

PEPYS Diary

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

20 Years of Pepys

The next Pepys Diary will be a special '20 years of Pepys' edition. The estate was opened in July 1966 and we are interested in talking to people who have been living on Pepys from the time it opened. If you have, then contact the DIARY on 692 4415.

MAY & JUNE 1986

OPEN AT LAST



THE DRAGON GARDEN
IS OFFICIALLY OPENED
BY THE MAYOR



MAY POLE DANCING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

Yes, it's finally open — and the day of the opening was even blessed with the best weather we've had all year. Hundreds of people turned up to join in the occasion and absorb the festive atmosphere. The DIARY will be keeping you informed about any future work that might be taking place in the garden. In the meantime here are some photographs from the opening day. Inside there is an article about how the head of the dragon itself was actually made.

more
photographs
inside on P.2



Dragon Garden



MORE PICTURES FROM MAY THE 1ST. CLOWN CAVALCADE WERE THERE!



FACE PAINTING



AT THE SOUND OF A FANFARE SMOKE POURED OUT OF THE MOUTH



MATHEW KELLY THE SURPRISE GUEST.



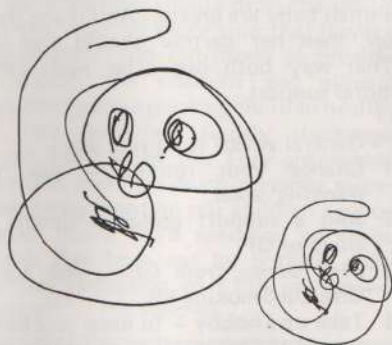
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CAME AND MADE THE DAY A SUCCESS

TA. NEWS

CREDIT WHERE ITS DUE

There is one service that the TA must give credit to, and that is the co-operation that we have from the liaison officers Charles Sawyer and June Lineham. Their concern at all times in helping our committee is in contrast to the council's committees in dealing with the never-ending saga of who will remove rubble from estate areas.

I have no doubt that the new local repair depot based under the Health Centre is a move in the right direction. However only time will tell. With the number of tenants living on this estate, and the space provided by the obsolete garage areas under Barfleur House, there is room for a maintenance depot to cover all tenants' repairs.



CRITICAL

The TA is very critical of Lewisham's Housing Tenants Charter. There is no doubt that there is room for a more flexible approach in dealing with all aspects of this document. There appears to be little concern to offset complaints about noisy anti-social tenants, the parking on paved areas, dogs messing around the estate areas. The council pay a bonus on the assumption that the caretakers and cleaners carry out their commitment of work for which they are already paid to do. Even so, the TA is in constant contact in an attempt to improve this very important service.

I would like to have the comments of tenants, bearing in mind that our comments are based on personal visits of the estate in general. Having been chairman over the past ten years, I have always stressed that this service should be given top priority. After all, the tenants' health is at risk. Also, it has always been a problem to contact anyone who can really implement the service which tenants are paying for.

May I welcome Dave O'Hara from Bembridge House, who has become a Block rep. His interest is appreciated.

I would remind all tenants of their right to contact the TA by dropping a note into 7 Gransden House or attend our monthly meetings, which are on the first Wednesday in each month, starting at 7.30pm, to discuss any outstanding housing problems.

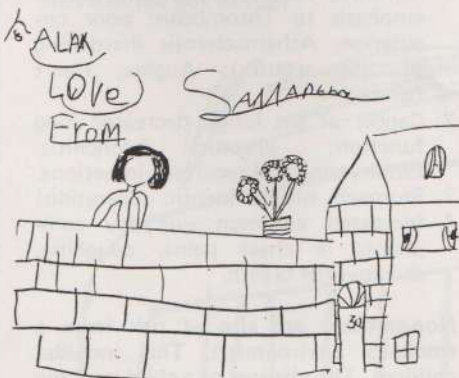
TENANT'S RATES

The question of tenants' rates being increased and the need to improve the estate areas to bring them up to standard, is very debatable, and this Council must play a more constructive part in ensuring that services to which the tenants are entitled are forthcoming.

There is a fear among tenants living in the Argosy and Lanyard area that an Alsatian dog living in Argosy House area will bite someone unless it is kept under proper supervision.

There is no doubt that tenants like to visit the bar club room on Sunday and enjoy a quiet drink and a chat. It seems to me for some unknown reason that a disco blaring out with members having to speak very loud to make themselves heard, is termed entertainment.

London Weekend Television's long-delayed series on crime and punishment started at 11 am on 6th April, the title being *Once a thief*. The footage recorded on Pepys Estate was screened on 20th April, although Hugh Maloney, who represents mainly the interest of the Safe Neighbourhood Unit, was the centre of the filming. Much to our regret, the TA's point of view was left out. It was essential that our outspoken comments representing tenants' interest, should have been included.



I don't agree with this council's housing policy. It is not in the interest of the ratepayers with its pathetic part-time every-day service; one wonders why some urgent reorganisation is not forthcoming. It is our intention to work with any local authority if commonsense prevails; but not to the

continued on P.4



by Fay Roberts.



TA NEWS

continued from P.3

extent of failing to carry out our commitment to tenants.

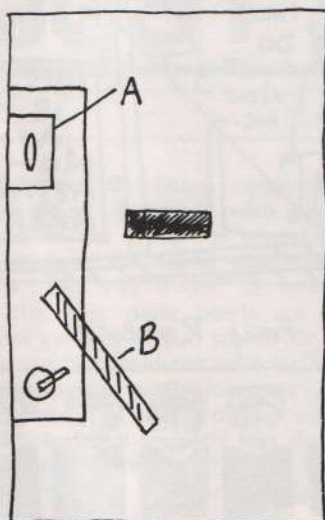
Bill Elliot is very complimentary about myself and the TA committee, which is certainly appreciated. I was not, however, aware that some accommodation at the Terrace was empty for about 7 months. One reason, I would assume that such a flat was empty was because of some major improvement being carried out. However, this council has very little control over their workforce, and the fact that ratepayers' money is lost when flats in general are left empty on this estate, is no surprise to me. In fact the whole system of trying to get this council to carry out its commitment to tenants, has been the subject of a letter from the Law Centre to the council on our behalf. I still offer an open invitation to any council official to prove our committee wrong when we criticise this council for their lack of interest in dealing with any housing issue.

Bob Heagren

*Get Well
Soon!*

JEAN NEVILLE FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE BROKE HER ARM THE OTHER DAY SO HERE'S A SPECIAL 'GET WELL' MESSAGE TO HER.

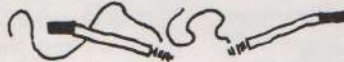
HELP PREVENT YOUR FLAT BEING BURGLED



GOOD HEALTH



SMOKING OR NOT!



50,000 people every year die before their time — because of smoking. 20 cigarettes a day shortens a smoker's life by 5 years.

Cigarettes are made harmful by:

- 1 Nicotine — this affects the nervous system.
- 2 Carbon monoxide — prevents blood carrying the maximum oxygen content.
- 3 Carcinogens — cause cancer.
- 4 Irritants (tar) — causes hardening of the cilia (hairs) and narrowing of the bronchioles (in the lung).



Long-term effects for ignoring advice and warnings:

- 1 Coronary heart disease, with special emphasis to Thrombosis; poor circulation; Atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries); Angina; Heart failure.
- 2 Cancer of the lungs; decreased lung function; chronic bronchitis; Emphysema and recurrent infections.
- 3 Stomach ulcers (peptic ulceration)
- 4 Increased common everyday complaints ie chest pains, coughing, shortness of breath.

Non-smokers are also at risk from a smoker's environment. This includes children. The chances of a child smoking if the parents smoke are greatly increased.

And we are all aware of the importance of not smoking for parents-to-be. If a woman smokes whilst pregnant, her chances of giving birth to a small baby are greater. And if she gives up, then her partner should give up. That way both can offer each other moral support.

General advice for giving up:—

- 1 Change your routine — use 'no smoking' areas.
- 2 Join a support group — details at clinic or GP.
- 3 Seek advice from GP — Ask for a Give Up Smoking kit.
- 4 Take up a hobby — to keep you busy, out of the temptation of sweets and another ciggy.
- 5 Put your Ciggy Money in a Piggy box — you'll be amazed at your well-deserved treat at the end of the month.

You can do it — 8 million gave up between 1960 and 1980.

More information available at the Clinic, or Health Education Department, Oxford Street, W1.

Julie
Clinic Nurse



OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW BURGLARIES COMMITTED ON THE ESTATE WHERE ENTRY HAS BEEN GAINED BY RELEASING THE FRONT DOOR LOCKS VIA THE LETTER BOX BY USING AN INSTRUMENT TO RELEASE BOTH LOCKS.

MAKE SURE YOU DOUBLE-LOCK THE TOP LOCK, (A) ON DIAGRAM. SECONDLY PUT EITHER A CAGE OVER THE LETTERBOX OR A PIECE OF WOOD AT (B) TO STOP THE INSTRUMENT RELEASING THE LEVER ON THE BOTTOM LOCK.

COMMUNITY POLICE

childrens



NO MORE FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

In October 1866 Mrs Henry Thompson of Wimpole Street made history; she began providing hot dinners – “meat, vegetables and bread, all of the best quality” – to poor school children twice a week in a room off Marylebone High Street.

Seventy-nine years later, in 1945, it became law that Local Education Authorities (LEA's) had to provide meals to all school children, giving free meals to those unable to pay. Prices were set the same throughout the country, as were minimum standards in the quality of the food, to make sure that it was as wholesome and nutritious as possible, providing the vitamins and minerals needed to keep growing children healthy.

This was left largely unchanged until 1980 when this Tory government decided that too much precious money was being spent on our children's school meals (since 1979 spending on school meals has been cut by a third and a further reduction of £135 million was earmarked for 1985-6).

DIET AND HEALTH

During 1980, after blindly ignoring research which keeps on linking diet with health, an education act was passed abolishing the LEA's duty to make sure that every child receives a square meal in the middle of the day. Each LEA could now provide whatever service it liked and charge whatever it wanted.

At the time local authorities were being forced (and still are) to make cuts in education and at first caterers were keen to cash in. Children have become customers and the new cafeteria systems mean that children are even less likely to choose a balanced meal than before.

A survey on school meals made by the DHSS and as yet unpublished, could be very embarrassing to the government. Information that has got out to the press has revealed that school-children's diets consist largely of chips, crisps and biscuits. The survey looked at 3000 children aged 11-15 years for 6 months in 1983. The conclusions were that children get too little protein, calcium and vitamin C, and get too much of their energy from saturated fat. Those who go to cafés fare worst, says the report, with those who have school meals getting a much better diet.

Other surveys have shown that about

10% of children are overweight and they might be at risk from heart disease, diabetes and other illnesses later in life.

FREE MEALS

Although having said all this, the 1980 Education Act was not all entirely bad news for the LEA's which were and are concerned about their children's diets and entitlement to free meals. The freedom over policy has given more caring LEA's more room to manoeuvre. At present children from families on Supplementary Benefit and Family Income support are entitled to free meals. However, in sixty-four LEA's, children from low income families, that is, families who are earning just over the maximum amount of money enabling you to claim Family Income Supplement also receive them.

But once again this lovely government has decided via Mr Norman Fowler and his Social Security Bill, that this has got to stop.

health

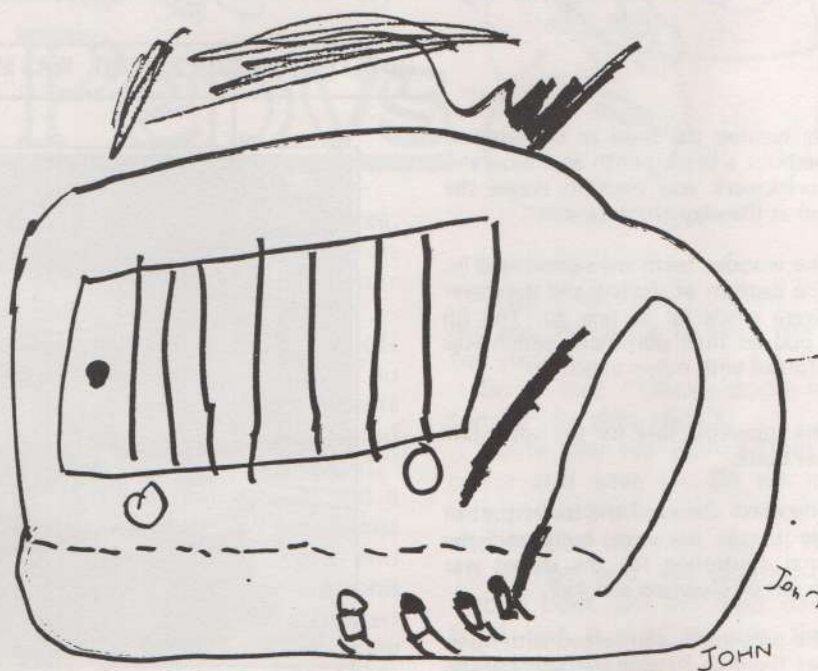
Clause 59 of the proposed Social Security Bill states that LEA's providing school meals *must* charge for them; except in cases where pupils or their parents receive income supplement (which replaces Supplementary Benefit). This means: **ONLY** children who are or whose families are receiving Income Supplement will get free meals. Children from families getting Family Income Supplement will **NOT** qualify, **NEITHER** will children from families earning just above the level at which you can claim Family Income Supplement.

500,000 FREE MEALS LOST

The Government itself has estimated that the changes would mean 500,000 children will lose their free meals.

Compensation for the loss of free meals if the bill is passed will be paid at

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JOHN TAYLOR

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

continued from P. 5

the rate of £2.20 per week per child for fifty-two weeks of the year. The Government points out that school meals are only available for 190 days of the year but a number of authorities provide free meals during the summer in holiday play schemes. Nevertheless it does appear that pupils under the new scheme will gain with their 60p per day for meals, but what can you get for 60p?

Government figures reveal the variation in prices under different authorities with prices for school meals ranging from 40p – 70p and above, concluding that families in 66 LEA's (primary schools) and 45 LEA's (secondary schools) could expect to gain (going on costs of meals in April 1985 that is) and at the same time children in 33 LEA's (primary schools) and 48 LEA's (secondary schools) will suffer losses.

Under these proposals this money will be paid in Family Credit via the

father's wage packet in a two-parent family. Surely the money, if it cannot be given directly to the child by free school meals, should be given to the main carer, that is: the mother? There will be no guarantee as there is with free school meals, that the money will actually be spent on the child.

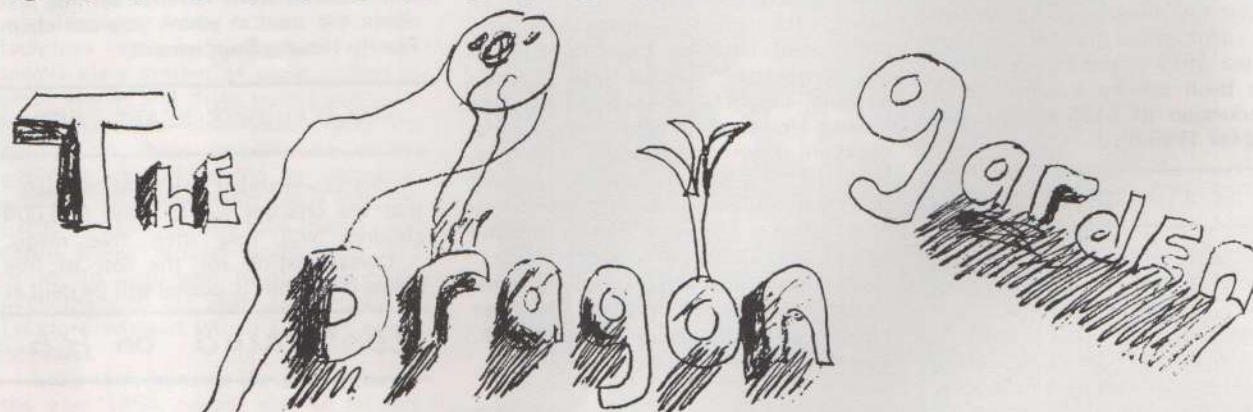
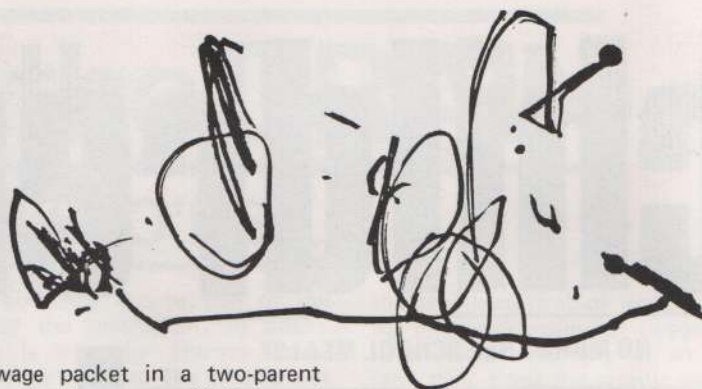
A further major argument against this proposal can be seen in Government figures showing that for many families this money will be swallowed up through a reduced entitlement to Housing Benefit, under the new rules of the Social Security Bill. This could mean that the £2.20 will be reduced to 44p!

I think that if Clause 59 of this Social Security Bill is implemented, it will have a very harmful effect on many

poor children and their families and will do even more damage to an already inadequate school meals system. Children, parents, schools, caterers and dieticians need to get together (it has already happened in a few areas eg. Sheffield) and work out what food is wanted, what is needed and at what cost. You can help your child by educating her/him about how bad it is for her/him to eat too many chips and sweets, by offering your support to the 'Child Poverty Action Group', who can be contacted at 1 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5NH, who are fighting Clause 59 of this bill, and by writing in protest to your MP against these horrific proposals.

Christine Spice

NICOLA LYNCH



Drawings by CHARLIE LOCKWOOD

HOW THE DRAGON'S HEAD WAS MADE

1. We wanted the head to be raised so we built a brick plinth as a base and the brickwork was used to create the tunnel at the playstructure end.
2. The wooden teeth were concreted in. The bottom of the jaw and the lower lip were made all in one go. The lip was poured into polythene which was re-inforced with nylon mesh.
3. The superstructure for the upper jaw was built.
4. The mesh shape of the lower part of the upper jaw was built and the internal shuttering for the throat was made out of plywood and 4x2.
5. The polythene, reinforced with mesh was fixed to a structure built outside the whole head.



3



6. The upper and lower jaws took 5 tons of concrete.
7. All the shuttering was removed – the Dragon lived, but without features.
8. Eyes, nostrils and fangs were constructed and the dragon lived and breathed.
9. The whole thing was tidied up.
10. Children from the school put mosaics on the eyes, nostrils and fangs.

Thanks to Lewisham Borough Council for donating the cement.



his head. So me and Nicola got the controls. It was no use. We were going to crash. So we got our life jackets on and we crashed.

Then we all got up and we was on a deserted island. Then a man came and said "Who are you". We said "We have just crashed, please help us." "Okay" he said. So he gave us each a job but me, Kelly, Paul and Tuyet, were left over, so he let us be rich and people can work for us. But the workers didn't like it, so they planned on killing us. "Oh please don't kill us. We will give you all our money".



SAMANTHA GIBBS

Young Pepys

THE PLANE CRASH

by Rachida Lafia

One day me, Kelly, Nicola and Deborah got a ticket each to Portugal. We all got packed and we all went to Heathrow. When we got there we approached to a Stewardess. She looked at our tickets and she said "I'm very sorry but the plane to Portugal is delayed, you will have to go to Trinidad." So I said "Oh! Okay". So I did. We all got in a plane and then a Stewardess come in and said "Good afternoon I am your

Stewardess. Drinks, duty free, cigarettes and perfumes will be on sale soon. Now let me check your seat belts." So she did.

After that we was taking off and the Stewardess said "You can unfasten your seat belts now, and the toilets are round the back, enjoy your flight." After that we had a coke and a sandwich. Then two terrorists came rushing to the front and said "Put your hands up and don't move!" We all screamed and then 4 men came and done them in. There was a shot. It hit the controls and the pilot had hit

"No, we don't want your money, we want to stop working for you."

So I said "Okay, don't work for us". So they didn't.

Some day we wish a boat can come and save us. So we made lots and lots of ramps to go home and I hope we will. We all made 10 ramps and we bound them into a boat. So the next day we tried but it was no use. So we stayed on the island.

THE END

What's Going On at CoPepys ?

CLASSES

Mon	12.30	Photography Classes
Tue	12.15	Keep Fit
Wed	10.30	Arts and Crafts
Wed	1pm	Black Women's Dress Design and Sewing
Thu	1pm	Women's Health Group
Fri	1pm	Batik classes

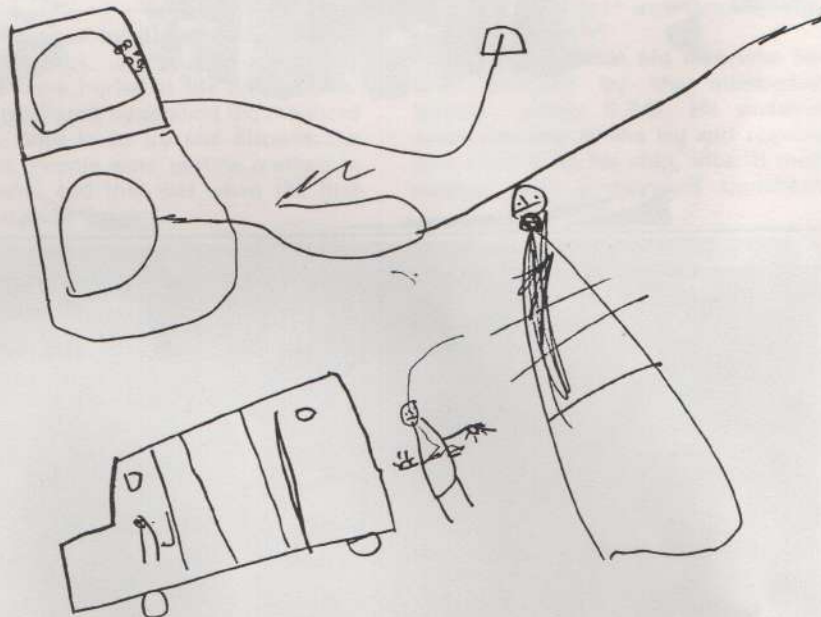
Creche facilities for all classes.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

PHOTOGRAPHY Classes are continuing on Mondays at 12.30. There are a few places in the class - all you need is enthusiasm, we will provide the equipment and the tutor - people of all ages welcome.

CLASS FOR BLACK WOMEN

Black Women's Dress Design and Sewing Classes are now taking place every Wednesday 1pm. You don't need experience as Jennifer Acquah, your tutor, will be happy to help you design and make clothes for yourself and your children or even help with alterations. Come along and meet other women and have fun while making your own special creations. There is a creche for children. Phone Jo for bookings on 692 4415.



OVER 50'S GROUP

Are you 50+, feel young enough to enjoy life but don't have a companion? If so, contact Jo, who will put you in contact with each other. We could form a social group or maybe special interest classes can be organised. Ring 692 4415

WOMEN DRIVERS

We need volunteer women drivers, so if you can drive and have an occasional hour to spare, please get in contact.

Co-oPepys project and classes are open to all residents of Pepys Estate. We welcome any suggestions you may have and would enjoy and appreciate your involvement in the project and Diary.

CO-OPEPYS IS AT NUMBER 1 DAUBENEY TOWER CALL IN OR PHONE 6924415

Pepys Pensioners



OBITUARY

WILFRED BRUTUS

A remarkable man died recently. Wilfred Brutus lost a long struggle against cancer on March 26th. He was 65. The

funeral service held at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic church in Deptford High Street, was attended by his family and many friends.

Wilfred, who lived in Gransden House

for 5 years, will be greatly missed. He was known locally as a genial and friendly man who was deeply involved with both his local Labour Party and the Catholic church. He was a governor of John Evelyn school and campaigned to keep it from closure. By day Wilfred worked for an advertising company

where he put in much time on the GLC advertising campaign. He coined the slogan, 'Say No To No Say', seen on billboard hoardings throughout London. But the most extraordinary and probably least well-known thing about Wilfred is that he lived in Britain as a political exile from South Africa.

Wilfred was born in Zimbabwe, then known as Rhodesia.

His family later moved to South Africa where they all become involved in the fight against apartheid. His father was active in the establishment of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), the organisation which campaigns for a sporting boycott of South Africa. Wilfred joined the African National Congress (ANC) which soon led him into confrontation with the apartheid state.

While planting a car bomb, Wilfred was arrested and was sentenced to imprisonment in the infamous jail on Robben Island. He was in illustrious



NELSON MANDELA

company : the leader of the ANC, Nelson Mandela, was a fellow inmate. Another prisoner was Wilfred's brother, Denis, a renowned poet whose work is studied throughout Africa.

Wilfred was tortured in prison and his eyesight was permanently damaged by the bright lights shone in his face. After 18 months he escaped, one of the very few people ever to have done so. HE rowed himself ashore and managed to find his way to Zimbabwe where friends took him in. Denis tried to escape too, but was shot in the back, recaptured and made to serve his full term.

Wilfred spent the rest of his life in exile but he never gave up the struggle. He remained a committed and active supporter of the ANC. Over the years he spoke to meetings throughout Britain encouraging people to join the anti-apartheid movement. He will not be forgotten.

Colin Richardson

THE ALBANY EMPIRE

DOUGLAS WAY · LONDON SE8 01-691 3333

The Deptford Albany Empire is staging a 2-week celebration of South African Arts this month. The Sun City Stomp runs from 18th to 30th May and features an exhibition, film showings (including a film about the life of

Winnie Mandela) and many live performers, among them top pop band Amazulu. The stomp continues into June with weekly jazz nights. Don't miss it.

SUN CITY STOMP 18-30 MAY

A CELEBRATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARTS

May sees The Combination's energies focus on South Africa, and the struggle and triumph of a people against apartheid. We present an explosion of creative energies fusing together in a truly exciting season of events.

EXHIBITION

South African photographers, film-makers, and painters will be featured in an environment created by local artists Maria Livings, Marie Rodgers, and Lindy Hudson. Thanks to Lorna & Graham de Schmidt for giving their support to and advice on the exhibition and events.

THROUGHOUT MAY

SPECIAL OPENING NIGHT WITH UTHINGO

SUNDAY 18 MAY

UTHINGO is a spectacular drum and dance group who use the traditional styles, authentic costume and the powerful rhythms and energy of South African village life, including selected pieces from the Zulu musical Amakhosi, plus the legendary mineworkers' Gumbboot Dance.

DOORS: 7.00 SHOW: 8.00 ADM: £4 (£2 UNWAGED)

FILMS

IN THE STUDIO 19/21/23/24/29 MAY

Five nights with a different film each night and discussion afterwards, including **SONG OF THE SPEAR** about Amandla, **THE ANVIL AND THE HAMMER** about Umkhonto We Sizwe freedom fighters, and a film on the life of **WINNIE MANDELA**.

DOORS: 7.00 SHOW: 8.00 ADM: £2.50 (£1.50 UNWAGED)

SUN CITY STOMP

22/23/24/28/29/30 MAY

FEATURING IRIE! DANCE COMPANY WITH MUSIC FROM THE SUN CITY ALBUM BY ARTISTS AGAINST APARTHEID

A unique extravaganza of dance, music, visual images, choirs, with African food before the show. After the show you're invited to join the dancers and Stomp Against Apartheid with a special disco.

DOORS: 7.00 SHOW: 8.00 ADM: WED £3 (£1.50 UNWAGED), THU-SAT £3.50 (£2.50 UNWAGED) FREE CRECHE ON WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

YOUTH CONFERENCES

TUESDAYS 20 & 27 MAY

Two special days for young people, organised by the British Defence and Aid Fund. Workshops, discussions, slides and film, singing and talking on the subject of apartheid. All day from 11am till 4pm. Coffee and lunch available.

ADMISSION IS FREE

continued on P.10

THE GRAND UNION ORCHESTRA

This big band of international musicians are a moving exhilarating spectacle — a street band-cum-orchestra, multi-ethnic and multi-disciplined, drawing its influences from traditional anthems, bebop, New Orleans funeral dirges and the poetry of East End schoolkids. Not to be missed!

DOORS: 8.00 ADM: £3.50 (£2 UNWAGED)

SUNDAY 25 MAY

WOMEN STOMP ON SUN CITY

Women artists take the stage on this Bank Holiday night. Jazz pianist NOMVULLA, and dancer HAZEL CAREY share the bill with top female band AMAZULU who are stomping up the charts with their new single. All are welcome.

DOORS: 8.00 ADM: £5 (£3 UNWAGED)

MONDAY 26 MAY

CABARET

An evening of live poetry and music.

DOORS: 7.00 SHOW: 7.30 ADM: £3 (£2 UNWAGED)

IN THE STUDIO TUESDAY 27 MAY

STOMP INTO JUNE

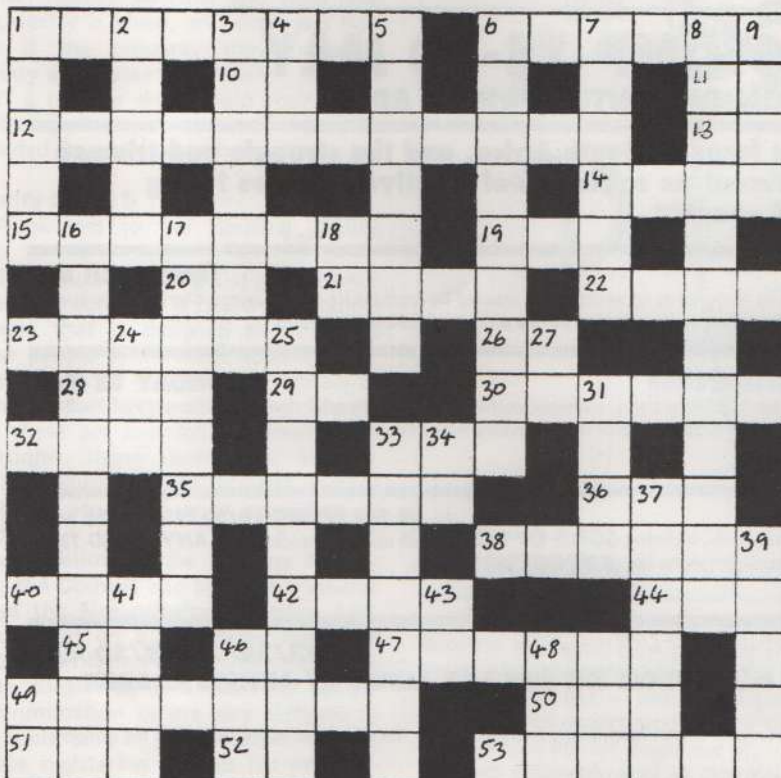
SUN CITY STOMP continues into June with a series of four late night jazz clubs featuring superb jazz musicians from Britain and South Africa plus the main dance piece from the Sun City Stomp.

FRIDAYS AT 11PM 6/13/20/27 JUNE

NON-STOP PICKET

THE CITY OF LONDON ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP IS STAGING A NON-STOP PICKET OF SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE UNTIL NELSON MANDELA IS RELEASED FROM JAIL. YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE VERY WELCOME SO GO DOWN ANY TIME NIGHT OR DAY AND JOIN IN.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Large animal in part of a nearby station (8)
- 6 Both able to get the bird (6)
- 10 Oh, laugh backwards (2)
- 11 Little riff in scripture lesson (2)
- 12 Fluffy knitting talk, pet (6,6)
- 13 look, look, you say, cubic centimetres (1,1)
- 14 Speed payment (4)
- 15 Sounds like an expensive stop or a game reserve (4,4)
- 19 Self—for example, nothing (3)
- 20 Ow, artificial insemination (2)
- 21 Ground corn for dinner (4)
- 22 Wild birds avoid missile (4)
- 23 12 Down is outsize victim (6)
- 26 A little girl (2)
- 28 Foot point to the east (3)
- 29 No kiss for the beast (2)
- 30 Neither short detective is Scandinavian (6)
- 32 Gentle creature is roast (4)
- 33 20 across died for help (3)
- 35 Cut and scramble in gore (6)
- 36 Bit of muscle for Government agency (3)
- 38 Rush about, insect (6)
- 40 Small fish is for old money mixed (4)
- 42 Miss out doctor round before it (4)
- 44 Healthy colour (3)
- 45 Company — but shy (2)
- 46 Home — bit of an inn (2)
- 47 Drink for painful sounding cough (6)
- 49 Race to the little pretty girl or flower (8)
- 50 Almost egg-shaped egg (3)
- 51 Finish finale (3)
- 52 Like a little donkey (2)
- 53 Tree feller (6)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Antelope in Eastern country (5)
- 2 Bird is a bit of a dog (5)
- 3 Old-fashioned dish sounds like woolly tart (4,3)
- 4 Oh yes, a Norwegian band (3)
- 5 After 'er, scout! (7)
- 6 MFI on a plateau (9)
- 7 Virgin round a junction (6)
- 8 Flare a nervous gesture round the coldest parts (6,6)
- 9 Lovely place (4)
- 16 Ugandan, Oriental, twisted fair and able (4,7)
- 17 Underdone poultry for an unusual chap (4,4)
- 18 Bit of rum for the regimental major (2)
- 24 Englishman is half a bobble (3)
- 25 Telly programme for baby animals (5,4)
- 27 Negative doctor (2)
- 31 City of more confusion (4)
- 33 Subject for column (7)
- 34 That is, two vowels (2)
- 37 Run along, brook (6)
- 39 Editor to gain, man (5)
- 41 Goodness, master! (4)
- 43 Letters a preposition (2)
- 46 I, a graduate, represent television company (3)
- 48 Baffle wily animal (3)
- 49 Male almost female (2)

Solution P.19

HOUSING APPLICANTS & TRANSFERS

A CARE-FREE ROMP THROUGH THE SYSTEM

This article will attempt to explain how Lewisham Council allocates housing to those tenants on the transfer list and to those who want council housing. For the first time, it is a follow-up to the article in the February Diary which looked at the system in broad terms. As the statistics in this article will show, there is a very real crisis in housing within Lewisham, which makes it difficult for the Council to help those in need of Council housing or who seek a transfer.

Lewisham's allocation system is based entirely upon housing need, so all transfer cases and housing applicants are sorted into a list which reflects their need.

The way the allocators work and there are five in all (one for each district), is to try and match the people on this list with the property that becomes available. When a property becomes ready to let, the Voids Control Section notifies the allocator that it can now be offered.

The allocator goes first to the highest priority cases, and tries to match the property with the case; for example, is it the right bedroom size, type of property wanted and area desired. If the allocator can't find a taker there, he moves progressively down the list until a match is found. In the case of particularly unpopular properties, like tower blocks in Deptford, the allocator will probably go straight to the lowest priority group.

There are five priority groups altogether and they are as follows:
Group 1

- A Homeless persons (under the terms of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act)
- B Council tenants requiring a transfer due to racial harassment,
- C Housing applicants living in properties subject to closing orders/demolition orders/dangerous structure notices.
- D Tenants being required to move to enable extensive remedial works to be carried out (this only happens when the work that needs to be done cannot be carried out with the tenant in occupation, and has to be authorised by the District Housing Surveyor).

Just to give an example of how bad the housing crisis is, in February of this year, 589 people were registered with the Homeless Families Section. Most of these families are living in bed and breakfast hotels, hostels or short stay accommodation. Of these 589 cases, only 46 were removed into permanent homes during this month.

Group 2

- a. Rehousing to enable redevelopment and/or improvement works to proceed.

- b. Nominations from the Director of Social Services to prevent children from being taken into care, for young people leaving care or for foster parents.

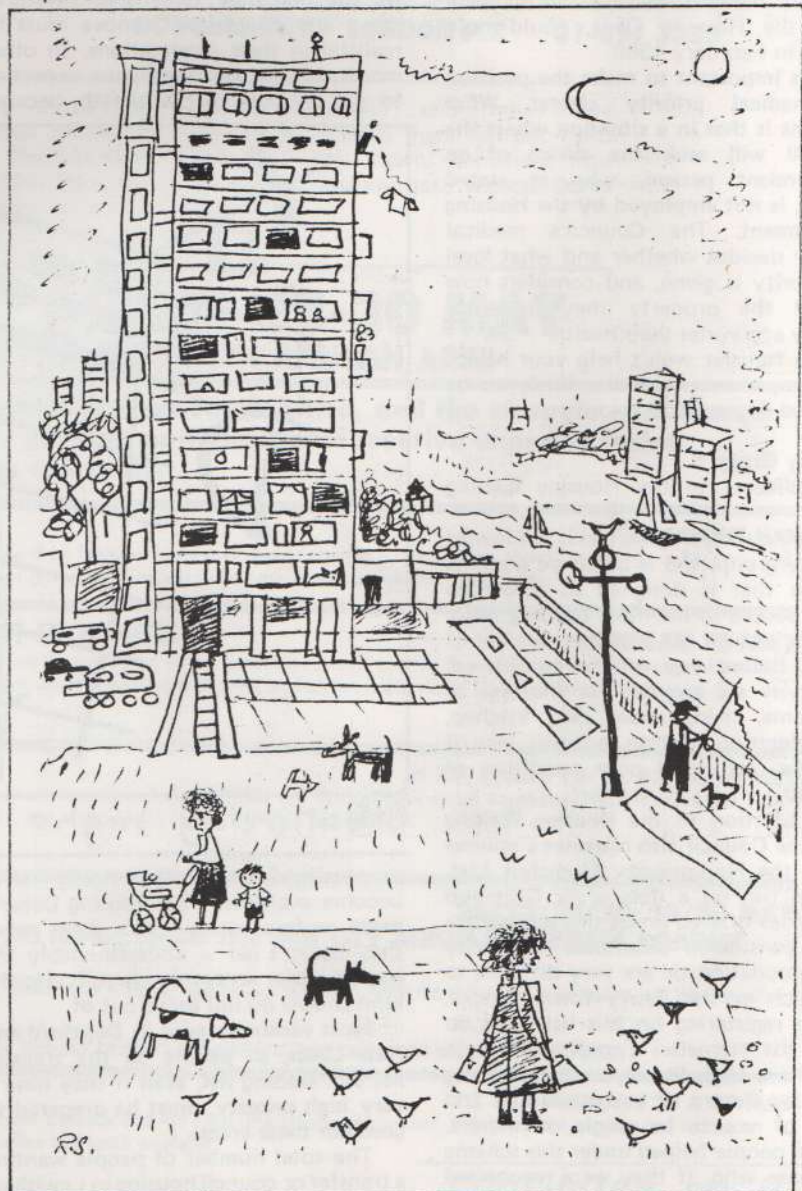
In February 1986 47 people were registered for a transfer, in the section to do with redevelopment, but the council were only able to help 2 of them.

Most people on the transfer list or waiting list come into Priority Groups 3, 4 and 5.

Group 3

- A Housing waiting list special medical recommendations

continued on P.12



Rosemary Seaton

Continued from P.11

- B Highest priority medical transfer cases
C Management or individual committee decision cases.

The special medical recommendations include those people in private accommodation who have very serious medical needs, for example a very elderly person, disabled, who's living on the top floor of a multi-occupied house with very bad access.

Medical priority is authorised by the medical adviser to the Council, and who works for the Area Health Authority, not the Council.

Group 4

- A. Council tenants registered on the transfer list for reasons of overcrowding, under-occupation or low medical priority.
B. Owner occupiers selling individual properties to the Council.

In February 1986, 1,436 cases were registered for a transfer to larger accommodation, 1023 needed smaller property and 1054 people were registered for a transfer because they had a low category medical need. Out of all these cases the Housing Dept. could only help 6 in February 1986.

It is important to make the position on medical priority clearer. What happens is that in a situation where the Council will seek the advice of an independent person, who as stated earlier, is not employed by the Housing Department. The Council's medical adviser decides whether and what level of priority is given, and considers how and if the property they presently occupy aggravates their health.

If a transfer won't help your health problem, then you are unlikely to be awarded any medical priority.

Priority Group 5

Applicants to the Housing Waiting List.

The Housing Waiting List is the lowest priority group, and is based on a points scheme that is designed to throw up those people in the most housing need.

You have to get a certain number of points before you can be considered, and these are awarded for shortage of bedrooms, living room etc., kitchen, sex separation, sharing facilities, lack of facilities, etc., and poor condition of property.

In addition to the Housing Waiting List, the Council also operates a scheme called the Non-priority Homeless List. This is run on a date order basis and properties offered under this scheme are those considered unsuitable for family accommodation or are very difficult to let, such as the Pepys tower blocks. People registering on this list must do so at the Homeless Families Office in Lewisham High Street, or the Housing Advisory Centre at Leegate House and must of course be single or sharers.

The people helped under this scheme are those who, if they were recognised

as a priority group under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, would qualify for Council housing, additionally any applicant under this scheme must have a connection with the borough through residence or employment.

At the present time there is virtually no new building or rehabilitation going on, so additions to the Council's housing stock are not being created. Therefore usually the only way property becomes available to let, except by transferring people, is when Council tenants buy their own homes on the open market, or die. On the Pepys Estate quite a few people have moved from the high-rise properties to the low-rise blocks, and from one house to another, and the Housing Department can usually help people to move around the estate provided that they need to move.

It is however the Council's policy not to transfer tenants in arrears of rent. This policy is only relaxed if there are very good reasons for doing so, the tenant's debt has been reduced regularly, will continue to be reduced and is authorised by the District Housing Manager.

In conclusion, with so many people wanting transfers, or Council housing for the first time, tenants who want to stand any chance of a move must be realistic in their expectations. In other words, it's no good someone expecting to get a house in Blackheath, because



was a staggering 22,341 in February 1986, and this figure is continually rising. Of all these cases, in this particular month, the Council were only able to help 199. A sobering thought!

Ian Grey
(Senior Housing Officer)

Next month, "Voids" — what they are and how they are dealt with.

Pepys Estate Housing Officers and their Management areas.

Senior Housing officer — Ian Grey

Lorraine Calder

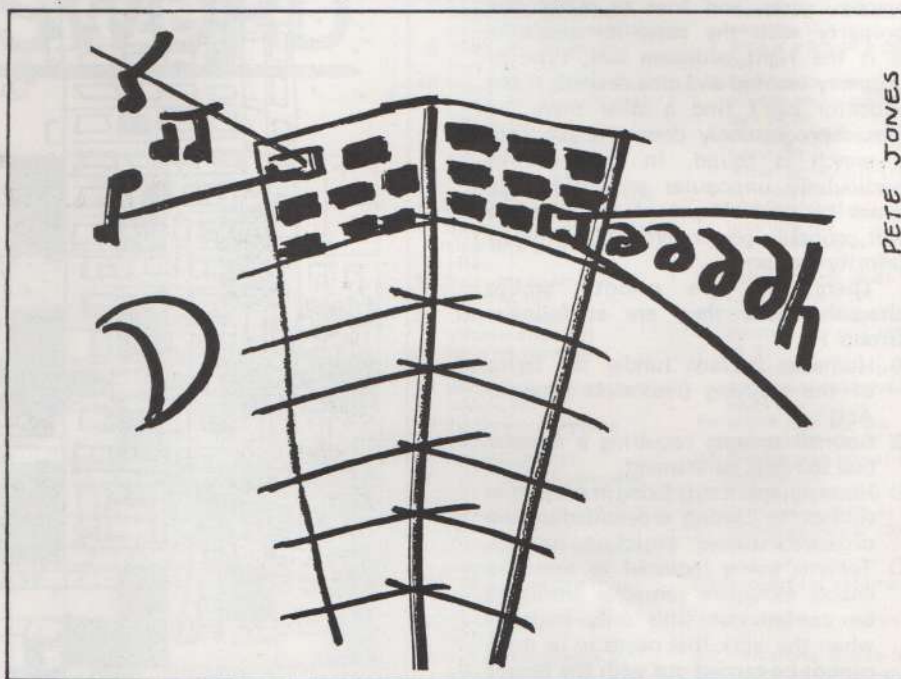
Millard House
Pelican House

Marlowe House
Daubeney Tower

Val Davies

Harmon House
The Colonnade
Grove Street (odds & evens)
Cartaret way
Kempthorne Road

The Terrace
Gransden House
Linberry Walk
Hockett Close



Saturday night in Aragon Tower

properties like this practically never become available. The Housing Department unfortunately can't offer what they haven't got — understandably the most popular accommodation is also the kind people do not move out of.

Most vacancies arise in Deptford and New Cross, so people on the transfer list and waiting list, even if they have a very high priority, must be prepared to consider these areas.

The total number of people wanting a transfer or council housing in Lewisham

Phil Dwyer

Crandley Course
Clement House
Argosy House

Bence House
Pendennis House

Andy Nelson

Eddystone Tower
Bembridge House

Lanyard House
Merrick House

Kay Perry

Aragon Tower
Albamarle House
Limbery House

Dolben Court
Barfleur House
The Foreshore



INVISIBLE WOMEN



A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO PERSONAL SAFETY

"It is well known that women in particular, and small boys are liable to be untruthful and invent stories"

(Judge Sutcliffe, Rape trial 1976)

As with most damaging generalised statements about women, the mistrust and fear expressed in them says more about the men that remark them than the women they are slandering. It seems almost absurd that women should be forced to deny these charges with lengthy research, yet in order to pressurize for change they have had no option. In the light of recent studies to detect the amount of unreported rape and sexual assault it would seem that the opposite is true, that women have been absorbing the pain and degradation themselves rather than face unsympathetic police and courts. A London-wide survey carried out by Women Against Rape in 1985 found that as little as 8% of rape survivors reported the crime.

PAINFUL EXPERIENCE

The prospect of having her sexual past dragged up in front of relatives and strangers is hardly helpful to a woman who is already having to relive a painful experience. There is often little point in examining a woman's sexual history yet it is used time and time again to divide women between the 'bad' and the 'good', suggesting that 'unrespectable' women in some way deserve their offence. The Yorkshire Ripper was only considered a real threat to the community when he moved on from killing prostitutes to 'innocent' women, yet he himself admitted at his trial that he 'just wanted to kill a woman'. Black women can also find they come out of a crime, often committed with racist overtones, straight into the hands of a racist legal system.

SEXUAL CATEGORIES

Clearly dividing women into sexual categories is not only founded on a half baked morality about what is acceptable behaviour for a woman but can actively prevent the detection of criminals. Prostitutes receive no protection from the police and often have to accept rape and sexual assault as part of their job. If prostitutes were more able to report

offenders (and they are often in a much better position than most of us to recognise sexually dangerous men) more crimes would obviously be prevented.

As with the division of women, a system which divides men can also operate as a stumbling block to successful detection. Searches for sexual offenders, particularly those who have carried out a string of attacks are often conducted on the premise that the man they are looking for must be a man set apart, the psychopath or pervert. What becomes increasingly apparent is that they are not set apart, they have families, hold down jobs and manage to live, eat and breathe freely in society. During his trial Peter Sutcliffe was described as a 'family' man and managed to walk free from nine police interviews — before being convicted simply because he did not appear to be a sexual monster. As Joan Smith said in *New Socialist* 'If you are looking for an embodiment of a myth you are not likely to come up with a lorry driver from Bradford'. The fact that many sexual offenders have wives and often 'regular' sex lives also puts paid to the view that the rapist is sexually frustrated. Rape seems to have more to do with the expression of male domination and control than about the unleashing of natural sexual urges in an uncontrollable way.

RAPE IN MARRIAGE

Even harder for the police to accept and for women to have to come to terms with is the rape committed by a friend or family member. The Women Against Rape survey found that over half unreported offences were in this category and yet it seems when such crimes are reported they are seen as less significant, as though when there has been contact with the offender the woman is more likely to have caused a misunderstanding. At present rape in marriage is not a crime, which takes the problem a stage further since it suggests that once women have entered into relationships with men they automatically give away any control over their bodies. If domestic rape is not a crime what right have wives to ever say no.

The London survey concluded that 83% of women who responded thought this should be a crime; as one woman put it — 'rape is rape is rape'.

HUMILIATION

There is no easy answer for women who find themselves torn between fear of further humiliation if they report and guilt that they might be allowing another woman to be assaulted if they don't. In the past the one reason given by the police for allotting relatively little time to rape is their own low statistics. With more information emerging as to the real extent of the problem some attempt has been made to encourage women to come forward with a recognition that victims might prefer to talk to a woman police officer rather than a man (although it cannot be assumed that they will automatically be more sensitive). But in many cases this is purely cosmetic since women are still withdrawing their cases because of unsympathetic police or doctors.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

If you have suffered sexual assault or rape (in law, rape only refer to intercourse against a woman's will. The use of objects for penetration, forced oral or anal sex all come under sexual assault. The maximum penalty for rape is life imprisonment, for sexual assault two years, hardly a just distribution of punishment.) and need help then phone a rape crisis centre or your local Police Monitoring Unit and they will provide a sympathetic ear whether you wish to report or not. For those women who wish the police to intervene in domestic violence, you will be more likely to receive attention if you report a breach of the peace.

Jane Caldwell

WAPPING

TWO EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THE SCENES AT WAPPING
on 3rd MAY 1986

People who were going on the March congregated at the Embankment. There were approximately 7,000 people there, men, women and children. It was originally going to be a peaceful March from the Embankment to Wapping in favour of the Print-workers March for Jobs.

Everyone seemed to be in a genuine good mood and the crowd moved forward on the March singing and chanting peacefully. All was well during the actual March, that was until we reached Fortress Wapping. It was here that the Police decided that the March was becoming too intense and they took it upon themselves to disperse it.

As stated before there were many women and children who had in fact positioned themselves in the front of the marchers, plus quite a few of the elderly. This of course had no effect on the Police who decided that they needed to use horses to force a wedge between the demonstrators.

In due course this clicked off tension among the demonstrators and it was not long before missiles were being thrown, with which two Smoke Bombs were sent off.

The Police then started to charge in and there was the scene of women and children running in all directions trying to escape from the mayhem as all hell broke loose. The S.P.G. seemed to be attacking anyone who was in reach of them with their truncheons.

I personally saw the Police attacking a 59 year old man, knocking him to the ground and kicking him. Subsequently he had to have several stitches to his head. Other people suffered various injuries. They actually attacked a young lady giving her similar injuries to that of the old man. These people were not given immediate attention and even as the Ambulance Men tried to move in they were stopped by the Police, prolonging the agony of these people.

At the end of the day 70 people were injured and 86 people arrested.

If that is meant to be the Police protecting the Working Class, I would prefer them not to protect them at all.

Written by John Perryman

The March started off in a peaceful and humorous mood. We had all gathered at the Embankment and we marched boisterously to Fortress Wapping.

When we reached Tower Hill the noise reached a crescendo, and the animosity towards the Wapping Plant itself was blatantly obvious. But there was no violence towards the Police — only the usual verbal exchanges.

As we all gathered outside the Plant some pushing and shoving started. The

Police reacted by 'Baton Charging' the demonstrators. A couple of smoke bombs were hurled at the Police ranks. They retaliated by sending the mounted S.P.G. boys in to try and disperse the pickets. People were getting crushed in the panic and that was when the first missiles were thrown.



RIOT POLICE OUTSIDE THE PLANT

A running battle then commenced with the demonstrators being subjected to Police baton charges, and a small group of demonstrators throwing bricks and bottles, and lumps of wood. The Mounted Police constantly charged into the demonstrators at the front, who were not involved in hurling any missiles, causing numerous injuries. This simply had the effect of causing the crowd's anger to get worse, and the atmosphere was one of pure hatred on both sides. At one point a printer suffered a heart attack, and despite numerous appeals over the Tannoys requesting the Police to withdraw so that an Ambulance could get through, they stood their ground making sarcastic comments about the incident. I could only interpret this as being designed to inflame the situation still further.

This was just one of many inflammatory incidents which occurred throughout the early hours. I considered the actions of the Police to be provocative in the extreme. As one 59 year old Sogat Official put it "There were a lot

of blokes here tonight who came to picket the plant because they have that right. Most of them were non-militant and respected the Police. After tonight they are Militant and despise, even hate, the Police."

The words of an old man who had been attacked by the numberless, faceless, gutless S.P.G. He sustained severe bruising of the leg and required four stitches to his chin, after it made contact with a wayward truncheon.

On reflection — a horrific scene. Hatred, severe injuries, mutual respect no longer evident.

Someone will die soon.

AN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE —
BRITAIN 1986.

Written by Paul Braithwaite



tropical rainforests

THE WORLD'S RICHEST RESOURCE

Wood and products made from it are so widely used that we don't often stop to think about where they come from.

But the timber frames of modern houses, the furniture, packaging, joinery and DIY materials which we take for granted are mostly made from the hardwood species of tropical forests.

Since the middle of the last century, much of Africa's rainforest and all of India's has been destroyed. The largest remaining areas are in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Amazon.

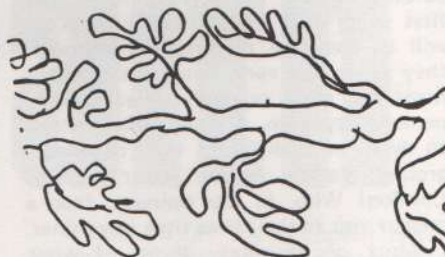
The effects of cutting down enormous areas of rainforest and not replacing them properly are devastating. Widespread alterations in rainfall patterns and the erosion of soils in former forest regions have contributed to the famine in Ethiopia and caused terrible floods in Asia.

Peoples who lived peacefully in the forests have been driven out, sometimes by timber companies, otherwise by small farmers, themselves thrown off their land by cattle-ranchers. The destruction of their habitat has wiped out many animal species but scientists are even more worried at the disappearance of so many jungle plants known to contain drugs which could cure cancer and other diseases.

The UK does not any longer have major logging interests in tropical countries — however she trades with and has financial involvement in multi-national and local companies in the countries concerned and of course in agencies and shipping lines. She has virtually no timber industry of her own and therefore brings in processed wood — plywoods, fibreboard, ready-made

groups of companies bringing hardwood timber into Britain are Unilever, Inchcape, Harrison and Crossfield (through Sabah Timber) and Meyer International.

Various campaigns have been set up to protect the rainforests and pressurize Governments and companies into



LOGGING HAS DEVASTATING RESULTS

managing forest areas — not overworking them, replanting and finding alternative materials in some cases. Not all of these campaigns are themselves free from suspicion of corruption and mismanagement. As people become more aware that the destruction of tropical rainforest endangers us all, they will begin to insist that wood products be labelled as to their origins and to support the movement against the wilful destruction of the world's richest resource.

Information about the issues of the Rainforest Campaign can be obtained from

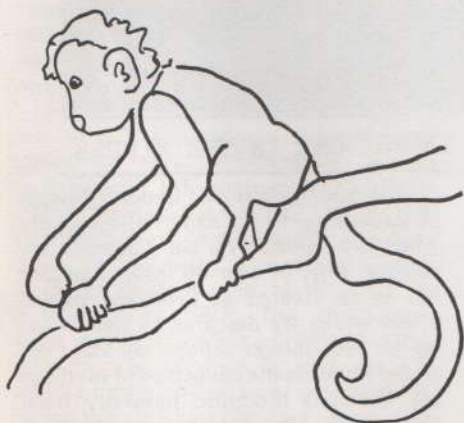
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
377 City Road, London EC1
Tel. 837 0731

They also have a wide range of badges, stickers, posters, T-shirts etc advertising the campaign.

WILD LIFE

The London Wildlife Trust have succeeded in acquiring the use of the field on the corner of Grove Street/Plough Way. They will be managing it on a short-time basis as Lewisham have already designated the site for housing. This limits the scope of the work they can carry on there, but nonetheless they are encouraging local people, especially school children, to visit the habitat, which is particularly interesting for its population of butterflies. They will be holding a meeting about the site shortly and expect to have a one-day event there in the summer. Watch this space for further details.

FAY ROBERTS



units and kits. She is Europe's second largest importer of products made from tropical hardwood. The four main



DOWN the DRAIN

CHRIS O'NEILL

Last month I mentioned the merits of the Post Office underground system. I would like to continue my discussion regarding works carried out "down-below". Now I am certain, folks, the first thing you will probably think of will be the coal miners, and although they work in a very dangerous environment and most certainly deserve every penny they earn, I would like instead to dwell on a different type of underground worker, ie the sewer men of London! Who, in my opinion, face a greater risk to their lives than any miner.

Most of us rarely think of what happens when one empties the bath, the washing machine, flushes the toilet etc. We are normally content to see the water disappear down the drain, and that's the end of it. But in fact, it is just the start of a very complicated and intricate system of disposal.

VEINS AND ARTERIES

All waste from homes, factories, laundries etc. is discharged to the sewers via a system of pipes, linked to small sewers and these sewers gradually increase in size, all of which carry the sewage to huge intercepting sewers approximately 11ft 6in in diameter. There is one sewer 15ft 6in x 22ft 6in (large enough for two tube trains). The depth below ground varies from 20ft or so, to well over 100ft. One could liken them to the veins and arteries of London, without which London could not exist.

Let's look back to the past. Prior to the year 1856, no-one seemed to care about the condition of the land, the streets and rivers of London, raw sewage was everywhere, some was collected in old-fashioned cess-pits (note - even in this modern age cess-pits are still in use in many country areas). The rivers were turned into what one could only describe as open sewers. The drinking water, drawn from street pumps, was contaminated so badly that outbreaks of cholera were quite common. This condition persisted simply because the businessmen and politicians were able to run daily to their bolt-holes in the country!

However, eventually the foul smell of the River Thames got so bad, the politicians at Westminster could no longer delay the construction of a sewerage system (perhaps it was a blessing that the Parliament buildings are sited close to the river).

Sir Joseph Bazalgette, who was then chief engineer to the Metropolitan Board of Works (the predecessor of the L.C.C.) was instructed to prepare plans

for the complete interception of the sewage of the metropolis, to finally discharge it into the Thames downstream below London. The scheme was completed in 1865 and these intercepting sewers are still used today.

No sewers cross the Thames and therefore two separate systems were constructed and each roughly follows the line of the river. Just as the Thames

the encouragement of bacterial growth by the introduction of oxygen. These little "bugs" multiply at an amazing rate, they digest the organic matter and this rapidly clears the sludge. Eventually the water becomes crystal clear and pure, some say one could actually drink it! The clean water is then directed to the River Thames.



DOWN THE SEWER - CHRIS IS THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE

has a natural gravity flow, the sewers were constructed to provide a similar gravitation. Each system has its own sewage treatment works, the Northern Outfall works at Crossness, down river from Thamesmead. At these works, the process of purification begins. Floating debris is collected by screens, lifted and passed through disintegrators and returned to the flow. Sand, gravel etc., washed into the sewers during a storm, is settled out and removed and organic matter is removed by a natural process,

The purification of London's sewage is something to be admired, especially when one considers a daily average dry weather flow of over 96 million gallons has to be treated at Crossness works. These works are designed to treat flows up to 216 million gallons per day! An added bonus is the collection of methane gas which is produced naturally from the sewage and is used to generate electricity.

Earlier I indicated that sewermen have to risk certain dangers in the

sewers and I would like to explain some of them:—

Safety procedures must be strictly adhered to at all times.

Before entry to a sewer is made, tests are taken for:— lack of oxygen — explosive and flammable gases and hydrogen sulphide (the 'bad eggs' gas). The latter is extremely toxic and if one is unfortunate enough to be overcome by this gas, his chance of survival can cause concern!

They must also keep a sharp look-out for the possibility of a storm. A sudden storm surcharges the sewers rapidly and

if they are not prepared for this danger, they could risk drowning.

Now although the safety tests I have mentioned permit the men to enter the sewer, they must remain alert to other dangers which can threaten them. For example, factories use various chemicals, acids, alkalis, solvents etc, and although the discharge of chemicals is strictly controlled by law, one can always expect an accidental discharge. If this occurs, reaction with other chemicals could, for instance, produce chlorine gas. Petrol, if accidentally discharged to the sewer is an obvious

hazard, a small amount could cause an explosion.

Rats, carriers of Lepto-spirosis jaundice, a killer disease, present another danger.

Thankfully serious accidents are rare.

Finally, it is comforting to note, that the London sewerage system is the oldest and most efficient and safest in the world, and for what it's worth, I have been directly involved in the sewers for over 30 years.

I do hope this brief account has been of interest to you.

Thanks for your attention.

D. C. O'Neill (Chris)



A HISTORY OF IRELAND



TO HELL OR CONNACHT

With the flight of the earls in 1607, the plantation of the province of Ulster really got underway. The English and Scots settlers were protestants and those who oversaw the plantation ensured that no land went to Catholics. It was further stipulated that the planters were to employ no Irish in any capacity.

The land of what was then called county of Coleraine was granted to the city of London and the city of Derry renamed Londonderry.

The plantations of Ulster and the other provinces resulted in thousands of the native Irish being dispossessed and provided the necessary recruits for a rebellion planned to start on 23rd October 1641.

The rebellion brought about a confederation of native Irish and the English Catholics from previous plantation against the Government and the Anglo-Scots protestant settlers. By February 1642 most of the country was in the confederates' hands. Ulster was to witness a particularly vicious sectarian war.

By 1649 many of the English Catholics in the confederation sided with the Royalist cause against Parliamentarians. Cromwell arrived in Dublin on 15th August 1649 at the head of a large army — by 1652 his army had subjugated the whole country. The populations of Drogheda and Wexford were put to the sword in such a frightful and ruthless manner that many towns surrendered without a fight.

With Cromwell's total victory came further confiscation of Irish lands. It was ordained that the native Irish could only live west of the river Shannon — their choice was "to hell or Connacht". Even in Connacht they could not live on the coastal strip lest they seek aid from Catholic France or Spain.

In 1603 the native Irish owned 90% of the land — by 1688 80% was in the hands of English and Scots protestant settlers.



The restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 saw little change in Ireland until the Catholic James II succeeded to the throne and gave the Irish hope of regaining their lands. However, in 1688 James II was to be replaced as king by the Dutch William of Orange. James arrived in Ireland in March 1689 to raise an army to regain his throne — William arrived in June 1690 determined to do battle.

The protestants of Derry shut the gates of the city in the face of the Catholic Jacobite army and held out against a siege in 1689.

The time has scarce gone by boys two hundred years ago when rebels near old Derry's walls their faces dared not show when James and all his rebel band came up to Bishops Gate with heart and hand and sword and shield we bade them to retreat.

The battle of the Boyne in July 1690 resulted in William securing overall military superiority over James.

Two foreign old monarchs in battle did join each wanting his head on the back of a coin.

If the Irish had sense they'd drown both in the Boyne

and partition throw into the ocean. Ironically, the Pope of the day favoured William in preference to the Catholic James.

James fled to France after the battle leaving the Irish to fight on against William's Army until the siege of Limerick in October 1691 saw the Irish surrender.

With their leader Patrick Sarsfield, 11,000 Irish soldiers sailed to France and formed the famous Irish Brigade of the French Army after the fall of Limerick. Over the next 100 years thousands more of these "wild geese" were to leave Ireland to form Irish Brigades in many European armies. Almost half a million to the French army alone.

Southwark Model Railway Club

LONDON & SOUTHERN RAILWAYS EXHIBITION

28th & 29th June
11.00am — 6.00pm

SPA ROAD LIBRARY HALLS,
BERMONDSEY, SE16

Admission free
Free vintage bus shuttle
from London Bridge
LT buses 1, 47, 70, 78,
188, 199

Sponsored by Southwark
Council





The Island



BY TIM LOVEGROVE

*A story of an expedition.
The Island is in exotic Indonesia.
The expedition left Plymouth Harbour,
England, in May of 1787.*

CAPTAIN'S LOG

May 1787. I have finally secured the ship. Three-masted galleon, sturdily built in oak. Sixteen cannons, berths and store holds. The ship is called The Springflower. Our hope is that it does hold water. We shall fit her out and buy stores. We shall take six horses with us for carrying and carting. We gather at the Golden Eagle tavern on the waterside. Several crew have volunteered.

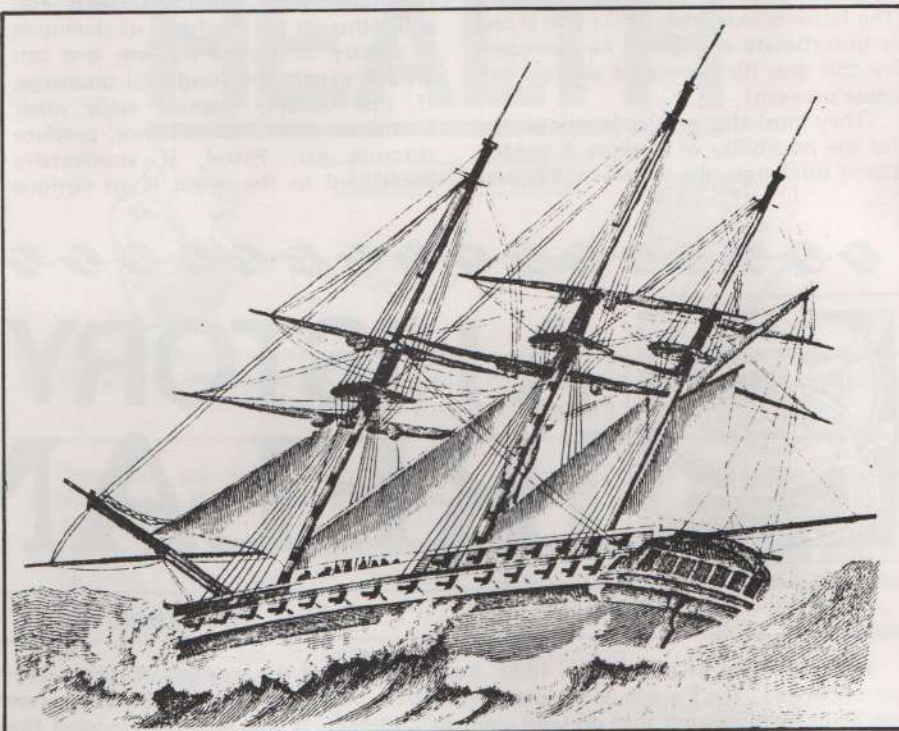
Ours is a long expedition of at least three years. Many sailors who would normally have volunteered are superstitious of the Indian Far Eastern ocean. I reassure them with tales of riches and treasures.

The chandlers have made a bargain for the following goods and victuals.

Twenty sides of salted beef
Twenty sides of salted pork
Thirty chickens
Ten firkins of ale
Ten barrels of lime juice
Twenty-five sacks of flours
Two sacks of sea salt
Two barrels of butter
Ten sacks of apples
Pickles, Preserved fruit, three sacks of sugars, four chests of tea, cheeses and vegetables.

We also take muskets, pistols, powder and balls.

I have obtained ocean charts, compass, dividers and star charts. One yellow



parrot in a cage also comes with us. We are well rigged with oiled canvas and I have invested in a telescope and hour glass. We have crewed a carpenter, a baker and a sailcraftsman.

I have placed gold and jewels and plate in the Captain's safe. This will purchase any necessary items along our voyage.

Already we have been beset by many problems including crew. The faint in heart would abandon the expedition with no obligation to their self-esteem. But courage and fortitude and the assistance of my fellow officers have set

in me convictions to leave my home and family, press forward with the task of the voyage. Though it may be dangerous we shall persevere with the journey under sail, hoping for fair weathers and a hospitable welcome in strange and foreign lands. Here's to our voyage in Springflower, vessel of commerce.

More expedition story next issue.

Readers may be interested to know that the Tall Ships race starts in Newcastle on July 15th 1986.

JUST THE JOB

PEARL STRINGING

This month the Diary introduces the 'Pepys Pearl Stringer' who, having worked in the trade for seven years, was prepared to reveal some of its secrets. Did you know for example that the best paste pearls are glass bubbles covered in fish scales? Or that pearls can be considered unlucky, hence the expression 'pearls for tears'? One aspect she wasn't able to divulge was the secret solution that pearls that are sent in for mending are washed in. This is known only to a few who have had the

recipe passed down to them through the trade.

Part of the joy of working with pearls, apart from their beauty, is the satisfaction gained from piecing together a complicated necklace from a bag of various shapes and sizes. Unfortunately natural pearls are proving more and more expensive because polluted seas are making them a rarity. But cultured pearls, where a piece of grit is inserted into the mussels until they grow into a pearl, are still considered prize

possessions. Chokers have especially come into fashion since Princess Diana started wearing them, and although plastic beads are cheap and widely available, they will never replace the real thing.

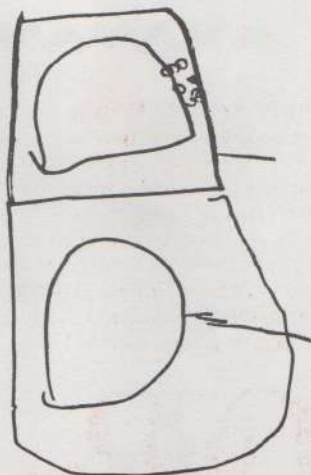
Craft Workshops

Craft Taster Workshops in the Sailing Centre organised by Thames-side Adult Education Institute will be starting 19 June for 5 weeks, 9.45-11.45. Fee £1. Open to all age groups. Children are welcome. Rag dolls - basketry - leatherwork - patchwork and children's clothes are some of the things you can try your hand to. No experience needed. Do come along. Pat and Caroline your tutors will be pleased to see you.

Your letters

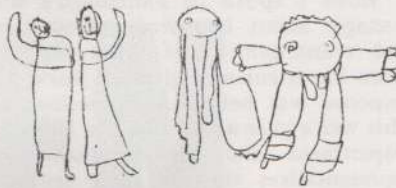
HEAGREN CORNER

My observations on this estate are based on facts, having toured the estate areas. There is no doubt that there is no security of tenants' homes. It is true that there are approximately 10 resident caretakers, who work a split 8-hour shift, 4 hours of which is based on cleaning their respective areas; during the evening 4 hours is assumed touring the same areas. Any question of a tenant reporting noise or aggravation is referred to the police or the tenant is told to contact Lewisham Town Hall. Cars are allowed to be parked on paved areas, even outside tenants' garden areas; there is certainly no control over certain dog owners whose dogs spoil the environment. The cleaning of the estate areas even by the resident caretakers or other employed cleaners has become an issue of great concern. I have personally suggested a more flexible approach in which empty store-sheds and garages should be included in their contract of work; the present system is outdated and should be replaced. There are certain windows which have not been replaced since this council have taken over management control. Even defective drains, paving stones, certain lights, appear to get overlooked in the system. Even empty flats — one is informed that because of the cutback in public spending, repairs cannot be carried out. The name of the game today is politics, and the only losers are the tenants. In



my considered opinion this council should have more control over the assumed everyday services. Tenants are paying high rents and rates with only a part-time service. The conditions of work, where one is paid a bonus on the assumption that one's work is carried out, seems to be a good deal for all council staff, but not for the tenants.

Bob Heagren
Chair, TA



Poets Corner

POEM FOR THE PAPER

Listen, I hear rain.
I hear raindrops striking the brickwork.
The dark clouds boiling across the small
oblong of sky,
as I watch through the barred window,
nearly opaque with the silver'd globules
of water,
sliding down the dirty glass,
their long tails fusing into one as they
touch.
If I could see through the heat-fused
transparency of sand,
across the wire-topped wall,
I'd see commuters,
wrapped in sheets of multi-coloured
plastic,
holding high their umbrellas
standing in long queues for buses and
trains,
milling and jostling as if in some many-
coloured racial minuet,
their mouths pulled into straight lines
by dull anger
as they curse and moan at the chill
wet heavens.

Me, I like rain
it's clean and fresh.
I like the way it soaks your hair
to run down your face
under your collar
sending chills down your spine.
I like the way the street lamps sparkle
as if some child's story book.
The cars seem newer in their clinging
garments of celestial dew.

It makes people desert the streets
for their gas fires and pots of tea.
Leaving me to walk in the peace of
the rain smiling to myself
as the odd pedestrian stalks past,
wet shoulders hunched into his collar.
I'll stand and watch the rain
splash and slither across the dirty wet
glass,

seeing in my mind's eye —
pigeons tucking themselves under the
roofs' wet eaves or perched huddled
in lonely trees
as rain drips from above
to bounce off their feathers.

I'll think of times I strolled smiling.
In my mind's eye, I'll see all this,
the roads and streets mapped forever
in the atlas of my memories.
I'll see all this and more
while I stand looking through the
glass and the bars at the falling rain.
David Gibbs

Politics

Dear Editor,

As Tony "What's his name" writes,
if D. C. O'Neill and Bill Elliott are
allowed to mention politics why not he,
and why not indeed — Fortunately we
still live in (if not 100%) a free country.

You see, Tony, I only write that
which I think is right and true at the
time. I will agree with you that "Dept-
ford" is the cinderella borough of
Lewisham. Apart from a street market
in the High Street and the Albany
Theatre (which in my opinion does not
cater for all tastes) we are indeed the
forgotten people.

On what we would like to see happen
and/or take place in Deptford it would,
or could be an advantage if more people
put pen to paper and voiced their
opinions.

You say, Tony, that in the forth-
coming local election you will abstain
from voting, which I feel is being a bit

continued on P.



SOLUTION ACROSS

1 Elephant; 6 Toucan; 10 Ah; 11 RI; 12
Anglora Rabbit; 13 C.C.; 14 Rate; 15 Deer
park; 19 Ego; 20 A.I.; 21 Meal; 22 Duck;
23 Ospray; 26 An; 28 Toe; 29 Ox; 30 Nordic;
32 Lamb; 33 Aid; 35 Ignore; 36 M.S.C.; 38
Beetle; 40 Sild; 42 Omit; 44 Red; 45 Co; 46
In; 47 Coffee; 49 Harebell; 50 Ova; 51 End;
52 As; 53 Axeman.

DOWN

1 Eland; 2 Eagle; 3 Hare pie; 4 Aha; 5 Tracker;
6 Tableland; 7 Untrod; 8 Arctic Circle; 9 Nice;
16 East African; 17 Rare bird; 18 R.M.; 24
Pom; 25 Young ones; 27 No; 31 Rome; 33
Article; 34 I.e.; 37 Stream; 39 Edwin; 41
Lord; 43 To; 46 I.B.A.; 48 Fox; 49 He.

Your Letters

continued from

defeatist, but I suppose criticism can come easier if one does not commit oneself.

I will agree that any person who is elected to serve a borough must make their presence known by visiting the area during that stay in office, not only at election time which is the practice now carried out.

If a manifesto is put out and a government is formed because of its contents, it is up to all of us to ensure they are carried out. We do this by confrontation, by writing or by phone. Hopefully, one day we will get a government to treat its citizens as one people.

Along with the different factions operating within the main parties, I suppose we all feel we have the answer to getting Britain back on its feet, but how do we go about achieving it? Any suggestions?

Yours,

Bill Elliott

BLAME

Dear Editor,

Your letter in last month's issue lays the blame for inconvenience caused to tenants by the renovation work on the contractors Faircloughs and also criticizes them for the lack of consultation which has made it difficult for residents to appreciate the improvements.

It is not the contractors, a profit-making enterprise, who have been hired to do a job of work, who are at fault here. It is the Council as represented by its local housing officers who have the responsibility to consult and inform tenants and to ensure that they are not unduly inconvenienced. The Council were asked by ourselves and by the TA to ensure that alternative arrangements be made for parents and small children



at home during the day, that they should not be inconvenienced by drilling etc, also that people should be informed as a courtesy when work will be taking place on their floor. Such arrangements were, in fact, made when the asbestos was removed but otherwise no improvements in community liaison have materialised. The rent rebates asked for as compensation for the disruption of our everyday lives have also disappeared under a mound of red tape.

When I spoke to Fairclough's site manager about improved consultation and rearrangement of times for the more inconvenient and noisy work, his response was helpful and considerate. This was a year ago — it is the Housing Department and the tenants' own representatives through their tenants' organisation who should have implemented these suggestions and have failed to do so.

Yours,

Fay Roberts

THANKS

Dear Co-op colleagues,

Thanks for your article about requiring a further Pepys "Diarist" to be funded for approx 1 year. As someone who has just been researching the origins and design of the Pepys Estate I was especially interested in the news, and I hope to be an actual tenant on Pepys very shortly under the Non-Priority Homeless scheme which will mean being based on a high rise tower block within the estate.

The development was designed by E. F. Moholi an architect working with the LCC/GLC in the era of Kenneth Campbell, e.g. 1950s-1974 and the unique scissors/cross-over towers of Ar/Da/Ed. were first seen in Islington, the advantages of the multi-level layout (most flats on Pepys have 5 levels!) (1) Front Vestibule/(2) Liv.Dn. Area/Kit/(3) Bathroom Level/(4) Bedroom Level/(5) Back door, were held to be a dual aspect layout and a change of level, though I imagine residents coming home from a slightly too-energetic evening in the pub might find the design a bit too complex!

Why are the lifts so small?! residents may well ask. I must say they remind me of how a sardine must feel in a tin on a supermarket shelf, and the smell is familiar to any student at the dept. of Urinology! Unfortunately cost yardsticks (e.g. financial stringency!) meant economies but I wonder how Grandma's piano would reach the 23rd floor!, not to mention Grandma herself!

Hopefully, the installations of Entry-phones and the building and enclosure therein of the area by the lifts will help to sanitize the offending entry-pong! — we hope!

I am saddened by the letter of Tony in April 86 Diary. I assure him the estate is not "wrecked" or "beyond repair" and I think Bob Heagren would agree!

Lewisham Council certainly do seem to forget about their Deptford area but Pepys could once again become a show-piece estate. I'm saddened by a minority (and I'm sure it is only that much) of residents who seem to have no sense of personal responsibility but feel the majority pull together, to strive to improve the estate.

Working Class / Middle Class / Gay / Straight / Single People / Families / Newcomers / Old-established families / Black / White / Vietnamese, etc. a tremendous cross-section of society live on Pepys and it would be great to see every "void" repaired and occupied; in response to Bob Heagren's plea for "Sons and daughters" to have easier access to "hard to let" flats is valid, the situation is that every flat/maisonette on PEPYS AND THE WHOLE OF NEW CROSS/NORTH LEWISHAM IS CLASSED "HARD TO LET" so there is no reason why Ian Grey and Leegate cannot investigate!

The modernization by Faircloughs is taking its time but the scaffolding is now coming down and hopefully the residents who "refuse" to let the contractors in (whyever not?!) will have a change of heart!

Researching through the old editions of Pepys Diary in the stock of the excellent little library on Foreshore, one is struck by the feeling that a real "community spirit" is slowly developing.

Yours faithfully,

MARK STOGGALL



The PEPYS DIARY is written and designed by tenants who live on this estate. We are always on the lookout for new people who might be interested in helping out.

If you have anything to say, or feel that you want to contribute to the running of the PEPYS DIARY, please contact us at Number 1 Daubeney Tower, or phone 692 4415.

Co-op Pepys