

# SOHO CLARION

Newspaper of the Soho Society

August/September 1975 Vol.2 No.4

## Kettners Block- buster!

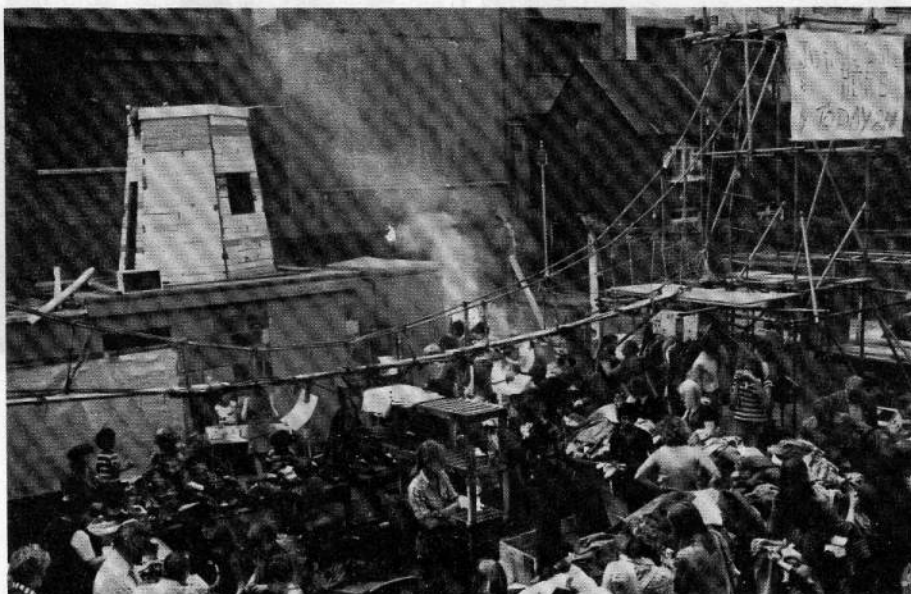
Kettner's Restaurant is a name of renown. Indeed it is said that the opening of the Restaurant by Auguste Kettner at 29 Romilly Street in 1867 heralded the beginning of Soho's reputation as a centre for foreign food.

Unfortunately Kettner's and other buildings making up over half the street block bounded by Frith, Greek, Old Compton and Romilly Streets are owned by De Vere Hotels Ltd and this company and its architect Richard Seifert do not seem to care much about Soho or Kettner's. In fact they want to demolish all the buildings on the site and they have permission for a new building. But because of legislation introduced last year they also need permission to demolish the existing buildings, which mostly date from the mid 18th century.

Westminster City Council Planning Committee will decide whether the buildings should go at their meeting on 25th September, and you could help influence their decision. Do you want to see yet another famous Soho landmark disappear? If not write to Mr. J.M.Hirsh, Director of Architecture and Planning, Westminster City Council, City Hall, Victoria Street, S.W.1. as soon as possible.

## BE SURE

OF YOUR CLARION  
JOIN THE SOCIETY NOW



PLAYSITE JUMBLE SALE - see *Going for a Song* on back page.

## CRAFTSMEN IN DANGER

After several months delay Westminster City Council has produced a preliminary analysis of the results of the Soho Craft Survey. In January members of the Soho Society, SOC and other volunteers visited over 500 craftsmen in Soho to gather information about their activities and problems.

The response rate to the questionnaire was high, and in general the results confirmed what the Society and other local organisations have known for sometime. The mens tailoring trade accounts for one third of the craftsmen, with a further 16% involved in crafts related to the media and entertainment industry. A large proportion, 38%, have been established in the area for over ten years and only 10% for less than one year. Most of the businesses are very small, 45% employing less than 5 people and 78% occupying less 1000 sq ft.

The survey shows that nearly one third have less than one year of their leases remaining, but does not highlight the numerous weekly tenants who have even less security of tenure, nor is any idea given of the many businesses which have disappeared over the last few years. Soho contains almost one third of all the industrial space in Westminster so it is vital that action is taken on these results.

As a community we must fight excessive rent increases which can be resisted when unreasonably high. TAKE ADVICE BEFORE PAYING UP, OR GIVING UP. Westminster must also take responsibility, rates for craft premises are too high and this has contributed to the closure of many workshops. Illegal change of use from workroom to offices can only be halted by punitive local authority action. The legislation exists, use it. Finally legislation is much needed, and must be pressed for to set up an effective framework of rent protection for small businesses and craftsmen. The County Court procedure offers limited protection and is both time consuming and expensive.

# Future Plans

The Evening Working Party of local people set up by WCC to submit recommendations for the City Development Plan, which will cover the next 25 years held its last meeting for the moment in July.

After 10 meetings, including a joint meeting with the East Marylebone Working Party, we submitted recommendations to the Council on the following subjects: Population and Housing, Transport & Environment, Employment & Economic Activity Shopping, Hotels, Tourism & Entertainment, Open Space and Community Services, Conservation and Townscape.

We felt strongly that this process of consultation was very valuable and it hoped that the council will continue the system, enabling evaluation of further stages of the Development Plan.

We appreciated the considerable effort put into the organisation and running of the meetings by officers of the Planning Department, especially in our case Diane May and Adrien Dennis.

## SOHO SENIOR CITIZENS

Invite you to an  
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This is a picture of a street party on Meard Street at 5 pm on a Saturday in July. About 70 people live in Meard Street, and Stephen Fry who lives at number 2 decided it was time he got to know some of them so he issued invitations typed on one side of paper to everyone in the street, took a table out into the street at 3.p.m. and gradually the crowd gathered.

'It's time we changed the image of Meard Street,' he said, 'from a place where con-women fleece innocent passers-by (and insult the rest) to a place that's proud of the beautiful buildings and the nice people that live there.'

Having a party and getting to know your neighbours better is the first step in getting the street together so that the simple determination to do something about the street grows. 'It's time we all began to realise Soho is a beautiful place to live, not just a playground for second-rate drunks, visiting football crowds and noisy club-owning

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bums who think it's their right to disturb the street allnight,' says Stephen. 'Yes, of course you can print my name attached to that statement, it's about time we all stood up for ourselves a little more.' Residents are believed to have reported Gillys Club, with its proprietor Mr Hutchinson to the GLC noise department and to be forming a Meard Street Association to counter the various nuisances attached to the street.

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# One on Brown Without

At the turn of this century Soho had the largest Jewish Community outside the East End, but sadly it has declined considerably since then. However you can still eat in a variety of Jewish style restaurants but the last supervised Kosher restaurant, Folmans, closed in 1973. The salt beef bars in Great Windmill Street are friendly places to try out Jewish food. At lunchtime these are packed out with people working in the Rag Trade, designers, film people and showbiz and sports promoters. Everyone seems to know everyone else, and to have been going there every day for the last twenty years.

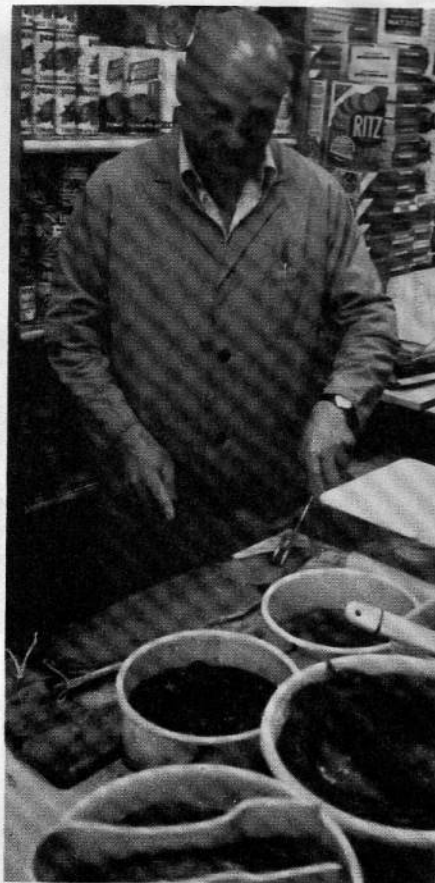
Carroll's is the most distinctive; it is hung with signed photographs of boxers, sports personalities and even Moshe Dayan. Phil Rabins and the Nosh Bar are alongside. All three have their windows festooned with cooked meats, salamis and frankfurters.

Sit at the bar and have a sandwich, a latke (fried grated potato cake) and pickled cucumber (new green or sweet and sour). 'One on brown without' means a salt beef sandwich on rye bread without mustard; or you can have salami, chopped liver, roast beef or pastrami (smoked meat), all served in white or rye bread without butter, and with huge amounts of meat. There are even special triple decker sandwiches for the hungry or the greedy. Or why not try gefilte fish which is a fishball with chopped carp or similar fish, onions and carrots, which is then either fried or steamed.

Kosher food is prepared in accordance with Jewish ritual and

dietary laws. Basically the meat must be specially slaughtered under rabbinical supervision, and only meat from animals with cloven hoofs is permitted; meat cannot be prepared or eaten at the same meal with dishes containing milk or milk product; and only fish with fins and scales is allowed which cuts out all shellfish. If you want to try Jewish cooking for yourself the necessary groceries can be bought from Joelsons in Peter Street, the last Jewish delicatessen in Soho, and there are two Kosher butchers, Taylors in D'Arblay Street and Zells in Newburgh Street. The meat is of very good quality but it is slightly drier and tends to be more expensive because of the special way in which it is killed. Here to finish is a typical recipe to try.

**CHOPPED LIVER** - Take 1 lb of calves or chickens liver and grill for five to ten minutes, or until light brown on both sides. Remove any skin or gristle. Chop finely to a smooth paste. Brown  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of finely chopped onions in  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of dripping and, adding the fat as well as the onions, mix into the liver paste with a fork. Add salt and pepper to taste, transfer for serving into an earthenware bowl and garnish with parsley or strips of green pepper. Serve with separate bowls of chopped egg yolk, chopped egg white and diced onion, and with plenty of fresh made toast.



*Henry Joelson Slicing Smoked Salmon in his Peter Street Delicatessen.*



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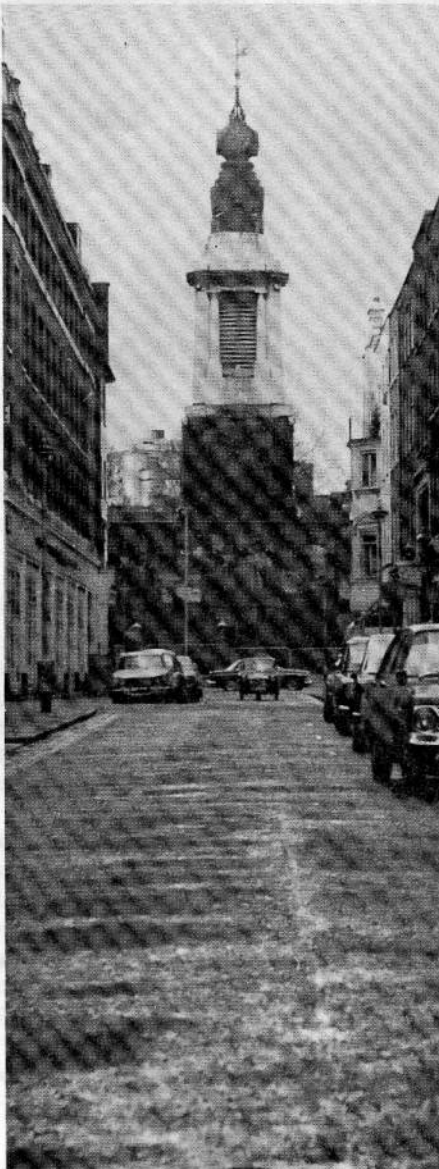
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# St. Anne's - Soho's Hidden Church



St Anne's tower is Soho's best known landmark but, ever since the body of the Church was destroyed by bombing, there has been little that is visible to suggest that the parish exists.

But St Anne's has continued to have a vigorous and lively history ever since it was founded in 1686. In the 18th and 19th centuries the Church

was the centre of the community, providing schools and much of the organisation for Soho's mixed population of skilled craftsmen, Huguenot refugees, artists, Russian Jews and local families. There was poverty but a strong sense of community. A succession of remarkable clergy, culminating in the Reverend JH Cardwell, Rector from 1891-1914, cared for people from all denominations. They also campaigned actively for Social reform and if you had attended the lectures in Dean Street in 1894 you would have heard Mrs Sidney Webb on the Sweating System and demands to improve the Poor Laws.

This century has seen great changes in the parish, a loosening of the sense of community, a great fall in church membership and the actual destruction of the Church in 1940, but new forms of life came up. From 1943 St Anne's a unique link between the Church and the intellectual and literary world, two leading participants being TS Eliot and Dorothy L Sayers, whose ashes lies in St Anne's Tower. In the 1960's a new challenge faced the parish staff and in 1969 Father Ken Leech started Centrepoint in the basement of St Anne's House as an emergency all night shelter for young homeless people. This work has been continued by Father Bill Kirkpatrick and Centrepoint (now a registered charity and not to be confused with its empty namesake) has an average of 6000 admissions a year.

Father John Knight, the present priest-in-charge of the parish takes the services in the small Chapel of the Upper Room in St

Anne's House, where the local community is prayed for daily. He visits Soho's hospitals and also his friends who work in the theatres and parts of the parish. Many people, some in urgent need call at the door of St Anne's House. Despite all the services of the welfare state, they still require a personal response.

St Anne's now approaching it's 300th Anniversary, is a "Hidden Church" whose work is to worship God in the heart of Soho and to offer practical care and service to people in the area. In attempting to do this, St Anne's can contribute something of importance to the whole life of the community, especially at a time when local values are threatened with extinction.

Tim Miller,  
Church warden St. Anne's Soho,  
St. Anne's House 57 Dean St. W.1.

## Children!

Are you at your wits ends to know how to keep your toddler amused? At Marshall Street Welfare Centre and 27 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, there are Toddler's Clubs for 2½-5 year olds where the children learn to mix and share with other children and have fun painting, playing, singing etc. While their mothers have a few hours peace at home. There are morning (9.30-12.30) and afternoon (1.00-4.00) sessions at Marshall Street and morning session only (10.00-1.00) at Shelton Street. There is a charge of 30p per session (reduced in special cases). Interested parents should contact the Matron at either address.

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