

St Joseph's RC Primary School

We are a small multi-cultural school with over twenty different nationalities represented. The rich mix of different cultures enhances the general life of the school. Different cultural events take place on a regular basis. This term we had an International Day. Children entertained the school community with dancing and singing from different countries.

The school has been awarded two achievement awards for above average results in education from the DfES.

Over the past twelve months a considerable amount of refurbishment has been undertaken internally but we would welcome financial support from local businesses in order to dramatically improve our playground, which is in an appalling state and for which we have been unable to obtain any form of grant aid.

Pat MacDonald, Headteacher

Seven Dials Monument Charity

The charity's exhibition was on view at Camden's local history centre in Theobalds Road for three months during the past year, and also at the Car Free Day at Seven Dials and at the CGCA's 30th anniversary street fair in Neal Street.

Ken Livingstone attended the Car Free Day and was presented with a specially dedicated David Gentleman lithograph

of Seven Dials. At a second event at Seven Dials, it was a pity that Camden did not have the nous to present the European Commissioner for the Environment with the Seven Dials Environmental Study, nor of inviting the children who carried out the 2000 Seven Dials Greening Project.

In the summer of 2001 Camden implemented a traffic management scheme but did not organise a public meeting, nor did it work up the scheme via the Charity's environment committee, which we set up for that purpose. At a meeting organised by the Charity it became apparent that the consultant's scheme was flawed and we made a series of constructive suggestions, none of which were taken on board until two days before the scheme was aborted. The scheme was appallingly organised and wasted a great deal of many people's time. However, we should pay tribute to Cllr Gerry Harrison's hard work in trying to get movement on this issue.

The Charity led a deputation of all Covent Garden organisations to meet the Leader of Westminster City



Council to try to get them back on board with Camden on traffic management issues and a positive committee report followed.

At the time of writing, it appears that Camden is embarking on yet another exercise in both street works and traffic management, without learning from past successful Covent Garden partnership models, and without a clear, long-term vision. Since we have already provided this via the Seven Dials Study (and the partnership process by which it was arrived at) we can only assume that Camden is not actually interested.

If you have strong views on the matter or are able to offer your help, please contact us: Tel 020 7437 5512 7d@sixty8.com; www.sevendials.com

David Bieda, Chair

Covent Garden Area Trust

In St Marks' Square, Venice, the outdoor chairs belonging to the cafes are all of the same design. They have light, shiny silver frames and seats of woven plastic. They stand in different coloured blocks – thirty blue-seated chairs outside one café, twenty yellow chairs outside another. Waiters stand by the chairs ready to serve anyone who sits down. They dart in and out of the café doorways carrying trays or taking orders to the kitchen.

In Covent Garden's Piazza – another elegant and historic square - things are rather different. By contrast to the strictly imposed simplicity of Venice, some caterers in the Piazza have created