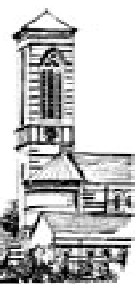


Jim Neallie

# Jericho Echo



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## Stand by for action

### Jericho awaits plans for canalside redevelopment

Bellway Homes, the company chosen by British Waterways to redevelop the land behind St. Barnabas Church, has yet to put in a planning application. But, based on British Waterways' statements so far the proposals are unlikely to be good news for Jericho.

A packed AGM of the Community Association on April 14 discussed the priorities for this site. It was clear to all that British Waterways (BW) was showing little sign of fulfilling its responsibilities to Jericho—or to the boating community.

The land behind the Church, which used to be occupied by the Orchard Cruisers boatyard, has been in limbo since 1993. In the meantime it has been used by several enterprises, including the floating restaurant, *Rosamund The Fair*, and a boat building and repair operation which also sells diesel, gas and coal to the canal boats.

There have been several imaginative proposals for this site—bringing together local businesses, the Church, the boating community and the Jericho Community Association which wants to build a new Community Centre somewhere on the site. BW has so far turned down all these proposals and instead has signed a contract with



*Phil Muil, a leading member of Oxford's boating community. He says that BW seems to have little long-term vision. "Money comes and goes, but once this site goes, it is gone forever".*

Bellway, which, as usual, wants to pack most of the land with high value housing.

Whether they will succeed or not is another matter. The City Council has clearly established its priorities for this site in the latest 'Local Plan'. These involve not only the new bridge and square already included by BW, but also a substantial proportion of affordable housing as well as a sustainable Community Centre. The Council has also offered to add to the site the land currently occupied by the garages in Dawson Place to provide most of the space for the Centre. The Community Association has had many meetings with BW pointing out that we need a small amount of additional land to build a Centre sufficiently large to be financially sustainable. Thus far, however, BW has refused to offer an inch.

BW and Bellway have thus set themselves on a collision course with the local community and also with the City Council. This might be understandable for a commercial company but not for a public corporation which is partly funded by taxpayers and which claims to take into account community needs. It is all the more puzzling given that BW would presumably be relying on local cooperation for the proposed reopening of the canal basin beyond Hythe Bridge Street.

The boating community too has been let down. Phil Muil, who has a mooring on the south of the site, says that BW have con-

stantly had to be pressured into protecting the interests of canal users. He points out that around 100 boats rely on the Jericho yard for servicing and repairs—and can sometimes arrive sinking. What will happen when this yard closes? BW seems very unclear on this, though there is some talk of a new marina further up the canal.

Bellway is likely to apply to the City Council for planning permission in the next few weeks. At that stage we will need to respond. Many people at the AGM offered to help efforts for a new Centre. But everyone's support will be needed. To keep abreast of developments, you can consult our websites (see p. 4). There will also be information available at the annual Jericho Street Fair on June 14.

### THE GLOBE



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### A towpath walk in Oxford



... a near-circular stroll alongside the Oxford Canal and River Thames. Using archive and oral sources the book contains a lengthy section on Jericho, and will appeal to anyone who is interested in walks, water transportation, or local history...

**Available, price £5.99, from Walton Stationers, or direct from the author on the narrowboat 'Bill the Lizard' near Isis Lock.**

## Street Fair 2003

Jericho's annual Street Fair will be held on Saturday June 14 from 12 noon in Canal Street. As ever, this promises to be a lively occasion with all the usual stalls, good food, games, music and many other activities. This year too the Street Fair will be combined with a beer festival and bands on stage at the Bookbinders.

The Fair is organized by the Community Association, but with so much happening, one of the main difficulties is having enough volunteers to watch over the various activities during the day. Can you help out this year? Just an hour or so it takes. No special skills required. Please contact Sue Pead on 557902.



### Lucy's housing plans

The redevelopment of the main Lucy's site requires them also to provide some 'affordable housing'. They will be doing this by offering the Castle Mill House block in Mount Street. This will mean upgrading the flats, which have poor windows, no central heating and are frequently damp. However, this is bad news for current tenants who are steadily being switched to monthly leases so that they can easily be ejected when the time comes. The block will then be managed for the Council by the London-based Catalyst Housing Group.

Meanwhile, in Allam Street, local residents are dismayed by Lucy's proposal for extending one of their properties on the corner of Allam Street and Juxon Street. They are concerned about the scale and style of the additional building as well as the implications for parking.

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# Inspector Morse in Jericho

Lucy Sholl recalls Combe Road's starring role in the historic TV series.

It's been a few years now since *Inspector Morse* was a regular feature of Oxford life, and John Thaw's death last year prompted many Oxford residents to remember him and the series fondly.

When *Morse* was shown regularly it was compulsory viewing for most of Oxford, as we hoped to catch glimpses of friends and neighbours, and smirked knowingly as Morse's Jag glided effortlessly from Longwall Street only to end up in Headington moments later.

Many Oxford people were also involved in the filming as extras, or offered up their houses as makeshift film sets. Here in Jericho, residents remember the filming of the first episode of *Morse*, *The Dead of Jericho*, which was set in Combe Road, which leads from Canal Street down to the boatyard. The street was renamed Canal Walk, but that was the only change made and the episode was filmed in situ.

Unusually for novels and dramas set in Oxford, *Morse* didn't just focus on the university, but came out into the town areas of Oxford like Jericho and Cowley. In an interview for the *Jericho Echo*, Colin Dexter, the author of the *Morse* novels on which the television series is based, says he'd noticed that most Oxford detective stories were all about 'murderous undergraduates and dons', and wanted to write something which would celebrate both sides of Oxford. People unfamiliar with Oxford, thinking of it as just a university town, must have been surprised, tuning in to the first episode of *Morse*, to see how little the university featured. Instead they saw the narrow streets and Victorian terraces of Jericho.

*The Dead of Jericho* was filmed around Canal Street in the hot summer of 1985, and the area was overtaken by the film crews and equipment. Residents remember the Bookbinders filled with actors and crew, and floodlighting on top of a crane at the end of Canal Street illuminated the whole of Jericho. Local children were in their element. Patrick Troughton, who had played Doctor Who, appeared in the episode as George Jackson, and John Thaw spent a lot of time in and around the Bookbinders.

Matthew Broadway, then eleven, remembers it as an exciting time. Apart from star spotting, a fire engine was parked throughout the filming, and the firemen humoured the children by spraying them with water from their hoses as they ran about in the sun. Many were also thrilled



Kevin Whately (Sergeant Lewis, left) and John Thaw (Inspector Morse, centre) during the filming of *The Dead of Jericho*.

to see that they appeared as unofficial extras in a crowd scene outside the Bookbinders. Unusually for an author, Colin Dexter was closely involved in filming. He too remembers the air of anticipation and upheaval in a usually quiet area.

When *The Dead of Jericho* was first shown on ITV, Colin Dexter was unprepared for the impact it would have. He remembers the phone ringing continuously. One caller was convinced that one of the characters in the book was inspired by his wife, and accused Dexter of having an affair with her.

The line between fact and fiction seems to have been blurred for many. Some years later Dexter spoke to an estate agent who was trying to sell a property in Combe Road. She was having difficulties selling the house because of rumours that the quiet little road had seen both a murder and a suicide—rumours entirely based on the fictional *Inspector Morse* story.

Reading the original novel *The Dead of Jericho* now is interesting, particularly for those of us who aren't Jericho born and bred. It was first published in 1981, and although many features are very familiar—the narrow streets and impossibility of parking—it is also clear just how much the area has changed. Jericho is presented as a bohemian place where tradesmen and private tutors live side by side and front doors were left unlocked. Women spend their days polishing their front door handles and popping down to the corner shops, and the pubs are quiet little places with just a few regulars propping up the bar.

It's a lovely, idealised view of Jericho's recent past (apart from the murder and suicide) and well worth a read for those who want to wallow in nostalgia.

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

# New profile for synagogue

The Oxford Synagogue and Jewish Centre in Richmond Road is in the midst of a £1.5 million redevelopment. The new building on the right-hand side will offer facilities for young people as well as a library and meeting room.

This will be the third major development of a synagogue on this site. Although the Jewish community had previously used other buildings in Oxford, they established their first settled home in a house in Worcester Place in 1883, moving in 1893 to a building in Nelson Street. Subsequently they purchased other houses and a builder's yard in Nelson Street and Richmond Road to allow room for expansion and built a more modern facility which opened in 1974. The current redevelopment was needed to meet the needs of a growing Jewish community in Oxford—currently over 250 families plus university students. It has cost around £1.5 million which was raised from sources in Oxford and elsewhere.

Oxford Synagogue is fairly distinctive

in that it brings together all denominations of Judaism. Although it does serve the needs of some local people, most of the 80 to 100 people who come to services on a Saturday morning are from other parts of Oxford—the nearest alternatives are in Maidenhead and Reading.

Andrew Silver is President of the Oxford Jewish Congregation, "It's a wonderful location," he says, "and we enjoy our time in Jericho. The city-centre location is also very useful to those Orthodox Jews who cannot use cars on the Sabbath". Interestingly, it is also across the road from the Lebanese Cultural Centre in Al-Shami's—a juxtaposition, he points out, "that says a lot about the diversity of Jericho."

The new buildings on the right-hand side of the site should be finished in July, after which activities will move across, to allow for refurbishment of the existing building. Completion is likely in October, with a rededication ceremony planned for January 2004.

present and future—through arts, crafts, music, drama and dance. The organizers are keen to attract greater participation from the local community. If you would like to get involved, by joining the committee, for example, or performing on stage, or helping with publicity, please contact Philippa McAllister on 552709 or email: philippa.mcallister@btopenworld.com

had long struggled with physical disability but gave little indication of this with his unfeigned courtesy. Book lovers in countries all over the world will miss him.

**Edith Dunsdon**—Edie, who lived in Great Clarendon Street, died at Christmas. She was well known by many people in Jericho from the days when she and her husband kept the Prince of Wales (now Jude the Obscure) in Walton Street. She regarded those years and the busy social life the pub brought her as the happiest in her life. Her husband died some years ago and Edie had lived modestly, enjoying the friendship of many local people.

**Ernie Huckin**—Ernie and his wife Gwen lived in Hart Street for many years though had recently moved to Bicester. He worked over a long period for OUP as a representative, and they both played an important part in Jericho life, organizing many social events for the Parish. Ernie was in the RAF during the war and always had something of the distinguished airman about him. A large number of friends and former colleagues gathered at St. Barnabas for his funeral. Our sympathies to Gwen and her family.

## Canal Festival 2003

This year's Oxford Canal Festival will be on Sunday June 29. As usual the event will run from midday until 6 p.m. and will be centred on the Aristotle Lane Recreation Ground, with other activities taking place along the towpath. The aim of the event is to celebrate the Oxford Canal—past,

## In Memoriam

**Winifred and Ronald Brown**—In the last two years, Jericho has lost two of its most widely recognized and popular figures. After a lifetime (Win's) and a working lifetime (Ron's) spent in South Africa, the Browns came to live in Oxford in 1973, first in Summertown and then in 1988 to Cranham Terrace, Jericho, where they immediately extended their already vast circle of acquaintances and friends.

The most hospitable of couples, they entertained friends and contacts from all over the world, and made further friends during their frequent holidays. Win died on August 20, 2001, after a long illness, and Ron, after a courageous restructuring of his lifestyle, died in his sleep (as he would have wished) sixteen months later. They are much missed.

**Robert Clarke**—Robert, who died on January 1, had run his worldwide antiquarian book business in King Street since 1990. He combined an encyclopaedic knowledge with a gentle and outgoing personality. Robert

## Briefly

### Prohibited pizza

The former newsagents next to the Health Centre has been refused planning permission for a takeaway pizza business—largely because of potential nuisance to neighbours. The upmarket restaurant business is also suffering, with the Le Petit Blanc now in administration, though continuing to trade as normal. Across the street, the ex-chicken takeaway is to become a new fish and chip shop.

### Designer directions

Have you spotted the new traffic signs around the school—designed by the children?



### Caught in the act

We now have a new community policeman, P.C. Simon Feist. He is keen to eliminate all forms of vandalism—and recently caught some youngsters damaging the school roof. If you see any similar activity, including graffiti spraying (which is a crime) please ring 999.

### Dedicated delivery

Ali the postman, who delivers mail in Jericho from Nelson Street to Victor



Street, has clocked up 25 years in the job. His real name is Akram, but he was called Ali Junior when he started, because his father, Ali Senior, was already working for the Post Office and

the name has stuck.

### Soccer success

Congratulations to the unbeaten West Oxford under-12 football team, and thanks to Kevin and Claire Jones of Cranham Street and everyone who has helped. For information on local teams, contact Councillor Susanna Pressel on 554001.

## Tried and tested



Can you recommend someone who has done good, conscientious work? Please let us know. The current list is: **Car Repairs:** Autowork, 552186. **Carpenter:** Tony Everett, (07778) 907834. **Electrician:** Paul Walsey, (07773) 366915. **Painter and Decorator:** Tony Simpson: 762173 **Plumbers:** M. Daniels, 557068; A1, 327732. **TV, Video and Hi-Fi Repairs:** Oxford Powershop, 375834. **Washing machine repairs:** AES Repairs, 766392.

# Jericho Notice Board

**St. Barnabas Day** – This year on Wednesday June 11. The preacher at the Church at 7.30 p.m. will be Canon Marilyn Parry from Christ Church. All are welcome.

**Golden Wedding** – Eric and Phyllis Clark of Wellington Street celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on February 16 with a surprise party for relatives and friends at the Jericho Community Centre. Eric has lived in Jericho all his life.

**60th Wedding Anniversary** – Congratulations to Jo Elvidge (formerly of Wellington Street) and Arnold who celebrated their anniversary on February 13.

**Jericho Playgroup** – The Playgroup runs from 9.00 a.m.–11.30 a.m. Monday to Friday at the Community Centre. A parent-run co-operative, it is a small (16 children maximum), friendly group for 2–5 year olds with a secure, gentle atmosphere. Children have a choice of activities including creative play, construction, dressing-up, a nature table, singing, and movement. The group is supervised by caring and dedicated staff. The Playgroup is a charity and passed OFSTED inspections with flying colours! There are now a few places available. For further details and to arrange a visit, phone Trudy (Supervisor) on 552001 (mornings).

**Jericho Over-60s Group** – Meets on Wednesday evenings at 6.30 p.m. for tea, bingo, and a get-together at Grantham House. 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.

**Community Centre:** Room hire and enquiries: Sue Pead, tel. 557902.

**Supervisor wanted** – The Playgroup needs a supervisor to cover maternity leave from September. If you are interested, please ring Trudy on 552001.

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

**Parents and toddlers group** – Tuesdays in term time, 9.00 a.m.–11.30 a.m. at the Community Centre. Parents or carers meet for a coffee and an exchange of ideas, while their children play with a wide range of toys. Anyone with a pre-school age child is welcome. There is no lower age limit. Contact Julie Goodall on 427787.

**Jericho Youth Group** – A weekly club at the Community Centre for 8–12 year-olds. Tuesdays, 7.00 p.m.–9.00 p.m.

**Youth Club** – Ages 13–18 at the Community Centre, Thurs. 7.00 p.m.–9.00 p.m. For information, call Susanna on 554001.

**Albert Street Chapel Sunday School** – Every Sunday 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. for ages 3 to 14 years. Tel: 245939.

**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, 285770, or Susanna Pressel, 554001; County Councillor: John Power, 247153.

**Police** – Jericho's Community Beat Officer is P.C. Simon Feist. He can be contacted on 266361/2. General Enquiries, 266000.

## Jericho on the Web

*Community Centre:* [www.jerichocentre.org.uk](http://www.jerichocentre.org.uk)

*Jericho Echo:* [www.pstalker.com/echo](http://www.pstalker.com/echo).

*Church and school:* <http://parishes.oxford.anglican.org/sbarnabas/index.html>

## 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.

**Bridge for All** – Wed. 1.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m. Contact: Rita Todd, tel. 452509.

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

**Life Drawing** – Sat. 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Contact, Chris Nirrenski, tel. 559004. There are also some all-day sessions.

**Oxford Tango Group** – Mon. 7.30

p.m.–9.00 p.m.. Wed. 7.00 p.m.–9.00 p.m. Contact: 288340.

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

**Tai Chi** – Tues. 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. Contact Mariella Di Martini, tel. 245893.

**Yoga** – Sun. 11.00 a.m.–12 noon. Contact: Rupert Alison, tel. 459926.

**Yoga** – Thurs. 12.30 p.m.–1.30 p.m. Contact: Ali Gilling, tel: (07900) 957240.

The *Jericho Echo* is published three or four times each year by the Jericho Community Association, Jericho Community Centre, Canal Street, Oxford. Editor: Peter Stalker, 51 Cranham St., tel. 552794 or [peter@pstalker.com](mailto:peter@pstalker.com). Please call if you can help with delivery. This edition has been printed courtesy of Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, from artwork supplied by the editor. Previous issues are also available on-line at [www.pstalker.com/echo](http://www.pstalker.com/echo).

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