



Jericho Echo



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Patients rewarded

NHS funding changes could be to Jericho's advantage.

None of the three practices working from the Jericho Health Centre chose to be fund-holding. When the internal market was introduced within the NHS they did not think they would gain much by using their own budgets to shop around for services from different hospitals. The John Radcliffe and the Radcliffe Infirmary were always going to be the realistic choices.

The situation will change, however, from April with the establishment of 'primary care groups' one of which will cover the city of Oxford. This system, which will eventually replace the internal market, will get GPs, community nurses, social services and others working more closely together to identify health priorities – and choose how to spend the money.

One of Jericho's Doctors Dr. Andy Chivers, who is also chair of the Oxford City Primary Care Group Board, says: "We're in the enviable position of already having high-quality services, so it's more a question of improving something reasonably good". He points out that the services that the fund-holding services purchased most enthusiastically were counselling and physiotherapy. "If these are good services they should be available to everyone".

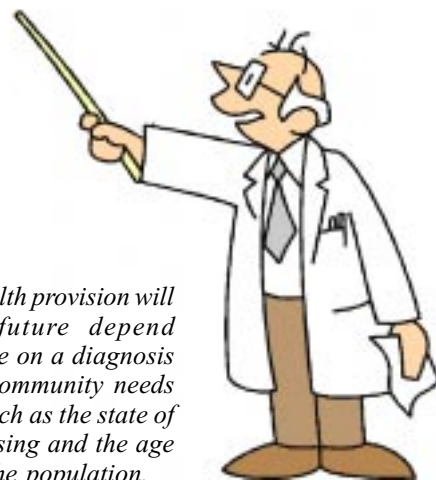
Where they would take place is another matter. The Jericho Health Centre is pretty full. Currently it is the base for nine doctors, three practice nurses, five district

nurses, and two health visitors. But the building is showing its age. It was constructed in 1971, for what now seems like a bargain price of £50,220, as part of the renewal of Jericho, replacing some old homes and shops. Also in the development were the council flats above, some garages and a shop in Cranham Street.

Though there are only around 2,500 people in Jericho, the centre currently serves 12,000. Many people settling in Oxford start out in the city centre then move to the leafier suburbs but keep their doctor. Now there is severe pressure on space – despite splitting a practice a few years back and transferring some Jericho people with their doctor to the North Oxford Health Centre. The building's layout doesn't allow for what nowadays would be thought essentials – such as rooms for breast-feeding or baby-changing. And having been designed around one system of patient record-keeping it had to switch to a different bulkier one that leaves the receptionists working in cramped conditions. Over time the centre has expanded to include the shop premises, and nurses now work from what was the caretaker's flat.

A less positive health development for Jericho will be the closure of the Radcliffe Infirmary. By around 2003 some services will start to move to the John Radcliffe and Churchill sites, which means we will no longer have such convenient access to physiotherapy or X-ray services. Though nothing has yet been decided, it is likely that the University, which already owns part

Health provision will in future depend more on a diagnosis of community needs – such as the state of housing and the age of the population.



of the site, will use it for another college.

Fortunately one of our other local health facilities is staying put – the Podiatry Clinic in Albert Street. Podiatry is another name for chiropody. This offers NHS footcare for the west of the city but it is particularly convenient for Jericho's older population.

This site in Albert Street was once occupied by, among other things, the St. Barnabas Slipper Baths. Since demand for public baths had fallen, this was closed in 1971 making way for a new building that housed a number of activities including a child health clinic and chiropody. From 1994 it also became the podiatry headquarters for Oxfordshire. As well as offering consultations this is also where they manufacture many kinds of foot support.

This is an 'open access' clinic and around 70% of people contact the clinic directly. If you have foot problems you can call 311312 to get instant advice or to make an appointment – the waiting list for non-urgent care on the NHS is currently around eight weeks. You can also get a quicker consultation if you pay (£15 for the clinic, £30 for a home visit). However if you just have difficulty cutting your toenails you will have to look elsewhere. Either go to a private chiropodist, or ask someone else – how well do you get on with your neighbours?

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Jericho Guitar School



Beginners welcome. Mondays at 7.30 p.m. at the Community Centre. No charge for the first class. Information from the Community Centre on 557902, or James Baldwin on 558534.

What was that?

AN OCCASIONAL GUIDE TO
JERICHO'S DISTINCTIVE BUILDINGS

No. 6 King Street



Jenny Barsley

The earliest mention we can find of this building is from 1871 when a Mr Soden had a chimney-sweeping business here. Later from 1889-97 the building was owned by a builder named J. Baker. He then sold it to Mick Tysall who kept horses and used No. 6 as a repair workshop for early motor cars.

In 1910 it was taken over by the Faulkner brothers who started a bicycle business (surprisingly, also selling fruit and vegetables). The grandson of one of these men, Mr Bill Faulkner, took over after his grandfather's death and continued the bicycle business, combining this with motorcycles, using 55 Walton Street as a shop frontage. He tells me that he used to keep old penny-farthing bikes upstairs above his workshops and still has one at his home at Church Hanborough. In 1983 Faulkners moved to Botley Road. The shop at the front was sold to what is now Cycle King and No. 6 was sold to furniture designer Lucinda Leech.

Lucinda, who lives in Walton Street, made the distinctive modern frontage and uses the ground floor as her workshop where with a team of craftsmen she produces beautiful custom-made modern furniture. She lets out the upper floor to Mr Robert Clark, an antiquarian bookseller whose rooms are filled with the wonderful smell of leather-bound books.

Jenny Barsley, Grantham House

Jude the Obscure

A pub in Jericho

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Memories of wigs and cassocks

More recollections from Jo Elvidge, now in Somerset.

It was heart-warming to hear from friends who remember 'Josie Rumble' following my 'Jericho Childhood' article (May 1998). Eric Clarke kindly sent me a school photograph, probably circa 1932. Sadly, Eric says that many of the boys lost their lives in the War, and others have died since.

Some teachers leave a lasting memory, for good or ill, and infant-school days were coloured by green hammocks, in which we took our rest, and by Miss Johnson of the Reception Class, a lady with a severe chignon hair style, and later on, by Miss Coles, who inspired a fearful respect, and who we imagined wore an auburn wig. As St. Barnabas was a church school, Canon Bisdee came to take Scripture lessons. In his black cassock and biretta he seemed remote and austere; and the Church itself was dark and forbidding.

The Senior School Headmaster was Mr. Miles, a white-haired bachelor, who sometimes forayed with pupils to unlock the secrets of our famous city. I once won half-a-crown for an essay written after a visit to the Sheldonian Theatre and the Bodleian Library, because I mentioned their 'Corinthian and Ionic pillars'.

With music in the family, my parents

struggled to buy me a piano, paying weekly by instalments, and I took lessons for sixpence a week with Miss Pratley in Cranham Terrace. She was a strict Victorian lady, who wielded a heavy pointer and lifted one's wrists to the correct angle. The piano, of course, needed tuning from time to time, and that introduced us to Oscar, a blind man, well-known in the area.

Hedges, the Butcher (now Ali's), had a shop on the corner of Albert and Gt. Clarendon Streets, and most weekends I was dispatched to ask for 'the blade end of a half-shoulder of lamb, please'. Phyllis Hedges, the daughter, once took me to the family farm in Temple Cowley to savour the delights of 'almost country' as Cowley was then. Of course we also had the freedom of Port Meadow when we were old enough to fish for tiddlers and collect frogspawn at Medley, passing a Catholic Seminary at the top of Walton Well Road, where we sometimes stopped to be shown the aviary by the Brothers.

The friends who most influenced my life were those at Walton St. Methodist Church, since demolished (like my home in Wellington St). I am indebted to them for introducing me to art and literature, to summer plays in College Gardens, to boating on the Cherwell, and to the wider world of learning, in short, to the treasures of Oxford – 'my city'.

Canal festival

The Oxford Canal Festival on Sunday 23 May will celebrate our thriving canal community – through music, dance, drama, art, literature and crafts. Schools can enter art, craft, photography and poetry on the subject of 'Our Canal In Oxford'. Adults can also display work.

The Festival focus will be at Aristotle Lane recreation ground, but it will extend along the canal, including in Jericho the College Cruisers' boatyard, the Community Centre, and St. Barnabas Church. A second craft fair may take place next to Rosamund the Fair. To book a stall call Philippa McAllister on 552709. There will be a waterbus service, and *Venturer*, the charitably owned narrowboat, should be available for disabled visitors. Assistance is still needed, both on the day and in advance. Please ring Catherine Robinson on 511307. A public meeting will discuss the logistics at St. Margaret's Institute in Polstead Road on 23 March at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

Mark Davies, Hythe Bridge moorings.

In Memoriam

Louise Busby – Louise lived in Cardigan Street, and died at the end of last year. She had a fascinating life in India as a nanny and was a very spiritual woman. Her brother was landlord of 'The Crown'. She knew Jericho well and will be much missed.

Charlie Cooper – Charlie lived in Victor Street for many years. Although he had moved out of Jericho, towards the end to be cared for by his daughter, his commanding presence and generous nature will not be forgotten in Victor Street.

Bob Evans – Bob, who lived in Great Clarendon Street, did not care too much for his appearance so could sometimes be dismissed as an eccentric, but those who knew him respected his alert mind and enjoyed his sense of humour.

Randy Shrimpton – Randy, who died in January in his nineties, was in the wine trade for much of his life, but in later years was wheelchair bound, with a distinctive ramp outside his door in Nelson Street. Right up to the end he was cooking his famous Christmas puddings for friends.

New funds to play with

We do now seem to be getting better provision for young people. At the last Jericho Area Committee meeting in November it was announced that around £100,000 would be spent on leisure facilities in Jericho. This turned out to be an overestimate – or at least we'll not see it all immediately. Some money is to be used, for example, to improve the football field at Aristotle Lane (which, though used by Jericho people, is outside Jericho). Still, Jericho itself may be in line for around £60,000. Of this around half will be used to create the new play area in the school field on the corner of Hart Street and Great Clarendon Street to replace the one behind the school. Draft plans have been prepared for this and consultations have started.

Consultations are also underway on how best to use the other funds. A meeting with councillors and city officers at the Com-

munity Centre in January, with about 30 young people, produced a long list of suggestions. These included some football facilities, including a goalpost and a section of all-weather surface, low balance beams, and perhaps a lower basketball hoop for the under-tens, with lights to permit night-time use. People also suggested other things that might go in the Community Centre, such as facilities for pool, snooker and table tennis.

However there is also some immediate action on the youth front. The bus service to the Wolvercote Young People's Club on Wednesday evenings has now been resumed. And on Thursday evenings at the Community Centre there will be a Music Café – a sort of DJ school for 13 to 19 year-olds. At the same time two council youth workers will run a drop-in club for young people. These are, however, at present only due to last eight weeks.

All of Jericho's a stage ...

And this year there's even more drama than usual.

You might have thought that *Shakespeare in Love* was the bard's major exposure for 1999. If so, you haven't heard of the Jericho Film and Theatreworks production of *As You Like It*, which will be staged from 21 to 26 June this year at the Old Fire Station.

Jericho Film and Theatreworks has a core of around nine people based in the Community Centre. The company has already made a short movie, *The Bird*, which was filmed at the Phoenix cinema and should shortly be shown there. For this epic, however, the cast will be extended to number 30, almost all of whom have been recruited from Jericho. A further 17 people make up the stage crew, most of whom are employed at OUP and live in the neighbourhood.

Producer and director Maggie Shade, who lives in Castle Mill House, says: "Our project is centred on learning for ourselves how we can all create something together as part of a community. Jericho has a long history of amateur theatre production – particularly when we think of people like Bill Clifford, now 92, who was around when a hugely active drama group was

part of the community centred around St. Barnabas Church. They put on everything from musicals to Christmas pageants to Shakespeare, and even Lord Byron. So we are tapping into something that has been around here for a long time."

This will be a modern-dress production with a fairly minimal set. As Maggie says: "It makes more sense that way ... We don't want the play to be stuck in some world that nobody knows about". Most of the casting is now complete, but the company is still looking for people to help with the costumes. Musicians would also be welcome, and if anyone is very keen to act, there is always room for more. Maggie and the company feel that, as a community effort, all who wish to take part should be made welcome. If you would like to lend a hand, please call 552569. But in any case make a note in your diary for the last week in June.

On a slightly smaller scale, you might also like to know that St. Barnabas School is presenting 'The Hobbit' on 18 and 19 March at 6.00 p.m. in the school hall.



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

Briefly ...

Wandering buses

Closing Cornmarket at the end of May will affect Jericho's bus service by lengthening the route. The service is only economic if it can be completed in 30 minutes and thus offer two trips each hour, so there have been suggestions that the bus might only go along Walton Street, without entering Jericho. But Councillor Susanna Pressell is in talks with the Oxford Bus Company and is confident that the bus will continue to run from Canal Street to the Westgate Centre.

Open door to the AGM

The 1973 BBC *Open Door* film about Jericho will be screened at this year's Annual General Meeting of the Jericho Community Association at the Community Centre on 12 April at 8.00 p.m. Everyone in Jericho is a member of the Association, so please come along. This film was made by Maggie Black and Lucy Willis, then living in Cardigan Street.

St. Barnabas 'bells'

These are not actually bells at all, but metal cylinders of various lengths that are struck by hammers controlled by a splendid Victorian contraption of Heath-Robinson complexity. The Church intends to restore the mechanism so the cylinders can ring in the Millennium Year. This will cost around £7,000. Needless to say, contributions are welcome.

Heavyweight boxing

So now you know what your neighbours are reading, and drinking. Jericho is one of the most successful areas for the new 'green box' recycling scheme. Together with part of Walton Manor and Kingston Road we are producing around 3.5 tonnes per week. So far there has been more newspaper than expected. Average weekly collection now amounts to 2,000 kg. of paper, 910 kg. of green glass, 220 kg. of clear glass, and 80 kg. of brown glass. There are also 130 kg. of cans and 140 kg. of textiles and shoes.

Annual street fair

Jericho's major social event of the year is the annual street fair which will be held on Saturday 12 June. We need as many helpers as possible. Please call Carolyn Dutton on 557902.

Millennium party

Can we have a 'Jericho Party' at the school on New Year's Eve? If you're interested please come along to the Community Centre on Monday 10 May at 7.30 p.m. to discuss the possibilities. Otherwise contact Carolyn Dutton at the Community Centre, or Jan Needle, or Father Michael at the Vicarage.

Jericho Notice Board

Community Centre Café – Open Saturday mornings at 10.30 a.m. for coffee, tea, and pastries.

Office space available – Suitable for counselling, language teaching, arts studio, or small business. Two large offices, kitchenette and two toilets. Parking available. Please ring Carolyn Dutton on 557902.

British Legion – First Monday of each month, 7.00 p.m. Grantham House. You do not need to be an ex-service person to become an associate member.

Jericho Family Lunches – Every Thursday, 11.45 a.m.-3 p.m. Good value refreshments. Free crèche. All ages welcome.

Jericho Youth Group – A weekly club with a wide range of activities for 8-12 year-olds. Tuesdays, 7.00 p.m.-9.00 p.m. Contact Denise or Neil Townsend, tel. 559648.

Bingo Sessions – Wednesdays, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Community Centre.

Silver Screen – Shows for senior citizens at the Phoenix, Wednesday afternoons – £3.00 with complimentary tea and coffee.

Parents and Toddlers Group – Thursdays in the school library, 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Jericho Playgroup – Two- to four-year olds. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-11.30 a.m. in the Community Centre. Places available. Call mornings 552001, evenings 311875.

Over-60s Club – Fridays, 2.00 p.m. Grantham House. Speakers or bingo. Further information: Mary Neill, 515187.

Contacting Councillors – West Ward Councillors' surgeries, 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the Community Centre. Labour

on the first Saturday of the month. Lib/Dems on the second Saturday. Alternatively call City Councillors: Will Cavendish, 271956; Susanna Pressel, 554001; Jeremy Wynne, 553606. County Councillor: Fiona Campbell, 790936.

Police contact numbers – Jericho's Community Beat Officer is PC Billy Linton, 266191 or 224568. General Enquiries, including Neighbourhood Watch, 266000.

Jericho Community Association – Our Annual General Meeting will be on Monday 12 April at 8.00 p.m. All Jericho residents welcome.

Music Café and Drop-in Club for young people – At the Community Centre, Thursdays 5.00 p.m.-7.00 p.m. Further details from Susanna Pressel, 554001.

Jericho Street Fair – Saturday 12 June. We need lots of helpers to make this the most successful street fair ever. Stallholders welcome: £12 (charities £8).

Plant sale – 24 April. Plant donations wanted as well as green-related stalls. Call 557902 for details.

Nearly-new sale – Babies' and children's clothing. Every Wednesday at the Community Centre 9 a.m.-12 noon.

Freestyle dance teacher wanted – To run a session for teenagers at the Community Centre on Fridays. Please call 557902.

The Hobbit – St Barnabas School play. School hall, 18 and 19 March 6.00 p.m.

Echo Online – Previous issues of the *Echo* and a special 'Jericho Guide' are available at www.pstalker.demon.co.uk/echo.

Classes at the Community Centre

Acting – Thursdays, 8.00 p.m.-10.00 p.m. Contact Margaret Shade, tel. 552569.

Ballet – Tues. 6.30 p.m.-8.00 p.m. Contact Karen Sellick, tel. 248497. Thurs. 3.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m. Contact Jill Saint, tel.(01869) 350535.

Drawing – Saturdays, 2.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m. Contact: Kia Bailey, tel.728748.

Egyptian Dance – Wed. 6.15 p.m.-8.30 p.m. Katrina Robinson, tel. 777462.

Flamenco Dancing – If you are interested in joining a class, please call 284159.

Guitar for Beginners. Mon. 7.30 p.m.-9.00 p.m. Enquiries: tel. 557902

Italian – Classes forming now. Contact Chris Nirrenski, tel. 559004.

Juggling – Tues. 5.30 p.m.-7.00 p.m. 50p.

Life Drawing – Sat. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact Chris Nirrenski, tel. 559004.

Line Dancing – Mon. 7.00 p.m.-8.00 p.m. Enquiries tel. 557902.

Spanish for Travel – Tues. 6.00 p.m.-7.00 p.m.

Toddlers Without Tears – Parenting class. Tues. 9.30 a.m.-10.30 a.m. Free crèche.

Wing Chun, Martial Arts – Mon. and Wed. 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Contact Ed Yuen, tel. 862518.

Yoga – Tues. 8.15 p.m.-9.15 p.m. Contact Joe Burn, tel. 715147. Wed. 9.15 a.m. Contact Mariella Di Martini, tel. 245893. Thurs. 6.00 p.m.-7.15 p.m. Contact Becky Ward, tel. 726808. Sun. 11 a.m.-12 noon Contact Joe Burn, tel. 715147.

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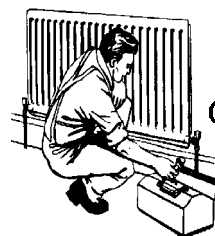
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