

Community hall for all?

All 3 community associations in the area - the De Beauvoir Association, the New Town Tenants' Association & the 1972 Association - have agreed to act jointly to get a temporary community centre going for all residents in the area.

The idea is to convert the old WRVS factory at 12 Ufton Rd into a centre. A delegation from the 3 associations has visited the former factory and a letter has gone to the Council, the owner of the factory, asking for their blessing. George Brooker, Hackney's community development officer, and Cllr Jim Warner are for the idea.

Mrs Maisie Sanderson, acting chairman of the New Town TA (now that Tommy Dunne has resigned for health reasons) says: "I hope the Council will let it go ahead. Perhaps they will even give us some financial backing, who knows?"



The old factory now lies empty and wasted

Mick Sweeney, the 1972 chairman, says the project will give them experience in organising community activities before the new community hall opens. Roof repairs, wiring, painting, etc, need doing before the factory will be fit for its new role. "It's nothing we can't do for ourselves," says Reg Crowfoot, the 1972 secretary. "With the resources of 3 associations, we can get the basic work done easily. The main costs will be for electric cable & paint - perhaps we can scrounge some of that between us."

SHARED EXPENSES

It is hoped that the shared expenses won't go over £100 (providing that voluntary labour is forthcoming). The temporary hall could be ready by late spring or early summer, allowing for the usual speed of Council machinery in approving such projects. It could then serve for one or two years until the new permanent hall is opened.

"For the first time, De Beauvoir has the chance of a community meeting place," says Graham Parsey, chairman of the De Beauvoir Association. "All we have now is the crypt of St Peters Church & that's not always available. The factory is larger and will be available every day. It is a fine chance of bringing together the different parts of De Beauvoir."

JEREMY HAMAND

The swings and roundabout in De Beauvoir Square, which (as reported in the last De Beaver) were out of use all summer, are still not repaired. One of the reasons for the delay has been the strike of council maintenance men. This is now over, but there is a lot of work in the backlog. Mr Erbe, of the Borough Engineer's Department, has promised to get the repairs done.

Road closures in central De Beauvoir in January, then play areas

A KIDS' CASTLE IN THE SQUARE?

It now seems likely that the much-delayed temporary road closures in the central area of De Beauvoir will be introduced by the end of January. But meanwhile, local people on the Council's official Residents' Advisory Cttee are taking a fresh look at a new plan for a play area in the centre of De Beauvoir Square. An imaginative scheme has been drawn up by Mr Bill Carlstrom, of Hackney planning department, with slide, sand-pit, paddling pool, earth mound and a castle complete with causeway!

The play area in the Square was to have been sited in the existing road-way near the houses. This new plan removes the play area (and the kids with it) to the centre of the Square; the existing railings and trees would not be disturbed. The snag is, according to council officers, that the funds available for the environmental plan as a whole will not stretch to cover this more expensive scheme (which could cost about £18,000). Getting the scheme through the appropriate council committees may also result in further delays and frustration.

Opponents

The existing environmental plan which was on view at the recent exhibition in the crypt was agreed by most local people who saw it and has been passed by the Council. A few people on the Residents' Steering Cttee continue to voice opposition to certain parts of the plan - and principally, to the play areas in Northchurch Road. These people would like to see all the play facilities planned for Northchurch Rd transferred to the Square.

If the funds available aren't enough to provide all the facilities planned,



A very rough drawing of what the centre of the square could look like

the Residents' Advisory Committee will have to choose between the various play areas and other environmental changes in the plan (such as changing the street lights).

But if the play areas are removed from Northchurch Road, much of the case for closing the road to through traffic is removed too. One thing is certain: the majority of De Beauvoir residents who live outside the central area won't be prepared to suffer from the extra traffic and parking which will result from the road closures unless facilities are provided in the traffic-free areas created. FRANK FLETCHER

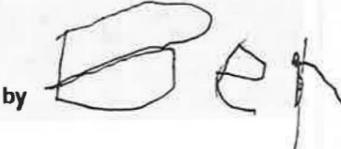
FIREMEN ASK FOR NEW ROAD NAMES

The Fire Brigade want some roads in the area re-named following the experimental road closures. Apparently, if the names remain the same, fire engines may arrive at the wrong side of the newly closed roads. The GIA Residents' Advisory Cttee are worried about the idea and have asked a Fire Brigade officer to come and explain the request at a future meeting.

Meanwhile, Council officer suggest that Culford, Hertford and Mortimer Roads could add "North" or "South" (as they are north or south of Northchurch Rd or the Square). Ufton Road, 41-63 & 48-76, would be re-named Ufton Grove (as well as 1-16) and Northchurch Road, 1-15 & 2-18, would become Northchurch Grove. These changes would, of course, depend on the road closures being confirmed in their present form. ALAN RAYNER

Mini-roundabout

De Beauvoir is to have a mini roundabout. Council officials plan to put a mini roundabout at the junction of De Beauvoir/Stamford/Englefield Roads to deal with the busy traffic there. Opening date is January 6 and traffic will be measured to check its effect. The central area road closures will be put back for 3 weeks to allow motorists to get used to the new roundabout.

by  aged 4 3/4

De Beaver wishes you all a **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

Towpath to open

Hackney Council voted overwhelmingly to open the canal towpath to the public at their October meeting. Council officers are to study the best way to do this, but they expect it to take 5 to 7 years before all the canal through Hackney is open.

The De Beauvoir Association will be pressing hard for an earlier opening date. Already Islington intend to open up part of Hackney's towpath next to the Packington Estate - so it can be done if the will is there.

The canal, which runs along the south end of the New Town Estate, is a potentially superb amenity for the people of the area. There is the much-neglected Kingsland Basin, which only gets used for industrial rubbish, but could be used for boating, canoeing, etc. The GIA Residents' Advisory Committee recommended in their first report to the Council that the basin should be turned over to recreational use - but so far, all is silence. Mind you, that was only 2 1/2 years ago.

Local residents have nominated over 50 De Beauvoir trees for preservation orders. The list has now been sent to the Council, but there's still time to add more trees for the Council to consider. If you have a favourite tree in a front garden in the area -- or which is largely visible to the public if in a back or side garden -- please tell Frank Fletcher, 74 De Beauvoir Rd (tel 249 4165).

Hackney Council have opened their committee doors to the public. Forthcoming attractions include Housing Development (chairman, Jack Dunning) on Dec. 31st and Housing Management (chairman, Ken Wilson) on Feb 4th. Best bet is Policy, which makes the important decisions, on February 6th. Ring 986-3123 to confirm meeting & time.

The committees still have the power to take any controversial decisions privately, however. So far, the only decision which affected anyone in De Beauvoir recently - a report on a poorly maintained house in the central area - was taken only after the public had been excluded. Among the public was the tenant of the house!

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INDUSTRIAL WHAT TO DO

It's not all bad, living with industry. For one thing, firms in the area supply a great many jobs - a third of them to local people. For another, some of them offer excellent service. If you want a chair upholstered, or a dent in your offside wing ironed out, or an extra pint of milk on a Sunday, you only need to take a short walk around the corner. The vast majority of local businesses add life and colour to the area and hurt no-one.

But a few do. They've grown up like fungus around people's homes - in back gardens, down side alleys. They push their premises to the limit, exploiting every inch they can grab. They are noisy or dusty. They demand huge lorries and provide nowhere for them to go, so they barge their way up onto pavements, disturbing and annoying their neighbours. In rare cases the employees earn a reputation for rudeness or insolence and create extremely bad feeling.

For a generation De Beauvoir has been neglected by the planners, on the assumption it was all going to come down anyway. They must now put the screws on anti-social industries where they have broken the rules. The Council itself is now a major industrial landlord. It must only grant or renew leases for firms which are suitable for a densely populated part of London. The Benyon Estate, in the interests of common sense and local goodwill, must do the same. So must other landlords.

LORRY PARK



Meanwhile, though, the problems remain. Only one of them, the overnight parking of heavy lorries, is within sight of a solution. The Council is search-

ing for a park and will then ban them from the Borough. May they find one soon!

Other problems, like the nuisances caused by Picons, B.R.S., and Steeles - to take only the 3 most awkward firms in the area - have been discussed for years. Lethargy, apathy and knotty legal tangles leave things just as they were. But they need not stay that way. Here's what you can do if your life is being ruined by a business on your doorstep (and if you're not angry enough to bother, don't blame anyone else).

1. Complain to the head of the firm.
2. If no satisfaction, complain to the Council, in writing, and tell them that if they do not give you satisfaction within one month, you will take legal action on your own account.
3. If no satisfaction, proceed as follows:

NOISE

Get together with two other people (you need 3 to complain). It helps if the others are elderly or of a nervous disposition as this will strengthen your case. Ask to borrow the noise meter which the De Beauvoir Association has decided to buy, or borrow one from the Noise Abatement Society. Then measure the noise. A background noise of 55 decibels at night & 60 at day is regarded as acceptable, so your noise must be above these levels. To make a really good case, it should also be uneven or harsh.

If the noise is above the limits, go to Old Street Magistrates' Court any week-day at 9.30am and ask the magistrate for a summons to bring the firm which is responsible to court to argue the case. This costs you nothing. If you prove your point, the magistrate will issue a nuisance order, making the firm stop or reduce the noise.

DUST

Leave a clean piece of glass one foot square on your window ledge for a precisely timed period - e.g. 24 hours or 7 days. Collect the dust gathered on it into an envelope or jar and send it to a Public Analyst (addresses in the Yellow Pages). This will cost you something, but won't be more than £10. Club together with neighbours to share the expense. Apply for a nuisance order as above. You can also get a nuisance order for piles of refuse, etc, buildings which cause a nuisance by being in a bad state, and for steam, smell, and liquids discharged onto your ground.

Home from home for disabled

When I went to Dorleston Court to chat to the residents about living in a home for younger physically handicapped, I joined a group sitting round a table after lunch. Jim, who had quite a lot to say, introduced me to Sylvia, Wally and Herbie, and all agreed their only complaint is that the rooms are draughty. If you are immobilised as many are and the place is centrally heated, open plan living can cause some discomfort. Jim said there had been some trouble in the early days with local children playing too near, and in fact breaking windows, but as the children got used to the close proximity of this new home they didn't come so near.

Adjectives describing the food got stronger from one person to the next - "not bad at all", "excellent", "fantastic", "superb" - they leave little else to be said. Sylvia had just finished her lunch; she helps with the washing up sometimes. She told me she'd had a major brain operation and she needs speech therapy. Wally helps her a lot. "She's getting on marvellous," said Jim, and this sums up Sylvia - she speaks so well and is happy and busy at home. Another young person I met is Keith - he's 25 and suffering from Multiple Sclerosis. He's been disabled a long time he said - two accidents in his early years had accelerated the illness. Keith's parents and very few friends visit him.

Rene is another victim of multiple sclerosis. She comes from Hackney, and when she'd been married just 4 years she contracted the disease. She's now been married 31 years and her illness, increasing her disability all the time, had been a great strain on herself and her husband, so she came to live in



KEITH, HERBIE, RENE and JIM in the sun

Dorleston Court last August. Here she can lead a happier life because everything is designed for invalids. Rene had much praise for her husband who comes every day to see her.

Iris, also in a wheelchair, came to Dorleston Court after years in a Cheshire home in Norfolk. "Anywhere's home after that place", she said. Her earlier years were unhappy ones; because of her confinement to a wheelchair, Iris hated the flat open countryside, the trees and cows which we Londoners

NUISANCE

by William Verity



LORRIES

1. GO TO COURT?

This is a harder and more expensive nut to crack than the others, because it comes under the Common Law and you have to go to County Court for an injunction on the grounds that your life is being spoiled. This takes careful proving and needs a lawyer. It may cost as much as £100-200 in all. The best way is to find as many neighbours as you can whose lives are also being ruined and see what you can put in the kitty. Get the De Beauvoir Assoc. involved (ctte meetings at The Talbot, second Tuesday of the month, 8.00pm) and find a sympathetic lawyer through the Association.

One flagrant test case fought tooth and nail could do everyone in the area a great service; and many a fair, jumble sale or bazaar has raised £100-£200.

LORRIES

2. RING 986-3123 ext 251?

A meeting took place on October 1st between Council officers, the police and 4 residents who are members of the advisory ctte for the De Beauvoir area, to discuss ways and means of dealing with some of the abuses by local industry. On the subject of damage to footpaths and obstruction while loading and unloading by heavy vehicles, Mr Walker, an officer in the Council's highways division, said that if complaints were phoned through to 986-3123 ext 251, an inspector would be sent to assess the situation and to see whether any action could be taken. Since this meeting, there have been many footpath and road abuses, three of which I have attempted to deal with in the suggested manner. I have to report that it did not work, as each phone call took far too long to reach the department, and when I finally made it not only was Mr Walker out on each occasion, but whoever I spoke to knew nothing about the meeting, the suggestion of reporting, the advisory ctte and its many complaints on this subject.

DORIS KIBBLEWHITE

ONE GONE

The nuisance-making furniture manufacturers at 62A De Beauvoir Rd. (see last Beaver) have packed up their polystyrene foam and vinyl sheeting and moved on. The Council does not admit to asking them to go, and Brown & Brown are not saying anything

It might be just as well - at least one resident was seriously considering commencing mandamus proceedings against the Council for allowing manufacturing to continue on the premises without its authority for change of use.

FRANK FLETCHER

Down on the playground

I have been working on the playground since September and have seen the gradual progression from light evenings to dark. Up to and during half-term we were able to stay open until about 7pm, but now we are having to close earlier because of the dark.

During the half-term holiday we took the children on trips to London Zoo and Hampstead Heath. 44 came on the London Zoo outing and 27 went to the Heath. A regular event is swimming - everybody meets at the playground at 9.15am on Sundays, and anyone is welcome to come (if they can get up that early!)

With winter on its way we have been made aware of the lack of shelter on the playground, and would like to express our thanks to Richard Paton who has spent several weekends repairing the hut. It now has four walls and is beginning to look quite cosy. However, we would be grateful if we could get a plumber to help connect the water supply - if anyone could help please contact me (at the playground or at 114 Southgate Rd - 249 5646).

During the cold winter evenings the big attraction is fire lighting and cooking baked potatoes - which gives both warmth and light. Hide and seek is also popular because after 5pm it is so dark it is impossible to find anyone!

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love to escape to. She likes the compact building, the closeness of the community here. The newest resident is Lottie, who has just come from a very happy year in the Met.

There are 21 people living there. 5 go out to work; one is nearly through university; another is doing GCE's by a correspondence course; others work in the workshop. The general impression is that all enjoy the life Dorleston Court offers. There have been outings to see Old Time Music Hall, and to see Arsenal play at Highbury. The Hackney library service operates there and a hairdresser calls. There are film shows. All indicating a normal family life.

However, the residents are disabled. There are degrees of incapacity, but this type of illness, when it goes on, does reduce one's number of friends and family, and Dorleston Court could do with a lot of help from us, the local community. John Baggley, who is a neighbour, and vicar of our local church, spends a lot of his own time helping. He has entertained two groups of 5 to lunch at his house on Sundays; he has given an illustrated talk on beekeeping which many found very interesting. Mr Baker, the superintendent, arranged for 3 students from London University to chair a discussion on Northern Ireland. Jim was very full in his praise of such evenings - "We need more of this sort of thing". Have you got anything to offer? Could you go and give a talk on anything - or simply go in and chat to the residents. The door is always open and the residents are always at home.

LIZ FLETCHER

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Promise to GOVERNORS AGREE CPO homes TO PUBLISH NAMES

Cllr Martin Ottolangui, leader of Hackney Council, has promised that Hackney will seek to compulsory purchase the freeholds of tenanted houses in the central area of De Beauvoir - and not just the leases on the houses. Cllr Ottolangui gave this assurance to Cllr Jim Warner, De Beauvoir's Labour ward councillor, at a recent meeting of Labour council members.

Cllr Warner had protested against a plan put forward by the Housing Development Committee to buy out the leases of three houses in poor repair and hand them over to Brown & Brown, managing agents of the Benyon Estate, for repair and improvement. Council officers have explained to local residents on the General Improvement Area Advisory Cttee that the Council had planned to impose strict conditions on the Estate's future use of the properties.

"I'm not sure if other council members or people in De Beauvoir realise what the Benyon Estate is," says Cllr Warner. "The Estate is owned by the Benyon Trust, which also owns the Englefield Estate in Berkshire, Englefield House, and stocks and shares. The Trust has been set up to avoid tax and death duties and the beneficiary is a Mr William Benyon, the Conservative MP for Buckingham.

"The Trustees, who complained about De Beaver's article on poor housing conditions in the central area, administer the Trust," he says. "None of them live locally. They are Mr John St John Whitehead, of Balsam Gate, Wincanton, Somerset; Mr Edward W. J. Bankes, of Winstanley Hall, near Wigan; and Mr John Godolphin Quicke, of Newton House, near Exeter."

ENGLISH CLASSES

You must know someone living near you speaking little or no English! You could help them by introducing them to N.E.C.

N.E.C. stands for Neighbourhood English Classes, which is a voluntary organisation concerned with setting up and running English language classes for adult newcomers to this country.

In Hackney we have two evening classes on Monday & Wednesday, 7.30 - 9.00 pm, at Clissold Park School, Clissold Park Rd, N.16, and one afternoon class at St. Mary's Church Hall, Defoe Rd, N.16, on Tuesday & Friday, 1.45 - 3.15 pm.

N.E.C. teaches the kind of English which is needed in day to day life - the ordinary everyday language spoken in this country: at work, in the shops, on the bus, at the doctor's surgery. For further information in Hackney ring 254-8500.

Learning Exchange

The Learning Exchange is a free educational information service which puts people who want to learn in touch with people who have offered to teach.

People are needed to teach: German, Chinese (Mandarin), Norwegian, Piano to children (at low cost i.e. 25-50p), Plastering, Plumbing, Roof repair, Scooter repair, Typing (to a girl of 10), English and art (to a girl of 13 in the Holloway area).

Information needed on where a woman could take 2 small children along with her to pottery and yoga classes. Contact 254 7514 mon-sat 11-6, 66a Dalston Lane.

Edith Cavell, like every secondary school, has a board of governors who are supposed to represent the public. We are pleased to say that the governors of Edith Cavell have just agreed to publish their names so the public can get in touch with them. If you have any complaint, enquiry, suggestion, etc, which you want to put before them, this is your chance!

The majority of governors are appointed through the local political parties. Labour members are Mr D. McCarthy (chairman), 184 The Avenue, Highams Park, E4; Mr & Mrs Jim Warner, 67 Rozel Court, De Beauvoir Rd; Mrs Doffy Weir, 137 Balls Pond Rd; Mrs Marjorie Young, 8 De Beauvoir Square; Mr & Mrs Peter Cox, 39 Lanresse Court, De Beauvoir Estate; and Mrs E J Dunne, 48 St Brelades Court. Conservative reps are Mr Eric Laws, 77 Boundary Rd, Sidcup, Kent; Mr W. Wager, 51 Montague Rd, E8; and Miss Mary Watts, 22 Ferron Rd, E5.

Mr Tyrrell Burgess, an educationist, represents the Inner London Education Authority. Mrs I. Lane, 6 Orwell Court, Pownall Rd, E8, is nominated by the parents at the school, and Mr C. Christmas is the teachers' nominee. Dr C. Moss, Department of Maths, City University, St John St, E1, is nominated by the University of London. The Clerk to the governors is Mr P. A. King, ILEA Divisional Office, Ockway House, 41 Stamford Hill, N16 5SR (tel 802 1331 x56).

LETTER

May I express great delight in issue No 12 of your newsletter. It was a joy to read about the "Summer Fayre" which was such a success, according to your report, unhappily since it happened the chairman, Mr Tommy Dunne, was taken into Manor House hospital after suffering a collapse at work. It's a pity no-one informed you about this, as I'm sure he would have received more condolences and "get well" cards. Fortunately, someone was able to take his wife and children to visit him, and wish him better health. P.S. Print this if you dare!

SAM NEWILL, 35 Fermain Court, Hertford Rd, N.1.

EDITOR: We had prepared a report, but were told Mr Dunne would be out of hospital by the time we were published. We now learn Tommy has been forced to resign as chairman of the New Town T.A. through ill-health. We hope he is soon fully recovered.

The Hackney Film Society meets every Thursday evening at 7.30 at Dalston Lane Library. Membership (which includes admission to 24 films in a full season) is 50p (10p for O.A.P.'s)

De Beaver 137 BALLS POND ROAD N1
is a FREE community newspaper for the people of De Beauvoir - old & new towns. We are sponsored by the De Beauvoir Association, but we're here for everyone, not just association members - so please send us your news, pictures, ideas, criticisms (by Feb 25th for the next issue). Thanks to everyone who has helped get out this issue and deliver it round the area.

I wish to join the De Beauvoir Association
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PLEASE RETURN - Alan Rayner would be pleased to meet the man who was to mend his radiogram again. 249-5509.

25 FOOT of period railings for sale. Phone 249-2509 (142 Culford Road).

COME TO the next committee meeting of the De Beauvoir Association at 8pm on Tues Dec 11 at the Talbot (corner Englefield/Mortimer Rds). Every meeting is open to local people.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jo Parsey on the birth of Martha, from everyone in the De Beauvoir Association.

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