



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 44 March/April 2013

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! Do consider that we all have an interest in the rare combined setting and mutual benefits of businesses and homes in the centre of Bury St Edmunds. The CAA is one of several local representative groups working to manage coming changes brought about by increasing population and housing/servicing requirements. And then – take your visitors on a walk up and down Hatter Street with Martin’s guide in your hand, and put 16th June in the diary for another walk around the Hidden Gardens of Bury.

Campaign to save the Leg of Mutton land

The Water Meadows Group which is supported by the CAA has launched a press campaign for support to stop this land being developed as part of the 2031 proposals. Every property in the grid will receive a leaflet about the campaign next month. The land lies to the north of the River Lark between the Abbey Gardens and the Rugby Club. A kingfisher was spotted on the river the other week. If you would like to be directly in contact with the group, send an email to info@bury-watermeadowsgroup.com

Stephen Mills

CAA Traffic and Parking Report

The CAA completed its traffic and parking report last month and published it with the title “Reducing Traffic in the Historic Town Centre”. The report is freely available on the CAA web site (<http://www.churchgateassoc.org.uk>) or if you would like a printed copy then see the separate piece in the newsletter about ordering copies.

Our report gives eight key recommendations on what to change in Bury town centre following work by our researcher Elle Ramel with committee members over several months. It also incorporates views from an open meeting in January of CAA members and other residents and businesses to discuss what changes people thought would make a difference.

An opportunity arose to present the report to key decision makers at Borough and County level just after the report was completed. On February 21st the CAA had a visit from Councillor Robert Everitt, a St Edmundsbury cabinet member with major responsibilities across many areas, Ian Poole, responsible for strategic planning for St Edmundsbury, and Steve Boor, West Suffolk Traffic Manager.

Our recommendations started with proposing that reducing traffic in the centre can be achieved by reducing

parking spaces. The town has plenty of space at present in the multi-storey (the statistics we have obtained prove this) and of course there is a large surface car park adjacent to the arc shops. The more these parking areas can be used, the fewer cars need to drive through the grid competing for the small number of spaces in the Buttermarket.

The report also recommends that the police should have a dedicated division to deal with parking violations. Only when there are dedicated staff do residents believe we will get the level of effort to prevent the large number of violations which we currently get. This particular recommendation will be brought to the attention of the new Police Commissioner for Suffolk.

A final recommendation was to put all the parking in Angel Hill underground.....certainly an expensive thing to do right now at a time of economic stress!....But in the long-term absolutely the right thing to do for such a great historic town as this?

The report has also been sent to the County Council and was featured in an article in the EADT last week. It will be used in developing a response to the final 2031 plans for extending Bury by 30% which will go to Ministers in a few months for approval.

Andrew Hinchley

Licensing report

The recent Queen's Head Minor Variation application was rejected by the Licensing Department. The CAA and many residents had made representations opposing the request for an amendment to the door supervision condition.

Cathy Friel

HIDDEN WITHIN HATTER STREET

This is a street showing as houses, both grand and demure, interspersed with shop and office. This is the face concealing many surprises.

Take for example No 7 and No 8, the large white brick Georgian palace fronted double house with shared first floor Venetian window. It shows as late 18th Century but the footprint is of a Norman house, Middle 12th Century, still retaining the flint core gable ends of that build and, by a quirk of flying freeholds at the North end, the Norman roof frame [steeply pitched A frame of pine and oak] remains intact under the later Georgian roof.

Long ago, when Monica Place and myself wrote “A Walk around Bury St Edmunds”, we remarked on the splendid porch at No5. The fanlight shows a very Adam style. John Tilbrook, a watch-maker and silversmith, lived and worked here from c1775 to 1810, succeeded by his son Robert until 1821. He almost certainly updated the house with this porch and the brick façade. His recorded watches are also distinguished by the use of Robert Adam style within the decoration of the watches. At this period the nearby Abbeygate Street [Cook Row] was also home to many Clock and Watchmakers. Behind this recently collapsing and rebuilt red brick façade, lies an intact William and Mary period house, with rooms panelled in best Domestic English Baroque, a twisted baluster oak staircase dog- legging up to the second floor. The chimney to the rear pre-dates this building by a century, as we know to our cost in our rebuild when bricks from Bulmer’s matched those left over from repairs to Hampton Court Palace. The garden very much retains its Victorian plan with a surprising 200 year old Grotto to the East. Visit please for ‘Hidden Gardens’.

Moving up the Street, I am told the Picture House, carved from the substantial Georgian house, York House, was formally named Warwick House before the 19th Century visit of the Duke of York. Opposite, and higher in the Street, No25 with No26 was the printer, Pawsey’s. Shown on old maps as a Chantry House [as is No7] this has a substantial Norman wall as its rear boundary.

No20 retains its attractive late 17th Century street front. Notice the leaded metal casement windows in the gables. Behind the recently revealed white brick façade [probably Hengrave or Culford bricks] of No19 is a substantial 16th Century structure with remaining interior green wall paint from that period, and well moulded ceiling beams hidden behind later Georgian ceilings and panelling.

At the Street end, Andrew’s old corner shop is now yielding its secrets. Over the corner entrance door is a prominent Dragon Beam, like those within the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society in Abbeygate Street.

I have only touched on buildings which I know. There are many more discoveries to come.

CAA report “Reducing traffic in the historic core” ***available to order***

The CAA report “**Reducing traffic in the historic core**” has received considerable attention and positive comments. Councillor Robert Everitt, a senior member of St Edmundsbury Council, said, “I think you have done an excellent job and there are certainly recommendations there we would all aspire to in truth.” Councillor Mark Ereira-Guyer, our County Councillor stated “This report is flagging up local solutions to the mounting - even unprecedented - traffic pressures on the historic core of the town, produced by a local residents group, is just what we need to see coming forward for intense wider debate”

The 45 page report with many pages in colour is available to order for £3 only. Request a copy by emailing Andrew Hinchley on ahinchley@yahoo.co.uk or by phoning 01284 762552. Your ordered copy will be available at the CAA Social on April 19th, or if you can’t make that event will be delivered to you.

What's going on . . .

Police News

Suffolk Constabulary's keyholder service '**Suffolk SAFEKey**', has been recognised at a prestigious award scheme.

Suffolk SAFEKEY was short-listed for an award at the Insurance Times National awards in London on the 4th December, in the category of 'customer service initiative of the year'.

All members of Suffolk SAFEkey receive a Constabulary branded key fob with unique reference number which helps get their keys back should they lose them. The scheme operates across the whole of the UK and EU.

Additionally, the scheme allows members to place details of family/friends who can be contacted in the event of an incident at an unattended property, which allows the Constabulary to know who to contact.

Money from the scheme goes back into Suffolk's communities to support grassroots projects and charities.

Help safeguard your keys and property by joining Suffolk SAFEkey at a cost of £1 a month.

For more details, visit www.suffolk.safekey.org.uk

Suffolk Police donate Christmas presents to charity

Officers and staff from around the county put together 73 Christmas present shoebox parcels for Operation Christmas Child. The charity sends to children around the world in hospitals, orphanages, Internally Displaced Persons camps, homeless shelters, and impoverished neighbourhoods. The Suffolk boxes were sent to Swaziland. Licensing Inspector Becky Kidd-Stanton, who organised the collection again this year, said that the response from Constabulary members had been phenomenal.

I would personally like to thank everyone who has made a contribution. Every shoebox makes a difference.

Vivien Gainsborough-Foot

Got something to share? Stories/information to isobel.ashton@btinternet.com for a future CAA Newsletter.

Why you should not share your Easter egg with the dog

Expensive brands of chocolate have high levels of theobromine in them. It is a chemical compound which is harmless to humans, but lethal to dogs.

Even a 30g bar of dark chocolate can contain more than 700mg of theobromine, enough to kill a small dog such as a cocker spaniel. Toxicity symptoms include vomiting, hyperactivity, salivation, increase in heart rate and fits.

Spring Social
To be held on
Friday 19th April
at the Unitarian Meeting House
starting at 7pm.

Drinks will be available and we will enjoy finger food/canapes by Hatters of Hatter Street

Speaker: Shaun Thompson, who is a local resident living in Whiting Street, will speak to us on 'The Making of Medieval Manuscripts' detailing the production of medieval manuscripts from the original lamb skin to the finished article. A really fascinating illustrated talk.

Shaun is a bench-trained bookbinder with 25 years' experience of traditional English book-binding. His current position is as bindery supervisor with Cambridge University Library which involves the preservation and conservation of historic manuscripts and books where being able to harness the knowledge of ancient book production and modern construction techniques results in an overall more sympathetic conclusion. This results in documents that are able to remain in usable conditions for much longer.

A change to the Constitution

At the Spring Social members will be asked to agree an amendment to the constitution whereby the CAA financial year will run from 1st October each year until the 30th September the next year to coincide with the membership year. (At present the financial year runs from 1st August - 31st July).

Your Committee 2013

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