

# 24914 KNUCKLE

July/August

1977

5p

LAMBETH'S ALTERNATIVE PAPER

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# JUBILEE BOOT BOYS

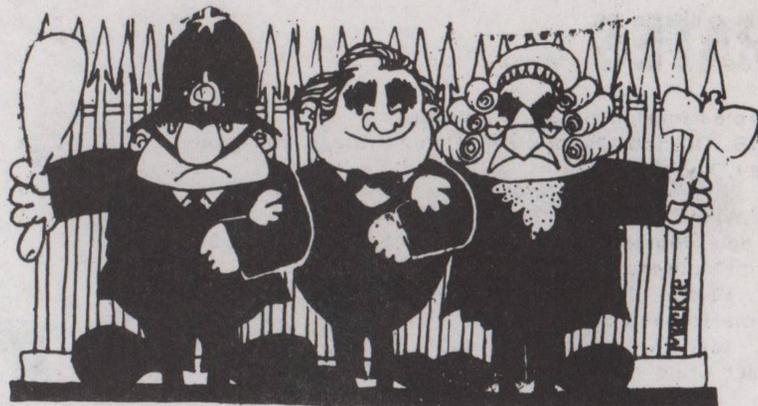
"WE'RE PATRIOTIC THUGS" SAY LOCAL POLICE.

ON THURSDAY 30TH JUNE IN BRIXTON THE POLICE ORGANISED AN ATTACK ON A GROUP OF PEOPLE PROTESTING AT THE HYPOCRACY AND WASTE OF THE JUBILEE. A GROUP OF PEOPLE WERE STANDING OUTSIDE THE PRINCE OF WALES PUB IN BRIXTON ROAD PEACEFULLY PROTESTING; THEY WERE SELLING POLITICAL PAPERS AND BADGES AND SHOUTING 'STUFF THE JUBILEE'.

## POLICE PROVOCATION

As the Queen approached from Acre Lane, about 30 plain clothes police burst through the bystanders and physically attacked the protesters. They did not identify themselves as police. When asked who they were, one said; "we are a gang of hooligan patriots." His colleagues did not contradict him! The protesters tried to protect themselves, thinking their attackers were National Front fascists.

The police had previously been informed of the place and nature of the protest. Despite statements to the contrary, no bystanders objected to the protest, in fact some of them joined in. But the police made sure that the peaceful protest was short-lived. They also made sure that there was no evidence of their attack. A photographer was arrested and his film of the attack was destroyed.



**inside .....**

RACKETEER LANDLORD  
D.H.S.S. FRAUD  
ST. AGNES PLACE  
OVAL HOUSE  
CITY SEEDS

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# THE GREAT £4M

D.H.S.S. ORDERED TO PAY UP  
IN TEST CASE.

In a test case heard recently in Bristol the D.H.S.S. have in effect been found guilty of a £4½ million fiddle and ordered to pay up.

The 4½ MILLION POUNDS is made up of numerous small sums withheld from practically every claimant during the increase of benefits last November.

If you are in receipt of Supplementary Benefit you can set about getting your entitlement by completing the form.

# D.H.S.S.

# FIDDLE!

## TREASURY WHIZZKIDS

The fiddle was dead easy. Claimants are paid for a week in advance and receive their Giro or order book payments on different days of the week. Legislation however instructed D.H.S.S. to calculate the increase from a single date, 15th November 1976. The treasury whizz-kids could not resist the temptation of making a bit on the side for the government. They did it by not paying everyone the increase for the days between the 15th and their payment day.

## RATES

Table for calculating amount due  
N.B. This table is for claimants on ordinary rates only.

Pay Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat.
Married Couple	2.90	0.48	0.96	1.45	1.93	2.42
Single Householder	1.80	0.30	0.60	0.90	1.20	1.50
Non-Householder						
18 plus	1.45	0.24	0.48	0.72	0.96	1.21
Non-Householder						
16-17	1.10	0.18	0.36	0.54	0.73	0.92
Each Child						
13-15	0.90	0.15	0.30	0.45	0.60	0.75
11-12	0.75	0.12½	0.25	0.37½	0.50	0.62½
5-10	0.60	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50
Under 5	0.50	0.08	0.16	0.25	0.33	0.42

Example Couple 4 Children aged 15,  
13, 8, 5 receiving a giro on a  
Saturday morning should claim:

Married Couple	2.42
15 year old	.75
13 year old	.75
8 year old	.50
5 year old	.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.92</b>

This table has been prepared as carefully as possible and the amount to which any individual may be entitled could be affected by the particular circumstances of any case. The table has not been agreed by D.H.S.S.

## CLAIM BACK YOUR SHARE

### CLAIM FORM

To Department of Health and Social Security.

..... (Local Office Address)

From: Name ..... Address .....

Following the decision of the Supplementary Benefits Appeal Tribunal held in Bristol under the Chairmanship of Dr. West on 26th May, 1977 (Ref. Sheet 3/6 GP No. 107-412266) which heard a test case concerning payments of benefit on and after 15th November 1976. I claim that I was not paid my lawful entitlement for the period between 15th November and my first pay day thereafter (inclusive) and further that I calculate the amount withheld from me to be £ .....

In support of my claim I quote the following decision from the test case:  
"The tribunal instruct that payment of the increased scale rates shall be made from 15.11.76 i.e. payment at the increased rate is due for 15th - 19th November"  
(Test case claimant had Saturday pay-day).

The tribunal gave the following reasons:  
"The tribunal are satisfied that the legislation came into operation on 15th Novmeber 1976 in accordance with the Supplementary Benefit (Determination of Requirements) Regs. 1976 and the increase should be paid from that date.



# PAY UP

The claimant in the test case received his Giro on a Saturday (20th November). Here is the tribunal ruling.

"The tribunal instruct that payment of the increased scale rates shall be made from 15th-19th November 1976 inclusive"

The tribunal gave the following reasons for their decision.

"The tribunal are satisfied that the legislation came into operation on 15th November

1976 . . . . .and the increase should be paid from that date"

# CLAIM

The decision of the tribunal came after a hearing on 26th May 1977 in Bristol. A Bristol Solicitor has now sent a letter to the Sup. Ben. Commission asking for the payment due to every claimant to be made.

Complete the form opposite and send it in immediately to your local Social Security office.

Further information will appear in the next issue of 'Knuckle' together with recommended action for those who have not received their money by then. Although D.H.S.S. have lost the test case they are very reluctant to pay up and there is likely to be a struggle before they do. If you do make a claim don't let anyone 'con' you into withdrawing it. If they don't pay up contact your local Claimants Union.

Camberwell Claimants Union,  
Union Place,  
122 Vassall Road,  
S.W.9.  
735 6123

# ALARM

The All Lambeth Anti-Racist Movement (ALARM) is calling all anti-fascists to demonstrate in Lewisham at the march organised by the National Front (NF) in August. One of the March organisers is the fascist Richard Edmunds, well known in Brixton from the time he was teaching at Tulse Hill school. He and his kind must be challenged and confronted whenever they show their faces.

- Q. What's more stupid than one National Front member?
- A. Two National Front members.

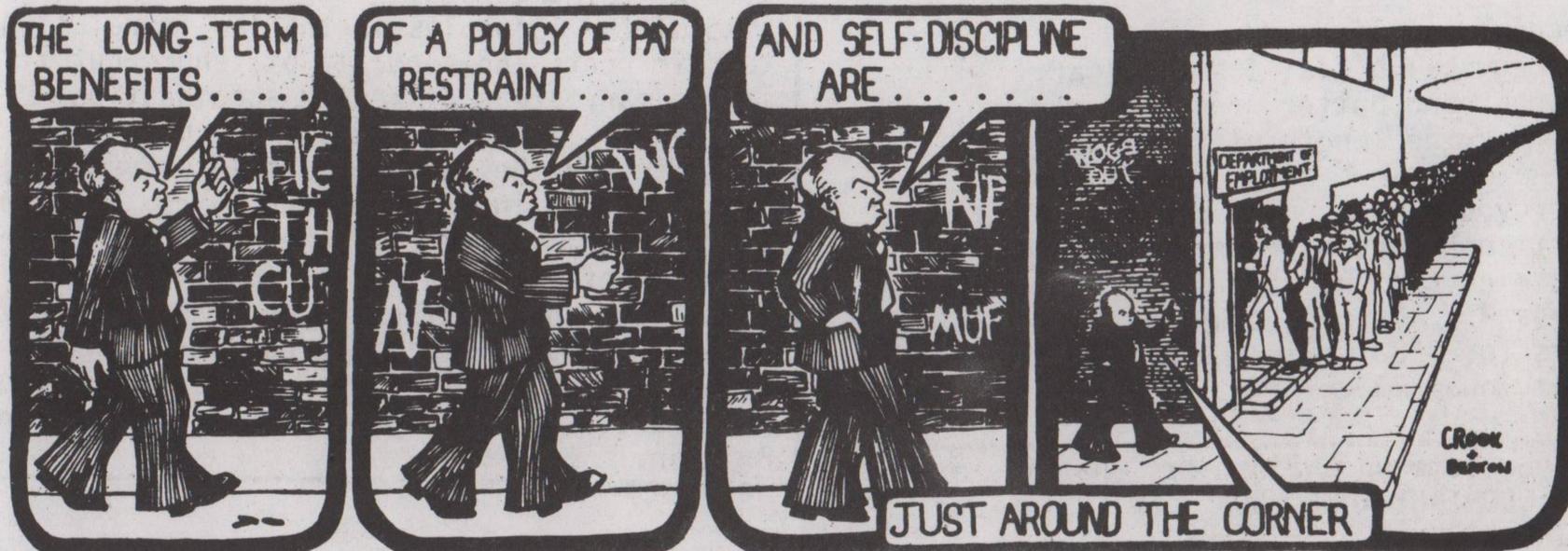
## NEW WOMEN'S CENTRE OPENS

A shop at 45 North St., S.W.4, Clapham (between Clapham Common tube and Wandsworth Road) is now open to all women.

Open collective meets at the centre every Wednesday 6.30 p.m. - all women welcome.

Space for:-

- Information on women's rights
- Feminist publications
- Meetings for women's groups
- Workshops
- ? Creche
- Women's claimants union
- ? Other ideas ?



# Mrs. Naraine's

Highlighted in a "News of the World" article in October 1973 as one of Britain's "shock landlords", Mrs. Mary Naraine of 63 Tankerville Road SW 16 is up to her old tricks again.

In the last four years she's had numerous court appearances plus convictions for overcharging (last time she got a year's suspended sentence) and still she is operating her notorious Bed and Breakfast set ups in and around Lambeth.

All this despite the 1974 Rent Act which is supposed to give tenants some measure of protection from this sort of exploitation.

The above types of set-up ensure for the landlord the highest turnover in tenants, the highest prices, and the minimum amount of trouble in fulfilling the responsibilities due to the tenant. Catering only for Bed and Breakfast, or Holiday Lets (which of course can go on indefinitely, despite the law, so long as you pay up and don't complain) can keep necessary long-term accommodation off the market and also prevents any redress on the part of the tenant. Most people, after their experiences with Mrs. Naraine just wanted to get clear of her.

## EXTORTIONATE RENTS

One young man we interviewed paid in cash and in advance £112 plus £52 deposit for one month of Bed and Breakfast. He only stayed two weeks and is still trying to get his deposit back. Bed and Breakfast, according to Mrs. Naraine was two grubby single beds pushed together,

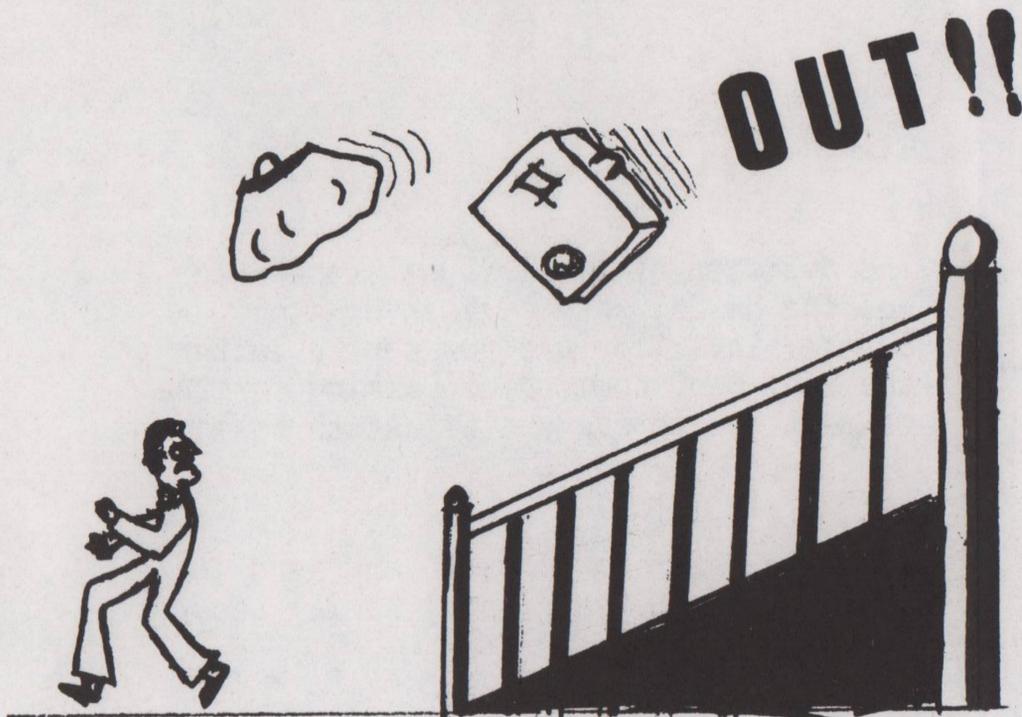
no bedding supplied and....  
½ doz. eggs, ¼ lb tea, 1 small loaf,  
some sugar and butter  
- all for the length of the tenancy.

Another young woman paid rent in cash, got no rent book, and no receipts. Now Mrs. N is claiming that no rent was paid. A third case involves Mrs. Naraine claiming rent arrears for £200 while the defendant actually owes £30.

So if you come up against Mrs. Naraine or her friends, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAW CENTRE and START FIGHTING BACK !

Mrs Naraine thinks nothing of harrasment, intimidation, whatever it takes to get rid of someone. Recently she refused to take back a tenant she had kicked out, despite a Court injunction, and only when faced with the possibility of prison did she give in.

Another favourite tactic of Mrs. N is to increase rents arbitrarily and enter it in the rent book (when there is one), that the tenant is in arrears.



Most of her tenants are people desperately in need of somewhere to stay, single, black, unused to the snags of finding accommodation in London, often unable to find any other form of place to stay, and unfamiliar with the law. So if the tenants make trouble - that is, complain - they are booted out or harrassed and intimidated until they leave, fed-up and disheartened.

## LOOP HOLES IN THE LAW

And that brings us to the law. How does this sort of thing happen? The 1974 Rent Act closed some of the loopholes in the law in relation to fair rents and security of tenure but it leaves many areas of rented accommodation untouched. There are still many people unprotected by the law. Tenants in Bed and Breakfast and in holiday lets. Mrs. Naraine and people like her can take advantage of the scarcity of accommodation to operate under bogus bed and breakfast licences and holiday lets - to ensure a high turnover of tenants with no security of tenure. Fancy a 'holiday' in a gareth in Notting hill or a basement in Brixton.

# s at it Again!



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE NARAINÉ MANSION.....

In our interview with Mrs. Naraine, a plump, pleasant-looking forty year old, from South America, we were checking out bedsitters in and around Tankerville Road. She offered us one bedsitter in Tankerville Rd., but no information could be got about the room, only that it had a separate toilet, which merited it being priced at £16 per week and called a flat.

Long and elaborate were the conditions for letting; so long and complex, in fact, that it was extremely difficult for us to sort out just what we were agreeing to.

We remember she wanted £16 per week, PLUS one month's rent in advance, PLUS one month's rent as a deposit, £128 in all before even moving in. She also wanted three weeks notice to quit, only after six month's stay (If you left sooner the deposit would be lost).

We felt all this had been carefully worked out to submerge the would-be-tenant in the intricate loop-holes, which would confuse and distort his understanding of his position, and his ability to claim back his deposit.

Checking around the area of Tankerville Rd., most landlords and estate-agents agreed that £16 per week was far too much and that the average price for UNREGISTERED bedsits ranged from £7 per week to £12, taken on a weekly, or monthly basis, and certainly with some security of tenure.

# OVAL HOUSE

52 Kennington Oval SE11

Oval House is a thriving and well established creative activities centre. Once the birthplace of one Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery, it came in the sixties to play a significant part in the development of 'fringe' theatre in this country.

RESOURCES

CENTRE

ADVICE

## FURTHER EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENT

Originally a boys club, it developed after 1961 into a mixed youth club with the beginnings of a creative activities programme. From 1967 the use of Oval House as a rehearsal base for many of the emerging theatre groups, lead to the development of an open workshop/performance space, a regular Theatre Club, and a range of weekly workshops and classes in creative activity skills. Now, Oval House is a recognised Further Education Establishment and receives grant aid from the Inner London Education Authority, the Arts Council of Great Britain and Lambeth Borough Council. At present it is administered by a staff co-operative.

In its role as a resource and advice centre for the community, Oval House provides training programmes for teachers, playleaders and neighbourhood playgroup workers. There are also creative play projects for children, and performance groups emerging from Oval House workshops are encouraged to perform and explore community events. There is a month long Kids Project planned for August.

## COFFEE

On top of all this they run a tasty and cheap Coffee Bar with a selection of snacks and drinks, from 6.30pm. every evening. It's open to anyone, not just those using the Theatre Club or workshops. Membership fees for Oval House are:  
Over 18: £4 per year or £2 per term.  
Under 18: £2 per year or £1 per term.  
For further details contact: 735 2786.

## EVENING CLASSES and WORKSHOPS

There is a varied programme of workshops and classes, mostly run in the evenings, covering such things as mime, modern dance, ballet, acrobatics, clowning, creative play, video, improvisation, theatre games, magic, voice, printing etc. Because Oval House lays stress on the use of theatre arts as educational tools rather than as exclusive and elitist cultural acquisitions, the classes are geared towards the exploration of self-awareness, human interaction and roles, as well as providing skills towards performance.

## EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE

The Theatre Club (open Wednesday to Sunday every week) offers a platform to experimental and new theatre groups, presenting professional artists and groups from all over the world. It has presented festivals of Experimental Theatre and has just finished a 'Spring Season of Politics and Performance'; with productions covering such topics as the Cuts, South Africa, lesbian life and delinquency.



CITY SEEDS OPENS

# 50 Years Ago

BRIXTON FREE PRESS AUGUST 1927

## Under the Rule.

The Government inquiries held at Brixton last week in connection with the erection of some petrol supply stations, disclosed the interesting fact that the London County Council was keeping a finger and a suspicious eye upon the development and re-development of suburban London. For the first time it was borne in upon the public that we are contained within town planning zones, and that our masters will see to it that we live in one place and shop in another. A rigid line is to be drawn to indicate which is a residential and which a commercial area, and thus does the march of freedom go on. The speculative builder used to run up a line of villas and stick a shop at the end. Now, the buildings apparently, to receive the benediction of the blessed L.C.C., must be either shops or houses; they cannot be mixed, and they must be one or the other. The officials call this town planning, and perhaps it is, though some people would think it is uniformity gone a little mad.

\* \* \*

Things change don't they??!!

## garden shop opens

CITY SEEDS opened in March this year. It is situated in Lyham Road at the rear of the Brixton Prison in short life premises rented from the Council.

The original idea behind the shop was for it to act as a resource for local gardeners, providing basic goods at a reasonable price.

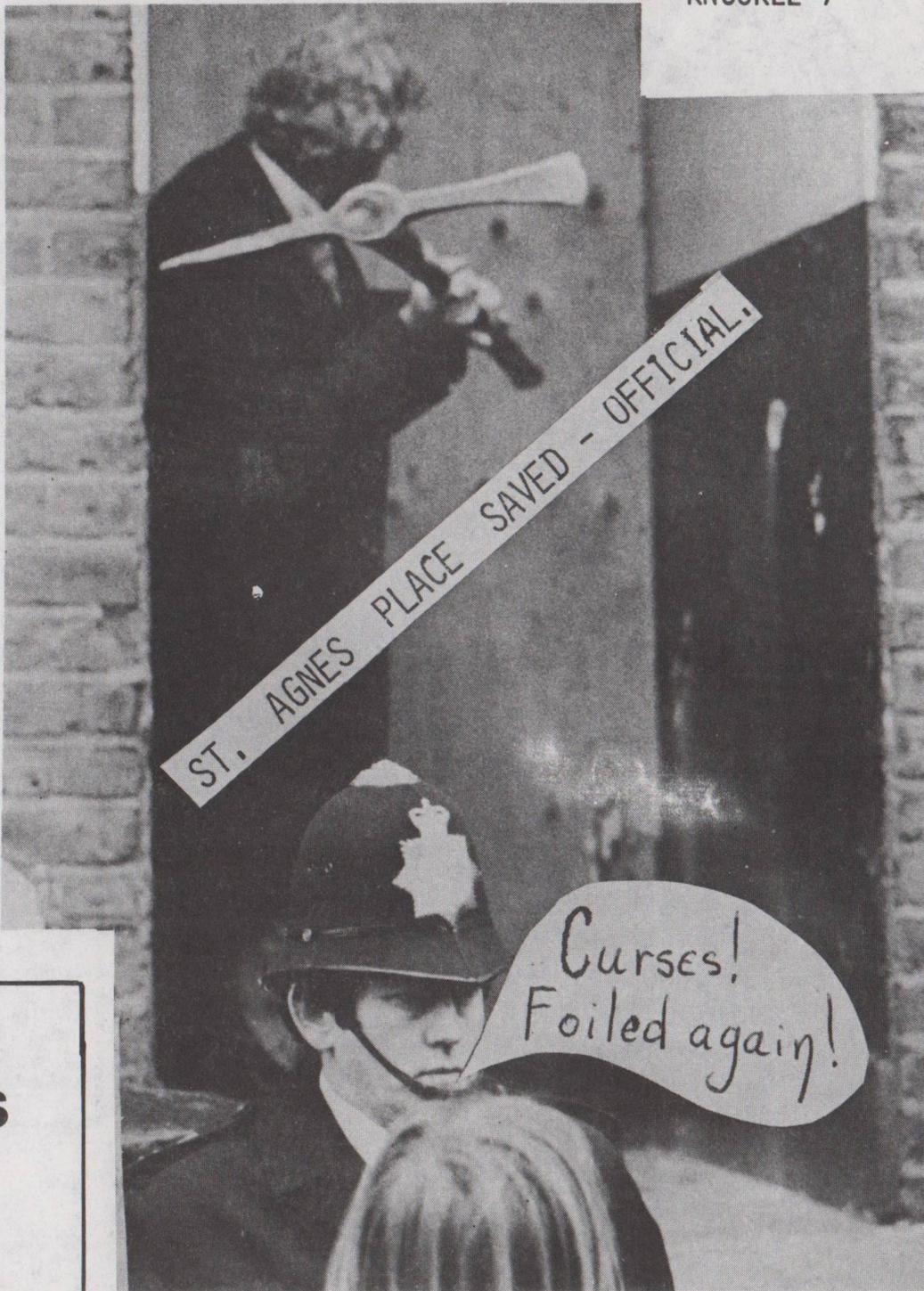
The emphasis of the shop is towards "organic" gardening, and this encouraged as far as possible by selling at least some organic seed, fertilisers and insecticides.

It also tries to encourage people to grow more of their own food in the usually limited space available to them. At the moment various authorities are being approached for the use of short life building land for allotments and growing areas

The rediscovery of the beneficial uses of different herbs is becoming increasingly valuable, and the shop is interested in all information in this area.

At the moment they stock organic herb seed, and there are usually at least 40 different varieties of herb plant in the shop.  
Closed all day Mondays,  
Open Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 to 5.30.

KNUCKLE 7



## SQUATTERS FORCE COUNCIL TO COME TO ITS SENSES.

St. Agnes Place has been saved from further Council vandalism. The Council has been forced to come to its senses by the constant struggle of the street residents. The Labour group on the council voted on 4th July by 25 votes to 21 against the demolition.

**BUT VILLA ROAD UNDER THREAT, READ ABOUT VILLA ROAD IN THE NEXT ISSUE.**

### CLAIMANTS UNION

National Conference :

Brighton 3rd & 4th September

Summer Camp

5th-12th August  
Barnstable, N. Devon.

Contact;

East London C.U.  
tel.: 692 1047



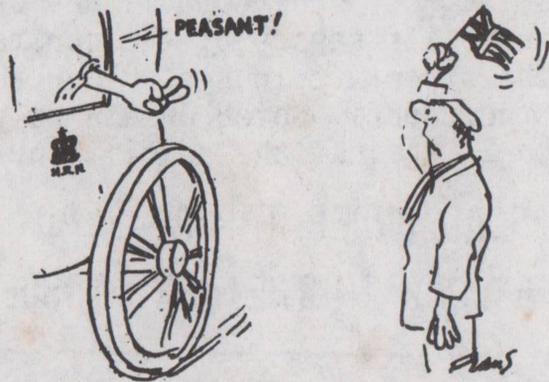
## Jubilee Ecstasy in Brixton.

cont'd from page 1

Eleven of the protesters, including members of the Right to Work Campaign, Socialist Worker's Party and the West Indian Defence Committee were dragged to Brixton Police Station. Here they had a lengthy wait (6½ - 8 hours) in overcrowded cells. Eventually they were charged with: insulting behaviour, obstruction and assault. During these events, the smallest member of the group received a severely cut eye.

All the evidence points to yet another unprovoked, deliberate attack by police upon people exercising their rights to hold a peaceful protest.

Who is the most insulted? The Queen who might possibly hear a few shouts of "Stuff the Jubilee" from the comfort of her limosine? Or the millions of people affected by unemployment, low wages, rising prices, poor housing, education cuts and the run down of the National Health Service, who see vast sums of public



KNUCKLE aims to be a newspaper which can provide an alternative voice to the establishment press. Which can comment honestly on the forces which shape the places where we work and live. Which can expose some of the real problems that we face and publicise the activities of people who are trying to do something constructive about them.

KNUCKLE is now more firmly established, with a bigger more committed editorial collective. But we'd like to bring it out much more frequently. To do this we need more help from our readers. Editorial meetings are open to all who support the concept of an alternative paper for Lambeth; so come along and offer your help.

READ KNUCKLE ... WRITE FOR KNUCKLE..  
SELL KNUCKLE.....

KNUCKLE will be out again in September. The deadline for articles is September 2nd. We'll be including a list of local groups activities - so send details as soon as possible.

### KNUCKLE MEETINGS

THE EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE MEETS EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 7PM, AT UNION PLACE, 122 VASSALL RD., SW9.

money being wasted on the Jubilee celebrations? Just how much will this servile circus act eventually cost us, on top of the £5½ million annual hand-out to the Royal Family.

we can expect Her Majesty's Magistrates to support Her Majesty's Constabulary. Please support those arrested; donations and offers of help to :

Defence Committee, 21 Mayall Rd., S.E.24  
Tel. 582 3485

### UPHOLDERS OF THE LAW?

In the early hours of June 4th some friends were set upon by 4 drunks, who then threw a dustbin through a window, smashed some bicycles and tried to break in through a door. 2 neighbours came out to see what was going on and were attacked - one had her nose broken in three places. It looked like a case for.....THE POLICE!

However, when the Clapham police arrived their first question concerned the status of those who had been attacked. Did they pay rent? No, they were all squatters. The police then let the drunks escape (and good luck to them called one constable) and left despite demands that they might actually consider doing some thing!

Like similar occurrences in St. Agnes Place, this is the subject of a police complaint, to be investigated by a completely unbiased independent officer from.....(you've guessed) BRIXTON!