



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 42 September 2012

www.churchgateassoc.org.uk

The Association promotes the interests of all residents and businesses, not only in Churchgate Street, but also in the general area of all those streets that lead directly off it.

Welcome! Up-dates and two invitations – one to Churchgate Area's premier social evening, and one to contribute to our series of stories about local properties. Meanwhile, let's enjoy this 'Indian Summer'.

AGM and Social - Do Come!

Friday 26th October 2012 7pm
at Guildhall Feoffment School
Use Bridewell Lane entrance only

Shared refreshments

please bring a plate of finger food
for a shared table

Wine and soft drinks will be
served: please be prepared to make
a donation

Membership renewal at the AGM

Membership of the CAA remains a bargain at £3 per person per annum.

Annual subscriptions are due in October, so you can pay me when you come to our AGM on October 26th and collect your new membership card.

For those unable to pay at the AGM, you can contact me or pay me directly at home. I have standing order forms for anyone who would like to pay annually through their bank and I will have some with me at the AGM.

I'm looking forward to meeting all the members in October.

Judy Broadway
Membership Secretary
25 Guildhall Street
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Broadband update

Sadly there is no good news on upgrading the half of the medieval grid who are unable to take advantage of the new BT Infinity high speed broadband. A number of home devices including PCs, tablets, TVs and smart phones make use of home broadband and increasingly rely on the higher speeds now available.

Our area was missed out when 59 of these street cabinets were installed across all of central Bury over a year ago. After the intervention of our MP David Ruffley, a new site for our box was found on the corner of Bridewell Lane and Churchgate Street, but this site has been recently abandoned by BT as they were not satisfied that there was a secure enough

Licensing news

The application by the Graze restaurant for a premises license at 43 - 45 Churchgate Street was withdrawn.
Cathy Friel

foundation, due to the closeness of the Queens' Head cellars underneath.

We are back to square one unless agreement can be reached to revisit the very first proposed site for this box adjacent to the telephone box at the front of the Queens Head.
Andrew Hinchley

Update on the plan for the future of Bury

St Edmundsbury Council have recently published all the comments received on their plan published earlier this year to grow the town by 30% ("Vision 2031").

There will be a final round of consultation starting in November and then the final plan will be submitted to Whitehall for approval during 2013 and become legally binding after that. Here are a few comments that chime in with those of many CAA members:-

The **Suffolk Preservation Society** in its submission *"believes the nationally important town of Bury will not be able to accommodate the level of planned growth without precipitating major traffic congestion to the detriment of the environmental quality and economic wellbeing of the town. It does not believe that the strategy for growth makes sufficient provision for appropriate improvements in transport infrastructure to mitigate the inevitable increases in trips by private car. Indeed the creation of wholly residential estates will serve to perpetuate unsustainable trip generation."*

The **Suffolk Wildlife Trust** in its submission on the "Leg of Mutton" land just a few hundred yards from the medieval grid and the proposal for a hotel or other major building on this land: *"This site is adjacent to the River Lark and has the potential to form a valuable green space within the river corridor, therefore any built development should be carefully sited and designed so as to ensure that it has no adverse impact on the natural environment, including lighting and recreational pressure."*

Andrew Hinchley

Fidocam - puts criminals in the picture

Staffordshire Police are the first force in the country to use the digital FidoCam with their dog support unit (DSU) and believe the technology will help them during drug busts or when the dogs chase offenders.

DSU member Inspector Chris Dawson said: "This bit of kit is fantastic - it attaches to the dog's head and we can get a live view of what they are seeing. There are many situations when this technology will be beneficial to our officers.

Vivien Gainsborough-Foot

Local Stories No. 2

The Workhouse

In the July Newsletter (no. 41) we were told of the history of Isobel and Ted Ashton's property in College Lane which is on part of the old Workhouse site.

Let me continue the theme: the Workhouse site ran from the South wall of the Ashton property down College Lane to College Street and thence along College Street as far as and including the building now known as Old Dairy Yard. My house, no. 53 College Street, at the meeting of College Lane and College Street, is on the site of the Workhouse infirmary. The infirmary was added to the Workhouse complex in 1848.

Following the removal of the Workhouse inmates to the then Thingoe Union Workhouse in Mill Road, the Workhouse site was sold in 1884, save for the infirmary building and its yards, those being retained by the Guardians of the Poor as an administrative base until 1928 when they were sold to Marlow & Co. who used the areas for storage of building materials in conjunction with the properties opposite, which front Barnaby Yard.

In 1971 Marlows sold off the infirmary site to the Post Master General, now BT. The building was demolished and the site used as part of the BT car park; that part of the site was sold to a developer in 1987 and the houses numbered 53 to 58 College Street were built on the land. A part of the infirmary wall remains in College Lane as my garden wall.

The whole of the Workhouse site has a fascinating history which I researched in the 1990s. That research covered the 15th century forward and revealed interesting contrasts of uses and occupants of the site. My research is summarised in a small book "Riches to Rags" which I published in 1998, recording those contrasts and also some aspects of the Workhouse life.

In Bury history is all around us, so start investigating where you live; there could be some surprises!

Peter Plumridge

Contributions are welcome to be included in this series. E-mail to Isobel.ashton@btinternet.com or put something through my letterbox at 6 College Lane.

Police Raid Results in Eight Arrests

Eight people have been arrested and more than £20,000 worth of drugs seized, along with cash, vehicles and associated equipment, after three days of warrants in north-east Suffolk.

Police executed a warrant at an address in Bungay, and seized thousands of pounds worth of cocaine and a large amount of cannabis. Boxes and bags full of cannabis were recovered along with seven plants, and thousands of pounds in cash, a Jaguar car and a Kawasaki motorcycle were also seized as possible proceeds of crime.

Detective Sergeant Karl Storey said; "The warrants aimed to disrupt the supply of drugs in north-east Suffolk and we believe that this work will have had a significant impact. We have had a number of good finds in recent weeks thanks to good information and the hard work of officers and we are pleased with the positive results. However we are not complacent and realise there is more work to be done."

Detective Inspector Angus Moir, who oversaw the operations, said; "We will continue to target those thought to be involved in the supply of drugs in the area and would encourage anyone with information to contact us, using the new non-emergency number 101, or Crimestoppers, anonymously if required on 0800 555 111".

Vivien Gainsborough-Foot

Are you well shod?

Bloomfields the shoe shop is to move after 150 years in Churchgate Street. The shop which dates from 1550 is in urgent need of major renovation which cannot be done while keeping the business going. Pamela Knapp hopes to find other premises preferably within the grid at a comparable rent, but if that is impossible then she will re-establish the business in a smaller town with lower rents. Meanwhile Bloomfields are having a major sale to reduce the amount of stock to move.

Andrew Hinchley

Hedgehogs - Spike and Mrs Tiggywinkle?

These engaging and useful creatures are only just below the 'endangered species' list prepared by PTES (Peoples Trust for Endangered Species), so we are so fortunate that they are living in our area. Several people have seen them in their gardens. Late July we saw 3 very young hedgehogs near the house around 9pm. They were only 4 inches long and came from a nest in the garden which has been made well and used for nearly 2 years. Of course not everyone is around hedgehog watching in the evenings and able to put out food to help these youngsters reach 600grams to carry them through hibernation into 2013.



They thrive on non-fishy dog or catfood and love 'Spike's Hedgehog Food'. But there are two very special things that everyone can do to make them happy so that they can continue their good work in ridding outside spaces of slugs and other 'pests': 1) please do not use slug pellets. The hedgehog will do the job for you. Although slug pellets may purport to be 'harmless' they are not. They give a terrible death to anything that eats them – recently even large dogs (reported in the EADT). 2) If you see a hedgehog out in the daytime it is probably sick - please take it to someone who knows how to care for it. If you do not have a contact of someone qualified, I am willing to put you in touch or take a sick hedgehog to a safe carer.

Isobel Ashton

100 Baskets!

How lovely this year to see our streets looking so attractive with more floral decorations than ever!

Your Committee 2012

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