

TIME STANDS STILL ~ BUT NOT FOR LONG

IT'S MANY YEARS NOW since the tower clock at St Peter's Church used to strike the hours. It's not quite so long since the clock used to tell the time accurately to those who bothered to look up. But for the last 2 years or so it has been rather like the economy - one long series of stop and go. Part of the problem used to be the absence of a regular winder, but more recently it has been a matter of mechanics and dirt as well. The last time there was any major work done on the clock was just after the war, and now after 30 years it's time for some further cleaning, overhauling and minor repairs.

The clock was installed when the church was built in 1841; it bears the mark 'William Vale, London, 1841' and until recently I assumed that William Vale was the maker. However it has been suggested by one authority that it was made by Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy, the celebrated 19th century clockmaker who held the Royal Appointment to Queen Victoria. Details of the design and construction seem to indicate that William Vale was no more than the man who installed a master craftsman's handiwork. A similar arrangement seems to have happened with the tower clock of St John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, where the marking 'Riley, Hackney' is on a clock that bears all the evidence of Vulliamy craftsmanship.

One solution often suggested when it becomes more difficult to find a winder is to install an electric motor instead of the original mechanism. But we want to avoid this solution and the expense it involves, and keep the original mechanism in good order. The clock may be 137 years old, but there are many much older which are still serving the community for which they were installed.

Enough money to cover the estimated cost of repairs was raised at a jumble sale in St Peter's Crypt on 21st October. A small surplus will be devoted to the Church's other works.

Fr John Bagley

+++UPDATE+++

TOM BLYTH

MANY RESIDENTS will be shocked to hear of the tragic death of Tom Blyth at his Berkshire home in April last year, at the age of 39. We only recently learned this sad news.

He helped many local families with legal advice, support and encouragement, in negotiating their freeholds, and in presenting the residents' case at the Southern Area Enquiry in 1972.

He provided essential legal stiffening to the DBA's backbone in the early years.

An Islington councillor from 1968-72, he had devoted much of his time to community affairs and planning enquiries. He leaves a widow and 3 children.

CULFORD WINE STORE

CANONBURY WINES, who had sought planning permission to use premises behind 70A Culford Rd for storage and offices, have abandoned their application, following local opposition and a petition to the GIA Cttee in July.

CAROL SINGING

THE DBA's ANNUAL CAROL SINGERS raised nearly £45 and added some Yuletide spirit to De Beauvoir.

UPDATE+++UPDATE+++UPDATE



HACKNEY BOOB

LANDLORDS CASH IN AS COUNCIL REHOUSE

TWO CONDEMNED HOUSES in northern De Beauvoir were sold vacant to private buyers in February after tenants had been rehoused by Hackney Council. One of the houses, 92 Buckingham Rd, was purchased for £11,000 by the GLC for their 'homesteading' scheme right under the nose of Hackney Council, who had been negotiating to buy it for over a year. The tenants, Mr & Mrs Merritt, were rehoused last July.

The Council are legally obliged to rehouse tenants of houses which they declare unfit or dangerous. They can ask for undertakings from the owners but the law does not give them powers to prevent the sale of the vacant property - a loophole which has brought windfalls to many an unscrupulous landlord.

Hackney Council have had plenty of experience of obstructive or insolvent landlords - but they never seem to learn how to deal with them. As long ago as March 1972, De Beaver (no. 6) attacked them for handing out money to landlords of condemned houses. As we said then: DON'T YOU THINK IT IS TIME THE COUNCIL WOKE UP?

COUNCIL PIPPED BY GLC

As owners of its derelict twin, no. 90, Hackney Council were keen to acquire 92 Buckingham Rd, and had been trying to do so for well over a year (since before they rehoused the Merritts). Having failed to buy privately from the unco-operative owners, they were about to start compulsory purchase proceedings at the end of last year - reluctantly, because an obstructive owner can spin out the CPO process for up to 2 years. But the GLC beat them to it. By early February they had bought 92 privately for 'homesteaders' Peter and Madeleine Candy, who had first put in a bid for the house last August. Under the home-

Above. 92-90 Buckingham Rd & 'home-steader' Peter & Madeleine Candy scheme, the GLC gives mortgages free of interest for 3 years to first-time buyers prepared to rehabilitate ramshackle properties to GLC standards.

Hackney Council had done a survey on the feasibility of rehabilitating 90 and 92, but appear to have decided to demolish both and provide a modern infill along the lines of the new. Now, instead of demolishing no. 90, which has been empty for several years and is in a dangerously dilapidated state, the Council has had to agree to rehab the property, presumably at considerably higher cost. Work is unlikely to start on this rehabilitation before the end of 1979, De Beaver understands, by which time the Candys hope to have their improvement works completed.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE

The other condemned house, 119 Tottenham Rd, has been empty since last September when the tenant, Mrs Bateman, was rehoused. At that time the property was leasehold, with only a few years to run, but it was sold at auction freehold on 7th February for £13,700. Again, why didn't the Council obtain proper undertakings from the owner before rehousing the tenant?

While wishing good luck to his new neighbours at no. 92, local Councillor Jim Cannon (who lives at 88 Buckingham Rd) says he is 'very fed up' about the situation and Hackney's slowness in acting on both 90 and 92. 'The Council shouldn't be in the business of providing profit to private landlords when they rehouse tenants', he told De Beaver. 'I've already started looking into just how the Council slipped up in these cases, and will be proposing procedures to prevent this sort of thing.'

Jeremy Hamard

Govt Inspector Mr R G Holder with Northchurch Terrace motorcycle engineer Mr Doyle

PARTIAL GO-AHEAD FOLLOWS GIA SUCCESS

THE ROADSIDE IMPROVEMENTS and amenity spaces, the principle benefit of the GIA environmental proposals, have finally received a partial go-ahead from the Govt's Dept of Transport. The scheme can proceed as planned with the exception of the Northchurch/Southgate Rd and Northchurch/Ufton Rd amenity works. The Council are now preparing drawings and specifications and hope to go out to tender in July with a start on site by the end of year. (9½ years after the GIA was declared.) The delayed start follows the elation of last summer when Environment Minister Peter Shore announced his decision to support the Council's & DBA's case with only minor amendments.

In his report on the Public Enquiry held in July 1977, the Govt Inspector upheld the case presented jointly by Hackney Council and the DBA, and endorsed the needs of the area for play and amenity space, while recognizing the need for reasonable access to business premises.



However following the enquiry Hackney Council had applied for a further closure at the south end of Ufton Rd (to complete the new Ufton Park) and the DoT vetoed this closure unless one of the other closures was sacrificed. Their veto was based on an objection by Ufton Rd resident Alan Rayner, who said that residents at the west end of Northchurch Rd should have an extra access (not just Southgate Grove).

News that the roadside works are to proceed will come as welcome, if belated, news to residents in De Beauvoir Rd who have been concerned at the volume of traffic speeding past their doors as a short cut to avoid Kingsland Rd.

In the autumn, Hackney Council approved the spending of a further £70,000 to offset inflation over the 8 years since the GIA was first declared.

GRAHAM PARSEY

DE BEAUVOIR'S NEW CENTRE

The DBA & DBCA await a decision whether Hackney Council have awarded them £71,000 to complete the repair and conversion of the Ufton Factory, for community use. Seen in our picture, it stands at the back of the Ufton Minipark and will provide 1 All-year, all weather, covered play centre with a play park outside 7; A 2-storey youth club 2 with a floodlit ball park; 3 The 2-storey community building with offices, meeting rooms, kitchen and canteen and hall at 1st floor; 4 A vacant space for the future needs; 5 Two buildings which will be repaired for use by FreeForm community arts group; 6 A quiet corner at the end is a wildlife reserve. ★Turn to centre spread for more details.

ODEON DOOMED?

THE RANK ORGANISATION, owners of the ODEON Cinema, seem determined to close the cinema's doors for the last time at the end of the month despite local objections. The cinema is not just our local it is the last ODEON in the borough. Fears stem from concern that Hackney can ill afford to lose more leisure facilities if it wishes to regenerate and attract young people to stay in the borough. Will the site remain vacant and dead for many years blighting the High St, like the Stamford Hill Odeon just up the road?

Rank's made their decision at the 'highest level' with extreme reluctance following declining attendances, and increasing disturbances recently.

It is understood that there has been no shortage of interest in the site (but not as a cinema) at a price in the region of £3 million, that consideration must have eased the pain.

THE MET: YOUR VIEWS SOUGHT

IT LOOKS as though Hackney Council's bid to the Govt for the vacant Metropolitan Hospital and its site has been successful in the face of competition from the GLC and the Housing Corporation. A condition of the bid is that the use must be essentially residential. The Council are now exploring the best ways of using the site, send us your views.

2nd APRIL: DBCA AGM

THE AGM of the De Beauvoir Community Association (DBCA) is to be held at the Rose Lipman Centre on 2nd April at 8.00.

19th MAY: DBA JUMBLE

THE DBA is holding a jumble sale on 19th May. If you have any contributions or can help, contact us, more details later.

30th JUNE: CARNIVAL



MAKE A DATE for this year's New Town Carnival on 30th June. Here, last year's Queen Elaine Nolan with attendant Joanna Wates, for more pix see back page.

SEPTEMBER FLOWER SHOW

A FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW is to be held by the DBA in September details later.

WE'RE BACK!

THE EDITORS APOLOGISE for the delay since we last published, due to an unexpected combination of business and personal pressures. De Beaver will now appear regularly again. Send your news, pictures, ideas, criticisms or letters by 20th April to the Editors (address on back page).

Remember always compare our prices first!

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DE BEAUVIOR'S

Play centre, Youth club Community centre

Set in the new Ufton Park stands the new Ufton Community centre. The park is nearly complete with a quiet planted sitting area **8**; a sunken floodlit ball park **9**; an adventure park **7** with its skate bowl which stands outside the covered all weather play centre **1**; and a quiet grassed area **10** with its wildlife reserve in one corner **6**. When the joint DBCA and DBA scheme is complete the new Ufton Centre will provide a wide choice of alternative facilities. They include:

1 ALL YEAR PLAY CENTRE



The first floor games room of the club. Initially it will provide an all year all weather, covered play centre as a place for children to call after school or in the holidays. It will be staffed with a trained play leader and provide indoor games space, stores and toilets for joint use with the adventure park

2 YOUTH CLUB



The all-weather all-year covered play hall now where repairs are advanced. Next to this is a 2-storey youth club with canteen and communal facilities at ground floor and a games room above which will be funded by ILEA with a trained youth leader. They will organise and supervise the use of the sunken ball park.



3 COMMUNITY BUILDING



The ground floor of the community building which will provide offices and meeting room and a canteen with kitchen. The centre building provides the community activities with a kitchen and bar, offices for local groups, meeting rooms and a hall at first floor.

5 FREE FORM

The remainder will be repaired and let initially to FreeForm community arts

FUTURE

The next important event for the project will be a public meeting. Hopefully this will be in May or soon after, when the leader has been appointed out of partnership money. Keep a look out for this event. It will signal an important change of gear for the project. Up until now it has been an idea being brought to life by a fairly small group of people. After the meeting it should be the concern of everyone in the area and its success will depend on YOU.

During the summer holidays there will be a play project for the kids, using the playgrounds and the end bay. Then in the autumn hopefully (1979 that is) there should be a grand opening of the building, and the project will be fully launched.

LADIES! Pop-in to DE BEAUVIOR HOUSE

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CONTINENTAL BUFFET BAR

If you're peckish or thirsty - then pop in to our Lounge Bar. We serve snacks and health drinks.

Everyone should look YOUTHFUL

But how does a busy person manage it. To attempt to regain the perfect figure by yourself is usually hopeless.

A visit to De Beauvoir House is the right way.
POP IN FOR A CHAT - LOSE INCHES THE SLENDERTONE WAY

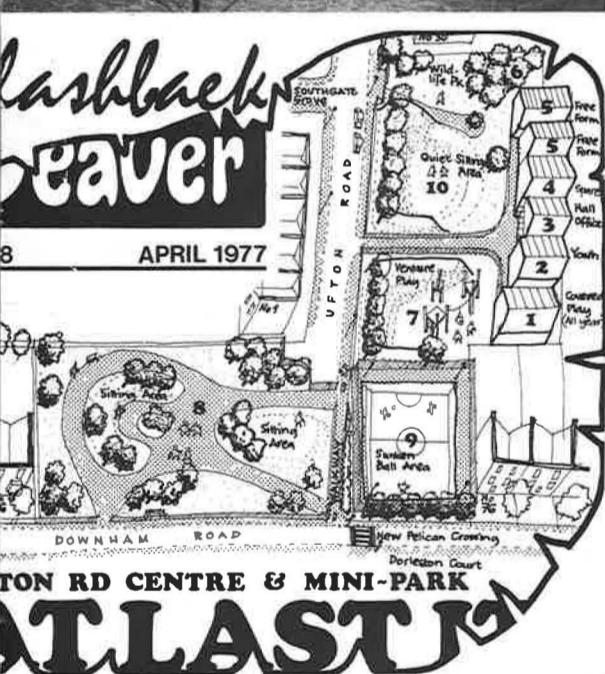
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CENTRE IN THE PARK



in the new UFTON PARK stands the former factory building which will soon become the UFTON CENTRE. Hackney Council are just completing repairs to the shell a unique joint venture between New & Old Town to convert it to a COMMUNITY CENTRE for the residents of Beauvoir.



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New & Old Town co-operation

The proposal to use the building for this use was first suggested jointly by the New Town Tenants Assoc, New Town 72 Assoc and the DBA as long ago as 1973 and it has taken until now for the Council to mobilize the scheme. Now we have a unique opportunity to run a co-operative venture between the DBCA and the DBA which will provide, with the Rose Lipman Centre, a wide choice of community activities in the area. It will in no way compete but will complement with facilities that cannot now be provided in the Lipman.



The room which will be the play hall as it was in 1973 when we began the campaign to use the building as a community centre.

NEED FOR A COMPANY

The joint committee of New and Old Town groups (known as the Building Committee) are now poised to begin the conversion works. The committee which has been meeting since last summer to organise the building contract has 4 DBCA and 4 DBA members as follows.

Pat Cant Andrew Hinchley
René Calvert Graham Parsey
Roland Minton Guy Gervis
Ron Williamson Steve Hockman

The way the DBCA and DBA, as associations, are organised means that any individual who signs a contract or lease is personally, legally and financially liable if anything goes wrong. This is clearly unfair to the officers of both associations, so we propose to set up a company to run the building contract and afterwards the building as a registered charity. The Council have approved the plan, and recently the DBA gave its approval. The DBCA are being recommended at their forthcoming AGM on 2nd April to approve the proposal and provided it is approved the principle of partnership between the 2 associations will be maintained because they will have equal shares in the company.

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Uses: Something for everyone

In the meantime, we are anxious to establish your ideas and suggestions for the use of the completed building.

Below are some ideas for possible activities in the Ufton Rd Factory. Other suggestions are needed, and there are plans to set up a User Working Party as soon as the centre's opening date is known with any accuracy.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

- Under 5's: Community nursery; Childminders' support group; Baby bouncing & toddlers gymnastics.
- 5's to teens: Junior club for 5's/7's to 11's; After-school club; Adventure play; Youth club.
- Young adults/adults: Drop-in centre for young jobless; General social activities & bar.
- Pensioners: Drop-in centre for daytime use; Luncheon club (Cook 'n' eat group); Discussion group to frame action on pensioners' problems.

ACTIVITIES

- Arts & crafts: Soft toys, pottery, folk embroidery, painting, jewellery making, photography, furniture making & repairing, etc.
- Chess Club
- Dancing: Folk; Ballroom etc
- Keep-fit
- Self defence: Judo; Karate; Kung-Fu
- Yoga
- Coaching in sports, football etc, using the pitch and the gardens.
- Skateboard - on the bowl in front of the centre.
- Cooking: Bread-making; Jam-making,

DISABLED

Thought is being given to devising activities especially suitable for the disabled who will, of course, be taking part in many of the above activities. Mary Cannon, who compiled the above list of suggested possible activities, writes:

YOUR IDEAS

'Personally I'm keen on trying to start a Family Workshop on Saturdays with activities that all the various members of a family can join in with - along the lines of the Family Workshop in Kentish Town'.

'Some people have expressed the view that classes etc could also be arranged for specific groups, eg Crafts for Teenagers, Mothers (with creche), Pensioners, etc'.

'I'm also keen to try and discover local talent so that we can run our own informal groups. I've had offers so far to teach bread-making and folk-embroidery, but we need lots more!'

Further suggestions, ideas and offers to join the User Working Party welcomed by Mary Cannon, 88 Buckingham Rd, tel 249 1729.

LEADER SOUGHT

We shall also soon be seeking a full time project leader for the scheme if you, or you know of anybody, with a wide experience and commitment to community work contact De Beaver.

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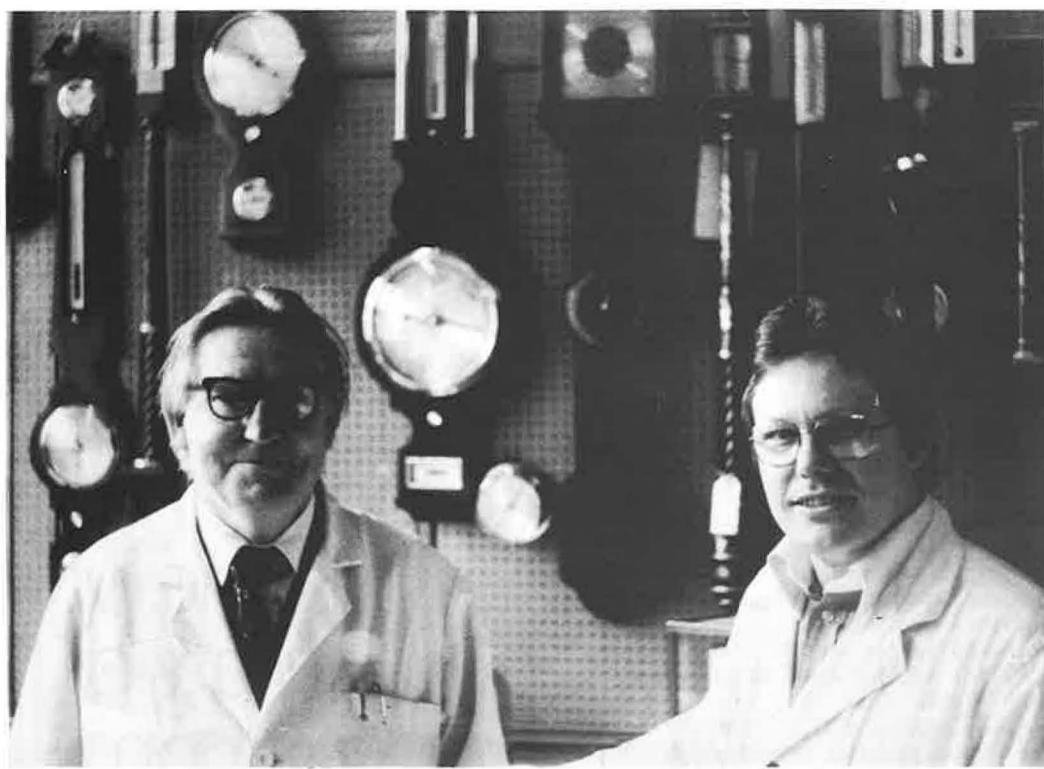
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CARNIVAL TIME!



PEOPLE

Bill Marney:

Set fair for the future?

BILL MARNEY entered the barometer business before the War at the age of 14, in his native Clerkenwell, at that time a hive of small craft industries.

But after wartime service in the RAF (where he was an 'instrument basher') Bill found many changes when he returned to Clerkenwell. The blitz had taken its toll, and many of the craft industries had disappeared or moved.

After a brief period with his former firm, who had moved out to Watford, Bill joined a company in Clerkenwell Green. Five years later, his boss retired and sold up, so Bill and his colleague Peter Garner (a glass blower) set up their own business in Turnmill St, EC1.

When their lease expired 5 years later and the owners sold out to Islington Council to provide an open space, they found premises in Southgate Rd beside Rosemary Gardens. Bill has been there ever since, but he has kept an interest in the plight of areas like Clerkenwell and its craft businesses.

Encouraging craftsmen

With some former Clerkenwell colleagues Bill encouraged a group of the normally reserved craft businessmen to present their interests and needs to Islington Council.

A few days before the inaugural meeting organised by Islington Council, the Chamber of Commerce discovered that less than 25% of those eligible had been notified because the Council had no records. The Chamber hurriedly rang round and mobilized a large turnout, but it was clear that the Council had no policies for small industries.

In fact it was not until two years ago that the implications began to dawn on the Inner London councils of their neglect of jobs over the 30 years since

Bill Marney with son, Patrick, in his barometer showroom in Southgate Rd.

the war. The Clerkenwell Green Association grew from this, and 7 years ago opened the first small unit craft workshops.

For some years Bill has tried to help schoolchildren gain experience of industry and craft whilst still at school on a day release basis. Too often, he has found, youth employment officers have been committed to large employers, neglecting the remaining craft workshops. Sometimes he has only been offered 'problem' children for whom school has failed and who have difficulty in reading, writing and communicating. But many have benefited from working with him. The most impressive example is a Chinese lad who spoke no English, but is now fluent (including expletives) and (says Bill) has turned out to be one of the best young cabinetmakers he has ever come across. He would like to see the unions giving stronger backing to the scheme. Need for harmony

Bill hopes that the new Partnership scheme will create the opportunity for reviving the role of small craft industry in the community. But he is adamant that since workshops are mainly within residential areas, policies must be shaped as a partnership not just between local and central govt, the unions and business, but include the residents who have to live with the industry, because community harmony is the key to success.

Meanwhile Bill, who lives in Romford, runs his barometer business with sons Patrick and Terence in Southgate Rd with workshops in Mortimer Rd, manufacturing and repairing barometers and long case clocks, largely for export. Peter Garner left a couple of years ago disenchanted with the prospects for small business and now lives in Harlow.

GRAHAM PARSEY

Your views on jobs and the community

Send us your views on small craft industries and their place in the community. - Editors

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Photo 4: The Carnival spirit supplied by the steel band, with the coconut shy behind

Photo 5: Majorette Sally Kavanagh presented a bouquet to Mrs Annie Cohen, whose husband Mayor Sam Cohen judged the floats

Photo 6: Carnival Queen Elaine Nolan with attendants (l) Joanne Wates & (r) Joanne Bloom (back) Amanda Connors, Tracy Simons & friend

Photo 7: The stalls did brisk trade

PLANS ARE WELL under way for this year's New Town Carnival on 30th June, our pix are a reminder of last year's very successful show. 1.Overall float winners the Spacemen of Jack Dunning Estate with the challenge cup donated and presented by local printer John Kitts 2.Local float winners the Injuns of Lipman Library 3.Another local prize for the Archery Club 4.The Carnival spirit supplied by the steel band, with the coconut shy behind 5.Majorette Sally Kavanagh presented a bouquet to Mrs Annie Cohen, whose husband Mayor Sam Cohen judged the floats 6.Carnival Queen Elaine Nolan with attendants (l) Joanne Wates & (r) Joanne Bloom (back) Amanda Connors, Tracy Simons & friend 7.The stalls did brisk trade



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