

TOLMERS NEWS

NO.16 22 NOVEMBER

Edited this week by Rachel and Sheenagh, with contributions from Suzy, Frances, Dorothy, Mrs Desmond, Susannah Fu, Pam, Jane ... An All-Female Cast!

TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 7.00.

MARIA FIDELIS SCHOOL
N. GOWER ST

PUBLIC MEETING & FORUM

SPEAKERS:

CLLR. FRANK DOBSON

CLLR. BRIAN LOUGHRAN

ALAN AVERY & GERALD LEVINE,

COUNCIL ARCHITECTS

DO YOU KNOW HOW THE NEW PLANS WILL AFFECT YOU?

??

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE IN THE TOWN HALL?

??

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOUR COUNCIL IS DOING ITS BEST FOR YOU?

??

IS THERE ANY QUESTION YOU'VE BEEN LONGING TO ASK A COUNCILLOR?

??

DO YOU THINK THEY SHOULD KNOW HOW YOU FEEL?

WOT PLANS?

WHEN ARE THEY COMING TO PULL THE HOUSE DOWN?

COME AND DISCUSS YOUR FUTURE HERE

COME AND GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST THIS TUESDAY

NETLEY ST. FLAT FOR ME?

...THINK I'D BETTER GO TO THE MEETING THIS TUESDAY

GORILLA SUMMONSED



AT LAST 118 Drummond Street, the one-time much loved Mr Bunny's sweet shop, which has been left empty for well over a year, is reoccupied. Seven people have squatted the premises, forming a group called 'Gorilla Welfare'. They are a non-profitmaking organisation and the workers are unpaid. They have opened up a bookshop, Gorilla Books, which they hope will fund their other activities. Gorilla Welfare is primarily concerned with the plight of the homeless in London. They have set out to help those people who, for one reason or another, are unable to find themselves homes. The group's policy is direct action. They do not believe in spending months negotiating with the council for the use of their empty houses. They are drawing up a comprehensive list of empty properties in London and intend to use these to house the homeless.

Gorilla has however been summonsed to court by Cornelius McGlynn, the leaseholder, who is also the publican of the Exmouth Arms. He is trying to take out a possession order against them. It would appear that having left the premises empty for well over a year, he plans to evict the occupants and leave a perfectly good shop and house to stand empty again. While there are 100,000 homeless people in London alone it seems ludicrous that this and fifty thousand other houses should remain empty.

This may be the first eviction in our area and there will therefore be regular meetings to discuss this matter, details of which will be posted in the shop.

(*The management wishes to apologise for any inconvenience caused to customers during the next few months)

Francis Hollis

SIDE TRACKING

Camden is hoping to buy about 40 acres of old goods yards and railway sidings in Somers Town (the old potato market and coal depot), another patch on the east side of St. Pancras Way and another just south of Agar Grove. The land is mostly unoccupied with only a few old railway buildings left standing, so Camden will not be committed to massive demolition and rehousing when they clear the site. This represents an enormous housing gain for the Council but the cost of the land is prohibitive. They have therefore decided to use the Euston Road frontage for commercial development to offset the financing of new houses, open spaces and community facilities (using the same principle as in the new plans for the Tolmers Square Redevelopment). It is very likely that the new National Library will go here rather than in Bloomsbury where a whole community would have to be destroyed in order to accommodate it. However, this proposal is not popular with the Somers Town Action Group and the Camden Civic Society who have prepared reports indicating what the priorities of local residents are. Meanwhile, there is a 'Railway Land Project Team' at the Town Hall waiting for suggestions from people in Camden as to how the land should be used and what facilities should be provided. So if you feel strongly about it, write to them.

Sheenagh

PICKET IN ISLINGTON

Since March this year Islington tenants have been picketing Prebbles, the estate agents, every Saturday. They want to put an end to the speculative activities of Prebbles in Islington; by evicting and harrasing tenants they have forced many local people out of the area. The Camden Federation of Tenants has been supporting the campaign by picketing Prebbles offices in Camden.

Prebbles have taken out a legal suit against some members of the tenants campaign, which resulted last week in a high court ruling which made picketing "not in the furtherance of a trades dispute" illegal. This fits into a pattern of attacks against pickets - the conspiracy laws used against the Shrewsbury building workers' pickets (two of whom are now in prison); and the proposal of the Law Commission to make trespass a criminal offence which, if it becomes law, could be used against pickets as well as factory occupations, student sit-ins and squatters.

Despite this ruling the picket of Prebbles was held as usual last Saturday morning, supported by about seventy people. The police allowed the picket to continue for more than an hour before they announced that the picket was causing an obstruction; they would only allow a token picket of six people to remain.

While this proposal was being discussed, police vans drew up and a few picketers were isolated from the rest of the crowd. They were taken to Upper Street police station and charged with obstruction. The case, which is coming up in December, must be won and the right to picket established.

It is important that the Islington Tenants are given support from community groups like ours - we have seen the result of speculation here and know how damaging it can be to a community. And the right to peacefully picket must be defended, as it is one of the few ways we can effectively put our views across.

The picket of Prebbles will continue and a rally is being called for 7th December. Meet at the TVA at 9.30 this Saturday to go to the picket in Islington.

Suzy Nelson

COURSE YOU CAN.

There can be very few people in London, let alone Camden, who would admit to not having heard of the Stanhope Institute in Drummond Street. Might as well admit to eating peas of a knife.

It was not always as it is now - like a certain employment agency, it got big by bothering. If an Institute can have an open mind the Stanhope has. You can pay your money (very little) and take your choice from A for Art (and Adult Education) through to Woodwork and Wine Appreciation, taking in on the way languages ancient and modern, University Extra Mural Studies as well as Upholstery and Judo. You can sculpt, weave, paint, dance, sing, See London. etc. etc.

So if you are tired of life, try the Stanhope. Your choice is easy; it caters for all shapes and sizes. You name it, they've got it.

... Dorothy



WINTER GARDEN

Though our garden is looking a bit sad and bedraggled its condition is not to be bemoaned, as most British gardens are not at their prettiest in November. However, this month is the best for transplanting trees and shrubs dormant for the winter. Our friend Albert from Rank Xerox has planted some Vibernum and Hyperium near the compost bins and some lavender in strategic positions around the flower beds. These are all aromatic shrubs which may help to combat all the nasty smelly fumes we are blessed with.

If anybody else feels like donating any other shrubs (rosebushes are particularly cheap from Sugars of Goodge Street) they would be gratefully received and planted according to Albert's expert guidance.

Shee

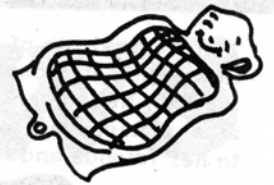


BONFIRE NIGHT



Donna, Mandy, Lorraine, Julie and Angela seen here enjoying Bonfire Night. Guy Fawkes night went off with a bang in the Village Garden. It was a lovely evening, no-one had an accident, the soup was delicious and everyone enjoyed it. Thanks to John and Vera for the soup, Jayant for the spuds, John for the huge pile of wood, Barry and Caroline for lighting the fireworks, Camden for the money to buy them, and Ches for the music. Great.

A letter



Dear Friends,

I would like to say how grateful I am to those people who gave so generously having heard of my plight. I am now feeling lovely and warm and much more comfortable. Alao I would like to thank the girls and boys of Tolmers Village for helping me - bringing me cups of coffee and meals when I am stuck in bed. I really do appreciate what you are doing for me.

Many thanks from Pam.

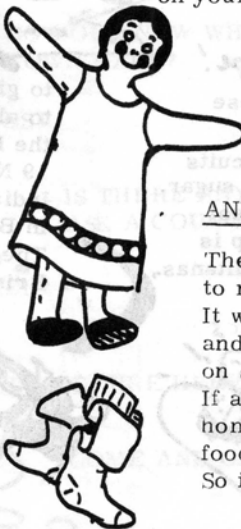
P. S. Anyone who has odd balls of wool left over, if they drop them in to the TVA I could get cracking and knit a blanket.

DOING THE BANK

The Bank is slowly coming together as a community centre. In the summer it was used for the play-scheme. There have been jumble sales held there and now there are evening classes in yoga and dancing. We are planning to apply to the council for a grant to run it; the more we can manage to get it working as a community centre now the better chance we have of getting a grant.

The use of the bank is limited at the moment because of a lack of a kitchen and toilets. If we can raise enough money for materials and get people to help as much as possible, we can put in a sink and toilets. In the meanwhile we can do lots to improve the Bank. We are hiring a skip and hoping to move all the rubbish out of the courtyard. We also need furniture. Does anybody have chairs etc. they don't need?

Anyone who would like somewhere to dance, run film shows or a weekly club can now use the Bank. It may not hold gold in its vaults any more, but a FREE space like this is worth its weight in gold - and it's on your doorstep... so USE it.



AND NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be a Christmas Bazaar in the Bank to raise money for the Community Centre. It will be held on the 14th December (Saturday) and we hope that there will be plenty of goodies on sale, and bingo etc.

If any one wants to help PLEASE DO. We need home-made nice things that we can see, like food, crocheted things, rag-dolls - anything. So if you've any spare energy, come & help.



The tragic death of Alaine of 183 North Gower Street occurred on **Tuesday** morning 19th November. We all feel saddened at what happened and offer our sympathy to her friends and family.

We were all sad to hear of the sudden death of Mr Michael Stenhiak of 92 Euston Street. Michael had been well known and loved in Tolmers Village and was a lively supporter of TVA activities. He was a dear kind-hearted man; we offer our condolences to his friends and neighbours.

ROCK ON

Geologists are funny people in the field. They rush up to a rock, hammer a piece off, get out their x10 lens and look at the rock closely, then scribble something down in their notebooks. If they're with a companion they may stand back from the outcrop and wave their arms about describing features such as folds they can see on the surface. If they're alone they will make drawings of what they see.

And yet they're not **so** funny. Studying rocks which are 30 million years old, or 600 million, or even 4000 million years old, gives one an extended perspective difficult to achieve in other ways. Imagining how that rock may have come into being gives one a sense of history and also one's own part in the process. I was standing in the Auvergne in France this summer with a group looking at some volcanic rocks. We suddenly realised that many of the rocks we had been seeing had been erupted 2.4 million years ago. What one hell of a year that must have been!

One side of the geologist is cautious and "down to earth" - partly due to the phenomenal growth of technology, drawing people apart with accompanying loss of touch with the rest of nature. In recent years this has somewhat improved with the upsurge of the theory of plate tectonics - plates of ocean floor carrying the continents and moving about on the earth's surface - once again geologists can let their imagination run riot!

Geologists too are the starting point of some of the most used commodities in human life. They find the petroleum, minerals and coal industrial society depends on. We all know that supplies of these are becoming hard to find to support our present mode of life. How can geologists help in the change that must come about, based on smaller units of self-sufficiency? Many could go into developing alternate sources of energy. Some could help the technology-stricken recapture the sense of wonder at nature and natural processes around us.

Anyone who feels they would like to get to grips with a rock, there is a flourishing group, the Geologists' Association, which holds meetings in London and field trips in UK and abroad. Annual membership is £4. You can get details at 160 N Gower St from me or Gavin.

JANE FRENCH

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

EASY CHINESE FRIED RICE OR 楊州炒飯

A real Chinese recipe from Susannah Fu of Drummond Street.

Ingredients

3 eggs; tin of peas; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb prawns; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb lean pork; 1 small onion; several spring onions; 1lb rice; salt; aji-no-moto or chicken stock cube.

What to do

1. Boil rice with stock and salt to taste
 2. Make eggs into omelette
 3. Dice pork into $\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces and fry
 4. Fry the prawns quickly
- THEN... drain rice and put in the frying pan with $\frac{1}{2}$ " of oil. Cut onions into strips $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and add to rice. Then add other ingredients, with the spring onions chopped very small and going in last. Then eat it.

CHEESECAKE Mrs. Desmond's special recipe!

Ingredients; 6 digestive biscuits; 1lb curd cheese 2 eggs; 1 cup castor sugar; $\frac{3}{4}$ pt. sour cream.

What to do; Grease dish slightly. crumble biscuits on bottom. Mix cheese to stiff egg whites, add sugar, then add yolks. Beat till very smooth. Pre-heat oven to 350 and cook for 1 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours or until top is brown. Optional extras: crushed pineapple, sultanas, lemon peel.



YOGA

A friend of ours called Mr Shah would like to give tuition in Hatha (physical) Yoga and meditation to all who are interested. Classes will be held in the Bank on Tuesdays at 6pm beginning on Tuesday 19 November. Mr Shah has just returned from India where he has been studying with Satya Sai Baba in Bangalore and teaching classes of up to 200 people. The classes will be free of charge. Bring a towel or blanket to lie on.

DANCE LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS
Every Monday and Wednesday 7.00p. m
in the Bank. 30p per lesson.

