

# DE BEAVER

November 1983  
Issue No. 39



# Carnival time!

*It's always fine weather at Carnival Time in De Beauvoir and 1983 was no exception. Spot your friends and relations in Graham Conway's photographs.*



## Happy 1984...

Greetings from the last De Beaver of 1983 — although it's a little early, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The next issue will be no.40 and since, as the saying goes, life begins at forty, we'd like to do something special. If you have any ideas for people to interview, news to spread, or a feature article, contact Hilary Hockman (249 5866).

Many newcomers helped with this issue — you'll see their names dotted about the pages. They have written, taken photographs and given advice and ideas. Others have helped before but aren't always named: special thanks to Janet Hammond, Gloria Ward, Mary Chevallier and Lesley Fenton for collecting advertising — without which there would be no De Beaver — Alec Fudge, who does a wonderful (unpaid) job typesetting the stories, and Alan and Elizabeth Butler who organise the distribution of our 3,500 copies — no mean feat!

We still need help to keep going — especially to sell advertising space. If you're persuasive enough to tackle the job, phone Hilary Hockman (249 5866).



## DBA News

As reported in our last issue, the Chairman, John Gibson, is leaving the area; his tireless work on behalf of many local organisations will be deeply missed. His successor will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, to be held on Wednesday, November 9 at the Ufton Centre at 8 p.m. All residents welcome — potential Chairmen doubly so.

### UPDATE +++

Current plans for the Old Vicarage, 85 Mortimer Road, are still unclear as we go to press. The subject was on the agenda at the GIA meeting on September 14, when Mr Winston Haynes from Circle 33 briefly outlined how the group acquired the property, and revealed that the proposal, reported in the last issue of De Beaver, to let Alice Hoffmann Homes use the property to house people with severe behavioural disturbances had been dropped. Since then, Circle 33 had been approached by a group wishing to use the premises to house severely physically handicapped people being cared for by the mentally handicapped. This proposal has also been dropped.

Now, the original idea to house low dependency mentally handicapped people in this property is being reconsidered, but no concrete plans have been announced. More news in the next De Beaver.



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# Poor Hackney...

*Inside the inner city: Life under the cutting edge\** is a vivid, well-written and well-argued account by Paul Harrison of what it is like to be poor in Hackney in the 1980s, in the tradition of the Victorian social investigators and the recent television series, *Breadline Britain*. Paul Harrison has already written two lucid and compassionate books on poverty and community self-help in developing countries, *Inside the Third World* and *The Third World tomorrow*. As he writes in the preface, 'Having spent four years looking at acute poverty round the globe, I felt I could hardly ignore it on my own doorstep'. It is not surprising, therefore, that he should relate Britain's inner city problems to the world economy, showing how industrial production has shifted to the Third World, where cheap labour is in abundant supply, thereby destroying industry and jobs in Britain's old industrial cities.

The book covers the whole range of inner city problems - declining industry, social security, poor housing, the plight of the elderly, failings of the school system, racism, policing and crime, to mention some. His technique is to let his interviewees speak for themselves as far as possible, with the author filling in the background and analysis very lucidly. Many of the places in his story will be familiar to De Beauvoir residents - Ridley Road market, Holly Street estate, Stoke Newington police station, Gayhurst Infant School.

Paul Harrison does not find it easy to offer remedies for inner city problems. This difficulty he shares with everyone who is concerned with them, as I can vouch, having written a book on inner city regeneration myself. Social problems are never easy to solve. But this book should be read by anyone who lives in or cares about the inner city.

Robert Home

\* Pelican, 1983

# ...Happy Hackney

Philippa Toomey, depressed by the gloom, offered another view in *The Times* of August 26 -

"As I walked home along the canal in the blazing sunshine, I thought how pleasant it was to live in this part of London. In view was a duck with eight ducklings, little boys fishing, grandparents walking pretty little children, and lovers dawdling. Where was I? I discover that I have been happily living for the past eight years in a "no-go area for almost all except those compelled to remain there", according to Gerald Kaufman in his column last Monday, and Paul Harrison, who has written a book called *Inside the Inner City*. What? Can this be Hackney, hub of the universe?

Can this be the place I moved to because I like it, where I could afford a house, and where the services were good? Far from fleeing the place, I propose to stay in Hackney for the rest of my days.

Not only can I walk to work. I can take any one of seven bus routes. The service is intermittent (as in the rest of London) but there is also the secret railway from Dalston Junction to Richmond, and the newly opened Kingsland station. Within a few moments walk of my gracious Hackney home I have two excellent public libraries, the church I attend, and a number of friendly shops.

All hours of the day and night appear to be worked and these are also the hours I walk about the place, returning home from the theatre and parties in the middle of the night without coming to any harm.

I have been burgled twice. The second time, with the aid of my neighbours, the police caught the burglars. The household in London which has not been burgled is a fortunate one.

My house, which was indeed in a sad state when I bought it, has been put in order by me. When I moved there in 1975 there were six derelicts within 200 yards. Now there are none - all have been repaired.

The bombed site opposite has been filled with council houses - not a dreary block, but a reasonable imitation of a London town house. I like the street markets, the frenetic activity of Ridley Road, the garden market on Sundays.

On Sundays the congregation at Mass reflects the population - Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, black. That variety is what keeps a neighbourhood alive.

In Hackney we frighten the children with tales of dark satanic mills in Mr Kaufman's constituency of Gorton, Manchester. None of us has ever set foot in the place."

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## MUSICAL PICNIC

A delightful evening of music from the wind octet was arranged for September 3, the evening before the flower show, by Liz Hatt. Awful weather drove the musicians from the vicarage garden into the crypt, but all those who joined them enjoyed themselves - and tucked into a crypt picnic in the interval.

## GARDENERS' MEETINGS

Tuesday November 1: 8pm Colin Roberts, Chairman of Highbury Allotment Association, on Vegetables and Fruit for Show.

Tuesday December 6: 8pm Saint Nicholas Day Party.

All meetings in the end room of St Peter's Crypt.  
Doritie Kettlewell

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# Green fingers in De Beauvoir



Jude Moraes' winning smile and winning domestic delights get her a first prize.



Doris Gibbons - first again for flower arranging.



Leah Turner, aged 3, walks off with first prize for her posy of flowers.



The champ - George Shepherd of Culford Road.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK PURBECK

St Peter's crypt was crowded with record entries in all classes of flower and produce on September 14, when rain threatened to drown our show. But the sun came out, so prizes were presented outside the scout marquee on the vicarage lawn by our flower judge Christabel King.

The Silver Rose Bowl Trophy for overall best of show was won by George Shepherd of Culford Road for his splendid entries in the Vegetable and Potted Plant sections. Jude

Moraes and Sam Eatly ran close, and won the Domestic Delights and Flower section prizes respectively. Doris Gibbons again won the Flower Arranger's prize and Jackie Law walked off with first in the Potted Plant classes, with Sam Eatly second.

So many beautiful entries in the childrens' classes gave judge Beth Hendley a hard task, but first prize for the eldest was eventually awarded to the Fagerlund brothers for their wondrous landscape of fruit and vegetables.

Stephen Hinchley won in the middle age group and Hannah Windross in the youngest.

We are all thankful to club members and friends, who worked heroically before and during the show, and are especially grateful to Stan Kent and the scouts, for trusting us again with their invaluable marquee, and to the Rev. Andrew and Susan Windross for letting us walk all over their lawn.

Doritie Kettlewell

## UFTON YOUTH & CENTRE AUTUMN PROGRAMME

### ADULTS

- MONDAY:** Gingerbread Group (one-parent families)  
Athletics Club (all ages)
- TUESDAY:** Yoga (morning)  
Mums and toddlers (afternoon)  
Air rifle range (eve)  
Tai Chi (eve)
- WEDNESDAY:** Keep Fit (eve)  
Slimmers' Club (eve)
- THURSDAY:** Luncheon Club  
Senior Citizens (2 - 4)  
Tai Chi (eve)

### YOUTH CLUB Juniors 6-11 yrs; Intermediates 12-15 yrs; Seniors 16+

- MONDAY:** Intermediates Club (5 - 8)  
Dance Class (6.30 - 9)
- TUESDAY:** Junior Club (4 - 7)  
Table Tennis Club (7.30 - 9.30)
- WEDNESDAY:** Intermediates Club (5 - 8)  
Dance Class (6.30 - 9)
- THURSDAY:** Junior/Inters. Club (4 - 7)  
Keep Fit/Football Training (7.30 - 9.30)
- FRIDAY:** Junior Club (4 - 7)  
Disco (eve)

### DBCA Events at the Rose Lipman Community Centre

- Monday**  
7 - 9 pm (Youth Club) Self defence
- Tuesday**  
8 - 10 pm (Main Hall) Bingo
- Wednesday**  
1.30-3.30pm (Main Hall) Senior Citizens' Bingo
- 7 - 9 pm (Youth Club) Self defence  
7 - 9 pm (Main Hall) Kung Fu
- Thursday**  
7 - 9 pm (Main Hall) Keep fit  
6.30-8 pm (Youth Club) Cubs
- Friday**  
8 - 10 pm (Main Hall) Bingo

### Diary Dates

**November 16, 7.30pm** Charlie Smithers Evening in the Main Hall. Tickets from Renee Calvert (254 8781). Watch posters for more details.

**December 13, 7.30pm** Old Time Music Hall for Senior Citizens in the Main Hall. Admission and refreshments free.

### ATHLETICS

Athletics is a recent addition to Ufton Centre activities. A club affiliated to AAA meets every Monday at 7 pm. All are welcome for just 10p per week. Facilities exist for all levels and running distances. Come along or contact Stan Kent on 249 4066 for details.

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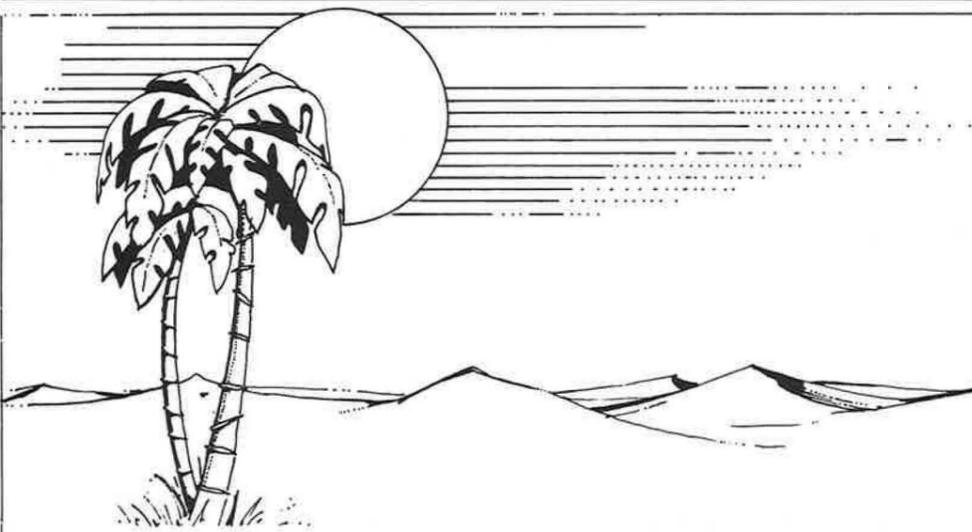
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# A school year for two heads

Our new head teachers have been now a year in De Beauvoir — Jeannie Billington in the Junior School and Stefanie Blatton in the Infant School. It seemed a good idea to follow up De Beaver's initial welcome. Marga Gervis went along to find out more about them, their schools, their ideas and their feelings for the community.

Both heads are lively, welcoming and full of warmth and concern for their charges. They look happy and when they say that they want their schools to be happy places I can well believe it. When I went into the Infants towards the end of last term and when I visited the Juniors at the beginning of this term, everyone was busy and working hard. There is a good feeling about the place, a feeling of mutual trust and respect. Adults and children alike all seemed to know what they were doing and where they were going.

I asked them each to what extent they thought that new ways of learning advantage or disadvantage different children in the community. Their replies were quick, straightforward and very similar, although I saw them separately. Stefanie Blatton pointed out that all children are different and that schools have to respond differently to them. The most important aspect of new ways of learning is that it should

look after the needs of each child. It should take children from where they are at now and should help them to find and to develop their own interests rather than having to fit in with a pre-set ideal.

Jeannie Billington said much the same thing and pointed out that the child is faced by the world as a whole, not by separate subjects and that teaching through Project work, which is aimed at the individual child, helps the child to make sense of the world. Children can belong to different groups and work on different aspects of the project. Many children have their own individual project to work on. Learning like this is exciting but it is also formative in a constructive way because the child needs to learn to challenge himself, and self-assessment is a very important part of the process. I saw some wonderful weaving which was one of the results of an exciting class project on dots and lines. This covered whole areas of maths and language, including of course the Morse code.

Teachers and children make good use of the resource areas in the school — library, museum, audio-visual room, fabric room, music room and, more recently, the maths resource area. The infants this year are having a maths consultant to work along with the staff and the

maths postholder for one day a week.

Parents are always welcome in both schools and in the Infants they bring and collect the children from the classroom. Stefanie Blatton feels strongly that adults in the school should be accessible to parents and she certainly is.

Jeannie Billington shares the same strong feelings and always welcomes parents into the school. Every day, tea, coffee and biscuits are available in the entrance hall during term-time for parents collecting their children from school. With the help of the Adult Education Institute, they are planning to set up day classes for parents and children to work together in needlework, craft, cookery and woodwork. Parents are coming in regularly for workshops and clubs and to help the teachers in the classroom. During the Autumn term parents, infants and juniors will have a chance to play number card games, language games and chess.

Community links have taken the junior children as far as Bicester, through John Baggeley who used to be our vicar at St. Peter's. Two classes visited there for the day. They had a picnic lunch and the day ended with a joint assembly. The school from Bicester will be returning the visit.

Marga Gervis

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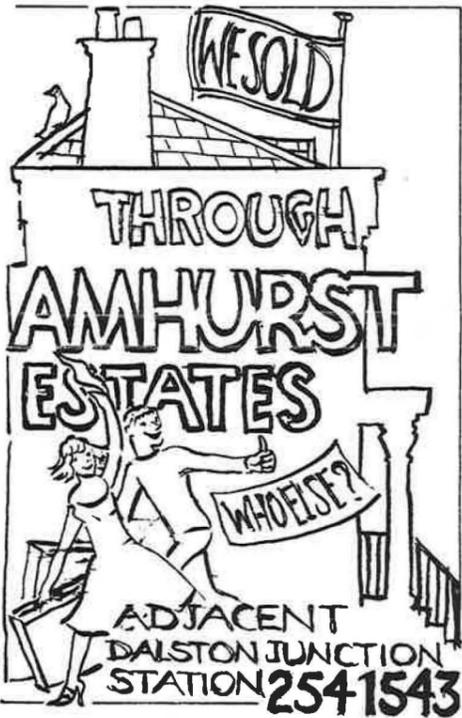
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## Hackney's first computer camp

After much planning and assembling of computers from many London schools, the first computer camp got under way at the beginning of August at the Rose Lipman Library. Twenty computers of at least three different types were available, making the camp very much better equipped than any school.

Each week, for four weeks, 40 young Hackney people came to spend a week learning about computers, with a staff of 6 or 7 available to plan the sessions and give advice when necessary.

A number of De Beauvoir teenagers attended the camp. Andrea Lee of Culford Road, who is just starting in the sixth form studying sciences and electronics, thought the camp was a really good idea and hoped that it would be repeated next year. Andrea could already write computer programs before going to the camp but found that her programming improved significantly during the week. She particularly liked programming a computer to control a robot arm. Her school has a computer but she doesn't expect it to be used in her science and electronics course.

Jenny Newman of Ufton Road has just left school and started work in a City office. Her school had introduced computing, but only for the younger classes. Jenny went to the camp knowing nothing about computers but during

the week, she learned how to write programs as well as finding out about using computers for office word processing, and for storing large amounts of information. Her new office does not yet use computers or word processors, so she has not yet had the chance to use some of the skills she learned on the camp.

One problem for the organisers was space. The Rose Lipman Library offered a secure home for many thousands of pounds worth of equipment, but limited space for the project. Ufton Community Centre has more space but would find it more difficult to guarantee the safety of such valuable electronics. Plans for next year have not yet been made but the camp may, of course, be located in some other part of Hackney.

Andrew Hinchley

## Next year why not advertise in DE BEAVER



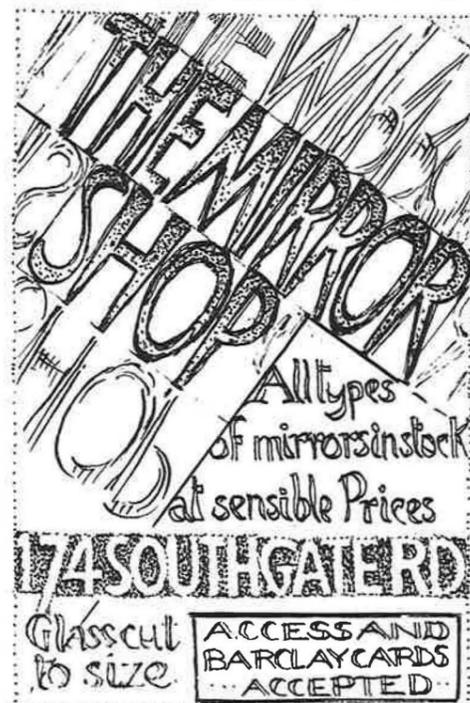
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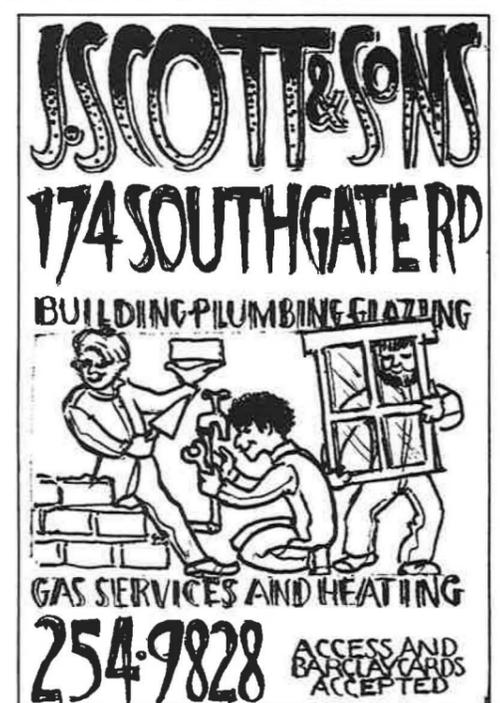
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# Going, going, gone . . .

A good old-fashioned auction will be held by the Friends of the Geffrye Museum on Thursday 17 November to raise funds for the museum. Anyone is welcome to come and tickets will be available at the door of the North Wing from 7.15 pm (£1 each, including wine). There'll be time to view the items for sale at the beginning and then bidding will be fast and furious. We can't promise anything specific, but usually some fascinating objects turn up at these affairs. You may just find an extra special Christmas present or something you've always wanted for the house or garden. So do come.

At the end of November there will be an exhibition of traditional woodworking tools at the museum (open Tuesdays to Saturdays through December, admission free). Then, for

our Christmas show, the Friends are putting on a play for children at the Arts Educational Schools near the Barbican. Called *Billy the Kid*, it's an appealing play for 5 - 12 year-olds about a young boy learning to adapt to new circumstances. Again, anyone can come: tickets are available from the Hon. Secretary (249 6460).

Friends of the Geffrye Museum look like having an interesting and varied programme of events next year with visits to Linley Samborne House in Kensington, a guided tour of the Temple and the usual private views and social events. If you would like to join the Friends in 1984 please contact the Hon. Secretary or pick up a leaflet at the museum.

Janet Hammond

# CANAL NEWS

## Financial problems in dredging Kingsland Basin

The ambitious plan to dredge the Kingsland Basin has run into financial problems as estimates for carrying out the work exceed the money available from Hackney Council Partnership funds. A new plan is being put together which will involve building islands in the middle of the Basin to save the cost of removing the dredgings. This has a good chance of falling within the cost limit. The actual use of the Basin is still very much open to ideas. A recent suggestion is to use part of the Basin as a floating market garden!

## Laburnum Basin Boat Club about to open

The bright-red steel A-frame boat-house at Laburnum Basin is almost finished. Some last-minute problems have arisen in finding the cash to complete the building. However, some money has been found to buy the first boats for the centre. A formal opening is planned in October and then it will be available both to the estates near Laburnum and to De Beauvoir, for use by individual children or groups wishing to learn canoeing. Financial support for the skilled supervision needed for boating still has to be obtained.

## The great De Beauvoir Canal trip!

The July trip on the Canal proved immensely popular and at least as many people had to be turned away as were able to obtain places on the boat. On a very fine summer evening promptly at 7.30 pm (too promptly for Doritie Kettlewell and her friends who unfortunately missed the boat!), 45 De Beauvoir residents and friends set off from Whitmore bridge eastwards. The boat boasted a reasonable bar - which was well-used on that hot evening! - and enough outside ledges to allow most people to escape from the rather stifling interior! Travelling eastwards we followed the Regent's Canal to the River Lea and headed northwards. Our arrival at Springfield Park was the signal for a complete evacuation for a picnic in the park. One incredulous traveller could not believe that after 90 minutes' journey, he was actually adjacent to his home (he happened to live near Springfield). Our excursion was complete at about 11 pm and was judged a success.

More Canal trips next year would seem to be a good idea.

Andrew Hinchley

# Skip Sunday

Skip Sunday in Islington is an important day. Each weekend one of the wards of the borough has a skip stationed for the day in which you can put old armchairs, cupboards, bottles, building rubble, bicycles, old rags, prams - all the stuff the dustman will not remove during the week in the normal course of refuse collecting. All the stuff, in fact, that you find left in corners all over Hackney.

Islington Cleansing Department tells me that this service has been running for six years, and is very popular with the residents, who ring up to find just where their nearest skip

will be that weekend. Hackney Council organised some skips around De Beauvoir some time ago, but there have been none recently, and at the moment, there are no plans to introduce Skip Saturday or Sunday. Perhaps they can be encouraged to revive this idea.

Meanwhile, if you do have a large item of rubbish, and can't get rid of it, the Cleansing Department will make a special visit, if you ring them to make an appointment.

Philippa Toomey

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# Miles from the forest

As local residents and De Beaver readers know, this area of London is populated by a surprising variety of small businesses. For example, there lies beating in the heart of De Beauvoir Town a firm whose lifeblood is sawdust. Miles from the nearest forest, under the branches of protected trees, the Jeakins men are busy grading sawdust for businesses in the London area. For Jeakins Sawdust of Hertford Road is one of the main suppliers of sawdust in London. The sawdust is collected from various



Georgie, Tommy and Charlie Jeakins with their famous delivery van

mills and brought to De Beauvoir for drying, grading and bagging. One brick-making firm alone gets 30 tons of sawdust a week. Different qualities of sawdust go to the fur trade, who use it to clean and gloss the furs; to the dog food manufacturers as roughage; and to butchers, who use it for smoking meats.

Jeakins Sawdust has been a family firm since 1876 and is currently operated by third and fourth generation Jeakins fathers and sons in a building which, in Victorian times, was a

coaching inn, reputed to be the last stop before the City.

You might have seen their classic 1932 Ford panel van which makes City and West End deliveries. It has been in a film, a television series, and the Lord Mayor's Show, by special invitation. A bigger Jeakins lorry pulls a float in the De Beauvoir Carnival procession.

Gloria Ward

# A ROOM WITH A VIEW

As the lights go down on De Beauvoir Town and we march home two by two, Life seems not so bad in that penthouse pad at the top, in the room with a view.

We may moan about the mess, the noise and all the rest, and who on earth chose orange-coloured doors? But for all the faults we see, this suits us admirably. Never mind the pools we find on both lift floors.

We've no fish ponds and no rose garden, for us grey brick and tarmacadam Our roses come in pots, But if our blocks lack charm The people they're so warm, and for that view our flat must rank about the tops.

We may pay through the nose for a flat we never chose and inner city filth's not our idea of fun, But we've got naught to fear for life's just fine up here, while we're at the top and we're the guys looking down on everyone.

David Gaze

# Closed car park....

The multi-storey car park at the corner of Downham Road and Southgate Road has now been demolished. What use can be made of the empty site?

At the moment there are serious proposals that a health centre should be built there, with consulting rooms for GPs, and space for other medical facilities — it would be nice to have another chemist, for instance — but this depends on two rather important points. Will there be enough money available to build such a centre? With the controversy over St. Leonard's Hospital, the position regarding health provision is not clear. Will the Health Authority regard this as a priority or not? The other question to be asked is, would the local GPs welcome such a centre? It appears that, in principle, they would.

The multi-storey car park was a big planning

mistake, built in 1972 with the aim of providing a car parking space for every flat. Only one in three occupants of the flats owns a car, and no one wanted to park where they could not look after their car. The car park was never used.

Let's hope that we can get it right this time, though if plans for a health centre fall through, the site will most likely be used for housing.

Philippa Toomey

## Open workshop

Another bit of the old Metropolitan Hospital will be brought into use by Christmas, when the old boiler house should be converted into a centre for the performing arts. This will provide rehearsal facilities for small orchestras and dance

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