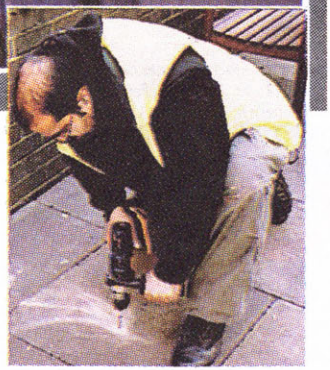
ANARCHIST WORKMEN REPLACE THE PEWS COUNCILS REMOVE

Pssst! Want a bench put in your street? Here's how...



Pull up a seat: the team of "Guerrilla Benchers" enjoy a sit-down, left, after installing benches in the West End, above and right

FED UP with London's pavement benches being removed by councils? A group of anarchists has taken matters into its own hands.

Disguised as workmen — in high visibility vests and overalls — the team of "Guerrilla Benchers" has been installing benches around the West End.

The group says its actions are in protest at the disappearance of London's traditional benches, which are not only needed by tired pedestrians but foster a more communal spirit on the capital's pavements. Shaftesbury Avenue was their first target.

BY PATRICK SAWER

The councils say they are forced to get rid of the benches to discourage drunks, rough sleepers and teenage gangs from congregating, or because they are seen as obstacles.

A Guerrilla Bencher named Agent Bristly Pioneer, said: "We'd like more of a bench culture, where people can sit down, watch the world go by and do nothing for a while."