

EVERYONE in Camden seems to want to have a dig at Joe Levy's Stock Conversion and Investment Trust Ltd., nowadays.

But one group of people have been frustrated in their attempts — the Camden History Society.

For they wrote to Mr Levy's company asking for their permission to carry out excavations—known as digs — on the Tolmers Square site before re-development went ahead.

But, according to their chairman, Mr John Richardson, their efforts were frustrated as the site they were interested in—between Tolmers Square and Euston Road—was to be gravelled over and used for a National Car Park site.

So, about 18 months ago, they wrote to NCP asking their permission. And that was the last they heard of it.

A National Car Park's spokesman said this week: "We can't find any traces of

a letter on the files. If the Camden History Society can give us any better idea of who they wrote to, or else, for example, tell us why they haven't written to us again, we could take it up."

He added that they — as leaseholders would have to speak to the landlords, Stock Conversion, before permission could be given.

Their interest in a dig on the site stems from the fact that years ago it used to lie in the domains of the Tottenhall Manor, which dates back to the Domesday Book, instituted by William the Conqueror in 1086.

Tottenhall Court was the manor house. Our picture shows King John's Palace, which was behind the manor house.

The Domesday Book said of Tottenhall manor: "There are 3 ploughs and a half, and another half can be made. There are 4 villeins and 4 bordars. Wood for 150 pigs; and 20 shillings for the herbage. With

all its profits it is worth 4 pounds."

In 1256, King Henry III of England—the king who was indirectly responsible for the murder of Thomas a Becket — dined there with the King of Scotland, Alexander.

The site off Euston Road, was built in 1756/57, corresponds with the outer entrance court of the manor. King John's Palace remained after the mansion was demolished and—it is thought—it was demolished in the first half of the 19th century.

Largely as a result of their frustrations over Tolmers Square, the History Society have now written to Camden Council urging them to create a post for a borough archaeologist.

Said Mr Richardson: "It really needs someone who can wield a bit of power and influence. There are plenty of other sites which need a dig before re-development."

The request is now with Camden Council's Town Clerk's department.

Having a 'dig' at Joe

Levy—the historians

by Richard Garner, planning specialist

Planning applications

The following applications for planning permission have been received by Camden Council:

- 9 Parliament Hill, NW3. Conversion of 2nd and 3rd floor flats into s/c maisonette including raising two storey back addition by one floor to be incorporated into maisonette. Modernisation of ground and 1st floor flats and adapting to s/c.
- 9 Parliament Hill, NW3. Modernisation and self-containment of each of the 4 flats.
- 29 Small Road, NW2. Conversion to form 2 flats.
- 84 Chetwynd Road, NW5. Con-

version into 2 s/c dwelling units.

13 South Villas, NW1. Conversion of large house into family house with two studio flats.

6 York Rise, NW5. Outline application for new building — 4 flats.

69 Harmond Street, NW5. Council's own conversion.

75 Harmond Street, NW5. Council's own conversion.

79 Harmond Street, NW5. Council's own conversion.

83 Harmond Street, NW5. Council's own conversion.

28 Edis Street, NW1. Conversion

into 2 s/c dwelling units including erection of additional storey on roof extension and rear extension.

272 Kentish Town Road, NW5. Change of use of existing shop premises to employment agency.

6 Belsize Park Gdns, NW3. Conversion of two floor maisonette into two self-contained flats — residential.

73/75 Hampstead High Street, NW3. Extension of existing restaurant.

14 New End Sq, NW3. Building of a screen wall 8ft high surmounted by P. boards 8ft above brickwork 11ft 6ins in length. No change of use of garden.



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