

DE BEAVER

JULY 1981



HANDS ACROSS DOWNHAM ROAD!

Just in the small area of De Beauvoir Town, people lead vastly different lives.

You only have to look at the huge council tower blocks in the New Town and the renovated private houses in the Old to realise that this newspaper reaches those who prefer the Daily Star and those who study The Times.

All newspapers share one essential function: to communicate. De Beaver, non-profit making and now in its second issue since a relaunch in the Spring, is no different. It hopes to help bridge the divide of Downham Road and serve as a community platform for residents on both sides.

Who's who in De Beauvoir.

Perhaps as a result of the variety of aspirations and ambitions jostling side by side in under a square mile, De Beauvoir Town contains no fewer than five residents' associations. One could be of interest to YOU.

De Beauvoir Association (DBA). Chairperson Mary Cannon, founded in 1970 to stop Hackney Council demolishing the Old Town and building another estate. Aims to cover the whole area, but in fact deals mainly with the old town. It also sponsors this newspaper.

"We keep a watchful eye on all planning issues in De Beauvoir and at the moment a lot of time is being spent on the Ufton Centre which we partly sponsored," said Mrs Cannon.

De Beauvoir 1972 Tenants' Association (DB72TA). Secretary Chris Crowfoot, founded 1972, to deal with problems on the newer part of the estate (the Southgate Road side).

"We try to get better facilities for tenants. Our main concerns at the moment are the lack of maintenance - you have to wait so long to get anything done - and the high rates of electricity we pay because of the way some of the buildings were designed," said Mrs Crowfoot.

De Beauvoir New Town Tenants' Association (DBNTTA). Chairperson Mr Ernie Hart, founded when tenants first moved into the New Town and deals with problems at the Kingsland Road end of the estate.

"Repairs and vandalism are our main worry. Then we have the problem of the lifts being used as toilets," said Mr Hart.

De Beauvoir Community Association (DBCA) Chairperson Rene Calvert, founded 1974 to deal with social activities at the Rose Lipman Centre.

"We deal entirely with the social side. We have bingo, kung fu, majorettes, roller-skating and a new addition is dance and drama on Monday evenings," said Mrs Calvert.

De Beauvoir General Improvement Area's residents' advisory committee (GIA committee), founded 1970 when the area between Englefield and Downham Roads together with Hertford Road was defined as an improvement area in need of intensive housing action. Provides a platform for residents to meet local council officers once a month and concerns itself with environmental issues.

Minutes' secretary Alan Rayner said, "The idea of merging with the DBA was considered and rejected. It was felt both have a role to play."

CARNIVAL '81

Coconuts and clowns, candy floss and carousels... Carnival '81, held in De Beauvoir on June 27th, was a wonderful example of old and new towns getting together and having fun.

There were goldfish to be won, punch and judy to watch, ducks to be hooked, wet sponges to be thrown at "criminals" in stocks, and any spare moments could be filled by having your face painted a horrendous colour, or a horrendous variety of colours.

For the first time this year, the Carnival was held at the Ufton Centre; its previous site was around the estate.

Proceedings began with a procession of floats, led by the DBCA's Carnival Queen Julie Robertson, 10, of Fermain Court. She was chosen from many other girls who put their names forward at a library disco.

Julie looked suitably regal in a long white dress and red sash, while her two Princesses, Yolande-Kirsty Sadler, 6, and Joanne Bloom, 8, were attired in pretty pink.

Floats in the procession illustrated a variety of themes - from South Sea islands to punks. The John Kitts Trophy for the most original was

presented to the Rose Lipman library who took children's stories as their subject.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Hackney and local MP Ron Brown were in attendance, as was British Telecom's Buzby, who flew in after checking that De Beauvoir's roads were not due for further excavations (see separate story). Poor Buzby was clearly disturbed by the sight of so many youngsters wearing fierce war-paint. In fact, one of the most popular stalls provided a whole new visage for just 15p.

Linden Margerison of Stamford Road and Hilary Hockman of De Beauvoir Square did a brisk trade in painting stripes à la Adam and the Ants on upturned faces. Flowers, clown grins and other variations - executed with a mixture of non-toxic powder paint and baby oil - were available on request.

Mr Eddie Smith's Fun Fair was again enjoyed by the daring and punch and judy man Philip Doulton had children screaming in delight.

Although the venue was new, the organisers as in other years were members of the De Beauvoir Carnival committee. The committee received a £500 grant from Hackney Borough Council

continued on back page



Transforming Ian Emsley, 3½, of Burbage House into a happy clown is ace face painter Linden Margerison of Stamford Rd

Odeon freeze?

The former Dalston Odeon Cinema could be redeveloped into either a freezer centre or a covered market-hall with 40 shopping units, if new planning applications get the go-ahead on July 28.

Hackney Borough officials are currently consulting local residents and the DBA about the alternative schemes, both of which include 10 residential flats and on-site parking. The freezer centre would also incorporate a cafeteria.

It is understood that the arcade of shops is the more likely project for the site at the junction of Kingsland and Stamford Roads. A former idea to build a complex of shops, flats and offices - as reported in the previous issue of De Beaver - was abandoned

New names

De Beauvoir's disintegrating road barriers are to be restored this summer with concrete kerbs and bollards as 'permanent' closures. The Fire Brigade has agreed to this only if parts of roads are given new names - avoiding tragedies like a recent fire in Barnsbury when the brigade arrived on the wrong side of a barrier. People living in the affected parts of Hertford Road, Mortimer Road, Culford Road, Ufton Road, Northchurch Road will be contacted by the council with a leaflet explaining what will happen.

Details are discussed at the GIA committee on the first Thursday of each month (all welcome, 7.30pm Rose Lipman) or may be obtained from Alan Rayner (7 Ufton Road, 889 1279).

"Noisy" factory

Hackney Council took a summons in March against Glen Furniture of 1A Southgate Grove alleging noise nuisance. Whilst local residents wait for the magistrates to grant a hearing date, Pam Oliver, Jean Burns and Sam Eatly have been to see Ronald Brown M.P. in a bid to speed matters up.

Meanwhile, plans to demolish 66 Southgate Road have been put aside and, probably, the council will be granting a repairing lease to a Canonbury roofing contractor who wants to live in it.

IN THIS ISSUE: BIG BLAZE IN DE BEAUVOIR - Story and pictures on p.3. PLUS all the local news and issues.

Open at last—official

CANAL HITCH

All entrance gates to the canal towpath in Hackney are remaining closed during the summer preventing De Beauvoir and Hackney residents generally taking advantage of the towpath. Since the Queen's Jubilee when the towpath was completely renovated and opened, it has scarcely been open for more than a short time for a number of reasons.

The latest closure is due to new regulations from the British Waterways Board on the level of patrolling of towpaths. Hackney has had problems on funding the extra manpower to handle the work, and apparently practical problems in negotiating with parks department employees on the overtime involved. Some confusion also seems to exist on the level of patrolling required which varies from simply opening and closing the gates in one version of the story, to a permanent lifeguard or lifeguards at the other extreme. Hackney's current best offer is to provide a maintenance/patrol man for the towpath, and at going to press it is unclear whether the path will reopen soon. Contact your councillors if you feel access to the towpath is important!

CANAL BOATING/CANOEING

Some good news is that ILEA have agreed in principle to a canal site belonging to them being available for canoeing by children and local youth clubs. It is hoped that this project can be got off the ground later this year, and anyone in De Beauvoir who is prepared to assist in this exciting new venture, please come to an open meeting on the subject on July 23rd. The meeting will probably be held near the canal site which is a couple of hundred yards east of De Beauvoir so please contact me for details of the venue nearer the time. Andrew Hinchley, 72 Gulford Road, 254 7922.

ANDREW HINCHLEY.



The Ufton Centre and park were thronged with people of all ages on Friday 12th June to enjoy events to mark the official opening of the Ufton Centre at 12 Ufton Road.

Over 100 people crowded into the room which will soon become the bar to hear something of the history and current activities of the Centre. The Mayor of Hackney, Councillor Martin Ottolangui, who has been associated with the Ufton Road Project for many years in his capacity as Leader of the Council, was a particularly appropriate person to speak on this occasion.

In his speech he described the Centre as being another example of the voluntary sector (that's us) and the Council working together for the benefit of everyone in the area. He emphasised the Council's past and continuing commitment to De Beauvoir Town, and suggested that it was now up to all of us to make the Centre a success.

The official ceremony was followed by an open air kids' barbecue and disco with an inflatable to boogie on! Various fit people were soon involved in an energetic game of football, while others with less energy promenaded round the park and centre. The evening's festivities continued with a grand Victorian music hall, with entertainment by Major Chorlton-cum-Hardy's music hall by courtesy of Hackney Council Leisure Services. Some brave members of the audience had arrived in Victorian fancy dress and people were soon singing along with old favourites like "My old man" and "My sweet little Alice blue gown".

Our pictures show 8-year-old Dionne Powell of St Aubin's Court making a presentation to Hackney's Mayoress, Mrs Jean Ottolangui, as the Mayor, Mr Martin Ottolangui and Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs Shuja Shaikh, look on; children bouncing on the inflatable, and "Gilbert the Filbert", the blasé roué, taking stupendously to the stage.

Story: MARY CANNON. Pictures: GRAHAM PARSEY.



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HUGE FIRE FUELS MET. PLAN

Praise for the men at Kingsland Fire Station came from factory boss Dave Sands after his upholstery works at 82-94 Southgate Road was partially destroyed on June 19 in a huge blaze.

An estimated £200,000 of damage was caused. Even so, Mr Sands said the bill would have been far greater without the intelligent handling of the situation by Station Officer Jim Kennedy.

With eight fire engines, Mr Kennedy and his 11-man team from the Blue Watch stopped the flames only feet from piles of highly inflammable foam.

This prompt action saved the factory itself from damage, although cutting and storage rooms were reduced to a tangled mass of charred wood, fallen bricks and rigid steel joists that had bent in the heat.

People were quickly evacuated from Appleby's premises and nearby homes. Nobody was hurt, although Mr Sands and Mr Kennedy had a narrow escape when the roof of a room they had just run through caved in.

These pictures were taken the next day as Mr Sands and a number of his employees did what they could to clear the debris.



Story and pictures: BARBARA NOKES.

The factory fire in Southgate Road when neighbouring houses had to be evacuated brings into focus one of the several plans being discussed for the future of the former Metropolitan Hospital.

A long-term proposal is that it should be used to relocate local industries, removing them and their inherent hazards away from residential property. Factories in Hertford Road, for example, could be rehoused on the Met. site and residential accommodation more in keeping with the area be built in their stead.

This was one of several schemes outlined at a meeting of the DBA by Hackney council officials Ralph Ward and Bill Brown. The future of the Met. and adjoining Nurses' Home -purchased by the Borough earlier this year- is still uncertain, but planning officials want to formulate a basic concept of whether it should be used eventually for industrial or residential purposes.

In the short term a variety of uses are being considered. There has been a revival of a former proposal to employ the old Nurses' Home as a hostel for homeless families and save on the council's bill for emergency bed and breakfast accommodation. Another idea is that it could become a half-way home for cured alcoholics.

Two short-term prospects -i.e. about five years' duration -for the Met. itself were also discussed. One organisation has expressed interest in turning it into workshops and hostel accommodation; another, St. Mungo's, wants to provide hostel accommodation for homeless single people.

A fear was voiced at the meeting that the buildings could become a "ghetto" for the homeless and otherwise socially disadvantaged.

Whatever the outcome, two problems have first to be solved: the presence of asbestos in the building and a high level of radioactivity in the former X-ray department.

L.M.

BUZZY

Rumours are rife that British Telecom plan to tear up our brand new pavements and put down their cables. Another case of bureaucratic muddling? Not so, according to the Town Hall's technical and services department.

FACT. New ducting for cables was installed in some streets when the pavements were relaid. New subscribers in Northchurch and Downham are among those who stand to benefit.

FACT. Overhead cables in the area will remain for the foreseeable future. As usual, lack of funds is the excuse.

ROGER NOKES.

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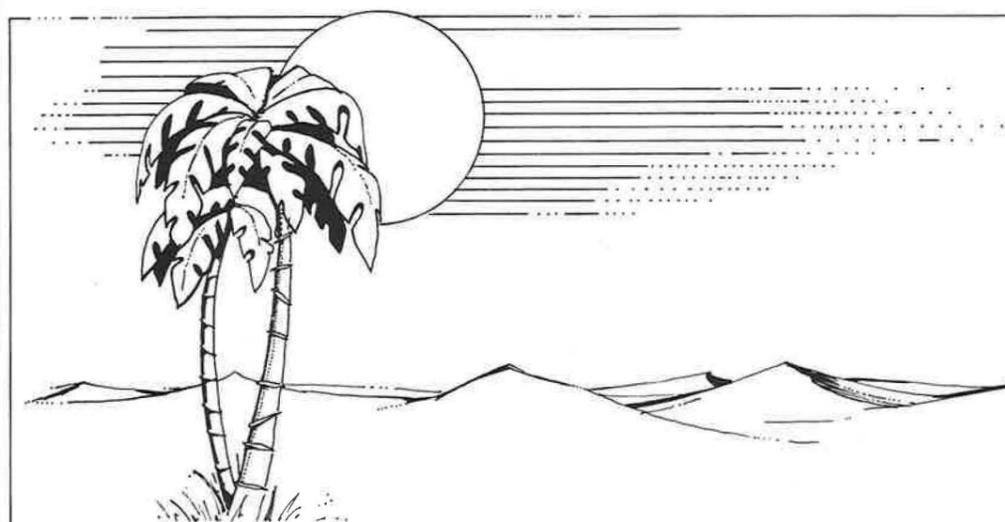
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Balls Pond: bright and beautiful

A historic terrace of houses on the Balls Pond Road is being carefully renovated by Circle 33, the local housing association. Already, spanking new paintwork at one end offers a pleasing sight to passers-by and those who live near the terrace between Culford and Kingsland Roads.

The houses were bought in 1977 and the project has taken some time to come to fruition because existing tenants had to be rehoused and because overall costs were high.

The Government-sponsored Housing Corporation, which has to approve all Circle 33's purchases, requires cost estimates for modernization works before giving approval. In this case, the figures were so high they initially would not accept them.

Altogether the conversion is costing around £320,000 - about £26,500 for each of the 12 dwellings. Hackney Council provided £12,000 specifically for the preservation and restoration of original architectural features.

The Housing Corporation did, however, immediately recognise the historic value of the houses - all listed buildings - and allowed the purchase to go ahead without agreeing the



modernization plans. Thus, all the negotiation and detailed planning had to be done after the purchase. And, because of the very poor shape of the properties which required new roofs, new walls and a thorough internal overhaul, it all took a great deal of time.

But now the first of the houses are occupied and others will be offered to Circle 33's existing tenants at a 'fair rent', set by a Rent Officer.

All this must be some comfort to the other residents of Balls Pond Road, beleaguered as they are with the problems of juggernauts.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

COME INTO THE GARDEN

The De Beauvoir Gardeners' Bubbling Botanical Bonanza continues to bloom. Our floribunda of topics at meetings will make gardeners of us all. We had a splendid illustrated lecture by Mrs Clayton of the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Wisley, entitled 'Trees and Shrubs in Small Gardens'. Also, an interesting talk on pioneer work being done by Sue Suban with a group of children making an ecological garden in Kennington. We learnt too from a fellow gardener how De Beauvoir school was embarking on a similar project.

Quite a few of De Beauvoir gardeners graced Chelsea with their presence and joined in the jolly scrum half that is meant to be a 'Flower Show'. Armed with wellie boots, rain macs, dogged determination and well fortified with Perriers and picnics, we survived the pleasures of the

English summer.

The club extends a big 'Thank You' to Jude Moraes, the retiring Chairman who did such splendid work during our nursery days. Now that we are out of the greenhouse, it's over to Dorritie Kettlewell our new chairman to make sure we proliferate.

Future Events.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 5th - 12th July | Great De Beauvoir Garden Competition. |
| 4th August | Afternoon, visit to The Royal Parks' Nursery. Evening, Best Dressed Hat in Heather's Garden. 72 Mortimer Road. 8pm. |
| 6th September | Flower and Vegetable Show. St Peter's Crypt. |

Joan Edmonds

Since our last issue of De Beaver, there has been a very sad loss in the area - the loss of Joan Edmonds who died on Sunday, March 8th.



Joan was a very great friend to many people in De Beauvoir. She was born in Hoxton and had lived in this area all her life. For many years, she had been active in the community, caring for the elderly and housebound, helping with community events, welcoming new faces to St Peter's and struggling to keep the crypt there clean and tidy.

When you were feeling 'one degree under' and went along to Dr Ahsan's surgery, Joan's smiling face was always there to greet you and to make you feel brighter.

She will be sadly missed. Our most sincere condolences to Joan's husband and family.

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BUSY SUMMER DAYS

Ufton centre

At the Ufton Centre activities are expanding all the time. They now include:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------------|
| Monday | 1.30pm | Mums and toddlers. |
| Wednesday | 10.30am | Mums and toddlers. |
| | 7.30pm | Keep fit class. |
| Thursday | 7.15pm | Dressmaking class. |
- And in the Youth Club:
- | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------------------|
| Monday | 5.00pm | Intermediates (11-14) |
| | 7.30pm | Seniors (14-21) |
| Wednesday | 5.00pm | Juniors (6-10) |
| Thursday | 7.30pm | Seniors (14-21) |

An extremely successful Easter play-scheme will be followed by an equally successful (we're sure) summer playscheme. Other activities coming soon include extended youth club opening hours, bar, pensioners' events and more.

HEATHER WILMER

Rose Lipman

Summer is coming and plans are being made in the children's library for activities during the school holidays. So far we have booked the following six films.

- | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| 6 Aug | - One of our Dinosaurs is Missing. |
| 13 Aug | - Swiss Family Robinson. |
| 20 Aug | - Story of Robin Hood. |
| 27 Aug | - The Gnomobile. |
| 3 Sept | - Saturday Night Fever. |

We have just started a jig-saw puzzle loan service, which we hope will prove helpful to some. Anyone may join, and of course we will still be happy to receive donations.

In the Autumn we shall be launching an entirely new information service with community information, small ads and a full file of local addresses and contacts.

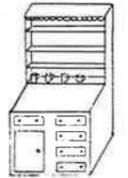
Britannia

At the Britannia Leisure Centre, the following sports courses are available as an introduction to the sport. Each course costs only £2.00 plus entrance fee to the Centre.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Weight Training (over 14's only) | 27th - 31st July. 2pm - 4pm. (Centre issues permits at the end of the course.) |
| Judo. | 3rd - 7th August. 10am - 12 noon and 2pm - 4pm. (Gradings available.) |
| Table Tennis. | 10th - 14th August. 10am - 12 noon. (Halex Proficiency Award.) |
| Volleyball. | 17th - 21st August. 10am - 12 noon. |
| Football Skills. | 24th - 28th August. 10am - 12 noon. (Coco-Cola Super Skills Awards.) |
| Badminton. | 31st August - 4th September. 10am - 12 noon. (ESBA Carlton Award.) |

Minimum age for courses - 9 years.

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THE NEW TOWN: FIRST THE BAD NEWS

Problem damp

Unless you have been on the moon for the last few months, you cannot fail to have noticed that there has been a bit of rain about. Those lucky ones among us have been able to get out of the wet by going home and shutting our front doors. But just under 40 families on the De Beauvoir Estate have not been so lucky. When they have shut their front doors, the wet is still there. It's seeping under the floors, pouring into their linen cupboards, lifting their floor tiles and soaking their carpets.

Some families have been moved from their homes in St Lawrence Court and St Aubin's. In No.6 St Lawrence Court, the flat was damp when the people moved in and the carpet was always wet. In some pram areas, there has been three or four inches of water lying for months, and some of the linen cupboards are saturated.

The bottom of the problem... or the top?

All this started well over a year ago and the Council still has not got to the bottom of the problem. Or is it

at the top? The trouble is, they are not really sure if the damp is rising or falling. Tests that have been carried out have not proved particularly conclusive. There have been theories that the roofs are faulty or that there is some amazing failure in the damp-proofing. But more recently, tests seem to suggest that the trouble lies in the drainpipes. These don't go down the outside; they run through ducts that are actually inside the building. That would be fine if the rain were running through the pipes as it's supposed to. But it looks as if the rainwater is running outside the pipes and so is seeping everywhere. New pipes have been ordered and will be fitted as soon as they arrive. Meanwhile, the tops of the pipes have been sealed off - and already some drying out has been reported. It's hoped that the new pipes will do the trick, but even after they are installed it will be some time before we will know if that's the answer. Meanwhile... don't put those wellies away yet!

HILARY HOCKMAN

Picture shows water penetration at Lawrence Court, in the kitchen, floor tiles have been lifted by constant damp. Reflection of light illustrates depth.

Picture: GRAHAM PARSEY.



NOW THE GOOD NEWS...



last part to be done was the other side of St Aubins Court. When was the work finished? Why - May 1981! For those nine months the concrete posts and the fencing had been locked away and work delayed because a section of paving stones and iron railings needed dislodging. One would have thought that this could have been coordinated.

We do not know the final cost of the gardens but if they had been done in the first year, it certainly would not have been so high. Still, at last the ground floor tenants have their gardens and their privacy.



Diane Bailey and Nicola Leconte in the flower-filled garden at No.6 St Aubins Court. Only months ago nothing grew here except grass.

Pictures: BARBARA NOKES

Four years after the idea was first suggested to Hackney Council, 30 ground floor flats in the New Town now have gardens. CHRIS CROWFOOT describes below what she calls 'the long-winded saga of the gardens of De Beauvoir Estate'.

As long ago as May 1977, De Beauvoir 1972 Tenants' Association approached Hackney Council's housing department for permission for the ground floor flats of St Brelades, St Lawrence and St Aubins Courts to have gardens. The Association was willing to raise money for the fencing which was estimated at £960 at that time.

The council asked if every ground floor tenant in these blocks actually wanted gardens so the Association's secretary carried out a door to door survey round all but three flats that were empty at this time. Everyone signed a petition, the council agreed and said they would pay the bill.

A year later - no sign of any gardens. They promised to start them before March 1979. Nothing. Before the end of the summer. Nothing. In April 1980, the Association decided to take more decisive action and had a meeting with the District and Estate Housing Officer the following month.

The tenants made it clear they had waited long enough and declared they were all going to measure out the same amount of ground and start their gardens.

They were told that the plans for the gardens had been held up in the Planning Department since 1978 and that the costing was now £2000.

In the last week in June the fences were started at one side of St Albans and St Lawrence Courts, St Brelades Court was finished by August. The

Multi-story muddle

Mention the multi-storey car-park on Downham Road to any New Town resident and you are likely to get a pretty dirty look. It has been a sore point ever since it was built nine years ago.

It has never been suitable for what it was designed for - the entrance is on the wrong side and it has yet to win GLC approval on safety grounds. Residents want it knocked down and replaced by housing.

There's the rub. The Council is keeping silent about the figures but the word is that the bill for demolishing this particular white elephant would be colossal.

So a number of proposals have been made, like the idea of turning it into craft workshops (which never materialised) and the more recent one of turning it into an open space for a 20 ton flour silo for use by the nearby bakery.

The latest idea is to use the thing for storing cars which is not, at first sight anyway, very different from what it was built for. A planning application has been lodged by Highbury Corner Motors for the building.

Residents object strongly to the idea on the grounds that the car-park is part of the New Town development and useless though it is, they feel it would be against their interests if it were to be taken over by a commercial concern and would add an extra traffic hazard.

Whatever the outcome this time, it is clear that many in the New Town are beginning to lose patience with the succession of hare-brained schemes for putting this small island of planning blight to some sort of use. "Knock it down and be done with it!" is the message coming through loud and clear.

TOM LLOYD

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BOTTLED IN DE BEAUVOIR

To say Guiseppe Veneziani's hobby is winemaking is like saying Bjorn Borg plays tennis for fun.

Step into the shed at the bottom of his garden in Stamford Road and you could be in Italy. In one corner stand four massive 80 gallon barrels reeking sourly of vintages past. Row upon row of straw-lined carboys are ranged neatly around the walls.

On average Guiseppe produces some 1,000 bottles of wine a year, 80% of which is red. And nothing could be further from the instant kit variety available at the local chemist. For Guiseppe, wine making is a natural process from beginning to end without additives or chemicals of any kind.

The process begins each October when the first container-loads of grapes arrive at Covent Garden market from Bari, Foggia, Sicily and all points south.

For the importers at Covent Garden and Spitalfields market, supplying amateur vintners on Guiseppe's scale is big business. But it can also be a risky one.

If their shipment gets the thumbs-down, they finish up with thousands of unsold boxes on their hands. And, unlike the table varieties, wine grapes have a very short life.

Once Guiseppe has made his choice, the serious business starts.

Barefoot in the shed

Out comes a primitive-looking wooden trough and off come the shoes. Within a matter of seconds, juice is gushing out in a steady purple stream.

Gradually the 80 gallon barrel is filled to the brim. Then follows a week's wait as the skin and stalks are allowed to separate from the juice to form a layer of must on the surface.

A second pressing is then taken from the must and the juice is decanted into carboys.

During the next month the wine bubbles away, clearing itself of any impurities. After which, a second decanting into fresh carboys takes place. At this point the carboys are tapped with cork bungs and left for four months while nature takes over.

Come the first full moon in Spring, the wine is ready for bottling. Sounds simple, doesn't it? And so it is, if you happen to come from a long line of Italian farmers like Guiseppe.

Like his brother Franco (also a Stamford Road resident), Guiseppe was treading grapes on his father's farm in Piacenza before most of us had our first bicycle.

For men used to treading up to 50 tons a day, the odd hundred boxes must seem like a gentle stroll.

Sadly, Guiseppe's *Vino del Hackney* is for private consumption only. But next time you happen to be passing down Stamford Road ...

ROGER NOKES

having found a coign of vantage under the numismatist's hospitable eaves. Last year there were only three. Perhaps next year there will be a small housing estate. How simple it is when you are a bird.



Whoops! Too much of Giuseppe's wine?

Two of our readers - Mr Alexander of Southgate Road and Mr Harwood of Culford Road - have pointed out that our report on the Britannia Sports Centre was not quite correct.

Mr Harwood writes, "The Old Britannia was at the other end of Hoxton Street, between Crondall Street and Britannia Walk. You might be surprised to know it had one of the biggest stages in London - big enough to drive a stage coach and four horses across it!

The stage door was in Britannia Gardens and the other end in Crondall Street was used at Christmas when the pantomime *Cinderella* was showing. I was about 6 years old at the time this performance was last given, so you see the Britannia Centre was quite a long way from the 'Old Brit' which was bomb damaged during the second world war and then demolished, a sad end for a wonderful theatre."

MORE LOCAL HISTORY

Our numismatics correspondent reports that an attractive Victorian silver medal recently came on the market at Messrs Spink & Son, the dealers in antique and modern medals.

It was presented by Mrs Whalley to John Francis Bartons of the Balls Pond Road Fire Escape Station "for his noble conduct in saving her and her servant from the fire at No.43 Halliford Street, Islington on the 20th September 1863".

We should like to hear from any of our readers who may know more about the Balls Pond Fire Escape Station, and any who have memories of the 'Old Brit'.

From the same address, our ornithological correspondent reports that six house martin families have set up home there this year, doubtless

More carnival...



Hot from a breathtaking trip on the Sizzler are Karen Parker, 14, and her brother Danny, 11, of Kerridge Court and Joanne Howard, 10, and her brother Tony, 9, of Culford Road.



Meet Goldfish Pixie and Dixie just named by their proud new owners Paula Bailey and Vikki Miller, both 10 and both of Portelet Court.

continued from front page

to stage the event. Any profit will go towards paying that back and be donated to charity.

Committee secretary Murrel Neuburger said "Our aim is to give everyone a good time and involve as many people as possible from all over De Beauvoir."

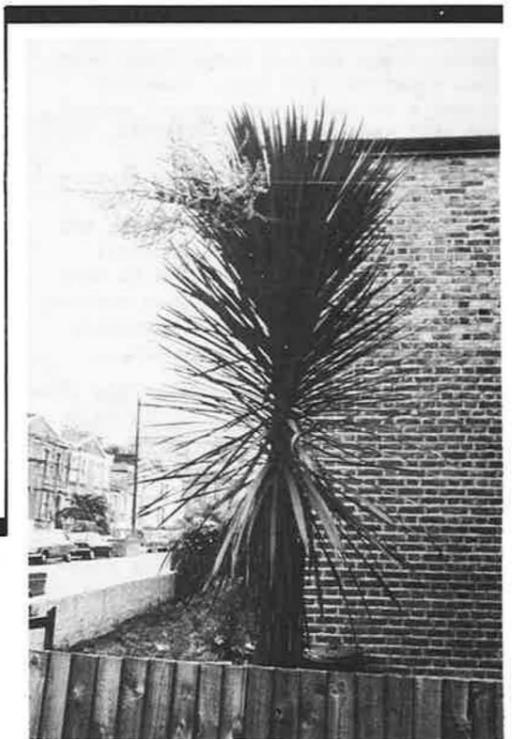
Other organisers, whose work started as long ago as February, included Carol Carpenter and Heather Wilmer.

STOP PRESS: De Beauvoir's next bonanza beano will mark the Royal wedding on July 29. The DBNTA is currently planning a celebration and will have details by the time this appears.

L.M.

Palm springs into flower in Tottenham Road.

It seems the palm now flowering in Catherine and Frank Terenzio's front garden at 134 Tottenham Road is a rare event. "It's the first time it's flowered since we moved in six years ago," Catherine told De Beaver.



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Thanks!

We wish to thank everybody who has given up time to help with this issue of De Beaver.

Remember, small advertisements are free for local people.

Send them and enquiries about other ads to 21 Stamford Road; news and views to The Editors, at 6 Stamford Road.

SMALL ADS.

FOR SALE - Cannon 146 gas cooker - self-clean linings, rotisserie and kebab attachment. Excellent condition. £185 ono. One Leisure stainless steel sink and drainer with taps, £15. Second Leisure stainless steel sink with double drainer and mixer tap, £25. Another pair of bath taps, £5. Also Moulinex electric can opener/knife sharpener, £5. 249 5866.

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