



1st April 1971 protest march to save Covent Garden –
(l-r): George Keck, Peter, John Toomey, Austen Williams, Sam Driscoll

Austen was 'talked to' by important members of the clergy and the authorities pressed him to come to some kind of compromise or token amelioration. Last year the CGCA celebrated 30 years with a service at St Paul's Church. In his address Austen explained that "those in power" could not understand why as "a reasonable man" he would not distance himself from the protest movement and come to some kind of accommodation. Little did they

know the man who had spent five years in a German prisoner of war camp and had little regard for cant and officialdom, be it inside or outside the church.

When eventually the GLC's plan was abandoned largely as a consequence of the neighbourhood's revolt lead by the CGCA, Austen remained chairman during the difficult period when an elected representative body (the Covent