



## All this land for just £1 a year

**TOLMERS VILLAGE** residents have won a remarkable concession — for a peppercorn rent of £1 a year, their association has rented a plot of land worth £400,000.

The half-acre site in Drummond Street was requisitioned by impatient residents and their children before Easter, after official requests for use of

site to the owners, a Manchester-based copper wire firm.

When the company heard of the takeover, they sent down their company secretary who told the Association the site could be let for a nominal rent of £1 a year. A factory, bombed during the war, was originally on the site. Camden Council has continually refused proposals put forward by the company for an integrated factory and housing development. So the site remain empty for

nearly 30 years until two weeks ago.

Nick Wates, co-ordinator of the Tolmers Village Association, explained how they got the site so cheaply: "We were offered the site for a nominal rent so that the company could continue to own it. After 12 years it would have been ours legally for nothing." He was referring to the fact that after that length of time, occupants have "squatters rights".

Now local people have begun to transform the

piece of waste ground into a garden and playground for children. First thing to go up on the plot was a tower (left) made by local children, and a small rock garden is planned. Offers to help build the garden are already coming in. A local garage owner is donating three cubic yards of soil, and plant seeds are being put through the Association's letter box daily.

First event on the plot will be a jumble sale and garden party tomorrow (Saturday) arranged by the Association.

3 MAY 74  
CAMDEN  
TOLMERS VILLAGE