

De Beauvoir goes to the polls on May 2 to vote in three new councillors for the ward. Nine candidates are standing - three from each of the main parties - and this is a special election issue of De Beaver to help you, the people with the vote, make your choice. Each party put forward one candidate for an interview and we asked their views on several major issues affecting the area. There isn't space to print all the points raised, but below are their selected answers together with biographies of all De Beauvoir's candidates. And if you still can't make up your mind which way to vote, meet the candidates face to face on Monday April 22 at 8pm in the crypt of St Peter's Church, Northchurch Terrace.

# MEET YOUR MAY CANDIDATES

**Conservative**

**Labour**

**Liberal**



**KENNETH LIGHTWOOD** was born in Hackney 33 years ago. He has contested several local elections and in 1970 and 1974 he fought the General Election in Hackney Central. Appointed Alderman on Hackney Council in 1968, he has served as Deputy Leader of the Council and is now Deputy Leader of the Opposition. A Governor of Upton House School, he is actively involved in the Army Cadet Force.

**TERENCE STALLARD**, a local travel agent and insurance broker, is married with six children. He is a member of the Shoreditch Rotary Club and the Catechian Association, serves as a Manager of three local schools and is a Committee Member of the Hackney & District Mentally Handicapped Children's Society.

**MARY WATTS**, a retired school teacher, served on Hackney Council from 1968 to 1971. She has been a School Manager and is Governor of Edith Cavell School. She takes an active part in raising money for the welfare of the local Army Cadet Force.

## TERRY STALLARD

What are your views on tenant participation and what action would you take to prevent private tenant 'winkling'?

If people are living in the area they have the right to say how they want to live. I don't live in this area, so have I the right to come here and dictate how you should live? Of course not. It's the people who live here who decide.

As far as winkling is concerned, my views are so contrary to what a lot of people would believe. I own a property here but I don't live on the premises. On the ground floor I've got my travel agency and above are tenants who are all my friends. If you are running a business to make money, you have a profit motive. If you are a landlord, you should charge a fair equitable rent.

What is your attitude towards lorry and private car parking in the area?

In London as it is, we all have cars - I am lucky to have a car - and they've got to be parked somewhere. You don't want to hear engines revving and doors slamming outside your home at night, but if you have got a car you want to be able to park it nearby.

I know some areas have banned parking, but that only clogs up other areas. The problem is being

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**EILEEN COX** is secretary of the New Town Tenants' Association. She is chiefly known for her fiery campaign against the Housing Finance Act rent increases - she organised meetings, picketed the Town Hall, went on ITV's Weekend World. She was also the backroom girl behind last year's enjoyable Summer Fayre, and is already busy organising this year's. She believes that tenants on Hackney's council estates should have more say in how they are run - particularly when it comes to repairs. Eileen is 33 years old.

**JIM WARNER** has been a hard-working councillor for the past three years. He has had pavements mended, rails put in old people's bathrooms, tenants rehoused from slum conditions, fire-proof doors put on New Town rubbish sheds. He has principles and sticks to them - he voted against rent increases imposed by the Tory Government on council tenants and so risked paying heavy surcharges. Jim works as a fitter in a London hospital and, at 54, he is a long-standing trade unionist. He and his wife, Mary, live in Rozel Court, on the New Town estate.

**STUART WEIR** gave up a career in journalism to work for ordinary people's rights as Director of the Citizens' Rights Office. He has, for example, pioneered the use of nuisance orders by private and council tenants to enforce repairs in their homes. He was founding chairman of the De Beauvoir Association, acted as adviser to the leaseholders' group, and took part in the recent campaign to get a fairer deal for tenants in privately-rented homes in De Beauvoir. He also helped set up the New Town Tenants' Association and is writing a guide to the legal rights of tenants. Stuart is 35 years old.



## EILEEN COX

What are your views on tenant participation and what action would you take to prevent private tenant 'winkling'?

Council tenants should have a say in the way estates are run and it is very important that in the near future we should have tenants co-opted onto the housing committee so they can have their say. When that happens the council officers will have to sit up and take notice.

Now winkling. Any landlord who does these dreadful things to people should be fined so heavily - at

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**MARGA GERVIS** was born in Rumania and has lived in France and Canada where she took part in local community affairs. She recently completed a degree which includes studies of local government, and is particularly interested in the problems of integration for the various immigrant groups. At present Marga teaches part-time in the De Beauvoir Infants School. She is married to an architect and has two daughters who are at school and college in the borough.



**DAVID HENCKE**, aged 26, is a journalist employed on The Times Higher Education Supplement who lives in Ardleigh Road. He was born in London and educated at a South London comprehensive school. He spent nearly six years in journalism working his way up from a small evening newspaper to The Times. A graduate of history and politics at Warwick University, he has always taken an active part in issues in the local communities where he has lived. Since moving to Hackney he has played an active role in De Beauvoir and taken up tenants cases in the area. He is also chairman of the Hackney South Liberal Association. Interests include housing and education.

**ALAN RAYNER** is 27, single and has lived at 7 Upton Road for 2½ years having moved from Stoke Newington. His father spent his boyhood in Dalston. As a management services officer in London local government, Alan has had wide experience of working in several London boroughs - including Hackney. In 1972, after the G.I.A. enquiry, Alan was elected onto the De Beauvoir residents' advisory committee to work with council officers on improving housing conditions in the area. As well as regularly attending council committee meetings, he has been a member of Hackney Passenger Transport Action committee, the Campaign for a Better Environment and the Regent's Canal Group.

## ALAN RAYNER

What are your views on tenant participation, and what action would you take to prevent private tenant 'winkling'?

The Liberal Party has got very strong views on tenant participation. The present Labour council are experimenting with tenant district liaison committees, but we would go further than that. Eventually we would like to see tenant management of

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**THIS MONDAY  
QUIZ ALL 9  
CANDIDATES!  
ON THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN YOU!  
ST. PETER'S CRYPT: NORTHCHURCH TERRACE, N1.  
22 ND 8.00PM**

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# More from STALLARD . . . and COX . . . and RAYNER

shifted rather than solved. The answer is a very close look at parking facilities and the type of industry here, and providing the right amenities.

What are your views on opening Regent's Canal to the public? Would you consider compulsorily acquiring land around Kingsland Basin and encouraging youth activities on the canal?

I really would like the canal to be opened to the public. I love boats, and to know that boys are being trained in the art of sailing and swimming I think is so important. Girls as well.

On the question of compulsory acquisition. I would say subject to knowing who it's going to affect and that the settlement made is equitable, then why not. If it would be good for the community, yes.

What is your policy towards housing associations? For instance, when the council cannot afford to improve a property, should it be sold to a housing association?

My view on whether the council should sell property they cannot afford to improve to a housing association depends to a large extent on what the association would do to the house that the council couldn't do. Private ownership is a good thing as long as the company that own the property realise their obligations as well as the motivation of profit. They must accept the responsibility that goes with it.

What other issue affecting De Beauvoir do you feel needs most urgent attention?

De Beauvoir is a lovely area, but it contains some beautiful houses that are now squalid and some parts are a slum. If you look at some of the houses that have been improved in Islington, you will see that they have been turned into something rather nice. We must try and provide better homes for everyone.

least £10,000 - that he would never try it on again. The local authority can prevent these things happening if the tenants are encouraged to contact the housing committee.

Would you press for action against industrial nuisance?

We have got Picons nearby with gravel lorries coming up and down all day. In Fermain Court East families pay high rents, and in St. Martin's Court you have got people who have had strokes and so on, and they live opposite that filthy rotten factory making cement, with dust blowing up and gravel lorries encircling the estate. So something must be done.

The council said they couldn't afford to buy them out, so my answer to this is: give every tenant in both Courts the option of living there rent free or moving, and use the flats for emergency accommodation.

What are your views on opening Regent's Canal to the public? Would you consider compulsorily acquiring land around Kingsland Basin and encouraging youth activities on the canal?

I used to live in Paddington and delivered papers along Little Venice. I saw it as a scrap heap and as it is today. It's lovely now. None of us ever fell in the canal there. I would go for using the Basin all the way. It would liven up the area and give pleasure to people. And on compulsorily acquiring land, I would say definitely yes, anything that's available.

Would you be prepared to back up voluntary efforts to provide community centres and play areas, as in Downham Road and Ufton Road?

We are already backing the Ufton Road playsite. Let's face it, the more organisations that get activities going in this area, the better, no matter what their politics are.

What is your policy towards housing associations? For instance, when the council cannot afford to improve a property, should it be sold to a housing association?

If the council can't afford to improve a property, I think they should sell it to a housing association providing the association is going to put back the people from this area into the houses they improve. I object if they make the rents too high for ordinary people - the people who have lived here all their lives. If they draw in people from better off areas who can afford to pay, they are in fact winking out the ordinary people of De Beauvoir.

What other issue affecting De Beauvoir do you feel needs most urgent attention?

I think De Beauvoir needs cleaning up. I have only lived in this area for four years, but in the past it was supposed to have been very pretty. It's got very run down and it needs sprucing up. When new homes are built they should be small compact flats - no more high rise flats. De Beauvoir needs looking after.

estates in Hackney. These would be allied with our proposals for neighbourhood councils, and both tenant estate management and neighbourhood councils would be directly elected bodies.

On the question of winking, we would support the line of refusing improvement grants except where a property was to be converted for an owner-occupier or unfurnished tenants. We would support the appointment of harassment officers to assist tenants in difficulty, and in extreme cases we would press for a compulsory purchase order.

Would you press for action against industrial nuisance?

We would press for the borough solicitor's department to take a more progressive attitude towards using the existing legal powers to combat industrial nuisance, and we would wish to improve the procedures for highways inspectors investigating street offences. We would investigate offenders such as Picons, and would take action to prevent the use of the highway as an extension for industries such as Steeles and car sales firms.

What are your views on opening Regent's Canal to the public? Would you consider compulsorily acquiring land around Kingsland Basin and encouraging youth activities on the canal?

I am greatly in favour of opening up the canal to the public as part of a traffic-free pedestrian route from the Angel area to Victoria Park and the Lee Valley. We would also wish to encourage waterborne activities on the canal.

We would support the establishment of youth facilities on the Kingsland Basin and would seek to promote community involvement in an ILEA project to get the thing going, possibly by mooring a barge near the entrance to the Basin, adjacent to the council depot. If it proves possible to buy out Picons, this would be an obvious canalside site to

What is your policy towards housing associations? For instance, when the council cannot afford to improve a property, should it be sold to a housing association?

The Liberal Party policy is very much in favour of assisting housing associations because they are able to provide improved accommodation at lower cost than the local authority. The important thing in De Beauvoir is not to leave houses empty, but to see they are used - by the council or some other body.

What other issue affecting De Beauvoir do you feel needs most urgent attention?

The major issue in the area is improvement of people's housing conditions and protection of their housing rights. We welcome the opportunity which De Beauvoir people have had to participate in some of the planning of the area through the residents' GIA committee and the Planning Advisory Committee. We would seek to investigate the possibility of a neighbourhood council covering the whole of De Beauvoir old and new towns to ensure that the views of the electorate can be heard on a regular basis.

VOTE LABOUR

Cox  
Warner  
Weir for you

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Children played in safety behind this road block of banners when members of De Beauvoir Association Committee organised a demo in Tottenham Road to show their concern at the needless demolition of housing and the determination of ILEA to ignore the benefits of expanding north over Tottenham Road onto derelict land. The land, owned by Whitbread's, which has been derelict for years, was miraculously rolled and smartly asphalted within three days of the demo. An attempt to steamroller the opposition?

## LETTERS: on road-naming

Name a local road. Why not call them after Scots clans. McLaughlin, McDougal, McTavish, etc. No-one could be upset then or feel slighted, which I am sure would happen if you start to pick names of former residents. Also I feel Avenue is always a pleasant address.

MRS KENNERLEY, 47 Rozel Court

"Worley Walk". Doesn't that sound nice? Well, who was Worley? He was a doctor living at the corner of De Beauvoir Road, with his surgery in Downham Road, which Dr Clipstein took over after the death of Dr. Worley. Most of us elderly people knew Dr Worley well for many years. You see, we knew him in our own homes. Also, he brought quite a number of now middle-aged folk of this part of Hackney into the world. As a young doctor he was quite a picturesque figure, riding round to do his visits in an open

carriage driven by a flunkey, and he himself wearing a black silk top hat, and bowing graciously to any folk he knew walking on the pavement. He was full of fun, and when he was sixty years of age and paying a visit to my sick mother, he would come up the stairs four at a time, to prove that he didn't feel sixty. It would please me, at the age of 83 years, to walk down "Worley Walk" with the aid of my stick.

MISS N K JOHNSON, 52 Northchurch Rd.

May I suggest that you call De Beauvoir Road closures 'Gardners Corner' so that if we lose Gardners Hay warehouse it will remind us old Londoners of a little bit of old London, as they have been here for a life-time and they came from Gardners Corner in Aldgate which was then the old Hay Market, and it will be taking a name known by millions of people all over the world.

MR D LEAKY, 117 Tottenham Rd

REFORM HACKNEY COUNCIL

<b>GERVIS</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>HENCKE</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>RAYNER</b>	<b>X</b>

FOR DE BEAUVOIR WARD  
THURSDAY 2ND MAY

All three parties were given the opportunity to place an advertisement in this issue.

THANKS, DOFFY

Doffy Weir, the founding editor of De Beaver, has resigned to concentrate on a series of children's books she is illustrating. All those who have been involved in producing the paper would like her to know she has given the community a newspaper to be proud of. The new editor is Lesley Nelson and her address is below.

**De Beaver** 136 SOUTHGATE 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 May 20th for the next issue). Thanks to everyone who has helped get out this issue and deliver it round the area.