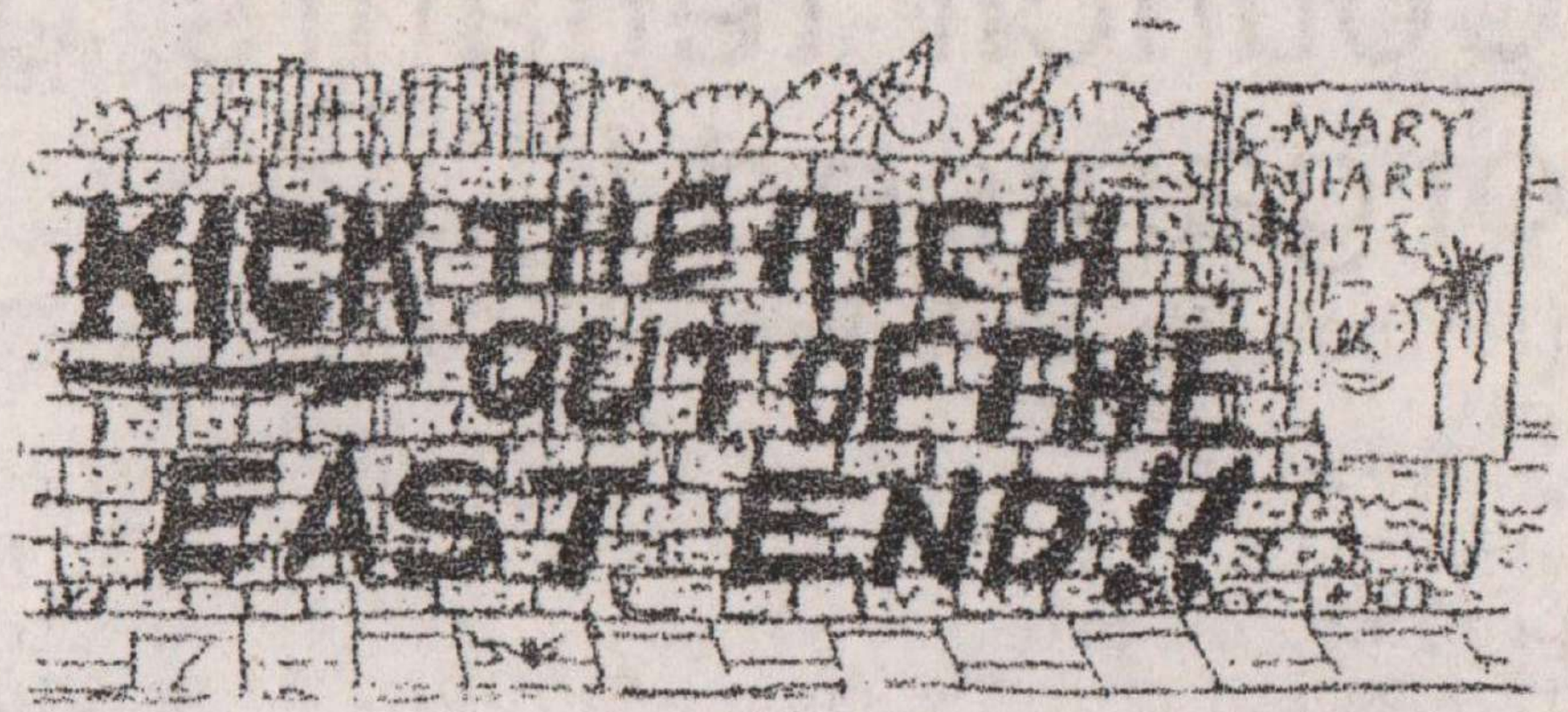


EastEnders



NUMBER 5

9th APRIL 1987

HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS, NOT THE YUPPIES!

THIS WAS THE CRY THAT MET PRINCE Charles when he visited Bethnal Green recently.

The Prince got a right royal earful from angry Eastenders protesting about the sale of their homes to property developers.

He was visiting the Waterlow Estate which Tower Hamlets council sold to Barratts 18 months ago. 275 of the original 400 flats on the estate are to be sold off at prices way out of the reach of the original tenants.

Originally some of the flats were to be offered for sale to the tenants at discount prices. However, with the "special offer" price now around £50,000 and rising, few of the tenants will be able to afford them. Instead, the flats will be bought up by rich people from outside the area.

Barratts intend to demolish one



Waterlow protesters wait for the Prince.

whole block of 40 perfectly good flats. The Liberal council says this is to improve the environment "for the benefit of all the people who stay on the estate"; in other words, so the new wealthy residents can have a nice view.

How many of the people on the Council's housing waiting list or the families in bed-&-breakfast will benefit from these "environmental" measures?

BACTON TOWER

Not too far away, another estate, Bacton Tower, is also up for sale. The block was "temporarily" emptied two years ago for modernisation and so that asbestos could be removed. Now the tenants have been told that their homes are going to be sold off to property developers.

Labour councillor, Phil Maxwell said of the sale, "If these flats are sold off they will fetch

£65,000 plus. As far as I can see local people are being turned out of their homes for rich yuppies to move in".

Nice one, Phil! However, let's not forget that it was the previous Labour council that stitched up the deal with Barratts over the Waterlow Estate.

THE FUTURE

If the housing crisis and the 'gentrification' of the East End goes on much longer, local people are unlikely to confine themselves to the so-far peaceful protests of the Waterlow and Bacton tenants.

Bonny Prince Charles' rich property developer chums ought to think twice before showing their faces round this neck of the woods again. Next time it might be more than just verbal abuse that the crowds hurl at them!



We can stop Estate Sales!

Council tenants get organised!

(Or how to beat Hackney Council's Capital Programme.)

IN Hackney, nearly all the tenants associations who's estates are at present, or are due to have capital works done on them are having the same problems: lack of information from the Council, negligent contractors, snooty councillors who couldn't care what the tenants want and make decisions without proper consultation.

This all leads to work which falls far short of the hopes and wishes of the tenants.

It is obvious that the Council can't be trusted and that the tenants are quite able to run their own estates.

For too long we've been told that politics and decision-making are too hard for us and that we should leave that to the councillors and politicians - "because they know best".

This is rubbish! We're not stupid! Tenants associations can do more than just organise jumble sales.

We must show that we can look after ourselves and start working directly with the council workers. We must organise, raise our own running costs and stop relying on some "never to be found" highly-paid council officer.

PILOTLESS PLANES ?!

TWO major new transport schemes are due to open in the Docklands during 1987 - the Docklands Light Railway and the Docklands Airport.

The safety of the new railway was recently brought into question when one of the driverless trains crashed through the flimsy barriers at Island Gardens Terminus.

It makes you wonder what standard of safety is going to be applied to the airport.

The airport - or STOLport at it is known - is due to open in October.

Brymon Aviation intend to fly

over 115,000 passengers to and from Europe in their first year. This means a lot of noisy planes will be flying in and out, only yards from flats and a school, all through the week.

People who live nearby know whose side the Civil Aviation Authority are on. It would be a miracle if safety were put before profits.

It's OK for them. None of them, or the owners of the airlines have to live in the flats in the surrounding area.

They've tried to buy the support of local people by claiming that the airport will bring new jobs to an area badly hit by unemployment. We all know what a con that one is! And anyway, what's the point of job if it means having to put up day-in, day-out with the noise, pollution and the risk of having a plane full of yuppies crashing through your living room window?!

It's only the money-grabbing developers and businessmen who want the airport. Sure, you'll be able to fly over to Paris in half an hour, but we'll still have to wait all bloody day for a bus to the shops!

Why don't the businessmen piss off back to Heathrow and pay for a cab or a train...and STAY OUT OF DOCKLANDS !

Another gem from EastEnder Bob Hoskins

"The Cockney?" asks Hoskins. "He's a kind of Red Indian, isn't he, just being shipped off to the reservations - Thamesmead, Basingstoke." He calls himself an anarchist.

London Daily News,
Monday 30th March 1987.

NICE ONE, BOB !

INVASION OF THE WINEBARS !

JUST HOW MANY WINEBARS DO we need in the East End?

Two of the 'stars' from BBC's "EastEnders" are opening yet another one in Globe Road, Bethnal Green on 15th April.

Shreela Ghosh and Paul Medford, who play Naima and Kelvin, have spent £100,000 tarting up an old shoe shop and called it 'Cobblers'.

If the trendy wine bars that have sprung up elsewhere in the East End are anything to go by, the prices are bound to be ridiculously high ...and the wages disgustingly low.

The only real East Enders you're likely to see there are the poorly paid staff dishing out expensive bottles of plonk to the toffs.

Asked why she was opening her wine bar in Bethnal Green, Shreela replied, "who needs another wine bar in Chelsea?" We say, who needs another wine bar in the East End?

COBBLERS to it!



Shreela Ghosh, who plays Naima.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

yuppy bashing is having some effect.

A young professional who bought a flat in the Victoria Park area of Hackney came down one morning to find his black Alfa Romeo sprayed in big white letters "Rich Scum".

A friend who learned of the incident said: "I bet he'd like to live in the area where they

London Evening Standard,
Friday 20th March 1987.

EastEnder: If you agree with the articles in EASTENDER, and would like to get involved yourself, either by helping with distribution, or giving us some money so we can carry on printing, or come along to the fortnightly meetings where EASTENDER is produced, then write to the address below. No yuppies need apply!

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