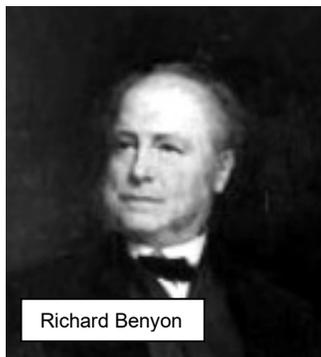


THE BENYON ESTATE is very pleased to be supporting this edition of the De Beauvoir Association Newsletter.

As you will see if you look at 'The History of De Beauvoir' on the DBA website (www.debeauvoir.org.uk), the Benyon family has been linked to De Beauvoir Town since the 1830s. From its beginnings around that time as one of the largest single areas to be earmarked for development, and ultimately assimilated into London, the area has seen many changes, though it still retains a strong community spirit and an atmosphere of comfortable unpretentiousness. Throughout the evolutions of fortune and fashion, residents have continued to cherish the neighbourhood, and a true neighbourhood in the heart of this busy city, thanks to its residents, it continues to be. As far as the vagaries of fortune and fashion go: many of you who live in De Beauvoir Town as tenants will know Carol Scott who has now worked on the Estate for 30 years. Carol can remember annual rents for the houses being less than they now achieve for a week.

Our present tenants are from many different walks of life. Recently our houses have been very popular with young sharers but we continue to provide homes for families and other long-term occupants who want to put down roots in the community. Our longest serving tenant on the Estate has lived in the same house for 76 years.



Richard Benyon

I am pleased to say that the extensive refurbishment programme is continuing at a pace. Before Christmas we completed four refurbishments: in Mortimer Road, Culford Road and Hertford Road. The six properties in Hertford Road that I reported on in the last newsletter will be finished in the first week in February along with two in Southgate Road, one in Ufton Grove and another in Mortimer Road. Good news, that I am sure will please many people, is that the refurbishment of the two properties on the corner of Englefield Road and Hertford Road, which have been derelict and held up by scaffolding for too many years, is due to start this month. I am also pleased to announce that we are starting refurbishments this month on houses in Northchurch Road, Culford Road and Downham Road.

I have enjoyed the calls that I have received since the last newsletter. As ever, should there be anything you would like to ask, inform us about or know about the Estate I can be contacted on 07976 696743. **Edward Benyon**

THE NEWSLETTER. So far the DBA has managed to produce the Newsletter thanks to sponsorship from local organizations: Wing Sing Restaurant, Lusardi Motors, North One Garden Centre, Scooterden and The Benyon Estate. DO YOU LIKE IT? Do We cover the issues that affect you? The 20 mph zone and lorry subjects raised a considerable number of e-mails on the DBA website (www.debeauvoir.org.uk) so let us know what else you would like included. BE NASTY. BE CRITICAL. BE NICE. BE SOMETHING! **BE A DE BEAUVOIR RESIDENT WITH A VOICE!**

DBA PUBLIC MEETING 26TH FEBRUARY

7.30 p.m. at the Rose Lipman Community Hall off Downham Road

This is your chance to meet your Councillors, so come along armed with your questions about what their job consists of, what they've achieved for De Beauvoir since taking office last May and how they can help our community in the future.

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

De Beauvoir
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2007 – No. 7
Sponsored by the Benyon Estate

We hope that you will find that the No. 7 issue of the DBA Newsletter is informative and of interest once again. The area we cover is approximately within Southgate, Downham, Kingsland and Balls Pond Roads with the inclusion of the De Beauvoir Estate and precinct on the west bordering Whitmore Road and the Regents Canal.

Many of you who use the **Corner Shop** on Tottenham Road will have been very shocked to hear that the owner, Mr. Halil, was stabbed in the shop in early December. We hope he is getting over this horrible incident and we send him our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

TWO FORMIDABLE DE BEAUVOIR LADIES

Two formidable ladies living in De Beauvoir give a great deal of their time to helping local people. Alphabetically they are **June Eaton** and **Lynda Sparks**.

June with her friendly dog, moved to the **De Beauvoir Estate** in 1973 and has been Secretary of the **Tenants & Residents Association** for at least the last 20 years (beaten into second place by the Chairman by another 10 years – the TRA was, in fact, started 35 years ago). If you phone to book the Rose Lipman Hall June will note the date in her Red Book. But that's not all she and the TRA have achieved for the Estate. A programme for the removal of the Garchy sinks from the flats has started and paladins have replaced the open skips – just two successes. In addition she maintains a close liaison with Hackney Council. The Estate has 850 flats and houses and any tenant is welcome to come to the TRA with housing problems. Their office is open **Monday to Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30pm (tel. 020 7249 4896)** with the entrance on the Whitmore Road side of Rose Lipman.

Lynda has lived on the Lockner Estate since 1972 and soon became a committee member of the Lockner & Kingsgate Tenants Association, as it was then. Now, since some of the flats have been sold, it is called the **Lockner & Kingsgate Tenants & Residents Association**. Lynda is also Deputy Chair of the Estate Committee, which works with Hackney Council on various estate matters. She can be found at **23 Blandford Court between 1.30 and 3.00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month** to assist with residents' and tenants' problems. Thanks to Lynda and the TRA the football pitch has finally been completed for the use of under-16 residents and their friends but only between 8.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. as it is close to people's bedrooms! She also asks that residents do not leave bulky items of rubbish near the bins without asking **Hackney Environmental Services** to make a special collection. In fact, special collections are available to all of us in De Beauvoir: Hackney will take 5 large items away FREE 4 times a year, Monday to Friday between 7.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. This includes furniture, appliances and garden waste for those who don't have a brown wheelie bin. **Ring 020 8356 6688 to arrange a day for collection.**

Incidentally, Lynda folds all the DBA newsletters, which is more than 3000 for each issue – and makes light of the task!

UPDATE ON LORRY BAN AND 20 mph ZONE – Susan Lacy

- After a favourable response to the consultations, the Council is planning to introduce both a 7.5 tonne lorry limit and a 20mph speed limit in De Beauvoir by the end of March 2007.
- As yet no agreement on how the ban/restrictions will be enforced. At the time of writing, this rests with the police and relies on the Council advising the police of problem roads and the police doing random checks!!! The transfer of responsibility to the Council and erection of CCTV cameras to help enforcement is still under discussion with TfL and the police.

SPRING INTO JAZZ

at
ST. PETER'S CHURCH
De Beauvoir Road

with the

Peter Werth Jazz Quintet

Wednesday, 25th April
at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets from
The De Beauvoir Association
07962 422149 or 020 7275 0260
email: info@debeauvoir.org.uk

Tickets £5
Concessions and up to 2 children free

Refreshments available before and after the concert in aid of
The De Beauvoir Association

Summer Party in the Park

UNEXPECTED FUNDS FOR THE DBA

The film **Penelope** (to be released in 2007) is a modern-day offbeat fable about a young woman, pig faced apparently according to the internet, who, having spent her life trapped by a family curse (were they all pig faced?), sets out to find love and discover her true self. In pursuit of this she spent time filming in **Mortimer Road** and as a result £1,000 found its way into the coffers of the DBA! £500 has since been donated to St. Peter's Church and has been used to improve the kitchen and lounge area in the crypt – with the help of local stalwarts. The downside to this is that the fees for the use of the church's rooms has gone up a bit.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Paul Bolding will be pleased to include photographs of De Beauvoir on the DBA website if you would like to mail him some – info@debeauvoir.org.uk. With the changes that are happening all the time, even in our conservation area, it might make an interesting archive in years to come.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCILLORS: ROB CHAPMAN, GULAY ICOZ AND CHRISTOPHER MCSHANE

The election in May now seems a very long time ago. Since then we've attended scores of surgeries, estate committees, neighbourhood committees, policing and school visits. With so many pressures on time we tend to share out meetings and engagements. Our aim has been to be as widely involved in the local community as we can. Aside from formal surgeries and committees, we've made great efforts to reach out to members of the community who haven't previously had contact with their councillors, developing a programme of walkabout surgeries to actively seek out residents and hear about their concerns. We even hold walkabout surgeries with the local police team. The result has been to reach a much greater number of residents.

All three of us also have a number of commitments at the Town Hall. Each of us sits on different Scrutiny Committees and sub-committees. This work is vital in monitoring the what the council does and helping to improve the services provided to residents throughout the borough.

Being part of the Labour team headed up by Hackney's Mayor, Jules Pipe, also means we're involved in a lot more policy consultation than councillors of other parties. This means attending yet more meetings, but ensures De Beauvoir has a voice at meetings where the decisions are taken.

In the short time since we were elected we've also seen some pretty big changes in the area. As we promised during the election, we've successfully pushed for a lorry ban on the Nuttall Street rat run. Indeed, we've been able to go further with consultation taking place on a wider lorry ban and a 20mph limit for traffic across the ward. We hope these moves will make De Beauvoir a safer and quieter place for children and elderly residents.

While crime figures have come down significantly, the ward still faces challenges in dealing with anti-social behaviour. We're glad to see Dan Wakefield's Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team is now up to full strength with a Sergeant, two PCs and three PCSOs. On recent street walkabouts, residents have told us they've become much more aware of the reassuring police presence and appreciate the hard work done by Dan and his team.

Some other welcome changes have been the opening of the lido in London Fields, the start of free homework clubs in Hackney libraries and the introduction of compulsory recycling throughout the ward. We hope that over the course of 2007 De Beauvoir Association members will continue to see improvements in all parts of the ward and throughout Hackney.

Contact us at: Robert.Chapman@hackney.gov.uk. Gulay.Icoz@hackney.gov.uk
Christopher.McShane@hackney.gov.uk

CURTAINS FOR DALSTON THEATRE

Dalston Theatre, despite many thousands of signatures in opposition, a deeply flawed planning process and evidence that the historic building had a future, is set to be demolished to make way for a development that includes 18-storey tower blocks and a bus station over the new railway station. Work has already begun on the railway track side of the site and demolition of the theatre and neighbouring Georgian houses appears to be imminent.

The fate of the building, which housed Four Aces, Labyrinth and community organisations, was sealed on November 29 when a High Court judge refused a petition by pressure group OPEN for a judicial review of the process.

The building started life as a circus that seated 4,000 people. It became a variety theatre in 1898 and local actress Marie Lloyd is said to have performed there. As times changed, it became a grand and massive cinema in the 1920s but by the 1960s had begun a new phase of its story, housing a succession of music venues. Stevie Wonder, Desmond Decker, Jimmy Cliff, Bob Marley, Billy Ocean, Ben E King and many other international stars either performed or were guests here.

Details and pictures can be found on <http://opendalston.blogspot.com>. **Paul Bolding**

AROUND THE TOWN

- **KINGSLAND CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE** is a group of local residents who look at planning applications in De Beauvoir and along Kingsland Road and pass comments to Hackney planners. Website at www.kcaac.org.uk for current information on planning matters. **Mark James**
 - **PARKING CHANGES IN DE BEAUVOIR**
In response to complaints from residents about the negative impact of the recent parking changes on residents and businesses, Hackney Council have agreed to a walkabout to meet concerned individuals and review the changes. At the time of writing we have no news of what date this is planned. We will send out a notice via an email update once we know. If you have not registered your email address with us, please do via info@debeauvoir.org.uk. **Send any complaint you have to scott.hyde@hackney.gov.uk. Kathryn Moore**
 - **HACKNEY TODAY** is now being distributed throughout De Beauvoir.
 - **DBA SUMMER PARTY IN THE PARK.** Following 2 very successful years, once again the DBA will host the Party in the Park on Saturday 14th July 2007. Please put the date in your diary. We are already collecting children's toys, games, and books for the popular "giveaway" stall as well as books for adults. If you have anything to donate or would like to join the band of volunteer organisers, please contact us. We would like to add food stalls and a street magician this year and would welcome suggestions. It costs us over £1600 to organise the free activities so, local businesses, if you would like to sponsor an activity, do get in touch. DBA phone number: 07962 422149.
 - **BORIS LTD, 87-95 HERTFORD RD, N1.** Appeal against the Council's refusal to allow part demolition and redevelopment; an appeal hearing was held at Hackney Town Hall on January 10th, attended by about fifteen residents from De Beauvoir. This was an interesting experience, in that, unlike Hackney's Planning Committee meetings where resident participation is very limited, we were allowed to take as much part as the Council and the appellant's representatives, both in the hearing and during the site visit that followed. The Planning Inspector, Christine Thorby, was impressively thorough. The result is to come out within five weeks of the hearing. Judging by this experience, it is well worth going to Appeal Hearings that affect you, in order to have your say. **Kirsty Norman**
 - **TREES IN DE BEAUVOIR.** Two years ago, the DB Environment Group put together a survey of all of the empty tree-pits in the area. Following on from this, Rupert Bentley-Walls of the Highways Dept. has suggested that the Group put together a second survey of where else in De Beauvoir tree-planting along roads could be improved i.e. where there are no tree pits, but where their creation could be considered. Anyone who would like to join the Group, please contact **Kirsty Norman** on knorman@blueyonder.co.uk.
-

CRIME & CRIME PREVENTION IN DE BEAUVOIR

	Sep	Oct.	Nov.
Burglary (residential & business)	8	6	6
Robbery (inc. snatches & pickpocketing)	15	13	15
Thefts of motor vehicles	3	11	5
Thefts from motor vehicles	16	14	11
Criminal damage to vehicles	4	5	7
Thefts of bicycles	9	7	6

The last CAP meeting was in December and on the whole everyone agreed that the preceding couple of months had been relatively quiet. Crime figures are down generally in the De Beauvoir Ward. This is due partly due to the effectiveness of the CAP meetings that enable the police to be more aware of issues in the community and tackle them before they become major problems. Also, the SmartWater initiative seems to have had a positive effect on thefts and burglaries in the area. It continues to act as an effective deterrent to burglars. There are now plans to install a UV light at the entrance to every police station so that traces of SmartWater can be easily identified on anyone brought into the station.

A joint operation between Hackney Council and the Police took place recently on the Kingsgate Estate tackling drug users and prostitutes. 13 anti-social behaviour notices were issued and two arrests made for drug-related offences. The police also closed a crack house in St Brelade's Court, De Beauvoir Estate, at the end of December during which a quantity of class A drugs was recovered and a man was arrested. However, there are still incidents of anti social behaviour – mopeds racing around local roads and estates, drug dealing, prostitution, graffiti and cyclists riding on pavements causing problems for pedestrians. The police are aware of these issues, are working with some of the perpetrators and are doing what they can to resolve to the problems.

BE AWARE: In recent weeks there has been a spate of burglaries in the area. The advice is to double-lock all doors and set burglar alarms where possible – even during the daytime. If you are away do remember to stop newspapers and milk and let neighbours or family know, too. **Clare Elson**

The De Beauvoir Safer Neighbourhood Team is based at 33 Stoke Newington High Street, N16 8DS. **Tel. 020 7275 3686/07879 435 146.** The DB Team comprises Police Sgt. 11GD Dan Wakeford, PC 160GD Chris Pearce, PC 552GD Peter Reddington, Police Community Support Officers 7142GD Afshane Hassan and 7140GD Mo Gani.

DE BEAUVOIR NEEDS MORE WARRIORS – Richard Lynam

The active but conspicuously under-achieving local cricket team, the Mighty De Beauvoir Warriors, is looking for more people to help it journey towards the foothills of success. The offer is open to everyone and there are only two criteria for joining: 1) you should be over 12 and 2) you should have a playing interest, but not necessarily any genuine ability, in cricket.

We will be playing five matches in 2007, three at home in Hackney and two touring - Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. Although all the dates have not yet been set, the first match is likely to be in late April/early May (possibly bank holiday weekend) and will be between De Beauvoir Warriors A and B teams. The second will be versus Stoke Newington, date to be confirmed, the third against a village team in Wiltshire on July 8th (also the date of such minor events as the Wimbledon Men's Final, British Grand Prix and London start of the Tour de France - so no competition there, then), the fourth against the Bering pub (always a good match) date tbc and the final match will again be against Kirtlington in Oxfordshire to whom we very narrowly lost last year. We also hope to hold a couple of nets to get the Christmas pudding out of our systems - again dates tbc. If you'd like a non-strenuous net or even a game of cricket or just a fun day out, get in touch with Richard Lynam on rl@richardlynam.com or telephone 020 7275 7044.

UPDATE ON LORRY BAN AND 20 mph ZONE *cont. from page 1*

- The Council is considering the proposal by residents for some road narrowing/ necking in Culford Road to stop lorries getting into De Beauvoir from Balls Pond Road.
 - We need to keep up the pressure to ensure the schemes are implemented and properly enforced.
-

The Rosemary Branch
 2 Shepperton Road, London N1 3DT
 24 hour Box Office: 020 7704 6665
www.rosemarybranch.co.uk

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
 By Tom Stoppard

Chimeric Productions marks the 40th anniversary of Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* with a London run of their Edinburgh 2006 production which played to packed houses and critical acclaim

6-18 Feb. 2007 Tuesday-Friday 7.30pm/Saturday 7pm/Sunday 5pm
 No performances on Monday. £10 (£8 concessions)

On Raftery's Hill
 by Marina Carr

Set against a backdrop of rural Ireland, this is a story of 3 generations blighted by relations that descend far beyond the realms of normality.

20 Feb-11 Mar. 2007 Tuesday-Friday 7.30pm/ Saturday 7pm/Sunday 5pm
 No performances on Monday. £10 (£8 concessions)

Measure for Measure
 by Shakespeare

A contemporary and thought provoking new production of one of Shakespeare's darker plays with curious parallels between the social issues of the day and our own. Suitable for AS and A Level audiences, party rates available.

14 Mar-5 April Tuesday-Friday 7.30pm/Saturday 7.00pm/Sunday 5.00pm £12 (£8 concessions)

THE FRIENDS OF ST PETER DE BEAUVOIR TOWN

For 150 years the church of St Peter De Beauvoir has been a landmark at the heart of the local community, a place to meet as well as a place to worship or simply to find quiet. **The Friends of St Peter De Beauvoir Town** is for everyone who would like to support St Peter's as a creative community space as well as a place of worship, whether you are from this neighbourhood or not. St Peter's is about connecting different communities and enriching life by exploring diversity, encouraging creativity, campaigning for social justice and celebrating the rhythms of life. The Friends of St Peter, De Beauvoir Town is a new phase in the history of the church in this community: The church is turning inside out. Plans are now in place to provide disabled access to the church and the crypt which will involve landscaping the outside as well as creating more flexible community space inside. Ideas are being explored with various organisations in the area to respond to the needs of those who are marginalised in this community. New ways to worship are also being developed to meet different spiritual needs in the 21st century.

As a Friend of St Peter's you can help to shape future plans and enjoy an exciting programme of concerts, exhibitions, parties, outings, children's activities, workshops, courses, local history walks and talks, campaigns and community projects. Membership is entirely free and provides a variety of benefits: a Seasonal newsletter. Advance information on events. Invitations to social gatherings. Priority booking on hire of space in the crypt.

In return the church builds up a network of supporters in the community to draw on as new projects are developed. All you have to do to join the Friends of St Peter De Beauvoir Town is email for a membership form to friendsofstpeters@hotmail.com or contact Julia Porter at St Peter's Vicarage, 86 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5AT. Telephone 020 7254 5670. **Richard Lynam**

MORE DE BEAUVOIR HISTORY
QUEBEC WHARF

in Kingsland Road, where there is now a branch of estate agents Currells, has a terracotta panel set into the Victoria brickwork high up on the facade that recalls a lost piece of London's history. In the 1870s, a growing urban population needed to get about more easily and horse-drawn trams were introduced. These needed stabling and feeding near to where the people lived, and one of the biggest stables was Quebec Wharf. Feed for the 1,200 horses was brought in by barge on the Regent's Canal and the dung taken away by the same route. The terracotta panel reads NMTCo for North Metropolitan Tramway Company. To cope with the large number of horses, the building had ramps to allow them to reach upper floors. Their introduction allowed fares to fall to a penny a mile and the trams were a bit faster than the existing horse buses. They brought transport within reach of the masses. But it took 50,000 horses to keep public transport running in Victorian London and dealing with the droppings in the street was a major problem. The electrification of the trams and the introduction of the motor bus before World War One caused the gradual demise of the working horse on London's streets. (Some material edited from LondonTransport Museum website www.ltmuseum.co.uk). **Paul Bolding**



DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS

First of all, the DBA welcome De Beauvoir Gardeners' new Chair person, Celia Barlow, who bravely volunteered to take over the running of the Club this year. Below are details of spring meetings (no room for the full programme but it can be found on their website at www.debeauvoirqardeners.org.uk)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6 TH MARCH | SOFT FRUITS AND SMALL GARDENS
John Arbury – Superintendent of Soft Fruit, RHS, Wisley |
| 3 rd APRIL | THE ORGANIC HERB GARDEN
Barty Philips |
| 1 st MAY | BEAUTIFUL GARDENS IN SMALL SPACES
Anthony Noel |

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 8.00 p.m. in the crypt of St. Peter's Church, Northchurch Terrace. New members are very welcome. Subscriptions are £10 for an individual and £12 for a couple (waged): Concessions £7 for an individual and £9 for a couple.

It's worth mentioning that Paul Bolding has created two lovely websites, not only for the Gardeners but the De Beauvoir Association, too! And he hasn't even retired yet.

NEW BABY & TODDLER play drop-in every Monday, 3–5pm
at St Peter's Church Crypt, De Beauvoir Road

A new baby & toddler drop-in facility has started on a trial basis to offer local under 5's somewhere to play indoors on these dark gloomy days. Parents and carers will need to stay with their child while they play, but teas and coffees are on hand. There is no charge but help setting up and packing away would be appreciated as this is run on a volunteer basis. If it proves successful it could run and run!

If you have any toys you would like to donate that would be great – but please only if they're in excellent condition. Contact Susanne on 07887 680724 or Bic on 07970 975043 for further information.