

ROSEMARY BRANCH THEATRE DINING ROOMS PUB

2 Shepperton Road, N1 3DT
www.rosemarybranch.co.uk

Tel: 020 7704 6665
24 hour box office. Tickets £5 to £15

The first **Rosemary Branch** Tavern was in existence by the mid 1600's when the Levellers, a radical left wing political movement, used it as a meeting place. It is said that they wore sprigs of rosemary in their hats to identify themselves. The building burnt down and by 1783 a new one was built near the two famous windmills erected to power the white lead works in what is now Rosemary Gardens.

By 1830 the windmills were a distinctive feature of Islington Fields as they were called, and heralded the era of the pleasure gardens. There was a pond for summer boating and winter skating, ballooning, tightrope walking, pony racing and grand balls. It was known as the Islington Vauxhall and the tavern made a lot of money until 1853, when the owner went bankrupt after the Equestrian Theatre was burned down with the loss of many horses. Business recovered, but in the 1880s the gardens were closed and the present pub was built with a minor music hall upstairs. Marie Lloyd performed there, possibly with

a young Charlie Chaplin.

The Rosemary Branch has been a fringe theatre since the 1970s and has just won the Best Theatre 2010 award from Fringe Report.com.

See Page 2 for their Spring Programme

Join the DBA e-mailing list

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Produced by

The De Beauvoir Association
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Printed by

Hanway Print Centre
www.hanwayprint.com

Designed by

TYPHOONCP
www.typhooncp.com

De Beauvoir

ASSOCIATION

Newsletter / April 2010

Sponsored by the ROSEMARY BRANCH

The DBA has organised two interesting events for the spring, see boxes below. On 20 April there is the opportunity to ask our three main parliamentary candidates about their party's plans and policies before the General Election (6 May?). This will be a Question Time type session in the Rose Lipman Community Hall. The entrance is on the south side of the building housing Hackney Archives at the junction of De Beauvoir Road with Downham Road. The Hall is on the first floor.

On 9 May end your weekend with a bang not a whimper with Divas In De Beauvoir when members of the Charles Court Opera (of Rosemary Branch fame) will transport you through the centuries with an array of popular favourites from opera, Gilbert and Sullivan, West End musicals and 'drawing room' songs. There will be love and betrayal, comedy and tragedy, drama and pathos, laughter and tears, fun and frolics. The venue is St. Peter's Church at 7.30. We are offering up to four free tickets to any people who genuinely cannot afford to attend. Email events@debeauvoir.org.uk or tel: **07780 683 856** to discuss this offer.

We are also very pleased to celebrate the life of Gwyn Williams, who is 101, and has lived in De Beauvoir for 79 years! Read all about him in a fascinating article by Barbara Walshe on page 6.

Lastly the DBA wish Committee member Lynda Sparks and her husband, Malcolm, much happiness in their new home in Ayr,

Scotland. For quite a few years Lynda folded newsletters with great efficiency and speed – and there were more than 36,000. Thank you again, Lynda. **DB**

DIVAS IN DE BEAUVOIR

with
Members of
Charles Court Opera

Sunday, 9 May at 7:30pm
St Peter's Church
De Beauvoir Road

Tickets £9
Concessions & under 16s £6

In advance by e-mail
events@debeauvoir.org.uk
Tel 07780 683 856 or on the door

THE GENERAL ELECTION

**Quiz your local Labour, Conservative
& Liberal Democrat
parliamentary candidates**

Tuesday, 20 April at 7:30 pm
The Rose Lipman Community Hall
43 De Beauvoir Road

AROUND THE TOWN

THE ROSEMARY BRANCH

2 Shepperton Road, N1 3DT
www.rosemarybranch.co.uk
Tel. 7249 4896

24 hour box office. Tickets £5 to £15

Minotaur Music Theatre presents

4 operas: *A Man of Feeling*, Stephen Oliver, *L'Occasione fa il Ladro*, Rossini, *Riders to the Sea*, Vaughan Williams and *The Bear*, William Walton. April 14-18

Unburied Treasures Mark Bunyan's dead funny revue looks into the posthumous travels of various celebs from Columbo to Evita. April 20-May 9

Big Music for Small Spaces

A dazzling array of some of London's best young classically trained musicians doing what they do best for about a tenner a ticket. May 10-28
Full details on the website.

ACUPUNCTURE AT ST. PETER'S

www.thesteppingstonesproject.co.uk

Come and enjoy Acupuncture for a wide range of conditions including back pain and headaches, we can help you SPRING IN TO SPRING! Readers Price £15!
Call Emma on 07954 371 758 and BOOK NOW spaces are limited.

"Such effective and affordable treatment in lovely surroundings, brilliant!"
Sally, *De Beauvoir Resident*.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

119 Balls Pond Road. Tel. 7275 7640

www.thedukeofwellingtonN1.com
info@thedukeofwellingtonN1.com
Cinema Club

on 1st and 3rd Sundays every month.
Films start at 8pm, free entry.

30 Century Man (2006) 4 April

An illuminating documentary about Scott Walker, the reclusive and enigmatic

artist, exploring his life in obscurity and the impact he has made on various artists over the last 30 years.

THE WARRIORS

After their best ever season in 2009, the Mighty, Mighty De-Beauvoir Warriors are currently planning the 2010 cricket season for what will hopefully be yet another trophy winning summer.

We are always on the lookout for new enthusiastic talent of all ages. We play 4-5 fixtures every summer both home and away, in addition to net sessions at Lords. If you are interested in joining us please email: russell.toone@sothebys.com or readkevin@gmail.com

FREEDOM CLUB (over 60s)

Tuesdays 1-3pm in St. Peter's Crypt.
We welcome all Freedom Pass holders and friends.

For information about our programme ring **Romee Day on 7226 5231**

DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS

www.debeauvoirgardeners.org.uk

6 April. Frederick Gibberd's garden, Harlow, Essex Talk by Anne de Verteuil with a view to a spring trip incorporating this garden with other contemporary gardens.

9 May. Plant Sale outside 21 Northchurch Terrace, **11am Meetings in St. Peter's crypt**, De Beauvoir Road first Tuesday of the month at 8pm.

THE DE BEAUVOIR ESTATE TRA (Tenants & Residents Association)

Rose Lipman Community Hall

e-mail: debeauvoirtra@btinternet.com

Tel: 7249 4896/Mob. 07850 938812

Office open Monday to Thursday 10.30am-12.30pm.

PLEASE COME to the AGM on 26 April at 7.30pm in the Hall. All residents

Flitwick, where the local women were waiting to collect the children. And it was there that he taught his pupils for the next few years until it was deemed safe to return.

“We just accepted things,” he says of the time, and he’s maintained that philosophy on life ever since. As happy reminiscing with old friends over a pizza, Chinese or fish and chips on a Saturday, he’s just as keen on living in the present. He has a mobile phone, keeps in touch with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren over email, and is constantly downloading pictures from his digital camera. He does miss some things though, like driving, which he gave up at 98, and reading now that his eyesight is failing though he now listens to talking books and has just finished the latest Ruth Rendell.

That’s the thing with Gwyn, he always keeps up with the times. It’s this, along with good genes, that he credits for his long life. “I’ve always been curious. Whenever something comes up that puzzles me, I like to find out how it works,” he smiles. **Barbara Walshe** **DB**

DE BEAUVOIR SKILLS SHOWCASE

The DBA are planning a **Skills Showcase** one weekend day at the Rose Lipman Community Hall. It will be an opportunity for local people to sell their services or things they’ve made and distribute their publicity. If you don’t want to, or can’t afford, to buy you can barter instead. You could, for example, do an hour’s work in someone’s garden in exchange for that someone coming to change a washer for you.

We have already been offered a wide range of skills but we need more. If you’re interested in taking part, please email **info@debeauvoir.org.uk** **info@debeauvoir.org.uk**, or contact Hilary Mandleberg at 7 De Beauvoir Square, telling her what you’d like to offer.

Hilary Mandleberg

THE DE BEAUVOIR UNDERGROUND

The De Beauvoir Underground is a new fundraising body that exists to raise money for local projects. For the next 20 months we will be raising money for a new community centre - the redevelopment of St. Peters Crypt.

This project will be completed in 2012 and will create a new neighborhood hub, fulfilling a broad range of its residents’ needs. The DBU will be organising a series of fundraising events that celebrate the

heritage and community that makes this area such a special and vibrant part of London. Whether you have lived here for generations or are new to the area, you will appreciate the rare energy of De Beauvoir Town. We want to harness the talent within and excitement of this unique place.

Please join our Facebook group to hear about the launch of the DBU and to become a member. **Rosie Haines** **DB**

the first person to be executed in Britain in the 20th century.

Louise (sometimes called Louisa) had been paying a foster mother called Helen Gentle 37 shillings a month to look after her illegitimate child in Tottenham. She told Gentle in October 1899 she was removing the boy to take him to France, where his father was going to look after him. In fact, she went to Brighton for a weekend with her much younger lover, Eudore Lucas. The same day, a shocked woman found

the boy's battered body in the station toilet. The evidence against Louise Masset included the discovery next to the body of fragments of clinker brick of the same type found in her garden. Her defence at the Old Bailey said she had in fact agreed with two other women that they would look after Manfred and that one of them must have murdered him. The jury did not believe her and she was hanged at Newgate Prison next to the Old Bailey on January 9, 1900. **Paul Bolding** **DB**

ENGLEFIELD ROAD

Ettore & Eugene Lusardi (+Grant) of Lusardi Motors at No. 18 Englefield Road have seen a few generations grow up since starting their car repair shop 25 years ago. "We saw some customers as babies and now they're the ones pushing the prams," smiles Ettore. "It makes us feel part of the community, we've grown up together. It's like one big family here." Family is key to business life on Englefield Road. Ettore says 70 per cent of the work comes from local mums. "They trust us and we're flexible about them dropping their cars off and picking them up around school times." **Lusardi Motors - 7254 2881**

London Borough of Hackney

**Englefield
Road N1**

Tony O'Kane bought his timber shop, KTS, 18 years ago, but remembers going there as a child with his father. A road renowned for its wood trade over the past 100 years, it has always been where he'd like to be based. He had the chance to buy

the shop, on the corner of Kingsland Road, 30 years ago, but turned it down for family reasons back then. When it came up for sale again 12 years later, he grabbed it, and expanded 4 years ago when he bought the building next door. "I always wanted a bigger shop. Now we're like a mini B&Q."

**KTS Timber Merchants -
7249 3199**



Toan Vu's father also had a similar impact on his career. Now manager of **Huong Viet** at number 12-14, it is the acclaimed Vietnamese restaurant his dad set up 15 years ago, after leaving his native country. But a lot has happened since then. "Vietnamese food has exploded here. We were the second restaurant to open in this area originally, now there are loads. And people are really clued up about the food. We used to get asked about all the different soups, now people know exactly what they want!" **Huong Viet - 7249 0877**

Beryl Henderson admits having had a little help from her family when she first bought **North One Garden Centre** 12 years ago. But it was mostly her working her socks off, 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, to get it where it is – UK Garden Centre of the Year in 2007. Previously a button factory and then a second hand car show room from the 1950s to 1980s, when Beryl took over number 25; the place was in serious need of repair. Today, she has turned it around. "We get people who are first time gardeners and others who know a lot about it. It's part of the pleasure of being in this community," says Louise, North One's plant buyer. **North One Garden Centre - 7923 3553** (www.n1gc.co.uk)

Across the road at **Cansu Mini Market**, **Hasan Agi** help running the shop from his cousin **Hosesin**. Originally from Turkey, Hasan opened the place eight years ago and knows the locals who pop in for a bottle of wine. "There's never a problem here, just very friendly, nice people," says Hasan.

At the **Talbot** nearby, **Sarah Labigne** and **Adam Wilson** are making **Englefield Road** their workplace and family home. After living on **De Beauvoir Road** for five years, and working in the hospitality industry, they decided to go into the pub business



together before getting married later this year. "We looked all over London and then our local came on the market, so we bought it! It's perfect, we live above the pub, know the area, know it's safe and know lots of people here." Since taking over the pub in February, Sarah, who hails from Germany, and Adam, from New Zealand, have got to know many more people. "Besides the Shoreditch and Hoxton trendy crowd at the weekend, our business is mainly locals. They're nice people and a real mix." **The Talbot - 7241 2995**

But business life on **Englefield Road** isn't without its difficulties. Parking is the main challenge. Tony O'Kane has been to court 300 times to get parking tickets overturned for his customers. "It took me ten years to get the parking bay and now customers are receiving unjustified tickets. Hackney Council has gone from no parking enforcement to beyond what's acceptable." It's a similar story for Ettore Lusardi. "The council makes it very difficult. We emailed about the parking problems two years ago and still haven't heard anything back! But our relationship with the locals and families here has made the difference. **Toby** always help us out." **Barbara Walsh**

GWYN WILLIAMS AT THE AGE OF 101

Few people know De Beauvoir quite like Gwyn Williams. But then, at 101 years old, and a resident here for 79 of them, he's had more time to get to know the place than most.

Originally from Wales, Gwyn arrived in the area in 1929, aged 20. It was the time of the great depression, 'far worse than what it is now', he says, 'no one could get a job!' But he was one of the lucky ones. A physics graduate with a post graduate diploma in education, he was given a teaching post in Shoreditch, and began lodging at a house in Hertford Road.

He's still there today. Having fallen for the landlady's daughter, Grace, they married in 1935 at St. Peter's Church and settled down to normal life in De Beauvoir. But, within five years, life would be anything but normal – a war broke out, houses next to Gwyn's were bombed and he was integral to the evacuation of children from East London.

"It was one of the most marvellous bits of organisation," he says of the 24 hours when nearly two million children were evacuated from the capital. "We knew the war was coming, so turned up in school every morning in August with our rucksacks packed with everything we needed for the day; food, pajamas, odds and ends, and played games with the children whose parents had decided to let them go. "We repeated this every day until the headmaster finally got the phone message that operation Pied Piper was on. He opened his orders, which had been sealed for some time, and what followed was some marvellous improvisation that worked like a fantastic jigsaw."

The first instruction was to take the children immediately to the railway station at the Angel, which was closed to the public for the day, and to get on the first train out of the platform. "No one knew where we were going, not even the train driver," he laughs. They ended up in Bedfordshire, in a little village called



AROUND THE TOWN

welcome to stand for office/committee. Our Estate needs you to continue building our community.

Recent achievements and activities include welcome signs, dog poo bins, Women's Tea & Talk, Sequence Dancing, Gardening Club and health advice.

The TRA welcomes visitors, helpers and people with ideas (free coffee or tea). The Rose Lipman Hall can be booked for social events or rehearsals (£300 per day with deposit). Hall or committee room daytime bookings £15 per hour.

Natasha Hodson, Chair TRA

SKYWAY COMMUNITY COACHING

www.skyway.uk.com Tel: 7729 6970

Easter Holidays for 13s to 19s.

6 & 13 April Multi Sports 12-4pm probably at Bridge Academy

7 & 14 April football coaching 12-4pm probably Shoreditch Park

8 & 15 April trip 12-6pm

Blue Hut, 49 Provost Street, N1

Fashion workshops & activities

All venues to be confirmed

(Sports for 8s to 12s to be arranged)

THE EAST LONDON LINE & DALSTON STATION'S GORY HISTORY

Mayor Boris Johnson has announced that the East London Line, which includes stations at Dalston Junction and Haggerston close to De Beauvoir (entrance in Lee Street next to Tesco in Kingsland Road), will reopen on May 23. Connection to the Tube will be via Whitechapel [District and Hammersmith & City lines] and Canada Water [Jubilee]. The new line, part of London Overground, will run from Dalston via Haggerston and Shoreditch High Street to West Croydon. Next year a further extension from Dalston will reinstate the "western curve" to its final terminus at Highbury and Islington and the year after that, a spur to Clapham Junction from Surrey Quays will open. An earlier plan to reinstate the "eastern curve", now under the Dalston shopping centre car park, was abandoned. The new Dalston station will be a lot smaller than the old one, pictures of which can be seen on the enthusiasts' website www.subbrit.org.uk, **Disused Stations** section.

Dalston station opened in 1865 and stood on a line that went on to carry millions of commuters daily from north and east London into the City via the terminus at Broad Street. A combination of war damage and the decline of the railways led to its closure in 1986.

In 1959 it was used as part of the set for the film *Look Back in Anger* with Richard Burton and Claire Bloom and a launch party for the film was held in the station buffet.

Another colourful episode in its history probably won't be mentioned in the TfL publicity. This was the discovery in the ladies toilet on platform 3 of the body of a three-year-old boy which led to a celebrated murder trial in 1899. French-born piano teacher Louise Masset, who lived in Stoke Newington, was charged with killing her son Manfred and became *Story continued on next page*