Meanwhile, I found this small announcement on my daily visit to the Hackney Web site: FROM: The Hackney Weekly Shopper -- February 6 Issue

LOCAL RESIDENT TAKES ACTION

Colin Firth, Hackney's most distinguished citizen, announced today the formation of Colin's Combatants, a local citizen's group formed to protect the lives of Hackney's law abiding residents. They will patrol the streets in groups. In deference to Mr. Firth's most famous characterization, The CCs will be armed only with extra heavy pinky rings and blunderbusses.

Mr. Firth, who recently returned from an extended stay in the United States and Italy, found that his flat had been broken into in his absence. A state of the art vacuum cleaner system and his collection of rare Miles Davis LP's went missing. Then, two days ago, while posing for a publicity picture in the town square, his red Maxima was stolen. Unfortunately, his fiancee, Livia Giuggioli, was sitting in the car at the time.

"I love Hackney," the actor said, "But matters have definitely gotten out of hand. God knows where Livy is. I can only hope the dastards who stole my car and her with it have the decency to return it...l mean HER!" A ransom note has been received. The police will only say that Miss Giuggioli is safe. The car was not mentioned.

Colin's Combatants are recruiting through newspaper and radio appeals. Thus far, 50,000 women have volunteered and one gentleman, a retired stage hand. Mr. Firth is now in the difficult process of cutting the group down to a manageable size. "It's a tough job, but someone has to do it," shouted Firth, surrounded by clamoring supplicants. "We want to give Hackney back to the people, and these dedicated folk will get the job done."