

Developing our doorstep

Changes ahead for Jericho

A packed public meeting in November assessed the potential impact of multiple developments on life in Jericho. The inspiration came from the late Paul Cullen of Richmond Road who had been due to explain his concerns at the 2011 AGM of the Jericho Community Association in the Spring. At a special meeting on November 16 his partner Ros Weatherall gave the presentation Paul had prepared.

Ros started by indicating the scale of what lies ahead. The largest development, and currently underway, is the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ). But there are many others that will involve more accommodation. The redevelopment on the corner of Walton Street and Little Clarendon Street will include 41 rooms. In what is now Ruskin College, Exeter College, will be developing a 'third quadrangle' which will also include student rooms – though this will only replace those currently at Ruskin. Then there is Grantham House, plus whatever will replace the current health centre. Add to that the Jericho Wharf development and we are likely to see many more people, in the area. Ros says: "I am all for students, but we have to keep a balance."

One major concern is what is going to happen on Walton Street, with the po-



*Ros Weatherall said:
"Paul was not sure that the people of Jericho realised quite what was happening. He wanted us to start thinking about how the whole place was developing, rather than just accepting piecemeal things that are offered from different developers as they come along."*

tential for more delivery trucks, dangers to cyclists, and people crowding the narrow pavements.

One resident said: "I have lived in Walton Street for 20 years and there has been an enormous difference in the way the street works and operates. Often people are spilling out onto the street late at night. I'm surprised there are not more accidents. I'd like to see a completely new plan for Walton Street to make it a safer place."

Representatives of the various developers also attended the meeting. Commenting on the pressure from users of the ROQ site on facilities in Jericho, the University pointed out that it would have its own catering facilities as part of an 'integrated facilities management plan'. The site would be open to the public, who might also be able to use its cafeterias.

Exeter announced that architects had just been appointed for their new site and that they were keen to have the views of Jericho residents. And representatives from Somerville suggested that the college developments would help take students out of Jericho houses, though as George Taylor of Great Clarendon Street said: "Every time colleges build more rooms more students seem to come in from elsewhere to fill those in Jericho."

Residents argued that we now need a 'neighbourhood plan' for Jericho that

would take into account the movement of people and traffic, creating and preserving public space, and creating opportunities for more community activities.

For Walton Street, for example, this might involve a redesign so that space could be more safely shared between cars, cyclists and pedestrians. More use could be made of the top of Jericho Street where there has occasionally been a street market. Indeed Walton Street itself might sometimes be closed for community events. It is also important to improve the quality of public space, with trees and street-facing gardens.

Jericho also needs to make better use of shared spaces such as that outside the Bookbinders, or those that could be created through the Wharf development. There were concerns that because the school is oversubscribed any further expansion of its buildings would reduce the green space available for after-hours use.

Speeding cars remain a perennial problem. The police explained their technology for monitoring speeds though their system does not result in fines for persistent offenders. To reduce traffic flows we also need better bus services and could make more use of car clubs such as Zipcar.

Further details and Paul's slideshow presentation are available on the JCA website at www.jerichocentre.org.uk.

Jericho's best breakfast



Full English brunch, or coffee and home-made cakes.

Jericho Community Centre Café.
Every Saturday 11.00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Summer scenes

The Jericho Street Fair brought thousands of people to Canal Street in June. Thanks to all who helped make this such a success, but particularly our 'events manager' Charlotte Christie, and music organizer on the main stand Chris Padmore.



Irish dancers draw an appreciative crowd



Rosemary Strawson helps at the JCA stall



Chris Padmore at the Wellington St. stage

JCA committee 2011-12

At the AGM of the Jericho Community Association on May 13 officers elected were: Chair, Charlotte Christie; Secretary, Jenny Mann; Treasurer, Peter Stalker; Vice-Chair: Paul Hornby. Others elected to the management committee were: Adrian Arbib, Fr. Jonathan Beswick, Scott Ellis, Hannah Kirby, George Taylor and Bill Wilson. Subsequently coopted was John Keyes.



You can also follow Jericho events and news on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/jericho.oxford

Other Jericho Links

Jericho Echo: jerichoecho.org.uk

Community Centre: jerichocentre.org.uk

Church: sbarnabas.org.uk

School: st-barnabas.oxon.sch.uk

Community Boatyard: jcby.co.uk

Jericho Living Heritage Trust: jlht.org

Jericho Wharf project: jerichowharf.com

Opening the heart of Jericho

Through stories and memories

One evening I was walking through Jericho from the bridge over the canal to the Picturehouse, and found myself on Cranham Street. All along the top half of the street stretched one, long-boarded-up building. It looked so sad and lonely, sitting empty and forlorn in the heart of Jericho – a community that I've always experienced as warm and friendly.

This image of Grantham House, cold and abandoned, began to haunt me. I became curious: What had the building been used for? Who used to live there? Why had they left? What stories had they taken with them? As both a reader and teller of stories I know that the world in which we live is woven from the threads of our experiences and perceptions, and our tales from real life, shared with each other through conversations. The silence of Grantham House therefore echoed loudly in me whenever I walked past it, or thought about it.

So began my project 'Opening the Heart of Jericho'. My interest soon expanded out from the building itself. I found a forgotten memorial bench at the back of Grantham House and ended up researching and reviving the memory of a poet who had lived there, Mary Hampden Jackson. This led to moving her bench to Mount Place and holding a reading of her poems there one evening in August. I found some of the former residents of Grantham House, now living at Furnace House at Lucy's Ironworks, and filmed them chatting about the old days, and their memories of living in Jericho. After talking to Paul Cullen, I began to think about the impact of forthcoming new developments on the wider community. This and my many conversations with people in the area made me realise how much you all love your home, so I held a stall at Jericho Street Fair to gather words and phrases for a collaborative poem, 'I Love Jericho', which I wrote and delivered house to house in September.

Then at the start of October, I invited all who love Jericho to drop by St Barnabas Church, and talk to each other about your love for the community that you live in,



Tuning in to Jericho recollections



Clare Cochrane with Ted Harris of Combe Road, always a mine of Jericho information.

open-heartedly. Over the afternoon people came and wrote postcards to future residents of Jericho, watched the film of Pat, Winnie, Alice and Ann talking at Furnace House, and sat and talked to each other about Jericho. Why hold this kind of event? So often community conversation events are organised for a particular goal – to collect people's views on a proposed development, for example. These sorts of events are really worthwhile, but communities also need opportunities to focus conscious attention on themselves, to deliberately feed the 'community spirit' that they rely on when facing times of upheaval.

Communities are built out of communication, and this work, 'Opening the Heart of Jericho', was sculpted from conversations. I talked to people about the history of Jericho, about their own memories, about their worries, about what they love in Jericho. As an artist, my material is conversation and dialogue, and out of these things I make experiences that I hope bring people to a conscious awareness of the communities in which we live – our immediate, geographical and thematic communities, and the wider community of our society.

I can't say, in the end, what has come from this project, but I hope that it has, in some ways, opened the heart of Jericho a little wider, and fed the warm fires that burn in all who love this magical corner of Oxford. I hope that I've been able to make a little contribution to helping Jericho face the changes that Paul Cullen anticipated with its community spirit strengthened and emboldened. Thank you to everyone in Jericho for opening your beautiful community to me.

If you missed any of Opening the Heart of Jericho, or you want to read the poem 'I Love Jericho', watch the film of the ladies of Grantham House or download the booklet about the project, please go to <http://openingtheheartofjericho.wordpress.com>.

Clare Cochrane

A playgroup for your toddler? See p. 4

Co-operative proliferation

The redevelopment at Walton Street and Little Clarendon Street is going to include in two of the Walton Street units a new supermarket. Not, as some had feared, a Tesco but another Coop. Two in the same street?

The Coop says "We have traded in Jericho for many years with a busy convenience store. Our intention is to widen the offer to our customers and members and provide additional facilities for local people as well as creating job opportunities for people in the area."

The Walton Street Coop is certainly

popular and has very helpful staff. But it is also the most expensive in Oxford. Not only does it charge 20% more for milk and eggs than Tesco or Sainsbury, it is also 5% more expensive on most items than even the Coop in Summertown. In the new store presumably the prices will be equally high. Why are we being charged more? A spokesperson for the Midcounties Co-operative responded: "Our pricing team continually review the prices offered by other retailers so as to provide competitive prices across a range of standard shopping."

Multicolour makeover for 'iconic' Grantham

Grantham house has been bought with finance from the Iconic Assets Heritage Acquisition Fund – an Asian-based fund established to acquire real estate with 'significant historic, iconic or culturally important attributes'.

Oxford firm, Riach Architects will be working on the redesign of the building which will have 29 residential units. This could include a new, 'green' roof. Douglas Riach says: "The existing building envelope will be thermally upgraded with the introduction of modern glazing systems and an insulated external render system to

over-clad the tired existing brickwork. This brings the opportunity to add colour as per the adjacent Observatory Street and Plantation Road."

The purchase was arranged by property entrepreneur Johnny Sandelson. His intention, for which he will shortly be applying for planning permission, is to "create a modern feature building that will provide vibrancy and vitality."

The Council says that proceeds from the sale of the site will be invested in affordable housing, with Jericho having first refusal.

In memoriam

Paul Cullen – Paul died aged 67 in May from a heart attack. He was born in 1943, the result of a wartime adulterous liaison and was put up for adoption: brought up in Chadwell Heath in Essex, he went to St Ignatius School in North London. At 16 he went to sea as a deck cadet and spent a year re-crossing the Atlantic on a bulk freighter, then decided life at sea was not for him and joined British Rail. They sent him to City University, then moved him into management. He married Ann and they lived in Enfield for 25 years where they had one son, Del.

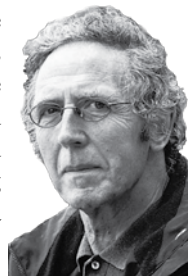
After 15 years Paul left BR and worked for various London boroughs in transport-related posts. He finally went freelance, mostly working for Transport for London, designing computer applications. He also wrote policy papers and did consultancy jobs for Living Streets, a charity that campaigns for better walking conditions.

By the mid-1990s, Paul was divorced. While on the management committee of Living Streets he met Ros Weatherall and they eventually decided to move in together. Around that time he discovered why he'd been adopted, and that he had

two half brothers in the USA. Through a series of lucky chances he managed to contact and visit both Trevor and Bruce. Understanding his background made a huge difference to Paul.

In 2000 Paul and Ros moved to Oxford, living in Richmond Road. He soon became a key member of a number of local organizations and campaigns, including the Civic Society, Cyclo, and the Oxford Pedestrians Association, where his expertise and calm diplomatic skills helped promote his vision of Oxford as a friendly and liveable city. He was influential, for example, in introducing the 20 m.p.h. speed limits.

Paul was also a fund of knowledge on traffic and planning issues as a member of the JCA management committee, where he encouraged us to take a broader vision of Jericho's future. Paul will be sadly missed as a guide and most of all as a friend. Our sympathies to Ros, Del and to grandson Jimi who has just arrived in Oxford as a maths student.



Coping with computers

Francis Hitching of Juxon Street, aged 78, has started 'First Timers', a novel solution, for older people having trouble the internet, and computers in general. "We select appropriate youngsters ("experts") who earn £10 per hour passing on their skills to novices on their own computer in their own home at their own pace. The cost of registration is invariably covered by our help in choosing a computer and internet access" See advertisement on page 4.

Dreaming with Joseph



Each summer and autumn the Oxford Baptist Chapel has a Bible Club for the children at the Jericho Community Centre. This summer the children enjoyed learning about the life of Joseph – with object lessons, songs, face painting, games, snacks, and crafts, all free of charge. The next scheduled club will be in June.

Jericho student wardens

In the new year the Oxford University Student Union will pilot a Student Community Wardens Scheme which will employ students to establish and maintain positive community relationships. Four of these wardens will be assigned to Jericho. They will meet local residents, represent students in community meetings, distribute information and organise community events. More information will be available shortly, but if you have any questions you can email the organizer Daniel Stone at community@ousu.org,

Burglar street chase

It is easy to be burgled. Young men are around our streets seizing opportunities. At the end of November, for example a criminal pushed through a door that had not closed properly and seized several items, only to discover that the resident was at home. This resulted in a chase through the streets, first by the resident, then by a street sweeper. A 999 call produced an impressive response. The police arrived in minutes, flooded the area and made an arrest. The next police 'Have your say' session will be Thurs. 15 Dec. 2.30 to 3.30 p.m. outside St. Barnabas school.

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

Jericho Notice Board

JCC = Jericho Community Centre

Carols in Jericho – Dec. 13, 6.00 p.m.

Jericho Community Association – The JCA, a registered charity, meets on the second Monday of the month at the JCC at 8.00 p.m. Everyone in Jericho is a member of the Association and is welcome.

Community Café – Every Sat. 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at the JCC.

Meals for Homeless – Every third Sunday of the month. JCC, 1.00 p.m.

Oxford Baptist Chapel – Albert Street. Sunday morning worship, 11 a.m. Sunday School, 3 p.m. Sunday evening Gospel service, 6.30 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer meeting and Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Friends of St Sepulchres Cemetery – Our next clean-ups will be 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon on 13 December, and 11 and 24 January. We have gloves and tools but if you can bring your own it would help. Information from Genefer Clarke on 516414.

Jericho Youth Club – We need new organizers. If think you might be able help please contact the JCA on 557902.

Women's Institute – Meets on the second

Tuesday of each month at 8.00 p.m. at St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road.

Babies and Toddlers Group – Thurs. 9.30–11.30 a.m. at the JCC. Parents and Carers welcome with a 0-5 year olds. Contact Michelle (michiem78@sky.com).

St Barnabas Sunday School – At the JCC, Sun. 10.00 a.m.–12.00 noon.

Guitar lessons in Jericho – Most styles. www.maxmoonlight.co.uk.

Contacting Councillors – City Councillors: Colin Cook (Labour) 721844. Susanna Pressel (Labour), 554001; she has a surgery at the JCC, first Saturday of the month, 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. County Councillors: Alan Armitage (Lib-Dem), 516115; Susanna Pressel (Labour) 554001.

Police – For crimes in progress, including vandalism and graffiti spraying, call 999. For other crimes, call 101.

Christmas Fair Trade Fair

Fair Trade goods from around the world

Sat. 17 And Sun. 18 Dec. 2-6 p.m.

Jericho Community Centre

Classes at the Community Centre

Adult ballet – Tue: 4.30-6.00, 6.00-8.00 p.m. Wed. 12.00-1.30 p.m., Thurs. 5.00-7.00 p.m. Fri. 6.30-8.30 p.m. Sat. 11.15 a.m.-12.45 p.m. 2.00-4.00 p.m. Contact: Yuka, 01869 239430/07957 482527, www.kodamaballet.co.uk

Adult ballet – Wed. 8.00-9.30 p.m. Contact: Marianna, tel. 07747481798, mariannavel@hotmail.co.uk.

Adult drama – Wed. 7.30-9.30 p.m. Contact: Melissa 07810-541860 melissajdamico@gmail.com.

Antenatal classes – Mon. Tues. Wed. and Thurs. 7.30-9.30 p.m. Contact Virgil Clarke (N.C.T.) 512965.

Children's ballet – RAD classes for children from 3 years upwards. Mon. 3.30 p.m.–6.15 p.m. Contact: Vicky Hill, tel. 01993 709226 or victoria.hill@zen.co.uk.

Children's drama – Perform Workshops. Sat. 2.00-4.00 p.m. Contact Sophie 07896557646. sophielapps@perform.org.uk,

Egyptian Dance – Raqs Sharqi. Wed. 6.30 p.m.–8.00 p.m. Contact Katrina 777462.

Oxford Tango Argentino – Thurs. 7.30–9.30 p.m. Contact: Antony Brown, 240633.

Pilates – Mat work Thurs. & Sat. mornings.

Contact Stephanie, 07504 367768 www.stephanie-yogapilates.eu.

Pilates – Thurs. 12.30–1.30 p.m. Contact: Ivana: ispilates@yahoo.co.uk or 0781 8062351.

Pilates – Tues. 1.15–2.00 p.m. Thurs. 6.30–7.30 p.m. Contact: Andrea, 0790 8652807, ajfitness@ymail.com.

Tai Chi – Tues. 10.30 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Mixed class. Contact Emma, tel. 0771 0768810.

Wing Chun, Martial Arts – Mon. 6.30 p.m.–9.30 p.m. Contact Ed Yuen, tel. 862518.

Yoga – For women, Mon. Wed. 9.30–10.30 a.m. For men, Thurs. 8.00–9.00 p.m. Contact: Kate Binnie, tel. 07931792654.

Yoga – Tues. 12.15-1.15 p.m. Contact Jenny 01865 318134 07798526252.

Yoga – Tues., Fri. & Sat. mornings. Contact Stephanie 07504 367768 or www.stephanie-yogapilates.eu

Yoga – Wed. 9.45–11.15 a.m. Contact: Kate Miller 554743.

Yoga – Thurs. 10.30 a.m.–12.00 noon, Fri: 12.00 noon-1.15 p.m. Contact Beatrice: 604490.

Yoga – Thurs. 7.00-8.00 a.m. Contact Luisa 07905241123 luisajane@hotmail.com.

Zumba dancing – Fri. 8.30-9.30 p.m. Contact Clare 07584241530 clareplatt13@hotmail.com.

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CAROLS IN JERICHO

Meet at St Barnabas' Porch, sing around the streets, then mince pies & mulled wine at the Community Centre

Tues, Dec. 13, 6.00 p.m.

Come and join us!



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at Jericho Community Centre



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Humphrey (Massage & Nutrition) – 07800 767086

Liza (CBT) – 07825 701965

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Tow truck DF Autos, 401341. **Carpenters:**

Tony Everett, (07778) 907834. **Flooring:**

Oxflooring, 524024; Textures Flooring, 311807. **General builder** and land-

scaper: Steven Bishop, 07931 342468. **Home maintenance**, including electrics

and carpentry: Emmett Schlueter, 310007. **Loft conversions**, Oxfordshire Lofts,

07766 768404. **Painter and Decorator:** Jamie Hornblow, 0779 515 0146; T. &

J. Simpson, 07931935841. **Plasterer:** K. Dolton, 450256. **Plumbers:** M. Daniels

557068. A1, 327732. **TV, Video and Hi-Fi** – installations, S W Digital, 07531483298,

repairs: Oxford Powershop, 375834. **Window installation**, Raven Architectural

Glazing, 557514.