

De Beauvoir

ASSOCIATION

Newsletter / June 09

Sponsored by The Duke of Wellington

A great year so far

This year the De Beauvoir Association has been doing plenty of what it's good at – having fun at very special community events! In March a wine tasting in St. Peter's crypt where, jostling cosily shoulder to shoulder, we tasted ('drank') an unusual range of Spanish and Portuguese wines to suit all palates and pockets with a splendid spread of Iberian-inspired nibbles and a raffle. Where else in London can you get all that for £10 a head?

A month later we had Family Atlántica's superb evening of Afro-Venezuelan music in St. Peter's. The combination of hip-wiggling rhythm and wine bar meant there was literally dancing in the aisles. Several visitors to the concert (from as far afield as France and the USA) were most impressed by our local community association. We never rest on our laurels though. Always wishing to reach out to everyone in our community, we're having a Vietnamese-themed evening on 30 June ...

CHILDREN

You are invited to the DBA's fantastic

PARTY IN THE PARK

in De Beauvoir Square

Saturday July 11, 2-5 pm.

FREE

Goody Bag, Book & Toy, Face Painting, Magician, Bouncy Castle and lots of other fun things, too.
Bring your friends and a grownup or two.

Refreshments for sale.



Drawings: Inez A shman



... (see page 7 for more details), and hard on the heels of that, our invitation to all the children in De Beauvoir to come to our renowned **PARTY IN THE PARK** on 11 July. Once again we are lucky to have Hackney Council's Speaker attending this big event.

This is your De Beauvoir Association and it's you who make it special. We couldn't keep going without your support so keep coming to our events (new ones are in the pipeline). We don't aim to make profit from them, but if we do, the money goes towards future activities.

BUT – we always need more help and new ideas. Of course, the DBA Committee is "brilliant", but YOU in De Beauvoir are just as inventive and energetic. Don't be shy, let us know what you would like us to do and join in to make things happen. We want to hear from each and every one of you (see page 8 for how to get in touch).

If you are new to the De Beauvoir, then come and help us with the Party and get to know your neighbours. Long-standing residents meet old friends and acquaintances. See you there! **DB**
Hilary Mandleberg

AROUND THE TOWN

THE ROSEMARY BRANCH
2 Shepperton Road, N1 3DT
www.rosemarybranch.co.uk
24 hour box office
Tel: 020 7704 6665

Deux Pas Vers Les Étoiles
27–28 June, 2.00pm £6/£4. A play in French for children of eight upwards, part of our London Quebec Culture Festival.

Glitter And Be Gay
29–30 June, 7.30pm £7/£5.
Glamorous American musical theatre and cabaret evening from the Ismena Trio, an all-girl outfit consisting of soprano, cello and piano.

Here I'll Stay: Kurt Weill in America
7–26 July £12/£10.

Les Primas
6–9 August £15/£12. Male ballerinas en pointe, with excerpts from ballet classics.

FREEDOM CLUB
Tuesdays 1–3 pm at St Peter's Crypt, unless other venues are advertised. For more information ring Romee on 7226 5231.

Sing-Song and Games
Tuesday 23 June.
More Music Hall ditties and unforgotten glories – songs and games in the Crypt.

Geffrye Almshouse Guided Tour
Tuesday 30 June.
Meet at the Geffrye Museum at 1pm. Sarah from the Museum will take us on a guided tour around the reconstructed almshouse.

Drumming with Zoe
Tuesday 7 July.
Local musician Zoe Palmer will lead two drumming sessions.

Trip to Margate
Saturday 18 July.

DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS
www.debeauvoirgardeners.org.uk

Garden Walkabout
On E8 side of Kingsland Road, £5 per person, £3 concessions to include drinks and nibbles. Please e-mail dbg@debeauvoirgardeners.co.uk near the time for full itinerary, Tuesday 7 July.

AROUND THE TOWN

DB Gardeners Summer Picnic

Tuesday, 4 August at Celia Barlow's home, 27 Albion Drive. Bring a dish to share.

Annual Flower & Produce Show

Sunday, 6 September 2pm-5pm in Northchurch Terrace, N1.

Meetings in the crypt of St. Peter's

Church, De Beauvoir Road first Tuesday of the month at 8pm. Annual membership £20 or £30 couple at same address, £15 concession or £20 couple at same address.

VOUCHERS FOR CHILDREN

St. Joseph's primary school are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids and The Times Books for Children vouchers. If you have any to pass on please put them through the letterbox of 7 Ufton Road or take them to the school.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

To report a non-emergency matter or a crime which has already taken place please call 0300 123 1212. In an emergency always call 999.

THE MYSTERY OF THE DISEMBODED HEAD

A carved stone head of a woman has been lying forlornly on muddy ground by the Regent's Canal and no one seems to know where it has come from. It is a relief of about life size and appears to be part of a building. But which one? The head lies near the canal edge on the east side of Whitmore Road where it crosses the canal. Last year, a corrugated-iron building on the site was demolished but it seems

unlikely the head was associated with that structure. The head suffered further ignominy during work on the bridge last February when a big temporary generator was parked next to it making it hard to see. Now the head is visible again through the railings. Do you know anything about it? Have you seen a similar head anywhere else? **DB**

Paul Bolding



THE ROUND CAFÉ

It may not be quite as famous as The Roundhouse in Camden Town, but The Round Café is certainly an institution in De Beauvoir. "People usually see it from their car first and aren't sure," laughs Bülent Nacar, the young Turkish owner who has run it for the past three years. "Then they come in and feel differently."

The Round, situated on the roundabout between De Beauvoir Road, Stamford Road and Englefield Road, has been here for years. Between 35 and 40 in Bülent's calculations, given the number of people who have popped in to tell him they've worked there in the past. "I had one person tell me they were here for 15 years, and another who said they worked here for 20 years before that. It's a great place, lots of history, quality people and customers," he says.

Open 7am to 3pm Monday to Saturday, Bülent spends most of his time cooking, though he's also the one serving and clearing-up these days. The recession has taken its toll. People from nearby offices used to be his best customers, coming in for lunch each day. Now, he doesn't see them around the area at all and fears they've been let go.

It's meant he's busy at different times though, which adds to the variety. He could be cooking omelettes, jacket potatoes, burgers, lamb chops, anything! But if he's really honest, a good breakfast is his favourite dish. No surprise then what's most popular! **DB**

The Round Café at 102 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 4EN
Barbara Walshe

THE DE BEAUVOIR WARRIORS

It's summer time and that means the welcome return of the sound of leather on willow. Not that the De Beauvoir Warriors, your local cricket team, often manage to actually connect the two but you get the point. De Beauvoir has a long association with cricket, but unfortunately a fire in the pavilion on the square in 1871 means that all records of the historic wins against an Australasian Select XI and the MCC were lost. Since its reconstitution several summers ago, the team has a proud record of never having actually won a match but having rather a jolly time along the way. Some things are going to change this year – although not the lashings of beer, ginger or otherwise, traditionally consumed on these occasions, normally in the club house also known as The Scott.

Fixtures still to come this year are:
Sunday July 5 Stoke Newington (at Victoria Park) 1pm – the grudge match (not that we hold grudges). Sunday August 30th The Baring Pub (at Victoria Park) 2pm with a further game in Oxfordshire to be arranged. Also, on 25 June at 9pm there will be a session in the nets at Lords (the late hour was chosen so that potential opponents weren't scared off).

Transport can be arranged for away games – we normally meet in front of the church. Supporters and cake always welcome. Anyone, of any age, sex or ability is always welcome to play. Please contact either **russell.toone@sothebys.com**, **kevin.read@barclays.com** or **david.dudding@threadneedle.co.uk**.

PARTY IN THE PARK – APPEALS

Children's books and toys

We need children's books and toys for our free Books and Toys Stall. Books must be in good condition, and toys, games, puzzles, and sets of things should be complete, clean, and working properly.

If you have any suitable items please let us have your name, address, contact points and the most convenient time of the day for us to call on you, or for you to deliver to 81 Mortimer Road in the last week of June. Your message to us can be put through our letter box, alternatively phone 7275 8889, or email [**kingsleydavid@btconnect.com**](mailto:kingsleydavid@btconnect.com).

Second hand book stall

Books in good condition are needed for the second hand book stall. This stall is always one of our best moneymakers, with proceeds going towards funding the party next year, so please have a look at your books and see if you can contribute.

They can be delivered to Jane and Stephen King 72 Mortimer Road, N1, phone 7254 4843 or 07957233195 or email [**j.king318@btinternet.com**](mailto:j.king318@btinternet.com). Alternatively collection can be arranged.

Thank you for helping us.

ST. PETER'S CRYPT

A thriving community resource for us all.

Plans are afoot to make St Peter's Church Crypt a thriving centre of social interaction, creativity and cultural expression – welcoming, accessible, and flexible. To make this happen, a Crypt Fundraising Group made up of local community members has swung into action to raise money for its renovation. So far, the Group has consulted Crypt users about their future requirements, and has applied for a Team Hackney Large Community Grant towards project design and development. The Fundraising Group meets every other month. If you would like to get involved contact Amanda Davies on 7249 3316 or [**amandad@blueyonder.co.uk**](mailto:amandad@blueyonder.co.uk)
Juliet Webster

And more St. Peter's news

A successful application has been made by St. Peter's church to the charity Grantscape, in partnership with the Church Urban Fund, to improve its grounds and garden. The programme, "Believing in Your Local Community. Wildlife and Green Spaces", has been specifically designed to support faith-based community groups delivering nature conservation and green spaces in London. Many thanks to Anthony Darbyshire for his beautiful designs... and watch this space as the gardeners get busy, Hackney's naturalists have a field day and the corner of De Beauvoir Road and Northchurch Terrace becomes a good place to sit! **DB**

Gillian Borrie

STREET CLEANERS IN DE BEAUVOIR

They cover 208 kilometres each day, often work seven days a week, and have even made national news (for clearing up Banksy's graffiti art). Hackney's street cleaners have a tough job.

But those working in the De Beauvoir area wouldn't change much. Imam Drak, 60, who moved from Turkey to the UK 22 years ago, has cleaned the streets of Kingsland Road and De Beauvoir for nine years, and loves it. Like numerous other Turkish street cleaners in the area, his work starts at 6.30am and finishes at 2pm Monday to Friday, then he takes on extra shifts on Saturday and Sunday to boost his income, which he takes home to his family in Tottenham.

Working outside all day is one of the best parts of the job, he says, especially

when it rains. "It helps wash everything." Cleaning up dog poo is probably the worst part. And De Beauvoir is gaining a reputation in the local area. "People just don't pick up after their dogs around here," he insists.

Working alone all day has its positives and negatives. It's positive because, without much grasp of the English language, he can do a good job without struggling to be understood. But with little opportunity to talk to people throughout the day, improving his English has been difficult. "People are busy here, especially the young people. But it's always nice when the older people stop and are friendly. It's nice when people say hello." **DB**

Barbara Walshe



The DBA invites you to a



Vietnamese Evening

at the

An Viet Foundation

(behind Huong Viet Restaurant, Englefield Road)

Tuesday 30 June, 7.30pm

How many of you are aware that behind the Huong Viet Restaurant lies the social heart of London's Vietnamese community, the An Viet Foundation? 'An Viet' means 'well settled'. Come and hear Mr Vu Khanh Thanh tell us about how he became 'well settled' in England, and about the work of the Foundation that he started in 1982.

Mr Vu will be introduced by David Kingsley who has been helping him write his autobiography.

Vietnamese refreshments will be served

THE DE BEAUVOIR ESTATE TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (the TRA)

A new committee has been elected and the team is keen to receive ideas from residents living on the estate about improving facilities and starting up activities using the Rose Lipman Community Hall. Please send ideas and offers of support to our office,

open Mondays to Thursdays 10.30am to 12.30pm.

We look forward to working with the De Beauvoir Association on special events.
Natasha Hodson, Chair, De Beauvoir Estate TRA. Tel/fax 020 7249 4896.



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119 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4BL 020 7275 7640



MURPHY

The DBA are most grateful to the **Murphy Group** who, once again, have agreed to provide a disabled toilet in De Beauvoir Square for this year's Party in the Park.

DBA website including the history of De Beauvoir, A Trade Directory, photographs and other interesting information. www.debeauvoir.org.uk, 07962 422149.

DBA COMING EVENTS

June 30 – Vietnamese Evening
July 11 – Party in the Park

Join the DBA e-mailing list
info@debeauvoir.org.uk

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