

# DE BEAVER



## It's as to be good, Asda

Asda, the superstore giants of the North, are planning to open up shop within a carrot's throw of Ridley Road. Plans for a 70,000 sq. ft. development on the old British Railways site at Dalston Junction are currently on display at the Hackney Planning Department in City Road.

The proposal, prepared jointly by Asda and British Railways, includes provision for landscaped areas and a pedestrian mall linking Ridley Road with the store's 500 capacity car park. Overspill parking and increased traffic would seem to be the biggest fears De Beauvoir residents face from the scheme. Another possible stumbling block could be finding suitable alternative locations for existing facilities like the lorry park. Interestingly, the onus is on the developers to propose suitable alternatives.

If planning permission is granted - as seems likely at the time of going to press - the store could be open for business within a year. The development is part of an overall scheme to turn Dalston into the mecca of East End shopping over the next decade. According to the Borough Planning Department, the area earmarked for special attention is the triangle formed by Gillett Street and Cecilia Road in the north and Stamford Road in the south.

In fact, a new Borough Plan is being drawn up to secure the statutory changes required to switch the emphasis from residential to retailing development. A spokesman for the department stressed that none of the schemes under consideration would involve a wholesale bulldozing of the area. "We see it rather as an organic development aimed at ensuring the continued economic health of Dalston Town Centre", he said.

The presence of Asda is, of course, the kind of magnet that might well attract other major developments. Though nothing new to Britain as a whole, the concept of hyperstore shopping is still foreign to most Londoners. First imagine a single store the size of Wembley football pitch selling everything from yoghurt to lawnmowers. Then imagine that

everything in that store has the lowest price tag in town.

That in essence is what shopping at Asda is all about. As a policy, they never run special price offers or promotions. You can walk into any Asda store from John O'Groats to Land's End and pay exactly the same price for every item in your shopping basket.

The environmental price for having Asda on your doorstep is arguably somewhat higher. It is no secret that the Leeds-based giants have found planning permission in the South hard to come by. So far, the closest they have got to Central London is their site at Park Royal near Harlesden.

Then there is the question of how their aggressive pricing will affect local traders. As recently reported in the Hackney Gazette, feelings among stallholders in Ridley Road are decidedly mixed. At Sainsburys in Kingsland High Street, the reaction was tight-lipped:

"We always welcome competition" was their official comment.

Philip Mitzman, manager of Marks & Spencer and president of Hackney & Tower Hamlets Chamber of Commerce, was rather more forthcoming. Hackney, he claimed, was in need of one thriving shopping centre. But any development should begin with improvements to the environment.

"Private investors today have a duty to contribute towards the community they're coming into", he commented.

As an example, he cited a joint scheme between the Dalston Traders Association and Free Form - a local arts cooperative - to give a face lift to the Kingsland High Street end of Ridley Road.

One thing is certain, we can expect to see a radical change to the face of Dalston Town over the next few years. Whether this change will be to the benefit of local residents as well as East End shoppers remains to be seen.

ROGER NOKES

## DE BEAUVOIR SCHOOLS LOSE THEIR HEADS



Miss Elizabeth Doak (left), head of De Beauvoir Junior School for the past 9 years, is leaving to become head of Dulwich Hamlet Junior School in South London. "This is a cracking great school," said Miss Doak. "I have a marvellous staff and the kids are wonderful, but I was becoming a bit too settled and felt it was time to move on."

De Beauvoir Infants School will also lose its head when Miss J.C. Clinch retires after 12 years. "I've enjoyed my time here enormously but I was determined to retire while I still had the energy to do something useful," said Miss Clinch who intends to take up voluntary work in Barnet where she now lives and to extend her church activities.

The De Beaver wishes both heads good luck in their new ventures.

Story and pictures: BARBARA NOKES



## Next stop, Dalston (Kingsland)

British Rail has recently begun the construction of a new station at Kingsland, on the North London Line. Historically the site, which is situated between Kingsland and Boleyn Roads, was previously a station although this was closed over 100 years ago.

Facilities will consist of Eastbound and Westbound platforms with simple shelters, a ticket office and a booking hall. Access will be from Kingsland

Road via a footbridge, and a half-hourly service between Camden Road and Woolwich will be offered. This new station will be called Dalston (Kingsland).

The G.L.C. are meeting the full cost of providing the station, which would incidentally seem to fit into British Rail's long-term plans, involving the closure of Broad Street station in the short-term (to be replaced by a temporary station 600 yards north at Worship Street) and later

the closure of the line south of Dalston Junction. B.R. intend that trains to the City will eventually be routed into a rebuilt Liverpool Street Station via Bethnal Green, and of course the new Kingsland Station, journey times being increased by roughly eight minutes between Dalston and the City. This costly plan, which is the subject of much debate, will take at least 10 years to put into effect.

ALAN J BUTLER

## UPDATE+++

● The old Metropolitan Hospital is now set to be turned into craftworkshops, as reported in the last De Beaver. In February Hackney Council agreed that, subject to the acceptance of final terms, silversmith Michael Murray and the craft association (A.C.T.S.) would become lessees of the Kingsland Road building and the former Nurses' Home. The 136 Nursery and S.L.U.G. (the short life housing group) will remain in the Nurses' Home.

● Plans are going ahead to redevelop the Dalston Odeon site into a precinct of small shops with associated offices.

● Proposals to use the multi-storey car park in the New Town for parking new cars prior to their sale will be the subject of a public meeting to be held by the Council's Planning Department.

● 66 Southgate Road is being renovated to become residential and commercial accommodation for one tenant and not being demolished by the council to make easier access to 1A Southgate Grove.

● The council's Planning Department has received committee approval to take enforcement action against Starinease/Zeller's Carpets at 80A Mortimer Road to force them to stop using the premises as a retail carpet warehouse.

## UPDATE+++

● Circle 33 Housing Association have received approval from the Housing Corporation to convert the old vicarage in Mortimer Road into a hostel for the mentally handicapped. Work will start soon.

● Work has started on tree and shrub planting around most of the road closures following interest shown by residents in the scheme for improving De Beauvoir's environment outlined in the last issue of De Beaver. The money came from the council's housing funds.

● Hackney councillors are to be asked to apply to the G.L.C. so that changes in the names of roads affected by the closures can be brought into effect. The list - agreed in 1975 and reapproved by the G.I.A. Residents' Committee recently - is:

STRATFIELD - Northchurch Road between Culford and Southgate Roads.

WESTCHURCH - Northchurch Road between De Beauvoir and Culford Roads.

LAWFORD - Culford Road between Downham and Northchurch Roads.

GARDINERS - Mortimer Road between Downham Road and De Beauvoir Square.

Continued page 4, Col. 2



# Where has all the money gone?

IS CROWFOOT, secretary of the Tenants' Association asks Hackney Council.

a full council meeting on January 24, it was announced that council rents would be increased by an average of £2.50 a week. Most tenants will be asking what they get for that money. I'm sure tenants of De Beauvoir would like to know. There have been a lot of environmental improvements in De Beauvoir this year, but most are paid for by the Partnership money provided by central government. The tenants would like to know what comes of the

revenue for repairs. For instance, it has come to the notice of the '72 Tenants' Association that the council has not bought any new stock for central heating for the last year at least. But they carry out conversions on other estates so they are using the parts they take out for repair on this estate. Is that value for money? I think not - so where is the money spent?

## LEGAL ADVICE AND WELFARE RIGHTS AT THE UFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Ufton Community Centre is planning FREE Legal Advice and Welfare Rights Sessions. If you are interested in helping and have any training that would be useful, please contact Meredith or Jennie on 254 2941 or Murrell on 249 4358.

## MISS PRINTS

by HILARY HOCKMAN

I am glad to say that it is not only the De Beaver and The Guardian that have misprints in them. A recent newsletter from the Chairman of the Friends of the Geffrye Museum announced that, on May 22, experts would be at the Museum for its Antiques Valuation Open Day. People were invited to bring their own possessions along and "six experts from Phillips will be

there to assess the value of your favourite treasures". Our favourite treasurer is most definitely John Gibson who works tirelessly, not only for De Beaver, but also for the De Beauvoir Association and for the Ufton Community Centre. I think even the experts from Phillips, the auctioneers, would find it difficult to assess his value. Many thanks, John, for all your hard work, and for warning all of us when we are slipping into the red.

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# SOUTHGATE ROAD EYESORE

A row of boarded-up houses is always an eyesore. Why can't something be done about it? Even more annoying when something could be done, and isn't. For some time Bents Plant Hire have wanted to do up the four houses next to their premises at 81/82 Southgate Road, and also extend their building, offering employment perhaps to one or two additional people.



These houses belong to the G.L.C., who have been less than helpful over the weeks and months that have passed. In the words of a Bents spokesman, they answer letters, but they don't reply. Bents estimate that they could get another eight units of housing out of the four now semi-derelict. Recently they have noticed rats frisking around the rubbish that Hackney residents throw into the front gardens, and have boarded up

the gardens as well. How long will this eyesore continue? The G.L.C. managed to send someone round at the beginning of March, but then, of course, the matter has to go to Hackney Council as the planning authority. Let's hope that Hackney can get its skates on.

While they are at it, if there is so much rubbish about, what happened to the scheme that left skips around every now and then for people to get rid of their refuse?  
PHILIPPA TOOMEY

## LATE NIGHT EXTRA ...

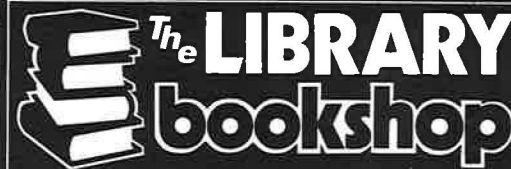
Late-night music and dancing will soon be a feature of the De Beauvoir Arms in Stamford Road, despite protests from the pub's neighbours who fear increased noise and nuisance. But opposition to landlord David Cowley's plans which was spearheaded by the De Beauvoir Association did have partial success. When several conditions have been met, the pub will stay open until midnight on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays - and not 2 a.m. as originally intended. It will also close at the normal time the rest of the week - and not midnight. The late-night music and dancing licence was granted by a panel of G.L.C. members at a public meeting, held after local residents signed a petition in protest. But before the pub can

accommodate late-night revellers, fire precautions will have to be improved. Other restrictions include a ban on anyone entering after 10.30 p.m.; notices to be displayed requesting people to leave quietly; no more than 180 people to be accommodated in the bar and games room at any one time; no admission to anyone "appearing to be" under 21-years-old. Mr Cowley told De Beaver he was "well pleased" with this outcome and hoped to have his pub ready for late-night entertainment shortly. He again assured residents he would do everything possible to keep down noise. The licence expires on the last day of the year and any objection to renewal should be lodged no later than October 31 with the Director-General's department (Room 207) at the G.L.C.

In the meantime, Mr Cowley has undertaken to listen to any complaints on 254 7768.

L.M.

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# SPRING

Cut-out-and-keep section on local activities

## THE ROSE LIPMAN LIBRARY

Monday 5 April

10.00 - 12.00 Chess Club

2.00 - 4.00 Cookery

Tuesday 6 April

10.00 - 12.00 Egg Painting and Easter cards

2.00 - 4.00 Video Show

Thursday 8 April

10.00 - 12.00 Easter bonnets

2.00 - 4.00 Film Show

Friday 9 April Monday 12 April

Library closed

Tuesday 13 April

10.00 - 12.00 Chess Club

2.00 - 4.00 Making plaster of Paris models

Thursday 15 April

10.00 - 12.00 Making mobiles

2.00 - 4.00 Film Show

Friday 16 April

10.00 - 12.00 Gardening

2.00 - 4.00 Chess Club

Monday 19 April

10.00 - 12.00 Film Show for the under-5's

2.00 - 5.00 Easter bonnets

Tuesday 20 April

10.00 - 12.00 Chess Club

Easter bonnets

2.00 - 4.00 Face painting

Thursday 22 April

10.00 - 12.00 Gardening

2.00 - 4.00 Disco

Friday 23 April

10.00 - 12.00 Treasure Hunt

2.00 - 4.00 Games & Prizes

DBCA (at Rose Lipman)

Monday 5 April

8.00 - Annual General Meeting

Saturday 17 April

7.30 - 10.30 Family Social

Saturday 22 May

7.30 Senior Citizens' Social

Sunday 23 May

7.00 Ivy Travers Show

THE UFTON CENTRE

12 Ufton Road N1

Tel. 254 2941

Mums and Toddlers

Mondays 1.30 - 3.30

Wednesdays 10.30 - 12.30

Keep Fit

Wednesdays 7.30-9.30

Senior Citizens

Thursdays 2.00 - 4.00

Screen Printing

Wednesdays 7.00

Tai Chi

Thursdays 6.30 - 8.30

Yoga (creche provided)

Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.45

Gingerbread Group

(one-parent family group)

Mondays 7.30 - 10.00

Luncheon Club

Thursdays 10.00 - 1.30

(book 3 days in advance)

THE GARDENERS' CLUB

Garden Competition

The garden competition is to take place in the late spring. There will be 3

classes of entry:

1 A garden 2 A small garden

3 Window boxes, areas, balconies, front step etc.

This year, the first round of the competition will be

judged by the Gardeners' Club on Sunday 16 May.

The final round will be judged by a panel of experts

from outside the area.

Other gardening events

Meetings will continue to be held in St Peter's

Crypt on the first Tuesday

in every month at 8 p.m. Speakers are booked and, like the seasons, we expect them. However, they do depend on the weather ... rather like the crops they grow!

Tuesday 6 April

Illustrated lecture

Saturday 24 April

Outing to the Royal Horticultural Society

Gardens at Wisley

Tuesday 4 May The

Tradescant Trust

Sunday 16 May) Garden

Sunday 23 May) Competition

Saturday 19 June Outing

to the Chelsea Physick Garden

Enquiries and entry forms from

J Stevens, 48 Englefield

Road or D Kettlewell,

13 Southgate Grove.

THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM

The Geffrye Museum in

Kingsland Road, with its collection of

furniture and decorative

arts of national importance is, at the same time,

our local museum and has a close and historic

relationship with the local community.

The Friends of the Geffrye Museum are invited to attend all

private views at the museum, as well as a

number of other cultural and social events each year.

Many of these are fund-raising events which help the museum to acquire new

exhibits. If you are interested in becoming a

Friend of the Geffrye Museum, please contact the

Honorary Secretary, Z. Plews at 97 Hertford

Road, N 1 (Tel. 249 6460).

Forthcoming events at the Geffrye Museum

An exhibition of genre

paintings by Edward Bird

(16 April - 30 May)

(Private view for Friends on 15 April)

Plans for later in the year include a summer

party and a visit to Leighton House, Kensington.

Antiques Fair

(22 May) See MISS PRINTS

# CANAL NEWS

The stretch of the Regents Canal which runs through Hackney could soon be turned into an attractive amenity. Various departments at Town Hall are currently considering a plan sent to them by Hackney Planning Department proposing a large number of schemes to make the canal a useful and pleasant part of the Hackney scene.

The plan suggests that derelict buildings along the waterfront should be knocked down AND landscaping employed to improve the surroundings - the section of canal including De Beauvoir is particularly earmarked.

Possible uses for the Kingsland Basin are also mentioned - a mooring for boats is one idea. No news is yet available on how many of the suggestions will get funding, but, even if part of the scheme is approved, the benefits will be appreciated by all who live near the canal or visit it frequently.

Hackney community narrowboat is purchased

Hackney now has its own community narrowboat, available for groups to use at cost for trips on the canal. The boat is currently being prepared for the summer cruising season and will be available for any Hackney groups. A managing group (including Ufton Community Centre) is being formed to plan use of the boat. It is hoped to moor it at Laburnum Basin - which is about 200 yards east of Kingsland Road.

London Canal Festival

A canal festival and boat rally will be held at Mile End on the

bank holiday at the end of May. Boats from all over the country will be passing through De Beauvoir on their way to the Mile End Basin. A full programme of activities will be staged at the festival, including an exhibition and display of historic boats.

Canal Waterbus

A Sunday waterbus from Limehouse to Camden and back has been operating through the winter and makes scheduled stops in De Beauvoir to pick up passengers. The service will be extended in the summer months. Details of the current service can be obtained on 981 4678.

ANDREW HINCHLEY

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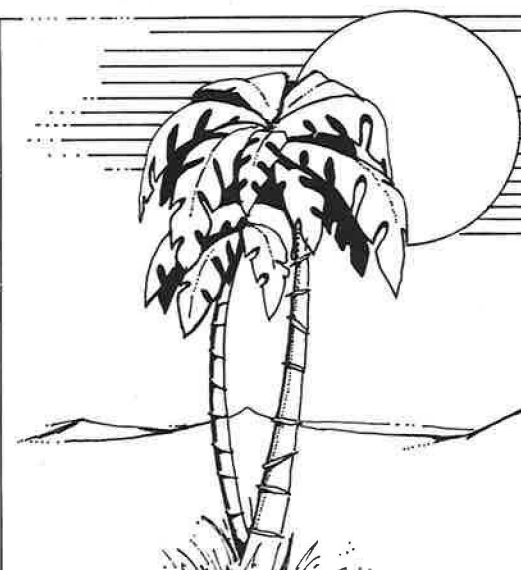
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# LUNCH NOW BEING SERVED

Lamb, roast potatoes and sprouts followed by sultana pudding and custard for 40p is just an example of what's on offer at the Senior Citizens Club at the Ufton Centre on Thursdays at 12.30. And it's followed at 2 o'clock by bingo (15p) to include tea and biscuits) for all those who wish to stay.

Here's what some of the regulars have to say about their Club:

Maud Osborn of Culford Road:

"You do feel you've had a dinner."

Rose Kilby of St Lawrence Court:

"It tastes like you've cooked it yourself."

Lil McPherson of St Lawrence Court:

"The Club gets you together - it would be nice to see some new faces."

Eva Shatliff of St Aubins Court, Balmes Road:

"I used to go shopping in the morning and knit in the afternoons. Coming here gets you out of yourself and gives you a day off cooking."

Madge Hawes of Culford Road: "You can't go out at night with the mugging, so coming here breaks up the day. And you can pay 50p for a chop..."

All pensioners living in Hackney are welcome but you should let Eva Shatliff or Meredith Yates know a week in advance if you'd like the lunch.

The Ufton Centre is at the Downham Road end of Ufton Road, a few minutes' walk from the Rose Lipman Library. The phone number is 254 2941.



Left to right: Alice Bevan, Eva Shatliff and Violet Broad

Standing: Rose Kilbey and May Alford. Seated: Lil McPherson, Madge Hawes and Maud Osborn.



Story and pictures: BARBARA NOKES

Continued from Page 1

## UPDATE +++

BECKFORD - Hertford Road between Stamford Road and De Beauvoir Square

UFTON GROVE - existing Ufton Grove, plus Ufton Road between Northchurch and Englefield Roads.

House numbers will remain as at present with the exceptions of Stratfield and Ufton Grove.

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# WELL EELED, NOT OILED...



If, like me, you have often been tempted by a hot plate of eel and mash on your way home from Sainsburys, and yet have only got as far as staring in horrified fascination at the eels wriggling in their trays - then you may be interested to know that Fred Cooke's Eel and Pie House in Kingsland High Street has been offering comfort to cold and hungry Dalston shoppers since 1910.

Fred and his brother Chris run the shop, helped by their wives. Both couples and their children live above the shop; the eels (and sometimes seven tons of them) live downstairs in stainless steel tanks which are heated in winter and cooled in summer.

The Cooke family started in the eel business back in the 1880s when great-grandfather Robert ran a small shop in Sclater Street, Stepney. At that time, such places were not uncommon in the East End and the traditional cuisine of stewed eel, mashed potato and thick parsley sauce was nutritious and yet not too pricey. Traditional, too, were the beautiful interiors: bold art nouveau tiled walls, marble topped tables and wooden benches.

Thankfully, the Cookes have done everything in their power to retain the original character of the shop.



Fred Cooke describes his regular customers as a good cross-section of the community. I tentatively asked him if he sees any of the recent middle-class arrivals in Hackney tucking into his lunches. He didn't think the menu was quite their cup of tea; perhaps if the shop were licensed to serve alcohol as well as tea they might be attracted, I suggested? The image of trendy De Beauvoir residents lingering over their chilled bottles of white wine clearly amused Fred, who carefully explained that the financial success of his shop depended on a quick turn over of customers.

If you would like to sample Victorian fast food, pie and mash at 75p and eel and mash at 99p is excellent value.

At Fred Cooke's you can have your eel stewed, jellied or live - and that doesn't mean you take it home in a plastic bag as a friend for the goldfish. The eel of your choice is killed ('humanely stunned' by an electrocuting machine), cleaned and prepared for the table. Not a comforting thought for vegetarians, perhaps - but for the rest of us, Fred Cooke's is a reminder that when it comes to food, the Cockneys know a thing or two.

ANNE HOLKER

Picture: BARBARA NOKES

## SMALL ADS

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WANTED:

Local typist urgently required to help with De Beaver. Contact Hilary Hockman, 249 5866.

Classified ads are free to residents of De Beauvoir. Contact Hilary Hockman, 7 De Beauvoir Square (tel.249 5866)

## DE BEAVER

De Beaver is sponsored by the De Beauvoir Association which caters for all people living between Balls Pond Road and the Canal and Kingsland Road and Southgate Road. Meetings are held at the Ufton Centre on the second Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. If there is anything you want to see done, or if you just want to know what is going on and how you can make your voice heard, come along or contact Mary Cannon (249 1729).

## Thanks

THANKS! TO ALL THE PEOPLE - AND THERE ARE MANY - WHO HAVE VOLUNTARILY HELPED WITH THIS ISSUE OF DE BEAVER.

**P.S. everyone!**

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