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SCHOOL APPLICATION FILED

A proposal led from De Beauvoir for a Hackney “free school” has been made to the government.

Financial adviser Andreas Wesemann has lodged a plan with the Department for Education for Hackney New School, which would take pupils from ages 11 to 19 and would be a mainstream secondary school with a focus on music. It hopes to open in September 2013.

The plan includes expressions of support from parents of 502 children covering 50 per cent of children in the first two years and 50 per cent of the first full seven years of the school and another 140 children who would reach the right age for year seven after 2020.

Andreas told us this is a level of support greater than that achieved by School21, which will open this year in Stratford and Newham led by Peter Hyman, a former adviser to Tony Blair.

It would also have extended opening hours of 7.30 am to 6.00 pm.

Andreas is the husband of Rosie Wesemann who runs the Scolt Head. Also on the steering committee is Andrew Tetlow of Mortimer Road architecture practice Deep Blue.

“Free” schools were introduced by the conservative-led government as what it calls “all-ability state-funded schools set up in response to what local people say they want and need in order to improve education for children in their community.”The first ones opened last September.

The schools are outside local authority control and funded directly from the government. Critics say they will draw pupils and funds away from an area’s other schools at a time of cut-backs in spending.

<http://www.hackneynewschool.org/>

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info@debeauvoir.org.uk

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De Beauvoir

ASSOCIATION

Newsletter / April 2012

Sponsored by Where Next Estate Agents

De Beauvoir Marketplace

The DBA presents a chance to meet local traders and craftspeople and see what they have to offer.

**Saturday 28 April, 2–5pm; Admission Free
St Peter's Church Crypt, Northchurch Road**

Admission £10 for commercial exhibitors and sellers, £5 for sole traders and free for deserving causes (on application).

Would you like to earn some extra money? In these cash-strapped times, who wouldn't?

If you're a local business person, entrepreneur or amateur with a knack of making things, contact us at info@debeauvoir.org.uk and be part of our second De Beauvoir Marketplace.

On the day you'll be able to bring along your publicity material, chat to your neighbours about what you do, enjoy a cup of tea and maybe go home with some extra cash in your pocket.

Or perhaps you don't have anything to sell but need a local professional to do some work for you. Come along and see if the person you're looking for is right on your doorstep.

We already have over 20 professionals and amateurs who've said they'd like to take part. If you'd like to join them, let us know as soon as possible. We won't be able to include sellers unless they've registered with us in advance.

And do, also, spread the word among your local friends and neighbours. The more people we have on the day, the more fun – and hopefully profitable – the De Beauvoir Marketplace will be for everyone.

NEW FOR 2012 - A DE BEAUVOIR TREE WALK: PROVISIONALLY MONDAY 14 MAY
Rupert Bentley Walls, Hackney Council's tree officer, will lead a walk during which he will point out and talk about special trees in De Beauvoir gardens, and along our streets. Get in touch (see below) for confirmation and meeting point.

PARTY IN THE PARK - SATURDAY 7 JULY, 2-5 PM IN DE BEAUVOIR SQUARE

PLANNING FOR THIS YEAR'S PARTY is well under way and we need your help. We will need people on the day to help set up and take down and assist with stalls.

We also need:

- children's books: these are given away, one to each child at the Party, so we need a lot
- general books and DVDs: to be sold on the very successful Book Stall
- items for the Tombola: any small-ish items, new or as new. The Tombola is hugely popular, so again, much help is needed.

Please email info@debeauvoir.org.uk for details if you can donate any of these items or call Paul or Kirsty on 020 7684 5811.

AROUND THE TOWN

THE ROSEMARY BRANCH

2 Shepperton Road, N1 3DT
www.rosemarybranch.co.uk
Tel: 020 7704 6665 24-hour box office.

Until 7 April: **An Ideal Husband**

10-12 April: **Random**

26-29 April: **Born in the Gardens**

DE BEAUVOIR GARDENERS

www.debeauvoirdgardeners.org.uk
The club meets in the crypt of St. Peter's Church, on the first Tuesday of the month at 8pm.
Annual subscriptions: Single £20; Couple £30;
Concessions £15 and £20

3 April: **Hardy Geraniums - history & propagation**

with Jacqueline Aviolet of Rosie's Garden Plants.
1 May: **Gardening in May with TV gardener Chris Collins**

Sunday 13 May, 2-5pm **Local Family Growing Day**

Email dbgardeners@gmail.com for details

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

119 Balls Pond Road, N1 4BL
Tel: 020 7275 7640
www.thedukeofwellingtonN1.com
email: info@thedukeofwellingtonN1.com
CINEMA CLUB (1st and 3rd Sundays every month;
films start at 8pm, free entry)

THE SCOLT HEAD

107A Culford Road
Every Monday 8:00 pm: pub quiz

THE LAST PICTURE SHOW

Many people won't know that De Beauvoir once had a full-sized cinema. The Odeon Dalston occupied the triangular site at the junction of Stamford and Tottenham Roads.

According to the website cinematreasures.org, the cinema opened 1 May 1939 with Laurence Olivier in "Q Planes".

It was rather 'boxy' and had a square tower feature on the right hand side, the entire facade was covered in light yellow faience tiles. The auditorium seated 1,319 in the stalls with 745 in the balcony.

The Odeon was converted into a triple screen cinema from 10 December 1972. Screen 1 in the former circle retained the original 745 seating capacity, while the two "minis" in the rear stalls area seated 120 each.

At a time when many cinemas were closing, the Rank Organisation gave up on repairs and closed the Odeon on 31 March 1979 with Donald Sutherland in "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" showing in screen 1.

The building stood empty until 1984 when it was demolished and De Beauvoir Court was built on the site.

The cinema features in a bizarre 12-minute film mostly shot in one take in De Beauvoir in 1976

which has now become a cult classic and can be seen on the internet.

The "structuralist" black-and-white art film by director John Smith called *The Girl Chewing Gum* is shot from a fixed position at the corner of Tottenham Road

and Kingsland Road. It pans between Steele's glass works – now Scooterden – and the cinema. The soundtrack purports to be a director instructing pedestrians and vehicles when to appear and what to do but becomes progressively absurder.

An interesting period piece as far as clothes and hair styles go, it shows traffic in Stamford Road a good deal busier than today.

<http://www.lux.org.uk/videos/girl-chewing-gum>



Picture: Flickr/dusashenka

MIKE KELLY

Michael Kelly: born 19 November 1945, died 12 November 2011

Mike Kelly and Brigid Philip have been part of my De Beauvoir life since I moved to Ufton Road more than 30 years ago. At that time they lived at 59 Northchurch Road and we met through the De Beauvoir Association, which was going strong even then. When we needed to replace the old wooden floor of our Ufton Road dining room and kitchen, we moved in with Mike and Brigid, and then probably overstayed our welcome when our ceiling unexpectedly collapsed and we had to extend our stay.

Mike married Brigid on 6 January 1972 at Hackney Town Hall, when his father Sam was mayor of Hackney. Apparently one of their wedding presents was a tip for a horse, 'Sunny Summers', that was racing on the day of their wedding. The horse won and the bet yielded the cost of the £4.50 wedding licence.

A mathematician with a degree from Bradford University, Mike had a huge variety of jobs ranging from a Department of Health-funded project on understanding how computers could be used in the NHS, to working for the Greater London Council, where he ran the Road Safety Unit. Here his greatest success was discovering that by making all traffic lights near to zebra crossings stay red for two seconds longer, 12 lives a year could be saved.

Mike was a very political animal and gave freely of his time to causes he believed in. He'd joined the Labour Party at university and was very active in the local party, chairing the Edith Cavell and Kingsland secondary school governing bodies for 13 years. He finally resigned from these posts because the role of chair had changed and Mike believed that, if you're personally accountable for a budget of millions of pounds and the job involves sacking people, then you should be paid to do it.

He also volunteered at the De Beauvoir Refugee Project, delivered The Beaver – forerunner to this

DBA newsletter – to all houses in Culford Road, and was one of the key players in ensuring that the once-temporary De Beauvoir road closures, that we all now take for granted, be made permanent.

He resigned from the Labour Party in 2003 over the decision to invade Iraq.

Sadly, after having taken early retirement and looking forward to a full and active life with Brigid and his many friends, in 2006 Mike was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis. I remember the day when his first symptom – he suddenly couldn't open one eye – revealed itself. Then, in the summer of 2010, he was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. After that, things moved quickly.

True to form though, Mike was always upbeat and fun-loving, and in his last year, his life opened out even more. His attitude was that he had had a good life and we all have to die some time. At some level, he was relieved to know that the rest of his life was somehow sorted, that there was no point wasting energy over what was to come, and that it was better to enjoy what he had.

And he did this with great gusto, attending the St Joseph's Hospice Day Care Centre, where he made people laugh, got on with everyone, and gave and received heaps of encouragement. In fact, he became St Joe's poster boy, and contributed to Radio 4's Case Notes programme on New Developments in End of Life Care, when it recorded a programme at St Joseph's in February 2011 (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00y2f1c>).

Mike died at home and, as he had hoped, his voice, his ability to eat (he loved his food) and to get about in his wheelchair did 'see him out'.

He was special, funny, kind, and will be missed. It was a good life well lived.



Hilary Mandelberg

DBA

NATASHA HODSON

Natasha Clare Hodson, former Chair of the De Beauvoir Estate Tenants and Residents Association and a De Beauvoir Association committee member for several years, died on 9 December 2011 after suffering from a rare mucosal carcinoma. She was born on 22 June 1944, the younger daughter of English and Russian parents.

Natasha originally studied architecture in London but her love for the theatre led her to stage set design. She then embarked on what was to have been an eight week trip to Mexico but, shocked by the poverty and ill treatment of many ordinary Mexican women, Natasha stayed and joined a campaigning women's group. She spent the next eight years travelling through South America, teaching English and becoming fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

On her return to England, Natasha took a degree at Essex University in international studies and became a notable figure on the university campus in her poncho and Peruvian hat and with her passion for women's rights. Afterwards Natasha lectured at several London colleges, most recently at City University where she spent nearly 20 years in Continuing Education. She also taught English as a second language at Springboard on Downham Road.

Natasha was a talented artist and maintained her passion for the theatre, regularly contributing reviews to the Islington and Camden newspapers. She was an ardent feminist and staunch member of Hackney Women's Forum. An active protester, her beliefs were summed up perfectly in one of her posters "Just peace, No war, No rich, No poor". She was an intelligent conversationalist who attracted friends from every walk of life especially those who shared her pursuit of making things better for all. A long-term resident of Portelet Court on the De Beauvoir estate and a member of the Tenants and Residents Association for many years, she energetically campaigned for improvements to the area. With her architectural eye and wide experience of many

cultures she had a vision of a harmonious society living in surroundings that uplift the spirit.

Natasha was diagnosed with cancer early in 2011. She was stoic towards her illness, never complaining and retaining the humour we all enjoyed. I, among many, will miss her and her infectious smile.

Fiona Darbyshire

DBA



NEWS IN BRIEF

A few people in the area have over the years met journalism students from City University who have knocked on their doors or otherwise been nosy and readers may be interested to know what it's all about.

The answer is that they are on an MA Newspaper Journalism course on which your DBA Newsletter editor is also a tutor. Each year a pair of students is allocated to most council wards in Islington and Hackney and told to get to know the local people as a journalist would. This academic year, Jessica and Andrew have been covering De Beauvoir.

The course has a great reputation for getting students good jobs and one of those allocated to De Beauvoir four years ago, Oliver Shah, is now a business reporter with the Sunday Times.

During the one-year course, the City students have to produce portfolios of stories and features from their "patch" and the best go into student-produced borough-wide newspapers – Islington Now and the Hackney Post - on which they are assessed.

So if one comes a-knocking, do be nice to them now that you know what they are about.

RUBBISH ARTICLE

One resident of the De Beauvoir estate has accused residents from north of Downham Road of using the estate's recycling facilities and threatened to "grass them up". Perhaps it is time to ask why the council withdrew the regular recycling skips that used to let us dispose of larger items easily – including those not covered by the council's collection scheme.

LONDON AMBASSADORS

At least two local residents, Paul Bolding and Jacky Rees, are undergoing training as London Ambassadors. This is the scheme where volunteers help visitors all over London during the Olympics. If you know of anyone else in the area doing this, do let us know. The first of three training days, which took place at Toybee Hall in Commercial Street, consisted in understanding the task – mainly helping visitors to London find their way around

– and learning about the programme, the "pods" where volunteers will be based and the uniform. This will have a striking purple and pink geometric design covering the polo shirts, jackets, coats and even the rucksack and water bottle that will be supplied.

Many of the volunteers are students, some from Queen Mary in Mile End Road, but two were Italians

prepared to travel from Italy for the training and the period of volunteering. Each ambassador agrees to work six shifts of five hours on consecutive days, though the shifts are longer for managers.

TRANSPORT NEWS

The new TfL bike hire station at the junction of Whitmore Road and Pitfield Street has been built but mysteriously not opened at the time of writing. Part of the scheme's expansion from outside the original zone one sites, it's only a few minutes from most of De Beauvoir. Other nearby sites are in Shoreditch Park and a new one is under construction in Eagle Wharf Road.

Also affecting local transport links, the East London Line is due to be extended to Clapham Junction later this year. This will complete a kind of Overground outer circle, since Clapham Junction can already be reached by anti-clockwise trains from Dalston Kingsland.

The extension from New Cross Gate via Queen's Road Peckham, Peckham Rye, Denmark Hill, Clapham High Street and Wandsworth Road was originally reported to be opening before the Olympics but TfL now says it will be "late 2012". The trip from Dalston Junction to Clapham Junction will take 40 minutes and trains will be every 15 minutes during the day.

PUB MAKEOVERS

Two local pubs have had makeovers recently: the Duke of York at the corner of Downham Road and Hertford Road has reopened as Duke's Brew and Que and the Perseverance (The Perse to some long-standing residents) in Southgate Road has become the Hunter S.

The City University students' paper. Not available in any shop.

LEAVING WITH REGRET

A Greek Cypriot family's long association with De Beauvoir is coming to an end following the deaths last year of Petros and Maria Yiannoullou. Their children Paul and Florendia have decided to sell 46 Englefield Road, which their father acquired in 1946 and where they were born and still live.

The funerals of Petros and Maria were held at the church of St John Theologian in Mare Street, of which they were founder members. The services were conducted by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Britain, Gregorios, a mark of the respect which the couple commanded in the community.

A letter to the family from Cypriot Consul General George Georgiou said: "It is unsung heroes like your father that laid the foundations for the strong and coherent Cypriot community in the United Kingdom. He has rightly earned everyone's respect and appreciation."

The couple were also involved in the campaign in the 1960s to save De Beauvoir from demolition.

IMMIGRATION

Petros, who was born in 1917, first came to London in the 1930s when conditions in his home village of Eptakomi were deprived because of poor harvests. In part, it was the need to pay off his father's debts that brought him here. He came back in 1946 when London needed

workers and bought a lease on the Englefield Road house along with a friend, Kyriako Kikis.

Maria and their three children joined Petros and they went on to have eight children in all.

The house became the first place in London where many Greek Cypriot migrants would stay. "They would make their way to Angel and ask a passer-by 'Where does the Greek Cypriot family live near here' and amazingly be sent to Englefield Road," recalls Florendia, 50.

Others would be met off the boat train at Victoria Station by Petros, the visitors sometimes shedding tears of joy at the sight of a friendly face.

SCHOOL

The children went to De Beauvoir school and the family became established members of the community. "In the 1960s there was a move to tear the area down. My father remembered meetings to save De Beauvoir," said Paul, 46.

The siblings also recall going to the cinema in De Beauvoir, the Dalston Odeon that stood at the junction of Stamford Road and Tottenham Road.

After the war London had only one Greek Orthodox church, in west London, and the couple were involved in starting the second, All Saints in Camden Town,



Paul and Florendia

and later St John Theologian in Hackney. Their son Andrew was among the first to marry at the Hackney church.

Kyriako Kikis sold the rest of the house in Englefield Road to Petros in 1953 as both families grew and Petros acquired the freehold in 1971.

Both men worked in restaurants and went on to set up a number of their own around Britain, both together and separately. Petros sold Paul's Restaurant near Bethnal Green station when he retired.

"Mother worked there and used to serve Status Quo, Bobby Moore and the politician Robin Cook," says Florendia.

Petros sold up because he wanted to have more time for himself and the family and to be able to travel to Cyprus. The couple were able to spend three months a year on the island until 2008 but were no longer able to travel after Maria had cancer surgery in 2009.

Among the memories of their parents' lives are congratulations from the Queen on their diamond wedding anniversary in September 2001.

Paul and Florendia are moving to Waltham



Maria and Petros Yannoullou.

Cross where other members of the family live. "It's probate after their deaths. Otherwise we would have stayed," says Florendia after recalling many happy years in De Beauvoir.

Paul Bolding

DBA

NEWS IN BRIEF

LOCKNER UNLOCKED

The Lockner Estate is named after architect WC Lockner, who designed St Peter's Church, but thanks to some detective work done locally, his origins have recently become clearer.

We recently had an email from a member of the family telling us the spelling should be Lochner and that William Conrad Lochner was born in Tripoli, now in Libya, but that they knew little else.

We discovered that his father was probably Christof Conrad Lochner, who was the Danish consul in the Barbary Coast until his death in 1779 in Malta. (He handed that post to a nephew who was later drummed out of the Danish foreign service for unbecoming behaviour, but that is another story.)

WC Lochner was born about 1780 so it is likely he never knew his father. When he came to Britain is not known but he was married in Somerset in 1833

and given the freedom of the City of London in 1856. He is also credited with designing St James's church in Enfield, which shows marked similarities to St Peter's. He also worked on the enlargement of St Andrew's church in Enfield.

WC Lockner died in 1861.

KEEPING FIT

Fitinfitness gym has opened at

Unit 6

Balmes Road

London N1 5TQ

Tel 020 7254 8789 (mob 07809 575299)

And **Skyway** has a range of sports activities for children in and around De Beauvoir over Easter. Go to <http://www.skyway.uk.com/> or phone 020 7729 6970.