

# East-Enders

## ANITA DOBSON'S AN EASTENDER ALRIGHT

She's just moved in with the Toff's in one of their £20,000 flats at Wapping. If Albert Square existed in the East End now it wouldn't be lived in by Michelle and Lofty or unemployed Arthur, but by Middle Class Yuppies, city big bang whiz kids and celebrities who can afford  $\frac{1}{4}$  million for a swanky view of the riverfront.

The Queen Vic. would be a wine bar for the toffee-nosed Hoorey-Henry's.

The whole area from Hackney to Wapping to the Isle of Dogs is fast becoming a rich ghetto protected by their own

security police, just as Murdoch's Fortress Wapping is protected from the pickets.

It's high time we did something to reclaim our own communities before it's too late.

The following is from a leaflet produced by Stamford Hill Estate Squatter's Group.

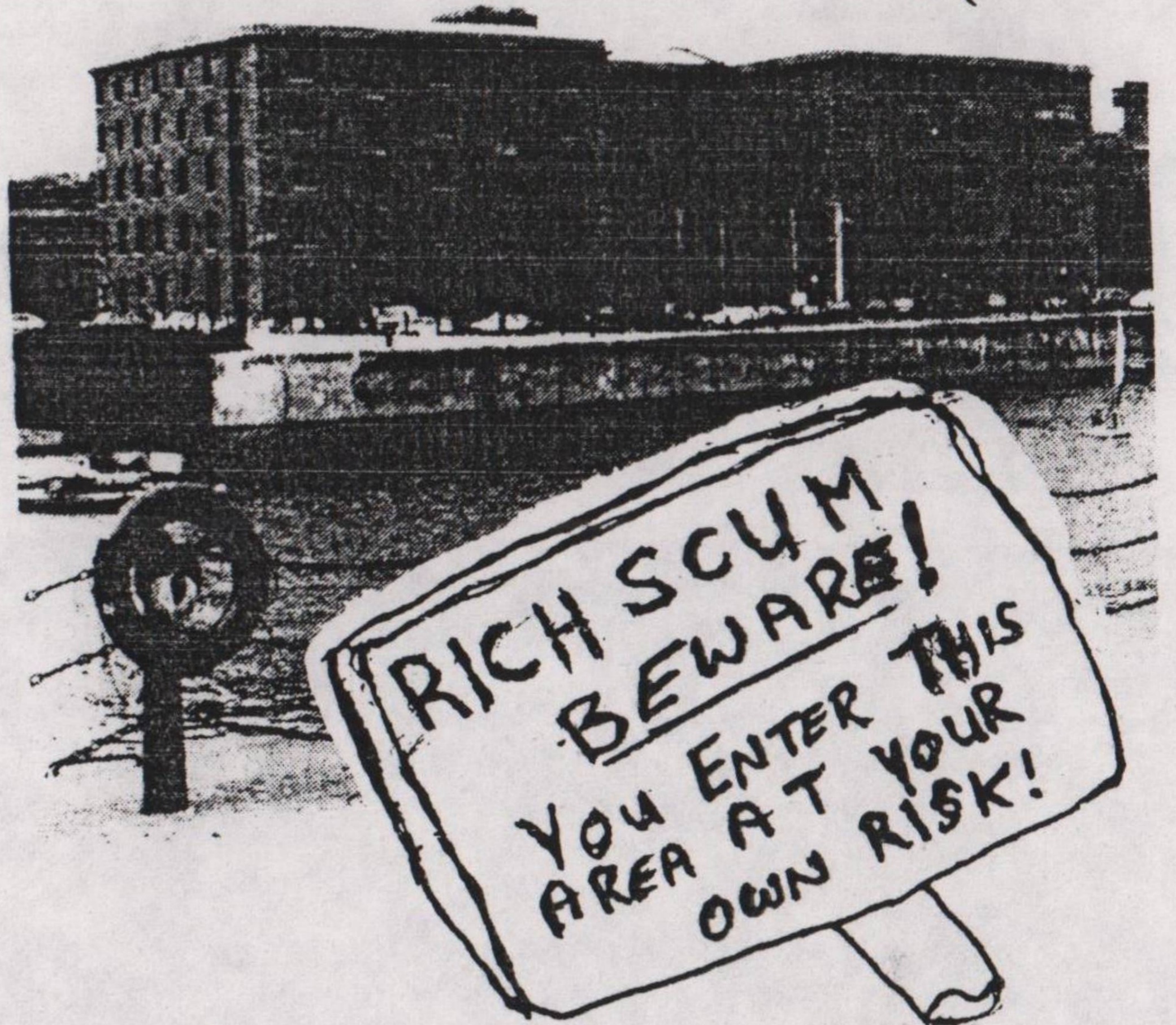
Squatting is not a crime. It is one solution to the growing housing problems of those that only have the choice of overpriced rented accommodation or council bed and breakfast. It is the only solution for people who have been on council waiting lists for years without getting anywhere. There are 4,500 empty council properties in Hackney alone. While 500 people are kept in bed and breakfast, at a cost of £4 million a year. While council bureaucrats argue over statistics, homes are left empty.

We are normal people who demand a basic right, a roof over our heads. And if we are not given one then we have to take it ourselves. Just as servicemen did after both wars when the "Homes fit for Heroes" were seen to be nothing but empty promises.

The council says it is aiding the homeless in Hackney, but mostly it's aiding homelessness. While the rich get built new luxury homes in the borough we get nothing. Yes there is a long waiting list for homes in Hackney, but there's more than enough empty flats and houses, but why are they still empty? We are not jumping the queue but showing we have the initiative for a little self help. Squatters are not a race apart, we are not junkies and dole scroungers as some papers would have you believe. We don't steal people's homes, the council do enough of that anyway. Rather than having empty places squatted they don't think twice about smashing up sinks, toilets etc. We would be willing to pay a fair rent but the council refuses to accept it. They lose up to £5 million a year because of this.

Squatting is a way of taking a bit of control of your own life, instead of passively waiting for a tomorrow that never comes. It is a symptom of the lack of proper housing and not the cause. The only way to end the squatting "problem" is to provide decent homes for all, when nobody pays rent and homes are built for people's needs and not to profit the rich. With the decay of democracy and the inner cities decline under the present government, the only realistic way of achieving this type of socialism is by Direct Action, and not the vote.





The Working Class people of Tower Hamlet's are coppin'it all these days, such as the Lippy-lunacy of the local liberals, who are constantly trying to tell us that everything in the borough is "Hunky-dory!"

We've seen our estates turn from "Homes for heroes" into the rat-ridden ruins that they are now, because the council is so caught up in all this bureacracy stuff, that they can't even see past their own noses to make even simple repairs on time.

We've seen these rich "Yuppie" tossers move into the area, via Limehouse, Wapping and the Isle of Dogs, an' pollute the area with their symbols of wealth; their volvo's, their luxury houses etc. All under our very noses, us, the people who've lived here for years, and we're still livin' in our snitty council estates, whilst these rich bastards just hop, skip and jump into the area without giving a monkeys for the local people and their problems. Well these parasites have gotta be shown the door, and it ain't gonna be thru no Liberal or Labour legislation, but by the combined effort of our community tellin' em they're not needed nor wanted in the area an' that if they don't leave quickly they'll be wearing concrete "Gucci's" in the 'ole River Thames. The only money they bring into the area is either tied so tightly in their pockets that wild horses couldn't drag it out, cos they're tighter than a cockroaches arse 'ole, or its spent on picture frames 'n' vases or in exclusive restuarants where you gotta pronounce yer "H"s properly before they'll let yer sweep the floor.

Right, 'nuff said about that, but it seems that our cocky councillors have deecided that 'cos they've had a budget cut, they'll get rid of a few public conveniences. Natually, they're not gonna close anything that the 'olidayin' 'appy'oorays use, but the things that the local working class rely on. Anyways, it seems that they're gonna close the Poplar baths (what do they expect us to use now? the fuckin' Thames!) a couple of holiday hotels, and the public laundries.

The closing of the laundries won't affect the Toff's in the area, 'cos they've already got their built in clothes dryers and washing machines. But to the working class people of the area, it means they'll have to dig even deeper into their already empty pockets to use the more expensive privately owned laundrettes.

They're also gonna close the public loo's and replace 'em with those automatic ones, which'll mean job losses for local people, and, fuckin' ell! paying to shit in Tower Hamlets.

To add insult to injury, those time-wasting wankers in the council are telling us that they're taking cuts too, yeah, fucking 1p off their allowance, and limiting the amount of pink gin they can down at council meetings-how drastic can you get?

It's enough to make you wanna cry in your pint, watching the arse'oles ruin the 'amlets; but refilling the pint with tears 'aint the answer. We've gotta get out an' take control of our communities away from these wankers and put it back into the hands of the communities themselves, like working directly with department workers to get repairs done quickly and effectively, refusing the kindergarton cock-ups of contract labour. And introducing these real estate agents and Yuppies who are "gentrifying" the area to a certain Doctor Marten to ensure they get the message once and for all; Tower Hamlets is for working class people, and if can do these things, it'll be one big step forward to making Tower Hamlets a better place to live in.

This is the first of hopefully many issues of EAST-ENDER, we would welcome articles etc. from any local group or individuals. send stuff to Class War, Box 467 London, E5 8BE.