89)
T Shirt Sales &		
Miscellaneous items	239.19	(109.40)
	2747.89	(2057.99)
Excess of payments over receipts	31.52	—
	£2779.41	(£2057.99)

BALANCE SHEET AT 30th APRIL 1981

(444.72) Balance at 30th April 1980	629.53
(184.81CR) Excess of payments over receipts	31.52
(£629.53)	£598.01

Bank Balance as at 30th April 1981

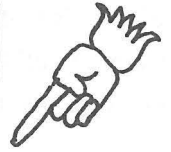
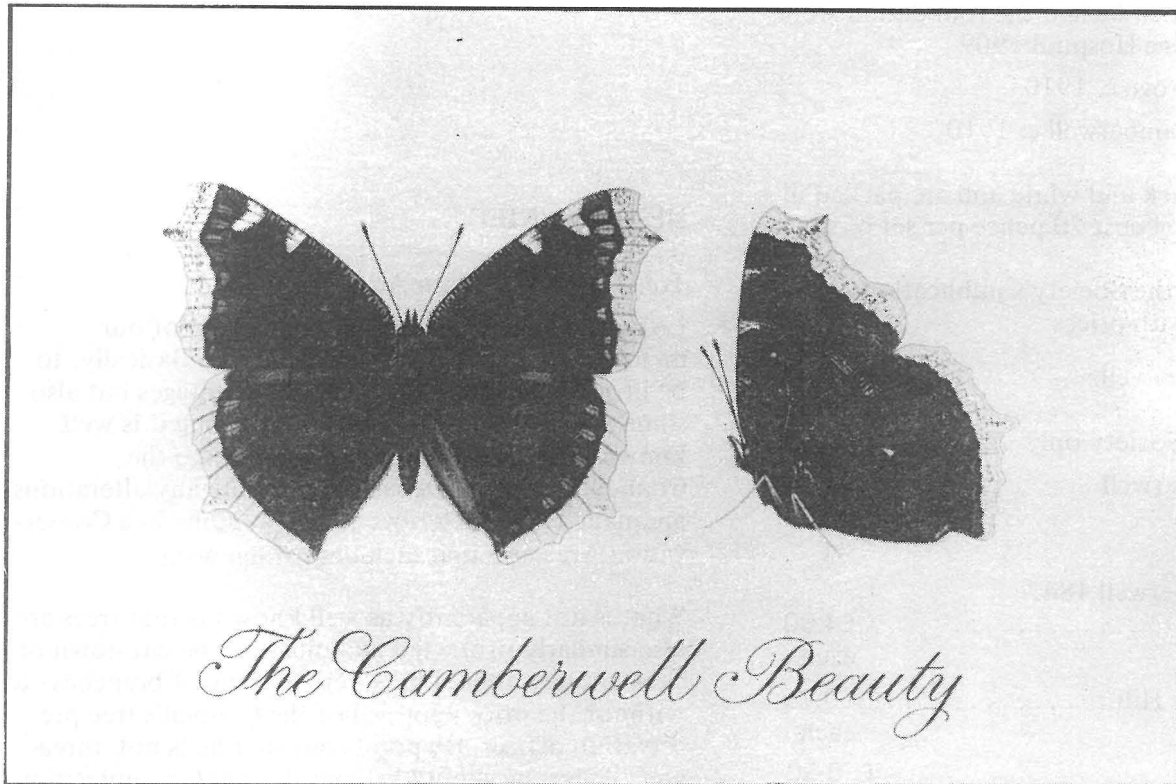
Current Account	62.22	(266.69)
Deposit Account	535.79	(362.84)
	£598.01	(£629.53)

Previous year's figures are shown in brackets

PUBLICATIONS

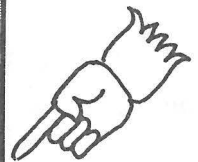
There have been two new publications since the last Newsletter: a card showing the Camberwell Beauty and a set of six old postcards of Camberwell.

This card is in colour and is our contribution to the "Year of the Butterfly". It is of course Camberwell's own butterfly, which unfortunately is extremely rarely seen anywhere in Britain now.



The card measures approximately 6" x 4" and is supplied with envelope. The price per set of 4 cards is £1.40.

This card is one of the new set of six old postcards published by the Society in October. They all show Camberwell at the turn of the century. The full description of the cards is as follows:



1. Denmark Hill showing horse-drawn buses and the Golden Lion Public House c. 1899
2. Trams in Camberwell Church Street c. 1905
3. Ruskin Park, Camberwell c. 1900
4. Denmark Hill decorated for the visit of King Edward VII when he laid the foundation stone of King's College Hospital 1909
5. Camberwell Grove c. 1910
6. Grove Lane, Camberwell c. 1910

The cards are all black and white and are packed in polythene bags. They cost 70 pence per set of six.

Here is a full list of the Society's publications currently in stock with prices:

The Parish of Camberwell by W.H. Blanch	£15.00
to Members of the Society only	£13.00
Views of Old Camberwell (14 prints per set)	£4.00 set

Large Map of Camberwell 1842 by Dewhurst	£4.00 each
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Small Map of Grove Hill	£0.75 each
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Blight Survey	£ 0.50
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CARDS:

The Camberwell Beauty (set of 4 cards)	£ 1.40 each
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View of London	£ 0.40 each
(£3.50 for 10)	

Grove Lane	£ 0.40 each
(£3.50 for 10)	

House on the Green	£ 0.35 each
(£3.25 for 10)	

Camberwell Green (Black & white)	£ 0.20 each
(£1.80 for 10)	

Denmark Hill (Camberwell Palace)	£ 0.20 each
(£1.80 for 10)	

Coldharbour Lane	£ 0.20 each
(£1.80 for 10)	

Camberwell Dispatch Carrier	£ 0.20 each
(£1.80 for 10)	

St Giles Church	£ 0.20 each
(£1.80 for 10)	

Bessie	£ 0.15 each
(£1.25 for 10)	

Post Card of Camberwell Green	£ 0.06 each
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New Series of Postcards of Old Camberwell 1899-1910 Set No 1	£ 0.70 set
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We would like to remind our readers that all publications can be obtained from: Albert Densumbe, 36 Grove Lane, SE5 Tel 703-4824; or The Passage Bookshop, Canning Cross, SE5 Tel 274-7606; and some from Stone Trough Books, Camberwell Grove, SE5.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trees in Conservation Areas

Living in a Conservation Area (as many of our members do) can be slightly confusing. Basically, to be in a Conservation Area brings advantages but also some responsibilities. Generally speaking it is well known that application must be made to the Council's Planning Department before any alterations are made to the exteriors of any building in a Conservation Area and that includes garden walls.

What is not apparently as well known is that trees are also similarly protected and must not be cut down or substantially altered by severe lopping of branches etc without the prior approval of the Council's tree preservation officer. He points out that he is not unreasonable but he should be consulted *before* any action is taken over a tree. The fine for wrongdoers is expensive at £450!

The Tree Preservation Officer is JOHN SEARLE and he is at the Town Hall, Peckham Rd. Tel 703-6311 ext. 230 in office hours. So please consult him if you are in any doubt. If you suspect someone of contravening tree regulations John Searle would like to know. If there is a problem at a weekend he can be telephoned at home. Although he does not publish his home telephone number he has given it to the Society. All executive committee members have it, so if you think that somebody is about to remove a tree, which they shouldn't, on a Saturday, please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

Welcomes

To Dickie Dirts who, from elsewhere in this Newsletter, readers will know substantially helped the Denmark Hill Station Fund. They opened on 24th October in the old Odeon Cinema on Denmark Hill. They plan this store to become their biggest in London. They are open 7 days a week from 9am until 11pm and are a welcome shot-in-the-arm for Camberwell. Traders on Denmark Hill report a noticeable increase in their business since Dickie Dirts opened. Also to Robert Kee who recently presented the BBC's Television History of Ireland. And to Lorraine ('Luton Airport') Chase, one of South London's most famous faces. Both have bought houses in Camberwell.

Arsonists at Work

We all know what happened to Denmark Hill Station. In recent weeks vandals have tried to burn down two more Camberwell properties, both empty. In the Summer No 2 Grove Lane, next to the beautifully restored Jephson Street, was set alight and badly burned. Jephson St was rehabilitated by a particularly fruitful cooperation of the Council, Wandle Housing Association and the Camberwell School of Arts and Craft. We believe that No 2 Grove Lane was also intended for conversion by Wandle for the School. The other property, burnt during October, is the GLC-owned shop at No 12 Camberwell Church St which had been recently boarded up and which members will recall was our temporary shop last Christmas.

The Chairman has written to the Borough Surveyor and Treasurer to ask if action can be taken immediately over No 2 Grove Lane to prevent more damage and if the Council can put pressure on the GLC to take positive steps either to sell or repair No 12 Camberwell Church St.

Selborne

The Selborne development is moving ahead rapidly. The ground is being cleared. The houses are expected to be ready in about eighteen months time.

EPIC Site

There is progress to report here. Demolition of the old Samuel Jones factory has begun and we are told by EPIC that building work will begin on site in February. The outstanding agreements on the Golden Lion and Tiger Yard (reported in our last issue) have been resolved. The only delay notified is that EPIC have not yet been able to agree terms with a supermarket operator. However they expect to be able to do this within the next six weeks.

EPIC should be much encouraged by the developments at Selborne and by the arrival of Dickie Dirts. The Society has made representations to the agents acting for EPIC about the main supermarket operator. It is felt that unless there is a *high quality operator* shoppers will not be drawn to Camberwell Green and will continue to go elsewhere for their main food shopping, ie to Sainsbury's at Forest Hill. It is essential to have a high grade supermarket to attract people to Camberwell Green.

Camberwell Beauty in Orpheus St

The Camberwell Beauty — ceramic version — on the old Samuel Jones factory in Orpheus St will be preserved. It is in the contract of the demolition contractors to save it. However we do not believe a place has yet finally been found for it.

We believe it should be placed in the new shopping centre and are asking the Planning Department to suggest this to EPIC's architects.

The butterfly is not a registered trade mark (one reason given for not incorporating it in the shopping centre) unless it also has the name of the firm, in this case Samuel Jones, beneath it. The ceramic version in Orpheus St does not display the name of the firm.

So please use it EPIC!

Thames Flooding

We would remind members that parts of Camberwell are in the probable flood area if the Thames were to burst its banks. According to the experts this is most likely between September to March and the Thames flood barrier will not be completed until 1982. This may well be the last possible Winter for a flood. We hope not — but if there is one, do you know what to do? Write for a leaflet to:

The Emergency Planning Officer
Freeport
London SE5 8BR

Camberwell Society Shop

At the time of going to press it does not seem likely that we shall have a temporary shop this Christmas unless we can find premises. However we are looking around and Alison Sime, Convenor of the Shop Subcommittee, would be glad to hear of anyone who would be prepared to help out from the end of November until Christmas. Her telephone number is 693-8250.

If we have no shop, publications can always be obtained from:

Albert Densumbe, 36 Grove Lane, SE5
Tel 703-4824

or

The Passage Bookshop, Canning Cross SE5
Tel 274-7606

Please buy the Society's wide range of cards at Christmas.

President Talks to Telegraph Hill Conservation Society

Nadine Beddington, President of the Society, accepted an invitation from the Telegraph Hill Society to talk about the Camberwell Society. It was an informal meeting and Nadine decided to tell the story of the development of the Society from her own recollections as Chairman from 1969 - 1976. She traced the change in the Society from a small resident's association into a successful amenity group with a membership of over 600, recognised and consulted by the London Borough of Southwark.

"The Society has had its successes and failures", she said. "Probably the greatest successes were Road Option 7 at Camberwell Green (not yet implemented) and the saving of Addington Square from being gobbled up by Burgess Park. The greatest failure was

not to save Selborne." She did however explain at length all the measures which the Society took to try and convince the Council that demolition of Selborne was wrong, including the final High Court action.

She also gave details of the Road Option 7 Scheme at Camberwell Green and of the work of the Camberwell Green Working Party. She was optimistic that the scheme would be accepted by the GLC because it was primarily an environmental scheme to "manage the traffic problem" rather than a road improvement scheme which traditionally creates greater traffic capacity and to which in general this GLC administration is opposed.

She talked about the Society's Newsletter, its publications and its various campaigns, mentioning in particular the Appeal for Denmark Hill Station.

She distributed examples of our literature to her audience and then answered a number of questions from an interested and grateful audience who felt that they had learnt something from our experiences in Camberwell.

Traffic Restrictions in Grove Lane

During September and October residents of Grove Lane, together with the parents of children at Lyndhurst School, signed a petition requesting both the GLC and Southwark Council to take action on the growing traffic problem in Grove Lane.

Parents were worried about danger from traffic to schoolchildren, many of whom have to cross Grove Lane during the rush hour. The problem has been made worse by the increasing number of cars and lorries using Grove Lane as a "rat run" and by the fact that roughly 200 more children have been, or are about to be, moved to the school in Grove Lane from their premises in Lyndhurst Way. The petitions were supported by the School authorities, the Love Walk Hostel for the Disabled and by the Society, which pointed out that a traffic restriction in Grove Lane had in fact already been proposed in the plans of the Road Option 7 scheme (see article elsewhere in this Newsletter). At the beginning of November the Highways and Works Committee of the Council agreed to recommend that a restriction should be imposed at the top (south end) of Grove Lane preventing traffic turning right from upper Grove Lane (ie the main road sometimes called 'Champion Park' which passes the Salvation Army buildings) into lower Grove Lane. Additional safety measures are to be discussed, with the school and Love Walk Hostel in mind, and a further restriction is to be considered at the bottom end (north end) of Grove Lane to prevent traffic speeding the other way.

The Borough Engineer is being asked to make his recommendations to the GLC — and residents, parents and those from the Love Walk Hostel are hopeful they will be accepted.

TRAFFIC BLIGHT SURVEY HELPERS NEEDED

Ian Chown is the convenor of the Traffic and Transport Sub-Committee of the Society.

Two years ago, the Camberwell Society conducted and published its Blight Survey of Camberwell. We examined every building and plot of land within a two square kilometre area centred on Camberwell Church Street, and found over one thousand cases of environmental blight, and eight hectares (20 acres) of derelict land.

Now we want to do *Traffic*.

The environmental effects of heavy and fast road traffic, noise, badly maintained roads and pavements, and insensitively designed roads and junctions were not properly covered by the 1979 survey. They clearly warrant a survey of their own.

In order to carry out the survey, we need to assemble a team of helpers, preferably people who use the roads and pavements of the area, and who already have a good mental picture of the problems. We also hope to get a balance of views, from members of the Society spread across the whole extent of Camberwell.

Area of Survey:

As traffic is intrinsically a more spread-out problem than the neglect of property, we are tackling a larger geographical area than before: twice the area in fact. The map shows the area we intend to cover; four square kilometres centred on Camberwell.

The study area includes all of the Camberwell Society area, plus a bit more in each direction. We should like to hear from members of the Society (and friends and relations) in the survey area, and particularly from people living nearer to the periphery of the square and the corners, where the Society has fewer members than at the centre of Camberwell.

Scope of the Survey

Our initial list of things to cover in the survey includes the following:

- Heavy flows of freight traffic
- Heavy flows of commuter traffic
- 24 hour flows of traffic (early morning speeders)
- Over-noisy junctions (eg freight starting up-hill)
- Dangerous junctions
- Dangerous conjunctions of traffic and pedestrians (eg schools)
- Dangerous conjunctions of motor traffic and cyclists
- Parking on pavements/lack of parking restrictions (or otherwise)
- Quality of pavements and footpaths
- Barriers to pedestrian or cyclist accessibility, and potential for improvements
- Bus stops — potential improvements in provision

- or co-ordination
- Pot holes
- Poor street furniture (street lights, bollards, railings etc)
- Scope for public transport improvements (better or more stations, extension of Bakerloo or any other LT line)

We should be grateful for:

1. Suggestions for other things to be included in the survey (relative to roads, pavements, traffic or transport)
2. Personal lists of places affected by types of blight above. Please send us your own lists of pet unfavourite stretches of road or pavement, or places where you habitually have problems crossing the road or negotiating a cycle through traffic.
3. Volunteers for the survey team, to attend probably a minimum of two evening meetings to pin-point, round a large scale map, the points of stress in Camberwell; and to help in an 'on the ground' survey of the streets.

Offers in these three categories should be sent to Ian Chown at 149 Chadwick Road, SE15, telephone 639 9587.

Ian Chown

PROBLEMS AT THE RAG YARD – CAMBERWELL GROVE

Noise and general disturbance from the Rag Yard in Camberwell Grove have been getting worse since the beginning of the year. There have been a number of complaints about this made to the Society by members living in Camberwell Grove and these have been passed on to the Council. A meeting took place in the early summer between the Society, represented by Chairman Jeremy Bennett, Ian Barbie and Vernon Gibberd and the proprietor of the Yard. Although this was friendly and it was made very clear that the Society was in no way opposed to people running small businesses in the area, there has been no real improvement. A barrister on the Executive Committee, explains the current position:

Since January 1981 the Rag Yard situated at the rear of No 47 Camberwell Grove has greatly expanded its activities to the detriment of the peaceful atmosphere of this conservation area.

The yard has a varied history; for many years up to 1974 it was used for rag-sorting on a small scale — with deliveries and collections made by horse-carts or van. Then followed two years of inactivity, broken by the brief presence of a non-ferrous metal merchant, after which it fell once again into disuse.

Since the beginning of the year the change has been dramatic, and for the local residents, traumatic. The present firm moved from Docklands to the quiet

shores of Camberwell following a fix at its then site. While its environmental impact then was minimal — here it is significant.

Improvements to the yard followed in the form of a new concrete apron, the installation of mechanical balers and a mechanical press, and the use of noisy and polluting diesel forklift trucks.

The volume of trade is now such as to necessitate the stacking up of large lorries in the Grove, often double parked, awaiting the attention of the forklift trucks. Both motorists and pedestrians are put at risk, while the build-up of diesel odour and noise have at times rendered unusable not only some nearby gardens but even front rooms of adjoining houses. The operations extend into part of the weekend.

In an attempt to resolve the problem, the Society has already had a meeting with the proprietor to explain that while it would not wish to hinder any firm which provides even a small measure of local employment, yet his method and scale of operation has now become such as to cause increasing concern and dislocation to nearby residents.

As there has been little improvement since that meeting, the Society has now sent a detailed submission to Southwark's Borough Planner asking him to use his powers under the Town & Country Planning Act 1971 to regulate activity in the yard. Local residents have also sent a carefully argued memorandum of complaint.

The Society's letter was sent in August and duly acknowledged. In the absence of any proper response by Southwark Council a further request for action was dispatched shortly before this Newsletter went to press. In the light of the Council's reply (when it arrives) the Society will consider what further action to take to protect the interests of its members in Camberwell Grove.

HISTORICAL ENQUIRIES

The Executive Committee of the Society has recently reviewed its policy concerning the historical enquiries that the Secretary has been receiving and resolved, with regret, that the Society could not undertake enquiries about particular family genealogies, the location of houses of former Camberwell citizens or general requests for information about the history of the borough from individual members or other enquiries with an interest in Camberwell. This is not because we are not interested in local history. Indeed, the essence of conservation springs from history. Our program of members' meetings will continue to include occasional talks in the local past; the Society has reprints of maps and old views for sale (available from Albert Densumbe, 36 Grove Lane) and will continue to publish these as opportunity offers; and the Editors of the Newsletter continues to welcome articles on historical subjects. Rather, it is because the members of the Executive Committee wish to give priority to current issues and find that

the number of these with which the Society is involved use all the time they can spend in the Society's business.

For those interested in local history, however, a useful guide to potential sources that are usually available is provided by W.G. Hoskin's *"Local History in England"* (Longmans, 2nd Ed. 1972). The principal works on the history of Camberwell are:

D. Allport, 1841. *History of Camberwell*: W.H. Blanch. 1875. *The Parish of Camberwell* (facsimile reprint 1976, published by Stephen Marks for the Camberwell Society). H.J. Dyos, 1977. *Victorian Suburb: a study of the growth of Camberwell*. (Leicester University Press). In addition, J. Johnstone Abraham's *Lettsom: his life, times, friends and descendants* (Heinemann, 1933) is a lively and informative biography of a local worthy, and there are several histories of schools and other aspects of Camberwell.

The Borough of Southwark's Local Studies Library, a collection of archives, books, prints, maps, newspaper cuttings and photographs, is now housed in the John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street. Dulwich Reference Library, Lordship Lane, also holds a collection of books on local history. The Cuming Museum, housed in Newington District Library, 155-157 Walworth Road, is chiefly concerned with Southwark archaeology and history.

So much for sources. If any member does have a particular interest and aptitude for local history, and wishes to address the Society, please contact the Meeting's Secretary (Eleanor Lines, 97 Camberwell Grove) or write an article for the Newsletter (Editor Jim Tanner, 107 Camberwell Grove). Finally is there any member who would like to pick up any of the miscellaneous historical enquiries which reach the Secretary? If so, please contact Jill Westwood, (40 Camberwell Grove).

Elizabeth Betts

ACTION PLEASE

ACTION PLEASE

In the last issue we started the ACTION PLEASE column. We are pleased to report results:

- 1) **Contravention of Conservation Area Regulations** at 123 Camberwell Road. The Director of Development for Southwark has informed us that air conditioning units have been installed on the exterior front of a listed Georgian Terrace in a Conservation Area without planning permission or listed building consent. The owners have been asked to remove the units or to make application to retain them (which we trust would be refused). If they fail to adopt either course of action the Council will seek authority to take enforcement action to secure the removal of the units.

The Council's Environmental Health Division have confirmed that satisfactory units could be installed within the building to provide adequate heating/cooling and ventilation.

2) Squatters in Orpheus Street

The illegal car breakers' business in Orpheus St has been removed now that EPIC have begun demolition. The site is now securely boarded up to prevent similar intruders.

However we would like to see action on NO 2 GROVE LANE and NO 12 CAMBERWELL CHURCH STREET (see *News in Brief*).

Would readers wishing to contribute items for the ACTION PLEASE Column contact any member of the Executive Committee.

1981 SUBSCRIPTIONS

May we remind members who have not already paid that the 1981 subscriptions are now due.

Family or Household Membership for those living at one address is £3 per year.

Individual Membership is £2 per year.

Students and Pensioners 50p per year.

Please pay promptly as the Society depends on members' subscriptions to carry out all its various activities on your behalf.

Members who have forgotten to pay may well be asked for their subscription when this Newsletter is delivered.

MEMBERS MEETING – CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Come and answer questions about Camberwell and its history at 8.15 on 10/12/81 at the United Reform Church, Grove Lane. Spend the next few weekends reminding yourself of the details that make the area unique, and see if you can win a bottle for Christmas! There will be a party after the quiz – details will follow.



THE SOUTHWARK ENVIRONMENT TRUST.

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Date _____

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