

# Jericho Echo

No 5. ?  
Christmas 79

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL OUR READERS

MANY THANKS TO RITCHIE RUSSELL HOUSE, AND TO OUR ADVERTISERS

... . WITHOUT THEM WE WOULDN'T EXIST!

-0-0-0-0-0-0-

## GLOUCESTER GREEN

Take your eye off them for one moment and they are off again. How many times in Oxford and in the whole country have the grandiose schemes of planners and commercial developers come unstuck? e.g. Centre Point, Liverpool, where they had to blow up the high rises as the only way of getting rid of the damn things. In every case the local people have opposed them and they have proved right. Even here in Oxford we have got problems with vandalism and muggings because of the soulless destruction of the city centre. Oxpens looks fine on paper but people do not like going down there at night. They are plain scared, no other words for it.

Now, just because some of the big shops see a way of getting quick money and a large chunk of central Oxford the Council are dazzled by the idea. The people wanted otherwise because they have the plain hard sense that tells them that shopping centres are only open from 9.00-5.30 and not on Sundays, and the rest of the time they are a temptation to bored groups of youngsters with nothing to do and nowhere to go. Make Gloucester Green a place where people will go at their leisure and you have a live city where people will go out instead of sitting over their TV sets afraid to walk down town of an evening. Jericho will be immediately and disastrously affected if this scheme goes through as we shall be virtually cut off from the theatres, cinemas and other places of entertainment by an area of no man's land. No go vandal country.

If you think this is putting it too strong, just go round the Westgate of an evening.

## THE JERICHO ECHO EDITORIAL COMMITTEE IS:-

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Ed.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Thanks to Mrs Rush for  
arranging the jumble sale,  
which raised £24 in aid of  
Ritchie Russell House.  
The money was used to buy  
them a gift of their choice.

THANKS TO PRU TOO



## ST. PAUL'S ARTS CENTRE

The JRA and Oxford Area Arts Council held a joint meeting in St. Paul's on Saturday, 3rd November to give the people of Jericho and Walton Manor a chance to see what has been done and hear what is going to be done. About 70 people turned up and it was very encouraging to see how many took the opportunity.

On the platform were Edwin Ardener, Chairman of the JRA, and Adrian Litvinov of the Oxford Area Arts Council, prime mover in the scheme.

As you probably know the OAAC have already bought the church and the contractors are doing the essential repairs. The next stage will be the conversion and it is hoped to open early next summer. The sooner the money starts coming in the better.

Once the repairs are done the fun will start. If any of you have not yet seen the inside of the building do pop in. By the side entrance. It is well worth it and you are very welcome. It really is a lovely building and the OAAC are determined to keep it so by doing as little alteration as possible. The stained glass windows will stay and the murals and they hope to clean and restore the painting over the apse. Incidentally it has got very good accoustics as we discovered for ourselves, every sound was heard as we echoed round the empty building. The plan is to leave the main part of the building open, that is the old nave and chancel by building workshops, cloakrooms and dressing rooms along the sides. Where they will not be seen from the front. Only the box and the bar will be inside, under the gallery. The bar is an essential part of the financing. Upstairs in the gallery, approached by stairs from outside, will be one row of seats and the projection room and lights with a catwalk extending into the middle of the ceiling carrying banks of lights. Seating will be in raked blocks which can be arranged to suit the needs. Looking forward for concerts, one on each side for dance displays, in a circle for theatre in the round or cleared away altogether. By the way if you have any doubts about climbing the steps up to the front take heart. The sloping ramp to the side door built about 80 years ago to enable disabled people to go to church is to stay. Have a look too from the front door, right down Great Clarendon Street to Cumnor Hill.

You may well ask what do they hope to do? Well. Concerts, plays, exhibitions, craft displays. Amateur and professional. Adrian Litvinov even hoped that maybe the Jericho pantomime might become a tradition so if anyone has a secret ambition to play the Dame or Dick Whittington you better start thinking about next Christmas. There will be some children's activities too but the OAAC feel that the Old Fire Station is better suited to most of their ploys. All that paint splashing about.

Of course people asked about money. So far the OAAC have raised £100,000 which has covered the purchase and repair work. The Department of the Environment has given £30,000 (before the cuts), Oxford City Council £11,000, West Oxfordshire £350 and the OUP's gift enabled them to buy the building. Other firms have given a few £1000's. So far the National Arts Council has not subscribed and with the present demands on its purse one cannot place any high hopes from that quarter. However they do hope that other areas and firms will help to raise the £60,000 wanted for the conversion and equipment. This is the top figure. On the argument that one might as well start high and then cut one's cloth when you see what you have got. The idea is to make the centre self-supporting so they

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these will be lower than similar halls elsewhere in Oxford and surrounding areas because they will not have a big staff. They are also open-minded about concessionary rates for certain uses.

A lot of the conversion and decorating is to be done by volunteers so go along to the Old Fire Station in George Street where the administration offices are if you want to help. It was suggested that people could also help by holding coffee mornings etc. if you feel you cannot face ladders and brushes.

The idea of the Friends of St. Paul's is being considered but at the moment you can help just as effectively by joining the OAAC. It could be great fun having an Arts Centre on our doorstep. Oh yes, the parking question was raised and the OAAC do see our point. They will direct patrons to the St. Giles and Gloucester Green parks but they do hope that a sizeable part of the regular attenders will come from Jericho and Walton Manor, and other places within walking distance. This is designed as a local as well as a regional centre.

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### ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Ever feel like a bit of regular exercise in friendly company?

Table tennis? Volleyball? Badminton? Talk to R. Bulkeley if you would like to get something going (Ox. 52330 evenings)

What about a public gymnasium on Gloucester Green?

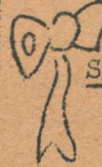
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### A RABBIT CALLED LUNCH

He lives next door to me, in a spacious detached hutch-residence, complete with run, and surrounded by his owner's garden. Last summer, while I was on holiday, Lunch turned his master-mind to the idea of expanding his horizons and his diet. He dug a tunnel through the floor of his run, under the wall, and out in the middle of my lawn. There he had 3 weeks' blissful holiday pruning, amongst other things, my roses. When this was brought to the attention of his owners, they said: "But every time we went out to see him, he was always in his hutch." Of course he was: every time Lunch heard them open the french windows into the garden he popped back down the tunnel and was innocently sitting up in his hutch by the time they reached it. As I said, he is a Mastermind.

Of course we filled in the tunnel (feeling like Gestapo officers in Colditz) and aborted several more attempts. So.... Lunch learned to jump over the wall. This was a low one on his side, but a stiffish leap into my garden; the result being that he couldn't get back. Never thwarted for long, Lunch found a convenient bush onto which he could jump, and from there launch himself onto the top of the wall, and so home. This so strengthened his leg muscles that in no time he could leap straight over the wall itself. Anyone seeing a white rabbit flying through the air with its paws gracefully extended need not regret never having seen Pavlova in action.

I think my neighbours will soon be looking for accommodation more in keeping with their rabbit. Say Whipsnade, or Covent Garden - or the Athenaeum? Meanwhile, do you think the Escapers' Club would take on Lunch as an Honorary - Rabbit class - Member?



### ST. BARNABUS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY

#### THE BEAR AND THE DOVE

an original musical by

Carol Mahony and Lisa Rouse

Monday 10th December at 7.00 at the  
Tuesday 11th December school

\*\*\*\*\*

### GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Friday 14th December 3.20pm

Tickets from the staff

ST. BARNABUS OLD BOYS & GIRLS  
CAROL SERVICE

3.00 pm at the Church  
30th December 1979



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

MUSIC

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### THE PRESS FLAG

OUP celebrated its quincentenary of printing in Oxford in 1978 by a series of events at home and abroad. A special symbol was designed incorporating Oxford's three crowns and the dates 1478 and 1978. This was used in many forms such as on the titles pages of books published in the quincentenary year and it was also the basis for a special flag. These were flown in several places (there were five in Nigeria) and one was flown at the headquarters of the OUP in Walton Street throughout the year (except on those occasions when the Union flag or the University flag had to be flown).

Regiments have a practise of laying up their flags when they commission new ones and, while we will not have a replacement except, perhaps, in another hundred years, it seemed appropriate to ask if the Press church would like to have custody of our flag. It may not be a tradition of St. Barnabas to have this kind of relic but we were all delighted when the Parish Church Council accepted.

It was an honour to present on behalf of the Press and so symbolically bring the celebrations to a fitting end.

Richard Russell

### PHOENIX CINEMA

They asked to be allowed to stay open to 3.00 in the morning six days a week. They have been given a trial period of six months from 1 December when they can stay open 3 nights a week but they have got to ask their patrons how they got there. Walking, cycling, motorbike or car. The idea is that if they can prove that most people walk it is not making a disturbance.

Question: Does it make any difference if you are woken by one motorbike or ten?

Question: Does it count if you are woken by loud voices?

### JERICO FISH SCHEME

Did you all get a notice about the Fish Scheme?

If you would like to help please contact:

St. Barnabas School: St. Barnabas Vicarage :  
36 Hart Street : V & G Stores, 81 Walton Street:  
Jericho Health Centre

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### TUESDAY TEAS

Start again after  
Christmas. Just go  
along. Everyone  
welcome.

At the INSTITUTE





### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

As 1980 will see St. Paul's taking part in the life of Jericho once more as an arts centre it seems fitting to end 1979 with some recollections of St. Paul's as a Church.

The Jericho Echo therefore expresses its thanks to a former Churchwarden the former Secretary and members of the congregation for bringing to life so vividly, the place that the Church held in the lives and affections of the people it served.

St. Paul's is not an old church. It was built in 1834, on land given by the Radcliffe Trustees and cost about £3,500 to build. Yes, £3,500, the money being raised by public subscription. It does hold the distinction of being the first new church built in Oxford since the Reformation. One must exclude the rebuilding of St. Martin and All Saints on the High. First John Wesley and then the Oxford Movement had made people aware of the truly awful conditions people were living in and to provide, through the churches, the welfare and amenities that are now offered by bodies like the Social Welfare and Arts Councils. So St. Paul's was built to serve the new industrial estate of Jericho growing up round the University Press.

The ideas were new but the architecture was not. It looks so like a Greek temple that one has to look twice to see that it is a church. A simple rectangle with a fine pillared portico and it is very little altered. A gallery was added to increase the seating and the windows of the north side raised to put in clear glass panels after the windows were reglazed with stained glass. The coping stones on the north side were removed so that the north and the south elevations are no longer the same. The windows themselves are extremely fine examples of Victorian work. Six of them by Kemp, three of them showing pictures of the Nativity, two the Resurrection and the last one on the south side shows The Ascension with portraits of local dignitaries grouped round Our Lord. Two of them are easily recognisable as of Fr. Duggans, the then Vicar and Thomas Combe, Superintendent of the University Press who did so much for Jericho. A minor addition, some eighty years ago, was the sloping path up to the south door built for the convenience of elderly or disabled folk who found climbing the steps too difficult.

Photographs of the interior showed that it was a bright and colourful place with a magnificent high altar and tabernacle, dressed with candles and beautifully embroidered hangings, many of them the work of local ladies notably Miss Ada Earl who lived with her sister in Cardigan Street. On the right was the wrought iron pulpit and at the back the font designed by Dr. Pusey himself. It was an odd shape. Rectangular on a stand with medallions like a Wedgwood vase. Incidentally, no-one seems to know what happened to this when the church was closed. It has disappeared. Round the walls were side altars with statues of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Anthony and St. Joseph which were brought from France by Fr. Wodehouse, together with the tabernacle. The pictures of The Stations of the Cross are given by Sir Herbert Miller.



One of the early incumbents was Fr. Venables, later Bishop of Nassau in the Bahamas. Those who are remembered personally are Fr. Duggan, followed by Dr. Kidd. Then Fr. Wodehouse, formerly curate at St. Thomas and one of the original trustees of the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, Fr. Maund, who died after lying in a coma for five months after being knocked off his bicycle. Fr. Favell, formerly curate at St. Alban's in East Oxford. Fr. Horton and finally Fr. Wood. The vicarage was in Observatory Street, opposite Belsyre Court.

It was a lively church with an active congregation who thought nothing of going to Mass in the morning and Benediction in the evening as well, as the numerous weekday services. There were two Sunday schools, for boys and girls, each having about 100 children. The girls met in St. Paul's school, now part of Somerville, and the boys met at St. Philip and St. James school, once St. Paul's school, in Juxon Street where Shirley Place now stands. Every Sunday, twice a day, two crocodiles could be seen walking down from the schools to the church to take part in the service after the sermon. The children were taught by local volunteers. The two Miss Earl, the two Miss Hines and sisters from the convent of The Holy and Undivided Trinity on Woodstock Road, where St. Anthony's College is now. Every year any child who had recited the collect for the day every Sunday was given a prayer book and hymn book some of which are still prized possessions. Prizes such as beautifully illustrated lives of The Saints, were presented on St. Paul's Day, 25th. January.

There were no Youth Clubs in those days so St. Paul's provided the St. Agnes guild for girls and the Confraternity of St. Joseph for the boys and the members met on different nights in St. Paul's school for handicrafts followed by games and singing. The results of their efforts sold readily at The Christ mas Fair held in the Ballroom of the Randolph Hotel. For adults there was the Sodality of Our Lady, a branch of the Mother's Union, and a men's club at the vicarage.

This may all sound very goody-goody and boring but the people who went enjoyed it. As one of them said there was no question of being dull or not knowing what to do with yourself on a Sunday though they admitted that the teenagers wanted a bit of a change at times. The thing everyone remembers were the processions. No ordinary processions either. Mayday and Corpus Christi were the high spots with all the girls in white dresses and shoes, carrying posies, and every group led by its own banner, when the church was filled to bursting with people coming in from outside the parish. On Mayday a tenor in the balcony sang the Ave Maria during the procession and on Corpus Christi baskets of rose petals and rosensary were strewn in the path of the procession and the whole building was scented, as they were crushed underfoot. Then there were the Midnight Masses at Christmas and tableaux by the children, during which the lesson was read. Admission had to be by ticket because of the demand. During the war the services had to be held by candle-light because of the blackout. St. Paul's was famous for its sermons too and it was no uncommon sight to see a queue of people waiting to get in particularly when the preacher was well known, like Dean Inge or Fr. Clarence May. Then there was the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham which continued right up to the closure of the church.

Other well remembered occasions were the Sunday School and Choir outings. During the earlier part of the century they did not go very far afield. Games on St. Paul's field in the Observatory grounds where the Radcliffe Maternity block was later built; by train to Woodstock to visit Blenheim grounds or to Clifton Hampden to play in the meadows by the river. By the 1920's they were going on day trips to the London Zoo, to Margate and one, never to be forgotten year, to Boulogne. Leaving Oxford Station at 7.30 and by train to Folkstone via Reading, arriving at noon. A picnic lunch and a set tea before leaving Boulogne and back to Oxford by 11.00 p.m. Garden fetes were held in Somerville every year and when Rev. Llewellyn Davies was curate, St. Paul's had its own amateur Dramatic Society, the SPADS, whose performance of the Pied Piper of Hamlyn ran a week.

With this tradition one is not surprised that the building is seen as the ideal site for an arts centre. What may be more surprising is that all this activity died. It began in the 1930's with the long talked of demolition of some of the worst slums. Jericho Gardens and King Street, when about 50 large families with many children were moved out to Rose Hill. Later the houses on the north side of Cardigan St., the south side of Jericho St. and part of Union, now Hart St. were demolished to make the recreation ground which →



has recently given place to the new St. Barnabas School. The people were moved out to Marsden and with them the children who might have played on the rec. and gone to the Sunday School. Not that the buildings were any loss to anyone. Jericho Gardens may sound an attractive name and the honeysuckle grew over the walls but they were unhygienic hovels grouped round a central courtyard with a wooden gate at the entrance. So dark that the people spent most of their days outdoors in the courtyard, washing eating and mending.

The war brought temporary improvement and the church ran a nursery school for the children of the war workers in St. Paul's school but when the evacuees had gone and more people moved out of Jericho the congregation dwindled to a handful most of whom lived outside the parish. So in 1965 the Church was closed though £10,000 would have repaired it, and the parish was united with that of St. Barnabas. For those of you who might be interested the organ went to Gosford Hill School some of the statues to St. Aloysius, some of the embroidery to Middleton Stoney and the registers to the Bodleian Library.

It has been suggested that when the building re-opens as an Arts Centre one of the first functions should be an act of Thanksgiving for blessings received, in the St. Paul's tradition and that this be repeated every year on or about St. Paul's Day.

Fr. Overton.

## CHRISTMAS

AT

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH.

Sunday December 23rd. RECITAL OF CAROLS in preparation for Christmas at 6.30p.m. followed by a party.

Monday December 24th. (Christmas Eve)

Blessing of the Crib followed by

Midnight Mass at 11.45p.m.

Tuesday December 25th. CHRISTMAS DAY

The Eucharist: 8.00a.m.

SOLIMN EUCHARIST: 10.30 a.m.

Evensong (said) : 5.00p.m.

Everyone will be most welcome at these events.

## CROSSWORD CLUES

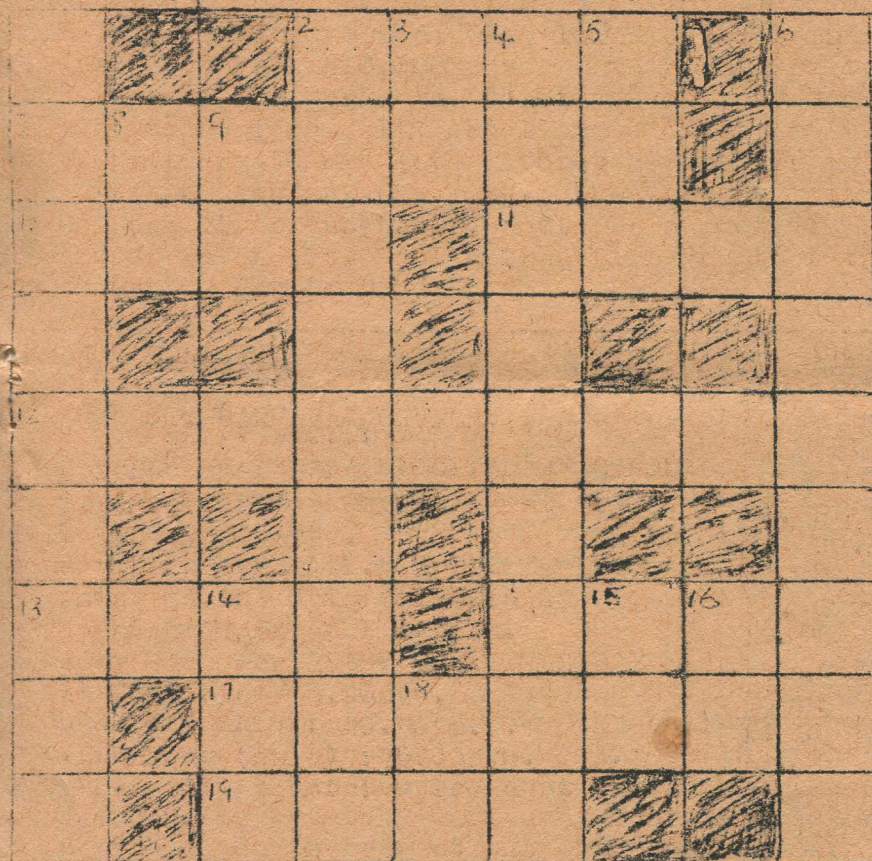
Across:

2. Bed sometimes found in church.
7. Washing, sewing, flying- saves work.
- 10 Abdul the Bulbul.
11. Pest take it. It bites.
12. No.1 of the Christmas 'pops'?(5,4)
13. Moslem Minister.
15. Give one. Take an ell.
- 17 Alexanders Band(7)
19. A traitor caught sight of it.(4)

Down:

1. She's at the top of the tree in a wave of the wand.(4,5)
2. Happy Birthday Festival (9)
3. Rhode Island in short (2)
4. Inventors use it to get round the difficulty. (9)
5. Scottish Mountain.(3)
6. David's City.(9)
8. In the morning (2)
9. Channel Island's address
- 14 Ian, you---(3)
15. Naval Intelligence(2)
16. Short Measure.(2)
18. He's a doctor but doesn't sound it. (2)

## CROSSWORD



## IMPORTANT

### REQUEST

#### TYPEWRITER WANTED

Has anyone an old, but serviceable typewriter for sale? We need a bigger machine to cut the stencils for the Jericho Echo as our little portables are not man enough for the job. Any offers to the Committee. Names listed in the paper.

(See front page)





## THE LESSONS OF THE RUSKIN COLLEGE COTTAGES

The last stage of local opposition to the demolition of Nos. 6-9 Worcester Place came at a full Council meeting recently. A petition from the Jericho Residents' Association was presented from beside the Lord Mayor's chair by the Chairman of the J.R.A. on behalf of the objectors.

You will know that despite this last-ditch appeal, the College's application was finally granted. This gave further edge to the sentence in the petition: "We view with mounting dismay the continued success of planning applications such as the one before you - despite evidence of overwhelming public concern." Except, alas, for Ward councillors, virtually every local group supported the objectors, but still the application was granted.

This must be the last such case in the area. From now on, it must surely be recognised by land-owning firms and institutions in and around Jericho that the days of thoughtless disregard of local feelings are over. In the case of Ruskin, the college states that it had actually bought the cottages concerned for demolition, as if that excused all.

Jericho and Walton Streets are at the moment at the mercy of college-hostel, language-school, restaurant, and cinema interests, for whom permanent residents seem to be an unfortunate hindrance.

The commuter, tourist, short-term resident, and visitor are no doubt more profitable - but the process has gone far enough. We hope that this year will have helped to demonstrate this.

E.W.A.

USE RECYCLED PAPER  
- AND SAVE TREES!



Jericho Echo is printed on 100% recycled paper, available from Oxford Friends of the Earth, 88 Bullingdon Road, price £1-50 per ream.

How about some men to join the at present all-female Editorial Committee?

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