

Jericho Echo



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Flooded with fancy flats

Hundreds of new homes line up for planning permission

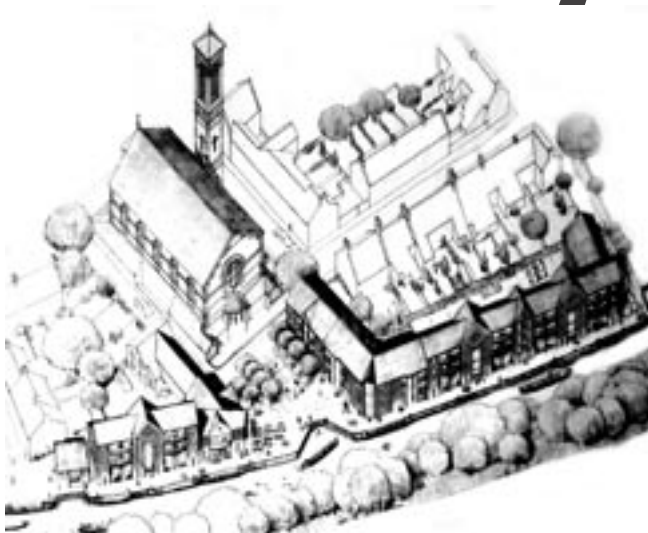
Jericho's two large developments are wending their way, somewhat slowly, through the planning process. First to appear was the proposal for the land owned by British Waterways behind St. Barnabas Church. British Waterways chose as their developer Bellway Homes, who at the end of July in a display at the Community Centre presented their proposals for 46 residential units plus a new restaurant.

Most people who saw this were aghast at the scale and character of what was being planned – and angry that it made no provision for a new Community Centre. The Council has offered for the Centre the land currently occupied by the garages in Dawson Place. British Waterways and Bellway were also asked to contribute just one-tenth of an acre to allow the construction of a Centre of a viable size. So far, they have refused.

Around 300 people wrote to the City Council objecting to this plan – something of a record for a site of this size. These criticisms were repeated in September at a useful meeting in the school which was supposed to 'mediate' between the developer and the community, except that the developer did not appear.

As it stood, this plan clearly stood no chance of obtaining planning permission. Bellway have therefore been trying to make it more acceptable, but it seems that nothing much is likely to happen until early January, if then. The Community Association has discussed this for years with British Waterways and has also shown how the land we need could be provided without any impact on their profits, but so far to no avail.

The second large development is from Lucy's, for the site of its factory, as well as the 'island site' across the canal, which is currently its car park. Lucy's has already obtained planning permission once for this



Bellway's proposal for the land behind St. Barnabas Church. This consists of two large blocks of houses and flats, rising three or four storeys above the canal and crowding in on St. Barnabas Church. The design follows the generic style that has spread along the canal corridor. Not shown here is the proposed pedestrian bridge to the right of the development. Dawson Place is to the left of the Church

site, promising to retain the framework of the old building, which would entitle them to build to the same height as the factory.

All developers are now required to make a proportion of their buildings available as affordable housing. In the past this was 30% but the emerging Local Plan for the city now specifies 50%. For this purpose Lucy's, to the alarm of current tenants, was contemplating offering the Castle Mill House flats in Mount Street.

Lucy's developer, Berkeley Homes, has, however, now come up with a new plan which was presented to a well attended public meeting at the Town Hall in December. This will now mean more flats – 200 on the factory site, along with 36 flats and 30 houses on the island site. This time, they propose demolishing the factory completely – though pressing home their advantage by again keeping to the height of the factory. This time all the affordable houses would be newly built.

Residents of both Jericho and Walton Manor expressed their dismay at yet another identikit set of buildings. No one doubts that this 'brownfield' site is ripe for redevelopment, but what is being proposed is very unimaginative. These supposedly 'sustainable' new buildings, for example, make no provision for using renewable energy, and retain none of the character

of the current site. Nor do they build any new public amenities. With all these new residents in Jericho, it will be even more important to have a new Community Centre and Lucy's proposes to contribute financially to this.

Another serious problem is that there is no provision for relocating Walton Street Cycles whose workshop is currently on the site. John Wilson, the owner, made an impassioned plea, pointing out the incoherence of policies that encourage the use of cycles without ensuring facilities for repair. In future it looks as though cyclists will have to push broken bikes into the city centre or all the way to Cowley Road.

Oxfordshire Befriending Network



Are you looking for something new and challenging for 2004? Why not become a befriender? The Oxfordshire Befriending Network is a charity, based in Jericho, that supports people with a life-threatening or terminal illness by training volunteers to befriend them. We offer excellent free training and ongoing support to volunteers. Next training starts February 3rd.

For more information contact:
Catherine Gundry 01865 316200
or oxford@befriending.net

Street Fair 2004



Teresa Stuart samples the hot-dogs at the very successful Street Fair in June 2003

Jericho's annual Street Fair will be held on Saturday 12 June from 12 noon in Canal Street. Volunteers are needed to help plan the event. Can you help out this year? Please contact Sue Pead on 557902.

Thank you Hilary

Hilary Hiorns has retired after 17 years as Principal of St Barnabas School. Hilary made an enormous contribution, for which many hundreds of children and their parents will forever be grateful. Future generations of children will also benefit from her tireless efforts during the school's redevelopment.

Community Copper

If you blinked you may have missed our last community policeman, who has now been promoted. Our new policeman is P.C. Karl Ralph who started on December 16th. Note that there is a new number to contact him: 846000.

Rejects retrench

After 26 years, our entertainment group the Jericho Rejects, are hanging up their tap shoes. So, no more sing-alongs. But Wendy Matthews says they will still be organizing the old folks' Christmas parties, including the pantomime, which again last year was enjoyed by all, including two centenarians. Thanks to all who supported the party, including KFC.

THE GLOBE



*Good Food
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Cranham Street, Jericho
Tel: 557759

WHO WORKS THERE?

An introduction to activities in Jericho

6a King Street – Family Publications and the Chesterton Institute

One of Jericho's most unusual buildings is at 6a King Street, overlooking the school. This has had a remarkable variety of occupants over the years – from chimney sweeps, to builders, to cycle repairers. In 1983 it was bought by furniture designer Lucinda Leech. She made the distinctive modern frontage and used the lower floor as a workshop, while letting off the upper floor to antiquarian bookseller Robert Clark. Lucinda left a couple of years ago, but still owns the building.

Lucinda let the ground floor space to Family Publications, a publisher and distributor of Catholic books, whose recent publications include a Catholic Student Guide. The company had previously operated from a house in Banbury Road. Then after Robert Clark's death last year it also took part of the first floor.

Editor Richard Brown says that Oxford is a good place for this kind of work, given the city's dynamic and literate community of Catholics, which includes the Oratory in Woodstock Road, the religious orders, and the large number of overseas students. He says they enjoy working in Jericho. Initially they had some problems with vandalism but the Council helped with the supply of shutters and things now seem to be much improved.

The other half of the top floor of the building is occupied by the Chesterton Institute for Faith and Culture. Named after the writer and journalist G.K. Chesterton, this is the Oxford branch of a charity that organizes publications and conferences on Christian Humanism.

The Institute also has a small archive of memorabilia of G.K. Chesterton, including a hat, walking sticks, souvenirs



Above: Imr Sarwar of Family Publications deals with customer queries. Below: Stratford Caldecott with part of the Chesterton archive of memorabilia.



of Chesterton's various trips, and many of his own books with numerous scribbles and cartoons in the margins. In addition it has the typewriter on which he wrote such books as *The Outline of Sanity*. Curiously the items also include a rather uncomfortable looking barber's chair in which the great man sat to get his hair cut – donated by his barber in Beaconsfield where he lived.

Stratford Caldecott, the European Director of the Institute, says they get visitors from all over the world to see these items, although the collection is not on public view except by appointment. Stratford has many other literary interests and has just published a book on J.R.R. Tolkien called *Secret Fire*.

For more information, check these sites: www.familypublications.co.uk and www.secondspring.co.uk.

Putting the brakes on

There has been considerable demand for Jericho to become a 20 m.p.h. zone. Councillor Susanna Pressel has been passing on these requests and now it seems something may happen. The County Council is to consult residents, retailers and visitors, through street notices and advertisements as well as at the Area Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 10 (see page opposite). The Council's Transport Implementation Committee will receive these comments on April 14, and if they decide to go ahead the work should be completed in a couple of months.

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 takes the trophies

Photo: Steve Wheeler



When Kevin and Claire Jones of Cranham Street, arrived in Jericho they found no team for their son Ashley to play in. Undeterred, they formed one. Originally called Jericho Boys, the team started out in the under-11s 'C' division of the *Oxford Mail Boys' League*. In the second season, 2001/02, as the under-12s they won 22 games and drew the other to finish as champions. The team is now West Oxford FC, since they also offer places to players outside Jericho. Leading scorer in the league last year was Naveed Akram of Cranham Street (front, third from

right). Jack Hayhurst of Walton Well Road (back, fourth player from right), has been selected for the league's under-13s representative side. By December 2003, promoted to the 'B' division of the under-13s, they were third in the league. Kevin (on the right) coaches, while Claire does the administration. They promote a family atmosphere, involving parents and offering encouragement to the players. Walton Street Co-op has also helped with sponsorship. Now Kevin has also formed a mixed under-10s team, most of whose players are at St. Barnabas School.

In Memoriam

Frank Clements – Born in Cowley, 'Clem' died in Jericho in July, just after his 80th birthday. He had been a Flight-Sergeant during the War and had an exciting life. Something of a character, he loved bridge and pink gins and ran a pub in Portsmouth called the Fairy Queen. Later he was a club steward, then in business as 'Oxford Locks'. Our sympathies to Penny.

Doris Devey – Doris, who died recently, lived for many years in Grantham House, and was a regular at the pub lunches for the elderly. She will be much missed by her family, including her granddaughter and great granddaughter.

Ray Inskip – Ray, who lived in Walton Street, died from cancer in August aged 76. Ray was born in Brighton and left school at the age of 14. He initially worked in a gentleman's outfitters, but after the war trained as a teacher. He had, however, developed an interest in archaeology and eventually studied the subject at St. John's College, Cambridge. Having been invited to carry out excavations in what was then Tanganyika, he was drawn to work more in Africa, and took charge of archaeology at the University of Cape Town. Eventually, disenchanted with the

politics of the apartheid era, in 1972 he came to Oxford as assistant curator at the Pitt Rivers museum. Subsequently he became a university lecturer and a fellow of Merton College and wrote a series of books on Southern Africa. During this time he took a great interest in local politics and in community activities and became chair of the Jericho Residents' Association. Ray is survived by his wife Adi, to whom we extend our sympathy.

Nesta Wright – Nesta Wright, who was Father Michael's mother, passed away on December 13th, just a week before her 102nd birthday. Mrs. Wright had a long association with Oxford, having spent part of her girlhood in Radley, where her father's family, the Westons, came from. She went to school in London and well remembered being taken as a girl to the funeral of King Edward in 1910 from which she had a clear recollection of seeing the Kaiser in the procession. On the occasion of her 100th birthday, Radio Oxford asked her which was the most enjoyable decade of her life. She unhesitatingly replied: "the dancing Twenties!". Her last outings, the week before she died, were to the Jericho Rejects Christmas Party at the school, and the Advent Carol Service in the Church, both of which she thoroughly enjoyed. Our sympathies to Father Michael.

Briefly

Nellie's no more

Goodbye to one of Jericho's favourite shops, Nellie's Deli in Great Clarendon Street. Nellie's was a casualty of the expansion of the Co-op. Business had dropped dramatically, so John Yazdanpahari, who had been there 20 years, decided to close and has planning permission to turn it into a house.

Area Committee

There will be a meeting of the Central-South-West Area Committee at St. Barnabas School on Tuesday 10 February at 5 p.m. This is a chance to raise local issues with councillors and officers. Subjects under discussion will include the 20 m.p.h. zone and litter – and also an update on the canalside and Lucy's developments. These meetings move around between the four wards, and in future should take place in Jericho three times a year. Questions about planning can also be addressed to one of our Councillors, Colin Cook, who is on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Playgroup SOS

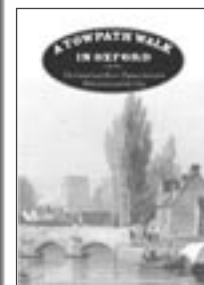
The playgroup may have to close unless we can find a new supervisor. Can you help? Please ring Sarah on 515362.

What a load of rubbish

The refuse collectors have been getting frustrated by the bin bags put on the pavements outside normal dustbin days. Recently they came round Jericho only a day after the regular collection and found three and a half tons of rubbish. In response they have been putting cards through letterboxes warning that offenders could be fined. Legally, you are required to bring your rubbish to a designated collection point. Bags that are left for days are often broken into by dogs and birds and represent a health hazard.

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

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.

Jericho Notice Board

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 Playgroup is a charity and passed OFSTED inspections with flying colours! For further details and to arrange a visit, phone Sarah on 515362.

Jericho Over-60s Bingo – Wednesday evenings at 6.30 p.m. for tea, bingo, and a get-together at Grantham House. Information from John Radford, tel. 558883.

Senior Citizens' Discount Lunches – At the Globe. Wed. and Thurs. 12.00 noon–2.00 p.m. Sun. 12.00 noon–2.30 p.m.

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 new supervisor. If you are interested, please ring Sarah on 515362.

Chatterbox Café – At the Jericho Community Centre. Simple food in the company of friends. Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

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.

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. Karl Ralph. He can be contacted on 846000. General Enquiries, 266000. For advice on making your home more crimeproof, call 335171.

Cripley Meadow Allotments – AGM on Wednesday 25 February, 7.30 p.m. at the Community Centre. Open days: February 28 and 29.

Area Committee Meetings – The Central-South-West Area Committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 5.00 p.m.

Canalside Mailing List – If you want to be notified about what is happening about the canalside development, please e-mail admin@jerichocentre.org.uk

Jericho on the Web

Community Centre: www.jerichocentre.org.uk

Jericho Echo: 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. 1.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m. Contact Fiona Ferguson, NAWOCEC, tel. 511757.

Ballet – Thurs. 10.45 a.m.–11.45 a.m. Contact Penny Bown, tel. (01869) 351572

Egyptian Dance – Raqs Sharqi. Wed. 6.30 p.m.–9.15 p.m. Contact, Katrina Robinson, tel. 777462.

Flamenco Dance – Sat. 4.00 p.m.–6.00 p.m. Contact, Deborah Fenn, tel. 553234.

Fujian White Crane Kung Fu – Tues. 8.00 p.m.–9.30 p.m. Sun. 7.30 p.m.–9.00 p.m. Contact: (07907) 545066

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

Oxford Internal Arts – Tue. 7.30 p.m.–9.00 p.m. Contact: 513863.

Oxford Tango Group – Wed. 7.00 p.m.–9.00 p.m. Contact: 288340.

Pilates – Fri. 9.00 a.m.–10.30 a.m. Contact: (07966) 306633.

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

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

Yoga – Wed. 9.30 a.m.–11.30 a.m. Contact: Ian Macdonald, tel. 516615.

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