

De Beauvoir Square:

## A DISINTEGRATING GIA DREAM

ANYBODY LOOKING at De Beauvoir Square will be saddened by its present scandalous condition as turves roll off the parched, disintegrating slopes and 'twigs' struggle for life on the roadside faces.

Residents on the GIA advisory committee blame the state of the landscaping work on bad workmanship, insufficient supervision and the apparent absence of any after-care or maintenance by the contractor, notably watering in the driest spring on record.

As Mabel Hall, long-standing resident and committee member ruefully comments, "We have worked hard for six years only to see our efforts crumble to dust."

The condition of the square has already caused the Civic Trust to withhold £750 from a European Architectural Heritage Year grant until the situation improves.

Officers of Hackney engineers attribute the cause to vandalism, a view which Lydia Orr, square resident and committee member, utterly refutes. "It's too easy an explanation. I have not seen the slopes watered or given any protection." As a keen gardener herself she questions whether anybody versed in landscaping or horticulture was involved in the supervision.

She agrees with environmental committee chairman Graham Parsey that the original scheme with minor modifica-

FIRM GETS GO-AHEAD FOR SOUTHGATE GROVE

# Love thy neighbour~ but control his pollution

HACKNEY COUNCIL broke new ground last month and took a decision which may have wide implications for the whole of De Beauvoir town.

The planning & highways committee granted permission for the use of a factory at 16a Southgate Grove for "screen printing and carton and display manufacturing".

Why is this decision so important?

No. 16a is a large factory on two floors behind the houses in Southgate Grove and part of Ufton Road. By an accident of history, the lease is owned by the council (the freeholder's name has never been disclosed). The factory has remained empty for many months, so the council were glad to receive an application from a local firm to take it over. But local residents went to visit the firm at its present premises in Shoreditch.

### Petition

Not only did the firm use large and potentially noisy machinery but at 9.30 pm. work was going at full swing and a loud tamoy system played music while they worked.

Letters were written, a petition was sent in, and a deputation of local residents went to the meeting of the planning highways committee to express their concerns about these proposed new neighbours.

In the end, permission was granted for the firm to use the factory but: they must not work outside the hours of 8 am - 9.30 pm Mondays-Fridays and 8 am - 1 pm on Saturdays; and noise at the boundary of the factory site must not exceed 45 decibels.

Nobody seems to know what this really means but a level of 45 is said to be acceptable in an urban area.

Residents are waiting anxiously to see if the firm moves in and, if they do, what sort of neighbours they turn out to be.

What can the people in De Beauvoir learn from this case? Firstly, that in these troubled economic times, Inner London residents cannot rely on their local authorities refusing to authorise industrial development in a residential area - even a General Improvement Area.

Secondly, it is possible to influence council decision by polite - but determined - protest. If the deputation had not gone to the meeting on May 14 it is quite possible that the limitation on hours of work at 16a Southgate Grove would not have been imposed.

Thirdly, assuming 45 decibels is a suitable noise level, how can it be enforced? The council's planning department have informed residents that they have a great new weapon - the Control of Pollution Act 1974. The council are using this Act to try and control the noise from another nearby firm which has a deafening dust extractor.

Let's hope the new act works - because if it does not, it is the local people who will carry the can.

STEVE HOCKMAN

## Harambee for Hackney

A COMMUNITY workshop aimed at helping school leavers to find jobs is opening in De Beauvoir.

The Harambee 2 Project is being set up at 106 Downham Rd on a £2,000 grant from the British Council of Churches and run by Brother Sam Symister, who started the first Harambee project in Holloway Rd.

The workshop will be equipped for classes in motor mechanics, electronics and painting and decorating, and while Sam waits to hear whether Hackney Council agree to the peppercorn rent applied for, a group of voluntary young helpers are working with him to clean and prepare the house. They emphasise the spirit of Harambee - an East African word which means working together in harmony.

Links have been established with careers officers and the Labour Exchange, and also with probation officers, because a vital part of the project will be to provide temporary hostel accommodation for boys from remand homes.

## TREES

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT PLANTING A TREE IN YOUR GARDEN?

A small flowering tree in the front or something a little larger to provide shade in the back- or some fruit trees perhaps?

-Yes, we thought about it-the missus fancied a flowering cherry in the front last year. I preferred a nice magnolia. -No, we never bought it, the summer passed and with the dark evenings we forgot about it.

-Funny you mentioning it tho' only last week she reminded me about it, we'll get round to it some day.

-Probably cost a bit now. Besides we don't want anything that's going to grow enormous & cut out all the light. -Wouldn't know what is suitable anyway.

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE

As part of a scheme for the whole area there is going to be an Exhibition in the autumn to show how you could plant

## PLEASE WITH EASE.....

a tree in your garden- with advice on what best suits your requirements.

### SPECIAL CHEAP OFFER

The project will include an unbeatable opportunity for you to buy the tree, or trees, of your choice at considerably reduced rates by a bulk-buying scheme. We get good quality trees you want during the autumn planting season delivered to a local site, all you have to do is plant them & we will even give you advice with that. We may be able to help if you are elderly or infirm. When choosing trees consider carefully the site, ultimate size & shape, leaf shape & colour, bark, flowers (flowering period/ colour/ fragrance). The following species are recommended for average & small gardens, but if you want more details or advice why not contact:-

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FLOWERING VARIETIES include MAGNOLIA,

- JUDAS-TREE, PRIDE OF INDIA or MYRTLE.

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Watch this space in the September issue & come to the Exhibition.

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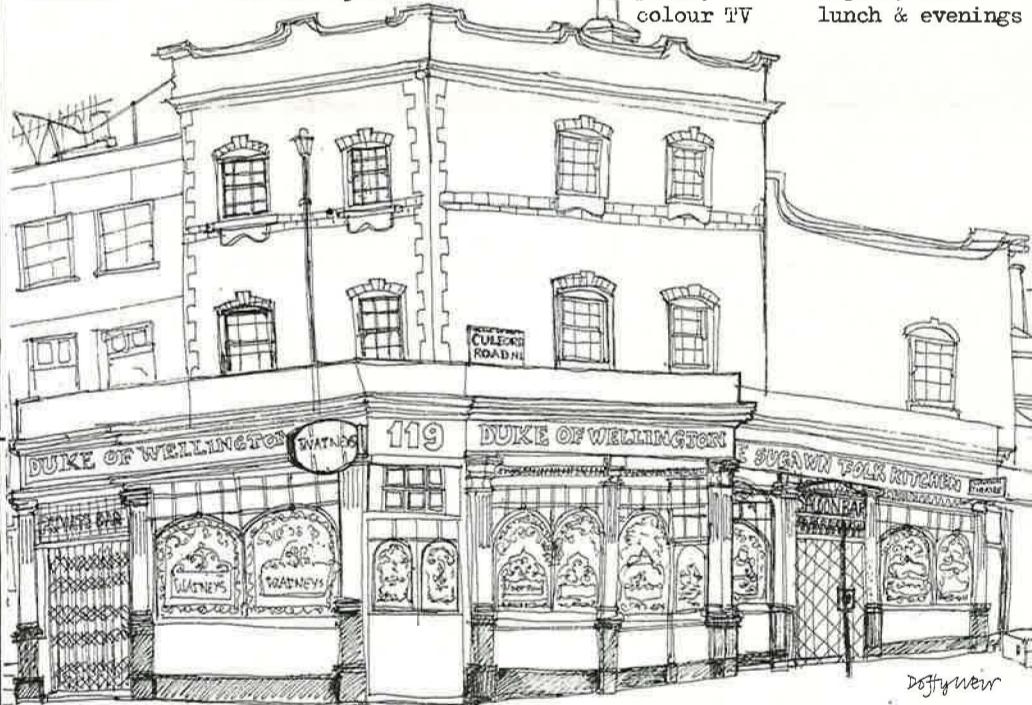
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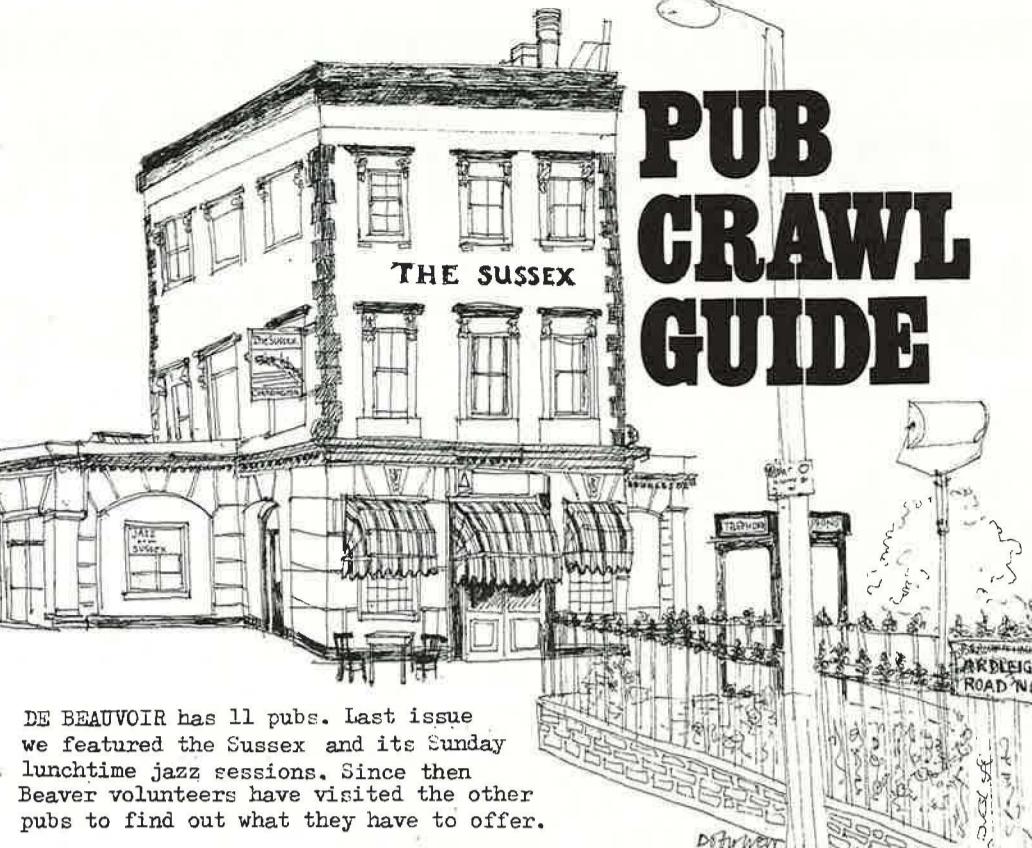
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singing (Sat &  
Sun nights),  
room for hire



DE BEAUVOIR has 11 pubs. Last issue we featured the Sussex and its Sunday lunchtime jazz sessions. Since then Beaver volunteers have visited the other pubs to find out what they have to offer.

The Duke of Wellington is famous for its Sugawn Theatre. The Prince of Wales has a cabaret night. De Beauvoir Arms, the Talbot and the Duke of York have live music at weekends, and for a Friday lunchtime thrill, the Brewery Tap features a topless attraction. The pub guide below is intended to quench any thirst, but additional information from regulars is welcome.

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## PERIOD MIRRORS

# Defeat in the looking glass war

BY LUNCHTIME it was all over. Period Mirrors won their appeal against an Enforcement Notice after the public enquiry had been told of Hackney Council's bungling of the matter.

The inquiry opened at 10.30 on April 6 with Clifford Joseph, counsel for Period Mirrors, asking Ms Jane Ridley, solicitor for Hackney Council, to explain the notice because it was so vague.

In the following hour Clifford Joseph catalogued a series of mishaps:-

\*Because the four-year temporary planning permission had not been enforced by the council, the 'temporary' building was deemed permanent.

\*At the council's prompting, Mr. Piacquadio, owner of Period Mirrors, applied for an extension of his temporary planning permission four days before the four years expired.

\*It was not until December 13 1974 that this permission was granted FOR 18 DAYS, to expire on December 31. It was posted and arrived on Christmas Eve.

\*Councils have been told by the Government not to use such permissions as a device if they are (a) whimsical (b) unreasonable (c) have an ulterior motive. The issue of the present enforcement notice on May 28 1975 confirmed that such a motive existed. This notice was withdrawn the following day.

\*However, four copies of a revised notice were issued in June 1975 with two different wordings, both versions so vague that they were invalid.

At 11.50 Ms Ridley begged leave to consult her superiors, so the inquiry was adjourned to allow the Dept of Environment inspector, Mr. Clark, to visit the premises of Period Mirrors.

When the inquiry reassembled at 1 o'clock Ms Ridley formally withdrew.

Our thanks to Steve Hockman, who spent so much time gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses for the DPA's case, and to the six local residents who wrote letters and appeared to give evidence in person - all in vain.

GRAHAM PARSEY

## Free law for the people

A FULL TIME law centre has opened in Mare Street above the Citizens Advice Bureau. Nearer home, the Voluntary Legal Advice Centre at Hoxton Hall, 128a Hoxton Street, run by the Legal Action Group, still opens every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Qualified lawyers are available to advise people on all types of legal problem. Do you know your rights? If not, why not get advice from those who do - or think they do!



Hackney expects to get the green light from the GLC to go ahead with its proposed pelican crossing in Downham Road.

The crossing - one with flashing lights which can be activated by pedestrians - is to be on the west side of De Beauvoir Road and is intended to give relatively safe access to the library and community hall from the old town, and to schools and the proposed Ufton Road recreational area from the new town side.

Subject to there being no objectors, the proposal will go before the GLC later this month, following which it could take Hackney several months to do the necessary work.

Members of the GIA residents' advisory committee have asked the council to try to get the work done before the long summer holidays.

## More GIAs

Two more General Improvement Areas have been declared in Hackney. De Beauvoir and Albion Square are joined by a section of Queensbridge Rd and the eastern part of the Mapledene area. Other parts of Mapledene are to become a housing action area.

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## Strategic Centre 1991

The modified Greater London development plan sets the direction for planning in London for 1991. The Dalston junction area is included as a strategic centre to attract shops and offices as well as cultural, entertainment, recreational and employment activities. It will be up to Hackney Council to specify the detail for the strategic centre plan.

De Beauvoir is mentioned specifically and intriguingly as an area particularly sensitive to the impact of high buildings.



# PEOPLE

## Dolly resigns

The new chairman of De Beauvoir Community Association, DOLLY FURNESS, has resigned, only a month after her appointment and a month before the association's major summer event, the De Beauvoir Fair.

Her resignation comes at a time when personality conflicts threaten the strength of the association. Three committee members are reported to have handed in their notice as well.

Dolly has worked on the committee for the past two years and she feels she was pushed into the chairmanship. "I didn't realise there would be meetings nearly every other night," she told De Beaver. "We are in the process of moving from one flat to another in Granville Ct and I thought, better be out of the job quickly than carry on like this, unable to cope."

### Summer fair

The new secretary, PETER FAZZANI, is uneasy about the fate of the summer fair on June 12. He wanted to postpone the event until September, but was overruled.

He comments: "It's unrealistic to run a fair and a social on the same day when there aren't sufficient helpers and there isn't time to organise everything properly. I think the fair will be a flop."

It is up to De Beauvoir residents to see that it doesn't flop. The money raised will be used for kids' summer outings and a Christmas party, so it's worth supporting.

The fair starts at 2 p.m. with a procession led by the Majorettes, and ends at 6 pm with a motorcycling display by the Imps. Pearly Kings and Queens are booked to appear and displays of karate, judo and keep fit will be held during the afternoon.

In the evening there will be a summer dance in the community hall from 8 pm and tickets are available from committee members.

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Doris delivering Beavers

## See yourself on video

NO-ONE will have a chance to be bored this summer holiday - there's going to be too much to do.

In the Rose Lipman library we'll be having our book club and chess club in the mornings and lots of craft activities in the afternoon. Anyone can come along and have a go at pottery or jewellery-making, needlework or even silk screen printing. And if you've never seen yourself on video then don't miss the opportunity this summer.

We've also managed to book some exciting events for you including an African Dance workshop, a steel band and a puppeteer.

Those of you who intend to get a good suntan this summer will have plenty of chance to do so in the adventure playground - Avril is coming back as playleader for the whole of the six weeks.

There'll be regular coach outings and ILEA are arranging for packed lunches to be provided for children taking part in the library and summer playground scheme. The library in conjunction with ILEA are running a summer reading scheme from July 26 to August 13.

**De Beaver** 136 SOUTHGATE ROAD N1  
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 Sept 20 for the next issue. Thanks to everyone who has helped get out this issue and deliver it round the area.

If you want any more details about dates and events, look in at the children's library nearer the time.

PAM McMAHON

## smallads

SMALL ADS ARE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AND IN A WORD FOR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS DISPLAY ADS ARE FOR A REGIONAL MARKET PLEASE SEND ALL ADS TO THE LIBRARY AT 136 SOUTHGATE ROAD BY SEPT 20 OR THE DAY AFTER.

NEED a babysitter?  
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DE BEAUVOIR Playgroup have vacancies for youngsters from 2½-4 years. Enquire at Rose Lipman Community Centre.

HELP welcome at the De Beauvoir Fair, June 12 from 2-6 pm.

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## Doris ~ the heart of the DBA

WE MUST sadly report that DORIS and PETER KIBBLEWHITE are leaving the district soon. To many people Doris is the De Beauvoir Association.

She was secretary of the community group from its first months for four years, and even after she resigned in 1972, she continued to work hard for the association. Lately, she played a significant role in the campaign to stop the plan to widen Whitmore Bridge. But it isn't as a tireless worker and organiser - good though she is at organising - that she will be missed.

Doris gave the community group a human face and heart. She helped set the Kingsgate Estate playgroup on its feet. She helped lots of people with individual problems. She acted as unpaid welfare officer to the De Beauvoir Trust and, most important in a way, she always had time to listen to anyone.

### Stolen bikes

Quite a few people know her as "the lady on the bike". Doris doesn't change, but the bike often did - it was always being stolen.

Doris actually found this amusing, and no record of her place in De Beauvoir should forget to mention her unfailing cheerfulness, kindness and friendly nature.

Peter Kibblewhite was usually only dragged in to help the association by carting jumble about for jumble sales, but he often contributed some sharp commonsense advice as well. He was also one of De Beauvoir's 'diggers' who turned the empty prefab site in Ardleigh Rd into temporary allotments.

Peter's main occupation is picture framing, and this may help keep Doris and him rather nearer to North London than Sussex, which was their original destination.

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