Changes to come

Information from Diana Sherston
(District Housing Liaison Officer, Bidborough House)

Keep this map. Further copies showing current changes will be made as we are informed by the Council.

If your information contradicts or supplements ours, please do not hesitate to let us know.

STOP PRESS: NGS will start being developed from Drummond Street north on its west side. (Area bounded by --- ) December 1976.

THE NEXT MEETING of the TVA
Is on the last Wednesday of the month
31 March 76 at the Social Centre, 20.00 hrs.

ON OTHER PAGES...

Criminal Trespass Law
A history of and a writing from T.S.
Divide and rule! or how administrations confuse us.
Abilities (intellectual and manual) listed for ref.
Co-ops and The Coop

Mary Mary quite contrary
How does your garden grow?
With seeds, digging, watering, weeding.
All the above are req.
and will be presented to our Head Gardener and Horticultural Commissioner with his blessings.
Now come into the Garden Menu
For the Black But Lively Goose
Please consult Tim or
drop in to the office before planting or seeding.
Since lots of things have been done already

Edited by Douglas and John.

PROJECT GROUPS

are proposed for those interested in Astrology, Cookery and Chess.

Attend the meeting for further details or drop into the TVA office to discuss them. THE TVA OFFICE is open at least Wednesday, Friday afternoon and evening.
Tolmers Square

A big thank you to the Council for the trees and a less big one for all the gravel.

To mark this partial greening of Tolmers Square, here is a bit of its history.

Where the square is now there used to be a pond, and just to the south was the old Manor House of Tolmers Court. The Manor House was surrounded by a moat and a drawbridge. Some people say it was used as a training ground for victims of the Great Plague of 1665 but this is probably untrue. Soon after 1800, just at the same time, North Gower Street was being laid out and the New River Company took a lease on the site. This was a company which supplied water to London along the New River, an artificial waterway which ran from Hertfordshire; they wanted the site to build a reservoir, so they could supply water to all the new housing that was being built in the West End. A Society for Black boys and washerwomen for its laundry classes built a series of public baths (first six at the lower class where the soil and the TCV were not run but they didn’t last long and in 1880 both baths and reservoir were closed.

Tolmers Square was built between 1861 and 1866 by the Baptist Congregational Church. In the middle of the square was a well and a small temple, and it was to be a temple square, and exactly where the square is now was the site of the church. The square was named after a small village in Hertfordshire near the source of the New River.

It was, despite the intentions of the builders, not very respectable. The Church was built in 1861 (the building and plaque in Holloway Street are still there). A local newspaper complained: “Recently within a few years, a man has been found dead within the readings of the church with his throat cut. Wickedness abounds and the Tolmers Square milestone has been built by and is still in use.

The church closed in 1919 and Tolmers Cinema took over the building. About 1929 the cinema was pulled down. Finally, in 1929, the cinema closed and demolished it, leaving the meadow and we are all remember. The Square must look better now than for a long time.

The book has still to be written and Tolmers Village will have a chapter on local history. It should be in the Summer. If anyone has pictures or memories of the area, we would like them.

Tolmers Square

ANewSlant

As a newcomer to Tolmers Square and a dissident from Upper Bumshone and many of its conventions it is rather wonderful to find oneself living in a community (sort of) which undoubtably shares very similar beautiful ideals in terms of liberation and love, but sad when one realises that the many different opinions of the ways of achieving these ideals get in the way of real communication.

So we have the starting point, change, and ending point, liberation..... or is it the beginning? and here we are in the middle.

We have an amazing collection of people with ideas. If only we could get off the fences and think of starting not fretting over the differences, this would I am sure lead to a greater joy of living in what is a veritable act of creativity.

Let us hope that Spring will drive away the fears and anxieties and gusts towards the renovation of Tolmers Square that we may cleanse move with one another and soar with the seagulls, higher and higher.

Dave Hunter.

Editorial Comment: Tolmerites of all shades of opinion unite! You have nothing to lose but your misunderstandings.

Socio-Urbanistics

If anyone noticed about 45 teenagers wandering around Tolmers Village a couple of weeks ago they were supposedly surveying the area as part of their fifth form urban studies course.

The students from Ifill Comprehensive School in Catley are looking at the encroachment of commercial interests upon inner London residual areas. This area was chosen partly because their teacher is a resident, but also because the area graphically illustrates how a community can fight back against the developers and expose the waste and immorality of its development and their council allies in creating better than alleviating homelessness.

Each student was given a copy of 'Tolmers Square' before the trip and asked to fill a questionnaire designed to elicit their opinions on redevelopment, renewal, squatting etc.

Before coming to Tolmers the students were largely unsympathetic to the problems of inner city development...
The FOOD CO-OP is alive and well!

and is at the moment living in the Social Services building at Drummond Street.

The WAY the food co-op works is that whatever
we want to buy food places a deposit that is
equal to what he/she wishes the vegetables in any week.

what we manage to sell so far is most of the
staple vegetables (spuds, carrots, onions, cabbage etc) plus
fruits such as oranges, bananas, cooking and eating apples.

Also we have whatever we can get that is
different and in season such as savoy, Jerusalem artichokes, peppers and aubergines.

I do not know whether you have tried this yet,
but what with or practically nothing to mortgage or at
least HP to buy potatoes -- tomatoes or parsnips or swedes
on their own or mixed in any other and with a little
pepper and butter makes a good alternative to
spuds and to save nutritional, less fattening and about
equal the price. A few people have asked about
Jerusalem artichokes. A good way to cook them in
scald and chop them and add to a pan in which you
are cooking onions in oil or butter. Allow to fry for
a while then add stock and cook so that the artichokes
are tender. Remove and purée (mash) and return to stock
and add top of milk or some cream and serve.

IF ANYONE wants to get in contact or wants to make a vegetable of
interest to buy let us know -- for instance I have
found that celery (not celery) eaten by Jews at
the passover feast is good as a salad vegetable with
salted or omit by itself or with other vegetables in a
stew.

FINALLY a plea for help. Someone is needed to
make a go of it. Someone is needed to
help run, or take over the food co-op
because I hope soon to be going to
Teachers Training College and it is about time someone else
has a go at it. If a few people could volunteer to
join a rate for a few weeks they could find out
what is involved organisational.

Douglas Fry.

TOLMERS CARNIVAL

Dear CARNIVAL LOVERS

With some 1,000+ residents still in the area
and our fun games will take place on the traditional date of
the last Saturday in June.
WHEREABOUTS? That is for you to decide. If
you want to hide behind a
tree all day you can, now also in SLS, but it has
been largely accepted that NES and DS could be
used for this year's festive occasion. If any inspired
acts do turn up requiring more space SLS may
be available.

THE GOODIES -- hunting, sending systems etc from the
last two years carnivals have
largely disappeared so if you have the enthusiasm
and contacts and would like to help get things
together to drive away fears comprising quilts
from any depressed patrons or residents of TVA your
name and kind cooperation will be gladly received by
the organising group in the TVA office -- which
fits! is still at 102 Drummond St despite rumours to the contrary.

SINCE CARNIVALS don't just happen, we
for one are well aware
half the people will probably have their own secret
party at this time but please come outside and
enjoy yourselves.

DO YOU know what a carnival is like? Have you
ever been to one? I know some
readers have in the Chinese New Year celebrations,
so let us all have, this time, a real break and make
the day a highlight for one. Ian Cooper

# If anyone has heard of last year's treasure hunt,
will they please bring it down to the TVA.

Flos Tolmeri vegetarian remodel

(For the Flower of
Tolmeri grows and be renewed)

An attempt is being made to inject a little more life
in the formerly nearly defunct TVA.

We must not assume that since our first major objective -- to defeat our favourite
property speculator -- has met with success, that New's facile about King Leg
(who did nothing) and King Steer (who ate all his subjects) may still have the old
application headquarters. The monthly meetings (last Wednesday at 8.30 at 20.00hrs) are
only the start -- our stamp has been growing geraniums. It remains that we, the Association,
will die if we don't grow and put up new shoots. Start or continue attending meetings.
THE Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law or Squatters Out!!

Hopefully everyone is aware of the implications of the latest Law Commission report now burning a hole in its Home Secretary's desk, and that dinky leaflets hiding in hallways and stuck on doors won't have been for nothing.

Unfortunately the content of the report is still not known, as a van driven stake at HMSO has held up the distribution of the report. The First Report published in 1974 proposed to increase the number of offences: entering properties, destroying property and being unlawfully on property. The Law Commission admits its 'surprising opposition' to the proposals which recommended up to two years' jail for the first offence and 6 months for the second.

The situation is somewhat different. The offence of conspiracy to trespass is to be dropped and the government is looking for a replacement to plug the hole. Squatting, rent strikes and occupations have become commonplace throughout the country and direct action by all kinds is likely to increase in the wake of the recent cuts in public expenditure and social services.

THE CACTL run from 2 Boyd Street (SL11) by two full-time workers has tried to build up opposition to the CCTL proposals. Success has been mixed; the Trade Union movement has shown a surprising lack of Union and seems to regard the proposals as anti-squatting rather than a likely attack on the tactics of their members. Whilst the number of union branches and trade unions have passed resolutions of support, pressure on the leadership on the Central Court has been lacking.

THE National Demonstration attracted about 400 people to Trelawney Square in a colourful but unoticed event featuring an impressive turnover from Tolmer's Village. The National Front had successfully promoted the demonstration as they have in the whole campaign so far. Now CACTL have been promised a copy of the report before it is released. We can expect some press reaction to the published report and CACTL will be holding its own press conference to make its press statements.

The Government proposes new legislation without delay and so it is not inconceivable that we shall have a CTL in force by April or May.

CACTL are organising a conference last May to discuss tactics and policy with regard to the prevailing situation.

WHAT CAN WE DO? Reaction in Tolmer Village has been fairly low key as perhaps people are confused as to what constructive action can be taken. The stability and careness of Tolmer squatting also lends to undue complacency and weakness. Despite Cameron's current liberal attitude we can be sure that they will rely on a Criminal Trespass Law to get us out rather than the bilious and expensive of the High Court, that is, Albany Street will do it free.

The main thrust of CACTL has always been at grass roots level and this means communicating and publishing the real meaning of Criminal Trespass at home, work and in the community and in women and tenants associations.

The CTL proposals seem to be seen not as an isolated campaign against squatting but part of the labour government's strategy to shift opposition to the whole spectrum of their reactionary policies in furtherance of what they call Social Democracy.

As soon as the report is published we will hold a meeting to discuss our plans and organisation. Meanwhile CACTL hold weekly meetings at ULU, Malek St 20.00hrs, Thursdays to organise speakers, leaflets and policy and having only two full-time workers they desperately need volunteers.

Anyone wishing to help contact
Patrick Allen, 11a Tolmers Square
or ring CACTL 289 3377 for up to date information.
Patrick Allen
Write and fight to stop the Criminal Trespass Laws!!

THE COUCIL via Diana Sherbon
the Housing Liaison Officer is initiating a Tenants Association for the area and perhaps it may be an idea to remind all and everyone that the first part of the OBJECTS in the TVA Constitution is taken from a local Tenants Association constitution and the word 'Tenant' changed throughout to 'resident'. The TVA wishes all well to the tenants association but perhaps the members of it might remembe that they are a minority of the residents.