



All change at the old vicarage

The saga of the Old Vicarage at 85 Mortimer Rd. continues. Circle 33 now owns the building, which is currently leased to the Hackney Short Life Users Group (HSLUG), and had planned to run it in conjunction with the Area Health Authority. This original plan has now been changed — a change which will affect all De Beauvoir residents.

During 1982, Circle 33 finally acquired the Old Vicarage from the Church of England with the intention of turning it into a hostel for eight mentally handicapped adults. This was to be run in conjunction with the Area Health Authority. However, the AHA has *withdrawn* as they did not feel they had the resources to take on the project at this time.

This left Circle 33 with a building but no project until recently, when they were ap-

proached by Alice Hoffmann Homes who want to use the building to house people with severe behavioural disturbances. This new proposal changes the whole character of the project. Assurances were given at a public meeting in 1981 that the residents would be mentally handicapped adults, who would be carefully assessed and who would be able to live in hostel accommodation with adequate supervision. It now appears that the Old Vicarage will be a home for people with severe behavioural disturbances.

Dr Jane Leaver (Community Health Physician) and Mr Harry Neal (MENCAP) both have reservations about this project as they feel the necessary support services may not be available. There is also the question of whether Alice Hoffman Homes have enough

experience of dealing with people with this type of problem.

Interestingly, the minutes of a Circle 33 meeting held on 8 February 1983 said that '... local opinion was not of great importance although the needs of the community cannot be ignored ...' and '... Circle 33 has not come across any feelings against the project at local level.'

Of course, planning permission was granted for housing mentally handicapped adults and before the new application for planning permission is granted, there is no doubt that further consultation at local level is now needed!

Story: LESLEY FENTON

...and more than a new vicar at St Peters

When the Rev. Andrew Windross moved into the vicarage in De Beauvoir Road last April, so did his wife Sue, 8-year-old Thomas, 6-year-old Daniel and 3-year-old Hannah. The Family Windross spent the previous five years in Bow, where the Rev. Windross was a Team Vicar. Mrs. Windross is continuing with her work as a Hackney Educational Home Visitor, while Thomas and Daniel attend De Beauvoir School and Hannah is at the Comet Nursery School.



HEADS WE WIN



We've won Jeannie Billington, Head Teacher of De Beauvoir Junior School since last September from her position as Maths Advisor for Hackney and Islington and a member of the ILEA Maths Team.



And we've won Stefanie Blatten, Head Teacher of De Beauvoir Infant School since last September, from her position as Acting Deputy Head of Princess May Infant School. Ms Blatten lives in Eleanor Road, Hackney.

...and it's goodbye from us...

It is almost 3 years since *De Beaver* was relaunched by the present editorial team. Sadly that team is now breaking up as people leave the area.

● **Barbara and Roger Nokes** — moving to near Camden Road. It was their initial enthusiasm that got the paper restarted and since then they have sold ads, written copy and taken photos for *De Beaver*.

● **Lynda Murdin** — moving to Bamsbury. Joint editor, reporter and tireless seeker-after-truth.

● **Jeanette Collins** — other commitments. An honorary member of the team, an ex-resident of De Beauvoir who joint-edited and designed the paper.

● **John Gibson** — moving to the country. Most recent chairman of the DBA and reporter (*see story p.4*).

De Beaver is sponsored by the De Beauvoir Association which caters for all people living between Balls Pond Road and the Canal, and Kingsland Road and Southgate Road. That's a lot of people, and *De Beaver* is at present hardly able to field a team!

Hilary Hockman has been the backbone of *De Beaver*, transforming disorganised enthusiasm into actual deeds. She and the rest of the editorial team will need help if *De Beaver* is not, once again, to disappear ...

SO CAN ANYONE WRITE, DESIGN, SUB COPY, TAKE PHOTOS, DRAW, SELL ADVERTISING SPACE, MAKE PHONE CALLS ... ANYTHING? IF SO CONTACT HILARY HOCKMAN, 7 DE BEAUVOIR SQUARE. TELEPHONE 249 5866.

...So... is there anyone out there ?...

Where has all the money gone?

CHRIS CROWFOOT, secretary of the '72 Tenants' Association asks Hackney Council.

At a full council meeting on February 24, it was announced that council rents would be increased by an average of £2.50 a week. Most tenants will be asking what they get for that money. I'm sure tenants of De Beauvoir would like to know. There have been a lot of environmental improvements in De Beauvoir this year, but most are paid for by the Partnership money provided by central Government. The tenants would like to know what comes of the

revenue for repairs. For instance, it has come to the notice of the '72 Tenants' Association that the council has not bought any new stock for central heating for the last year at least. But they carry out conversions on other estates so they are using the parts they take out for repair on this estate. Is that value for money? I think not - so where is the money spent?

LEGAL ADVICE AND WELFARE RIGHTS AT THE UFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Ufton Community Centre is planning FREE Legal Advice and Welfare Rights Sessions. If you are interested in helping and have any training that would be useful, please contact Meredith or Jennie on 254 2941 or Murrell on 249 4358.

MISS PRINTS by HILARY HOCKMAN

I am glad to say that it is not only the De Beaver and The Guardian that have misprints in them. A recent newsletter from the Chairman of the Friends of the Geffrye Museum announced that, on May 22, experts would be at the Museum for its Antiques Valuation Open Day. People were invited to bring their own possessions along and "six experts from Phillips will be

there to assess the value of your favourite treasures". Our favourite treasurer is most definitely John Gibson who works tirelessly, not only for De Beaver, but also for the De Beauvoir Association and for the Ufton Community Centre. I think even the experts from Phillips, the auctioneers, would find it difficult to assess his value. Many thanks, John, for all your hard work, and for warning all of us when we are slipping into the red.

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SOUTHGATE ROAD EYESORE

A row of boarded-up houses is always an eyesore. Why can't something be done about it? Even more annoying when something could be done, and isn't. For some time Bents Plant Hire have wanted to do up the four houses next to their premises at 81/82 Southgate Road, and also extend their building, offering employment perhaps to one or two additional people.



the gardens as well. How long will this eyesore continue? The G.L.C. managed to send someone round at the beginning of March, but then, of course, the matter has to go to Hackney Council as the planning authority. Let's hope that Hackney can get its skates on.

While they are at it, if there is so much rubbish about, what happened to the scheme that left skips around every now and then for people to get rid of their refuse? PHILIPPA TOOMEY

LATE NIGHT EXTRA ...

Late-night music and dancing will soon be a feature of the De Beauvoir Arms in Stamford Road, despite protests from the pub's neighbours who fear increased noise and nuisance. But opposition to landlord David Cowley's plans which was spearheaded by the De Beauvoir Association did have partial success. When several conditions have been met, the pub will stay open until midnight on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays - and not 2 a.m. as originally intended. It will also close at the normal time the rest of the week - and not midnight. The late-night music and dancing licence was granted by a panel of G.L.C. members at a public meeting, held after local residents signed a petition in protest. But before the pub can

accommodate late-night revellers, fire precautions will have to be improved. Other restrictions include a ban on anyone entering after 10.30 p.m.; notices to be displayed requesting people to leave quietly; no more than 180 people to be accommodated in the bar and games room at any one time; no admission to anyone "appearing to be" under 21-years-old. Mr Cowley told De Beaver he was "well pleased" with this outcome and hoped to have his pub ready for late-night entertainment shortly. He again assured residents he would do everything possible to keep down noise. The licence expires on the last day of the year and any objection to renewal should be lodged no later than October 31 with the Director-General's department (Room 207) at the G.L.C.

In the meantime, Mr Cowley has undertaken to listen to any complaints on 254 7768. L.M.

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Farewell to John Gibson, who is leaving his home in Buckingham Road with the delightful garden he made to live in the country, after his retirement from the Family Welfare Association – but he says his chief claim to fame is as the man who wound the church clock at St. Peter de Beauvoir and kept it going for 18 months! A keen member of the Gardeners' Society, he says goodbye with regret to many friends.

FAREWELL TO JOHN GIBSON

FOXTROT

Much local interest was aroused a few weeks ago by a fox, first seen drinking from a garden pond in Buckingham Road. The same day it broke into a cage of rabbits in Stamford Road, killing two of them. There it was observed for some time by the Jenkins family and their neighbours, who commented on its cat-like movements and general insouciance . . . The Borough Pest Control Service came and set a trap for it. This our visitor ignored, but took the hint, and has not been sighted round here again – so far.

JOHN GIBSON



P.S. Margaret Strowlger and Peter Hendrick of Culford Road report a sighting in far off Canonbury. The fox was a surprise visitor at an election night barbecue where previous

reports have him frightening to death a pet guinea pig and white rabbit and decimating the duck population of New River Walk.

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254 9703 LYNN BROOKS

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9.30 - 5.30. SATURDAY 10 - 12.30

Carnival time again

This year's Carnival is to be held on Saturday, 17 September 1983.

The festivities started off with a terrific Carnival Disco for children on Thursday, 9 June. The Grand Carnival Disco will be held on 19 August, when the Carnival Queen and Princesses will be chosen.

The procession will include colourful floats and musical groups. As usual, we hope to have as many different stalls and displays as ever, including a fun-fair, rock band, archery, bingo and the library Book Bus. Many more attractions have been booked.

The programme will be available nearer the day and if you would like to volunteer your services, please get in touch with Anita Kane on 249 3669.

We hope that everything – especially the weather – will be as good as last year. See you there!

● DBCA EVENTS

In addition to the Carnival, the DBCA runs the following regular social events at the Rose Lipman Community Hall:

Bingo – Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 - 10 pm.
Senior Citizens' Bingo – Wednesdays 2 - 4 pm.
Self Defence – Monday & Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm.
Cubs – Thursdays 6.30 pm.

Anyone who is interested in joining the DBCA should contact Renee Calvert (254 8781).

DE BEAUVOIR ASSOCIATION

The DBA has decided to leave the watch on planning matters in future to the GIA Advisory Committee, which it will assist by circulating the Committee's minutes to DBA members. The Association will continue to encourage interest in the amenities and history of the area, and to organise social events, the next of which will be the Canal trip on 13th July. (see p.2). **JOHN GIBSON**

Gardeners Club blossoming

By the time this goes to press, most of the star-studded annual events of the De Beauvoir Gardeners' Club will be over. The 1983 Garden Competition will be history and the events surrounding it lost in local gossip and tea. We will have picnicked several times in the long evenings, leaving our chatter in the air, for May and June are magic to gardeners. At last one can enjoy the floribunda of one's labours as the mystery of the garden unfolds.

Folks will be pleased to hear that the new vicar is happy to allow the club the use of his garden, so the Annual Flower Show will be as usual on 4 September. Start growing those marrows and spuds and planning your jams and chutneys now!!!

Anyone wishing to join the club, please do come along to meetings on the first Tuesday in the month at St Peter's Crypt at 8 p.m.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

July – Garden crawl to view the prize-winning gardens from the competition.

August – Meet in the Crypt to plan the Annual Flower Show.

4 September – Flower Show, Vicarage Gardens, 2 - 4 p.m.

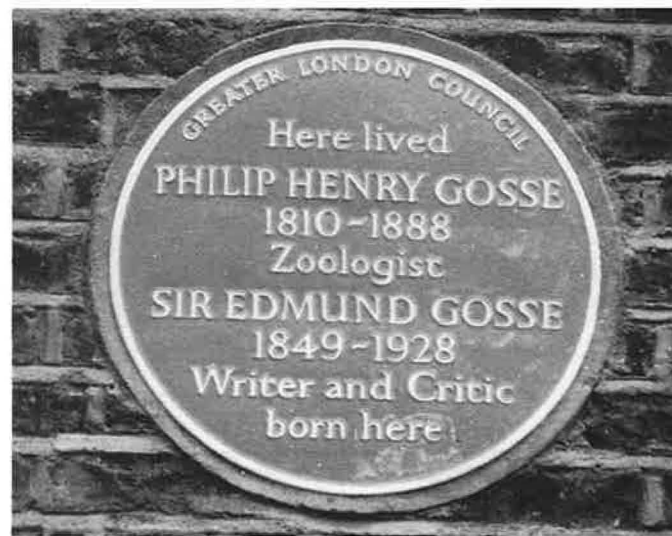
6 September – Annual General Meeting, St. Peter's Crypt, 8 p.m.

Happy days!

I. M. Patiens Forte

NEW BLUE PLAQUE FOR DE BEAUVOIR

In case you can't read it from the road, here's a close-up of the GLC plaque recently attached to 56 Mortimer Road, which is towards the junction with Downham Road.



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45 Met. workshops already hard at it

When Michael Murray, company secretary of ACTS (Arts, Crafts, Trades and Skills) Ltd. finally got the Metropolitan Workshops off the ground last July, he estimated potential workspace for about 150 people. Today, he's happy to revise that figure to 400.

"I thought people would take a room each, or even two rooms. In the event, some people are sharing. And as each room costs only £10 a week including heat and light, overheads are being kept to an absolute minimum. I'm delighted."

Demand for space increases daily and was given a boost on 19 May by a half-hour slot on Radio 4's 'Enterprise' programme. Appropriately enough, 19 May was St. Dunstan's Day and, as Michael Murray pointed out, St Dunstan is the patron saint of all craftsmen. Mr Murray can be reached on 249 2499.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARBARA NOKES



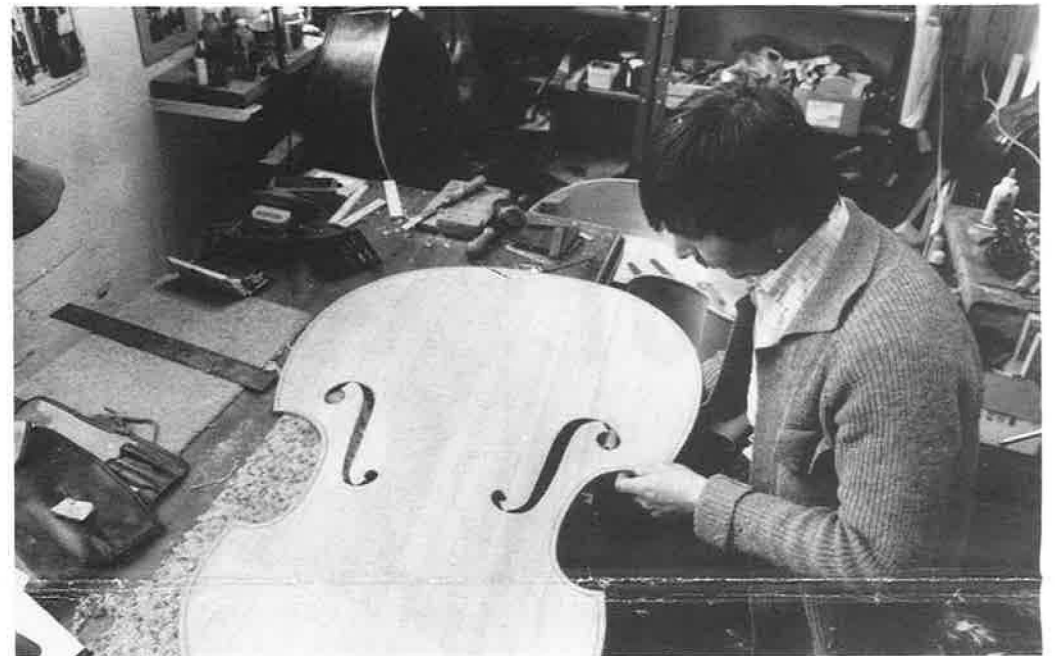
John Coppen, woodwind repairer, Unit 7



John Creighton (left) and Daniel Lane (centre) of Glassworks, specialists in stained and sand blasted architectural glass, Unit 33



Nicky Albrechtsen (left) and Jeanette Lahr, textile designers, Units 13 and 14



Malcolm Healey, string instrument maker and repairer, Unit 7



Yarach Lampert, brass instrument repairer, Unit 5



Alison Dormon, company designer for the Trickster Theatre Company, Unit 9



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SUMMER SUNSHINE FOR THE KIDS AT THE ROSE LIPMAN LIBRARY

At Rose Lipman Library there is a bumper summer holiday package for local children.

This year we have chosen the wide-ranging theme of animals and we will be concentrating on different aspects of the animal world week by week. 'Bear week' will include a teddy bears' picnic and during 'Dinosaur week' we will be making a giant brontosaurus.

Other attractions include a visit from a local theatre group, soft-toy making, a special pirate day, cookery, collage, modelling, painting and story-telling, plus a gripping chess and draughts tournament. We will be showing films throughout the holidays and board games, colouring sheets, quizzes and competitions will always be available.

Drop in for our free leaflet which should be ready by Monday 11 July.

We hope you will help us to make this year's summer holiday activities as exciting as ever!



COMPUTERS CAMPING IN DE BEAUVOIR

Hackney is holding its first ever childrens' computer camp in De Beauvoir at Rose Lipman library. It will be open to all Hackney 11 - 18 year olds who can choose one week out of the five separate week-long courses planned. Sufficient computers will be installed at the library to give one computer for every two children and the things to be covered range from computer graphics through office computing/word processing to control applications. Children will be welcomed with or without previous experience of using computers. Official closing date for the camp is 1st July but De Beauvoir children who haven't got to hear of the event through their schools may be able to obtain a late place by telephoning the Hackney Youth Office on 739 6951 or contacting Anita at the library.

ANDREW HINCHLEY

New Geffrye wing in full flight

Everyone is thrilled to bits with the newly-restored North Wing of the Geffrye Museum. It is now in full use for children's activities and has been a splendid setting for some evening meetings of the Friends of the Geffrye Museum — notably a Valentine's party in February and a concert in June.

The Saturday Club is for children aged seven and upwards: it runs from 10-12 in the mornings and 2-4 in the afternoons. There is no need to book, just bring your children along. You'll find they have lots of fun

Tai-chi and Gingerbread

UFTON CENTRE

The popular keep-fit class is planning to close for only a short break this summer. If you would like to join, come and talk to Jo Wise, the keep-fit tutor on any Wednesday evening. We may be able to keep the tai-chi class open through the summer as well.

Plans for drama workshops and classes at Ufton

The resident theatre company at Ufton-ICTC have funding for a further period and are planning some exciting drama groups to run through the remainder of 1983. Plans will depend very much on the interest shown so if you are interested in adult, teenager, or children's drama, ring Les Miller the theatre company director on 249 1711 or just call at Ufton anytime.

Usual Ufton programme

The usual programme will continue through the summer. Contact Marion at the Centre or phone 254 9072 for details.

Plans for the autumn

We are currently reviewing plans for the autumn and would welcome any suggestions on new activities at the Centre. We are also looking for an honorary treasurer to succeed John Gibson who has served us so well for so long. Any volunteers are requested to contact Andrew Hinchley at Ufton or at 72 Culford Rd.

Monday:

Gingerbread 7.30 - 10pm

Tuesday:

Yoga 9.45 - 11.45am

Mums + Toddlers 1.30 - 3.30pm

Air Weapon Range 6.30 - 8.30pm

Wednesday:

Keep Fit 7.30 - 9.30pm

Thursday:

Luncheon Club 12.30 - 1.30pm

Senior Citizens 2.00 - 4.00pm

Tai-chi (beginners) 6.30 - 8.30pm

Tai-chi (advanced) 8.30 - 10.30pm

Singles Group 7.30 - 10.00pm

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increasing their artistic skills as well as their powers of observation. There will also be a special holiday project running through August, from Tuesdays to Saturdays (same times as the club). Details from the museum, which is only a little way down the Kingsland Road, towards Old Street.

This autumn there'll be special exhibitions of 1930s furniture and textiles (September) and of craftsmen's tools (November). As a Friend of the Geffrye Museum you could attend private views, with wine and refreshments, as well as having the opportunity of visiting some very special houses in Spitalfields and Walthamstow. Fuller details from the Hon. Secretary (249 6460).

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SAILING DOWN THE RIVER WITH JIM MITCHELL

"Where there's ships there's life" — thus did Jim Mitchell in 1953 select De Beauvoir Town as his family home. He had lived in Stepney for 40 years by then and his growing family — wife Ruby and three children — needed a decent home to grow up in and a decent school for the children.

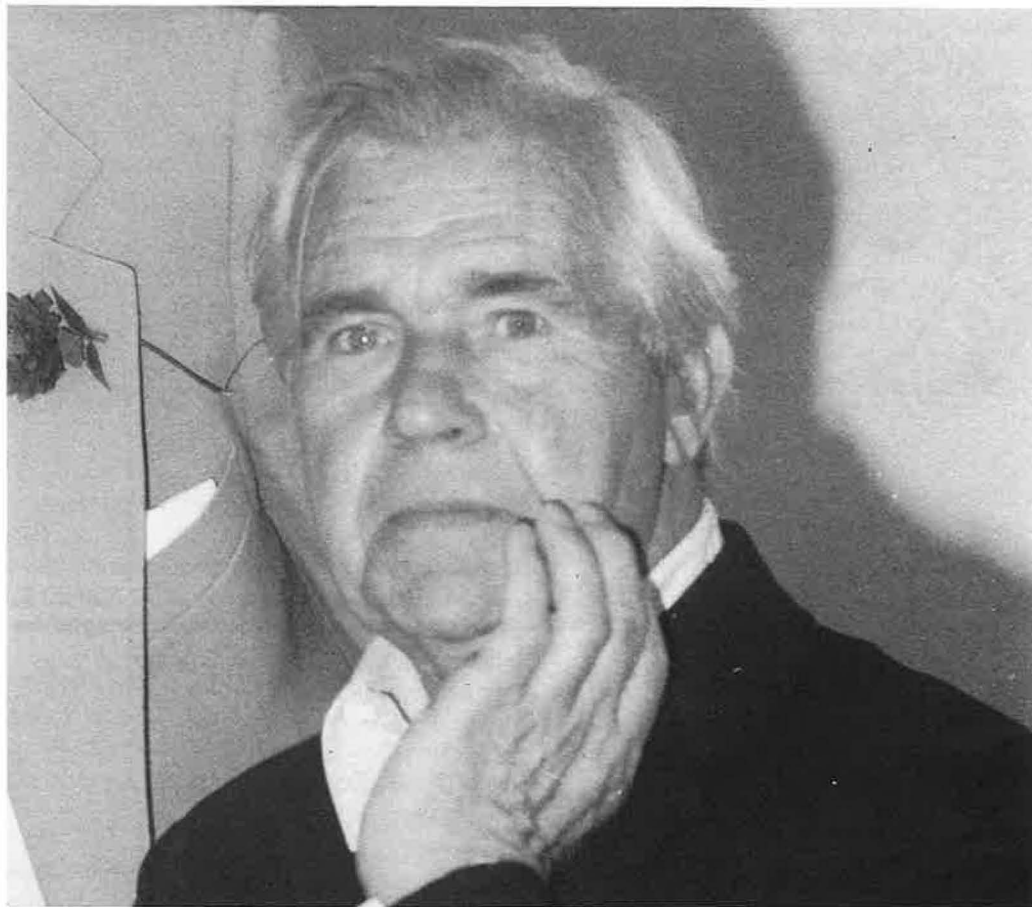
In those days the bustling trade of the docks could be heard on the breeze in the area. Today, the sound of a ship's siren is a rare treat on a warm summer's evening.

In those days Jim, a docker all his life, had lived close to the wharves by St Katharine's Dock — that was before the dock became trendy. The work was hard, but Jim clearly revelled in it. "You could always tell the season of the world by the cargoes in those days . . . heaving half ton bales of wool in summer under a glass roof, that was hot . . . fruit from New Zealand . . . the smells, the variety".

He had known Hackney from the Regattas on the River Lea in the early 30s. Eventually, like so many dockers, he took early retirement and worked in an insurance office for the rest of his working life.

Then came the sixties with the mounting threat of demolition of areas like De Beauvoir. He watched the residents of southern De Beauvoir fight a bitter battle to prevent the clearance of their houses. "Some of the finest houses in the area, including Dr Thorpe's, whose surgery was where the Rose Lipman Library now stands." She practised there with her husband, Dr Clipstein for 26 years. (He never recovered from the heartbreak of having the house demolished, and took his life in 1971.)

But by the end of the sixties, the climate was changing and Jim was one of a small group of concerned residents who met in the garden of the Benyon Arms one Sunday morning in 1968 to consider what action could be taken



to save the rest of De Beauvoir from the bulldozer. They called a public meeting in the Crypt in May 1968 and thus the De Beauvoir Association was founded.

In those early years, I recall Jim as a formidable debater — one of that breed who cut their teeth in that academy of political debate, the working movement between the wars. Men who enhanced their three R's of school by exhaustive reading and by attendance at evening institutions.

His consuming interest in affairs was reflected in recent years as he walked De Beauvoir with his dog. Nothing passed his notice, he was one of the best informed on local affairs and an invaluable source. When not walking around

the area he was to be seen reading the morning papers, Council papers or anything that came to hand in the library.

In the thirty years since Jim moved to De Beauvoir, the docks have closed and moved down river. Now Jim and his wife and daughter Janet have followed them and set up home in Westcliff. We wish them a long and happy stay.

Any thoughts on his departure? He is sorry to leave and hopes dearly that the community spirit that first challenged the break-up of De Beauvoir in the early 60s and successfully challenged clearance in the 70s, will not disappear.

GRAHAM PARSEY



ROOTS

We don't often receive letters, so were delighted to have this one from Mrs. I. Tong of 33 Sussex Avenue, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1RT

"I do hope you don't mind me taking the liberty of writing to you like this.

I have been trying to trace you for months, ever since I read a book in our local library, *The Illustrated London News Book of London Villages*. I have been tracing my family tree for about 3 years now. My mother was born at 87 Mortimer Road and my father, Packham, was born at 97 De Beauvoir Road, both in 1900, and lived there until they were married. I was thrilled to read the chapter on De Beauvoir Town.

My main interest in writing to you is to ask if the *De Beaver* paper is still in circulation as I wondered if it was possible to put an advert in, to see if any of your older residents remember any details of either of these families. My mother was a Moring. Her father had a surgical instruments firm at the rear of his house (which I know was bombed), and her grandfather, who was a Beard, had a jewellers shop in Kingsland Road.

Also, I would like to have access to any school records and wondered if you know where I could get these.

I won't bore you with any more details as I realise that my family won't interest you, but I would dearly love to get in touch with anyone who knows anything about these families as, although I have got back to 1700, there is still a mystery to clear up around 1900.

Yours hopefully,
Mrs. I. Tong

If any of our readers are young enough to have known any of Mrs Tong's family around 1900, I'm sure she would love to hear from you. Her telephone number is Canterbury 64906.

SMALL ADS

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DE BEAVER

De Beaver is sponsored by the De Beauvoir Association which caters for all people living between Balls Pond Road and the Canal and Kingsland Road and Southgate Road.

Thanks

THANKS! TO ALL THE PEOPLE — AND THERE ARE MANY — WHO HAVE VOLUNTARILY HELPED WITH THIS ISSUE OF *DE BEAVER*.

P.S.
everyone!

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