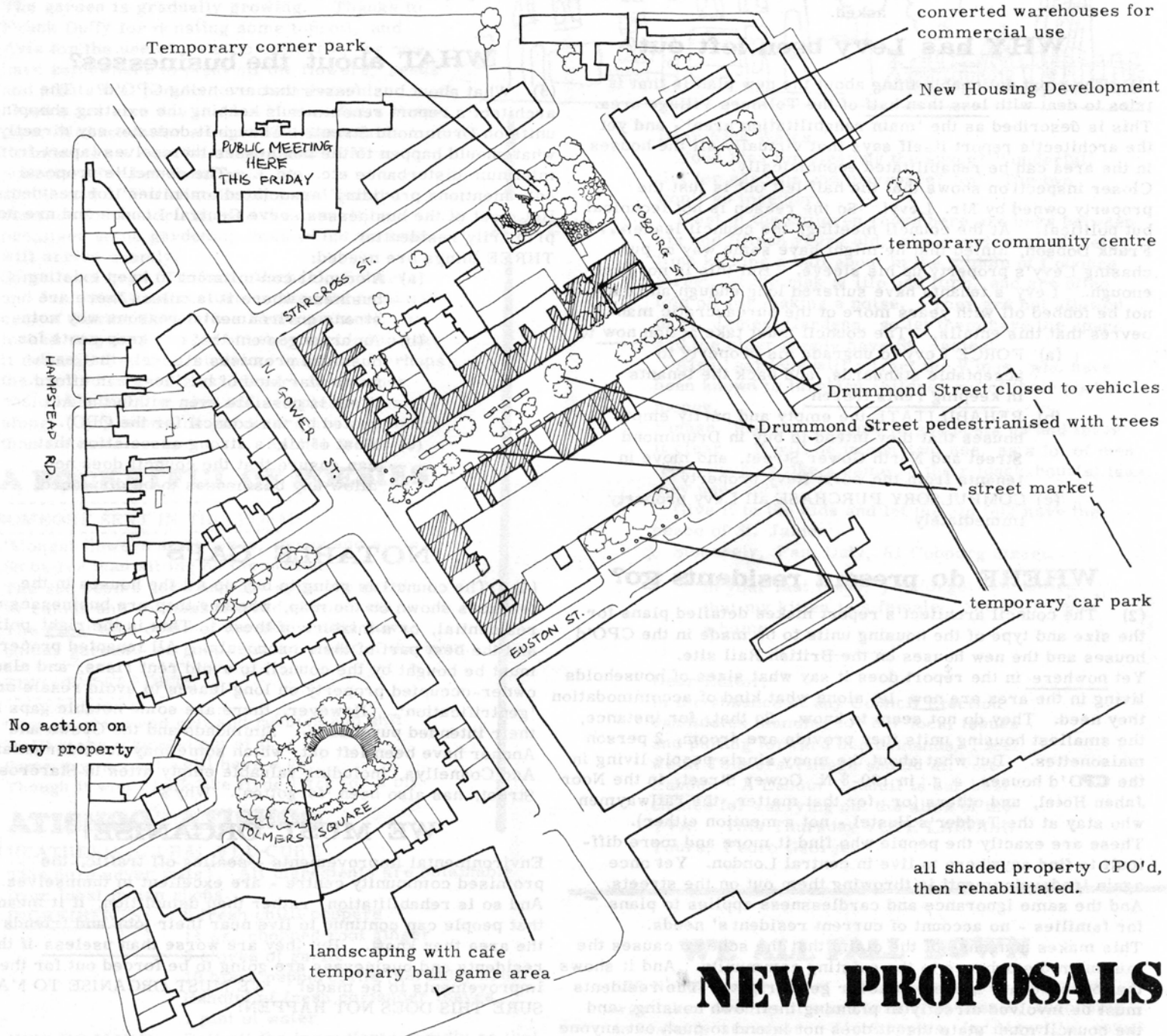


# TOLMERS NEWS 30 APRIL 74

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387 4004

## N°9



## NEW PROPOSALS

**PUBLIC MEETING** Friday 3rd May at 7.00p. m.  
at ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, N. Gower Street

The Tolmers Village Association has called a Public Meeting to discuss the proposals put forward by the council and to decide what we should do about them. Everyone who works or lives in the area is invited to come.

- AGENDA**
1. - Brief explanation of proposals by a member of the TVA.
  2. - Discussion of proposals.
  3. - What the TVA should do - resolutions.
  4. - Anything else that anyone wants to discuss.

Approval of the recommendation to CPO Drummond Street and North Gower Street was given by Camden Council at the Council meeting last Wednesday, 24th April. Owners and tenants will be receiving notification soon. Details of CPO procedure will be printed in the next issue.

Renton Howard Wood - the council's consultant architects - have published another set of proposals for the development of the area. We have a copy of these proposals at the TVA for anyone who would like to see them.

# IT'S A GOOD SCHEME, BUT...

For the first time in the never-ending saga of the Tolmers Square Development the architects have listened to and consulted with at least a few local people. The TVA was able to assist the architects considerably with information and opinion. As a result the new proposals are a great improvement on anything that has yet been proposed, although there are still many questions to be asked.

## WHY has Levy been left out?

(1) The most noticeable thing about the new plan is that it tries to deal with less than half of the Tolmers Village area. This is described as the 'main rehabilitation area' - and yet the architect's report itself says that virtually all the houses in the area can be rehabilitated economically.

Closer inspection shows that the half left out is just the property owned by Mr. Levy! So the reason is not technical but political. At the council meeting, the council leader, Frank Dobson, hinted that he might have some way of purchasing Levy's property up his sleeve. But this is not good enough. Levy's tenants have suffered long enough and cannot be fobbed off with years more of the bureaucratic manoeuvres that this entails. The council must take action now to

- (a) FORCE Levy to upgrade his property to acceptable standards, and back the tenants in keeping rents frozen
- (b) REHABILITATE the empty and partly empty houses that they intend to buy in Drummond Street and North Gower Street, and move in tenants from the worst Levy property
- (c) COMPULSORY PURCHASE all Levy property immediately

## WHERE do present residents go?

(2) The council architect's report makes detailed plans for the size and type of the housing units to be made in the CPO'd houses and the new houses on the British Rail site. Yet nowhere in the report does it say what sizes of households living in the area are now, let alone what kind of accommodation they need. They do not seem to know. So that, for instance, the smallest housing units they provide are 4room, 2 person maisonettes. But what about the many single people living in the CPO'd houses, e. g. in 190-8 N. Gower Street, in the Noor Jahan Hotel, and others (or, for that matter, the railwaymen who stay at the Tedder's Hostel - not a mention either). These are exactly the people who find it more and more difficult to find anywhere to live in central London. Yet once again 'redevelopment' is throwing them out on the streets. And the same ignorance and carelessness applies to plans for families - no account of current residents' needs. This makes nonsense of the claim that the scheme causes the minimum disturbance to the existing community. And it shows that bureaucracy alone can never get it right. The residents must be involved directly in planning their own housing, and the council must state that it does not intend to push out anyone who wants to remain in the area.

## WHAT about the businesses?

(3) What about businesses that are being CPO'd? The architect's report recommends keeping the existing shopping units on Drummond Street. Though it does not say directly what should happen to the businesses themselves (apart from minimum disturbance etc. etc.). The council's proposal only mentions providing 'associated amenities' for residents. But most of the businesses serve Central London and are not primarily residential.

THREE things are needed:

- (a) A council commitment to keep existing business where it is unless there are strong environmental reasons why not.
- (b) An arrangement that can keep rents for business premises at levels that each particular kind of business can afford. (This is possible even within the Act quoted by the council for the CPO).
- (c) Most of all, a strong association that can ensure that the council does not allow any businesses to be displaced.

## NOTABLE GAPS

(4) The council is going to buy up all the houses in the terraces shown on the map, whether they are businesses or residential, or a mixture of these. This is the right policy and the best part of their proposals. All tenanted property must be bought by the council to avoid rent rises, and also owner-occupied property on long leases to avoid resale or 'gentrification'. However, there are some notable gaps in their intended purchases. Simmonds and the Crown and Anchor have been left out, which some may consider unfair. And Connellys, including valuable empty sites in Starcross Street, has also been 'forgotten'. Why?

## WE MUST ORGANISE!

Environmental improvements - sealing off traffic, the promised community centre - are excellent in themselves. And so is rehabilitation, rather than demolition, if it means that people can continue to live near their jobs and friends in the area they know. But they are worse than useless if the residents and businesses are going to be forced out for these improvements to be made! WE MUST ORGANISE TO MAKE SURE THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN!

COME TO THE PUBLIC MEETING ON FRIDAY!

- Jamie Gough.

## MONEY-MONEY-MONEY-MONEY-MONEY-MONEY

The TVA has run out of money. The Rowntrees grant of £750 has now been used up. We have applied to the council to support us on a permanent basis from July. In the meantime, any donations would be welcomed. HELP!

## COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Polling day is Thurs. 2nd May. You should vote!

Candidates are:

LABOUR	CON.
Bethell	Blundell
Collins	Flynn
Mills	Mansel
O'Connor	Watts



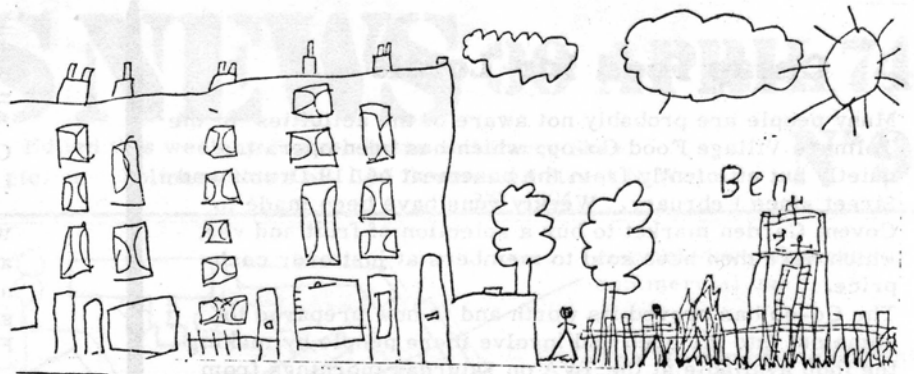
## RING A RING A ROSES

Last week we met Mr Hamer, from Connellys (Blackley) Ltd., owners of our garden site. He told us he thought it was a good idea to use the land for a garden and has agreed to let us have it for a very nominal rent - £1 per year! He has also given us some grass and trees. The garden is gradually growing. Thanks to Frank Duffy for donating some topsoil, and Avis for the use of a van to collect it, we now have somewhere to plant all the flowers, seeds and plants that people have contributed.

Thanks are also due to Alan France for a hose-pipe, Simmonds for a bench and Susie and Frances for a wheelbarrow. Also to Mrs Schreiner for her donation.

Mr Ahmad of Eurasian Foods has offered a donation for materials, and the council has promised some gardening tools which we hope will arrive shortly.

Some local boys (Clifford, Michael, Robert and John) built a structure on the site reminiscent of Euston Tower (See Ben's picture). It looked very impressive but they decided to take it down as they thought it was unsafe. Perhaps the next edifice will last longer- if someone could help them or give advice, please come along. Any would-be gardeners are also more than welcome..... Rachel Syers.....



## letters...

Dear Nick Wates,

Your idea for clearing the space? Wonderful! But for gardens and playspace? No! The two won't go together.

Most of the children round here are boys between six and fifteen years old, who spend most of their time kicking a ball about in the middle of Cobourg Street, at the risk of life and limb, and are often told off for making a noise. They are not allowed in St. James' Gardens, so let them have the space and the older people have St. James'.

Also, gardens will attract the Winos, who have been known to threaten children out of their pocket money.

Please, just put a couple of goalposts up and leave it clear. It will be in constant use, as a lot of men from Peugots like a game in their lunch-hour (at least they used to!)

Give it to the kids and let the old folk have the peace of St. James'.

Sincerely, Pam Daly, 61 Cobourg Street.

P. S.

In your last issue, you forgot to mention that my kitten is a female. She still wants a home.

Dear Editor,

In the absence of any Council Election candidates standing for our local issues and putting forward our demands, I feel we in Tolmers Village should all vote Labour. A Labour Council is our best chance for carrying out the aims of the TVA. This Thursday VOTE LABOUR! Yours, Pedro George.

## WE ALL FALL DOWN

178 North Gower Street - the house next to Simmonds - was taken down as it was considered unsafe, according to Mayell's surveyor. Mr Stupples, for Mayell's, says they would like to rebuild it but that Camden will not give them planning permission until other decisions about the area have been made. They are hoping to keep the basement and ground floor habitable so that the present occupiers can continue to live there.

## A POCKETFUL OF POESIES

### SOMEONE SENT IN THIS POEM:

'Mongst flowers and bushes, grass and seats  
So better than sitting on the streets  
The sun beams down and our eyes are greet  
by colour and softness instead of concrete  
The great blue dome of the sky smiles down  
on our garden - so good - in the midst of the town.

### EDITOR'S EFFORT:

'Mongst glass and grit and rubbish and shit  
We'll make a garden out of it  
Some say no, but we'll have a go  
Though it won't look like Hyde Park for a bit.

## ATISHOO' ATISHOO

### HEATHER'S HERBAL FLU-CURE

This cure never fails! All ingredients are obtainable from local Indian shops.

**INGREDIENTS:** 6 fresh chilli peppers  
1½ oz. chopped root ginger  
5 cloves of garlic  
10 black peppercorns (partially broken)  
Handful of fresh coriander leaves  
1 pint of water

**HOW TO MAKE:** Boil all the ingredients rapidly so that the liquid is reduced to ½ pint. Stir and bruise ingredients while boiling. Drink as hot as bearable immediately before going to bed. Guaranteed speedy recovery will follow.

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JUMBLE SALE ON SAT. 4TH MAY 2.00 P. M.  
AT THE GARDEN  
DRUMMOND STREET

=====

\*\*\*PLEASE BRING JUMBLE TO THE TVA\*\*\*

This Saturday morning there will be a workparty on the garden. Come and help plant grass and flowers.

### NEW WORKER

Rachel Syers is now working for the TVA with Nick. Rachel lives at 183 North Gower Street and has been a resident for three years.

## Cheap Food for Locals

Many people are probably not aware of the activities of the Tolmers Village Food Co-op, which has been operating quietly but efficiently from the basement of 119 Drummond Street since February. Weekly runs have been made to Covent Garden market to buy a selection of fruit and veg, which have then been sold to members at just over cash price.

The Co-op has proved its worth and is now prepared to come out into the open and involve more people by making the food available at the TVA on Saturday mornings from 11.00 - 1.00p.m., with volunteers manning the scales and cash. Hopefully all the perishable food can be sold that morning to save us from storing it during the week.

To join the Co-op we ask people to pay a small deposit (about £1 per person) which provides us with a float of money to buy the goods and carry a certain amount of stock. The deposit is returnable if you leave the area or abandon our services, but is easily recouped anyway by the savings made in buying your veg from us in a couple of weeks. Old Age Pensioners would only have to pay 50p deposit.

Occasional contributions of energy from people help to spread the work of organising, so anyone who would like to savour the bustle of Covent Garden in the early hours or help with the distribution on Saturday mornings should come and see me at 119 Drummond Street.

Patrick Allen.

Come to the TVA at 102 Drummond St. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!  
Opening Hours - 2.15-6.00 every weekday. WELCOME!  
Drop in for a cup of tea & a chat

### ADS ...

Buy your newspapers & tobacco from  
S. B. SHANE at 163 DRUMMOND STREET

→ Come to the RENDEZVOUS CAFE,  
Drummond Street, & have a lovely cuppa!

EURASIAN FOODS - 125 Drummond St. ←

English & Pakistani groceries  
Meat, Veg & Fruit

Islamia Halal Butchers & Grocers  
122 Drummond Street

Ambala Sweet Centre - mmmmmmm  
112 Drummond Street - 410MM -

VINES - 115 Drummond Street

Effervescent Ethel & Jovial John  
will cater for your every need-  
COME & BUY YOUR SANDWICHES

Visit HOLLANDS Bargain Shop for  
the Best Bargains in London.  
Linen, sheets, surplus clothing etc  
Always something new!

↑ ↑ ↑



Sizzlers is now open. Another Indian restaurant in Drummond Street. Mr Riaz, the manager, tells me that business has already been better than expected and that he does not see himself as being in competition with the other restaurants, but that they complement each other. Specialities include Tandoori Fish, Brain Masala and Tandoori specialities. The food is good, the decor interesting and the service quick and personal. My only criticism is the price of beer.

I asked Mr Riaz if he was not concerned about the possibility of his new premises being pulled down, his reply - "They had better not pull it down- we've just opened!"

## TOLMERS VILLAGE CARNIVAL

ON SATURDAY 29TH JUNE THERE WILL BE A LOCAL CARNIVAL!

We are starting various fund-raising activities with a Jumble Sale this Saturday, 4th May, in the garden next to the TVA, and we intend to start some Raffles shortly. We have also applied to the Council for a Festival Grant.

The TVA held a meeting last week to discuss CARNIVAL IDEAS; among suggestions were: a fancy dress parade; some silly races; stalls; music; and best of all, 'May Day', a street theatre group.

Local musicians are getting a band together for the occasion. They have found somewhere to rehearse, but need 15 ft of 3 core cable wire, a drummer, and a bass guitarist. Anyone who would be able to help, please contact Paul at 241 North Gower Street.

WE NEED MATERIALS FOR THE CARNIVAL.

A few boxes and old cupboards have arrived so far. If you have anything useful to offer, please could you bring it around to the TVA shop, as soon as possible.

This Thursday, 2nd May, at 6:30 pm there will be another meeting at the TVA office to discuss further plans for CARNIVAL DAY, so if you have any helpful suggestions, please come along.

IAN COOPER  
CARNIVAL ORGANISER.

## LEGAL ADVICE

Solicitors are on hand every Wednesday evening from 6.30 to 10 pm at the TVA to give free legal advice. Housing repairs? Rents? Business problems? They may be able to sort it out.

## Squatters Evicted

The seven occupants who were squatting at 220 Camden High Street, which was a centre for Tenants Associations and other groups in the Camden area, were evicted last Monday (April 22nd) at 5:00 a.m. by bailiffs and 100 policemen. After the people were evicted, the property was boarded up and will remain empty.

This property is owned by J. Levy, (as is a large proportion of Camden High Street). His policy seems to be to leave his properties empty so that they will become derelict and he will then be in a strong position to say to the council that they need redevelopment. The pattern is familiar. He is following the same principle here in Tolmers Village, so he will be able to build office blocks and make vast profits.

Squatters have moved in to empty properties, which were in a bad state of repair, and transformed them into homes. If these squatters are evicted, the properties will remain empty and become derelict again. Should property speculators be allowed to make vast profits at the expense of the homeless?