

De Beauvoir Association presents Party in the Park 2016. Saturday 9 July, 2-5pm in De Beauvoir Square. Free entertainment for children and fun for adults too. Face painting, bouncy castle, books and toys for children, magician, craft activities, games, hula-hooping, cakes, tea and coffee, veggie savouries, BBQ, pimm's and juice and more.

Around the town

THE ROSEMARY BRANCH

2 Shepperton Road, N1 3DT
Until 19 June: Shook up
Shakespeare
21/22 June The Copla Musical
27/28 June Homo
rosemarybranch.co.uk
Tel: 020 7704 6665
24 – hour box office.

THE SCOLT HEAD

107A Culford Road
Pub Quiz: every Monday 8pm
30 June/28 July/29 Sep
Jazz with Peter Werth
Jazz Crew and guests

DE BEAUVOIR WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

St Peter's Crypt,
Northchurch Terrace
First Thursday each month 7.30
7 July Bread talk
4 August Picnic/Pimms in a pub
1 Sept Making soap
debeauvoirwi.com

ACOUSTIC SUNDAYS

Free music in the crypt of St
Peter's or outside if fine. Food.
3 July (TBC) 2pm onwards
soundadviceuk.com

ST PETER'S CRYPT

There is a wealth of classes,
courses and events including
yoga, pilates, a choir and more.
stpeterdebeauvoir.co.uk

DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS

St. Peter's Crypt, Northchurch
Terrace First Tuesday of each
month 8pm.
5 July Garden Walkabout
3 August Annual picnic
debeauvoirgardeners.org.uk

All change at the Rosie

2016 marks the 20 year anniversary of Cecilia Darker and Cleo Sylvestre as artistic directors of the Rosemary Branch Theatre, who (after two decades of extraordinary and committed stewardship) have now both decided to take a back seat in order to pursue New Adventures. Trying to fill their rather sparkly shoes will be interactive performance company Unattended Items, who take over as resident company from mid-June 2016.

Unattended Items is led by artistic directors Genevieve Taricco and Scarlett Plouviez Comnas, and you can see what else the transatlantic duo have been up to lately at www.unattended.london. The first Unattended Items season will kick off with the return to the Rosemary Branch of wonder kids Shook Up Shakespeare, with their new interactive show Midsummer Madness. They will give you Shakespeare souvenir party bags. They will give you live music. They will give you absolute power over their games and revels. Shakespeare as you have never experienced it before...!

The full theatre programme and advance tickets can still be found at www.rosemarybranch.co.uk



De Beauvoir Beat



Many people know Peter Werth as the man behind the drum kit with his Jazz Crew at monthly sessions in the Scolt Head. What they may not know is that he also had successful career as fashion entrepreneur that ended nearly a decade ago when he sold the business that bears his name.

Peter, 70, has lived in Ufton Road with wife Amanda Lovegrove since the early 1990s and loves De Beauvoir for its friendliness and the way it has developed; he mentions the De Beauvoir Deli. "It's as villagey as you can get in an urban setting," he said. He has local links, his grandfather having had a haulage business in New North Road.

As a teenager, Peter got a job at the Astor Club in Berkeley Square, rubbing shoulders with the Krays and the Richardsons. That led to a spell as a cabaret compere but he wasn't earning much and was lured to a job as a salesman at fashion shop Take Six, one of the icons of the Swinging Sixties in Carnaby Street. He progressed rapidly in the fashion business and with

a partner, decided to start his own men's knitwear company. It had a turnover of £16m when Peter sold it in 2007 just before the global financial crisis. "I smelt difficult times ahead," he said.

Peter was taken under the wing of one of the country's top drummers, Mark Fletcher, who continues as his mentor in jazz drumming. He stresses that he has been playing with jazz bands through all that time since the age of 18. "I only ever wanted to be in showbusiness."

Peter Werth is also a life member of the Magic Circle, having been inspired to learn the skill after working in his 20s with the celebrated magician Robert Harbin on a cruise liner. "I don't do it any more. Music has taken over," he says. Peter does other gigs when booked and his trio plays regularly at restaurants owned by top chef Tom Aikens. For the Scolt, he changes the lineup regularly to please the fans, many of whom are regulars. It is often standing room only and the pub has built a stage to accommodate the band.

And how does Peter sum up his life? "I have retired and become a professional drummer."

Paul Bolding

New housing law



The Housing and Planning Act 2016 is a major piece of government legislation that became law in May after seven months of controversy, debate and amendments in Parliament. It makes many important changes to the ways that homes in England and Wales will be planned, built, allocated and sold in the future, and several of these are likely to have a significant impact on the make-up of De Beauvoir.

The Act introduces a new levy to compel local authorities to sell off “higher value” council homes when they’re vacated. The government hasn’t yet defined “higher value” in cash terms and it may vary regionally, but the charity Shelter estimates that Hackney will have to sell 184 council properties every year. Recent sales of ex-council flats on the Lockner Estate, for instance, have exceeded average property prices for both Hackney and Islington, so it’s difficult to imagine the neighbourhood remaining unaffected.

Remaining council properties will have a more transient population, if criticism of the Act proves accurate. New tenancies will be fixed-term, and not lifetime. All tenants will be subject to a new condition known as “Pay to Stay”.

Lockner Estate (Photo: Paul Bolding)

In London, this means households paying 15p more rent each week for every £1 of taxable income over £40,000.

The Act has implications for other parts of De Beauvoir. The “Right to Buy” will now include all 1.2 million tenants of Housing Association properties in England, inviting them to buy the house they live in at discounts of up to £103,900 in London. Part of the revenue from selling “higher value” council homes will be used to pay for this discount.

Some of the De Beauvoir homes that are affected by this change illustrate the controversy surrounding the new Act. These properties will be eligible because they were bought in the early 1970s by The De Beauvoir Trust, the Housing Association run by Robin Young, then a young journalist for The Times living on Balls Pond Road. In a recent interview, Robin told me that the Trust was founded by local residents out of a feeling that “we ought to do something to ensure there’s some affordable housing available in the area”. By contrast, any property purchased under the new “Right to Buy” extension will be later resold at full market value.

Jonathan Hoskins

Southgate Road’s café culture

The areas café culture has been joined by Biscuitea at 192 Southgate Road, formerly Eggs, Milk, Butter and Cafe Olive. It’s owned by Candy Tang and Angie Loh, both of whom came to Britain to study.

Tang is from Malaysia, Loh from China, and they met a decade ago in Birmingham, where Tang’s family live and run a restaurant.

Tang and Loh knew the site was right. “It’s like buying a house – you get a feeling. We needed a kitchen rather than a café because our plan is to supply biscuits for corporate clients – and it’s a nice neighbourhood,” says Tang. She has now moved to Ball’s Pond Road with her husband and daughter so it’s only a few minutes walk to the bakery. “I get in at 6.45 in the morning to warm up the coffee machine, and start baking the croissants and other pastries.” The biscuits are made later in the day.

Coffee has been one of the challenges because she’s a tea person; she offers interesting teas in the café and the pair plan to create their own tea brand. At the outset in May, Tang thought coffee was, well, just coffee – but discovered that in London 2016 it’s not so simple. Fortunately, their supplier, Monmouth Coffee, has been happy to educate her and train baristas. Despite unexpected problems such as the breakdown of the coffee machine in week four, the café is making a mark. “We have a lot of regulars coming in for their morning



(L) Biscuitea, 192 Southgate Road (R) Angie Loh, Biscuitea co-founder. (Photos: Paul Bolding)



coffee. We make our own jam, and one man comes in every morning for his breakfast of sourdough, toast and jam.”

A graduate of Le Cordon Bleu school in London, Tang relishes healthy food, doesn’t use preservatives, is a specialist in gluten-free products and enjoys using ingredients better known in Asia such as goji berries and matcha, a fine powder made from a special green tea. She’s confident customers will get used to new ingredients and products, like the black cake: “Once they are brave enough to try it they love it.”

The plan? “We’ll give it six months and then assess our progress,” says Loh.

Daniel Nelson

New life for Kingsland Basin

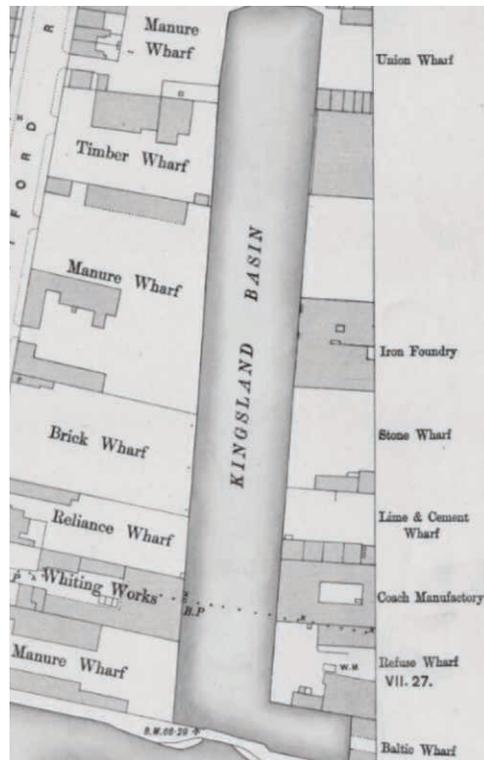
Kingsland Basin is an attractive stretch of water to the side of the Regent's Canal, surrounded by a mix of historic and contemporary buildings, with a canal boat community in the centre. It has been rescued from dereliction and obscurity in recent years, and in the past played a significant role in the development of the whole area.

Two hundred years ago the Regent's Canal from Paddington to Camden Town was just opening, while the section running to the south of De Beauvoir, connecting Camden to Limehouse, was still under construction. The project was conceived at the very beginning of the 19th century as a way of linking the London Docks to the Grand Union Canal at Paddington and hence carrying goods to and from other parts of the country.

The completed canal opened in 1820, and soon afterwards a series of wharves and basins appeared to aid loading, unloading, storage and distribution of goods. Coal, timber, building materials, food and ice were all common cargoes, towed along the canal on barges by horses walking the towpaths. Kingsland Basin was built during 1822-7 by the speculative builder William Rhodes, who leased the land from the De Beauvoir family, and planned the development of De Beauvoir Town. He granted 16 leases for wharves alongside the basin, most of which were initially used to import building materials for the new houses. The Kingsland Road basin frontage originally had high walls to guard against theft, an idea presumably borrowed from the newly built East End Docks.

An 1827 map shows the basin with a few buildings surrounding it, some houses on the eastern end of Downham Road and the outline of the planned De Beauvoir Square, but otherwise very little sign of the Victorian street layout to come. Instead, the Balmes House 'madhouse' is still present, as is a "Rhodes Farm" close by, the historic Rosemary Branch tavern and pond on Southgate Road and the White Lead Mills nearby. Otherwise, much of the land north of the canal is open fields.

Very quickly, the fields were built over with residential



houses, apart from around Kingsland Basin. Here, by the late 1840's there were wharves and factories handling coal, timber, bricks, tiles, stone, whiting (chalk to whiten doorsteps) and manure, plus an iron foundry. As well as supplying materials for the 19th century housing boom, the basin was heavily involved in the furniture trade centred on Shoreditch to the south. Timber was shipped into Limehouse from Scandinavia and then up the canal - a reference survives to this day on the Norway Wharf gateway on Hertford Road. This entrance was not built until 1901, but there are records of a timber wharf here from the beginning of the basin's life. Similarly, today's Travis Perkins builder's depot is on the site of much earlier timber wharves and storage sheds.

As the canals transported goods, and new suburban housing estates spread out, there was a growing need for horses to pull the canal boats, distribute supplies and indeed transport people. All these horses had to be fed and stabled, and the Quebec Wharf building on the

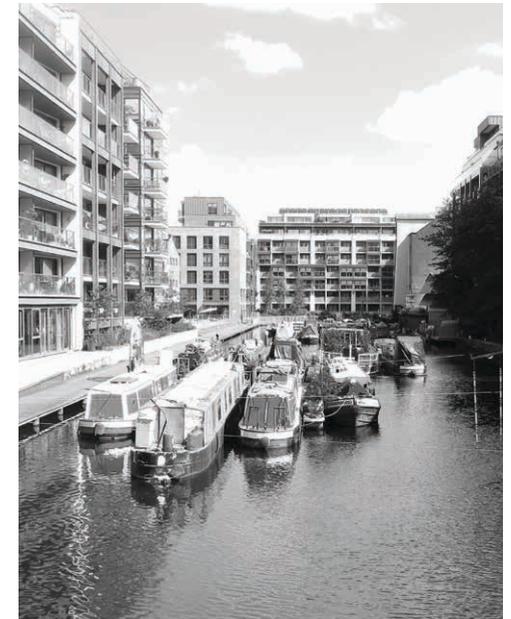
Kingsland Road side was erected in 1878 as a granary. This stored the grain to feed 1,200 horses that pulled the trams owned by the North Metropolitan Tramways Company. There was also a coach manufactory on the Kingsland Road side of the basin. After horse-drawn transport eventually faded away in the 20th century, Quebec Wharf was used as storage, latterly for spices, and is still sometimes referred to as the Spice Warehouse.

On the western side of the basin adjoining Hertford Road, stables appeared from the mid 19th century to house the horses. Of course, a by-product of these stables was manure, hence the manure wharves clearly visible on maps from the 1830's onwards. Barges brought in cargoes of coal, timber and grain, and then shipped out manure to be used as fertiliser. The recently restored stable buildings visible today date from 1895-1901 and were built by a Mr Henry Crane, mostly as stabling for horses that pulled dustcarts. A rare and special feature of these buildings is the cobbled horse ramp still visible behind 16 Hertford Road, which allowed horses to be walked up to the first floor of the stables and hence to stable more horses on site. Two interesting information panels give further details at the basin.



Although the canal network was used extensively throughout the 19th century, its use almost inevitably declined with the coming of the railways. The move away from horse drawn transport in the early 20th century

then affected wharves like Kingsland, as the trade in feed and manure faded away, and the last horse-drawn canal barges ceased operating in the 1950's. The south-eastern corner of De Beauvoir around the basin was zoned for industrial use in 1937 at the request of the estate, and whilst some timber trade continued, other buildings fell into disrepair. A cement works operated on the western side of the basin from the 1960's to 1990's.



(L) Kingsland Basin in the 1893 Ordnance Survey map. (M) The horse ramp at Kingsland Basin. (R) Kingsland Basin from the towpath bridge. (Photos: Paul Bolding)

CHUG (Canals in Hackney Users Group) is a local charity, set up in 1983, that runs the residential moorings occupying much of the water. CHUG cares for the basin, watches over wildlife and educates about the canal. In recent years, many of the remaining old buildings have been restored and new apartment buildings have been built, as has Hackney New School. A doctor's surgery, small businesses and restaurants have opened - a semi-derelict corner of De Beauvoir Town, with a rich industrial and social history, is lively and busy once again.

Lesley Thompson

Party in the Park appeal

The Party in the Park is on Saturday 9 July and is aimed at children and families. We hope you will come. As every year, we appeal for your help. It's run by a large team of dozens of volunteers.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK AND TOY GIVE-AWAY

As in previous years we will be giving a free book to every child who attends. We are looking for books for all ages and in good condition – from cloth or sturdy picture books for infants to thrillers & adventure books for young teenagers. We also need TOYS for babies and children up to the ages of 12 – cuddly or activity toys, adventure or craft sets, etc. **Please contact:** Samantha on 07852 522049 or email Samantha.Selmes@gmail.com. We can collect from you or you can deliver to us. Thank you!

BOOKS AND DVDS

The second-hand book and DVD stall is always enormously popular and raises money for the next Party in the Park. If you have any books or DVDs which you no longer need, or are looking to make some more shelf space, why not donate them to a great cause? We can collect or you can deliver them to us at any time before July 1st. **Please contact:** Richard Turnbull, 114 De Beauvoir Road, 020 7241 1582 rturnbull@rimbaud.demon.co.uk

ATTENTION BAKERS

We will sell cakes and savouries at the Party, and this year the baking will be organised by the wonderful new De Beauvoir Women's Institute. If you can supply a cake, traybake or a loaf or two, **please email:** debeauvoirwi@hotmail.com

THE TOMBOLA

We really only need SMALL items now. We like: ornaments and vases, costume jewellery, little novelties and toys, kitchen implements, small indoor plants, stationery, accessories, and those other unique things people couldn't quite find a place for! Donations should be new, or in "as new" condition. **Please email:** info@debeauvoir.org.uk if you can help.

COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS BY VOLUNTEERING ON THE DAY

You could be part of the setting up team (9am-1pm), or help behind one of the many stalls (2-5pm), or heroically stay on to work on the taking down and clearing up (5-7pm). Those who last the course to the end are invited to have drinks and snacks in the Square and compare notes on another busy and, we hope, very successful Party. **Please contact:** info@debeauvoir.org.uk

Crypt café finds a new life



Jane King (Photo: Paul Bolding)

A band of regulars along with a few newcomers enjoy meeting up every Friday lunchtime at the café in the crypt of St Peter's, so there was consternation when Judith Hale, who had been running it for several years, announced she was moving to Italy.

It was Jane King of Mortimer Road who stepped into the breach – not to operate the community café herself but to coordinate a band of local amateur and professional cooks who provide the catering on a rota. That system began after Easter and has proved a great hit with café goers, who love the variety of food on offer. "It seems to have gathered momentum," says Jane. Her agreement with the church is for 17 Friday sessions up to the end of July but she hopes the arrangement will continue after the summer break to Christmas and beyond.

"It gives people a lot of enjoyment and provides a free or reduced price meal for those who cannot afford it," says Jane. "It would be a shame if it stopped." The cooks include Emma Middleton, also of Mortimer Road, who used to work for Ottolenghi (three sessions) the local WI (two sessions) and the Mah Jong Supper Club offering Chinese dim sum. Some locals also do it in pairs to share the load.

"We have more or less stuck to the formula of starter, main course with vegetarian option and dessert and cakes," said Jane. "Within that it's extremely varied." Tables are nicely decorated with posies from the Flower Appreciation Society, local event florists in Southgate Road.

Everyone is welcome from 12-3 on Fridays aside from holiday breaks. If you know anyone who could benefit from the free meals, please let them know. Jane needs more cooks too. If you can help, please contact her on j.king318@btinternet.com or come along on a Friday. She is full of praise for Andrew Green, the hard-working washer upper and server who carried on the work he did with Judith. If you can help serve for the busiest two hours on a Friday, that would be welcome too.

Paul Bolding

After a plethora of consultations on transport matters during the last half of 2015, we have entered a quieter period.

The Crossrail 2 consultation ran from October 2015 and closed on 16 January 2016. This did not address the proposed routes (subject of an earlier consultation - the main route which would enter De Beauvoir from Shoreditch Park and run to Bentley Road car park, and a possible future eastern spur which would run east from Shoreditch Park), but rather the siting of ventilation/spoil shafts proposed for the area in and around Shoreditch Park and for the area from Bentley Road to Ridley Road, and also the siting of the Dalston Station itself.

A consultation analysis was published in mid-March. The Shoreditch question elicited more than 400 responses (as well as a petition from local residents), while the Dalston Junction question elicited 750 submissions. However, the analysis has failed to mention the potential closure of Bentley Road car park and use of the site for spoil removal. We are seeking clarification of this from TfL, but no further update has been announced to date. The consultation analysis itself can be found on the TfL consultations website (consultations.tfl.gov.uk).



Cycle Superhighway 1, from Tottenham to Liverpool Street, which was consulted on in early 2015, is now in operation. A supplementary consultation, Cycle Superhighway 1 Motor Traffic Reduction Scheme, closed on 16 November 2015. This joint proposal of TfL and Hackney would have contemplated the closure of several junctions in the De Beauvoir area to motor traffic, both to complement Cycle Superhighway 1 but for other possible traffic reduction purposes. This proposal aroused considerable tensions in the area, and high levels of feedback in the consultation. Although results of the consultation were promised for January 2016, neither results nor analysis have been published

and TfL was unable to provide any information at the time of writing about when any would be released. Two further consultations have been held outside of De Beauvoir, which could impact on transport in the area. A London Fields consultation came about as a result of residents' opposition to proposed closure to motor traffic of 13 junctions between London Fields and Kingsland Road without consultation. This was again a joint TfL/Hackney initiative. This consultation ran from 4 January to 27 March 2016, and elicited nearly 2000 responses. Results and analysis of the consultation were released last month. Interestingly, the responses of Haggerston Ward residents (who constituted a large majority of the respondents) were in the case of each of the 4 proposed options diametrically opposed to the responses of respondents from outside that area. No decisions have yet been taken by the council at the time of writing on which (if any) of the options consulted on will be trialled or implemented.

However the Hackney Citizen reported that council officers would propose option 4, the narrowing of Middleton Road, the least radical of four solutions proposed.

There was also a consultation regarding Highbury Corner, where it is proposed that the west side be closed and pedestrianised, turning the junction into a three-sided two way route. As part of the scheme, access to Canonbury Lane from Highbury Corner would be affected; and the 277 bus route would be shortened to remove the Highbury to Dalston portion, thus terminating at Dalston Junction. The consultation closed on 20 March; no date for publication of results has been announced.

There are two outstanding consultations, one a TfL Consultation on Quietway 2, a cycle "quietway" from Bloomsbury to Walthamstow (phase 1 ending at Mare Street). This would run on the current Northchurch Road-St. Peters Way cycle route. No discernible changes are proposed for the De Beauvoir portion. This consultation ends 21 March 2017. We will provide a more detailed update in a subsequent newsletter.

There is also a Hackney parking permit system survey, which is a short borough-wide online survey inviting comments about the present permit system and potential alternatives. This closes 31 January 2018 (consultation.hackney.gov.uk/parking-services/permit-survey).

Marc Hauer



The shopping strip that is Kingsland Road continues to change apace. The Vinvixen wine shop at number 450 seems to have closed up.

New along there is the bookshop Burley Fisher, which opened at the beginning of the year, against what we all thought was the trend of everyone buying online. It's focusing on small imprints like the Hoxton Press, whose latest volume is a fine hardback on some of east London's great restaurants and food suppliers. Burley Fisher is having regular special talks and has included De Beauvoir-based author Laura Wilson and sculptor Sophie Dickens among its guests.

We notice that Wine Cellar, the rather old fashioned looking off licence at number 536 has a remarkably wide selection of London craft beers including a number of Hackney brews.

A planning application for carpet shop Surplus City at 568 – very favourably viewed by at least one De Beauvoir user – suggest it is giving up much of the ground floor space to become a Honda showroom for Motoden followings its closure at the bottom of Kingsland Road recently.

De Beauvoir featured in The Irish Times in May in a column called Live Like a Local. It suggested several venues in and around the area including the Geffrey Museum and the Arcola Theatre as well as the De Beauvoir Deli for coffee. Also for Sunday it also suggested going to "Anglican high mass with tea and biscuits afterward" at somewhere it called "St Paul de Beauvoir Church". Perhaps the author is not so local. The venue at 321 Kingsland Road that had a short life as the De Beauvoir Tavern has been rechristened MAP Maison, focusing on cocktails, but it only got three stars from a Time Out reader.

On the shopping precinct in the De Beauvoir Estate, art picture framers Frame London has opened at 59 Downham Road. And outside our area, well respected wine merchant Borough Wines has opened in the tiny premises with a varied past at the corner of Essex Road and Englefield Road.

Reactions to the planning application by owners of the old vicarage for a two-storey underground swimming pool and car display room made the Hackney Gazette, which quoted planning expert Nick Perry as comparing it to the Batcave. The application was withdrawn in May but it is unclear whether it will be re-submitted.

Paul Bolding

The De Beauvoir Prom

The DBA is planning an evening of music in St. Peter's church on October 16th at 5.00pm and we would love you to be part of it. Following on from Charles Court Opera's concert last year in memory of local resident David Kingsley, this year we are opening it up to include residents of De Beauvoir along with some professional musicians.

If you play a solo instrument, or sing, or are part of a small group or ensemble we would love to hear from you. We are aiming for an exciting mix of musical styles and genres, together with a level of competence that should give the audience more pleasure than pain!

If you or someone you know would like to perform, please get in touch with Cec Darker.

cecilia@rosemarybranch.co.uk

FRAME

L O N D O N

**WE MAKE BESPOKE CONSERVATION FRAMING
TO PRESENT AND PRESERVE YOUR ARTWORK
FOR THE STUDIO, GALLERY, MUSEUM OR HOME.**

Come into our lovely shop for a consultation.

**De Beauvoir residents will receive 20% off their
first frame by quoting the code DEBEAUVOIR**

59 Downham Road, London N1 5AH

Open Wednesday- Saturday 11-6pm or by appointment:

020 3490 5155 framelondon1@gmail.com

framelondon.com

The Bite



Cafe / Bar / Restaurant

LUNCH OFFER

*Any Pizza / Pasta / Salad / Wrap**

Bring along this Newsletter for a FREE Soft Drink!

Between 12noon and 5pm everyday.

thebitedalston.co.uk

533 Kingsland Road, Dalston, London E8 4AR. Phone No: 020 7254 4770

*Any additional topping will be charged £1. One Free soft drink per Newsletter.

Whilst we offer a Deliveroo service, this offer is not applicable with Deliveroo orders. Offer expires 30 July 2016.

