

# THE DE BEAUVOIR ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2005

## We're on our way!

We have a constitution and a committee. We are getting involved locally but we need your help. The Association was re-formed last year after three issues got people angry – the proposed phone mast in Downham Road, the monstrous Edith Cavell School development, and the need to sort out the playground in De Beauvoir Square.

A group of committed people got the playground fitted with new equipment and re-opened. They showed us what can be done when you're really focussed, persistent and organised.

We now have 138 individuals or couples who have expressed an interest in the revived De Beauvoir Association.

Inevitably, email is the easiest means of keeping in touch but this Newsletter is intended as a way of reaching out to everyone, whether or not they have an internet connection. About two-thirds of the 138 have given us email addresses. If you want to join the list, you can reach us on [info@debeauvoir.org](mailto:info@debeauvoir.org).

Alternatively, you can phone us on 0796 2422149 and leave us your contact details.

Who are we? We haven't got formal membership underway yet but we do have a committee – comprising all those who wanted to be on it. They are

Hilary Mandleberg	Jane Ross-Macdonald
David Kingsley	Marc Hauer
Joy Beishon	Kathryn Moore
Julia Porter	Maggie Whiteley
Carol Lee	Paul Bolding
Sade Olushanu	Stephen Grosz
Rupert Palmer	Clare Elson

## So what next?

### Crime

**By Jamie Shaw PC 230 GD Community Beat Officer, De Beauvoir  
Everyone is worried about crime.**

*Did you know you can report non-urgent crime on the Internet? Go to:*  
<http://www.online.police.uk/english/default.asp>

### Crime Figures for De Beauvoir: 01/01/05–14/04/05

These figures show the reported incidents of crime in the following categories inside the boundary of the De Beauvoir Association since the start of the year.

Burglary: 19  
Robbery/Snatch: 17

Theft of Motor Vehicle: 4  
Theft from Motor Vehicle: 23  
Criminal Damage: 9

These figures show some trends that residents should be aware of. The robberies occur all around the ward area, but there is a concentration around the cycle path which runs from Southgate Road to Kingsland Road. People on pedal cycles are being targeted so please be on the alert when cycling, especially around late afternoon/early evening time.

There has recently been an increase in thefts of disabled badges from cars, especially around the northern half of the ward. If you are a disabled badge holder, please be aware of this, and make sure any theft is reported. Of course the badge needs to be displayed. The police are currently working with the council to combat disabled badge theft.

Remember that these figures cover a considerable time period and a large area so residents should not be too concerned. The ward as such is still considered one of the safest in the Borough.

If you need to report any crime you MUST call Hackney Borough Control room on 020 7739 1212. This is so the calls are logged correctly.

## Things to do

By Kathryn Moore

- Keep Fit and Exercise classes, health talks and information, social drop-in sessions, creative groups (e.g. art and drama), relaxation classes, and reminiscence groups for older people at The Sharp End, Hoxton, Tel. 020 7739 7887
- Complementary therapies including acupuncture, homeopathy, osteopathy, massage, aromatherapy, exercise classes for over 60's at Hoxton Health Group, a registered charity, Tel. 020 7683 4289 <http://www.hoxtonhealthgroup.org.uk/>
- Gentle exercise and lunch at the Salvation Army, Hoxton Community Centre, Tel. 020 7739 3313.
- Coffee Morning and Support Groups for people who care for a relative or friend at City and Hackney Carers Centre, Tel. 020 8985 1600

## The Moleman



One resident has recently used the Freedom of Information Act to get information from Hackney Council about the state of 121 Mortimer Road, home of 'the moleman'. The Council says only one person has ever complained to it about the house. It has given a detailed account of its so-far unsuccessful attempts to oblige the occupier to repair the house. It has spent £10,000 on legal proceedings since 2001. One court application was, apparently, struck out.

There are those who think the Council has been incompetent.

## How we were: A description of the area from The National Gazetteer, 1868

BEAUVOIR, (or De Beauvoir Town), a hamlet in the parish of Hackney, hundred of Ossulstone, in the county of Middlesex, 2 miles to the N. of London. The village, which forms part of the northern suburbs of London, is entirely of recent construction, and is situated near the Kingsland-road. The houses, though unpretending, are commodious, and many have neat gardens attached to them. The soil is gravel, and the neighbourhood considered healthy. The

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living is a perpetual curacy in the diocese of London, of the value of £200, in the patronage of R. B. De Beauvoir, Esq., the founder of the church, which is dedicated to St. Peter.

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## Gardening News

**June 5** Local gardens open in the National Gardens Scheme: 21 Northchurch Terrace and Brewster House, 82a Mortimer Road.

**June 12** A number of gardens are open in and around Albion Square.

**De Beauvoir Gardeners** meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the crypt of St Peter's at 8 pm. Here are the next few events:

**Tuesday 3 May** Kew Gardens - Jim Keesing

**Sunday 8 May** Plant Sale

**Sunday 15 May** Coach trip to Vann and Munstead Woods, two Jekyll gardens in Surrey

**Tuesday 7 June** Gardeners' Question Time

**Tuesday 5 July** Garden walkabout

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**News from the De Beauvoir Association Meeting held on 14 March 2005, at the Rose Lipman Library**

**By Hilary Mandelberg**

A lot of Planning issues are at the forefront of people's minds in De Beauvoir at present and many people are worried about some of the developments that are taking place. So not surprisingly, the main business of the last meeting was Planning. Councillor Jim Cannon reported that over the next three years the Council will develop a Local Development Framework (LDF) that will replace the current Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The LDF will guide future planning decisions for new buildings and the use of buildings, as well as extensions and demolition. It is hoped that the LDF will encourage good design and sustainable development.

The LDF will consist of A Local Development Scheme (LDS), a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), and a number of Local Development Documents (LDD). You can download documents about the LDF from the London Borough of Hackney website ([www.hackney.gov.uk](http://www.hackney.gov.uk)).

We are hoping that the DBA will get involved and will comment on what is being proposed. If anyone is interested in being part of this, please contact the DBA on 0796 2422149 or email us at [info@debeauvoir.org.uk](mailto:info@debeauvoir.org.uk).

Many of you will be aware of the beautiful new playground facilities in De Beauvoir Square. Credit for getting [the playground](#) refurbished is due to a group of determined parents. What is more, they have managed to get a promise of a further £20,000 from the government-funded Living Spaces who helped with the playground. Ideas for using this extra money include setting up a local football league and making a nature area in Ufton Gardens. Watch this space!

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## Nature Notes

### By Carol Lee

Many people when they retire throw themselves into new pursuits they've never had time for in their working lives. What do I do? I look at the birds in my garden, which is satisfyingly frustrating and awfully easy. I cater for every taste with seed, peanuts, fat balls, cylinders, cakes and, beloved of sparrows, millet sprays. What a mess it all makes! BUT my sparrow numbers have increased from 6 to 12 year on year. I had a hen blackcap for 6 weeks (now sadly departed), jays, greater spotted woodpecker, a goldcrest several times, occasional visits by long-tailed tits, greenfinches even a goldfinch, not to mention all the other usuals. Most surprising of all was a sparrowhawk drowning a starling in my pond before flying off with the booty. I even hope for a brood of great tits in the nestbox that has been languishing in my garden for 3 or 4 years.

A dog fox and I have exchanged glances and what was he carrying in his mouth – a rabbit, rat or kitten? Anyway it was furry. Why doesn't he go after the wretched feral pigeons who hang around like vultures. The poor vixen suffering from appalling mange has not appeared recently but I await holes dug by her cubs in the next month or two. Will Renardine work this time?

I should be delighted to exchange notes with similar watchers:

e-mail [carol@crystalclear.it](mailto:carol@crystalclear.it).

**Our website is**

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

**Is there anything you would like to see on it?**

Email [info@debeauvoir.org.uk](mailto:info@debeauvoir.org.uk) or call Paul on 020 7684 5811

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## The New Playground



~~Following successful fund raising efforts by local residents last year, both Hackney Council and urban redevelopment charity 'Living Spaces' donated money to renew and redevelop the children's playground at De Beauvoir Square. Some of the money was also used to hold a launch party for the playground in July which some of you may have come along to.~~

~~A year down the line, we still have money to spend on resources for the local community and plans are underway to set~~

~~up a local football league with a paid coach and coordinator.~~

~~If anyone has any further suggestions or offers of help for schemes which will enhance our local community whether it be anything from running a Saturday morning club for young children, running a cycling proficiency course, to organising regular nature walks around the area, please e-mail [info@debeauvoir.org.uk](mailto:info@debeauvoir.org.uk) Following successful fund raising efforts by local residents last year, both Hackney Council and urban redevelopment charity 'Living Spaces' donated money to renew and redevelop the children's playground at De Beauvoir Square. Some of the money was also used to hold a launch party for the playground in July.~~

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