

Jericho Echo



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Festive summer in Jericho

Major events will make for a lively summer, first the Golden Jubilee Street Party and then the annual Jericho Street Fair.

The Jubilee party will be held on June 3 from 3.00 p.m in Hart Street and on the School field. Lots of events are planned. There will be a children's tea and adults can bring food to picnic on the school field. The children will also have races and a talent contest. Adults too will have a fancy dress competition with a champagne prize donated by the Globe. If you fancy yourself as Elvis, or anyone else, please call Carolyn Dutton on 552042.

Older residents will remember the Jericho Silver Jubilee Party in 1977 which attracted over 300 people. Wendy Matthews of Walton Street who has taken the initiative for this year's party, has fond memories of the last event.

"That party took in all the children and grandchildren of people living in Jericho. It was the biggest party in Oxford and front-page news in the *Oxford Mail*. We had a Scots Piper to start the festivities and Wynn Bonney was the Queen for the day. Music was provided by a jazz band who only knew seven songs but still managed to play all night. It took just five weeks to organize. Entertainment included the Vicar of St. Barnabas, Father Hunt, with his magic act."



Photo: Oxford Mail

For the 1977 Silver Jubilee we had tables along the length of Cardigan Street. All the funds were raised by the community. Since the new school had not been completed, the children's races were held on the lawn that has since become the Church car park.

This was also the first appearance of Jericho's entertainment group, the Jericho Rejects, still going strong, who will have their own party later in the month.

The following week, on Saturday June 15, from 10.00 a.m. we will then have the annual Jericho Street Fair in Canal Street. This promises to be bigger and better than ever. As well as all the usual stalls, there will be children's entertainment, Morris dancing, lots of good food, and a special draw with prizes generously donated by local businesses—along with street entertainers, fairground attractions, and canalboat rides. Again this year the Street Fair coincides with a weekend Beer Festival at the Old Bookbinders Arms in Canal Street which will offer live music through the day and well into the evening including such local bands as Veda Park and The Gs.

Nearer the day you'll be able to see the most up-to-date information about the Street Fair on our website at www.jerichocentre.org.uk. Other events include the the Canal Festival on June 23 and the school fête on June 29.

Some people have lived in Jericho all their lives, others just a few months, but these events offer an opportunity for everyone to get together. If you haven't yet been able to join in community activities, now's your chance. We really need more people to help with the Jubilee party and with manning community stalls at the Street Fair—even the promise of an hour or two would be a big help. If you could give a hand with either please call Sue Pead on 557902.

THE GLOBE



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Canalboat rides during the 2001 Street Fair



Photo: Jeremy Wynne

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Thanks Kelly



Janet and Tony Tratt with Kelly (right)

Kelly Ahmed, who worked at the Walton Street Post Office for 16 years, has now left for a new job with the Alliance and Leicester in George Street. Kelly was brought up in Jericho and started work in the shop shortly after leaving school. She then moved to the Post Office counter where she quickly picked up all those skills. Kelly's sunny personality and ready smile made buying stamps or collecting the pension one of the brightest parts of the day. But Kelly felt she had to move on to develop her career. Janet and Tony Tratt say: "We were very upset to lose her, but if she had been our daughter we'd have encouraged her to do the same thing."

A warm welcome now to Bill Fearon. Bill has joined us from the St Aldates Post Office so should also be able to handle all those complicated queries.

Community Centre AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Jericho Community Association was held on April 8 and enjoyed videos from Jericho's past. One, from the Peedell family, was of home cine from the 1950s. The other, from Jim Wright, was of the silver Jubilee party, — full of familiar faces, and flared pants.

The meeting elected a new committee. The members are: Chair, George Taylor, Gt. Clarendon Street; Vice-Chair, Charlotte Christie, Canal Street; Treasurer, Bill Wilson, Cardigan Street; Secretary, Teresa Stuart, St. Barnabas Street. Committee members: Jenny Ashby, Wellington Street; Janet Davis, Albert Street; Clement Shaw, Castle Mill House; and Peter Stalker, Cranham Street. The Honorary President is Jeanne Needle, Canal Street.

Tried and tested

If you were asked by a friend to recommend someone who had done good, conscientious work for you, who would you suggest? Please let us know. Tel: 552794 or peter@pstalker.com. Here are a few to get the list started: **Carpenter:** Tony Everett, (07778) 907834. **Plumber:** M. Daniels, 557086. **TV, Video and Hi-Fi Repairs:** Oxford Powershop: 375834. **Washing machine repairs:** AES Repairs, 766392.

Canalside awaits developments

Bellway Homes have yet to put in a planning application for the British Waterways-owned land behind the Church. Preliminary indications, however, were worrying. Their development seemed to be reverting to the high-density housing familiar elsewhere. True, they envisaged a restaurant and a small square. But this seemed much less imaginative than earlier visions for the site. And since the square would be enclosed by the canal, the back of the church and two blocks of housing, and unconnected with the new bridge, it was unlikely to offer a lively public space.

A more specific worry for the new Community Centre to be built on the site was that Bellway had not received from British Waterways the brief that outlined the requirements for a viable Community Centre. As a result, they allocated too small an area—and one that was some distance from the square and cut off from the canal.

Expressing its concerns, the Community Association wrote to the Chair of British Waterways. "Over the past ten years, the whole length of the canal in Oxford has been subject to dense infill development. No shops, no entertainment, no community or boating facilities, just block after block of unimaginative houses. The only glimpse

of light along the canal corridor is that one of the key pieces of vacant land, fronting onto the canal in Jericho and surrounding the striking and historic St Barnabas Church, is actually owned by British Waterways. Here at least there still exists the opportunity to make an imaginative leap and have a more comprehensive view of what constitutes value for a canalside community—financial, cultural, and social. Here surely we would have the chance to pass on something remarkable to future generations."

The letter went on to ask for British Waterways to reiterate their commitment to the site. They replied in very positive terms and on May 16 we had a very constructive meeting with them to discuss the alternatives. They say they have an obligation to get 'best value' for the site but this does not necessarily mean the highest price. Representatives of the Association have also been talking with Bellway, as well as with the City Council. The Council will have a key role to play, both through the planning process and by contributing adjacent land to allow construction of the Centre. The next stage should bring more of the parties together around the table to see how to make the best of a great opportunity.

In Memoriam

George Driver—George, who lived in Great Clarendon Street, died in January aged 74, in the arms of his wife Anne after a long illness. George grew up in South Africa, then during the Second World War he was with the British Army in North Africa. After the war he came to Oxford and worked at Pressed Steel for 39 years. He and Anne started a family here and saw the old Jericho change around them as the children grew up. The Drivers' house has always been a friendly place to visit. One of the families that make Jericho special.

Tatiana Eglevsky—"Tania" died on December 31, aged 86 years. She was a much loved and well-known figure in Walton Crescent, who was very generous to her friends. Born in Russia, she left, aged three, with her mother and brother as a refugee and grew up in France. The family moved to London where Tania once made corsets for the Queen. After they moved to Oxford, Tania worked in the Bodleian Library. Tania had many interesting tales. She loved the university life and would go to the boat races and the post-exam celebrations. The

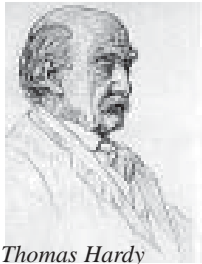
Orthodox Church gave her a good send off. She would have been delighted with the singing. We shall all miss her.

Geoffrey New—Geoffrey, who died aged 69, lived in School Court. After the War, Geoffrey joined the army and saw service in the UK. One of the most remarkable things about him was his achievement in bringing up five children on his own for much of their lives. He devised many healthy pleasures for them, not least long cycling trips. Our condolences to his family.

Mabel Webster—A loved matriarch of her large family and a true friend to many, Mabel died on April 9 aged 89. She lived with her husband Jack in Juxon Street for 38 years before moving to Grantham House 15 years ago. Their home exuded love, laughter and hospitality. Mabel was artistic and a superb dressmaker. She was a member of the Co-op Guild and with fellow committee members put on hilarious shows to great applause. She was brave in the face of tragedy, especially in her last battle with cancer. At her funeral service, a packed chapel heard two of her grandchildren read out her reflections on her life and then sang her favourite hymns. A fitting finale for a wonderful lady.

Thomas Hardy in Jericho

Clement Shaw on Jericho's role in *Jude the Obscure*



Thomas Hardy

When Hardy's fictional Jude arrives in 'Christminster' he lodges "on inexpensive terms in the modest type of accommodation he demanded; and after inquiry took a room in a suburb nicknamed Beersheba". Christminster was Oxford and it's not fanciful to speculate that the suburb was Jericho, and that our very own Jude the Obscure hostelry in Walton Street is not a stone's throw from his modest room.

Thomas Hardy's masterpiece is the story of a young man of working-class origin, born in an obscure country town, who acquires a passion for art, culture and scholarship. Largely through growing up close to Oxford—yet at a sufficient distance from it—he is thrilled and inspired by the architecture of its colleges and churches and is exalted beyond reason by a pathetically idealised conception of Oxford as a place for all that is finest in culture and scholarship.

Jude's struggles to reach his goal, entry into the University and a scholar's life, are the main theme of the novel. Its tragedy is the cruel, embittering failure of all his efforts, and the bleak unredeemed wretchedness of his lonely and all-too-obscure end.

Though Hardy denied it, Jude surely is a uniquely personal work. We know he was

articled to the architect and church restorer John Hicks in Dorchester at 16. In the period 1862-67 Hardy was assistant architect to Arthur Blomfield who was commissioned by Thomas Combe to design the church of St Barnabas.

Thomas and Martha Combe were devotees and patrons of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and members of the Tractarian Movement. They gave Blomfield a free hand "that it should be large enough for a thousand worshippers, sound in construction and the interior dignified. Nothing was to be wasted on external appearances". The church, which was to be Romanesque in style after the cathedral of Torcello near Venice, was completed in 1869.

Jude the Obscure was published thirty years later when Hardy was 58. The novel makes many references to the Tractarians and the influences they had on Jude. What, we may wonder, were the influences on Hardy so many years before, working in Jericho on such a remarkable building with such remarkable men? Who was the fussy, snobbish parson who tells Jude to go back to his work as a builder's labourer and not bother with matters 'beyond him'? Whoever it was, Jericho and St Barnabas surely inspired one of the great passionate English novels. Even today the book is an indignant plea for making available to plain men, women and children (especially children) all the sources of joy and enrichment of life which cannot be "weighed and measured" by accountants in a ledger.

Clement Shaw, Castle Mill House

Do you remember Ellen Perks?

Raymond Saunders, who lives in Hampshire, has asked for information about his birth mother. "On her birth certificate dated April 24 1933 she was named Margaret Jones, and her mother was Dorothy Martha Jones. Dorothy married Arthur Jesse Perks and Margaret became known as Ellen Perks. The family lived firstly at 6 Albert Street and then at 15 Albert Street. "I have traced Ellen to Scotland where she died on November 26 1996 leaving four children.

"I would like to get in contact with anyone that knew her at school, in her late teens or early twenties before she left Oxford. She was not heard from by her large family who she left behind or by me who she left in a Mother and Baby home in St Aldates. Phone: 01980 84228. Email: duty.rec@btinternet.com.

Our thanks again to Oxford University Press for printing this issue of the *Jericho Echo*.

Lost in the wash

With the closure of the Safari launderette in Walton Street, we have lost another valuable local service. The now-closed chicken barbeque establishment seems likely to become another up-market restaurant or bar, while the launderette premises are being converted to an estate agency. The nearest launderette for those without a washing machine at home is now in Summertown.

Most of the adjacent shop premises are owned by St John's and are increasing steadily in value. It is good to see investment in what is now being called the 'golden mile', and that these are not the noisier bars that now line George Street. But there are also downsides. Existing businesses will probably see an increase in rents, and we are likely to lose some of the more modest and more useful establishments, as richer companies make offers that current leaseholders find difficult to refuse.

Briefly ...

Sue's in charge

Sue Pead has now taken over as Administrator of the Community Centre. Sue has never strayed far from Jericho. She was born in the Radcliffe Infirmary and has lived here all her life. She worked at Midland Building Supplies in Aristoile Lane, and then at Lucys. She is also a key member of the Jericho Rejects. Sue is in the office weekdays from 10.00 am till 12.00 noon. Tel: 557902.



Caught in time

The £750,000 school reconstruction should be ready for the next school year. The children have lodged a 'time capsule' in a hollow pillar in the new building. This includes a millennium photo and examples of the children's work.

100th birthday party



Father Michael's mother, Nesta Wright, celebrated her 100th birthday in December with a party at the school

Bungee benches

Congratulations to George Neate and Joss Peto of the Lunch Club who took part in a sponsored bungee jump at the ice rink on May 11 and raised £290 to pay for extra tables and benches for the playground in Hart Street. Thanks also to Dave Boston of the British Elastic Rope Sports Association which has its headquarters in the Community Centre.



The Old Bookbinders Ale House

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Canal Street, Jericho

Jericho Notice Board

Parents and toddlers group – Tuesdays in term time, 9.00 a.m.–11.30 a.m. at the Community Centre. Parents and carers of many nationalities have passed through our doors—Chinese, Japanese, Finnish, French and many more. A chance to chat while the children play—and to learn some new ways. Contact Denise Townsend, 559648.

Jericho Community Playscheme 2002 – Monday August 5 to Friday August 30, 9.00 a.m.–3.00 p.m. For children aged 5 to 12 years. £30 per week, concessions available. Registration, Monday June 24 at St. Barnabas School at 4.30 p.m. For more details, contact Andrea on 434361.

Jericho Over-60s Group – We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6.30 p.m. for tea, bingo, and a get-together at Grantham House, Cranham Street, and at 2.00 p.m. on Fridays for talks, quizzes, and conversation. Afternoon trips to towns, markets and Women's Institutes during the season, and once yearly a day at the seaside. Annual subscription is £3. More information from John Radford, Chair at 558883.

Jericho Community Association – Meets on the second Monday of the month at the Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. Everyone in Jericho is welcome.

Babysitting – Mature student available for babysitting. I have experience in nannying and childcare. Jericho area. Please phone Gemma on 510495 or 0789 9093552.

Community Centre Café – Open every Saturday, 10.00 a.m.–3.30 p.m. Coffee, tea, cakes and full English breakfast.

Jericho Youth Group – A weekly club at the Community Centre for 8–12 year-olds.

Tuesdays, 7.00 p.m.–9.00 p.m.

Jericho Family Lunches – Every Thursday, 11.45 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Community Centre. Good value refreshments. Crêche, 50p. All ages welcome.

Youth Club – Ages 13–18 at the Community Centre, Thursdays 7.00 p.m.–9.00 p.m. For further information, call 554001.

Albert Street Chapel Sunday School – Every Sunday 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. for ages 3 to 14 years. Various treats throughout the year. For more information or transport, phone David or Jenny on 245939.

Jericho Playgroup – Two- to four-year-olds. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.–11.30 a.m. in the Community Centre. Places available. Call mornings 552001, evenings 311875.

Piano and Jazz Piano Lessons – Experienced, friendly and qualified teacher who lives in Jericho. Associated Board piano and theory. Beginners and adults welcome. Call Richard Dutton on 552024.

Contacting Councillors – Jericho and Osney Ward Councillors' surgeries at the Community Centre. First Saturday of the month, 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. Or call City Councillors: Colin Cook, 272548, or Susanna Pressel, 554001; County Councillor: John Power, 247153.

Police contact numbers – Jericho's Community Beat Officer is PC Granville Williams though he is temporarily seconded elsewhere and being replaced by PC Nick Walters. The contact number is 0845 552633. General Enquiries and Neighbourhood Watch, 266000.

Jericho on the Web – The *Jericho Echo* is at www.pstalker.com/echo. The Community Centre site is at www.jerichocentre.org.uk.

Classes at the Community Centre

Arts and Crafts – For beginners or experienced artists. Fri. 1.30 p.m.–3.00 p.m. Contact Fiona Ferguson, NAWOCEC, tel. 511757.

Egyptian Dance – Wed. 6.15 p.m.–9.00 p.m. Contact, Katrina Robinson, tel. 777462.

Guitar. For beginner and novice levels. Mon. 7.30 p.m.–9.00 p.m. Enquiries, James Baldwin, tel. 558534.

Life Drawing – Sat. 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Contact, Chris Nirrenski, tel. 559004. There are

also some all-day sessions.

OXACTS – Drama school for children. Sat. 3.00 p.m.–6.00 p.m. Contact, Amanda Dickie, 792965.

Wing Chun, Martial Arts – Mon. 6 p.m.–9.30 p.m. Contact Ed Yuen, tel. 862518.

Tai Chi – Tue. 12.00 a.m.–1.30 p.m. Mixed class. Everyone welcome. Contact Emma Westlake tel. (0771) 0768810.

Yoga (Ashtanga) – Wed. 9.15 a.m.–11.30 a.m. and Thurs. 6.30 p.m.–8.30 p.m. Contact Mariella Di Martini, tel. 245893.

Yoga (Iyengar) – Sun. 11.00 a.m.–12 noon. Contact: Joe Burn, tel. 715147.

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