

We'll drink to that, Mr Parrot

STILL NO NEWS from the council on what they might do with the De Beauvoir multi-storey car park, though the Spring issue of the council news-sheet 'Hackney Herald' has a piece about the similar Holly Street car park.

There the alternatives seem to be letting the space to a commercial concern for the parking of small vans or taxis, or converting it into 24 one-bedroom flats and a community building, while leaving the underground sections for car parking.

In the meantime, we would like to pass on to Hackney Council, from the responses to the contest in our December issue, three suggestions for the use of our 'white elephant'.

Mushrooms

1. Use it for what it was intended for. Mr. A. Hobbs, of St. Brelade's Ct, points out that the Dept. of the Environment did their sums right on tenants' car ownership: the reason the tenants did not use the car park was because there was a charge to park and because they could park free elsewhere.

Parking on the estate causes trouble: all night comings and goings, repairs, oil, wrecks left in corners. If the council tighten up on illegal parking perhaps the white elephant will come into its own.

2. Mushroom cultivation: "it must be quite cool and dark in there," comments Gate Mack of Kenmore Road.

Both the above solutions have a lot going for them, and only after long deliberations and consumption of the prize (since replaced!) did the editorial jury make the award to Mr. T.S. Parrott, of 40 Northchurch Rd, for his proposal to turn the multi-storey car park into a covered market.

No problem

He points out that there is nothing between the local open markets (which have severe disadvantages in the British climate) and the supermarkets with their higher prices.

"Today we need more facilities for smaller traders in market produce without big overheads, which should make shopping around better for local residents. Rain, snow or even too much sun would not be a problem in a sheltered market", says Mr Parrott.

We agree, so: Thank you Mr Parrott - the bottle of Scotch is yours. And now, over to you, Hackney Council.

JEREMY HAMAND

JUMPING AT THE SUSSEX

REGULAR non-churchgoers drifting in the doldrums between Saturday night's excesses and the costly but miniscule EEC-style Sunday joint can now take their hangovers and their Observers to the Sussex Arms, in Culford Rd, where they will be blown away by the sweet, refreshing sounds of the East End Jump Band.

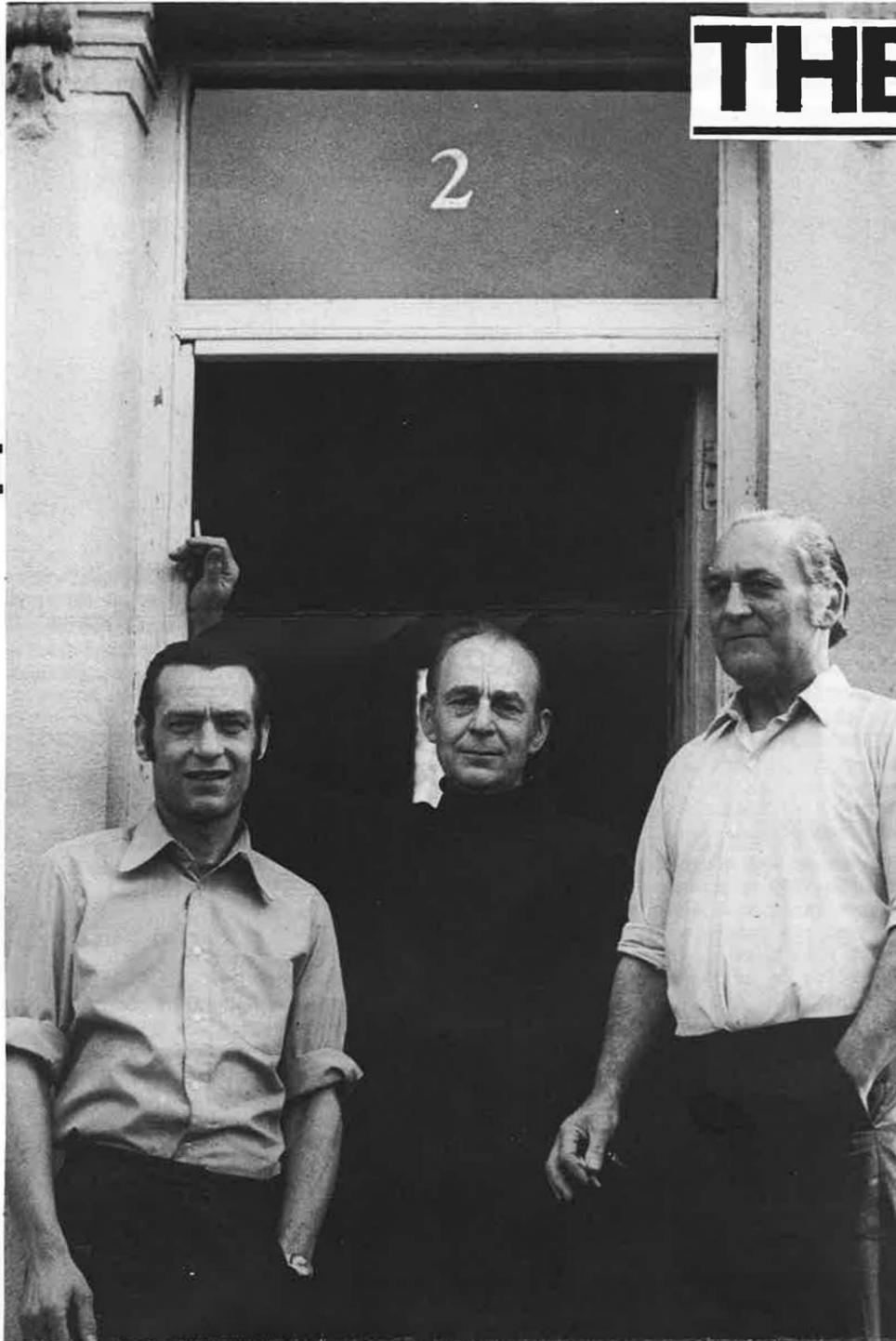
This improbably named outfit, led by the even more improbably named Cal Finnigan, displays its many talents, including drinking, falling down and procrastination, every Sunday lunch-time from 12 - 2pm.

When they stop arguing and start playing, the venerable group - one claims to bear the scars of Flanders (Moll) -

swing along nicely with music which jumps erratically from early Dixieland to late Fairyland, with the odd spot of Duke Ellington thrown in for good measure. This presumably explains the title.

Seriously, the atmosphere is relaxed, admission is free for all the family, the hand-pulled Charrington's IPA is kept by mine jovial hosts Peter and Frances in fine fettle and a good time is generally had by one and all.

There is also a rumour that Charles, the trumpet player, also known as the Highbury Flash, is thinking of going topless next week. De Beauvoir swingers take note.



THE BATTS IN HELL

"WE'RE LIVING on a rubble heap," says Ted Batt, and he isn't exaggerating. The home he shares with his brothers Bill and Alan at No 2 Ufton Road is sandwiched between empty, rotting houses and the battered adventure playground they candidly describe as the vandals' training ground.

Anyone familiar with Hackney Council's open space plans for Ufton Rd will wonder why the Batt brothers still live at No 2 when a compulsory purchase order was slapped on all the houses in their row 27 years ago.

The family at No 8 moved out 20 years ago and the last of their neighbours, at Nos 4 and 10, went two years ago.

What happened to the Batts? The brothers say they were in no hurry to move and simply waited for an offer from the council to be rehoused.

They waited for 26 years.

They say the first offer came in January this year - for accommodation on the first and second floors of a house by a bus stop in Kingsland Road. The Batts have rejected the offer because they don't think it is a suitable alternative. They want ground floor accommodation with a bit of garden because they have a dog. And they don't want to live by a bus stop.

Vulnerable

Naturally they are reluctant to give up the home they were all born in, but after years of uncertainty in a LEB OFF zone, a permanent alternative would be a relief.

"We feel very vulnerable living in this wilderness," says Bill. "We are an irresistible target for vandalism and theft, and the dog is our only protection."

Their position is growing urgent because the lease they fought to buy when their parents died expires in two years' time and they have a nasty suspicion that the council are well aware of this fact.

Says Bill: "We have heard that when people complain to the council about the desolate mess around Ufton Road they are told it is the occupants of No 2 who are holding up all the council's plans."

"I think we are being used as an excuse. The council can delay developing the area as long as we are stuck here."

Reluctant

It is difficult to get a response from the council. Mr. Turner, the housing manager, "doesn't speak to the public". The man in housing management, who admitted he might be the council's CPO expert, said he didn't think he should talk to De Beaver about this matter. And a press office spokesman agreed that housing management were reluctant to give out details and would only claim that "certain offers" had been made to the Batt brothers.

Residents on the GIA steering committee have been pressing for the council to resolve the Batt issue for the last 18 months. At the latest March meeting they were told the valuers had lost the relevant documents.

LESLEY NELSON

Local campaign stops bridge-widening

The Batt brothers

HACKNEY COUNCIL voted overwhelmingly at its February meeting not to widen Whitmore Road bridge, the narrow hump-backed canal bridge at the bottom of De Beauvoir Road. This marks a triumph for a local campaign which was begun with a front page article in *De Beaver* in September 1974.

The cost to Hackney would have been about £55,000 - which began to look ridiculous when the council's road engineers under pressure from opponents of the widening cut the width of the road to only 22ft (three feet wider than the present roadway) and allowed for vastly wider pavements.

Reg Crowfoot led the local reaction to the widening plan and with Doris Kiblewhite organised backing from tenants' associations in Shoreditch. They too agreed that widening the road would increase commuter traffic and encourage juggernauts to take a short cut through Shoreditch and De Beauvoir. Ron Brown,

the local MP, joined the campaign and had a long meeting with officials.

Ron Brown told a crowded anti-widening meeting at the Rose Lipman centre that the only argument for widening they could put forward was that two prams could not pass on the present pavements. Cllr. Stuart Weir, chairman of the meeting, took a snap poll among pram-pushers.

"What do you do when you see another pram coming?" he asked. "We wait," replied pram-pushing mums and dads.

When it finally came to a decision the council's leadership allowed a "free vote" (ie. the issue was not settled behind the scenes in the private Labour group meeting) and themselves decided against the widening.

This astonishing about-turn owes much to the open-mindedness of Cllr. Emrys Edwards, chairman of planning.

The bridge will still be strengthened and work is to begin shortly by the British Waterways Board. The bridge will be closed while the work is done.

GARDEN TREES

In the next issue we shall unveil a scheme for residents to buy young trees to plant in their gardens in the autumn (the best time for planting) under a bulk buying arrangement.

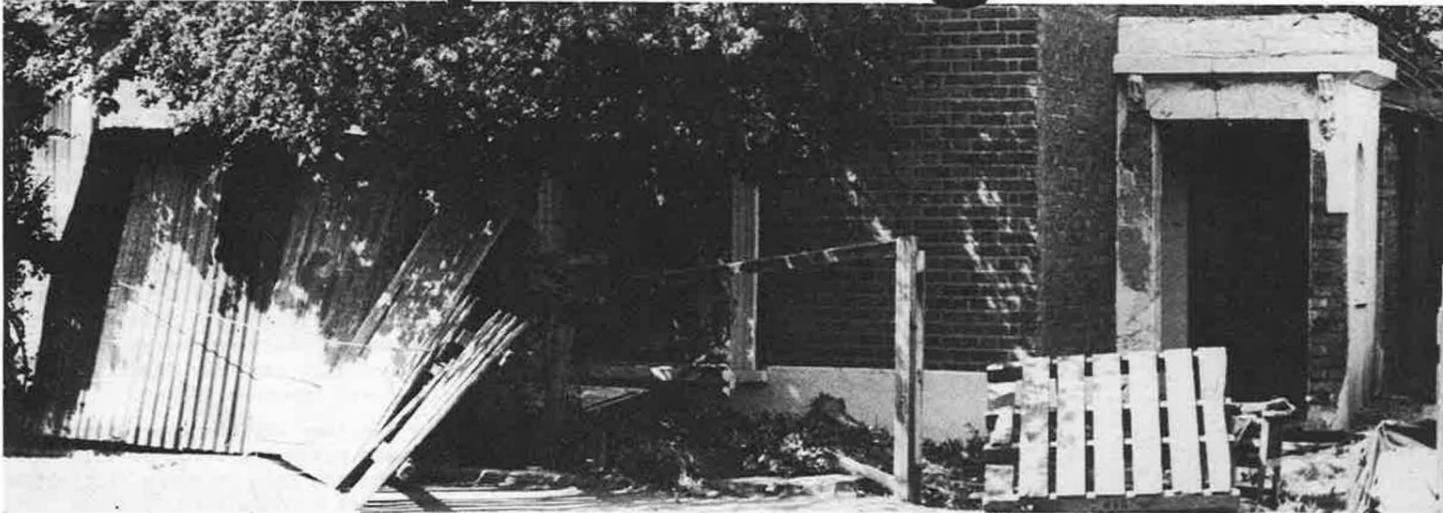
2 YEARS 8th Apr

The 'TEMPORARY' road barriers which were erected on the 8th April 1974 celebrate their 2nd birthday this week. Progress news page 2



School plans blight

Buckingham Rd blight



UNCERTAINTY AND BLIGHT surrounds the future of the two school sites on either side of Tottenham Rd - the De Beauvoir School and Our Lady and St. Joseph (formerly Kingsland RC School)

Circle 33, the local housing trust, have failed to acquire a line of listed cottages in Balls Pond Rd because they are threatened by school extension plans.

A report before the March meeting of the council outlines an offer from the GLC to cede 800 sq.m. to provide improved access to the council's car park in Bentley Rd in exchange for the council selling the GLC 1200 sq.m. to allow the De Beauvoir School to extend eastwards. It is unclear whether this is intended to replace the threat to the cottages.

If the exchange takes place safeguards must be imposed on the improved carpark.

The new access into Tottenham Rd must not cause an increase of traffic into an already busy road which runs between two junior schools.

Local residents will press for left-turn-only exit back into Kingsland Rd. The future of the car park is uncertain

anyway since it is proposed as an industrial area, although the long term Dalston Strategic Centre may revise that idea.

MEANWHILE OVER THE ROAD...

The blighted properties on the corner of Buckingham and De Beauvoir roads are a growing concern. These properties were doomed in 1966 by a proposal to extend Kingsland School to provide much needed playground.

The scheme was opposed by local residents in 1969 on grounds that better and bigger facilities could be provided by closing the dangerous Tottenham Rd, which runs between the two schools, and extending on to the derelict land of the Whitbread site.

A public inquiry in 1974 rejected this proposal mainly because it meant the GLC monolith would have to rethink the entire proposal. So the CPO was confirmed.

The houses have been neglected since the late 1960's until now only three are lived in.

However, no sooner had the CPO been confirmed than plans were postponed for the school playground extension due to

spending cuts.

Meanwhile nine possible homes fester save for those few brave souls who soldier on surrounded by decay, blight and uncertainty.

GRAHAM PARSEY

On the move

A few weeks ago an elderly couple showed me a pile of stinking rubbish in the front garden of a derelict council-owned house in Mortimer Rd, and told me: "We've lived in Mortimer for 49 yrs and have never known it to be so bad as now... what has happened to all this 'improvement' we were told about a few years ago?"

Well, perhaps things are on the move at last. Following the breakdown of the housing swap bid with the Benyon estate, (see last Beaver), council workmen have started gutting out Nos 69-73 as the first stage of the improvement programme. With a bit of luck new families should be moving in later this year.

Mortimer Rd (evens) between the square and Downham Rd is also in for promotion. Left out of the GIA three years ago because the GLC retained an option on the site for the extension of Edith Cavell school, it is shortly to become (subject to the ratification of the Department of the Environment) part of the existing De Beauvoir GIA.

To the north, new council housing is going up on the old prefab library site while opposite, No 80 (see picture) is being extensively renovated for Mr William Benyon, Tory MP for Buckingham, who at present lives in Northchurch Road.

FRANK FLETCHER



No 80 Mortimer Rd

● Ironic that these premises for which the Benyon Estate applied for planning permission to demolish in September 73 should now be destined as a residence for the principal beneficiary of the estate. All credit for the rethink.

The new homes rising steadily on the old prefab sites in De Beauvoir, Ardleigh, Hertford and Mortimer roads are not really cardboard castles. They are to be faced with stock bricks to match in with their neighbours. Work should be completed on the 36 homes by August. Each house will cost £21,000.

The weary road of the environmental plan continues, but so slowly. Following publication in the autumn as reported in De Beaver 23, the DoE have asked the council to meet the objectors and see if any agreement can be reached, but it is already clear that an inquiry will have to take place, probably in the early autumn. That means it could still be over two years before the environmental improvements are complete.

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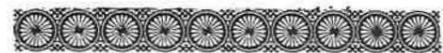
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Good news for parents

A NEW NURSERY school serving the De Beauvoir area opens after Easter. The Comet Nursery, in Halcomb Rd near Whitmore Bridge, is a new purpose-built building and is ILEA'S first 'community' nursery.

It will provide 30 full-time places and 60 part-time places for 3 - 5 year olds, plus facilities for adult activities and a creche.

As the school is in an area already served by Burbage and Whitmore schools it will draw a number of its pupils from the middle and northern areas of De Beauvoir. This will be particularly welcome news to parents who had counted on the opening of the De Beauvoir nursery class, now a victim of the public spending cuts.

The school has every facility for indoor and outdoor activities for the pre-school child. The classrooms are complete with workbench, easels for painting and all the usual nursery paraphernalia. And there is a small

carpeted quiet area for children to sit and look at books. Outside there is a paved area with a sandpit, padding pool and climbing equipment.

The adult activities will be run by Bethnal Green and Shoreditch Adult Institute. It will be up to parents to decide what kind of activities they want organised. The Institute will also provide the staff for the creche. Initially it is expected that activities will take place during the day, but they could be extended. The scheme is very much an experimental one and its success will depend on parents making their needs known.

The new headmistress, Miss Fairhurst, who previously taught in the Whitmore nursery class, is very excited by the new project and hopes that parents will see it as an opportunity to create a real community meeting people's needs.

Any child under 5 and over 2½ living in the De Beauvoir area is eligible for a place at the nursery. Parents can either drop in at the school (Halcomb Rd is off Orsman Rd just to the south of Whitmore Bridge) or telephone Miss Fairhurst on 729 0936, to look at the school and put down their child's name for a place.

LIZ MCLEOD

Period Mirrors

Flashback to June 1974 when we first featured Period Mirrors' unauthorised business use of the house at 115 De Beauvoir Rd which resulted in the council taking legal action with an enforcement notice as reported in the April 1975 De Beaver.

The saga has taken a further turn since Mr Placquadro, the owner, has appealed. A public enquiry is to be held at the Town Hall, Mare St, at 10.30 on Tuesday April 13 to decide whether the house is to continue as a mini-factory or revert to its proper use as a family home.

VANDALISM

Vandalism to the Rose Lipman Library during construction increased costs by £951, Hackney Council learned in February. This sum will be paid for by the ratepayers at a rate of £101 a year (including interest) for the next 40 years.

£5 a spike

Congratulations to Hackney Council on being one of the only Inner London boroughs to have sought and received a £3750 Heritage Year Grant towards improvements in De Beauvoir Square from the government.

Second congratulations to Mrs Barbara Soanes for her initiative in obtaining £500 to reinstate the railings to no 30 under the same scheme. Some other residents who have been through the same exercise might think that nearly "£5 a spike" is a bit steep - take a look when you are passing!

LETTERS



Is there anyone who shares my interest in bird spotting?

There are now many beautiful species in the gardens in this area, including goldfinches, greenfinches, great tits, blue tits and tree pipits. These birds are every bit as colourful as cage birds and lots more fun to watch.

Sometimes the local moggies are on the prowl, trying to catch their dinner. One or two are pretty good at it too, especially one young cat with peculiar colours which can probably remain nameless.

I would like to hear of anybody with this sort of interest who likes country walks and wildlife.

T.S. PARROTT 40 Northchurch Rd (249 1641)

LOCAL INDUSTRIES:

Send your views

Hackney Council will soon be considering a policy for industrial premises in residential areas, such as De Beauvoir. This arises from a planning report on the industry in and around Southgate Rd in the southern area of De Beauvoir.

I have never believed that we should remove all industries from De Beauvoir. They are not all nuisances and they provide local employment. Surveys of De Beauvoir people (and Hackney residents generally) have indicated that a large number of us do work within walking or cycling distance. And, the council could simply not afford to buy them all out.

But some industries do annoy and distress local residents, through smoke, dust, smells, banging and other noise. They can also attract extra traffic, and even huge juggernaut lorries, into residential streets. Many spill over onto the pavements or streets and use them for free parking, storage and working space.

The three ward councillors would like to hear from any residents, on the New Town Estate or old De Beauvoir, about the advantages and disadvantages of local industries and how they should be controlled if they are to be allowed to remain in the area.

We should be particularly interested to hear your experiences of nuisances from industrial users and the council's efforts to control them - for if industries are to remain, control must obviously be effective.

CLLR. STUART WEIR 137 Balls Pond Road

Battling Sam stops factory menace

"AN ALMOST MEASURABLE psychic drain" was how one local parapsychologist described the constant drone of a new extractor fan at the Kafa Table Company works (formerly Lindleys) in Southgate Grove.

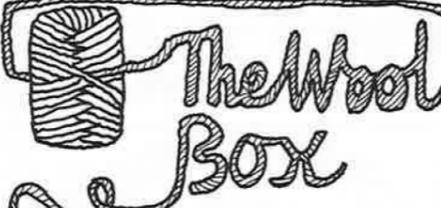
The factory had been empty for nearly two years when Kafa moved in and started furniture making. The offending fan, brought from their previous premises, is designed to draw sawdust out of their workrooms. The fan started on February 23. Within days local residents were angry with the continuing noise (often 7am to 7pm) and the layer of sawdust on their washing.

GIA representative Sam Eatly was soon in action. Within a week the environmental health officer had visited the factory. This was followed by two further visits during March while Sam Eatly sounded out support for a petition.

By March 22 the council were serving a couple of statutory notices on the company telling them to stop the sawdust nuisance and reduce the noise level.

Congratulations to the council for being quick off the mark before the company becomes an established nuisance, and to Sam Eatly for pursuing the matter.

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PEOPLE

Ten-year-old DOUGLAS OWEN got bored last summer. A lot of kids get bored and sometimes it means trouble. But Douglas - serious, thoughtful and a bit of a loner - is no stone-throwing vandal. He borrowed his mum's bucket and went out to clean his neighbours' cars in Englefield Rd.

Nine months and three buckets later, Douglas is still cleaning cars every weekend throughout De Beauvoir. The work is hard but the money rolls in nicely. At 25p a Mini and 50p for a big saloon, he has been able to put £40 in the post office.

He did think about buying a bike, but now he's started saving for when he is grown up. He reckons that he will carry on with car cleaning through this summer and then maybe do gardening jobs for a change.

Cllr. Eileen Cox has moved from the New Town Estate to north-east London. She and her husband Peter will be greatly missed. Eileen Cox has long been active in the tenants' association on the New Town and played a big part in making the annual fair such a great success. She and Peter worked hard behind the scenes.

Eileen campaigned against the rent increases imposed under the Housing Finance Act, and after election to the council in May 1974, voted against the increases the council was making. As a rent rebel she was asked to sign a pledge that she would not vote against the Labour majority's decisions, but she refused to do so, and has left the Labour group (although she remains a council member).

Eileen Cox has been a hard-working councillor for the area - perhaps too hard-working, for she and her family moved to escape the strain of being constantly "on call". She is continuing as a De Beauvoir ward representative until the next council election in May 1978.

smallads

SMALL ADS are free to local people and 5p a word for commercial advertisers. Display ads are 75p a column centimetre. Please send all ads to Jo Parsey at 45 Buckingham Road by May 10 for the next issue.

PROBLEMS? Free legal advice is given at Hoxton Hall, Hoxton St, every Wednesday at 7pm. A lawyer will be in attendance.

DBA JUMBLE SALE: Saturday May 22 at 2pm, St. Peter's Crypt. Please bring jumble to 126 De Beauvoir Rd or phone 254 8500 or 254 9187 for collection.

SPRING FETE at De Beauvoir Junior Sch. Tottenham Rd, Sat. May 8 at 2pm. Stalls, bingo, competition, prizes, dancing display, tombola.

WANTED: Flat in De Beauvoir area for couple with 2 children. 249 5685

EXCHANGE 2-bedroomed ground floor flat near Old Harbour for something nearer London. Must be in good condition. Mrs Hesketh, 53 Mark Hall Moor, Pèsants Croft, Harlow, Essex.

WANTED: Actor and administrator for Broadside Mobile Workers' Theatre. Should have interest in socialist theatre and preferably trade union experience. Long term commitment vital. Phone 730 5396 for more details.

NEW TOWN AGM: Monday April 5 at 8pm in the Rose Lipman Community Centre.

BEST WISHES to the Good Neighbours Club. Hope you all enjoyed the party. Mabel Hall.

FREE FORM: for community events, festivals, playgrounds, street parties. We do a 'Roadshow' with inflatables, jugglers, clowns, fire-eaters, music from our disco, face-painting; 'Fireshow' - complete fire event, original pyrotechnics and fire performance; 'Crazy Games' team games on a human scale; 'Mobile Projects' - complete programmes for 3 or more days involving mixed-age groups of children. Contact us at 38 Dalston Lane E8 (249 3394).

APRIL 4: 1pm. Odsey Racing Club grass track motor racing. Baldock Bygrave, off A1.

AVAILABLE: Baby sitter or companion for elderly lady any evening, Mon-Sat. Very reliable & trustworthy. 4hrs:£2. Phone 249 1474.

AN EASTER DANCE on Sat April 10, run by De Beauvoir Community Assoc, is being held in the Community hall from 7.30-11.0. Tickets are 75p.

FOR SALE: Nearly new stereo. £35. Phone 254 2485.

VOLUNTEERS needed to help put up stalls and organise the New Town Fair on June 12 at 2pm. Phone Chris Crowfoot (254 6996) or Bill Saunders (254 0598).

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Douglas Owen at work

Say Goodbye to PETER HALER, the council's improvement officer who since summer '72 has served the area's GIA and processed improvement grants. We wish him success with Westminster where he will administer their housing action areas programme.



FREE FORM, the Hackney-based community arts group, will be operating a mobile workshop for children at the Rose Lipman Community Centre during the Easter holidays.

A Free Form workshop means many things. It means inflatable fun and monsters you can walk inside. It means wall painting, perspex badge making and film-making. It means, as Free Form explain earnestly: "relating the arts to the needs of this community."

Plenty of other activities are planned for the Easter programme at Rose Lipman, and all events take place in the children's library except where stated.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| MON April 12 | 2pm Flower show
6-7pm Magic show |
| TUES 13th | 2pm Easter Egg dyeing
2pm at Hoxton Hall
Parade & Punch & Judy |
| WED 14th | 3pm in Library open space
Hoxton Hall's Egg Play |
| THURS 15th | 10am Easter Egg decoration
10, 11 and 1.00 Drama workshops
2.45pm at Hoxton St Grand egg competition (with prizes) |

The De Beauvoir area committee of Circle 33 decided to elect tenants as officers at their annual general meeting in March and ELLEN HOOK has become the first chairman.

She has lived in the same house in Stamford Rd for 26 years, but will soon have to move while the house is improved. She is married and runs her own entertainments agency. Ellen was born in Islington not far from Arsenal stadium. She is still a keen supporter of her team and seldom misses an "at home" match.

OK treasurer

BILL LEGG, who was voted in as treasurer of the committee, lives in Culford Grove with his wife Sylvia and two sons. Bill and Sylvia have lived in the area all their lives and were the first local family to be rehoused by the De Beauvoir Trust. Bill should be OK for the job of treasurer as he works for the Inland Revenue Department.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| | 5pm Easter bonnet workshop |
| TUES 20th | 10-1.00 and 3.30-6.30 FREE FORM'S mobile workshop |
| | 2.30-3.30 in the Community Hall |
| | Disney cartoons |
| THURS 22nd | 10, 11 and 1.00 Drama workshops
2pm in the Recreation rm
Pottery workshop |
| FRI 23rd | 10, 11 and 1.00 Drama workshops
2pm in the Recreation rm
Pottery workshop |

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is a FREE community newspaper for the people of De Beauvoir - old and new towns. We are sponsored by the De Beauvoir Association, but we're here for everyone, not just association members - so please send us your news, pictures, ideas, criticisms by May 10 for the next issue. Thanks to everyone who has helped get out this issue and deliver it round the area.