

SCOOTERDEN.

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Scooterden, Dalston Branch

By Rupert Palmer

Most people who live locally probably aren't aware the Scooterden has another branch in Hornsey, and even fewer will know that they appeared on Naked News a few months back. Unlike the Naked Chef however, the presenter does bare all this time round... you know what they say about publicity.

After the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, made scooters exempt from paying the congestion charge, it will come as no surprise that the popularity of scooters and mopeds amongst people working in the city increased rapidly. The latest figures suggest you could save up to £2000 a year by driving a scooter instead of a car into the Congestion Zone every day. Along with the fuel economy and reduced travel times, it's no wonder that Scooterden's business has expanded rapidly in the last few years.

From humble beginnings they are now the UK's biggest scooter-only specialists. With two sites in London they believe that they can help you with all your scootering needs. Stocking over 200 scooters including Vespa, Piaggio, and Gilera allows them to supply and deliver your new purchase with the minimum of fuss, no matter what colour or model you require.

Currently holding the title of 'Piaggio UK Dealer of the Year', their customer-orientated services reach all riders, from beginners to people wanting full motorcycle training. Their Honda motorcycle shop, Motoden, is down the Kingsland Road towards Shoreditch.

Do you have an internet connection? If so, have you seen our website at <http://www.debeauvoir.org.uk>? There you'll find all the latest news about what the DBA is up to, along with useful links as well as images and pdf files that we don't email out because they're too big.

Do you use email? Do you want to know more about the activities of the De Beauvoir Association? If so, email info@debeauvoir.org.uk with your email address so we can add it to our ever-growing database. That way we can keep you informed about our activities and campaigns and alert you when there's something new and important to look at on our website.

Are you a local business? If so, would you like to sponsor the next issue of the DBA newsletter? We deliver to 3,000 households in De Beauvoir so it would be money well spent. Email us or call **07962 422149** to discuss prices and publication dates.

The De Beauvoir Association
www.debeauvoir.org.uk
info@debeauvoir.org.uk
07962 422149

Thanks to Typhoon Creative Partnership (www.typhooncp.com) for our logo and to Supreme Printers (info@supremeprinters.com)

De Beauvoir

ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2006

This issue sponsored by
Scooterden, 505a Kingsland Road

A WARM WELCOME TO THE SIXTH ISSUE of the De Beauvoir Association Newsletter and a big thank you to the sponsors of this issue, Scooterden. You can read all about this long-established, multi-branched local business on page 8.

As you might have come to expect by now, the DBA committee has been as busy as ever behind the scenes, looking into the issues that affect our community. The majority land-owner in the area, the Benyon family, approached us to offer a contribution to this issue of the newsletter. You can read this on page 6, where Edward Benyon talks a little about his family history and tells us about the Estate's current property refurbishment programme. If you wish to contact the Estate, you will find full details at the end of the article.

If you didn't make it to this summer's hugely successful Party in the Park on 15 July, you can read all about it on page 4. You can also see more details at <http://www.debeauvoir.org.uk/party.htm> and at <http://www.debeauvoir.org.uk/DeBeauvoirChildrensParty2006/> where you might even find a picture of yourself! As promised, it was quite an occasion. This was followed on 10 September by the De Beauvoir Gardeners Flower and Produce Show. The write-up is on page 2, together with details of forthcoming events both for keen gardeners and for total beginners.

Work is on-going to try to draft an alternative masterplan for the part of Dalston north of Dalston Lane. The Bootstrap company (www.bootstrapcompany.org – contact Kate Swade) has produced proposals which are on our website (www.debeauvoir.org.uk). Don't forget to check it regularly as we're always adding new information on a range of issues.

THE NEXT DBA MEETING IS THE AGM
9 October 7.30 pm Rose Lipman Community Centre, De Beauvoir Road
ALL WELCOME!

After working for 2 years to successfully revive the DBA, Hilary Mandleberg would like to step down as Chair, so please put your thinking caps on to find her successor. We'll also be electing a Vice-Chair, Secretary and committee, so come along, have a say and show your support. And if that isn't enough to lure you along, a top person from Hackney Council will talk to us about planning matters and will answer your questions.

De Beauvoir Gardeners Flower and Produce Show 10 September 2006

By Muffin Gordon

The annual show organised by the De Beauvoir Gardeners took place on 10 September this year and once again was blessed with beautiful sunshine. Despite the hosepipe bans and the previously poor weather for gardening, the standard of flowers and vegetables was high and the 'domestic delights' were delicious!

As Currell's estate agents kindly sponsored the event, prizes were awarded by Anne Currell. These included a prize for the new category of 'Young Gardener's Cup', which was presented to inaugural winner Lilly Werth.

The 'Rose Bowl' once again went to Nony Ardill for the highest marks in the flowers, pot plants, and vegetables sections, the tankard for domestic delights returns to Nancy Korman, the Photography prize went to James Baxter, and the 'Best in Show' prize was claimed by Ashlinn Clarke for her biscuits.

The competition for Most Loveable Dog in De Beauvoir was well attended and popular. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it an enjoyable day, to those who submitted entries and to Currell's for generously sponsoring the event.

The De Beauvoir Gardeners run lectures and events on Tuesday nights at 8pm in the Crypt of St Peter's, unless otherwise stated. Membership runs from January–December, but all new members joining at or soon after the show receive complimentary membership valid until December included in their membership for 2007. Please contact consuelomoorsom@btinternet.com or phone Muffin Gordon on 020 7923 3988 for further information. All non-members are most welcome at a charge of £3.00 per guest. Forthcoming events are as follows:

3 OCTOBER: THE RESTORATION OF A COTTAGE GARDEN (to be confirmed) by garden writer Jill Billington

7 NOVEMBER: AUTUMN INTO SPRING by Kathy Brown, with the emphasis on bulbs. There will be a container planting demonstration and bulbs for sale

5 DECEMBER: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by festive flower design

9 JANUARY: PARTY! Bring a dish. Wine provided. All welcome.

STOP PRESS: THE TROLLEY STOP – We are disappointed to report that on Monday 4 September the Council's planning sub-committee approved the extra storey with a mansard roof to the Trolley Stop building in Stamford Road. The developer's plans are to reconfigure the space above the pub and the Chinese restaurant in order to add four 1-bedroom flats and two 2-bedroom flats to what is already there. Check the DBA website (www.debeauvoir.org.uk) for all the latest news.

De Beauvoir's Only Blue Plaque

By Paul Bolding

Here lived Philip Henry GOSSE (1810-1888), Zoologist; and Sir Edmund GOSSE (1849-1928), Writer and Critic, born here.

This is the inscription of the blue plaque, added in 1983, that appears on the wall of 56 Mortimer Road. Philip Henry Gosse was a Christian fundamentalist perhaps best known for his refusal to accept Darwin's Theory of Evolution. As a zoologist, he developed the study of marine biology and is credited with the invention of the sea-water aquarium.

His only son, Edmund William, was to become better known than his father as a poet, author and critic. Edmund was confined for long hours in a dark room in the house by his parents, Plymouth Brethren for whom religious fervour was more important than food. The address of the house at that time was 13 Trafalgar Terrace. His mother Emily died while he was a child and it was on Edmund's eighth birthday that his father moved the family to Devon.

He is best known for his book *Father and Son*, published in 1907, that deals with his difficult relationship with his father. It was dramatised for television by Dennis Potter as 'Where Adam Stood'. Alan Badel played Philip and Max Harris was Edmund.

Edmund worked at the British Museum, later became a translator at the Board of Trade and in the 1880s was a noted sculpture critic. He is also credited with having brought the work of the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen to the attention of the British public.

Strangely, Edmund is cited in the 1881 census as having been born not in De Beauvoir but in the parish of St George, West London. Perhaps the blue plaque is wrong, or perhaps it was unfashionable to declare one's origins as having been further east.



Philip Henry Gosse



Edmund Gosse

The Benyon Estate

By Edward Benyon

In the early 1700s, twelve-year-old orphan Richard Benyon was put on a ship to Fort St George in Southern India by his godfather where he started as a scribe for the East India Company and worked his way up to become governor of what we now know as Madras. Upon his return to England in 1740, he married widow Mary Paulet Wrighte (née Thyssen), who brought to the marriage a farm in Hackney as well as the Englefield Estate in Berkshire. In the mid-nineteenth century their grandson, Richard Benyon De Beauvoir, began a project of building what is now known as De Beauvoir Town, and the connection between the two can be seen in the street names of Mortimer, Ufton and Englefield – all villages around the Estate in Berkshire.

With this historic interest in the community, The Englefield Estate Trust, also known as The Benyon Trust has made contributions towards the church in De Beauvoir Square and maintains a continuing commitment to support other community projects into the future. It is also pleased to confirm its support for the De Beauvoir Association.

The trust owns some 280 properties in De Beauvoir Town and has an ongoing refurbishment programme. This currently includes ten properties, six of which are in Hertford Road, including one of the oldest houses in De Beauvoir Town – 101 Hertford Road, part of Benyon Cottages.

The Estate is managed on a day-to-day basis by Cluttons LLP. The partner in charge is Andrew Forrester who can be contacted on 020 7408 1010. John Bell, his assistant, can be found in the Estate Office in Southgate Road. on 020 7254 4598.

**The family member with overall responsibility for the Estate is Edward Benyon.
He can be reached on 07976 696743.**

De Beauvoir Estate Tenants & Residents Association

- Council Surgeries are now held on Saturdays, 11am to 12 noon at the Crib Youth Club, Balmes Road
- For information about the De Beauvoir Estate Tenants & Residents Association, please contact June Eaton either at Rose Lipman, Monday–Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30pm or on 020 7249 4896.

Water mains replacement

Work is under way in the area on replacing the Victorian water mains. If you have any questions about the work, you can contact the contractor.
Kieran Starr Tel. 020 7419 4016 Fax 020 7419 4014

News from the De Beauvoir Safer Neighbourhood Team

De Beauvoir Safer Neighbourhood Team is based at
33 Stoke Newington High Street, London, N16 8DS
020 7275 3686 / 07879 435 146

Police Sergeant 11GD Dan Wakeford Police Constable 160GD Chris Pearce
Police Constable 552GD Peter Reddington
Police Community Support Officer 7142GD Afshane Hassan
Police Community Support Officer 7140GD Mo Gani

The following are the monthly crime figures for De Beauvoir:

June 2006	Burglary: 11	Motor Vehicle crime: 38	Snatches: 3
July 2006	Burglary: 9	Motor Vehicle crime: 25	Snatches: 0

Motor Vehicle crime (theft from and theft of) is the biggest contributor to crime statistics. In June, De Beauvoir had more incidents of this type than any other ward.

Vehicle Crime

Motor vehicle crimes are usually committed overnight when car windows are smashed. However, be sensible at all times and never leave valuables on display in your car, even during the daytime. If you want a tamper-resistant tax disc holder, contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team – details above.

Burglary

The police advise us to cut down any hedges that obscure our basement and ground-floor windows, as these provide cover for burglars. If you want to protect your property with the police's excellent new SmartWater property marking liquid, contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team and they will supply you with a kit.

Please be on the lookout for one another. The majority of burglaries are committed between 8 am and 8 pm. Let the police and your neighbours know when you are going on holiday.

Robberies/Snatches

The police advise us to mark mobile phones, iPods and so on with SmartWater and to use them discreetly and, if possible, not in the street, where they are a temptation to robbers. It is pleasing to see zero snatches were reported in July. Let's hope this is a new trend.

THE DBA WELCOMES ANY IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE FOR LOCAL POLICING AND SECURITY. WE CAN FORWARD YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO DAN WAKEFORD AND THE POLICE PANEL. PLEASE EMAIL info@debeauvoir.org.uk OR PHONE 07962 422149

Community Fun – The Party in the Park, 15 July 2006

By Kathryn Moore

Thanks to the generosity of local partnership and sponsorship, and through the kindness of a myriad of volunteers, the DBA Children's Party in the Park was again a tremendous success. An estimated 300 adults and children enjoyed an afternoon of free children's activities including face painting, a bouncy castle, storytelling, a football kickabout and flower-and animal-mask making as well as a 'giveaway' stall of children's books, toys and games, all donated by local residents and publishers.

The London Fire Brigade announced their arrival at the square with a siren blast to capture the attention of anyone within a mile radius. Suddenly all eyes in the gardens focused on the large red engine drawing up and a sense of excitement grew. For many children, sitting in the fire engine or being sprayed with water from the hoses was the 'best part of the event'. No hosepipe ban there then!

Marlon Gayle, Hackney's Community Multi-Sports Coach from Sky Partnership South Kingsland Youth, helped children re-live the World Cup with a football kickabout. Needless to say, more England goals were scored than in the real thing!

For those interested in figures, Rupert and Roland inflated about 150 balloons, the raffle made about £106, sales of books raised an astonishing £267, and the whole event cost about £1600 to stage.

We hope the event in 2007 will grow a little but we plan to retain our current 'magic recipe' as we know, from the feedback we have received, that it delights all who attend. We would, though, like to work with local schools and nursery groups to make 2007's party even better, so if you're teacher, parent or nursery user, please contact us at info@debeauvoir.org.uk.

If you would like to help next year or donate unwanted toys, books or games (perhaps after Christmas), please contact the De Beauvoir Association at the usual address.

Future plans also include a Winter event, perhaps held in the Church. If you have any suggestions as to what we might do or if you would like to volunteer to help, please let us know.

FATE OF DALSTON THEATRE UNDECIDED The High Court ruling that was due on 18 September on the fate of Dalston theatre has been postponed for a month. Those campaigning to save it think Hackney was worried it would not win and that the council has gone away to prepare stronger arguments in favour of knocking it down. OPEN is preparing a claim for a further judicial review, so Hackney is a long way from seeing the campaigners off.

The Mighty De Beauvoir Warriors Cricket Team has just completed a great 2006 season. Next year they hope to play home matches against Stoke Newington and the Bering pub and two away matches in Kirtlington and Wiltshire. If you'd like to be in the team, email info@debeauvoir.org.uk and we'll put you in touch with the organisers.

Hurrah! The Mayor of London has decided that the East London Line extension will reach Highbury and Islington in Phase One by 2010, instead of terminating at Dalston as was planned. See Ken's press release on our website.

What Would Local People Like Most?

By Clare Elson

De Beauvoir Neighbourhood Group

Following the gradual demise and then closure of the playground in De Beauvoir Square three years ago, a group of people living in De Beauvoir joined forces and managed to raise funds from Hackney Council and Living Spaces, a government-funded body, to replace and update the playground. This was duly completed and we marked the opening of the new playground in July 2004 with the last year's Children's Summer Party.

Since then, the De Beauvoir Association has been revived and many other local projects have been given a helping hand thanks to some of the funds we raised combined with a lot of effort from residents. We have now had two fun-filled summer parties in De Beauvoir Square and some benches in the square have been replaced. Members of the DBA Environment sub-group identified empty tree pits on our pavements and, in close liaison with the council, these are now gradually being filled. August 2005 saw a fully-funded Summer Football Event and following on from that success, we are now funding **free** Football Coaching at the Britannia Leisure Centre on Friday evenings. We also funded a fabulous Schumann Concert at St Peter's Church last November.

In addition to this, we have a representative from the DBA sitting on our local police panel each quarter. This panel reports on police initiatives taking place in our neighbourhood and suggests to the police ways in which we would like to see improvements in policing or local security (see report on page 3). If you have any points that you would like to see raised, please email to info@debeauvoir.org.uk.

We still have lots of ideas for more community-based activities and would love to hear your views on these and also any ideas you may have. Our general rule of thumb is that we cannot fund projects that are the responsibility of the council or the police, so that discounts projects such as improvements to security lighting or general street/pavement repairs, but it leaves us lots of other options. Here are some of them. Please feel free to tell us what you would like to see or give us your own ideas.

- Create a boules pitch in De Beauvoir Square
- Set up a Saturday morning arts/crafts club for young children
- More concerts in the church
- Extra play equipment in the park
- All ideas are welcome as are local people who would be willing to help set them up. All comments to info@debeauvoir.org.uk

Bobby on the Beat Watch

What a throwback! The DBA received some exciting news recently with the spotting at long last of a single police officer walking the beat on Culford Road on Saturday 16 September at roughly 11.30am. What is more incredible is that he was followed by two police horses! If you spot a Bobby on the Beat please email us with details of the sighting at info@debeauvoir.org.uk