

22 MARCH 1974



# OLMERS NEWS no.7.



COME TO US T.V.A.  
So you are for us all.  
but you 're such a clique,  
and totally unreachable,  
especially NICK!

We'd like to help,  
but you're all so new,  
an outside group, so there's  
only a few,  
who are brave enough to join  
with you

we've all got ideas  
but it seems to me,  
there's no way you'll welcome us,  
'cos we're not from U.C.

There are many too shy  
to approach T.V.A.  
So be more freindly  
and show us the way  
to break through the social barriers  
you lay

And look to your neighbours,  
'cos I'm sure you will see  
a lot of spare labour  
just waiting like me.  
TO JOIN YOU.



Edited by Sheenagh Goodingham, Debby Banham Arditi and Frank Goodingham,  
many of whom don't agree with the above poem.

# GLC CHAIRMAN IS A TVA MEMBER!

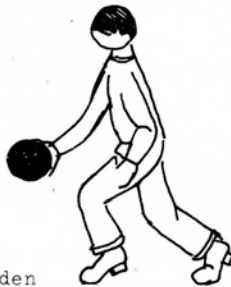
We would like to congratulate David Pitt on his appointment as Chairman of the GLC. Dr Pitt has practiced medicine in Tolmers Village for 25 years, he started his surgery at 200 North Gower St., in February 1949 after working as a GP in Chiswick and Lewisham for some time. Dr Pitt has seen quite a few changes in our area since he lived in the house above his surgery: houses round the back in Starcross and Euston Street became empty and fell under the demolition gangs' hammer and a steady deterioration of the village. As a GP he has also seen quite a few Tolmers Village residents enter and leave this world.

Asked if he thought that with a Labour Council a Labour GLC and a Labour government the prospects of life in Tolmers Village would be more hopeful Dr Pitt said he hoped so otherwise there was little point in having a Labour government. Dr Pitt feels that the Councils need stronger planning powers because at present if a developer is refused permission to build he may demand that the land be bought by the Council. It should be the other way around with the Council not having to pay the full market rates.

Dr Pitt says that he is all in favour of village associations and wishes us luck and promises his support.

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## Free Fun



A special arrangement has been made by Camden Council with the Mansfield Bowling Club in Croftdown Road NW5. The indoor bowling green will be available for public use on weekday mornings in winter and mornings and afternoons in summer. The admission charges will be 15p and includes woods, overshoes and instruction. As a sport which many older people enjoy there is a special bonus - it's free for senior citizens and beginners are especially welcomed.

The club can be reached by the 214 bus from King's Cross and Camden Town.

## this is your business

On 21 February Ralph Cooper, Managing Director of R & E Simmonds Ltd, called a meeting in the TVA shop among business interests in the Tolmers area. The purpose of the meeting was to alert the business community to the possibilities for influencing decisions on the future of the area.

Nick Wates gave a short introduction, summarizing the situation up to the holding of the TVA exhibition, which provided an appropriate background to the meeting. In general, it was felt that businesses in this area have many interests in common, and that it would be well worth while to hold further meetings in order to find out the future needs of existing shops, offices and workshops, where planning decisions are concerned.

## welcome back labour!

Let's hope this time you keep your promises

Labour is back in power! What does this mean for us in Tolmers Village?

The Council was originally pushed into doing 'deals' with Stock Conversion & Investment Trust because successive Ministers (both Tory and Labour!) refused to confirm Compulsory Purchase Orders for the land because it was too expensive. This time, the Labour Government has said in its election manifesto: "land required for development will be taken into public ownership . . . Public ownership of land will stop land profiteering. It will emphatically not apply to owner-occupiers".

Our area clearly falls within the category of 'land required for development', so can we now expect some quick action on this front?

The simplest would be for a Compulsory Purchase Order to be confirmed by the Minister, money provided by Central Government, and in 18 months the Council would own enough land to start moving. Once the Council owns the bulk of the land in our area, things can start happening.

We were particularly pleased to hear the leader of Camden Council, Frank Dobson, saying at an electoral meeting for our local MP Lena Jeger "if the Labour Party gets into office it will take into public ownership land for redevelopment and we will then develop Tolmers Square according to what the residents want".

So, it is up to us to know what we want. Does it matter to us if we stay here or go somewhere else? If we want to stay do we want our area to become purely residential, or do we want to keep the present mixture of small shops, family businesses, restaurants, workshops and houses? Do we want a Council Estate, or the existing buildings modernized and brought up to good standards?

Once these questions are answered we must think about how to implement the aims we have set ourselves. The Council alone cannot carry through the whole thing, and fulfil our needs. We have got to help them.

A lot of self-management will be needed, if we want to ensure that our area stays the way we want it to be in the future. Right now we have to start working to make this self-management possible. That means it is up to all of us to decide what the machinery will be, and how to run it.

So now we have a Labour Government, a Labour GLC, and a Labour Camden. COATS OFF, AND LET'S GET CRACKING, we've waited long enough!!

Pedro George

A second meeting was held in the Exmouth Arms on 12 March.

The state of the architects new plan was discussed and it was felt that there was not enough information available about the needs of the businesses in the area. Unless the architects were given this information it was likely that business interests would be injured. It was agreed that the TVA should carry out a survey of businesses.

It was also agreed that we should start to set up a community development company, to manage the area. This should enable local interests to have some control over what happens to their own premises and the area in general, rather than leaving control in the hands of the council or property speculators. The next meeting will be called in a few weeks time when some work has been done on these two aspects.

## GARDENERS' CORNER

Spring is finally with us, so here are a few things you can plant in a corner at this time of year.

**Fruit trees:** There are special varieties of apple, pear, plum and soon which will grow small and fruitful in a twelve-inch pot. A firm called Thomas Rivers and Son specialize in them. The biggest thing you can grow in your front area, but not much good for window-boxes. A bay-tree would also be useful and decorative.

Mushrooms will grow in a grotty old cellar that's no good for anything else. In the spring you can grow them without worrying about keeping the temperature up or down (it should be between 50 and 60°F). You can buy the spore on its own or already mixed with special compost, which is best if you don't know anything about it. You can grow them in wooden fruit and veg boxes, the kind with strengthening pieces sticking up in the corners can be stacked up for extra lbs per sq. yd. The compost should be about six inches deep and kept moist.

Food in window-boxes. Things to sow about now are lettuce (Salad Bowl is supposed to be best for growing in a confined space), French Sorrel, which has the amazing ability to grow without any direct sunlight at all, and herbs such as Parsley, Thyme, Chives and Mint: all these are tough and don't take up too much space. You can grow larger herbs but you'll have to keep cutting

them down if you want to see out of the window. Garlic will also grow in a window-box but takes up quite a lot of space, and the same goes for alliums except chives. Probably worth it for fanatics only.

## exhibition

The exhibition is still on show. For anyone who missed it during exhibition week we have kept it on the walls. So far almost 250 people have been to see it including Len Jeger our local MP, Councillors Dobson and Thane, and several newspaper men. But the exhibition is really for local people with lots of photographs of people and places in the village. Your photograph might even be on show. Open everyday 2.15 - 6.00 Come along.

## TVA open meetings

EVERY THURSDAY at 6.30 pm

Several people have complained that they don't know what's going on in the TVA. Other people object to some of the things we've been doing and the way we've been spending money.

Starting this Thursday we want to have weekly meetings, open to everyone, at which we can talk about anything that anyone wants to talk about (eg. new projects, jumble sale, rents, squatters, redevelopment), and decide what the TVA should be doing.

Everyone is welcome. Don't leave it to someone else. Refreshments will be provided.

## new square scheme

Renton Howard Wood the Council's architects are preparing another planning scheme for the area. The Council were not satisfied with their first proposal which was on show at the Town Hall in the autumn.

It seems likely that the new scheme will contain a greater amount of renovation and improvement and less demolition and new building. That is why they have been surveying some of the buildings recently to discover what structural condition they are in. (You should have had a letter from the Council explaining this).

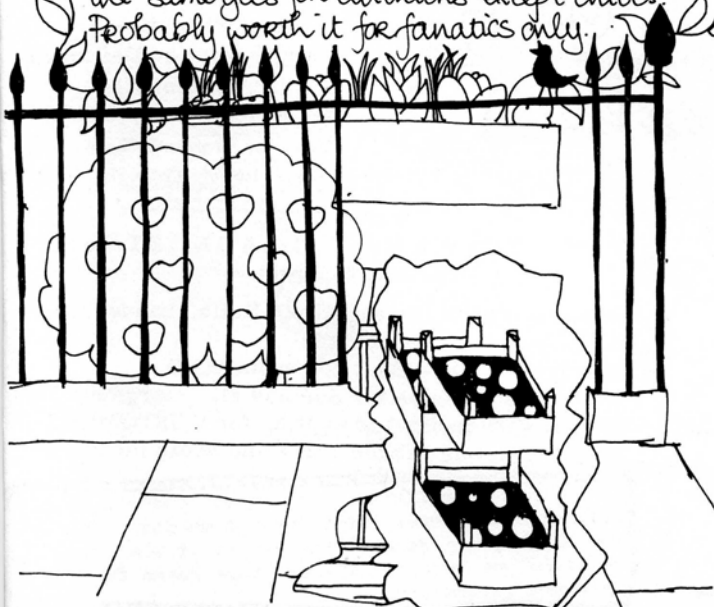
The architects should finish preparing this scheme by the beginning of April and we hope it will be shown to us soon afterwards.

## crumbling ...

You will all have noticed that the house next to Simmons Second Hand Furniture shop has been taken down. According to one of the builders Mayall's who own it have decided not to rebuild. We hope this is not true as this would be one more gap in the smile of Tolmers Village.

## ... village

Yet one more balcony in Tolmers Square has bitten the dust. It was supposedly unsafe. But why was it unsafe? Only because the owners could not be bothered to look after it. One more example of Levy's attitude towards this area.



TOLMERS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION 102 Drummond St.  
387 4004

OPENING HOURS: Every weekday 2-15 to 6-00  
Open Evening: Thursday 6-00 onwards  
Free legal advice: Weds 6-30 onwards

drop in for a cup of tea and see what is going on.

Would anyone like copies of photographs in the exhibition.  
If so, come to the TVA, and let me know. - Nick

# festival

How about a Tolmers Village Festival.  
Camden Council is prepared to give us money  
(several hundred pounds) for a festival this  
summer. But it needs people to organise it.  
Make things, sell things, tell other people  
about it, and in the end have a good time.

Is there anyone who likes to do this?  
If so write, phone or come and tell Nick  
Wates at the TVA 102 Drummond Street, 387-4004.  
PS If noone comes there will be no festival.  
We have to let Camden Council know quickly.

The TVA needs occasional assistance with  
typing. We would be very grateful for  
any offers.

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& PAKISTANI  
FRESH MEAT - FRUIT AND VEGETABLES AT  
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We are honoured by your repeated visits.

BARRY & STELLA ASHLEY. A DAUGHTER.  
born on valentines day.  
We'd like to thank all customers and  
friends for their kind wishes, cards,  
flowers and gifts.

free legal advice....  
every Wednesday evening from 6.30 to 10.00pm

Phone 567-5324  
Photographer aged 22 urgently seeks accommodation  
Flat - Room - Share a flat. £8 - £10.  
Phone after 6pm. Ask for I Fogden Top Flat.

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DAY & NIGHT

RENDEZ-VOUS

CAFE

for the best  
cuppa in  
Tolmers Village!

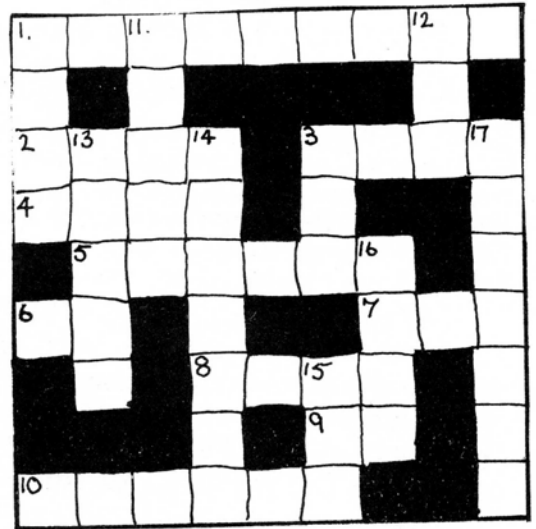
VINES  
THE TOLMERS VILLAGE STORES  
Drummond Street

Bread and Milk fresh daily. Rolls, Sandwiches  
Groceries

Nearly everything that you want. AND  
We have good news for one and all. Gorgeous John  
is still with us, and is waiting for CUSTOMERS  
So get cracking. Come early and avoid the RUSH

Is there anyone living, working or involved in the  
Tolmers Square area interested in making a film on  
the history and general background of the area. If  
so would you contact Nick or Frank Paton for the  
relevant information

# CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Spacetrip over local street
- 2 Red rent-a-bird
- 3 Our Doctor and the Pendulumm
- 4 Active insect home
- 5 Not the teabags, the school
- 6 " - shall overcome"
- 7 Though huge, it's threatened by disease
- 8 Our MP's first name
- 9 Abraham lived here
- 10 Tolmers Village is part of this

## DOWN

- 1 King of Persia
- 3 Crusty, but nice underneath
- 11 The one thing all of us are
- 12 We like to do it in comfort
- 13 Grape Stores
- 14 Most of us are, so we won't move
- 15 Known by her habit
- 16 There's one every twelve months
- 17 It may be square but it's ours

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Alex and Dave!  
DO THEM!  
64 and 58  
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