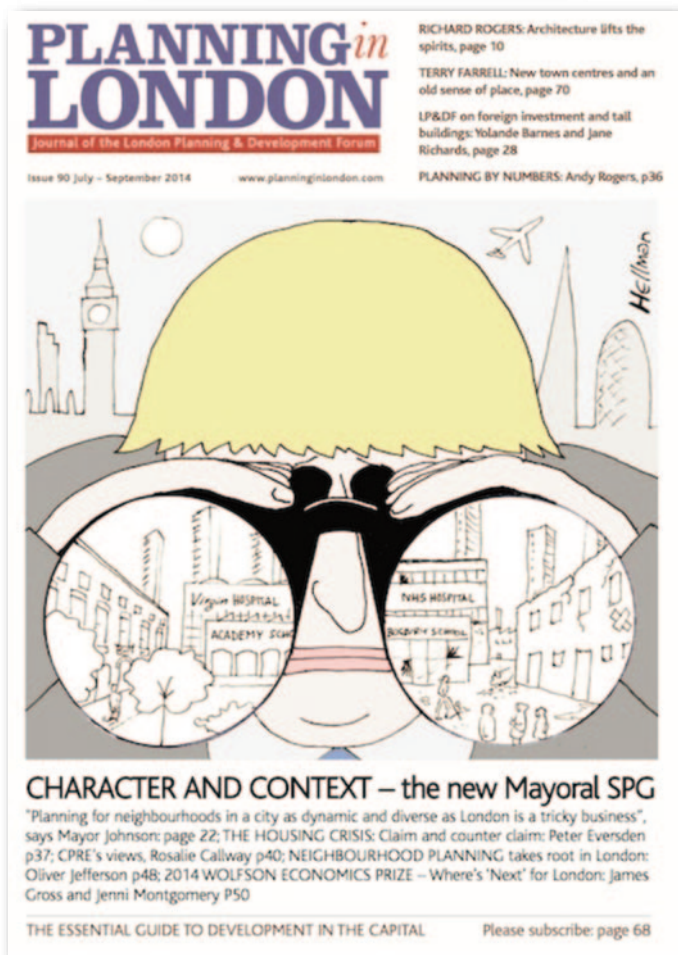
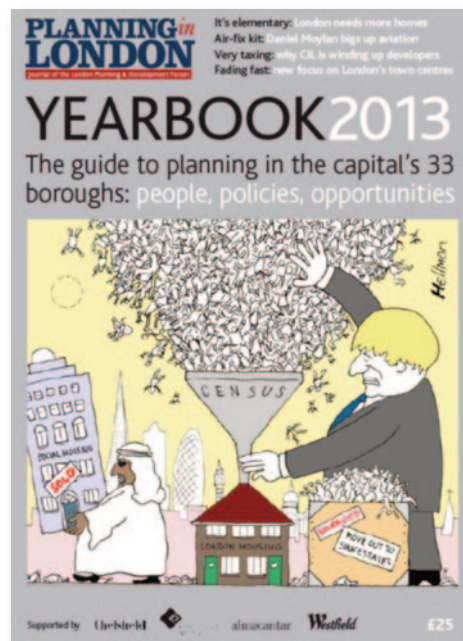


# King of cartoonists to retire

Louis Hellman, *Planning in London's* resident cartoonist is retiring. We pay tribute to the power of Louis' pen – and the endless opportunity for satire that planning affords



## Louis Hellman

The world according to a Hellman is usually a dystopia of venal developers, cynical architects, defeated planners, hopeless politicians, and a long-suffering public, victims of all of the above. Yet within the dystopia there is a Utopian trying to get out.

The cartoonist invites us to ask not only 'Why are things like this?' but also 'Do they have to be like this?' What could things be like? The function of the cartoonist is not merely to amuse, but to provoke, to embarrass and occasionally to infuriate. This is a surreal world but closer to the real thing than we might like to imagine.

When he received his MBE from the late Queen, Hellman was wrongly announced to her as receiving his award for services to agriculture. He said 'Actually it is for architecture'. The Queen responded: 'And what do you do?' Hellman: 'I satirise it'.

A noble calling, exercised since the 1960s, not least in respect of *Planning in London* covers. This issue sees the last of them as Louis has more than earned the right to retire . . . with the thanks of all the *Planning in London* editors.

This dystopia shows no sign of vanishing!

— PF



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