



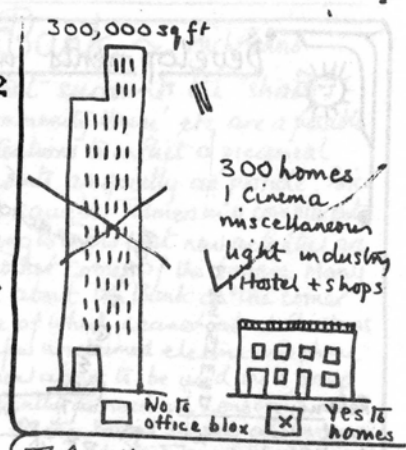
TOLMERS NEWS

Published by the Tolmers Village Association 102 Drummond St. NW1

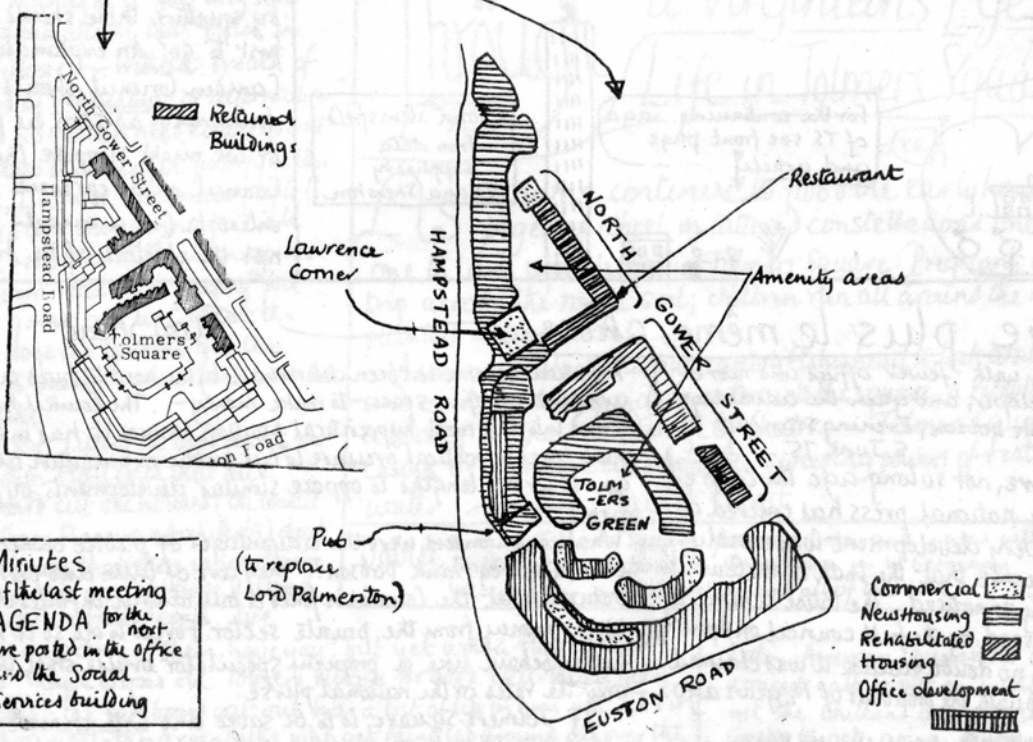
Number 22
May
1976

'Modification' of building plans

or how to pay £500,000 pa. in interest to merchant banks



Change this (Oct 74) to this (April 1st 1976 [correct date dont you think?])



Minutes of the last meeting AGENDA for the next one posted in the office and the Social Services building

On other pages
Developments in our area
Plus a change plus le même chose
Well! Well!! Well!!! OR
TOLMERS RUKES O.L.
Through a Virginians eyes
Food Co-op, The Bank
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Lottery explanation, P.N.S.

The Editors John & Doug wish to thank all contributors and critics including those whose assistance considerably slowed down this publication.

Have YOU paid your Membership or postal subscriptions recently?

Any ££ or pp you have which need a home will be gratefully accepted

Flos Tolmeri Vegetior
Assurgit!

The above major change in the Council's plans for our area hilariously called a modification indicates that the slogan 'the GREENING of Tolmers SQUARE' painted on a wall in the said square or sqaueen has been taken literally.

Perhaps the offices may make another slogan applicable 'The squaring of Tolmers Green' to

200-300 HOUSING UNITS	} Have been deleted	} To bring OFFICE ACCOMODATION UP TO 300,000 square feet.
1 HOSTEL		
1 CINEMA		
AU LIGHT INDUSTRY		
AU EXTRA SHOPS EXCEPT a SUPERMARKET		

Levy requested 250,000 square feet!
and this was said (by Council spokesmen) to be totally unacceptable.
Could it be that having cooked the Levy goose his sauce has now been appropriated by the Council gander?

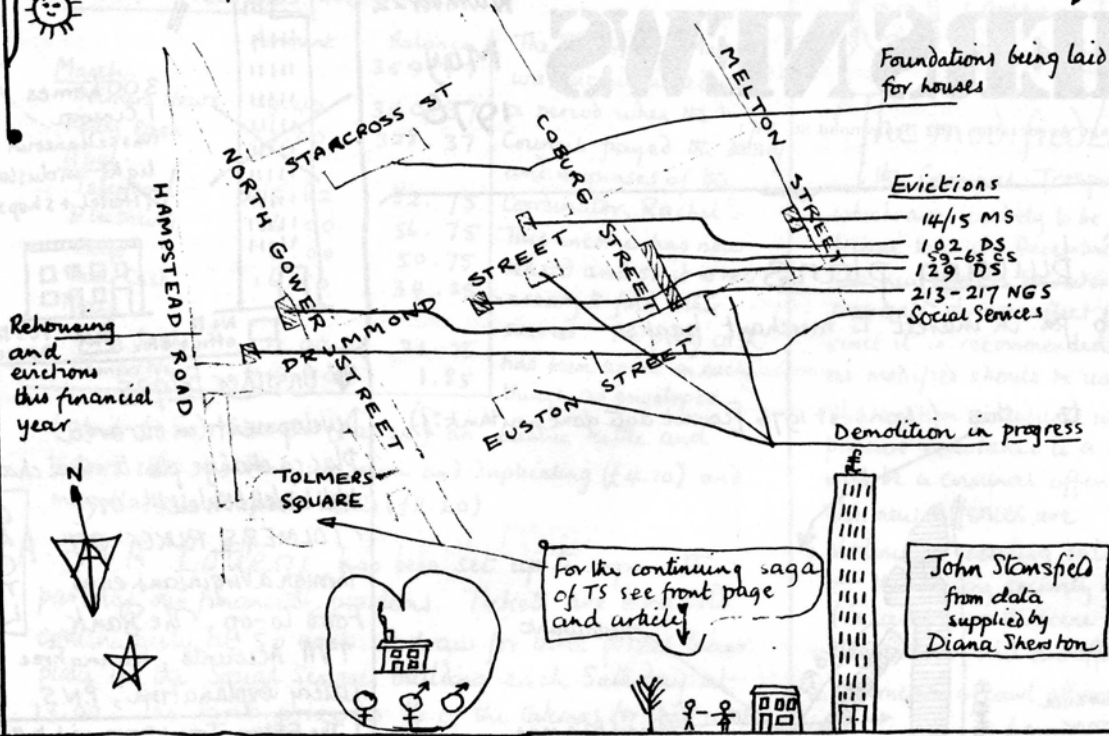
NEXT MEETING Wed 26 May In Social Services Building
20.00

Tolmers Lottery

First Prize	£1.30
to Danielle	6 TS
Second Prize	£0.65
to Manra	14 TS
Third Prize	£0.32
to Francis	215 NGS
Takings	£5.20
To bonus prize	£0.32
To TVA fund	£2.61

See back page for more details.

Developments in our Area



Comments on the Developments.

102 Drummond Street - TVA
 213 North Gower Street - Communist House
 129 Drummond Street - wages for Housework
 and the Social Services building are all in the process of being evicted! Apart from the Bank that would appear to clear out all the nasty subversive organisations in the area! I wonder who decided that out of several hundred housing units occupied by squatters these should be the first to go? An explanation by Camden Council should be forthcoming as soon as possible or we might suppose that the Council only represents legal interests (in a minority) not the electors of the Area. J.

Plus ca change plus le même chose

Barny Shaw

"We believe we can do the same with fewer offices and more homes than proposed by the developer, and gain the advantage of owning the property" - Frank Dobson, Evening Standard 5 June 75.

The History of Tolmers Square, not so long ago the centre of debate in Camden and the national press has entered a new phase. Where previously every development was closely watched and publicized it seems that the truth of the Council's present intentions has slipped by unnoticed. The latest scheme by the council's architects was passed by the full council on April 22 without even being debated, no doubt because it was claimed that the scheme was in accord with the proposals of 1 1/2 years ago.

"Considerable public consultation has already been held on the broad principles of the Tolmers Square development, from which the present proposals are no departure" - Council Minutes.

This is NOT TRUE - more specifically there will be 3 1/2 times more office accommodation than in the Council's previous proposals, in fact 20% more than even that proposed by Stock Conversion and there will be less housing.

Where Stock Conversion proposed 250,000 sq' of offices, and the Council countered with 85,000, it is now estimated that more than 300,000 sq' of offices will be necessary to finance the development. This means no less than a massive 9 storey office block taking up the whole of the Euston Road frontage and wrapping round to the present entrance to Tolmers Square. I say 'present' since Tolmers Square will be completely demolished and replaced by the laughably named 'Tolmers Green'.

Camden maintain that so much office space is necessary in order that the area pay for itself. Last year the Council paid £4 million for the six acres of land owned by Stock Conversion and is now paying over £500,000 p.a. interest on the money it borrowed to pay. Such a huge office development is, it believes, the only way to cut its losses. To make way for the offices the following have been omitted:

- 300 homes for people off the long housing list
- 60,000 sq ft of public buildings
- all the new light industry, workshops etc
- a proposed cinema to replace the Tolmers
- and Tolmers Square will be demolished.



The whole scheme has been determined by the need to build a massive amount of office space - to make money - The Council has been forced into the most hypocritical position because it has in the recent past bowed to political pressure to cut public expenditure and has gone to great lengths to oppose similar developments by private firms.

What, one wonders, were the advantages of public ownership envisaged by Frank Dobson? They are of little and perhaps negative value whilst the Council is forced to buy land at inflated values, and borrow money from the private sector. Forced to do so it must either behave like a property speculator or else shift the burden onto the rates or the national purse.

If Tolmers Square is to be saved and with it more human environment than that proposed by the Council it must take this path. There are, after all, too many offices in London. How sure can the Council be of making money from more, any?

Lastly - there is a good reason why the truth of the plans has passed unnoticed by much of the council itself. The planning committee report to the full council gave no hint of the 300,000 sq ft of office space envisaged - this was omitted. It seems that the wool has been passed over the eyes of those who make the decisions. We must make every effort to alert members of the council to that 'truth' behind the scheme that they have agreed to - to build more offices than Levy.

Quotes for meditation

"The Heavens are the abode of the Gods and the earth belongs to man. A person who does not use his property therefore forfeits its use to someone who will" ... A Senator of Imperial Rome quoted in the Annals of Tacitus (1st Century)

... To a person of property "You are not making a gift of your possession to a poor person. You are handing over to him what is his. For what has been given in common for all you have arrogated to yourself. The world is given for all not just for the rich" ... Saint Ambrose.

quoted by Pope Paul VI in Populus Progressio.

Well! Well!! Well!!! We are now, maybe, getting to see the true colours of the Council kids plans. I mean, personally, seems to me like they are a bit dastardly. First of all they evict 8 houses full of people (did they actually evict anyone - I don't remember that !!!) then they take 5 months to knock them down - a job which shouldn't have taken more than 5 weeks & there's still no sign of any construction! Then they say - come on, right now, let's by Avenue. Everybody out. When we say, you gotta jump you gotta jump & the following people will jump: 14, 15 Melton, 213-217 North Gowter, 129 Drummond Social Services and the whole of Coburg Street (not, of course, the pub - they're the ones with greenbacks) That's one lot of people (- about 50 I make it) & the TVA, Community House, Food Co-op, Womens Centre

They managed to get any sort of organisations that exist in the Village. - Without breath of a word of rehousing! or alternative homes & squatters need houses as well. How does the Council justify in their heads, I wonder, 50 homeless people!!

are are they gonna put all these people when they turn up on the Town Hall steps saying "you ain't gonna get us." Where the fuck does the council get the right to shunt people around however they like?

These boys sitting at their desks in the Town Hall with their nice cardboard cut out houses (the council calls them Planners & Architects) don't even know that there is something more in this world (village!!) than cardboard cutout people. I've never met any of them, have you? but yet with a flick of their wrists they've wiped out Tolmers Village for good. Well - they've got to be joking - the cardboard cut out has a bit of life in him yet. Is it only those with the greenbacks who get bundled around all over the place? - kicked out altogether, never to return? Talking about returning - what to? It turns out that Camden like the idea of

ices after all. They're building (or propose to build) more office space than Levy. Now they called Joe a profiteer, a speculator - what does that make them? How can anyone be worse than a profiteer unless it be a council profiteer?

Now it may be a little naive for me to say - but I thought the Council was meant to serve the people, the whole people and nothing but the people (no greenbacks please). People includes me and you and them and us and we, all together, young old, black, white, cream, brown, yellow, green, orange, rent paying, rate paying, residents, holiday makers and last but not least - Squatters. Yes! Squatters too.

We need to know just what the Council reckons to do. If they think that by evicting people & knocking down houses they can get rid of enough of us to do what they like - well maybe they can - they seem to have everybody jumping when they say jump. How about we jump when we like - right down the council's throat and tell them just what to do with their plans. How about the Council jumping? Even if it's jumping to the conclusion that we ain't going nowhere.

Despite what the Council say **TOLMERS VILLAGE RUKES O.L!** these houses aren't about to fall down around our ears - so we can all jump as long, low, as we want. C'mon brothers & sisters, we gotta get it together to keep it together - **WHY NOT NOW?** Tim Davies.

Trouble at Bank ~ Mich Binns

The disturbing news that surrounds the 'shady' evictions of the TVA, 'Community House' etc are a possible sign of the Council's intentions to inflict a piecemeal removal of Tolmers residents as quickly as possible. Since the Council seems to have caught Tolmers in a complacent mood, it is a little reassuring to know that new activities are about to take place in another corner of the Square. Many enquiries have been made about the Bank on the corner with Hampstead Road use of which ceased about Christmas time (there being still a few unclaimed electric and phone bills around) and it is now about to be used by a group of Chilean refugees who recently arrived in London.

The Possession Order for the Social Services and various complaints that arose about 'noisy' events suggest that it would be unwise to put on any discos or bands at the Bank & that's what the neighbours suggest as well! Instead the Chileans whose spokesman is Alfredo Diaz will be using the premises as a workshop to prepare leather and woven goods and various handicrafts.

Anybody who is interested in their work should call at the Bank - they welcome helpers or anyone interested in Chilean culture or affairs. The Workshop will be run (very quietly) in the Bank for most of the week but time can be set aside for any concerts or meetings provided the Chilean group is given due warning. Included in the group are a couple of

Latin-American guitarists and some time in the future a concert will be put on in the Bank (a quiet folk-concert!). As yet the Chileans are still settling in so things will take a few weeks to get going. Anybody interested in taking part in the activities in the Bank drop a note in the letter box of the entrance in T.S. [The official address is 50 Hampstead Road, NW1].

Through a Virginian's Eyes Life in Tolmers Square

As dawn continues to flood the early hours and pigeons wheel in tattered constellations one by one to land upon ledges in Tolmers Square. Pregnant cats trip across the rough soil; children run all around the newly planted welcome trees.

A commuter checks his pace and lifts his head to look around and opens up his ears, as he enters into the square, a receptacle, a bowl of silence on the verge of chaos. - Tolmers Square, a chunk of Earth rescued from the sweeping powers of restless water ~ David Durst

David lives in Tolmers Square for some time and is now with his brother at a US base in Gensersheim in W. Germany. We wish him a speedy return and all of the best.

Food Co-op



There may soon be a change for the better I hope in the prices at the Food Coop because I intend to have a look at Spitalfields market because at New Covent Garden prices of food and admission charges (at present 50p) seem to be going up.

Our prices at the moment are about 16p for spuds, 25p for tomatoes and 10p per 1/4 for mushrooms. Douglas Fry

Cauliflowers are superb just boiled and served with butter and pepper.

Spinach is nice boiled, puréed and mixed with chopped boiled egg or scrambled egg.

Carrots chopped and boiled and masked with a brown onion sauce are delicious. Fry a chopped onion in a little oil until lightly browned and then add a little water and top marmite. Mix 2 tsp flour with 1/2 pint water and stir in, cooking until thick.

TVA Accounts (lib audited)

	Amount	Balance
<u>March</u>		359.77
Tolmers News	19.40	340.37
Petty Cash	12.00	328.37
<u>April</u>		
Telephone	245.62	82.75
Electricity	26.00	56.75
Skip	6.00	50.75
Petty Cash	16.50	34.25
<u>May</u>		
Petty Cash	13.00	21.25
Tolmers News	19.40	1.85

The Balance in March was accumulated over a period when the Council payed the salary and expenses of the Coordinator, Rachel. This income has now ceased and so it is necessary to find other sources. The petty cash has been spent on such things as envelopes

(about £1.50) Stamps (£21.25) an electric kettle and teapot (£12.16) Pens, ink, gum and duplicating (£4.10) and miscellaneous telephone calls (£2.20)

A TVA Lottery has been set up to cope with part of our financial problems. Tickets are being sold continuously at 5p each. A draw for three prizes takes place in the Social Services building each Saturday at 13.00. The First prize is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the takings for that week the second is $\frac{1}{5}$ and the third is $\frac{1}{6}$. $\frac{1}{6}$ of the takings for each week is reserved for a bonus prize which will be drawn from all the tickets sold since the last bonus draw at the end of the monthly meeting (see p1)

The Council is to be approached for a grant to cover the publication of the Tolmers News and we propose to ask for at least £25 per month for this purpose.

The Jumble Sale held in the Social Services building on Saturday 1 May for the Campaign against the Criminal Trespass Law realised £37. Many thanks to all who helped. Debbie.

Non Resident friends of Tolmers Village Association are urged to send donations by post and they will be entered as they specify for the lottery. For example, 50p will secure 10 tickets, say 2 for five successive weeks or five for two successive weeks or ten for one week or one for ten successive weeks. Such donations will be acknowledged in the Tolmers News and any prizes sent immediately after the relevant draw, by post.

Postal Subscriptions (6p 12 issues; 50p for 6) & Membership Subscriptions (30p per annum) now due, will be gratefully received.

Don't forget the NEXT MEETING We need you there.

Advertisements are solicited
10p per square inch
or 2p per word
We need your support
102 Drummond St NW1

SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING Drummond Street.

Peoples News Service and Rising Free bookshop are moving in. PNS provide information for alternative newspapers that might not appear in the standard news agencies with a left wing but non-sectarian slant. They produce a fortnightly bulletin with a home and international section which covers peoples struggles under such headings as women's rights, workers, tenants, squatters & liberation movements. Rising Free is a non-profit making non-sectarian left wing bookshop and information centre which makes available books and writings not generally found in shops like Smiths & Mercies. Tea & Coffee are available at cost price as soon as we get the equipment. People will be encouraged to browse, drink tea, have informal chats and even buy books!



Campaign Against Criminal Trespass Laws

— Patrick Allen as reported to T.S.

The modified Law Society proposals on the Criminal Trespass law creates five new offences

which are unlikely to be debated before November and so will become Law in December.

The new offences however, unlike the original Law Society proposals, do not affect people who are already squatting since it is recommended that ordinary eviction procedures as modified should be used against them.

The eviction procedures will be tightened up so that even passive resistance to a bailiff (such as getting in his way) will be a criminal offence.

The new offences are:

There is a CACTL pamphlet on this subject in TVA office.

1. Violence for securing entry — up to 2 years in prison.
— threatening security guards or caretakers (i.e. arriving on the scene with placards and working tools)
2. Trespassing with an offensive weapon — up to 2 years in prison
3. Obstruction of court officers executing possession orders
— 6 months and/or £400 fine.
— could include peaceful resistance.
4. Adverse occupation of residential property — 6 months and/or £400
— properly owner has furniture there or claims to sleep there occasionally
5. Occupation of embassies etc — 1 year in prison for Brits
deportation for persons of the nationality of the embassy
(Think what would happen to an Iranian student, for example!)

Westminster C.C. approved a redevelopment scheme for Cleveland street recently.

Buildings are to be demolished to make way for — guess! Office Space (2/3) 59 people rehoused and a CAR PARK!!? All the housing is single bedroomed.

This is being done by the Paddington Church Housing Association — a charity (A WHAT?) — Pamphlet in TVA office.

Visit THE CAFE at 3 Howard House, 161 Cleveland St for information

The Dictionary Delvers Group reports:

- con'spiracy n. Act of conspiring (in a good or bad sense) — combination for lawful or unlawful purposes (O.E.D.)
Could we say, therefore, that Camden and Marylebone Councils are con'spiring (p.p) to render more people homeless (in a bad or a good sense) and if so, when is the Law Society going to recommend a new offence
6. conspiracy to increase homelessness — £429,000 fine (to be devoted to housing associations) and 3 years hard labour for the Mayor
Riddle: when is a resident not a resident Ans: When office blocks are needed (!)

Remember —

If you approve of our activities tell others if not

TELL US

TVA wishes RF & PNS continued success in S.S.