

The Jericho Echo

NO. 16

DECEMBER 1981



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EDITORIAL

We hope that you will find plenty to interest you in this, the Christmas issue of the Echo.

We are sorry that there has been rather a long time lapse between the last issue and this one but there is a happy reason for the delay. The artist, Sue Taylor has had a baby boy and found herself rather occupied over the past few weeks. Congratulations Sue and Peter who is The Echo's Nature trail expert. Lots of happy nappies to you both.

There is news of St. Barnabas Institute inside which is of importance to the whole community of Jericho. We deserve a centre for all age groups in the district and we can have it if we are all willing to help resuscitate the building that has given so many years of service.

Sinister doings in the cat fraternity are again reported in The Cats of Jericho. Don't take it at face value only!

Another exciting quiz for your delectation; a little bird tells us that one

of the co-winners of the last issue's quiz splashed out on a record. Hope you enter again- this issue the prize is £2.00!

Once again, we reiterate that The Echo is your paper where you can make your news and views heard BUT your name and address must accompany your letter. You have every right to ask for it to be withheld in print but without identification we cannot print your contributions, however comical or newsworthy. Are you listening The Elusive letter writer?

You will find the times of the Christmas services for St. Barnabas Church inside. Also, do not forget the Christmas Pantomime at the Clarendon Press Institute on 11th. Dec. The doors open at 7.30 p.m. for 8.00p.m. A bar will be serving drinks and refreshments.

It only remains for the small but loyal and hardworking Staff of the Echo to wish you all a very Happy and Joyful Christmas. May 1982 be all that you desire.

Shirley Bateman

The Cats of Jericho

Septemember 27th. Dawned bright and clear. Black Tom and his queen, Astra were contentedly grooming themselves in the time honoured fashion. Tom was relatively sanguine about the outcome of the evening's meeting. Several conclaves of cats had adopted the sitting and staring policy throughout the summer months with some degree of success. Also, with the usual exodus of the humans on the sacred 'Summer Holidays' syndrome (which seemed to form such an important part of their lives), there had been a rota of unattended gardens for two to three weeks at a time; this afforded long lazy hours of cat pleasure.

Towards sunset, cats made their way over rooftops and sheds, scaling fences with long practiced ease until they arrived at the Back Yard. Tom, as Chairman, stood slightly above the mewing furry crowd with Tabby to his left and Astra slightly behind. Felix, a new member of the committee, to his right. Clearing his throat Tom raised his right paw in the traditional gesture for quiet.

"Fellow Felines- the purpose of this meeting is to ascertain the freedom that we cats have managed to win from the humans with respect to movement and use of land. I am fairly well satisfied that....." He was interrupted by a tail-waving, yowling mass of cats advancing through the flowers and vegetable patches. A motley crew of wild-eyed savages bearing banners which read

GAP - GINGER'S ALTERNATIVE POLYCYCIS
and TOM OUT GINGER IN

Heading the frenetic assembly was Ginger. He was flanked by Battleman and Yellah, two of the most notorious catar-waulers of the district.

Ginger's contingent pushed and scratched their way to the front of the assembly and with a flying leap Ginger gained the podium.

Hissing at Black Tom, Ginger cuffed him aside and a deathly silence fell over the assembled quadrupeds.

"We've had enough of conciliation and tenuous policies. What is needed is power. Don't be misled by the absence of the humans on their annual laze-about. Now is the time of the crop-gathering, the bulb -planting. Will they want us scratching in their earth?"

"NO" came the concerted roar.

"My policies are simple- overwhelm them. Twine round their ankles in a simulated attitude of affection and trip them up. Wait for the bulbs to be planted and rip them up. Sharpen your claws on the new young saplings. Hang from the washing- Anything that will reduce the humans to raging wrecks. Eventually they will leave the gardens to us- TO US"- he screamed the last in a high-pitched yowl- fur standing on end.

Hundreds of cats were screeching for Ginger, they had arrived from all district of Oxford alerted by Daily Catfo.

Fights and scuffles broke out in the crowded Back Yard between rival contingencies. Black Tom screamed for control, but could not be heard.

Turning to Astra, Felix and Tabby he beckoned them to one side, "This is dreadful, appalling. We shall have to gather the friends that we have left and see what influence we can bring in other ways. Come!" and he led the way out of the Back Yard. Ginger's entourage saw Black Tom's retreat and raised a cat-calling scream of triumph.

GINGER FOR LEADER
POWER TO THE MASSES.
YOWL.YOWL. YOWL.

Windows were opening with a crash all round the Back Yard. Several humans threw buckets of cold water onto the cats. Despite Ginger's continued screams the wet-furred brigade drifted away to lick themselves dry. When a brick caught Battleman a glancing blow on the hip even Ginger's crew withdrew. But they were triumphant!

Tom, meanwhile, was engaged in consultation with Felix, Tabby and Astra. "Ginger is a time-bomb. The lunatic fringe that he has gathered around him are the scrag-end of the cat-world. Footloose and non-owned they respect nothing. But they are attractive to the Kits (adolescent cats) representing as they do spurious excitement and illusory freedom."

"Surely, Tom," purred Astra, "the Kits of our acquaintance have been bred with some standards of decency; they have enough catelligence to see Ginger for the catomaniac that he is."

"Taking every Kit's natural need for rebellion" Tabby interposed "there is no knowing which way they will turn."

"We could discuss all night, we need ideas!" A soft padding brought Fluff into the dark corner, his green eyes the only visible mark of his presence.

Astra purred greetings to her son who had left the litter some weeks previously. Tom cuffed him affectionately. "Father, I was at the meeting. I think I can help."

"How?"

"Since leaving the litter I have contacted several of Ginger's fringe members" He mewed reassuringly at Astra's indrawn breath, "it is alright, Mother. I wanted to find out what Ginger was planning. They seem powerful but if ginger was discredited or removed the rest would fall apart. This is my plan....."

Black, tabby and grey heads drew together as Fluff outlined his idea.

Nigel Hiscock
architect

Dipl Arch Oxford
31 Gt. Clarendon St.
Oxford OX26AT

Dear Editor,

On the inside pages of August's Jericho Echo a plea was made for play streets no fewer than three times. Despite the superficial attractions of the idea, play streets can create far more problems than they solve.

1. Closing streets off with bollards, as suggested, greatly increases traffic flow and parking in the other streets.
2. People in closed streets generally have to park their cars further away from their homes than at present.
3. Collections and deliveries to closed streets, such as furniture removals are difficult, and people would probably have to carry their dustbins to the end of the closed streets for refuse collection. When the Council was hell-bent on street closures a few years ago, more pressure was placed on unclosed streets for parking than those streets could take. Consequently the Council was forced to propose large garage courts in the middle of our blocks of houses, in place of people's gardens. In other words, in order to have potted plants and trees in the streets, the plants and trees in people's gardens were threatened with destruction to make way for the cars thereby displaced!

The solution surely lies on the playing field, in addition to the summer play scheme. Happily, youngsters of all ages now play there without being chased off and it would be a simple matter for the Church and the School to organise a rota of parents so that toddlers could be left there too. A list of 20 or 30 parents would mean that no-one would need to put in more than an hour or so each month.

Yours faithfully,
Nigel Hiscock.

Dear Editor,

One of your recent correspondents brought up the eternal issue of dog fouled pavements.

I believe it should be brought to the attention of any authority prepared to do something positive to stop this menace, that there are a number of dog owners in the area who regularly kick their pets out onto the street with total disregard for the dog, the law, or for the condition of the area - one family having dumped no less than three dogs on the streets in the last four years.

I am a dog lover, and I hope in writing this it may influence a few people to think twice about keeping a dog if they are not prepared to look after it properly.

Yours faithfully,
Jericho Resident.

QUIZ ? ? ? ?

We congratulate the winners of last issues prize which was split between two identical entries. Editor's decision being final. May we point out that ALL the answers are contained within the advertisements of this issue. All entries in a sealed envelope to the Editor by Dec. 31st.

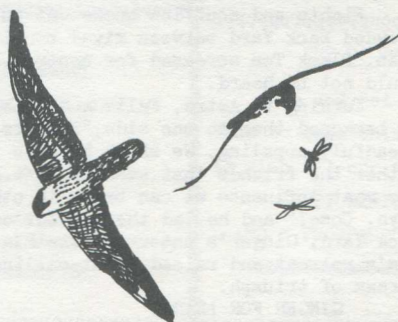
PRIZE £2.00. PRIZE £2.00. PRIZE £2.00.

- 1) Who provides hand-made silk?
- 2) What might you need if you rang Oxford 511531?
- 3) Who will make you garments at will?
- 4) What would one find at 3345?
- 5) Where would you find the Jericho Elephant? (clue: think of a song).
- 6) Who offers you a prosperous New Year?
- 7) Where can you find a bite to eat on a Sunday?
- 8) Which firm live up to their name?

Jericho Nature Trail

On a bright day in late september, whilst working by my window, I heard the shrill, rapid kee-kee-kee of a falcon. Such birds are not normally noisy and I went out into the street to investigate- perhaps a kestrel was being 'mobbed' by other birds, a standard way of drawing attention to birds of prey and spreading the alarm to the unwary. The kestrel is the only falcon normally to be seen hereabouts. I have often seen them around the church tower, where one day perhaps they will breed. To my absolute surprise, the bird circling over Wellington Street was not a kestrel, but the rare and beautiful hobby. I dashed back for my field-glasses, hoping it would not disappear from view behind the houses. It did not, and I was rewarded with a magnificent sight as it circled and glided among the house martins, upon which it sometimes preys. It looked like a huge swift, with its long scimitar-like wings. This bird is much faster than the kestrel, which hovers and dives upon prey such as mice and voles and the occasional unwary bird. The hobby is a hunter in true falcon style, fast enough to chase martins and larks, and agile enough to catch dragonflies, another main source of food. Hobbies breed in Oxfordshire, one of the few southern counties where they traditionally nest, and in the whole of Britain there are only one or two hundred nests each year, compared to perhaps 60,000 kestrel nests. Whereas the kestrel is a familiar sight hovering over motorway verges, and often nests in towns, the hobby is a bird of open country with clumps of tall trees for nesting- it is commonest in the heathland and downs of Hampshire. Having concluded that this particular bird was passing through on its way to a winter retreat on the African savannah, I was most surprised to be drawn outside the next day- by two birds! And after a week of regular appearances, I had to conclude that a pair had really taken to the delights of Jericho, or that the whole northern population were using the church-tower for navigation on their flight to the south. Perhaps it was a good year for dragonflies on the canal. Whatever the reason, it was a real treat.

Peter Taylor



FISH & SCHEME

At the Annual meeting of the fish scheme in the St. Barnabas Institute on October 8th, it was emphasised that there is so much good neighbourliness in Jericho that the Fish Scheme has had a relatively small part to play, - but during the past year it has proved well worth while in filling gaps and introducing people to one another.

As one of the 28 Schemes in the neighbourhood of Oxford it offers short-term emergency help to the Sick, the Disabled, the Elderly and Mothers with young children by shopping, cooking, caring, transporting and by doing various odd-jobs.

If you need help or know anyone who may or if you might be able to offer help if need arises near your home of which you otherwise might not know, please contact the local organiser:

Robin Whitworth, 9 Richmond Rd. Tel 50147 or:

Val French, 37 Juxon St. Tel. 512554
Caroline Heyns 28 Gt. Clarendon St.

Tel 511427
Gwen Hockin 36 Hart St. Tel 54584

Muriel Hunt 47 Cardigan St. Tel 511836
Fr. Michael Wright 15 St. Barnabas St.

Tel 57530

A pamphlet giving more information about the Fish Scheme will readily be given or delivered to you free on request.

At present there are three particular needs:

1. Could anyone help to prepare teas for elderly people who otherwise might never at the St. Barnabas Institute from 2.15 till 4.15 on alternate Tuesdays, -
2. Could anyone with a car and not already fully engaged occasionally drive people to and from these tea-parties, and perhaps occasionally to a hospital appointment?
3. An elderly lady who is up and about but housebound would be very grateful if someone could sometimes wash and set her hair (with suitable payment).

PAPER COLLECTION CONTINUES

Despite yet another drop in the price of waste paper which has forced Friends of The Earth to cut back on collections in some parts of Oxford, the fortnightly doorstep collection in Jericho is still happening.

FOE say that the response from people in Jericho has been very good and continues to grow. The friendly response and reception they've had from people in the area is another reason why they decided to keep this collection going.

NO MAGAZINES, PLEASE.

One thing they have had to change though It's now very difficult to get magazines recycled- that means anything that is stapled or glued together- so from now on they request newspapers only, please. Otherwise they collect, as before, jumble, rags, aluminium foil (milk tops etc.) and old pots and pans. Dates of Collection are advertised in The Jericho Echo.

ST. BARNABAS GIFT DAY

May I use The Echo to say a very big 'Thank You' to all who so generously contributed to the Gift Day on the Saturday before our Dedication Day (Oct. 17th) £300 was raised and I hope those whom I did not thank personally will accept this as a sincere expression of my gratitude.

Fr. Michael Wright.

Local News and Information

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a Happy New Year

to all our customers.

Martin and Ray.

ST. BARNABAS INSTITUTE

The Parochial Church Council has passed a resolution agreeing to hand over the responsibility for maintaining and developing the Institute in Canal St. to a committee representing the community as a whole. This will mean that the P.C.C. will soon pass over the payments of bills and collection of rents to this committee. It also means that this committee must begin to see how the Institute can be restored. Our application for a grant through the Urban Aid Scheme has been processed by the City Council and placed 5th. out of 11 applications forwarded to the Dept. of the Environment. It thus has the Council's backing and we must hope that it will be approved. If so, it will provide us with £3,500 to begin the work of restoration. We ourselves will have to do the bulk of the work and I trust that all who want this building truly to serve the whole community will rally round to help.

A meeting on Nov. 10th. was held to form a committee of management but anyone else interested in helping will be most welcome and should get in touch with me at St. Barnabas Vicarage, St. Barnabas St.
Fr. Michael.

St. Barnabas welcome Fr. John Ellis the new parish priest at St. Aloysius.
Farewell to our old friends the Jesuits.

THE JERICHO MUSIC CLUB

The Jericho Music Club was formed in order to create a pleasant, friendly atmosphere to perform and hear a large variety of music. It has now been going successfully for three months with growing interest and attendance. The music is always varied and on one night you might hear a line-up including Jazz, blues, folk or music hall. We have also had a superb group-'Reputation' who play 60's music. Each night there is a main guest plus two or three support acts-usually all doing contrasting material.? It is exciting to have such variety in one evening. We are always interested to hear of anyone locally who would like to perform or who has any ideas for the club. Do come along, it's fun, friendly and good music! It is held in the upstairs room of The Jericho Tavern, Walton Street every Tuesday. The bar opens at 7.30 p.m. and the music starts at 8.00p.m. Prices are usually 75p for members (membership £1.00) and 95p for guests- but this is occasionally varied when we book a more expensive guest. Some dates to look forward to are: December 15th. when we have booked a London based group-Toffs who are very entertaining and do mainly material from the 20's and 30's. Tuesday 22nd December is the Super Mad Christmas Night which will be a lot of laughs and very good music from local group Jumblead. This may be restricted to Members only as it will be very popular- so come along and JOIN NOW.

PARENTS - DANGER GUY COURT PARKING AREA

To a child the garden, steps and parking area of guy court may look like a wonderfully exciting playground. Chasing up and down the concrete steps-but- a missed step, face-down onto a concrete floor in front of a car that is just starting to move. The ramp looks ideal for bikes and karts, down you go and swing sharp left over the lip into the parking area- as a car is backing. Cops and robbers round the cars, pow, pow, pow and dodge back behind the car- as an incoming car swings into its parking bay alongside. We, the residents don't want it to happen.

Legally anyone who is not a resident or a bonafide visitor is a trespasser but legal arguments about rights or compensation do not mend broken bones. So please help us to avoid the accident by telling your children not to play where there are cars.

HELEN HOUSE COLLECTION AT

THE CARPENTERS' ARMS.

£161.65 was collected by the clients of the Carpenters' Arms in a bottle which was broken last 4th. Nov. 1981. It was collected on behalf of Mother Francis Dominica, All Saints Convent. Congratulations and thanks to you all.

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LUCY'S GIFT TO ST. BARNABAS

A new viewing screen has been donated by W. Lucy & Company to St. Barnabas Church, Jericho. Made and fitted by the company it is a generous and fitting gift, given in time for the Christmas Season. It will now be possible for visitors to the church who wish either to view or to worship in private prayer to do so outside service times.

Fr. Michael Wright was generous in his praise for the designer, Abingdon architect Alan Drury and Lucy's craftsman David Godfrey, who together had produced a screen suited to the Victorian style of the building.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. BARNABAS

THURS. 10th	Evening Play at the School	THURS. 24th	MIDNIGHT MASS AND BLESSING OF THE CRIB
FRID. 11th			
SUNDAY 13th	6.30 PM ADVENT AND CAROL SERVICE BY THE CHOIR	FRIDAY 25th	8.0 AM: HOLY COMMUNION 10.30 AM SONG MASS OF CHRISTMAS
FRIDAY 18th	2.30 PM SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE	SUNDAY 27th	10.30 AM: MASS OF THE HOLY FAMILY 6.30 PM: EVENSING AND BENEDICTION

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