

**OXFORD PEDESTRIANS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NO. 82
JULY/AUGUST 2008**

Welcome to Issue number 82 of OxPA's Newsletter! Now that summer is here and everybody is off on holiday, it is Public Inquiry time, for those who are around in August. The Public Inquiry into the controversial proposed development of the Jericho Boatyard site by Spring Residences starts in Oxford Town Hall on August 12th. The issues for pedestrians include public access to the canal side and views from the towpath of the historic St Barnabas Church and surrounds. Anybody can go along on the first day and put themselves down to give evidence, or submit a written statement.

- 1) Traffic calming is gaining increasing approval across the city.** The County Council are at last willing to consider making the whole of Oxford a 20mph zone. The real question is when this will happen, **as they also say people need to be injured, or killed, before specific zones can be considered.** The public is not accepting this however, and there are ongoing campaigns in Headington, Wolvercote, and generally city-wide, to speed the process along, before there are casualties. **Traffic is increasing in Oxford, and it is set to increase vastly along Botley and Abingdon Roads once the Westgate development gets going, so it is urgent that traffic restraining measures are in place as soon as possible.** Contact Ian Hudspeth, County traffic tsar, with your comments, by emailing ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk, or leave a message for him by ringing County Hall on 792422.

- 2) Our OxPA book of walks, 'Oxford on Foot', was launched on June 4th at the Town Hall, and has been selling well ever since.** It is mostly bought from the Information Centre in Broad Street, though it is also available from Blackwells and the Fair-Trade shop at St Michaels-at-the-Northgate - or can be purchased directly from our website [www.oxpa.org.uk] - or from Corinne [779663]. Suggestions for other retail outlets are welcome. **We have been receiving lots of appreciative comments, but please let us know if you spot any errors or omissions for correction in the next edition.**

Our June meeting was held out of doors on a lovely summer evening walking one of the Scott routes from the new book, and finishing with a drink at the Kings Arms. Is this something we should consider doing more often? There are still nine other walks we could explore....

- 3) The three City Council owned Park and Rides are transferring to the County Council, who will make parking in them free.** But because the County Council have already made parking in the city centre free during evenings and weekends, the net result will be more cars using the Park and Rides and more traffic in the city centre. **In a city with high traffic-related air pollution levels, this is a regrettably retrogressive way to go forward.**

- 4) **A reminder that pavement parking stickers are always available from Ray Jones.** These are smallish stickers which do come off windscreens but require a slight effort [which gives drivers time to think about the message printed on them], and which cure pavement parking issues effectively and empower pedestrians who are tired of walking in the road or squeezing past parked vehicles. It only takes one car on a pavement to set a precedent, so nip it in the bud, with Ray's amazing stickers. **With 8 to an A4 sheet, they are easily folded up and put in a handbag or pocket. Contact Ray on 865070 or rhj@phoncoop.coop.**

There are no problems using them, because there are also official stickers – A5 size - supported by the Police, the County, the City and all the District Councils, available from Corinne [779663], or from Speedwell House, Speedwell Street. Even more difficult for drivers to remove!

- 5) **Cowley Road Carnival is on Sunday July 6th, starting with a procession at midday.** The theme of this year's carnival is 'Masquerade'. This very popular multi-cultural annual event has something for everyone, and is a real celebration of what we can do in a public space if it is not used as a through-traffic route for a day. Fancy dress, food from many countries, music and dancing, displays and shows will be taking place, so please come along and have a fabulous day out. **Just walking along a major road, which is transformed for a day into a large public space, is a treat in itself!**

- 6) **Thanks to all those members who contacted Deborah Glass-Woodin about the roundabout at the junction of Park End Street and New Road.** The mini-roundabout, which is convenient for motorists and buses, is dangerous for pedestrians, as there can be no provision for a pedestrian phase, with the loss of the lights; and the pedestrian desire lines have been stopped up by fences. This is temporary, until work on the Castle Mound has finished, which will be in a few weeks, when the junction will be restored to how it was before.

The next two meetings of OxPA will be Monday July 28th and Monday August 25th, at 7pm, in Oxford Town Hall. Please come along, and bring a friend. Everybody is welcome!

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