

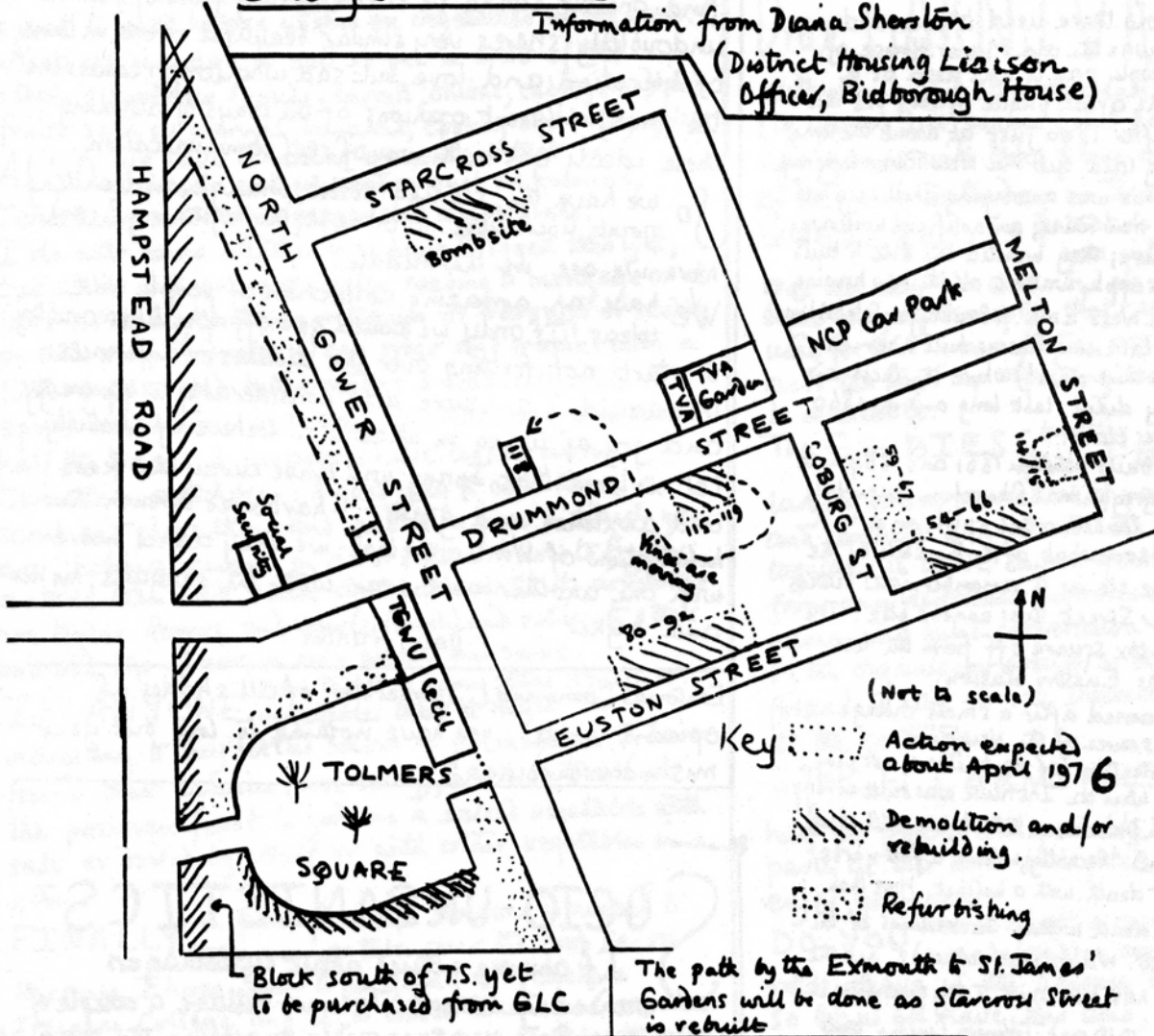
TOLMERS NEWS

Number 21

March 22nd 1976.

Changes to come

Information from Diana Sherrin
(District Housing Liaison
Officer, Bidborough House)



Keep this map. Further copies showing current changes will be made as we are informed by the council.

If your information contradicts or supplements ours, please do not hesitate to let us know.

STOP PRESS: NGS will start being developed from Drummond Street north on its west side. (Area bordered by ---) December 1976.

THE NEXT MEETING of the TVA

Is on the last Wednesday of the month
31 March 76 at the Social Services. 20.00 hrs.

PROJECT GROUPS

Attend the meeting for further details or drop into the TVA office to discuss them. THE TVA OFFICE is open at least Wednesday, Friday afternoon and evening

ON OTHER PAGES.....

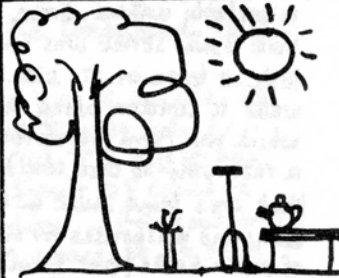
Criminal Trespass Law

A History of and a writing from T.S.

Divide and rule! or how administrators confuse us.

Abilities (intellectual and manual) listed for ref.

Co-ops and The Coop



Mary Mary quite contrary
How does your garden grow?

With seeds, digging, watering, weeding.

All the above are req'd and will be presented to our Head Gardener and Horticultural Commissioner with his findings.

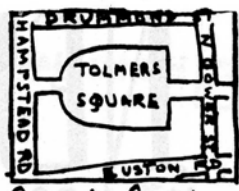
then

Come into the Garden Mall
For the black but Levy's Gone!

Please consult Tim or drop in the office before planting or weeding since lots of things have been sown already

Edited by Douglas and John.

Tolmers Square



A big thank you to the Council for the trees and a less big one for all the gravel.

To mark this partial greening of Tolmers Square, here is a bit of its history.

Where the square is now there used to be a pond, and just to the south was the old Manor House of Tottenham Court. Some people say it was used as a burial pit for victims of the great plague of 1665 but this is probably untrue. Soon after 1800 just at about the time North Gower Street was being laid out the New River Company took a lease on the site. This was a company which supplied water to London along the New River, an artificial waterway which ran from Herefordshire; they wanted the site to build a reservoir so they could supply water to all the new housing that was being built in the West End. A Society for Establishing Baths and Washhouses for the Labouring Classes built a series of public baths (first second & third class!) where the Cecil and the TGWU are now but they didn't last long and in 1860 both baths and reservoir were closed.

Tolmers Square was built between 1861 and 1864 with a Congregational Church in the middle and very splendid it was too with a tall spire, and according to one newspaper 'somewhat after the style of the House of Commons'. Someone claims to remember gates between the square and North Gower Street. Does anyone else? The idea may have been to cut the square off from the 'less respectable' housing towards Euston Station.

The Square was named after a small village in Herefordshire near the source of the New River. It was, despite the intentions of the builders, not very 'respectable' 100 years ago. When the Institute was built in 1877 (The building and plague in Drummond Street are still there) a local newspaper explained "Recently, within a few yards, a man hacked his wife to death with a hatchet. More than one child has been found dead within the railings of the chard with its throat cut. Wickedness abounds and the Tolmers Square institute has been built to try and stem it."

The Church closed in 1919 and Tolmers Cinema took over the building. About 1929 the 120 foot spire was pulled down. Finally Levy bought the cinema, closed and demolished it, leaving the rubble and wire we all remember. The Square must look better now than for a long time.

The book that Nick Waters and others are writing about Tolmers Village will have a Chapter on local history. It should be out in the Summer. If anyone has pictures or memories of the area we could use them.
Tim Wilson.

but the trip certainly had the desired effect of broadening their experience. John Standfield had prepared an excellent photographic history of Tolmers in the Social Service building and many students met and talked with residents which was a major factor in developing an awareness of the problems of the potentially homeless.
Richard Shearman.

A New Start

AS a newcomer to Tolmers Square and dissident from Upper Bumphshire and many of its conventions it is rather wonderful to find oneself living in a community (sort of) which undoubtedly shares very similar beautiful ideals in terms of liberation and love, but sad when one realises that the many different opinions of the ways of achieving these ideals gets in the way of real communication.

So we have the starting point, change, and ending point; liberation.... or is it the beginning? and here we are in the middle. We have an amazing collection of people with ideas. If only we could get off the likes and try to start not fretting over the dislikes or differences this would I am sure add considerably to the energy and joy of living in what is a beehive of creativity. Let us hope that Spring will drive away the fears and anxieties and guilts harboured through the hibernation of Winter so that we may dance move with one another and soar with the seagulls, higher and higher
Dave Hunter.

Editorial Comment: Tolmerites of all shades of opinion unite! you have nothing to lose but your misunderstandings!

SOCIO-URBANISTICS

If anyone noticed about 45 teenagers wandering around Tolmers Village a couple of weeks ago they were supposedly surveying the area as part of their fifth form 'urban studies' course.

THE STUDENTS from Ifield Comprehensive school in Crawley were looking at the encroachment of commercial interests upon inner London residential areas. This area was chosen partly because their teacher is a resident, but also because the area graphically illustrates how a community can fight back against the developers and expose the waste and immorality of the developers and their council allies in creating rather than alleviating homelessness.

Each STUDENT was given a copy of 'Tolmers Destroyed' before the trip and armed with a questionnaire designed to elicit their opinion of redevelopment, renewal, squatting etc. Before coming to Tolmers the students were largely unsympathetic to the problems of inner city development.

The **FOOD CO-OP** is alive and well!

and is at the moment living in the Social Services building at Drummond Street

The **WAY** the food co-op works is that whoever wants to buy food places a deposit that is equal to what he/she wishes on vegetables in any week. What we manage to sell so far is most of the staple vegetables (spuds, carrots, onions, cabbage etc) plus fruits such as oranges, bananas, cooking and eating apples.

ALSO we have whatever we can get that is different and in season such as celeriac, Jerusalem artichokes, peppers and aubergines.

I do not know whether you have twigged this yet, but what with one practically needing a mortgage or at least HP to buy potatoes - turnips or parsnips or swedes on their own or mixed in any order and mashed with a little pepper and butter makes a good alternative to spuds and is more nutritious, less fattening and about half the price. A few people have asked about Jerusalem artichokes. A good way to cook them is scrub and chop them and add to a pan in which you are cooking onions in oil or butter. Allow to fry for a while then add stock and cook until the artichokes are tender. Remove and purée (mash) and return to stock and add top of milk or some cream and serve.

IF ANYONE can think of any other fruits or vegetables that it might be interesting to buy let us know - for instance I have found that celeriac (root celery), eaten by Jews at the Passover feast is good as a salad vegetable with salt or boiled by itself or with other vegetables in a stew.

FINALLY a plea for help. Someone is needed to help run or take over the food co-op because I hope soon to be going to Teachers Training College and it is about time someone else had a go at it. If a few people could volunteer to join a rota for a few weeks they could find out what is involved organisationally.
Douglas Fry.

TOLMERS CARNIVAL

Dear CARNIVAL LOVERS

With some 1,000+ residents still in the area (ie you lot!) it seems quite possible that good fun and games will take place on the traditional date of the last Saturday in June.

WHEREABOUTS? that is for you to decide. If you intend to hide behind a tree all day you can now do so in T.S. but it has been largely accepted that NGS and DS could be used for this year's festive occasion. If any inspired acts do turn up requiring more space St. St. may be available.

The **GOODIES** - hunting, sound systems etc from the last two years carnivals have largely disappeared so if you have the enthusiasm and contacts and would like to help get things together to drive away fears, anxieties or quills from any depressed patrons or residents of TV your name and kind cooperation will be gladly received by the organising group in the TVA office - which, folks! is still at 102 Drummond St despite rumours to the contrary.

SINCE CARNIVALS don't just happen, as I for one am well over half the people will probably have their own secret party at this time but please come outside and enjoy yourselves.

DO YOU know what a carnival is like? Have you ever helped in one before? I know some readers have in the Chinese New Year celebrations; so let us all have, this time, a real break and make the days activities good ones. Ian Cooper
I£ If anyone has heard of last year's treasure hunt, will they also bring it down to the T.V.A.



Flos Tolmeri vegetior renovit

(May the Flower of Tolmers grow and be renewed)

An attempt is being made to inject a little more life in the formerly nearly defunct TVA.

We must not assume that since our first major objective - to defeat our favourite property speculator - has met with success, that Aesop's fable about King Log (who did nothing) and King Stork (who ate all his subjects) may still have the odd application hereabouts. The monthly meetings (last Wednesday in S.S. at 20.00hrs) are only the start. Our stamp has on it a growing geranium to remind us that we, the Association, will die if we don't grow and put up new shoots. Start or continue attending meetings.

THE Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law or Squatters out !!?

Hopefully everyone is aware of the implications of the latest Law Commission Report now burning a hole in the Home Secretary's desk, and all those dirty leaflets hiding in hallways and stuck on doors won't have been for nothing.

Unfortunately the content of the report is still not known, as a van driver's strike at HMSO has held up the distribution of the report. **THE First** report published in 1974 proposed two new offences: entering property by force and being unlawfully on property. The Law Commission admitted to 'surprising opposition' to the proposals which recommended up to two years jail for the first offence and 6 months for the second.

Two Years On and the situation is somewhat different. The offence of conspiracy to trespass is to be dropped and the government are looking for a replacement to plug the hole. Squatting, rent strikes and occupations have become commonplace throughout the country and direct action of all kinds is likely to increase in the wake of the recent cuts in public expenditure and social services.

THE CACTL run from 6 Bowden Street SE11 by two full time workers has tried to build up opposition to the CTL proposals. Success has been mixed: the Trade Union movement has shown a surprising lack of concern and seems to regard the proposals as anti-squatting rather than a subtle attack on the tactics of their members. Whilst large numbers of union branches and trade councils have passed resolutions of support, pressure from the leadership on the Central Court has been lacking.

THE National Demonstration on February 25th attracted about 4000 people to Trafalgar Square in a colourful but undisciplined rally featuring an impressive turnout from Tolmers Village. The National Press typically ignored the demonstration as they have the whole campaign so far.

Now CACTL have been promised a copy of the report before it is released. We can expect some press reaction to the published report and CACTL will be holding its own press conference to make two press statements.

The Government have promised to incorporate the proposals into legislation without delay and so it is not inconceivable that we shall have a CTL in force by April or May.

CACTL are organising a conference late May to discuss tactics and policy with regard to the prevailing situation.

WHAT CAN WE DO? Reaction in Tolmers Village has been fairly low key as perhaps people are confused as to what constructive action can be taken. The stability and coziness of Tolmers squatting also leads to undue complacency and inactivity. Despite Camden's current liberal attitude we can be sure that they will rely on a Criminal Trespass Law to get us out rather than the trouble and expense of the High Court, that is, Albany Street Police will do it free. The main thrust of CACTL has always been at grass roots level and this means communicating and publishing the real meaning of Criminal Trespass at home, work and in the community and in workers and tenants associations.

The CTL proposals should be seen not as an isolated campaign against squatters but part of the Labour government's strategy to stifle opposition to the whole spectrum of their reactionary policies in furtherance of what they call Social Democracy.

As soon as the report is published we will hold a meeting to discuss our own tactics and organisation. Meanwhile

CACTL hold weekly meetings at ULU, Malek St 20.00hrs, Thursdays

to organise speakers, leaflets and policy and having only two full-time workers they desperately need volunteers.

Anyone wishing to help contact

Patrick Allen 11/12 Tolmers Square
or ring CACTL 289 3877 for up to the minute information. Patrick Allen.

Write and fight to stop
the Criminal Trespass Laws!

THE COUNCIL via Diana Sherston the Housing Liaison Officer is initiating a Tenants Association for this Area and perhaps it may be an idea to remind all and sundry that the first part of the OBJECTS in the TVA Constitution is taken from a local Tenants Association constitution with the word 'tenant' changed throughout to 'resident'. The TVA wishes all well to the tenants association but perhaps the members of it might remember that they are a minority of the residents.

Constitutional Jottings

Every now and again a newcomer or forgetful observer to the Area wants to know what the TVA is all about. A selection of old Tolmers News have been stuck as a frieze round the social services building and copies of the Constitution as it stands at the moment appear in that building and in the TVA office in Drummond Street (102) Anyone may peruse these at their leisure [The office is open at least on Wednesday and Friday evenings and social or visit or assisting or any other callers are welcome]. If you don't like what we're doing TELL US, if you do, TELL OTHERS.