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TOLMERS NEWS

PUBLISHED BY TOLMERS VILLAGE ASSOC., 102 DRUMMOND ST. N.W.1. EDITED THIS WEEK BY VINCE, DEBBIE & RACHEL. CONTRIBUTIONS MORE THAN WELCOME.

VILLAGE TRIUMPH!

Great news for the people of Tolmers Village came in the shape of grade 2 Preservation orders on nine houses in North Gower St. Occupants of houses from 211 to 229 (Obviously not all of them, clever) had notices from the clerk of Camden council, Mr. Wilson - not that Mr. Wilson - on 30th July. Three of the Georgian houses are inhabited by squatters, and the rest by tenants. Their homes, the notice said " - - have been included in a list of buildings of special architectural or historical interest compiled by him. --- one of the purposes of that listing is to ensure that no works are carried out to the building which would destroy or seriously affect the special character of it."

Preservation Orders take the wind out of the property speculators' sails. If they can't demolish and redevelop, there's nothing in it for them. The Orders stabilize property values and they can be seen as the council's first move towards issuing compulsory purchase orders on all the houses.

So far, Well done, Camden! But don't let's stop here. What about preservation orders on more of the Georgian houses in Drummond St.? And what about the whole of Tolmers Square.? If the council are going to act in the spirit of their own architect's report (Renton, Howard & Wood) then these are their logical next steps. It makes complete nonsense, in terms of town planning, to leave all Stock conversion's property out of a policy of C. P. O. s. Write to them and tell them what you think. If your own house is worth preserving, ask for it to be considered. If they get lots of letters from the village, at least we know they'll be thinking of us.

HAPPY FACE

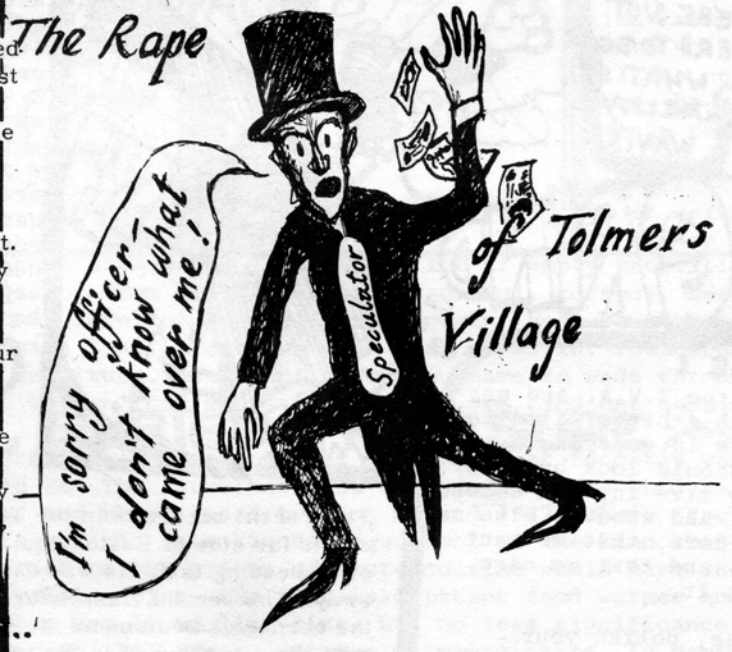
You might think, walking past 213-219 North Gower Street, that the houses themselves had heard that they were to be preserved, and had put on a happy face in response.

This would be naive. The reason the houses are looking so much better is simple. The occupants have got on with the joinery, plastering, painting and polishing that was needed. They've done it themselves, and paid for it themselves. (Not all that expensive. Materials for each house cost £20-30)

They haven't been sitting on their backsides, waiting for uninterested landlords to do it. And, since most of them are squatters, they don't even know how long they'll be able to enjoy the benefits of their efforts.

It's all very well for them, you might say; they don't pay any rent. If you do pay rent, you're already shelling out every week, and you should be able to expect decent living conditions in return. If your Landlord won't do necessary repairs in reasonable time, do them yourself, or have them done at your expense. Then send him the bill. He's legally bound to pay and if he doesn't you can sue him, and win! There are plenty of things, though, which cost no more than a tin of paint and an afternoon's work. If you can't do...

CONTINUED P.2 COL.1



COOLING OFF!
4-year-old Sue lets the air circulate in last week's sunshine.



BURTON ST THE FULL ST

Tenants and Squatters sharing the Burton Street just across Euston successfully defied the attempts of the landlord, to evict them.

He first tried to get rid of the tenants a year ago, but when the case came to court, the solicitors found that they had a good kind of order. Discourage them until last Christmas, when he gave notice to the tenants again. Still in May. He was applying for orders but for £1,000 loss of profit was settled out of court with an agreement that tenants and squatters would leave.

They didn't leave. The houses in the terrace were bought by Symonds for redevelopment as a hotel. His permission was refused and the houses listed for preservation. It seemed he had little reason to evict them.

The council have now decided to demolish the terrace, so he has even less. In the impending CPOs for nearly a month, nevertheless, on 30th July he turned up later reinforced by police, to evict them out. In fact, he had eviction orders for the tenants and not for the squatters.

As it turned out, the residents decided to resist. They were not prepared to be evicted for the sake of what seemed the landlord's vindictive whim.

Police and bailiffs decided that it was not worth attempting to force an eviction and departed.

Since then, the residents have set up a network which includes the T.V.A. and they quickly obtain support and publicity. Attempts are made to throw them out by orders against the squatters within 6 - 8 weeks, but since his behaviour is notably irrational, he may attempt further action. The 20-odd people living there, a pregnant mum, expecting at the time, are naturally worried about the future. They have spent a lot of time and effort redecorating their houses, since the demolition was lifted. They want an argument of good sense and good sense to be allowed to.

SOME NASTY TAXI

Two recent accidents in the Tolmers Village have both involved taxis on the far side of Euston Squ. A motorcyclist was flung from his bike by a speeding taxi. He was dazed, according to eyewitnesses, but got away. The second, last Saturday afternoon, involved a car and a taxi at the corner of Drummond St. and Cobourg St. An ambulance had to be called as a cola can lay crushed in the street. Taxis have a lot of business in the area. And they're often in a big hurry. Taximen take it easy, please.



FACADE... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

...it yourself, go round to the T.V.A. and see if they can find someone with a bit of time to spare to do it for you. It's in everyone's interests that the village should look brighter. First, because it's nicer to live in, and second because it tells the council and whoever else is interested, that we like it here, that we want to keep the houses standing, and that we care enough to do something about it.

If you can't do anything else, polish your knockers.

STREET: STORY!

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SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE

Passers-by in Drummond Street will have noticed a magnificent erection in the TVA garden. This was constructed by the Tolmers Village kids, helped and guided by many noble locals. It is still at an embryonic stage, but in the minds of the children it will assume many guises from spaceship to fairytale castle.

The other part of the garden looks a bit bare due to the capricious nature of English weather and the independent nature of English turf-cutters; keeping us grassless. However, keep your fingers crossed for good turf-cutting weather and we'll soon see a green lawn and a flowering garden. Children have been passing from our grassless garden with little muddy feet up Drummond Street through Tolmers Square to the Bank, which they have been painting red, blue and other colours. Soon on view will be a model of Tolmers Square, constructed with small cardboard boxes by kids from 3-10. Spot your house! Lots of kids have been coming to the Bank and garden every day.



PLEASE save your eggboxes, cartons, lavatory rolls etc. and send them and your kids to the TVA any weekday between 10 and 6. No boxes will be returned, but the kids will. If you've got any spare time, pop into the Bank or the garden and see the young artists at work.



Living in an area where there are a lot of empty properties does have some advantages. One of them is the variety of useful, curious, beautiful, or even valuable things that derelict houses often contain. Most squatters could show you things in their houses that were there when they moved in. Postcards, an odd plate, books, bits of furniture. As often as not you have to wade through piles of mouldy carpets, paper, rotten food and assorted shit, to find one George VI coronation teaspoon (bent)

BURIED TREASURE

One interesting collection that came to light recently was in an empty house in whitfield St. The firm that once occupied it were wholesale kitchen outfitters and caterers, and they ceased trading around 1937. Their stock, or quite a lot of it, they left behind. It's kitchen equipment of the kind that Mrs. Beeton, Escoffier and the rest of the greats of haute cuisine would have used. 350 chefs hats, 45 ashwood rolling pins, the "Garfield" patent food warmer and night - light. Many discoveries are of smaller size, but no less significance. Giuseppe Mazzini lived in N.Gower St., Del Jones, jazzman extraordinaire, in Hampstead Rd. Letters relating to both of them have been found. Keep an eye open: maybe you'll find some treasure.

this & that.

The Diesel Cat.

A local resident of the feline persuasion, who happens to be a cat called Tiger, took it into his head to crawl up a large-bore fuel oil delivery pipe. Not surprisingly Tiger was well oiled. His owner took him to the vet, who shook his head and shaved all his fur off. Tiger still has oil in one ear, which makes him deaf and rather unsteady in his balance.

So if you see a bald cat stumbling up Cobourg St. with his head on one side, it's Tiger.

TV TV show

On the evening of Mon. 26th Aug., there will be a video show in the bank (50, Hampstead Rd.).

Two video tapes are being shown; one of the first days' work in the village garden, and the other of events on the day of the carnival, taken by Doug "Eisenstein" Fry.

They have sound, and maybe colour (??) and they might very well have you, so come along and watch. Times will be posted at the TVA office nearer the date.

FOOD CO-OP CAR CRISIS



The village food Co-Op has run into a spot of bother. Ever since they began their operations, they've used Patrick's car to ferry the supplies from Covent Garden. Now he wants to sell it, so a replacement will be needed. Does anybody who uses the Co-Op have a van or a big Estate car that they could use once a week? or would anybody like to buy Patrick's car, and let the Co-Op go on using it? Benefactors apply to 117 or 119, Drummond St.

CRAWLING ROUND THE VILLAGE

THE PALMERSTON - Otherwise known as Rolles Bros. Has a number of features to recommend it. Sells port wine at a very reasonable price, and good draught cider. A Trumans house. There are several bars, each with their own character. There is a television, no jukebox (enough to recommend it), dominoes. Beautiful painted mirrors and signs abound, and there is plenty of warm old wood and a commendable lack of plastic. The pub can proudly boast the best barman in the area, namely the modest and excellent Pete.

Bad points: Toilets could be kept in a cleaner condition; could do with a discreet coat of paint - it can be dingy when empty; doesn't sell Irish whisky.

Conclusion: A good, friendly, old-fashioned pub if a little unimaginative. Depressing sometimes, then unexpectedly lively, and not too hard on the drinker's pocket. Oi'll give it foive.

CROWN & ANCHOR - A comfortable, (plush? ... well...), lively pub, used mostly as a lunch-time boozer because it now sells good food. It's not cheap. The good points here: nice seats; separated booths for more intimate drinkers; very attractive barmaids (but we are sad to hear that Phil, the highland lassie, is leaving - so long girl and may guid luck go with you!).

Bad points: - Noisy jukebox with last year's worst records (but there is a little bit of Stevie Wonder to perk you up now and again); a bit too concerned with its image to be a place where you can let yourself go - far too much plastic about for that; doesn't stock a wide variety of cigarettes - only expensive packets of twenty and no tobacco.

Conclusion: If you're a lunch-time-in-a-hurry-office-drinker, this is the place for you. Or if you want to have a quiet talk with your drinking partner - though the jukebox doesn't really encourage intimacy. Oi'll give it three.

JOLLY GARDENERS - "A very deceptive boozer" is the opinion of one of the locals. Has a friendly atmosphere in the public bar, where there is a colour television, but is not so bright in the saloon bar where there is a jukebox even worse than the one in the Crown & Anchor. A good feature of this tavern is the outside seats, but the one-way system can spoil any fantasy you may, whilst in your cups, entertain. There is the added entertainment of watching little children hurtle round the corner on their new bikes shouting - "Look, no hands!". They sell Carlsberg Specials and Export Gold, and a wide range of drugs for those of the natives who can only afford tobacco.

Bad points: already mentioned.

Conclusion: A wide range of clientele makes this pub a nice place to spend an evening. Nicely unexpected lunacy adds bite.

EXMOUTH ARMS - Lovely site for a pub - on the corner of two dead-end roads. Has outside seats which are beautifully for sunny lunch-time drinking. Serves lunches, and has a variety of food. Friendly public bar with a dartsboard. Irish songs predominate on the jukebox.

Bad points: Saloon bar gets very crowded at lunch-time. Not a friendly bar even though there are so many people there. Lacks humour and lunacy.

Conclusion: Better outside than in.

TYPICAL!!

Yet another example of the Amazing System. A local girl was made homeless because her house went up in flames last week. She has two children, another on the way, and her husband is in hospital after a very bad accident which has lamed him. So the council had to do something. They offered her accomodation in a Bed & Breakfast in south London, but since she has to visit her husband in St. Pancras every day, this arrangement was inconvenient to say the least. So she had to find herself a local B & B which the council grudgingly agreed to pay for. Here absurdity creeps in. Her mother would willingly have her to stay, and this arrangement would suit her much better than the B & B. But if she does take up her mother's offer she loses all her rights to be re-housed.

Red tape costs rate-payers yet more, and only serves to make an unhappy situation into a stupid and frustrating one.

TAKE DEVELOPMENT LAND INTO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP NOW!!!

Any individual or group interested in taking part in or helping to organise and co-ordinate a national campaign on this issue please contact B. R. A. G., 28 Wandle Road, SW17.

COME TO THE TVA FREE LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE

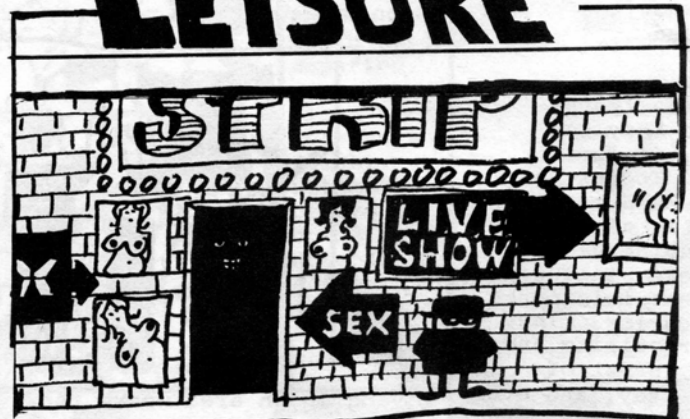
102 Drummond Street Wednesday 6.30 - 9.00
TO HELP YOU SOLVE LEGAL MATTERS AND PUT YOUR MIND AT REST.

JUMBLE SALE

Sat. 17th August 2.00. p. m.
At the Bank on the corner of Tolmers Square
(50 Hampstead Road)
PLEASE BRING JUMBLE TO THE TVA OFFICE.



LEISURE



ODDS Sensible Seeds and Seaweeds. John & Vera
113, N. Gower St.

Moira needs a small chest.
Anyone oblige?

Mr. Patel is opening the
basement underneath
the Diwana. It seems
it's going to be the mixture
as before. Can't be bad.

& GOT A COT?
Frances of 78, Hampstead Rd.
has a baby she wasn't
expecting, and it needs a
cot (the poor little mite). Someone
must have one to spare
SHAH

RAPID RECOVERY, CHES.

VINES
VERY
THING

END

CARS