

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN EG

6 December 1997

Hello, regional development agencies...

...the Thames prepares for luxury liners, while a meltdown is feared elsewhere...

...and landlords try it on when selling freeholds

One-stop shop?

Regional development agencies are part of the government's noble aim to promote economic regeneration while reducing the number of organisations responsible for attracting inward investment.

But plans for RDAs have met a cool response from the property industry, amid fears that they will be underfunded and overly bureaucratic.

What is needed is a body to co-ordinate national inward investment. Anyone interested in relocating in the UK could go straight to this one-stop shop.

Cruise consent

London Merchant Securities and Clearwater Estates' Greenwich Reach 2000 scheme, which includes London's first cruise liner terminal, has been approved by Greenwich council.

Three slopes: a flaky idea?

Leisure schemes, like buses, tend to arrive in twos and threes. From a dearth of indoor ski centres in the UK, the North West now faces the prospect of three leisure developments, all offering real-snow facilities.

Is it sensible to develop three indoor slopes in the same region?

Greedy landlords

Landlords are asking leaseholders "substantially" too much when selling freeholds of flats, according to the first analysis of Leasehold Valuation Tribunal decisions.

Chartered surveying firm Leasehold Enfranchisement looked at 166 claims involving around 600 flats where the price was in dispute.

LE director Tim Curren said: "The trend is quite distinctive, with the pattern of valuations showing landlords putting forward figures that are a lot higher than they achieved."

25 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN EG

4 December 1982

Docklands prepares for take-off...

...developers aim to pocket a profit in north-west London...

...and London's centres need big stores, not empty office sites

Boats, now planes

The Mowlem Construction Group and Brymon Airways have submitted an application for an airport in the Royal Docks.

They are believed to have applied for licences to fly to Paris, Brussels, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Manchester, Plymouth and the Channel Islands.

An opinion poll shows that 53% of residents support the idea and 22% oppose it.

Many believe an airport will not solve local problems, and could threaten plans to keep the Royal Docks open to shipping.

A room with a cue

Anyone interested in living in a listed billiard room had better get in touch with Morrith Homes – they have one going at Harrow on the Hill.

The billiard room dates from 1889, when they did things on a different scale, since it has now been converted into a two-bed house. Its complex roof terminates in a glass dome. It was designed for a Mr Cator, who also used it to display his Oriental curios and stuffed birds. The price range is £100,000 to £120,000 – enough to build a substantial mansion in 1889.

Shopping central

GLC planning committee chairman Ed Gouge met firm opposition from retailers and developers when he suggested future superstores in London should be in town centres.

He denied there was a lack of sites. "Every town centre plan we get has allocated vacant sites to office development that won't happen," he claimed.

Retailers said that costs were 50% greater, and they preferred single-level stores with on-site parking. But these problems "are not beyond architects and developers to solve", he said.

100 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN EG

30 Nov 1907

Innocent investors may pay the price for the evils of drink...

...and suffragettes and snappers face ban from Westminster streets

Investors fear the long harm of the law

Since the Act of three years ago, three thousand licences have been cancelled. Mr Asquith has made a statement from which it appears that a time-limit is to be imposed to compensation. He further hopes to reduce public facilities, and declares drinking clubs to be a great and growing evil.

Debenture holders protested over the danger to their pecuniary interests in any scheme for a time-limit after which licences would be extinguished without compensation.

Every man who invests

money in directions which the law regards as permissible is entitled to have his interests safeguarded by that same law.

No social or political subject is more difficult to discuss than this. Everyone realises the unspeakable evils flowing from the traffic in drink, and is anxious to reduce those evils.

But no indignation and no reasoning can justify the penalising of innocent people to secure the moral and material welfare of the country. A morality based upon confiscation is a very poor thing indeed.

MPs: keep away!

The Commissioners of Works are introducing a Bill for powers to "stop up and discontinue as public thoroughfares" streets largely used by the Government.

Government members and officials have frequently to run the gauntlet of not altogether friendly crowds, while the "snap shooter" of the Press is always a nuisance.

By virtue of the Act, the public will continue to use the streets, but they would be kept clear of all troublesome folk, not least amongst whom is the formidable and ubiquitous suffragette.