

Lusardi Motors, London Branch (020 7254 2881) by Hilary Mandleberg

YOU MAY NOT KNOW IT BUT LUSARDI MOTORS has branches in Milan, Berlin and New York! Only joking! But if you go into their always immaculate workshop and look on a shelf to the right, you'll see three blue plastic clocks and Ettore, aka Eddie, will brag that they show the time in their three branches. When pressed, he'll reveal that actually the alarm of each is set to go off at the moment when the pay and display expires and they have to rush out and collect a customer's car to make sure it doesn't fall into the hands of the traffic wardens! Such is the plight of businesses today in De Beauvoir, and especially businesses that need parking spaces to survive. There was also the story of the customer's car that got clamped and how they didn't get home until ten that night, but we won't go there...On the whole, though, Ettore is pretty pleased at how they've managed to work things out with the Controlled Parking restrictions. "It's a bit of a struggle," he says, "but loads better than businesses we know in Islington."

Like a lot of people, for many years I believed that the elderly father with the smiling face who always used to be at Lusardi Motors was the person who started the business. But I was wrong. Ettore and Eugene founded it in 1983 in Highbury. Both had been working for other people – Ettore as an auto electrician in Petherton Road and Eugene doing mechanics off Green Lanes. Then, as luck would have it, both their bosses wanted out of their businesses at roughly the same time. Ettore was offered the chance to take over the business where he worked but it was too expensive, so he and Eugene started to talk about going it alone. They outgrew their first premises in just 18 months and in January 1985, a friend in the property business found them the workshop – at that time a minibus garage – on Englefield Road where they've been ever since.

So what about dad? Well, Gino Lusardi was orphaned at the age of six months in Sperongia, a small village in northern Italy not far from Milan in 1921, when both his parents died of the Spanish flu that ravaged Europe. He was adopted by an aunt who had moved to England, which is how he came to be here. He ended up having plenty of irons in the fire: he owned a tea and coffee factory in Acton that supplied the likes of Typhoo, PG Tips and Costa, he owned the La Fontana restaurant at Ludgate Circus and, working for his brother's mosaic and terrazzo business, was responsible for laying the floor at one of the terminals at Gatwick airport.

Angela Lusardi arrived after the war when she was seventeen after walking all the way from Rochetta in northern Italy and being refused entry to England. She returned, then tried again, and this time was successful. They're clearly a family that doesn't give up easily.

Sadly Papa died in April 1999, but Signora Lusardi is still very much alive. She comes in on Fridays to tidy up the place (and probably to keep an eye on things!) and Ettore and Eugene go to see her every morning before work. They're not allowed to leave until they've had breakfast, and by breakfast I mean two slices of toast each, plus egg on toast, a bacon sarnie, croissants, a bowl of strawberries and grapes, and coffee – and after all that she always asks her boys if they want any more! As Ettore says, for the first bit of the morning they usually feel a bit sluggish!

Both of them are not only great mechanics – and obviously lovely blokes! – but they're also keen on sport. Ettore is a diving instructor and his last expedition was for an ice diving trip in Norway, while Eugene plays football regularly and (whisper it) supports Chelsea.

Both have married English girls and each has two boys, all of them with Italian names. It's too early to tell yet if any of them will eventually take over the business, but it would be nice to think that they'll carry on the Lusardi tradition. It's a tradition that means always working hard and doing the best for the customer – right down to changing their overalls three times a week so they don't dirty people's car seats and then bawling out the overall supplier when he fails to deliver one day – and always having a ready smile and time for a laugh. Lusardi Motors is a real treasure in our midst and a credit to the community.

The De Beauvoir Associationwww.debeauvoir.org.ukinfo@debeauvoir.org.uk

07962 422149

Thanks to Typhoon Creative Partnership for our logo (www.typhooncp.com)
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**NEWSLETTER JUNE 2006**

This issue sponsored by
Lusardi Motors, 18a Englefield Road

WELCOME TO THE FIFTH ISSUE of the De Beauvoir Association Newsletter and many thanks to Lusardi Motors for sponsoring us this time around. You can read all about this long-established local business on page 8.

As usual your committee has been busy behind the scenes. We've of course been keeping an eye on developments at **Dalston Junction**. The council's planning committee at the end of March approved plans for the redevelopment of the site around the future East London Line station at Dalston Junction despite massive objections from local people and organisations. Construction of the railway – due for completion in 2010 – is already under way. It doesn't look as if much now stands in the way of the plans by Hackney Council, Transport for London and the London Development Agency to build a bus station and various mainly residential blocks towering up to 18 storeys on the site over and around the station.

The better news is that we seem to have managed to fight off the proposed redevelopment of Boris Handbags in **Hertford Road** and we've sent a representative to the latest meeting of the **Safer Neighbourhoods Police Panel** (see report on page 3). We're also busy planning what we hope will be a super-successful **Party in the Park in De Beauvoir Square** on the afternoon of Saturday 15 July. Put the date in your diary and please, if you can help, let us know as we can't do it all on our own. Email info@debeauvoir.org.uk with your offers of help or call 07962 422149. Last year's party was great, but this year's will be even better.

And don't forget to check our website (www.debeauvoir.org.uk) regularly as we're always adding new information.

Don't miss the next DBA Meeting – 15 June 7.30 pm

**Rose Lipman Community Centre
De Beauvoir Road**

Meg Hillier, our local MP will come and address us and answer questions about local issues and what she's been doing as our MP since she took up office.

Hosepipe Ban: De Beauvoir Gardeners' Update

WITH THE HOSEPIPE BAN already in force across many parts of Southern England – including De Beauvoir – many gardeners are wondering how to keep their gardens alive this summer. Fortunately there are plenty of practical steps we can take including recycling bath water and following good horticultural practice. To find out more, come along to **Hosepipes and Horticulture**, a lecture arranged by the De Beauvoir Gardeners' Club, so you can learn how to reduce water consumption whilst keeping your blooms blooming.

Hosepipes and Horticulture: 6 June 8pm, crypt of St. Peter's Church

We are very lucky to have garden designer Anthony Paul as our June lecturer. He specializes in drought-resistant planting and as well as suggesting drought-tolerant plants, giving advice on planting and mulching and explaining the uses and restrictions of grey water, he will be showing us slides of gardens he has designed.

If you who want more information on this subject, you can obtain a free booklet from the RHS titled 'Gardening Matters – Water in the Garden'.

Send an A5 SAE with 1st class postage to HAS, The RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey

The De Beauvoir Gardeners run lectures and events throughout the year. Come and enjoy a lecture from an RHS lecturer, meet other gardeners new and experienced, and buy plants at our plant sale. All this for an annual membership fee of still only £7 (£5 concessions). Non-members are most welcome and pay £3 per lecture. Future events include:

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|---------------------|---|
| 4 JULY | GARDEN WALKABOUT – route to be confirmed
An evening walk around members' and non-members' gardens |
| 1 AUGUST | DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS SUMMER PICNIC
VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED |
| 10 SEPTEMBER | ANNUAL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW |

All lectures are at 8.00 pm in the Crypt of St. Peter's Church, Northchurch Terrace. Please contact consuelomooorsom@btinternet.com or phone Muffin Gordon on 020 7923 3988 for further information.

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You can also check out their website on: www.rhs.org.uk/advice/watering.asp

Interview with James Cannon, former Labour councillor for Hackney's De Beauvoir Ward

By Bija Knowles

JAMES CANNON stepped down as Labour councillor for De Beauvoir Town in the recent local elections, having held the post for almost fourteen years.

Local politics has been a keen interest for Jim all his life although he points out that the life of a councillor is not all glamour and rubbing shoulders with powerful politicians! Most of a councillor's spare time is taken up with committee meetings, public workshops, and yet more meetings. Although councillors do receive an allowance for the time they work on behalf of their community – they can currently earn £9,500 a year – most also hold full-time or part-time jobs. Jim previously worked as a computer project director installing an electronic social security system in Portugal but he retired in 2002 and, he says with some irony, has been lucky enough to be able to devote a lot of spare time to his council duties.

Jim's first period as a Hackney councillor started in 1978 and lasted until 1986. After a few years working overseas, he returned to Hackney and won a place as a councillor for De Beauvoir in a bye-election. His second time around as councillor in Hackney is a period that Jim evidently feels positive about. The council had gone through an extremely bad patch in the late 1990s and the government had taken over its organisation and had established five directives aimed at setting out clear objectives by which the council could improve its performance. One of the directives resulted in the setting up of the Learning Trust, an independent education authority, which is unique to Hackney. Jim is extremely positive about the progress that has been made in the past four years. He says: "Progress in Hackney has been remarkable."

In 2000-2001 when the government took control of running the council, its first priority was to establish financial stability. It paid out £25 million to save the council from bankruptcy and the council is now on a more solid financial footing, with a more realistically worked-out budget. Council tax collection rates have risen from 65 per cent of households paying the tax to the current figure of 95 per cent.

Jim wanted to see Hackney council improve and he is satisfied that it has made great strides. For instance, he sees the Decent Homes project as a success and points out that recycling in the borough has increased from just 1 per cent of household refuse being recycled in 2000, to 16 per cent in 2006. He also points to Improvements for cyclists - Hackney now has London's highest number of cyclists and cycle lanes.

STOP PRESS - The planning application for Kingsland Basin (Kingsland Wharves) has now been submitted. The applicants, London & Quadrant Housing Association, consulted with the DBA and other local groups before finalising their plans. We need more of this! See details on the DBA website and – hopefully – on the Council's too.

Council Elections 2006

WITH THE COUNCIL ELECTIONS finally over, De Beauvoir has three new councillors to represent it. The outgoing councillors (Vivian Amaran, Jim Cannon, Frances Pearson) have worked tirelessly on behalf of De Beauvoir residents. They have tackled issues such as rubbish, recycling, unlicensed drinking, drugs and anti-social behaviour, and they deserve our thanks for their commitment during their time as our councillors.

The three new De Beauvoir councillors are Robert Chapman, Gulay Icoz and Christopher McShane – all representing the Labour Party.

We will invite the new Councillors to attend one of our public meetings in due course. This will give us all the opportunity to discuss areas of concern with them as well as to understand their thoughts on issue that will face De Beauvoir over the next four years, such as lorry rat-runs, extended recycling, Dalston Theatre, East London Line etc.



Beating the Drought

TOP TIPS FROM THE THAMES WATER WEBSITE (www.beatthedrought.com) on how you can help beat the drought:

- Turn the tap off when you brush your teeth • Take showers instead of baths • Fit a water-saving device in the cistern of your toilet • Wash vegetables in a bowl rather than under a running tap • Wait until the dishwasher and washing machine are full before running them • Repair any dripping taps • Wash the car with a bucket of water • Water the plants / garden with a watering can • Fit a water butt in the garden to collect any rainwater

News from the De Beauvoir Safer Neighbourhood Team

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

and the officers are

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

The following are the monthly crime figures for De Beauvoir:

January 2006	Burglary: 8	Motor Vehicle crime: 22
February 2006	Burglary: 5	Motor Vehicle crime: 17
March 2006	Burglary: 3	Motor Vehicle crime: 24

Motor Vehicle crime (theft from and theft of) is the biggest contributor to crime statistics. Burglary has been dramatically reduced over the last three months.

Vehicle Crime

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

Burglary

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

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

Robberies/Snatches

The police advise us to mark mobile phones, iPods and so on with SmartWater and to use them discreetly and, if possible, not in the street where they are a temptation to robbers. Since the last newsletter, there have been two bag snatches locally, with youths on bikes or scooters grabbing bags/brief cases from pedestrians. Be on your guard.

Have you got any unwanted children's books, toys or games?

If so we'd love to have them so we can give them away at our Giveaway Children's Book, Toy and Games stall at the Party in the Park. Please contact David Kingsley (kingsleydavid@btconnect.com) or email info@debeauvoir.org.uk or call 07962 422149 and leave a message to arrange delivery. Many thanks!!

Open Gardens in De Beauvoir, Sunday 18 June

THE National Gardens Scheme has been opening fine gardens across the UK to the public to raise money for charity for over 75 years. You don't need to be a devoted gardener to be interested in all of this – garden openings are simply a beautiful and relaxing way to spend an afternoon. Various De Beauvoir residents have generously opened their gardens over the last few years and once again will be doing so this year. The Open Gardens Scheme comes to De Beauvoir on Sunday 18 June from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm and the following gardens will be open:

158 CULFORD ROAD
51 LAWFORD ROAD (CAROL LEE, TEAS AVAILABLE)
21 NORTHCHURCH TERRACE (NANCY KORMAN)

You can choose to visit just one of the gardens for £2 or all the gardens by purchasing a combined ticket for £5. Tickets will be available at each garden on the day of the event.

The 2nd Annual Children's Party in the Park De Beauvoir Square, Saturday 15 July

If you have a flair for organising, please volunteer to help. No volunteers – no future events.

We welcome raffle donations, individuals to man stalls for 30-minute sessions and to help set up / clear down please.

If you can help in any way, either on the day or beforehand, please email info@debeauvoir.org.uk or call **07962 422149**

Events being planned are yet to be finalized but include:

Face Painting • Bouncy Castle • Football League / Kick About • Story Bag / Spoon Puppets • Pimms / Juice Bar • De Beauvoir Gardeners' Event • Raffle

IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS TO CONTRIBUTE – AND IF YOU'RE WILLING TO GET THEM ROLLING FOR US – PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.

We would like to thank our sponsors – Living Spaces, Hackney Council, Scooterden and Glen Insurance, as well as the various charities and organizations that are donating their services.

Football Fridays

Arsenal, Tottenham, Orient, West Ham...? The De Beauvoir Association now runs **FREE football coaching sessions** for budding football stars at the Britannia Leisure Centre every Friday evening between 5.00pm and 6.00pm.

With the 2006 World Cup less than a month away, a professional coach will be taking young people from the age of 8 upwards through their paces each week. This is a fantastic opportunity for local young people to improve their skills, and even become part of the Hackney League.

Funded by Living Spaces and Hackney Council, the sessions are being managed by Marlon at Sky Partnerships who also runs the Teenage Kicks football programme each year. Anyone interested should go along to the Britannia on Friday evening or alternatively call Marlon at Sky Partnerships on 07956 223441 for more information.

Event: De Beauvoir Football Fridays

Date: From Friday 12 May, weekly

Time: 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Place: Britannia Leisure Centre, 40 Hyde Road, N1 5JU

Cost: **FREE** - the sessions are being funded by the De Beauvoir Neighbourhood Group and run by Sky Partnerships

Ages: All ages from 8 upwards are welcome and will be split into groups according to age and ability

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

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

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

