



### A Global Brand on your Doorstep

Based in Spaced Studios in De Beauvoir Road is the European headquarters of The Healthy Back Bag Company. Set up in 2002 by local resident Priscilla Chase, the company sells its Healthy Back Bags® through a network of over 200 independent retailers across the UK and Europe.

The teardrop shaped Healthy Back Bag does for bags what the likes of Birkenstock and Crocs have done for footwear, in making it cool to be comfortable. Loved by celebrities such as Helen Mirren who describes her bag as “utilitarian and chic”, there is growing recognition that everyday items like bags should be as ergonomic, safe and well thought-out as possible – and just as importantly, there is no need to sacrifice style and fun to function.

Designed in the US with the help of a doctor and a chiropractor, the patented teardrop design efficiently distributes weight through the length of the bag, rather than pulling down from one point on the shoulder. The result is to vastly reduce stress to the neck, shoulders and back. Wear it on either shoulder, across the back or even across the chest - you always have easy access to the inside without taking the bag off. The non-slip strap lining prevents the annoying slippage common to most shoulder bags, and improves posture as you don't need to hunch your shoulder to keep the bag in place.

With nearly 300 variants in fabric, colour, and size, there is a bag to suit men and women of all ages and lifestyles – whoever you are, whatever you do, wherever you go. Full grain leather for a smart everyday bag, cotton canvas or distressed nylon for the more casual look, microfibre for a more urban sophisticated look, a cotton twill/leather Expedition bag for day trips, trekking, or weekends away – to name but a few.

Retail prices range from £27 to £139. For more information about The Healthy Back Bag Company visit their website [www.thehealthybackbag.co.uk](http://www.thehealthybackbag.co.uk) or call 020 7812 9800 for a brochure.

The Healthy Back Bag Company are offering DBA newsletter readers a 15% discount on any bags purchased in April. Just call us with your order or email [szilvi@thehealthybackbag.co.uk](mailto:szilvi@thehealthybackbag.co.uk).

Thanks to Typhoon Creative Partnership ([www.typhoon.com](http://www.typhoon.com)) for our logo and to Supreme Printers ([info:supremeprinters.com](mailto:info:supremeprinters.com)) for the printing.

**De Beauvoir**  
ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

April 2008

Sponsored by Healthy Back Bag

The DBA newsletter is rather like Christmas – it seems to come round faster and faster and where have the 3 months gone since I was compiling the last one? By the time you get this issue, Easter will be over and done with, so unseasonably early this year. Here I was going to give a simple explanation as to how the Easter date is calculated, but having looked on the internet and found that it involves not only the Ordinary Moon but an Ecclesiastical Moon too, plus the Vernal Equinox, algorithms and integers, I quickly gave up. I'm happy to direct anyone who's deeply interested in the matter to the US Naval Observatory site that gives full and lengthy information on the subject. By the way, Easter Day next year will be 12 April.

To keep the flow of Christmas alcohol going, the DBA invited wine expert **STEVE ORINO** to provide a wine tasting at the end of January. If you didn't come, you missed a really cracking good evening. So good, in fact, that it was quite difficult to get people to go home. All of us who were there hope that Steve can be persuaded to do another one – very soon. Don't miss it next time!

Thanks to the tremendous success of Peter Werth's Jazz Evening last year we are having another one, as you can see.

## SPRING INTO JAZZ AGAIN

at

ST. PETER'S CHURCH CRYPT  
De Beauvoir Road

## Peter Werth Jazz Quintet

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April

At 7.30 p.m.

Tickets on sale now from Oliver Schofield (020 7275 0260)

£6.50, Concessions £2

On the night £7 and £2.50 respectively

## MORE DBA NEWS

The next public DBA meeting, open to all De Beauvoir residents, is at the **SCOLT HEAD on Tuesday 20 May at 7.30. Dr Charles Posner** who, until recently, lived in De Beauvoir Square, will be telling us all about what he's discovered when researching the history of the development of De Beauvoir Town. It promises to be a fascinating evening. Whether you're a longstanding De Beauvoir resident or a recent arrival, you're sure to learn something new about the place where you live. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our ever-popular **PARTY IN THE PARK** will be on **Saturday 12 July**. Watch out for more details in the next newsletter. If you would like to get involved with the planning or can help on the day, please do email [info@debeauvoir.org.uk](mailto:info@debeauvoir.org.uk). Help is always welcome and it's a great way of getting to know other people in the area. Murphy's have already agreed to provide the loos - which is a relief all round.

Some of you have already opted to be on the **DBA electronic mailing list** and Paul Bolding regularly circulates items of local interest by e-mail. How he keeps his ear so closely to the ground he would not reveal to this person. If you are not already privy to this excellent service and wish to be, do contact Paul at [info@debeauvoir.org.uk](mailto:info@debeauvoir.org.uk) or via the DBA website ([www.debeauvoir.org.uk](http://www.debeauvoir.org.uk)). He will add your name to the database. Also on the website is a **Trade Directory**, with information about a variety of local services in our area. You'll find more about this on page 7. And by the way, an even livelier and colourful version of the newsletter is available on the website with more photographs than can be included in the printed version. Do have a look.



This newsletter offers all our usual items, and some less usual ones, too. I hope you find them informative and interesting. Many thanks to **The Healthy Back Bag® Company** for sponsoring (i.e. paying for!) this issue). We couldn't continue to provide a DBA newsletter to 3000 homes in the area if it weren't for our sponsors.

*And this is a Healthy Back Bag*

On the next page you will see that **De Beauvoir Gardeners** and the **DBA** have combined to organize a garden oriented trip to Kent on **Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April**. Several opportunities for purchases and the Hardy Plant Society's spring fare should be rewarding – and possibly expensive! I write as a gardener and know the temptations.

As a PS - Not all our readers have access to a computer and I hope the internet and e-mail addresses sprinkled throughout the articles are not too distracting. I can tell you that without e-mail the newsletter would not be put together at all! And by the way, there is an internet café (**Awantu**) in the shopping precinct off Downham Road (020 7254 3698).

**Carol Lee**

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**DBA website – [www.debeauvoir.org](http://www.debeauvoir.org)  
e-mail - [info@debeauvoir.org.uk](mailto:info@debeauvoir.org.uk)**

## PASTORAL PASSION COMES TO N1

A sea nymph whose virtue is threatened amongst the beer pumps? A barstool-wielding giant whose face may be vaguely familiar? What have we here? Anyone who happened to pop into The Rosemary Branch for a quiet Sunday afternoon pint on 3 February will have got more than they bargained for. As well as their drink, they were treated to a dazzling performance of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, a short pastoral opera composed in 1718. Ever inventive, Cec Darker and Cleo Sylvestre of The Rosemary Branch gave us Opera in the Pub. And yes, the performance actually took place in the bar while punters ate their crisps and drank their beers, totally unfazed by the violence of the drama unrolling around them.

If you have ever seen the dazzling, original performances by the Charles Court Opera ([www.charlescourtopera.com](http://www.charlescourtopera.com)) at The Rosemary Branch (accompanied not by a full-scale orchestra but by the Eaton-Young Piano Duo!), you will have recognised many of these bright young performers – David Menezes as love-lorn Acis, Charlotte Wooll-Rivers as ethereal Galatea, John Savournin as the monstrous giant Polyphemus and James Preston as the ever-wise Damon. If their *Mikado* was described as 'a boutique staging' by *Opera Now*, then this must surely have been 'a shoebox staging'. But despite the limitations of space, they carried the whole thing off with aplomb and there can be no doubt that the audience loved it. The hat was passed round at the end and it looked as if there was more than enough in it to pay for well-earned drinks all round.

Let's hope that Cec and Cleo will bring us more Opera in the Pub in the future, but meanwhile, watch out for the Charles Court Opera's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* ('with much singing and quite a bit of dancing') at the Rosemary Branch, 2–6 April.

### **Hilary Mandelberg**

*Hilary provided a photograph but it is too dark to be included in the printed newsletter however it is on the DBA internet site.*

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## TRADERS IN DE BEAUVOIR

We have created a **TRADE DIRECTORY** for De Beauvoir which so far exists only in cyberspace (i.e. the internet). We have probably got all the pubs, restaurants, grocers and doctors and much more sorted and listed with their phone numbers and addresses. We hope to expand it later this year to include faiths, voluntary organisations and anything else that would be useful, and also print a copy to come with the newsletter as a separate insert to keep. As an organisation without an income, we will need sponsorship for this. Watch this space and let us know if you can help. Go to [www.debeauvoir.org.uk/trades.html](http://www.debeauvoir.org.uk/trades.html) to see it.

**Paul Bolding.** (*Many thanks to Paul for creating this service – CL*).

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## CRIME FIGURES IN DE BEAUVOIR – JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Burglary	14
Theft from Motor Vehicles	14
Theft of Motor Vehicles	9
Theft of Cycles	14
Robbery (snatches & pickpocketing)	3

**The De Beauvoir Safer Neighbourhood Team** is based at Shoreditch Police Station, 4–6 Shepherdess Walk, Shoreditch, London N1 6LF. Phone: 020 7161 9236/07879 435146. or email [www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods/boroughs/hackney/saferneighbourhoods.htm](http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods/boroughs/hackney/saferneighbourhoods.htm)

The Team comprises: Sgt. Shaju Bhaskaran, PCs Eoin Beirne & Chris Pearce & PCSOs Jenice Gunning, Christopher Phillipson, Paul Hartley and Mohammed Gani.

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The **SCOLT HEAD** screenings invite artists to present a selection of their works on film or video alongside a feature film of their choice, irrespective of its influence on their practice. These Sunday evening screenings (from 7.00 p.m.) aim to encourage an open dialogue about artists' works on film and video.

#### **SERIES 3 PROGRAMME**

**30 March** – Guest curator Anne-Sophie Dinant presents a selection of artists' films with "The Damned" (1969, Luchino Visconti)

**6 April** – Ursula Mayer presents "Memories of Mirrors" (2008) with "The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant" (1972, R.W. Fassbinder)

**13 April** – Declan Clarke presents "Tonight" (2004), "Metempsychosis" (2003) and "Trauma and Romance" (2006) with "Letter to Jane" (1972, Jean-Luc Godard)

**20 April** – Mark Leckey presents "Parade" (2003) (feature film to be confirmed)

**27 April** – Lisa Byrne presents "Taxi I Partyin" (2007), "Taxi II New Years Day 5am" (2007), "Taxi III Stand up and Cry like a Man" (2007) with "Lonely are the Brave" (1962, David Miller)

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#### **HACKNEY ARCHIVES**

"Hackney Archives cares for the archives and local studies collections of the London Borough of Hackney and makes them available to the public for research." That could sound rather dull unless you are a genealogist looking for ancestors in Hackney or want to know who lived in your house in 1901, or 1861 for that matter. 10 yearly census information is available at the Archives from 1841 although, of course, many of the houses in De Beauvoir were only built in the 1850s so no details of residents can be found until the census of 1861. But that is just scratching the surface of what is available if you are interested in our historic borough.

Maps, parish registers, issues of the Hackney Gazette from 1869 to the present day, business records, directories, books (a few maps, books and postcards are available to buy) to name but some of the items. There are many more. And I nearly forgot the wonderful database of over 20,000 drawings, paintings and photographs, including many photos of the houses in De Beauvoir that disappeared in the clearances of the late 1960s. A poignant reminder of what we have lost and I hope it may be possible to put some of them on our website.

From 2<sup>nd</sup> April the Archives are moving up a floor into what long-time residents think of as the Rose Lipman Library with entrance through the main door from De Beauvoir Road close to the traffic lights. Their website at [www.hackney.gov.uk/ca-archives](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/ca-archives) has much more information and their e-mail address is [archives@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:archives@hackney.gov.uk). **CL**

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#### **NEWS FROM DE BEAUVOIR COUNCILLORS, Gulay, Rob and Chris.**

The Mayor, Jules Pipe, in proposing Hackney's budget for the coming year said there was no increase in Hackney's part of the Council Tax and again no cuts to local services.

The Councillors can be contacted by e-mail at [debeauvoir@hackney-labour.org.uk](mailto:debeauvoir@hackney-labour.org.uk) or **Phone/text: 07722 868937**. Their website is [www.debeauvoircouncillors.blogspot.com](http://www.debeauvoircouncillors.blogspot.com).

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#### **SWIMMING & PLAY FOR LITTLE ONES AT THE BRITANNIA**

Playscheme with lots of activities including swimming sports, arts and crafts. Monday to Friday 9.00 to 5.00. Just drop in. There are a variety of other swimming lessons and sessions for older children, too, but no room to include the details.

Further information from Nikki Peters at tel. 020 7729 4485 or e-mail [nikki.peters@gll.org](mailto:nikki.peters@gll.org). or their web address is [www.gll.org/centre/britannia-leisure-centre.asp](http://www.gll.org/centre/britannia-leisure-centre.asp).

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## **DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS and the DBA**

invite you to visit

## **THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND**

on

### **Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April**

Blossom time at

## **Brogdale Horticultural Trust**

Faversham Kent and

## **Great Comp Garden**

Platt, Kent

Picnic and coffee at Brogdale and then an afternoon visit to the 7 acre garden and nursery at Great Comp plus the Hardy Plant Society's spring fair.  
Tea rooms available.

**Coach fare FREE thanks to the Benyon Estate**  
**Entrance fees £4 each garden (to be collected on coach)**

The coach will leave St. Peter's Church, De Beauvoir Road  
at **10.15am**

To reserve a place contact **Cecilia Darker** on  
**07879811914**  
or email [Cecilia@rosemarybranch.co.uk](mailto:Cecilia@rosemarybranch.co.uk)

Website addresses: <http://www.brogdale.org> and [www.greatcomp.co.uk](http://www.greatcomp.co.uk).

## AROUND THE TOWN

### ROSEMARY BRANCH THEATRE

Tel. 020 7704 6665. e-mail [www.rosemarybranch.co.uk](http://www.rosemarybranch.co.uk). 2 Shepperton Road, N1.

**"Music Therapy for Menopause", March 30th to April 2nd.**

**"Iolanthe"** by Gilbert & Sullivan, **2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April.**

**"Dead Certain"**, by Marcus Lloyd, **April 4th to April 9th.**

**"Mozart and Salieri"** and **"Impresario"**, by N. Rimsky Korsakov and Mozart (respectively), **April 27th and April 28th.** Rimsky Korsakov's play about a meeting between Mozart and Salieri is paired with Mozart's musical about the music business.

**"Show-Ko!", April 30th.**

Tickets usually between £5 and £15.

### DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS

[www.debeauvoirdeniers.org.uk](http://www.debeauvoirdeniers.org.uk).

1<sup>st</sup> April: **"Wild Flowers in the Garden"**. Talk by David Bevan, Conservation Officer.

6<sup>th</sup> May. Topic and speaker to be confirmed.

Both talks at 8.00pm in the Crypt of St. Peter's Church, De Beauvoir Road (entrance in Northchurch Terrace).

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May: Plant Sale outside 21 Northchurch Terrace at 10.30 am.** Bring plants to sell and, more importantly, buy plants.

Annual Membership: waged £10, couple £12, unwaged £7, couple £9.

**See separate notice of Kent gardens visit on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April.**

### KINGSLAND CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Visit KCAAC's website for information on planning applications in the De Beauvoir conservation area (and along Kingsland Road). [www.kcaac.org.uk](http://www.kcaac.org.uk).

**WHAT'S ON IN HACKNEY.** A guide for young people on places to see and things to do in and around Hackney. 50+ pages of information.

<http://www.hackney.gov.uk/youth-whats-on-guide.pdf>

### FOOTBALL

SKY Partnership in partnership with Shoreditch Trust and Metropolitan Housing will have a Half Term Holiday football programme from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 08. Venue and times not confirmed yet, but contact Steve on 0207 729 6970 or email [steve@skypartnership.org.uk](mailto:steve@skypartnership.org.uk) for more information. The programme includes two trips with coaches provided by West Ham.

### THE SCOLT HEAD

[www.thescolthead.com](http://www.thescolthead.com). 0207 254 3965. 107a Culford Road.

Pub Quiz every Monday night from 8pm. Curious George invites teams of 6 (maximum) to join at £2 a head. Come, eat, drink and be quizzed!

**See separate entry for their Sunday film screenings programme.**

### LOCKNER & KINGSGATE ESTATES

As usual, Lynda Sparks will be at 23 Blandford Court between 1.30 and 3.00pm on the first and third Monday of the month if tenants have any queries and would like to call in. Quite often it is only the Community Police Officers who visit – they know she makes a very nice cup of tea.

## THE METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL - Mystery Donors

While a few of the names are recognisable as those of companies like the Prudential, Rothschild or De Beers, or city guilds like the Clothmakers, or the City Corporation, many are lost in the mists of time. Why the Daily Graphic Child Beauty Competition, gave money in 1926, or Shoreditch Dance Committee, is unclear. Perhaps one of the strangest, however, is the HM The King of Afghanistan, who handed over some cash in 1928.



King Amanullah Shah had come to the throne in 1919 after assisting in the murder of his father. He led the army to its defeat of the British, which brought Afghanistan independence in that year. He was a liberal, westernised reformer who initially was popular. A backlash by conservative elements was crushed in 1924 but he travelled to Europe in late 1927 and it appears he never went back, spending much of 1928 in different places in Europe and Turkey. He abdicated in 1929. Quite what his connection was with the Metropolitan is unclear.

More typical is the Zunz bequest. A number of London hospitals including St Mary's Paddington and Great Ormond Street have wards named after Annie Zunz, the Irish wife of German industrialist Siegfried Rudolf Zunz. He was inconsolable when she died in 1896 and established the substantial bequest in her name. They

had no children and Siegfried died three years after Annie.

The Metropolitan was founded in 1836 and after various homes, bought the Kingsland Road site for £5,896 in 1883. It had planned to build a new hospital in Bishopsgate but the land was taken for the Great Eastern Hotel and Liverpool Street station. This made the move urgent and before the new building was ready, a cottage and some shops at the corner of Kingsland Road and Enfield Road were used. The outpatients department was finally opened in 1885 and the main building in 1886.

It was originally called the Metropolitan Free Hospital but needed to raise funds from donors and the "Free" was dropped. In 1896 it had 160 beds, twelve being reserved for Jews who had their own cook and a Jewish out-patient physician. In that year, 781 in-patients and 16,033 out-patients were treated. As it expanded, a nurses' home in Enfield Road, was opened by Queen Mary of Teck, consort of George V, in 1927, as recorded by a plaque on one of the houses. In 1934 the number of in-patients treated at the hospital had increased to 1,981 and out-patients to 29,313, mostly from Hackney. By this time, special departments had been established in ENT and Gynaecology. A Tuberculosis Dispensary had also been organised, which was linked to an inspection of schoolchildren arranged by London County Council. In 1948 the Metropolitan became part of the National Health Service and in the 1970s it had 146 beds. The hospital was closed in 1977. The chimney of its boiler room still stands in Enfield Road.

The 1870 Ordnance Survey map appears to show a row of fairly grand houses between Enfield Road and Peter's Road (now St. Peter's Way). The site between the hospital and Enfield Road, now mostly a car park, is expected to be the subject of a planning application in the near future for a hotel as high as the Metropolitan.

**Paul Bolding**