

DE BEAUVOIR MARKETPLACE

The first ever De Beauvoir Marketplace, allowing local businesses to showcase their offerings, was held in June. The De Beauvoir Association took over the main room of the newly refurbished St Peter's crypt on the afternoon of Sunday 12 June. More than 20 businesses took part, with others supplying promotional literature for visitors to take away.

The occasion was the brainchild of book editor Hilary Mandleberg who lives in De Beauvoir Square and who saw a demand from people who increasingly want to 'keep it local'.

Exhibitors ranged from alternative therapists, with acupuncture and homeopathy, to garden designers, architects and people selling home-made greetings cards, knitwear and jewellery.

We also had soft furnishings, sculpture, massage, plumbing and even the Rosemary Branch theatre.

The opportunity to display cards and leaflets for a nominal cost was taken up by a dozen or so other local retailers and businesses.

Despite – or perhaps thanks to – competition from De Beauvoir gardens that were open to the public on the same afternoon, about 100 people came to visit the Marketplace.

All in all, it was judged a success by the exhibitors and we hope to make the Marketplace a regular feature of De Beauvoir life.

Don't forget we have a directory of businesses in or near De Beauvoir on our website at www.debeauvoir.org.uk/trades and we are working on making a separate site to promote the truly local craftspeople. Watch this space and let us know if you want to be included in the directory. It's free.

Paul Bolding

DBA

De Beauvoir
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter / July 2011

JOIN THE PARTY ON 9 JULY

OUR SEVENTH annual Party in the Park takes place on 9 July. As usual it provides lots of fun for all the family, with children's attractions, which are all free of charge. As in past years, we will have a bouncy castle, face painters (there will be three this year – please take a queue ticket) and a stall giving a free book and toy to each child (while stocks last). Chris Nicholson the magician will provide further entertainment. Cakes – generously baked and donated by local people – will be on sale, as will modestly priced Pimm's for the adults, tea, juice and lemonade. Water is free.

There will also be a football kickabout and a yoga demo with a 'join-in' session for children and adults.

The tombola and raffle help raise money to pay for it all. The raffle gives you the chance to win one of the many great prizes donated by local businesses (we thank them for their generosity), including restaurant meals.

Hopefully there will be a fire engine from Kingsland Fire Station and children will be able to get up close; St John Ambulance will demonstrate first aid and police officers and CSOs from the De Beauvoir Safer Neighbourhood Team will be on hand to get to know everyone.

Musicians from the fabulous Royal College of Music Majestic Brass band, who played for us two years ago, will be back with all your favourite brass band tunes.

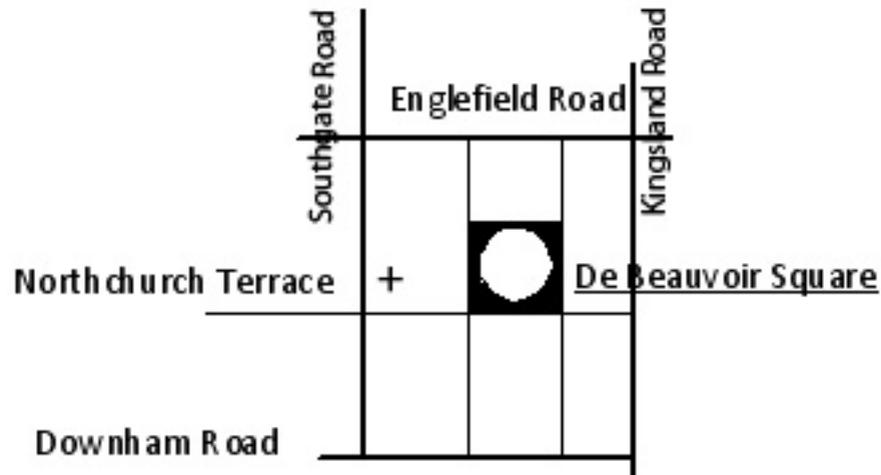
The party has taken months of organisation by a team of local people and we have been generously supported again this year by the Benyon Estate. We are also grateful to sound engineering company Orbital Sound for the loan of the PA system.

This is a chance for everyone in De Beauvoir

to enjoy an afternoon of fun and get to know each other. Tell all your neighbours.

Please ring 7249 5966 or email info@debeauvoir.org.uk if you can donate used children's books and toys. We are also interested in second-hand DVDs but we have enough adults' books. Tombola prizes also needed. Thank you. DBA

HOW TO FIND THE DBA PARTY IN THE PARK ON 9 JULY



JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST We send emails about De Beauvoir news and events once or twice a week to more than 300 local addresses. They are brief and in plain text only. If you are not on the list, you could be missing out on something important.

DO check out our website too on www.debeauvoir.org.uk

Produced by the De Beauvoir Association
info@debeauvoir.org.uk

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Party
in the
Park
2011

Saturday 9 July, 2-5 pm
De Beauvoir Square
Admission free

Face painting, bouncy castle,
books and toys for children,
magician, craft activities, games.
Fun for adults too.
Music, refreshments.
All children's activities free.

www.debeauvoir.org.uk

AROUND THE TOWN

THE ROSEMARY BRANCH

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

THE CLOCKMASTER Enchanting modern fable performed with live music, animation, drama and puppetry. Recommended for ages 5–105. 17 June 4.30pm, 18 and 19 June 5.00pm £9/£5 under 14s.

MANU DELAGO and special guests. Mesmerising music from the world's foremost player of the Hang. Three million hits on YouTube, 20 June £10 to DBA newsletter readers on presentation of a copy.

DEMENTIA DIARIES Touching, funny, sad and thought-provoking. 12–14 July £12/£10

FIFTEEN Fifteen 15-year-olds from Islington Community Theatre devise plays on the theme of 'Fifteen' to celebrate The Rosemary Branch theatre's 15th birthday. 20–23 July £5.

THE RAGGED TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS Neil Gore and Fine Time Fontayne on UK tour in the Edwardian class drama. 30–31 July £12/£11

DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS

www.debeauvoirden.org.uk

The club meets in the crypt of St. Peter's on the first Tuesday of the month at 8pm.
Annual subscriptions: Single £20; Couple £30; Concessions £15 and £20

Tuesday 2 August: ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC
Venue to be advised.

Sunday 11 September: FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

119 Balls Pond Road, N1 4BL
Tel: 7275 7640
www.thedukeofwellingtonN1.com
email: info@the dukeofwellingtonN1.com
CINEMA CLUB (1st and 3rd Sundays every month; films start at 8pm, free entry)

19 June: Rear Window (1954)
112 mins
Alfred Hitchcock displays his technical know-how and masterful control of the cinematic elements in what is one of his finest films. Starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly.

10 July: Enter The Void (2009)
161 mins
Noe drags us into a hallucinatory, boundless, frenetic world through the eyes of a dead man.

CHURCH CRYPT REOPENS

St Peter's Crypt opened again for business on 3 May, on completion of the first phase of building works, and just in time for a wedding party and to be used as a polling station for the AV referendum! The space now looks very good, with hall and meeting room renovated by decoration and new lighting, provision of a new tea point, and an accessible loo and shower. Access to the building is now step-free. An efficient new heating system and installation of beautiful new windows in the hall completed the job.

A new Lettings Brochure, with application form and revised terms and conditions is available online at www.stpeterdebeauvoir.org. Enquiries about using the space are welcome. The official policy is:

'We offer our premises as a place of hospitality for the community. We especially welcome bookings from users whose activities aim to nurture wellbeing and/or spirituality, encourage expression and creativity through the arts, or meet the needs of people who are vulnerable or find themselves on the margins of society.'

Current users include an acupuncture clinic, yoga and pilates classes, various faith groups (on Sundays), and De Beauvoir Gardeners. Peter's Café provides reasonably priced food and companionship on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 noon. The Winter Night Shelter were the very first people to benefit from the new facilities in January. All this has been paid for thanks to generous support from both our several funders and the local community. A target of £50,000 (10% of the total project cost) was set one year ago, and the St Peter Barometer shows £38,000 already.

Plans are in hand to move on to Phase II as soon as the funding has been secured. This will mean provision of a flexible community kitchen, new loos and several multi-purpose smaller meeting rooms. In addition, it is hoped the terrace south of the crypt – now underused and rather dismal – will be turned into a safe and peaceful space, accessible through a new doorway from the café/foyer.

Gillian Borrie

DBA

saying: 'I'm not so sure about having just four pieces [per artist] though.' Gillian Borrie, who worked with Amanda Davies on the event, says Vicar Julia Porter-Pryce is already looking at ways to engage more people with art events both in the church and downstairs in the crypt.

'It's a community where there is a lot of talent and interest,' said Gillian. 'We can do all sorts of things here.'

Barbara Walshe

DBA

Southgate Studios on 2 Southgate Road is holding an open studio during the weekend of 9/10 July. Call 7254 6485 for more details.



Rob Pryce and artist Sophie Dickens

DANIEL GERRANS MOVES ON

Rev Daniel Gerrans, who was part of the clergy team at St Peter's until June, first came to De Beauvoir more than 20 years ago. He and his wife Katherine were considering buying a house in the area when they visited St Peter's Church. For many years Daniel, now 53, worked as a barrister in private practice. In 2002, he began the process of studying that would take him back to St Peter's in 2005 where, after being ordained, he served as a curate until 2009, when he became an Assistant Priest at the church.

Daniel says: 'One of my early memories is my first Sunday here, the day after I was ordained. As I lined up in my brand-new robes with the rest of the altar party at the back of church, I was rather taken aback when out of the blue one young server asked me "Are you scared?" That moment marked my initiation to the unique blend of qualities that helps make St Peter's what it is: down-to-earth frankness; sometimes uncanny perceptiveness; and a strong sense of fun, in some cases seasoned with a dose of good-natured cheek. Long may it continue.'

Daniel was a non-stipendiary minister, meaning he wasn't paid for his church work. He continued working as a barrister until 2007, when he was appointed Personal Assistant and Chaplain to the Bishop of Stepney. Despite only having limited time to dedicate to St Peter's, he got involved in many areas of church life, including working with

young people, taking funerals, baptisms and weddings, supporting the night shelter and even helping negotiate the terms of contract with the London Catholic Workers, who run the community café in the crypt.

'Of course there have been lows, but there have been more than enough highs to make up for them,' Daniel says. Most of all, he was 'impressed by the community spirit at St Peter's to do good. There was a very good level of consultation and participation

into the wider community, such as non-churchgoers getting involved with major improvements to the crypt and church gardens and associated fundraising.'

Daniel has recently left St Peter's to take up the post of Vicar at St Michael and All Angels, London Fields, where he will begin in July. As to the future for St Peter's, there are no plans at present to replace Daniel. The church is lucky to have a full-time vicar, Rev Julia Porter-Pryce, and a full-time curate, Rev Fraser Dyer, whose contract runs until the end of June 2012. 'Decreasingly, churches have a single full-time paid vicar who is always available: there is a much more varied pattern of ministry.' We

can be sure Daniel's experience of St Peter's and De Beauvoir will stand him in good stead as he settles into his new parish in London Fields.

Liz Nightingale

DBA



THE ART OF DE BEAUVOIR

It took Kate Green just 20 minutes to spend her money.

After two and a half years 'hoarding' every £2 coin she's had, she knew immediately that the resulting £430 of savings would go on a Belle Robinson painting.

Kate was one of hundreds of locals to attend the Artists in De Beauvoir exhibition at St Peter's Church in early June – and to purchase a piece by a local artist.

Organised by Amanda Davies and the Parochial Church Council to raise funds for the crypt



Kate Green

restoration project, the exhibition involved 25 local artists displaying up to four works each, with a percentage of sales going to the church.

Launched with a private view on the Thursday night, artists mingled and discussed their work with locals, who responded by buying in a big way. Purchases ranged from paintings by Southgate Studios artists Marco Puig and Sarah



Sarah Kogan

Kogan to popular 'bird' prints by illustrator Jason Ford, whose studio is based on De Beauvoir Road.

Other exhibitors included renowned local ceramicist Kate Malone, top photographer Ed Reeve, who has worked for Alexander McQueen, and art historian Sophie Dickens, who used the event to launch her roaming exhibition of sculpture.

Dickens, who lives a few doors down from the church and helped curate the exhibition, took just three months to sculpt the Four Evangelists, inspired by illuminations in the Book of Kells. These were placed in the chancel of St Peter's and are now being displayed at a number of other churches, including Southwark Cathedral

Over the weekend, the exhibition continued to see a steady stream of visitors and was hailed as a success for a variety of reasons. Local artist John Bird commented: 'A lot of artists in the area don't know one another and it's a way of getting to see each other's work. It brings people together.'

The venue was also hit. Artist Maria Pinschof, who has lived in the area since 1970, said: 'The church is a fantastic place for hanging things, especially with those high ceilings.'

And the integrity of the event was praised widely. 'The quality of the work is really high and it's been handled with a lot of sensitivity,' said Sarah Kogan. 'It means we're not just happy to contribute because it's a good cause, but because it's an interesting place to show our work.'

The event did also raise questions, though. For purchasers like Kate, it was where to hang their new pieces. 'I'm trying my painting all over the house and seeing where it works best,' she laughs. For others, it was whether more such events will take place in the future – and even become a regular thing.

Local artists certainly seemed to support this, with Maria Pinschof

TREE CHEERS FOR EDITH CAVELL

Enfield Road and the southern part of Hertford Road have been transformed in recent weeks by the planting of 20 trees along the pavement around the Edith Cavell school development. The trees are flowering cherries and ornamental pears.

The red-brick school building was turned into flats and a number of modern buildings associated with it were demolished to make way for homes in 2005. As part of the scheme, developers paid £359,900 in Section 106 funds – money paid to aid local projects and employment as part of major planning applications when permission is granted. Part of that was for tree planting.

Repeated requests by local residents over the years for the trees to be provided were met with excuses from the council until earlier this year when Mayor Jules Pipe admitted that the money had gone astray. He ordered it to be sorted out and procedures to be tightened up.

The money set aside for improvements to the streets around the development was £15,000. Some of the rest has been spent on a kindergarten in Hoxton, on the Gillett Square development and on fixing pavements nearby (also after pressure from residents). Improvements to Stonebridge Park will take £119,900.

Mayor Pipe told one resident: 'I have been advised by the Streetscene service that they have investigated

this matter and found that unfortunately their internal protocols in obtaining the funding needed to plant trees at the Edith Cavell School development site have broken down. In September 2007 officers were advised that there was £15,000 in section 106 money available to be spent at this location, and the feasibility of planting was assessed at that time. However, this money was not released and in October 2008, upon further investigation by officers, it came to light that the Council's "approval to spend" policy had not been followed... I have been advised that more recently, officers have attempted to secure funding by other routes to plant in this area, as they had found the section 106 money allocation procedure and guidance on the process to be unclear.

I do not believe that any of this information provides a satisfactory or acceptable explanation for why this matter has not been progressed over such a long period of time. The failure of officers to follow or even be aware of the correct procedures is completely unacceptable, and I share your disappointment at the extensive delays this has caused.

The Streetscene service have offered their apologies, and have assured me that action has been taken to prevent a recurrence of this failure of their service, including raising this as a management and training issue.'

Paul Bolding

DBA

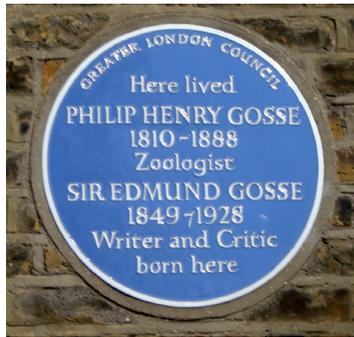


Trees arrive on 28 April

PHILIP GOSSE – ‘THE DAVID ATTENBOROUGH OF HIS DAY’ – IN DE BEAUVOIR

On 56 Mortimer Road, just south of De Beauvoir Square, a blue plaque commemorates Philip Henry Gosse, Zoologist (6 April 1810 – 23 August 1888).

Gosse, a contemporary of Darwin, was a self-educated scientist whose enthusiasm and hugely popular and accessible writing, illustration and public speaking made him the David Attenborough of his day. Between 1846 and 1852, he lived six extremely fertile years of his remarkable career in Trafalgar Terrace in Mortimer Road (then a ‘new build’), first with his mother and then with his wife and son.



Gosse was born in 1810 and grew up by the sea, in Poole. Two years after leaving school at the age of 15, he sailed for Newfoundland to work in a counting house, and throughout his travels there, and then while farming, teaching and researching in Quebec, Alabama and Jamaica over a period of twenty years, he set out on a systematic study of natural history. He wrote journals wherever he went which he filled with detailed illustrations. The first of his many books, *The Canadian Naturalist*, was published in 1840.

By then, having been persuaded to lodge near Mare Street by his friend and fellow naturalist George Loddiges (owner of Loddiges Nursery), he had already lived in Hackney for several years, between periods in Alabama and Jamaica. In 1840 he set up a small school close to Loddiges, where there the teaching had an unusual emphasis on geography, map-making, and drawing.

In 1843 he joined the Hackney Brethren, a small sect who subscribed to a ‘Utopian dream of a

Christian Socialism’ and who met in St Thomas’ Square close by, just off Mare Street. They believed that Christ’s return, the apocalypse and last judgement would happen in 1867, a belief not uncommon at that time. After the resurrection of the elect, this world would become, as it was in the days of Adam, a natural paradise (whose promise Gosse saw in the beauty of living butterflies, lizards, flowers, and marine life). On his return to London from a trip to Jamaica in 1848 he met and married a member of the Brethren, Emily Bowes. Emily moved into the house in Mortimer Road with Gosse and his mother Hannah. Gosse’s son Edmund was born within a year, and Hannah moved out because relations between mother-in-law and the couple had become delicate.

The period in Mortimer Road was one of the happiest in Gosse’s life. While living there he published an astonishing 11 books on mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, sacred streams, the history of the Jews, and on Assyria. In 1849 he acquired a new and more powerful microscope, and was enraptured by what he could now see. On the day his son was born, he recorded in some detail the laying of an egg by a microscopic creature called a rotifer, whose average length is 0.1–0.5mm. Happily, his son proved to be just as fascinating.

This period also coincided with his first visit to Ilfracombe in 1852, where he collected the materials for *A Naturalist’s Rambles on the Devonshire Coast*. The book sparked a craze for marine biology



Gosse’s ‘Fountain-Design’ Aquarium, from ‘The Aquarium: An unveiling of the wonders of the deep sea’ (1854) Zoological Society of London

across Great Britain and provided one of the first descriptions of how to build ‘the aquarium’ – a new means by which the ordinary householder could study natural history.



Gosse in 1855 (Oxford Dictionary of National Biography)

His sensual prose was an encouragement to people to explore the undiscovered Eden (the coast), which then – thanks to the advent of the railways – was within reach of those looking to escape the cities.

His further books expanded on the design of aquaria; Gosse in fact provided Darwin with a recipe for manufacturing artificial seawater, helped Darwin to set up his own aquarium, and assisted him in experiments to investigate the possibility of species crossing oceans.

In 1852, the family moved from De Beauvoir to Devon, where Gosse continued his work on marine life.

At this point, his career and professional standing were to take a dramatic

turn. Gosse, whose belief in the truth of the Bible was absolute, truly thought he had found a way to resolve the puzzle of the existence of fossils, which seemed to have no place in an earth freshly minted in six days, as recounted in the book of Genesis. In 1857, Gosse published *Omphalos: an Attempt to Untie the Geological Knot*. In it he argued that Adam must have been born with a navel, in the same way that God must have created trees ready-made with tree-rings that they hadn’t grown themselves. Thus the fossil record – even coprolites (fossilised dinosaur dung) – might be evidence of life that had never actually existed, but which was instantly formed by God at the moment of creation. It was a theory that, to his great shock, brought him into ridicule and ended his public career. The publication two years later of Charles Darwin’s *Origin of Species* provided the final refutation of Gosse’s argument.

Over subsequent years, however, Gosse continued to carry out well-respected research into the marine life of the seashore, in particular sea anemones. His illustrations were highly praised: in 1860 *The Literary Gazette* reported that Gosse now stood ‘alone and unrivalled in the extremely difficult art of drawing objects of zoology so as to satisfy the requirements of science.’

As a fine scientist, he cannot have failed to understand Darwin’s ideas, nor failed to see evidence for them, yet his faith was never shaken and he became the pastor and overseer of the Brethren meeting at Marychurch, near Torquay. Having been widowed, he remarried in Devon and died there. Remaining active to the end, his second wife recalled that Gosse’s final illness was triggered by his enthusiasm to adjust his telescope at an open window on a winter’s night.

If you would like to read more about Philip Gosse’s life, which provides another view on the period of scientific and religious ferment that was the context for Darwin’s work, I can highly recommend Ann Thwaite’s *Glimpses of the Wonderful* (Faber and Faber, 2002).

The plaque in Mortimer Road also commemorates Gosse’s son, Sir Edmund Gosse, who was born in De Beauvoir. Known principally in his lifetime as an artist, Edmund was also the author of *Father and Son*, a fascinating but excoriating account of his childhood and of his father’s later struggle with his fundamentalist faith. Edmund Gosse’s story continues in a future Newsletter.