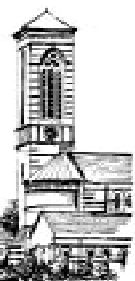


Jim Neallie

# Jericho Echo



No. 57, April 2005

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## Plan inquiry pauses

### Canalside planning inquiry adjourned until May 16th.

Jericho residents, from both houses and canal boats, turned out in force at a planning inquiry in the Town Hall to argue against the canalside development.

Bellway Homes, the developer chosen by British Waterways to build on the canalside land behind St. Barnabas Church, has proposed a massive three- and four-storey development that would eliminate the boatyard, crowd in on the historic St Barnabas Church, and offer none of the additional space needed for a new Community Centre.

In May 2004, the City Council resoundingly rejected their planning application. Bellway and British Waterways appealed, and the ensuing public inquiry started on March 8th. Although scheduled for only three days, it was still going strong after four and had to be adjourned, to resume on May 16th – the next date when the inspector and the lawyers were available.

Several days were taken up discussing the case for retaining a working boatyard – the potential loss of which has provoked a debate on national press and television. The first day of the hear-



*George Taylor (left) and Stuart Larkin, who made our case at the inquiry*

ing included an appeal for its retention by celebrated author Philip Pullman.

British Waterways argued that there were many other options along the canal for boats needing repair, but a series of witnesses pointed out the unique service provided by Steve Goodlad of Alchemy Boats – especially for urgent repairs when other options are out of cruising range. British Waterways' off-hand attitude was clearly demonstrated when, even while the hearing was taking place, they presented Dr. Goodlad with an eviction notice, served by their suitably named solicitors, Wright Hassle.

Several people also spoke out against the scale of the development. Henry Shukman of St Barnabas Street, for example, said that the proposed blocks would "dwarf not only my house but the entire neighbourhood".

Others pointed out the loss of views of our landmark St Barnabas Church, which is a listed building. Father Michael Wright identified the central problem to be the 'avarice' of British Waterways who

were trying to squeeze too much money out of the developer who, having offered £3.5 million for the site, needed to pack in high-value multi-storey homes to recoup what it had offered.

The case for the new Community Centre was marshalled by Community Association Chair, George Taylor, and our planning and development surveyor, Stuart Larkin. In a clear and well-argued presentation, Stuart pointed out that in the new Local Plan the City Council had identified this site as the location for a new Community Centre. The existing Centre in Canal Street does not meet 21st-century needs and in particular does not fulfil the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

The Council has already agreed to contribute to the site the adjacent land currently occupied by the garages at Dawson Place. However, to build a sustainably-sized centre, large enough to meet community needs, now and in the future, the Council concluded we would need to use a piece of land from the development site.

British Waterways rejected this conclusion, even before the planning application, saying that we would have to 'make do' with the Council land. They have also suggested that we do not need a two-storey community hall where all sorts of sports, community events and wedding receptions could take place.

Bellway argue that it is unreasonable to ask them to contribute land, even though an independent evaluation had demonstrated that they would still be making a substantial profit – especially since the Council has now agreed to accept only 35% 'affordable housing' instead of the 40% to 50% they are now seeking elsewhere.

The inquiry resumes at the Town Hall on Monday May 16th at 10.00 a.m. If you can, please come along.

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# Street Fair 2005



Wendy Matthews and friends snap up raffle tickets at the 2004 Street Fair

Make a date in your diary. This year's Jericho Street Fair will be held on Saturday June 11, from 12.00 noon to 4.00 p.m. All the usual excitement, followed by an evening of live music in Canal Street outside the Bookbinders. We urgently need just a few more people who can offer an hour or so to help on the day – on the Community Centre stall, for example, or struggling to contain the energy of Jericho's kids on the bouncy castle. If you can help, please call the equally irrepressible Sue Pead on 557902.

## JCA annual meeting

The Jericho Community Association (JCA) will hold its Annual General Meeting at St Barnabas School on Thursday May 12th at 7.30 p.m., including drinks and light refreshments. Catch up with the latest news on Jericho, particularly on the canalside development. As an added attraction, local historian, Mark Davies, will be giving an illustrated talk: 'Jericho and its canalside heritage'.

## Anti-social behaviour

We seem to be suffering a surge of anti-social behaviour at present, including graffiti. It is important to report to the police anything you see – using the telephone numbers on page 4.

## 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. *Carpenters:* Tony Everett, (07778) 907834; Ivan Sheehy, (07717) 130443. *Cleaner:* Dom, (07815) 615914. *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 by numbers

## A snapshot of Jericho from the 2001 census

Recently released information from the 2001 census allows us to build up one of the most detailed pictures yet of the population of Jericho. The area is bounded to the north by Juxon Street, to the south by Worcester College, to the east by Walton Street and to the west by the canal. In this area there are 1,051 households, and a total population of 2,397, which includes around 300 students at Worcester and Ruskin colleges.

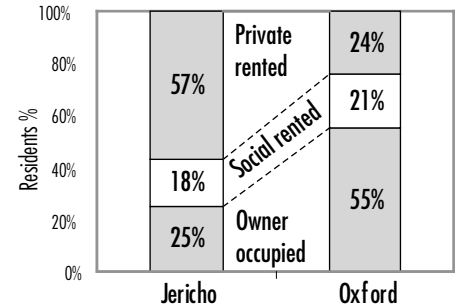
• **Owning and renting** – Around two-thirds of residents live in houses, with the rest in flats. But relatively few people in Jericho own their property. In Oxford 55% of people live in owner-occupied properties, but in Jericho only 25% do so. Instead, many more people rent their homes: 57% from private landlords and 18% from 'social' landlords mostly the City Council.

• **On the move** – Jericho's population has quite a high turnover. While in 57% of cases the whole household had lived at the same address during the previous year, in 16% of households at least one person had lived elsewhere, and in 27% the whole household had arrived in that year.

• **Showing our age** – At the time of the census there were 15 children under one year and 16 residents over 90 years. However, compared with Oxford as a whole, Jericho has more adults in the 20-29 age group – 36%, compared with 25% in Oxford.

• **Carless** – Only 49% of households have a car compared with 67% for Oxford.

• **Living alone** – Almost half our households – 46% – consist of only one person, 29% consist of couples with or without children, 6% are student households, and 13% are other multi-person households, while 6% are single-parent households.



Most Jericho residents rent their homes

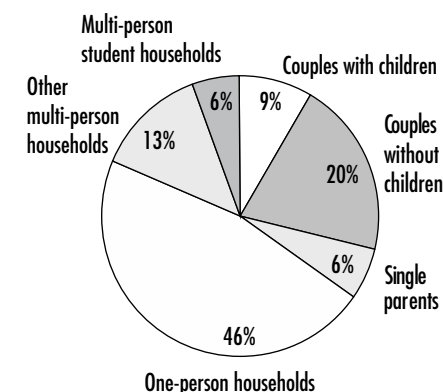
• **Where from?** – Jericho is somewhat more cosmopolitan than Oxford as a whole, 81% of whose residents were born in the UK. In Jericho 77% of people were born in the UK, while 7% came from other countries in Europe, 6% from Asia, and 5% from North America, 2% from Africa and the rest from elsewhere. In terms of ethnic groups, 90% of people described themselves as white, 3.1% as mixed, 2.9% as Asian, 0.7% as black and 3% as Chinese or of another ethnic group.

• **Religion** – Some 50% of Jericho residents said they were Christian, 2.2% Muslim, 1.9% Buddhist and 1.2% professed other religions, while 34% of people said they had no religion. In Oxford as a whole the proportion with no religion was 24%.

• **Hard at work** – In Jericho 28% of those working are self-employed, while 18% work part time. Around 20% are in higher professional occupations compared with 14% for Oxford. We also tend to work nearby: 72% of people work within five kilometres of their home; 18% go to work on foot, 13% by car and 6% by bike.

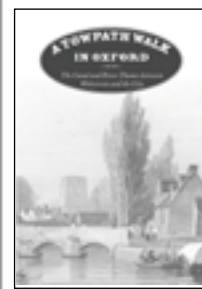
• **Health** – Around 18% of people in Jericho have a limiting long-term illness and around 10% of people provide unpaid care to another household member.

Thanks to Graham Hipwell for gathering this information, as part of our presentation to the planning inquiry.



Almost half of households in Jericho consist of just one person

## 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, Mark Davies, on the narrowboat 'Bill the Lizard' near Isis Lock.

# Farewell gift at the Globe

Briefly ...



*Globe regulars brandish their pool cues and darts behind landlady, Jean McDermott, (left) and Naomi Bowman who is organizing the use of the funds.*

Regulars at the Globe raised more than £1,200 to help tsunami victims in a fund-raising day on February 27th. Competitions included darts, a barrel race, aunt sally, sponsored head shaves and a Mr. & Mrs. competition.

Landlady Jean McDermott was inspired to organize the event after a nerve-racking weekend when she thought her daughter Charlie might have been caught up in the tsunami while on holiday in Thailand.

The money will be channelled by

Oxford student, Naomi Bowman, who was on the island of Phi Phi in Thailand when the tsunami struck. Badly injured herself, Naomi is raising funds to help people on the island who have lost everything.

This turned out to be one of the last events Jean organized at the Globe. Because of financial problems linked to her previous pub, Jean has lost her tenancy at the Globe. She will be much missed, especially by older residents for whom she provided good value lunches.

## Youth club enrolment

Youth worker Robert Evans says: "We are planning to restart the youth club on Thursday May 12th and will be there for enrolment for young people aged 11-16. We hope to get at least 12 people."

## Community café

Have you tried the tasty breakfasts and lunches cooked by Tracey Heppell at the Jericho Community Centre? The café is open on Saturdays from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Meet your friends and indulge yourself with a full English breakfast.



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

## In Memoriam

**Walter Buckingham** – 'Wally', who died at the end of last year, lived in Cumnor but for many years during the 1960s and 1970s was Jericho's Co-op milkman. Many long-time Jericho residents remember him fondly – especially because he used to let them, as children, ride around on his milk float. The local dogs also used to jump on board. Even after he retired he was frequently seen driving round Jericho in his little sports car.

**Margaret Horne** – Maggie, who died aged 52 in December, moved to Oxford as a young woman with her son Jason, first to Woodstock Road, and then to Jericho where she lived in Combe Road. Maggie was a real character, someone you certainly couldn't miss; she was immensely proud of her appearance and had a huge wardrobe. She devoted a lot of her energy to looking after others, always fiercely supportive of Jason, and was devoted to her grandson Reece. But she did not look after herself so well. She suffered from diabetes which led to her premature death. She was a regular in the Bookbinders, where there is now a memorial plaque by her old barstool.

**Albert Jones** – 'Ted' Jones, who died in November, moved to Jericho in 1964 and

for 25 years worked for the Water Board. He met his wife Sheila in the Harcourt Arms and they lived in various places in Jericho thereafter. Ted was a larger-than-life figure, a happy, convivial man. Our sympathies to Sheila.

**Ronald Mobley** – Ronald was born in Canal Street, where he was to spend most of his life. He went to St Barnabas School where he excelled both academically and on the sports field, playing football for Oxford Boys (his cousin, Vic Mobley, played for Sheffield Wednesday). In 1952 he started an apprenticeship making stereotype plates at OUP. After 35 years, however, modern technology displaced him and he was made redundant, following which he went to work as a driver for Oxonian Rewley Press until his retirement in 2001. Ronald was a bachelor and lived for most of his life with his mother in the same house in which he was born until she died aged 81. He took a great interest in his nephews and nieces and was always generous to them. Unfortunately, he did not enjoy good health in his retirement and, after he moved to Whitworth Place, died suddenly in November, aged 68.

**Thelma Townsend** – Thelma, who died in February, lived in Richmond Road. Her husband worked in Pusey House and they had two sons and two daughters. She moved to Norfolk a couple of years

ago to be near her son, Hugh, and was buried in Brancaster.

**Paul Turner** – Paul, who was 34, drowned in the river behind the ice rink on January 31st. This brought to an end a life characterized by a cheerful waywardness. Paul, who had lived with his parents, Roger and Irene, in Cardigan Street, was a personable young man and in his youth was very popular. But ultimately he was overcome by forces beyond his control and succumbed to a rather nomadic existence. A few years ago, under the patient guidance of Father Dominic at the Oratory, he was baptized there. This is also where his funeral took place, attended by many of his friends. Our sympathies to his parents.

**Harry Wheeler** – Harry died in March, aged 93. He was born in Jericho and grew up in Walton Crescent in one of a row of five houses built by his father. He went to St Barnabas School and sang in the church choir. Leaving school at 14, he started work as a compositor at the *Oxford Times*, later transferring to the reading department where he worked for 35 years. In 1940, after marrying Nesta, a nurse at the Radcliffe, he moved to Headington. They had three sons, though one died at birth and is buried in St Sepulchre's. When Nesta died in 2000 he moved to Woodstock.

# 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. For further details phone Sarah on 515362.

**Allotments** – For a plot at Cripsey Meadow call Sheila Allen on 558130.

**Women's Institute** – Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road.

**Bird in Hand** – Peter Drover is looking for information about his great-great grandparents who, during World War I, ran the Bird in Hand pub in King Street. Does anyone know anything about the pub? If so, please contact: peter@drover1960.freemove.co.uk.

**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.

**Jericho Community Association** – Meets on the second Monday of the month at the Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. This year's AGM will be at the school on May 12th at 7.30 p.m.  
**Community Centre:** Room hire and enquiries: Sue Pead, tel. 557902.

**Parents and toddlers group** – Tuesdays in term time, 10.00 a.m.–12.00 noon at the Community Centre. Anyone with a pre-

There is no lower age limit. Contact Julie Goodall on 427787.

**Youth Club** – For ages 11–16 will be enrolling at the Community Centre on Thursday May 12th.

**Welcome to Jericho:** Job Leighton.

**Area Committee Meeting** – The May meeting will be at St Barnabas School on May 10th, starting at 5.00 p.m.

**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. Michael Collins (Lib. Dem.), (07837) 831728. Susanna Pressel (Labour), 554001; she has a surgery at the Community Centre on the first Saturday of the month, 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. County Councillor: John Power (Labour), 247153.

**Police** – For crimes in progress, including vandalism and graffiti spraying, call 999. Please report other crimes, including anti-social behaviour, to 08458 505505. This is also the number for Jericho's Community Beat Officer, Sergeant Karl Ralph, whose badge number is 4902.

**Canalside Mailing List** – To join this, email 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.

**Egyptian Dance** – Raqs Sharqi. Wed. 6.30 p.m.–8.00 p.m. Contact, Katrina Robinson, tel. 777462.

**Fitness** – Sun. 12.00 noon–1.00 p.m. Contact, Maria Contreras, tel. (0797) 4195011.

**Fujian White Crane Kung Fu** – Tues. 8.00 p.m.–9.30 p.m. Sun. 6.30 p.m.–10.00 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.

**Music for Babies** – Mon. 9.45 a.m.–11.00 a.m. Noel Rainbird. Contact: 552539.

**Oxford Internal Arts** – Mon. 6.00 p.m.–7.30 p.m. Tues. 6.30 p.m.–9.00 p.m. Wed. 6.30 p.m.–8.30 p.m. Contact: 513863.

**Oxford Tango Group** – Thurs. 7.30 p.m.–9.00 p.m. Contact: Antony Brown, (01869) 248459.

**Pilates** – Fri. 9.30 a.m.–11.30 a.m. Contact: Paula, tel. (07966) 306633.

**Pilates** – Sun. mornings and Thurs. lunchtimes. Contact: Ann tel. 556290 or ann@sasci.clara.co.uk

**Tai Chi** – Tues. 12.00 noon.–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.

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. Please contact us if you help with delivery. This edition has been printed courtesy of Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, from artwork supplied by the editor. This and previous issues are also available online at www.pstalker.com/echo.

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