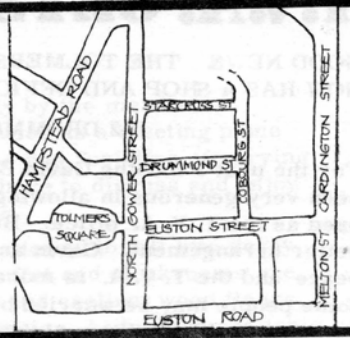


TOLMERS NEWS N°3

PUBLISHED BY THE TOLMERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
 Edited this week by Barry Shaw and Nick Wates.

4 NOV. 1973

The TOLMERS NEWS will hopefully be published every two weeks. It has two aims: First; to keep local people informed about the latest developments of plans affecting our area, and second; to provide people who live or work in the area with a means to express their views about what is happening. If you would like to write a letter or article for the next issue please bring it or send it to; The Editors, TOLMERS NEWS, 102 Drummond Street, N. W. 1.



BONFIRE NIGHT

**6.30
 MONDAY
 DRUMMOND
 STREET
 FIREWORKS
 FOOD**

'Twas Monday night in Tolmers Square
 The sky was getting dark
 "It's bonfire night" the kids all cried
 "Let's go and have a lark"

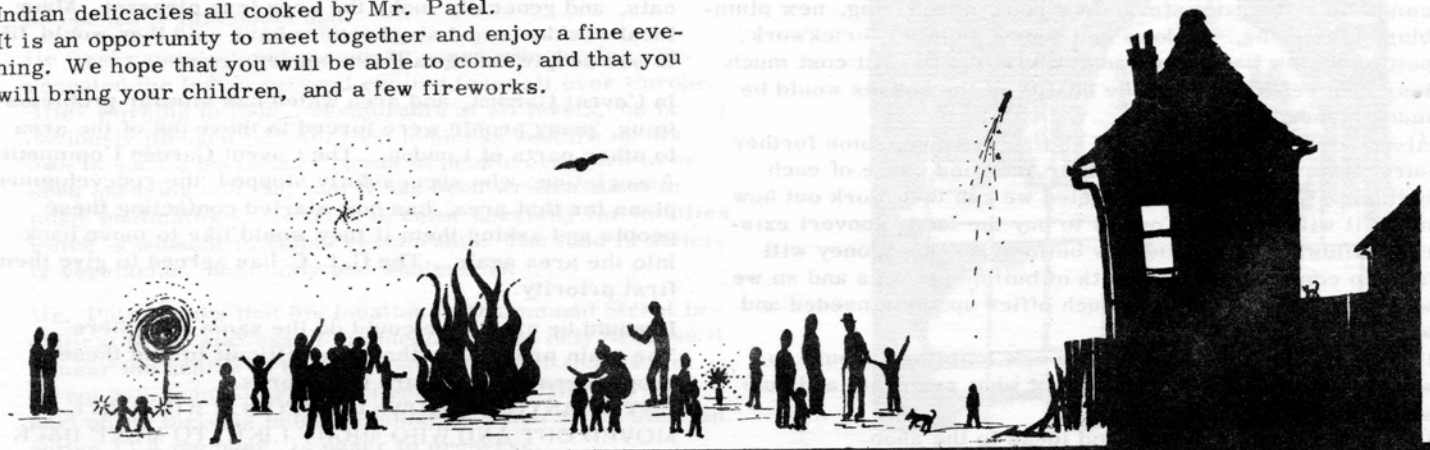
'Twas Monday night and all the streets
 Were empty and so quiet
 But in Drummond Street at the bonfire
 All were having a riot

'Twas Monday night and the scene was set
 The food was all piled high
 And there in the midst stood the bonfire
 And sitting on top was the guy

The people they came from all around
 Some brought their fireworks too
 'Twas Monday night and the moon was bright
 I'M GOING, ARE YOU?

Caroline Lwin

Monday the 5th of November is bonfire night and to celebrate, the Tolmers Village Association is holding a bonfire party for all the people who live or work in our area. It will be held in Drummond Street on the corner of Co-bourge St. The bonfire will be lit at about half past six and will burn right through to the party's end. The firework display will start a little later and hopefully be followed by a street theatre. There will be lots of food, just right for a bonfire, baked potatoes, and chestnuts, etc. and Indian delicacies all cooked by Mr. Patel. It is an opportunity to meet together and enjoy a fine evening. We hope that you will be able to come, and that you will bring your children, and a few fireworks.



illustrations by Ruth Ingham.

T.V.A. GETS A SHOP

GOOD NEWS. THE TOLMERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NOW HAS A SHOP AND OFFICE AT

102 DRUMMOND STREET

For the past 3 months Gavin Brown and Jane French have been very generous in allowing part of their office to be used as the T. V. A. office. But the shop means a much better arrangement. Gavin and Jane can now work in peace and the T. V. A. is more accessible to you. Some people may be worried because we are squatting in this shop and so I will explain what the situation is. When Evans Dairy closed down the owners sold the building to a property company who will not disclose their name. This company has left it empty ever since they bought it and it seems they have no intention of letting it. We think they are now attempting to sell it again to another company for a large profit. In other words they are not the slightest bit interested in the area, or in housing people but merely in making money for themselves. By doing this they are helping the area to decline because if buildings are left empty they become unsafe, they are used by dossers and of course there is less trade for the shops, pubs and restaurants. We want to put a stop to this intentional decline. We are not trying to get something for nothing and have talked to one of the directors of the company which own it, and offered to pay rent. They are still considering this offer and have not yet replied. We have told them that we are prepared to move out if they want to house people but we are not prepared to see it left empty.

OUR PLANS

In the last two weeks work has been continuing on our scheme. An architect from Circle 33 who has had considerable experience in conversion work paid a visit to the area. He told us that all the houses in the area are capable of being modernized if we want them to be, although some will obviously need more repairs than others. He says that even with a complete conversion (e.g. new roof, new wiring, new plumbing, plastering, windows and doors, pointing brickwork, putting in new bathrooms and toilets) it will still cost much less than rebuilding and the quality of the houses would be much higher. Also, some students from U. C. I. have done some further survey work to find out the floor area and usage of each building. When this is completed we can then work out how much it will cost the Council to buy the land, convert existing buildings, and build new buildings. This money will have to come from the profits of building offices and so we will have to work out how much office space is needed and where it should go. Before we can decide where the new buildings should go we need to know much more about what residents and businesses want. Please bring information and ideas to the shop. Everyone is welcome to 102 Drummond Street to see how we are getting on.



1. DURING OFFICE HOURS THERE WILL BE SOMEONE THERE WHO CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE RE-DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS. In a few weeks time we also hope to be able to provide information on housing problems, rent acts, legal aid, etc.
2. PEOPLE ARE WORKING ON THE FUTURE PLANS. SURVEYS, MAPS, DRAWINGS, ETC. ARE ON SHOW.
3. T. V. A. MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY THURSDAY AT 6.30. pm.

EMPTY HOUSES

Houses are for living in, not for leaving empty.

35% of the houses in the area are unoccupied which means that they fall into disrepair, attract vandals and stray cats, and generally make the area less pleasant. Many local residents and shopkeepers have said they would like to see people living in these houses again.

In Covent Garden, an area which has similar problems to us, many people were forced to move out of the area to other parts of London. The Covent Garden Community Association, who successfully stopped the redevelopment plans for that area, has now started contacting these people and asking them if they would like to move back into the area again. The G. I. C. has agreed to give them first priority.

It would be nice if we could do the same thing here. The main problem is that it is difficult to find these people because there are no records. BUT IF ANYONE KNOWS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE MOVED OUT AND WHO MIGHT LIKE TO MOVE BACK AGAIN, contact someone at the T. V. A. We might be able to get them back.

REASONS FOR STAYING

London Countrywide Holidays Association, Fred Tallant Hall, 153 Drummond Street

The Club was formed in 1901 to continue during the year the spirit of friendliness found in the holidays organised by the Country-wide Holidays Association (founded in 1893) and held its various functions at different places wherever a hall could be obtained at a reasonable cost and it was not until 1925 that the premises known as "Tolmers Institute" at Nos. 141-153 Drummond Street were purchased freehold. It had always been the intention of the Club to hold its functions in central London so that they could be easily attended by all members whose homes are situated throughout the Greater London area and its environs.

Cultural, social and educational activities are held on each evening of the week and rambles into London's countryside are organised each Sunday. These activities include lectures, quizzes, film and slide shows, scottish, square, old time and ballroom dancing, table tennis and badminton. A drama group produces three full length plays each year.

Membership of the Club is composed mainly of people who have been on the holidays organised by the CHA, but it is also open to local residents or those who work in the neighbourhood and details of the Club's activities are given each month in "What's on in Camden", All work necessary to the successful running of such a

Club is undertaken voluntarily by the members.

The Club premises are also used as a meeting place by more than 20 private Clubs and Societies of varying sizes whose members come here to discuss and enjoy their own particular interests.

The premises have not been allowed to fall into decay. The various halls, rooms, buffet and cloakrooms are well decorated and furnished and excellent wood floors provide good facilities for dancing, badminton and table tennis. There are two excellent stages equipped with necessary lighting for productions.

If a C. P. O. is made and confirmed and alternative premises are not provided before the present building ceases to be available, a Club which is 72 years old and has been a feature of the neighbourhood for 48 years providing social, recreational and cultural amenities not available elsewhere in the vicinity, would cease to exist. Similarly the Clubs who use these premises because they are centrally situated and are available at a very reasonable rent, would also cease to exist since they would be unable to afford the rents asked for similar accommodation in Central London.

Thus about 1, 400 people would cease to be able to enjoy their particular interests and hobbies.

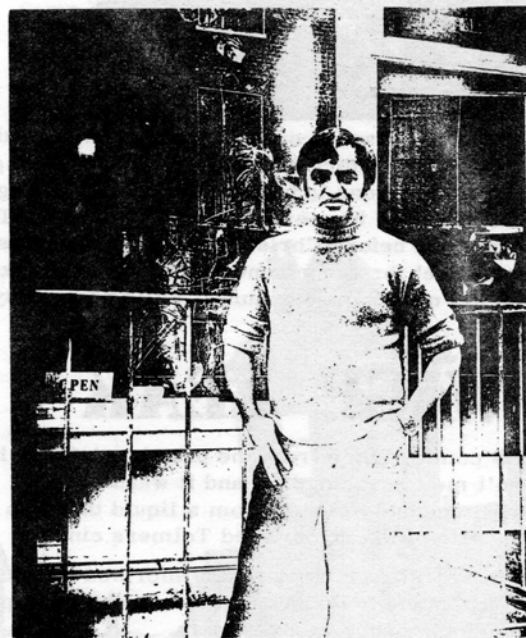
Film cameras were in Tolmers square again on Tuesday. Nothing to do with the redevelopment this time but to film a sequence for a TV thriller called 'Sign it Death'.

DIWANA

Mr. Jayant Patel standing outside his Indian vegetarian restaurant which has achieved an excellent reputation since he opened it 18 months ago.

He first came to London over 20 years ago, having represented the Indian national cycling team all over Europe. After working in Indian restaurants at all levels, he is obviously pleased that his first business venture on his own is such a success. Crowds of people are often to be seen queueing outside, and it has been written about in many publications. He tries to cater specially for families which is unusual in Indian restaurants. The food is strictly vegetarian, both tasty and wholesome.

Mr. Patel thinks that his location in Drummond Street is critical to the success of his business, not only because it is near the centre of London, but because it shares the street with many other Indian enterprises. Diwana is a part of the thriving Indian community which Mr. Patel, an active TVA member, is eager to preserve.



Doug Smith

LETTERS

Dear Editors

Seven weeks ago 12 Tolmers Sq. was one of the 100,000 empty houses in London. With its corrugated iron and bricked up windows it added its share of neglect and decay to London streets.

The house which had been empty for 18 months was filthy - the plumbing was missing and many windows had been broken. Since then for under £50 we have made the house habitable again. The interior has been cleaned and painted and the house has been rewired. (We hope to do the outside soon).

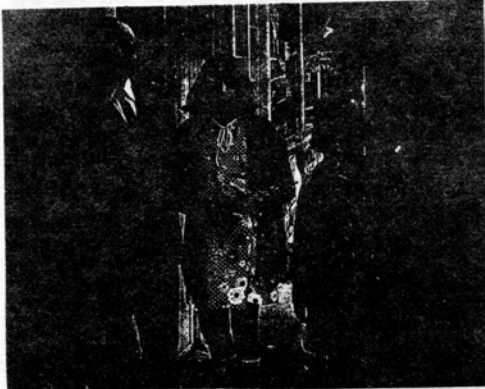
Most people in the house have a working interest in this area and want to live here, and this seemed the only way to achieve this.

Areas run down because of the length of time needed for councils to renew housing. In the monopoly games property developers play, people don't matter and homes just become property and money.

Like much of Tolmers Sq. this house would have remained empty for many months if we had not occupied it.

Merve Spragg

OFF TO INDIA



Mr. Shah, photographed outside his shop on Tuesday with his two daughters Indira and Shilpa, before leaving for India. They have gone to be present at the wedding of Mr. Shah's brother and to see the rest of the family. They hope to be back before Christmas. His position as 'street representative' for Drummond Street has been taken on by Mr. Patel of Diwana restaurant while he is away.

SEWAGE LEAK

Suddenly coming home from the pub she clutched her nose. "It wasn't me I screamed" - and it wasn't. The smell seemed to come from a liquid that was oozing from the site of the demolished Tolmers cinema.

The Tolmers Village Association informed the Public Health Department of Camden Council and an inspector is coming on Monday to investigate.

Merve Spragg

LEAKING ROOF

Mrs. Austin at 14 Tolmers Sq. has had a leaking roof for three years. She constantly complained to her landlord and the sanitary inspector and periodically a builder comes round and replasters the ceiling. The last time they came was two weeks ago. The night afterwards the rain came in again because what was needed was a new gutter not replastering. The TVA has now put pressure on the landlord and we hope that action will soon follow.

Landlords are required by law to keep their property in reasonable condition. If you are having any difficulty in persuading your landlord to repair your house the TVA can help to chase them up. Get in touch with the Secretary Jane French at 160 North Gower St. or come to the shop.

Use us. That's what we're here for.

NW

T. V. A. STREET REPRESENTATIVES

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| North Gower Street | - Jane French no. 160 |
| | - Sheenagh Goodingham no. 183 |
| Drummond Street | - Mr. C. R. Ahmad no. 125 |
| | - Mr. E. H. Fenn 2a Charles Pl. |
| | - Mr. J. Patel no. 121 |
| Euston Street | - Doug Livermore no. 92 |
| Tolmers Square | - Pedro George c/o 160 N. Gower |
| Coburg St. / Melton St. / Starcross St | - Francis Hollis 58 Euston St. |
| Hampstead Rd. | - Mrs. Philpot no. 82 |

ADVERTISEMENTS

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If interested, contact the editors at
102 Drummond Street.

KITTEN WANTED Good home offered by Francis at 58 Euston Street.

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