

We Remember...

HAMMERSMITH'S ANARCHIST PAST

Somewhere here, near the approach to the Hammersmith & City Line station, stood Carmagnole House, where James Tochatti (left) lived in the 1890s.



Born in Canada, Tochatti became a tailor, and lifelong anarchist-communist activist and lecturer. A member of the Hammersmith Socialist League branch, he spoke regularly at their outdoor meetings and wrote for the League paper, *Commonweal*. In 1889 he helped organise a strike at Thorneycroft's Fulham engineering works; two years later he was arrested for 'causing a disturbance' at a United Shop Assistants Union strike demo. Tochatti was later involved in a Hammersmith Anarchist Group, around 1892, and founded a new anarchist paper, *Liberty*, in January 1894. Tochatti's ill-health led to the paper's collapse in December 1896, but around 1911 however he became active again. "*his book-lined cellar under his shop [somewhere off the Broadway]...*

became something of a centre in Hammersmith for 'young workmen disillusioned by the timid programmes of other parties'".

past tense people's plaques