

## Canalside victory

### Planning Inspector supports Jericho's objections

On August 6 the people of Jericho were relieved to find that the public inquiry on the canalside development had found in their favour.

Bellway Homes and British Waterways had appealed against the City Council's refusal of planning permission for their proposed development of the canalside land behind St Barnabas Church. This resulted in a six-day hearing in March and May.

Jericho is fortunate to have had such an open-minded and painstaking inspector in Mr. Ray Hiscox, who went out of his way to hear the views of everyone present. This meant the Community Centre team, led by Stuart Larkin and George Taylor, had a long delay before their presentation. But it was worth the wait. They put the case so convincingly that the Inspector accepted all our arguments about the need for a new Community Centre on the site.

Indeed, though the furore in the local and national media understandably focused on the loss of the boatyard, the main reason why the appeal was rejected, was because the developers had ignored



Photo: Oxford Mail

*Members of the Jericho Community Association on the canalside site.*

*Left to right: George Taylor (chair), Jenny Mann (secretary), Father Michael Wright (St Barnabas Church), Councillor Susanna Pressel, and Viv Peto (treasurer).*

the need for a new Centre.

In his report, Mr. Hiscox pointed out that the new 'local plan' for Oxford requires that a new Centre be built on the site. And the Council has already agreed to contribute land adjacent to the site at Dawson Place, but this will not be sufficient on its own.

Mr. Hiscox visited the existing Centre and concluded: "I saw at my visit to the Centre that it is severely constrained in terms of internal layout and lack of external space, and I am persuaded by the argument that proper facilities can only be provided with a new building."

"A Centre of what I would consider to be a reasonable size would need a site area considerably larger than the 260 square metres developable area presently available in Dawson Place."

Bellway had argued that it was unreasonable for them to be asked to contribute land as they did not have sufficient funds. But it was clearly demonstrated at the hearing that this was not the case. As the Inspector put it: "I see no reason why need for a land contribution would unduly inhibit development on the appeal site nor why a suitable and viable scheme accommodating the Community Centre requirement would not be forthcoming."

A second reason for rejection concerned the boatyard. Mr. Hiscox concluded that this part of the canal needed facilities for lifting out boats and for repair and maintenance. The lack of these facilities would not, however, be a reason for withholding planning permission—providing British Waterways replaced them in another "equally accessible and suitable location". British Waterways have already evicted Alchemy Boats which is now operating in Yarnton. Meanwhile, the boatyard has been occupied by protesters.

The most controversial conclusions of the Inspector's report concerned the visual impact and scale and mass of the buildings, and the effect on St Barnabas Church. He rejected the advice of English Heritage, arguing that the benefit of the view of the Church across the proposed square could offset the other, more negative, impacts and concluded that, overall, the buildings on the proposed scale may not adversely affect the Church or Jericho in general.

The struggle is not over. British Waterways and Bellway are likely to submit new plans later this year. To keep abreast of developments, and to see the full Inspector's report, please visit [jerichocentre.org.uk](http://jerichocentre.org.uk).

### Ali's Jericho Store

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# Street Fair 2005

This year's Street Fair on June 11, organized by the Jericho Community Association, was a great success. Canal Street was packed for most of the day. Thanks to everyone whose efforts helped make it such an enjoyable day, but, as the article on the page opposite points out, we have room for many more volunteers.



*Viv Peto, of Gt. Clarendon Street (left), joins in with the Irish dancers.*



*Trevor and Anne Luke, of Richmond Road, on the Jericho Community Centre stall*



*Paul Hartley (left) helps Jericho's youth let off steam as sumo wrestlers*



*Charlotte Christie of Canal Street (left) picks up tips on morris dancing*

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

# Making memories

## Cine record of the evolution of Jericho

In 1962, when Jim Wright was 16, his uncle, who worked at Harwell, gave him what was then a remarkable present, an 8 mm Bolex colour cine camera. "Always carry it with you", he said, "and you will make some nice memories".

Jim, who was born in a house in Jericho Street, and has lived there all his life, took his advice. "I realised that Jericho was changing, so I purposely went round and filmed the streets".

Over the years, Jim also acquired other cine, video and still cameras and used them to keep a record of Jericho. Now he has put much of this material together in a new video/DVD: *Jericho: As time goes by*. Running for one hour and 48 minutes, this shows, for example, Jericho's streets with some intriguing juxtapositions of old and new views of, among others, Cranham Street, Jericho Street and Nelson Street.

Jim filmed local events, such as the Silver Jubilee parties in 1977. There is also coverage of Guy Fawkes night in 1965. Jericho's boys would go round collecting rubbish, using a cart borrowed from Peedell's builders yard, and make a massive bonfire. Nowadays, a fire on that scale would bring the fire brigade roaring into action—and even in those days Jericho bonfires had been known to burn down telephone wires. Less incendiary events covered include maypole dancing at the school and rousing performances from our local entertainment group: the Jericho Rejects.

The presentation is available as a video for £10.95, or as a DVD for £11.95, from Jim Wright, 8 Jericho Street, Oxford OX2 6BU. Tel: 513048.



*Portrait of the artist. Behind Jim Wright, looking up Jericho Street in the early 1960s, is what was then Tomes' grocery store (now flats). "They sold everything there, but you had to chase out the rats".*

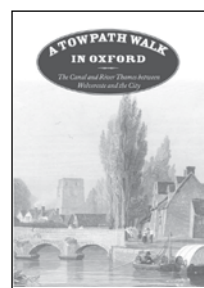


*Fancy dress at the Silver Jubilee in 1977. Left, a cardboard teapot; right, Britannia*



*Preparing the site for the school, the telephone box is positioned as now*

## A towpath walk in Oxford



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

... 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...

## 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.



# A community that works

Jericho's Street Fair is put on by the Jericho Community Association, which is also responsible for:

- Running the Community Centre;
- The efforts to provide a new Centre on the canalside development site;
- The *Jericho Echo*.

We are a voluntary organisation, which means that with the exception of the part-time administrator, cleaner and café manager, none of us is paid. We hold committee meetings on the second Monday of each month in the café. Membership of the Association is automatic to everyone who lives in Jericho so you are very welcome to come and join us.

Whether you are a student living here for a short time, a couple with or without children, one of the area's many singles, or a senior citizen, we would like to invite you to get involved. You may already take a class at the centre, have children in the playgroup or at the youth club, or visit the café. Why not become part of the team that helps the Centre serve the community? Making a contribution need not take a lot of time. Our monthly meetings usually last less than two hours before adjourning to the pub. But you need not make even this regular commitment. It would be just as valuable to give a few hours of your time once or twice a year to help with our main events: the distribution of the *Jericho Echo* and the Street Fair.

The *Jericho Echo* is produced two or

three times a year and is always on the look out for news items and stories about Jericho that you may like to contribute. Once produced, and printed courtesy of OUP, it is delivered by local residents. Could you help deliver?

The Street Fair is a popular event but it needs planning and preparation and recently this has fallen to a very small group. We used to be able to run the Fair for a longer time but have had to shorten it because we did not have enough people on the day to help serve refreshments, clean up tables, sell tickets, organize stalls, and supervise the bouncy castle.

With more people to help, everyone would only need to give a few hours and we could all also have time during the day to enjoy the event itself. If the Street Fair is to run again so successfully we need more volunteers to come forward now so they can work alongside those who have done it before.

People like to work in the community because it is enjoyable and rewarding and gives a great feeling of belonging. Jericho is fortunate in retaining a sense of community. But as with most good things this spirit does not come from nowhere. It comes from people like you, who enjoy living here, and would like to help but perhaps do not know how to join in.

If you are interested, contact Sue Pead at 557903 or send an email to [admin@jerichocentre.org.uk](mailto:admin@jerichocentre.org.uk).

## In Memoriam

**Richie Guy** – Richie died tragically young at 40 years-old. He was a colourful character: a musician, entertainer, and union activist. Many people will remember him from his wonderful contributions to the Jericho Street Fair – in top hat and striped trousers perched on his unicycle. At his funeral at St. Barnabas in May, speakers recalled his zest for life, his many talents, and his devotion to his family. Our sympathy to his wife Zoe and their three children.

**Margaret Ogden** – Margaret, who lived in Albert Street, died in July, aged 76. She was born in Wales, and then moved to England where she did a variety of jobs. She married her husband, Tony, in Oxford in 1950. They had two sons, Christopher and Mark. The family was stationed in Malaya for three years during the emergency. On one occasion, when

Tony was suddenly called away, Margaret was left with her infant son sitting in a bungalow on the edge of the jungle with a revolver in her lap.

They later lived for a time in Wales, before returning to Oxford. Margaret worked as a medical secretary, first at Mayfair ward at the Nuffield, then at the North Oxford Medical Centre. She had also been a Girl Guide commissioner and worked at the Mind shop in Walton Street. Margaret was a very popular person and had many friends in Jericho and in the Church. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. During her final illness her family in turn looked after her, as did her neighbour Janet.

**Nelly Tsouyopoulos** – Nelly had only been living with her daughter in Walton Crescent for a short time when she died in May. Nelly was a remarkable woman. She had spent most of her life in Germany, and before that in Cyprus where she founded the University of Nicosia. Our sympathies to her family.

## Briefly ...

### Bravery commendations

Lewis Singh, 11, of Canal Street, Daniel New, 13, of School Court, and Marley Joseph-Arroyave, 12, of Jericho Street are to receive commendations from the Area Commander at Thames Valley Police for their 'bravery and calmness' in helping an elderly resident who was robbed of her purse and knocked over in Great Clarendon Street in February. The boys saw their neighbour being attacked. Lewis helped her get back to her flat and stayed with her until the police arrived, while Daniel and Marley, chased the robber who disappeared along the canal.

### Estelle and Del tie the knot



Congratulations to Estelle Tester, née Ryan, and her husband Del who were married at St Barnabas Church on August 20th. Estelle, a long-time Jericho resident, who lives in Canal Street, works part-time at the Community Centre. Photo: Paul Hughes.

### 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.

### Bagging up the litter



Paul Hornby and Joelle Mann cleaning up in a litter pick in Jericho in July.

# Jericho Notice Board

**Oxfordshire mothers wanted.** I am researching women's experiences of motherhood in Oxfordshire from 1945-1970, I am looking to speak with women (in person or by phone) who were in Oxford when their first child was born. I would be extremely grateful to anyone who would like to talk to me. Angela Davis, St Cross College, University of Oxford, St Giles', Oxford OX1 3LZ. Tel. 07751925945, angela.davis@stx.ox.ac.uk.

**Flat Exchange** – One-bedroom Mayfair H/A flat, rent £65 per week, panoramic views. Swap for Jericho house/flat. Tel: 01865 512540, rainbowlotus@lycos.com

**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 Carolyn Dutton on 552024.

**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** – As mentioned in our last issue, Peter Drover seeks information about the Bird in Hand pub in King Street, but has changed his email address to: peterdrover@tesco.net.

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

mation 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.

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

**Youth Club** – For boys and girls ages 11–16 at the Community Centre, Thurs. 7.00 p.m.–9.00 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** – City Councillors: 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 Councillors: Alan Armitage (Lib-Dem), 516115; Sushila Dhall (Green), 553415.

**Police** – For crimes in progress, including vandalism and graffiti spraying, call 999. For other crimes, including anti-social behaviour, and for the community beat officer, call 08458 505505.

**Canalside Mailing List** – To join this, email admin@jerichocentre.org.uk.

**Jericho on the web**

*Community Centre:* jerichocentre.org.uk

*Jericho Echo:* jerichoecho.org.uk

*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.

**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.–9.30 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.. 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.

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