

was a great deal of inconvenience for our residents and profit for locksmiths.

We continue to work closely with our landlords, St Pancras and Humanist Housing Association but still have no allocation rights. Two adult children of long-term tenants have been rehoused in Neal Street by SP+H but Camden still appear deaf to pleas to rehouse local tenants in Covent Garden. Their nominees often ask for directions to get to Covent Garden. So much for having connections to the area!

Our other on-going drama has been the installation of double-glazing in two of our units facing the soon-to-open 'Hospital' on Endell Street. After incredible delay from Camden Planning, the project was finally sorted and responsibility agreed. Then Camden decided the double-glazing needs planning permission, "so that it can have control of minor details, such as the types of screws used and the colour of the windows". This for a building across the street from red windows!

Oh well, on to next year.

Jessica Skippon, Chair

Seven Dials Housing Co-op

The Seven Dials Housing Co-op provides affordable and well-maintained accommodation for people with a strong connection to the area, be it through family or work.

All tenants are well vetted – but demand greatly outstrips supply.

Like any area that has a strong desire to be a community, Covent Garden needs to keep its local people in the area. Our fully mutual Co-op is part of Covent Garden's history, formed at the time of the Market's closure in response to the need to keep the area available – and affordable - for local people.

The presence of affordable housing in an area enhances the social mix, but also acts as a counterbalance to an otherwise spiralling property market with no community at its heart.

In addition to our own property we have established a good reputation for responsible management of 'short-life' housing and property held and managed in perpetuity for others but we are constantly on the look-out for new properties for our well-vetted tenants to occupy.

For instance, within the next year it is feared that a good number of our short-life tenants will be made homeless.

If you desire to see Covent Garden remain an area with community at its heart and if you possess local, unfurnished property which you wish to see responsibly managed (without fee) and tenanted within the ethos of affordable housing, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact us on 020 7379 3534 for further details.

Alasdair Willmore, Co-ordinator

Parking in Covent Garden

'Residents parking in Camden zone CA-C' continues to be an exciting, if sometimes frustrating, game. Around 450 players each pay £82 to enter every year, working, amazingly, with just 220 bays to stay in the game.

This year the 'Survivor' version has evolved - in response, perhaps, to the need for more determination and perseverance among players.

The Endell Street hospital redevelopment site could have become an early graveyard on 'CA-C Survivor Island'. The first challenge was the elimination of 17 bays around it in Summer 2000. But fast work by Camden's contract and highways managers at the time provided a team of substitutes, gathered from places as far apart as Shelton Street and Grape Street, helping nearby residents to survive. The new bays were, in turn, due to have been voted off by February 2002. However a last-minute reprieve has now been given until August 2003. Some still fail challenges, such as recent suspensions due to Macklin Street improvements, or due to less welcome ad-hoc suspensions by private companies. But most residents and bays are now back in the game.

Unwelcome gatecrashers entered the CA-C island on fraudulent permits during 2001. But their numbers are up, and several have already been forced to leave.

Please report any suspected fraudsters to Zakia Mannan or Adrian Weatherill at Camden on 020 7974 4671 or adrian.weatherill@camden.gov.uk - they will be very pleased to hear from you.