

# TOLMERS NEWS

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Edited this week by Rachel Syers, with help from Shirley, Ruth & Dave.

## NEW CAR-PARK?

We have heard that the council have received an application to use the British Rail site at the end of Drummond Street as a car-park.

WE OBJECT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. Other more beneficial uses can be found for the site. We have already asked British Rail this year if we might use it as a temporary football pitch. They rejected the proposal. But there is a need for a football space in the area. At present people use Cobourg Street, which is exceedingly dangerous because of traffic. And there would be even more traffic if the carpark got the go-ahead. Neither Euston Square nor St. James' Gardens nor the TVA garden are suitable for football.

2. Another suggestion put forward by some of the residents in Cobourg Street is to use some of the space for a Community Centre - a large Nissen Hut which could be used for table-tennis, filmshows, bingo, jumble sales, etc. etc.
3. There are sufficient carparking facilities in the area. (NCP car-park on Euston Road). This was accepted as a reason for resisting the establishment of a car-park in Tolmers Square.
4. The traffic here is already sufficiently hazardous without it being increased by a constant flow of vehicles in and out of the area.
5. Council policy should be directed to reducing commuter car-parking, not encouraging it.

WE ARE COLLECTING SIGNATURES FOR A PETITION  
TO SEND TO THE COUNCIL - SO SIGN AND HELP STOP  
YET MORE TRAFFIC FROM BLOCKING OUR STREETS  
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

## WHAT THE SQUATTERS SAY

### PEOPLE NOT PROFITS

Levy has begun moves to eliminate opposition to his plans to build office blocks after destroying Tolmers Village first. His agents have attempted to lock two squatters out of their homes and are collecting names of other squatters in the area to start legal proceedings against them.

Squatters cause much embarrassment to speculators like Levy. Taking over houses which have stood empty for years (some of them deliberately vandalised to make them uninhabitable) when many thousands are homeless not only highlights the misery property speculation can cause, but also is an act which can be understood and defended by working people in the area.

All those of us who are squatting see it not only as providing us with a home, but also as part of the fight against fast-growing homelessness in London.

UNTIL we take it into our hands to use as homes the 100,000 houses standing empty in London; UNTIL we demand that government and councils which claim to represent us do something effective to solve the problem; UNTIL we show property speculators that the people of this country will not be ridden roughshod over in order for capitalists to make profits, NOTHING will be done to solve the problems caused by speculation either for the homeless or for those whose means of making a living will be torn away.

SO... the squatters in Tolmers Village have begun a campaign to defend our homes and the area from Levy's attempts to displace people to make profits. A public meeting is being held on Thursday 20th June, with speakers from the housing movement, the local labour movement, the council and the squatters to begin to build the campaign in the whole of the Camden area. Leaflets and posters will give more details over the next week.  
.....Jacky Gray.....

### ACTION BACKED INQUIRY

Two weeks ago, a group of tenants and squatters from various parts of North London met at 220 Camden High Street and set up a group called the Action Backed Inquiry into Property Speculation. The idea of forming the group had come out of the political campaigns waged around the occupation of two of Joe Levy's properties - luxury flats in Dover Street, Mayfair, and 220 Camden High Street itself (it's not only Tolmers Village that has enjoyed the privilege of Big Joe as landlord!).

The group has three main aims:

- \*\*\*\*\*TO INVESTIGATE the activities of speculators in London
- \*\*\*\*\*TO HELP victims of speculation - people who are being harrassed, 'winkled', or made homeless - to fight for their rights
- \*\*\*\*\*TO ENLIST the help of Trades Unions and similar organisations against the speculators.

Working people have been organised for a long time to deal with their bosses, but up until now they have mostly had to face their landlords alone. The landlords have had everything on their side and it's time for the organised labour movement to start hitting back.

An example of what can be done was given by the Kentish Town Firemen's Union, which refused to help Levy's bailiffs evict the people living in 220 Camden High Street.

If you are a member of a Trades Union, then you can get your branch to send a delegate to the Action Backed Inquiry - someone who will work actively with the group on behalf of the homeless and badly housed.

For more information, come to the next Action Backed Inquiry meeting at 7.30 on Wednesday 19th June at 220; or drop in and see me at 117 Drummond Street.

.....Jamie Gough.....

# come to the CARNIVAL → 29<sup>TH</sup> June

## TOLMERS VILLAGE CARNIVAL

It's definitely on, almost everything is arranged. There are still a few problems as regards road closures because the council are short of staff to man the barricades as there are three other festivals on the same day. We'll have to get round this problem somehow, there's a lot to put on.

The next Tolmers News will be a CARNIVAL SPECIAL SO watch this space - it's getting bigger!

## Garden News

### OVERWHELMING GENEROSITY

Some time ago we asked Rank Xerox if they would give us some financial support for our garden, since we were aware that they have a certain amount of money set aside for good causes. And this week we received a cheque from them for £1000!! We are still reeling with amazement at their overwhelming generosity. We now have to get a committee together to decide how to spend the money. Any offers?

### HELPFUL AND HOPEFUL

Rank Xerox are not the only people who want to see the garden grow. On a humbler scale, but just as welcome, we have had other offers of help. Two keen lady gardeners brought several large boxes of plants, which we hope will thrive. Connollys, the owners of the site, gave us £25 to spend, a firm of decorators in Netley Street donated a few gallons of paint, and the council delivered topsoil and tools, and will soon deliver the grass. The lovely Lynne should be mentioned too, who bravely mastered a pneumatic drill and made mincemeat of the unwanted concrete. She was also largely instrumental in persuading Rank Xerox to part with their money.

IT'S YOUR GARDEN TOO - COME AND HELP !!

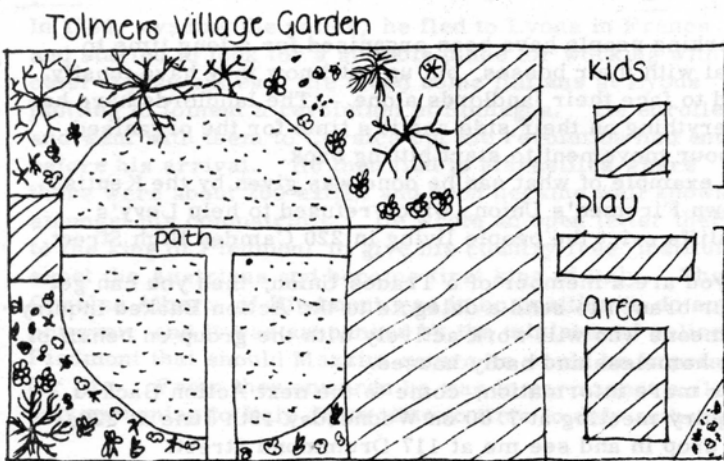
WE NEED A GARDENER..... Afew pounds a week to keep it under control... OAP's welcome.

It has been suggested that some of the garden could be used as an outdoor cafe. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

### MAYDAY THEATRE HAS ARRIVED IN TOLMERS VILLAGE...

By the time you get to read this we will be well stuck into our project, but nevertheless this should not prevent you from dropping into our open workshops to help us make our show about Joe Levy and Tolmers Village. Mayday Theatre is a professional community theatre formed in May 1972. In the past we have done a variety of shows devised specifically for certain groups of people - pensioners, trade unionists, children, housewives etc. In January of this year Nick Wates got in touch with us and interested us in coming to Tolmers Village for four weeks to devise a show about the issues involved in property speculation. And so, with the help of the Greater London Arts Association and the London Borough of Camden, we are now working in the old National Westminster Bank at the corner of Tolmers Square and Hampstead Road. During the month of June we will be doing some public performances-most Saturday mornings will find us in the garden with street theatre and games for children: Saturday evening (22nd June) we will perform our melodrama 'The Factory Lad' in the bank at 8.30.

However for the Tolmers show to succeed we do need you; your ideas, opinions, stories, songs to make the material come alive and truly reflect the Tolmers Village community. There will be specific open workshops and rehearsals, but do feel free as well to come round, observe, and discuss.  
.....Christine Eccles, Mayday Theatre.



## TAKE NOTE ↓

### ENGLISH LESSONS FOR FOREIGN MUMS

Camden Council for Community Relations will run a Summer Project in our area this August. It will be specifically to enable non English-speaking mothers to attend lessons, and provision will be made for their children to be with them while they attend. For older children there will be outings and adventure and the little ones will have playgroups. Anyone interested in either attending the classes or helping with the project, please get in touch with The Organiser, 1974 Summer Project, Camden Committee for Community Relations, 335 Grays Inn Road, W. C. 1.

# ...LETTERS...

## Power to the People

Dear Editor,

We live in a society which tends to cut ordinary people from the exercise of power. Most of the decisions which affect our lives are taken by people or bodies whom we hardly ever see, or cannot directly influence (governments, councils, big companies, institutions of all sorts). Even though the power they hold has been in some instances delegated on them by us, they exercise it from such removed positions that we do not recognise ourselves in the decisions they take.

Tolmers Village is a good example of this, where the forces shaping the area were totally outside the grasp of the people they were affecting. The TVA is an attempt to bring the people of the area into the decision-making process.

The material gains that could hopefully follow from this are better homes, better facilities, and our area becoming more like we want it to be.

But another set of aims could be reached; by getting involved in the running of our area and coming into contact with the wider issues and conflicts within which Tolmers Village is placed (property speculation, the role of councils and what we want from them, the housing problem etc.) we will acquire a better understanding of our society, how it operates, the contradictions it contains, and above all, how we can change it. Becoming more aware of these problems through involvement in local issues is in my opinion as important as anything else.

In the long run our lives, our area, will not change for the better without society at large also changing for the better. Tolmers Village will not become a small isolated paradise, and this is why the struggles carried out here have to be seen in the context of what what goes on in the rest of the world. Awareness is only the first step in the process which will eventually allow ordinary people to exercise power. It is nevertheless a crucial step. Let us therefore get more involved.

Pedro George.

## Seeing the Light

Gurus and Gurus - a partial answer to Brooksie

If someone asks me what love is  
I cannot answer rationally  
I can only say 'it lifts the heart, brings joy, brings communion with the infinite'

But if he says 'There is no love'  
I can say 'You are mistaken, I have known it  
Though I am imperfect, foolish and stupid,  
And so may you'.

So if you ask me what the light is  
I cannot answer rationally  
I can only say 'It came into the world  
And the world did not know it - it is the light  
That enlightens all men - it is communion with the infinite'  
But if you say - there is no light  
I can say 'You are mistaken, I have known it, -  
Though I am imperfect, foolish and stupid  
And so may you'.

So, if a guru appears corrupt, avaricious, hypocritical  
This does not mean the light does not exist -  
But that it has gone out for him.

..... John Stansfield.....

## Anon Annoys

Anonymously yours - Paul  
to be sung to the tune of 'My old Man's a Dustman'

Someone wrote anonymously and everyone thinks it's meee  
But they should knee better than that  
I don't write for freee\*  
And I would wish to call upon a plague to their house  
Whoever that person may be  
Anonymous or mouse.

Chorus: (My old man's anonymous' etc...)

\*What am I doing?

Dear Editor,

People should have the guts to sign their name when they write poems. Also they should not mention my name without asking me. I would like the person who wrote the poem in the last Tolmers News headed 'A Vicious Attack' to come and apologise to me, because it is causing a lot of bad feeling and suspicion all round. It was very unkind as I lost my best companion three months ago.

Yours sincerely,  
Madame Andrée.

P. S. I have a good idea who it was.

### JUMBLE SALE

The TVA held a jumble sale on Saturday afternoon. Lots of people helped, but special thanks to Pam Daly, Alon and Ian. We raised £25 towards the carnival fund.

There is still quite a bit of jumble left which will be sold in the TVA during the afternoons. So come and have a look - there are some good things left to buy. Money goes to the carnival.

# Our History

GUISEPPI MAZZINI (part 1)  
(Former resident of 183 North Gower Street)

Giuseppe Mazzini was born 22nd June 1805 in Genoa during the French occupation and became Piedmontese when the Republic of Genoa was annexed by Piedmont under the treaty of Vienna (which ended the Napolionic wars 1815). He entered Genoa University in 1821 as a medical student and shortly afterwards had a 'conversion experience'. Near Genoa harbour he met a 'tall black bearded man with severe and energetic countenance and a fiery glance' who was collecting money for the refugees from the Piedmont revolution after its failure.

Mazzini said 'That day was the first in which an idea presented itself - not of country or liberty - but an idea that we Italians could and therefore should struggle for the liberty of our country.' From that moment Mazzini was the priest and prophet of the Risorgimento (resurgence). Guissepe was a handsome tall man with fine olive features set in a mass of curly black hair, a serious face which melted into the kindest of smiles, and notoriously a woman charmer. He seemed, however, to be embarrassed by womens' attention.

He was initiated into the society of the Carbonari (charcoal burners) who were dedicated to the unification of Italy under Roman rule and did not hesitate to use revolutionary methods.

In September 1830 Mazzini went to Tuscany to found a Carbonari lodge there and set it up at Leghorn. He then wished to go to Bologna to meet the Romagna Carbonari but the Tuscan police were suspicious and he was prevented from going.

He returned to Genoa and was betrayed by a friend, Doria. Doria had ordered him to go to an inn and initiate a new Carbonari, and the initiation was watched by a disguised policeman. A few days later Mazzini was arrested but managed to get rid of all his documents, bullets and a swordstick and at his trial denied everything. The police informer refused to appear in court and so there was insufficient evidence to convict. He was interned for ten weeks in the winter of 1830/1 in the fortress of Savona. Whilst in prison he started writing his plans to overthrow the many governments in Italy to replace them by a united state. He also started the 'Young Italy' idea which was a youth club dedicated to the reform of the state, if necessary by revolution.

In 1831, evading the police, he fled to Lyons in France and started to look for a suitable place for working with other Italian exiles. He found some Italians at Lyons plotting to foment a revolution in Romagna. He enrolled and went with them to Corsica but the revolution had ended before his arrival. He then fled to Marseilles where there were about 200 exiles and soon became well known amongst his compatriots. He wrote an open letter there to the king of Piedmont to give his country free institutions, expel the Austrians and become first king of Italy. The king, Charles Albert, of Piedmont was in no position to do anything, however, and it was announced by the minister of police of Piedmont that should Mazzini return he would be imprisoned for life. From then onwards he was in permanent exile, only returning to Italy from time to time to defy authority.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*\*\*\*\*  
CONGRATULATIONS CONGRATULATIONS  
Celia & Colin of 119 Drummond Street have  
a happy healthy beautiful bouncing baby boy  
born on Saturday 25th May \*\*\*\*\*  
WELCOME TO TOLMERS VILLAGE KID!!  
\*\*\*\*\*

Come to Vines for everything ... Ethel is waiting for you. ... she'll soon sort you out. 115 Drummond Street. For satisfaction...

S. B. Shane, Newsagent, 163 Drummond Street for your fags, sweeties, papers etc. etc. ....

Best secondhand furniture in London, as well as China, Glassware, Carvings etc. etc. SIMMONDS', N. Gower Street.

AMBALA SWEET CENTRE for delectable eastern goodies... their sweets are nice too!

GOWER DAIRY AND SANDWICH BAR FOR THE BEST IN SANDWICHES

CHES AND TIM'S DISCO - Friday evening at the bank on the corner of Tolmers Square and Hampstead Road. 8 - 11 p.m.

JOKE: Did you hear about the policeman who lived at 10 Letsby Avenue?

### TOLMERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT GROUP

#### Elected Representatives

John Stansfield Chairman 30 Hampstead Rd.

Jane French Secretary 160 N. Gower St.

Gavin Brown Treasurer 160 N. Gower St.

Jayant Patel Diwana, 121 Drummond St.

Mr Ahmad Eurasian Foods, 125 Drummond

Mr Shah 161 Drummond Street

Maureen Holland 67 Cobourg Street

Sheenagh Goodingham Flat 1, 183 N. Gower St.

#### Full-time workers

Nick Wates Co-ordinator

Rachel Syers Community Worker