

TOLMIERS NEWS

A NEW DANGER!



NOV 1973

ISSUE 4

TVA ON TV - Eh

MAN ALIVE B.B.C.

Chris Pooker and Bennie Gray were noticed strolling around Tolmers Sq. closely following a Volvo Estate with a TV camera sticking out of it. They were being filmed for a Man Alive programme which will be screened on Wednesday, 28 November. A large part of the programme is about this area and it features many local stars.



The main reason that we objected to the Levy development and to the architect's scheme exhibited at the Town Hall, was that neither had bothered to find out from the residents and businesses themselves what was actually wanted. So they failed to satisfy the needs of local people.

THE T. V. A. IS NOW TRYING TO PRODUCE ANOTHER SCHEME WHICH IT HOPES WILL SATISFY LOCAL NEEDS. Obviously we cannot give everyone just what they want. Some people's requirements will be satisfied only at the expense of others. For example, Avis vans in North Gower Street annoy some of the residents. Should Avis be moved somewhere else or must local residents continue to suffer, or is there another solution? Another example is the workshops and warehouses behind many houses on Euston Street, Drummond Street, North Gower Street and Hampstead Road. These workshops mean that no houses have a garden, and in some cases, prevent the back rooms from getting enough light. How much does this matter? Can they be left as they are, or should the workshops or even the houses be moved?

In making a new plan we constantly have to make decisions like this, which will affect peoples' lives. If we are to make the right decisions, it is vitally important that everyone concerned makes their voice heard. OTHERWISE WE ARE IN DANGER OF MAKING THE SAME MISTAKES AS PREVIOUS PLANNERS.

The T. V. A. has been criticised for being unrepresentative. This criticism is justified. At the moment far too much of the work is being done by a few individuals. But the only remedy for this is for more people to start taking an active part or at least making their views known. At present the T. V. A. has over 160 members. But there are 700 residents and many more workers, all of whom will be affected in some way by any development scheme. EVERYONE IS NEEDED!

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH WHAT THE T. V. A. IS DOING NOW, THEN COME ALONG AND SAY SO. PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT. ONLY IF EVERYONE IN THE AREA PLAYS A PART WILL THE T. V. A. BECOME A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION WHICH IT MUST BE IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED.

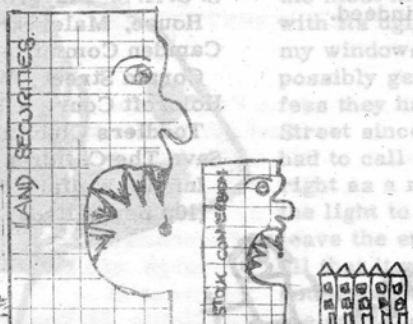
Nick Wates

Barry Shaw

CITY WHISPER

Stock conversion Ltd. who own 40% of the Tolmers Square area may be taken over soon by Land Securities, the biggest property company in the country. Last week Land Securities announced that the property they own has risen in value by 27% since April 1. It is now worth £1306m instead of £1028m an increase of £274m in seven months.

Merv Spragg



NEW

HEAD



We would like to welcome to Tolmer Village Mrs V P Tomlinson as the new headmistress of Netley School. Mrs Tomlinson, a young headmistress with some progressive and exciting ideas on primary education, is no stranger to Camden schools where she has already taught for several years. She is, she says, very pleased to be in this area and working with our children.

We wish Mrs Tomlinson every success in her new post and hope that she will be happy in our area.



TVA NEWS.

This week the physical survey of the Tolmers Square area has been completed. The new survey shows that 35% of the housing in the area is empty. It also identifies the office and warehousing that is not being used.

The window of the TVA Shop should soon become an information board for you with photographs and the local news.

£40 has been generously given by local people in order to get a telephone installed at 102 Drummond St.

TVA MEETINGS, EVERY THURSDAY AT 6.30 AT THE TVA SHOP 102 DRUMMOND ST.

What shall we do with the kids?

There is a solution at hand for those harassed mothers of young children who live cramped in small flats or rooms with little or no space for play.

Young children seem to be at their happiest and to learn best when they are free to make a mess and a noise. This is tough on their mothers who must long for a garden where their toddlers could roam in safety to dig and make mud pies or even ride their trikes or pedal cars away from busy traffic and tired neighbours.

For those mothers who need to work or who are unable to care for their babies and young children through long-term sickness there are Day Nurseries which take babies from 6 weeks onwards. The children can have breakfast, lunch and tea. If you earn a lot of money they do charge you quite a lot, but if you don't earn much you don't have to pay so much. Day nurseries are almost impossible to get into unless the authorities think you are a deserving case. Mrs Odewale, the health visitor from Sommers Town Clinic (387 2380) is the person to contact.

There are three day nurseries locally all said to be full up - one in Corams Fields, one in Sommers Town and one over in the Regents Park Estate.

There are two very good nursery schools but they both have fantastically long waiting lists and are a good walk away, but if you persevere they are well worth it. St Leonards in Brunswick Square is at the top of Corams Fields in a big garden with trees and grass around and plenty of opportunity for outdoor play all year round. The teachers there are young and have lots of exciting ideas. My children both went here and really liked it. St Christophers is on top of a block of flats in Sommers Town. It has a good reputation and seems to be a very happy place. Nursery schools are run by the Education Authority and there is a trained teacher and at least one qualified nursery assistant to each class. Both St Leonards and St Christophers provide a rich and exciting atmosphere in which to learn.

Some of the local primary schools have part-time nursery classes which provide the same sort of service as a nursery school, though they tend not to be in such pleasant surroundings. All Souls and Christ Church and Mary Magdalene have half-day sessions for four-year olds, and Netley which is our nearest school will be opening a full-day class after Christmas, which is good news indeed.

One of the nicest ways out of the problem is available at Whitfield Gardens and Cumberland Market where local mums can drop in at any time for a cup of tea. At Whitfield Gardens, which is the centre that I know best, Mums (or Dads or Grannies) can sit and talk to other parents while the children play around them. You can bring even very small children here if you are prepared to stay around while they play, the tiny children are usually made a great fuss of by the older ones. There is a small pottery room with a wheel and a kiln and there is someone on tap if you need help. There is enamelling and other craft equipment available for grown-ups too. A beautician who gives face massages comes regularly and a hairdresser calls as well - both of whom charge very little. It's a very good place to go if you feel lonely or bored.

Camden Council also run a pre-school playgroup in the Samuel Lithgoe Club in Stanhope Street where they take children under five and provide them with lunch.

There are two University playgroups which are open to local people, both are in Malet Street. One is in the University of London Union Building and the other is in Friends International House run by the School of Oriental and African Studies.

DAY NURSERIES

Corams Fields, Brunswick Square (837 6054)
Margaret, Phoenix Road (387 1882)
Regents Park, Augustus Street (387 2382)

NURSERY SCHOOLS

St Leonards, Corams Fields, Brunswick Square (837 1039)
St Christophers, Bridgway Street (387 4996)

NURSERY CLASSES IN INFANT SCHOOLS

Netley, Netley Street (387 6601)
All Souls, Foley Street (580 4881)
Christ Church
Mary Magdalen

PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS

Whitfield Gardens, Whitfield Street (636 8514)
Cumberland Market, Varndell Street (387 0286)
Samuel Lithgoe Club, Stanhope Street (387 2314)
U. L. U. Playgroup, Malet Street
S. O. A. S. Playgroup at Friends International House, Malet Street (387 5648)
Camden Committee for Community Relations, Coram Street, W.1. (from 18 mths - 5 yrs)
Holcroft Court, Clipstone Street (636 0419)
Toddlers Club (25p per half-day session)
Save The Children Fund, Middlesex Hospital, Infants Welfare Room (636 8333)
(10p per half-day session)

Sheenagh Goodingnam



THE GOOD OLD DAYS

It wasn't so very long ago that North Gower Street was George Street, when gas light shone on cobble stones and our area really did have a village atmosphere. The Tolmer had stopped being a church and had started to be a cinema where you could see Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton of a Saturday afternoon and Mae West and Cary Grant for a romantic evening out.

There were more people living around here, more children playing in the streets, more places for people to be at home in. The kids had a much bigger Euston Gardens for noisy play and round the back, where Euston Crescent now lies beneath the station, you could hire allotments for a penny or a ha'penny and grow your own potatoes, lettuces and even fruit bushes where the children could do a bit of scrumping just like country urchins. There were flowers grown there too, and more gardens and window boxes around the whole area. The houses on Euston Road where Gestetner now stands had gardens that stretched almost across to where the east-bound lane of traffic now thunders by. These houses were demolished by another set of demolition experts - the Luftwaffe.

On the corner of North Gower Street, next to Gino's Bar, was Sammy Shuster's electrical shop and on the other corner was the Orange Tree, which was a lovely pub. There was a laundry where Peter's barbers shop is now and, on the Hire Car corner, was Barnett's grocers shop where you could buy all sorts of tasty continental Jewish food, pickled herrings in a barrel, cream cheese, gherkins and baegels.

The houses in Hampstead Road, which were in such a bad structural state that they recently collapsed, used to be Harvey and Thompsons - a department store where you could buy adults' and childrens' clothes, sheets and blankets, towels and dusters, brushes and mops and pots and pans.

Euston Street, now so empty, was full of life not so long ago. There were a couple of tuck shops where you could get a big thick bar of chocolate for a ha'penny, a fish and chip shop on the corner opposite The Jolly Gardeners where chips cost a penny and a bit of fish was twopence, there was a bakery where you could buy all sorts and shapes of hot, crusty loaves instead of the cold plastic slices we get nowadays.

Over the road at No. 58 Sally Shuster played on her piano and Mrs Alexander's mother, Mrs Lawrence, and Mrs Felt, her aunty, kept a shop, selling childrens' clothes that they made themselves, where the office block of the Salaried Workers' Union now stands.

In the



Our area will never be the same again and we would not want it to be. What we would like to bring back the varied life and bustling activity of the community as it was before political and financial speculation stepped in to lower the quality of life and cause the houses to fall to rack and ruin.

Sheenagh Goodingham

with many thanks to Mrs Hannah Alexander for all her help.

LETTERS

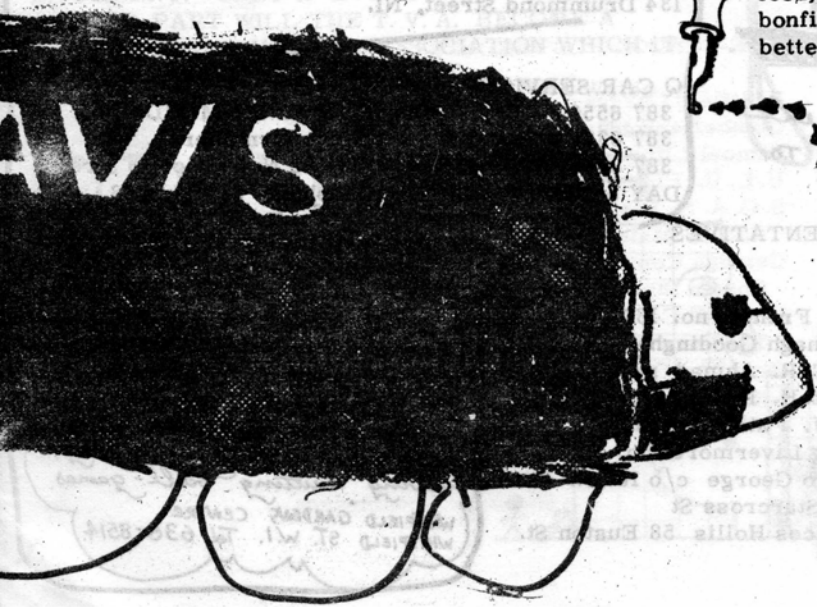
Our Guy Fawkes celebration went off quietly - but only just. The bonfire was lit and burnt very high, followed by nice fireworks which went on almost to the end. There was plenty of free food. I would like to thank everyone who worked on it, especially the Council who helped pay for it, Mr Patel for all the food, the group of students who arranged the site and bonfire and everyone else. I hope it will be even better next year.

Douglas Smith



Having lived in North Gower Street for 30 years, I have naturally seen many changes in the street, and indeed the district as a community. But without doubt the most hideous of all sights is the Avis car park with its ugly red monsters always parked alongside my windows and along most of the street - if they can possibly get them parked. In all fairness I must confess they have not abused the front of 183 North Gower Street since I complained many times in tears and had to call the police to inform them that I had the right as a ratepayer not to have the tall vans blocking the light to my flat (ground floor). Also they do not leave the engines running as they used to. But for all that it was so much nicer when there were nice houses with nice people on that whole site. Oh for the good old days!

P. Desmond



Just before going to press, we were sad to hear of the death of Mrs Nell Nuttall of Coburg St on Sunday morning at 3.45 in the Whittington hospital. We offer our sympathies to her family and neighbours.

TOLMERS SQUARE.

Residents in Tolmers square will next week be interviewed about the physical state of their houses.

- i.e. is there dampness?
- is there a problem with rubbish?

This survey will show the extent of the of the problem of the housing in the area and is the first step towards acceptable solutions.

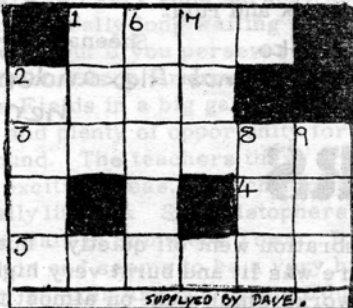
APPEAL, APPEAL, APPEAL.

HAS ANYONE ANY OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AREA THAT WE COULD USE FOR A HISTORY OF TOLMERS VILLAGE SHOW. Please drop them in at the T.V.A. Shop.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- 1 Property speculator
- 2 All you need
- 3 Semi-precious stones
- 4 What we said to "1 across"
- 5 Our local link with Inverness



DOWN

- 1 Mathematical wood
- 2 Sixth part of motorway?
- 6 The one name above T. V. A.
- 7 Dog Doc?
- 8 Sparkling health drink
- 9 Not the one in the sky

SUPPLIED BY DAVID.



Colin Whaley T.O.

T. V. A. STREET REPRESENTATIVES

- North Gower Street - Jane French no. 160
- Drummond Street - Sheenagh Goodingham no. 183
- Drummond Street - Mr C. R. Ahmad no. 125
- Drummond Street - Mr E. H. Fenn 2a Charles Pl.
- Euston Street - 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 - Frances Hollis 58 Euston St.

The editors would welcome any snippets of news about our area and its inhabitants. Contact your street representative or just come along to the shop at 102 Drummond Street.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Daly on the birth of their new granddaughter!

T. V. A. welcome Jamie and Sasha to their new home in Drummond Street.

We offer Maggie Westo our best wishes for a speedy recovery and hope that she will be out of hospital and back home with us soon.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Cost: 10p per line. Displays 50p per column inch. If interested, contact the editors at 102 Drummond Street.

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