



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 54 April 2016

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.

Spring Social Report

Our Spring Social evening was held on Friday April 15th, with around 60 people attending. We were treated to an interesting talk by Mike Burrell, head of Planning Policy at Norwich City Council, which covered the various ways Norwich Council is trying to make their city centre a modern, vibrant place for shopping, entertainment and daily living. Mike stressed the need for an overall strategic plan and the importance of ensuring a reliable transport infrastructure was in place, to encourage the use of buses, cycling and walking and to discourage people driving through and into the centre of town. Norwich has a strong, thriving town centre which is now among the top 15 nationally. The success is partly due to joined-up planning, with the City Council working together with the County and neighbouring District Councils, as well as successful applications for funding from Government and European sources. Mike detailed plans to limit car access through the use of six Park & Ride sites, as well as measures to promote independent shops, culture and tourism and the late-night economy. The Council is trying to encourage people working in the centre to stay on in the evening and enjoy the leisure and restaurant facilities on offer. Mike highlighted difficulties due to recent Government planning policy changes, for example the ease of conversion of offices into flats.

Both Mike Burrell and Chris Rand, from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, answered questions from members. In both Norwich and Bury, Council officers are aware that signage and access to the centre on foot from the railway stations need improvement. The impact of Guildhall Feoffment School's expansion on local traffic was discussed. Chris highlighted the potential adverse effect on traffic flows of the proposed sixth form college on the King Edward's/West Suffolk College site. Mike noted that at new schools in Norwich, parents are not allowed to drop children off by car within a designated area around the school, although he thought this would be difficult to enforce on existing sites.

Overall this was a worthwhile and informative session. Some problems were noted with the sound system, which we hope to rectify at our next meeting, the AGM in October.

Judy Broadway

A Street Party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday 12th June.

By the time you read this Newsletter I hope you will all have received an invitation to our Street Party on 12 June. The Party is just for the residents and businesses in The Grid and will be held in Whiting Street South between Churchgate Street and College Lane only. It promises to be a 'right good do' and a wonderful opportunity for us to get together. There will be a jazz band formed by local musicians and Mr. Butterworth has kindly offered to provide the tea.

It is a bring and share party so we are all being asked to bring a small plate of goodies for tea, e.g. sandwiches, a cake, scones, etc. Tea, milk and sugar will be provided.

I have a delightful letter from Her Majesty which I will read out at the Party.

On the day of the Party cars currently parked in Whiting Street South, between Churchgate Street and College Lane, will be given free parking in Ram Meadow, provided they are displaying a Zone D permit.

Please use the tear-off slip on the invitation to apply for free tickets to the party.

Vivien Gainsborough Foot

BT Infinity fast broadband

We are told that more people registering for BT Infinity the quicker it will come. The web-site to register is <http://www.productsandservices.bt.com/products/manage/> The more people go onto this and register the better to get this done asap.

Clean for the Queen

Clean for The Queen is a campaign launched by Country Life magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to clear up Britain in time for The Queen's 90th birthday this year.

Environment Minister Rory Stewart said: "Her Majesty The Queen is an inspiration to all of us. Her 90th birthday is a unique opportunity for people to come together in celebration of Her Majesty's long service and dedication to this country".

How much litter is there? About 2.25 million pieces of litter are dropped on the streets of the UK every day. Thirty million tons of rubbish are collected from England's streets each year. That's enough to fill Wembley Stadium four times over.

I know that many of us already pick up the litter that is dropped on the pavements outside our houses in The Grid. If we could all do so, how much better our environment would be. This is the challenge for us all.

Vivien Gainsborough Foot



At Macmillan we offer financial, practical, medical and emotional support to anyone affected by cancer throughout their cancer journey and beyond but right now we can't reach everyone who needs us. So may I appeal for your help? As the new fundraising manager for the area I desperately need more people to get involved with the charity locally.

Could you spare a few hours and volunteer in 2016?

We have roles to fit around the amount of time you can commit, the skills and networks you have (or want to expand) as well as your particular interests. These include collections volunteers, event assistants, fundraising group members, public speakers and research roles to help us raise awareness for the charity in the local area. For more information on volunteering visit www.macmillan.org.uk/volunteer

THANK YOU for helping us reach and support more people today and in the future.

Nicola Clark

West Norfolk & West Suffolk Fundraising Manager

To find out ways you can get involved with the charity locally please email me at nhclark@macmillan.org.uk or visit www.macmillan.org.uk

Alternatively call our fundraising support centre on **0300 1000 200**.

GUILDHALL

Since our last update to you there have been three highly significant events.

First, we have been very lucky to welcome Sarah Green onto the Bury St Edmunds Heritage Trust Board. She has already brought her commitment and imagination to our discussions and our decision making. She represents us on the Tourism group and we look forward to her continued active contribution to the Guildhall Heritage Centre project.

Next, we have completed the repairs to the front roof of the Guildhall. This turned out to be a much bigger task than we estimated when we set out on our project some years ago. Erecting the scaffolding alone was a major task in terms of time, scale and cost. Then the whole roof had to be stripped, the supporting framework inspected, and more than half the tiles replaced. There were also repairs to the brickwork and parapets. Thanks to excellent support from our architects and outstanding workmanship from the contractors the final result is not only secure but also sympathetic, with the front aspect mostly tiled with original materials and the overall appearance largely restored. Historic England, one of the major donors, is very impressed with the outcome, and we can feel much happier that this part of the building and the rare timber roof structure beneath the tiles will be safe for many years to come. You may be interested that in the course of the work we also had the timbers subjected to examination by a dendrochronology expert in order to settle once and for all the date that they were put in place. We are still waiting for the results of that work.

Finally, we have just heard that after a lot of hard development work, briefing sessions and cross examinations, we have been awarded a provisional grant of £669,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards the delivery of our project. This is of course good news, not only because it promises to enable our vision for the Guildhall but, equally important, because it is a thorough endorsement of that vision. The HLF does not offer grants lightly and in doing so it is making a statement; that after professional scrutiny it judges our project to be a significant enhancement to our national heritage, good value for money, and based on a sound business plan. We have been awarded this provisional grant in the face of stiff competition and it is a cause for local celebration, but there is a catch. The grant is conditional on our raising the balance of the cash cost of the project of £1,500,000. We have already spent £170,000 on the front roof but even so we believe that we can identify another £500,000 towards the rest of the project. But that leaves us about £330,000 short of the target. Moreover at present the HLF is only allowing us until 7th October to find the money, so you can see that having got so near we are still faced with a huge challenge over the next six months. We are pulling out all the stops and exploring all the options that we know in order to close that funding gap.

However we need help, local help, your help. Please would you do whatever you can to help us raise those funds. We are open to ideas, introductions, cash even!

Mike Jackson (Project Director)

Police News: Call 999 (or should that be 101?)

Nationally, more than three quarters of 999 calls received by police are for non-emergencies. Returning home to find your house has been burgled or your car stolen is a serious matter – should you call 999? The police will treat the matter as serious but want you to use 101 to report it (as it is no longer a 'crime in progress'), leaving 999 for emergencies.

Of the 284,000 calls per year (both 999 and 101) received by Suffolk Constabulary's Contact and Control Room, only 20% of these relate to crime. The remaining 80% are made up of administrative calls, or relate to anti-social behaviour, public safety, welfare or transport. A large number of calls are received that do not relate to police matters. The police are often the 'service of last resort' – people call the police when they don't know who else to call. The commitment of police to public safety means that officers are sent to calls for help that are not police-related and are therefore diverting resources from emergencies.

To tackle these issues, the Constabulary is working to improve its online services to make sure that more information is readily available through its website to answer queries and to direct members of the public to the correct agency, and through raising awareness of the correct use of police numbers and the breadth of policing demand. Visit www.suffolk.police.uk to report a crime, to report a fraud and to find the answer to a huge range of policing questions.

And to report that rogue bin? Call St Edmundsbury Borough Council on 01284 763233 (we are sorry for printing the incorrect number in our last issue).

Alan Broadway

Cinema is not dead!

With Pat Church in charge the Abbeygate is certainly very much alive. We have sometimes certainly been 'on the edge of our seats' waiting and hoping that the next challenge of ownership is a success and we have Pat to thank for keeping the show on the road – for 50 years! And not just the usual show but one with an emphasis on community locally and globally – think 'The Big Scream' for parents and babies, and live screenings from places such as the RSC and the New York Met. Pat has fostered a caring and personal service and developed a cinema which feels local, attracts people from a wide area and is a great benefit to Bury. Well done and thank you, Pat!

Consultation on Alpha Parking review report - Zones D and F

Residents and businesses in the Churchgate area should have recently received a hand-delivered form for comments on the draft recommendations following the parking review carried out in November 2015. There is a link to the report on the CAA website as well as on the Borough Council website http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/parking/Parking/Bury_St_Edmunds_car_parks/upload/Neighbourhood-Parking-Review-Report.pdf

Comments should be returned on the forms or given to the drop-in session being held at the Unitarian Meeting House on Wednesday May 4th, 2 - 7pm. You have until May 13th to return the form.

The draft recommendations include many of the points the CAA have already made following members' feedback. These include the expansion of the number of residents' parking spaces, extension of the residents'-only parking times, restrictions on use of resident permits and policing of illegal parking.

Note that no decisions have been made at this juncture, so your response is still very much needed to influence the outcome. It will still be up to our Councillors to agree to the recommendations.

If you have not received a feedback form or do not have access to the report, please ring Parking Services on 01284 757415

Judy Broadway

Westgate Corner Garden

As part of Bury in Bloom's 30th Anniversary celebrations we will be giving the garden at Westgate Corner a makeover. The area was transformed by local volunteers together with Pro-scape in 2006 to help celebrate Bury in Bloom's 20th anniversary. Local award winning company Pro-scape will be carrying out a tidy up and replant in the next few weeks. Rubbish bins will be installed by the Bury St Edmunds Town Council.

We are hoping that we can recruit some volunteers who would offer to keep an eye on the area, picking up any rubbish and weeding the area when necessary. If you are interested in volunteering then please contact Melanie Lesser Bury in Bloom Co-ordinator 01284 766955 / 07946 407525 e-mail Melanie@buryinbloom.org.uk

Your Committee 2016

Vivien Gainsborough Foot, Chair, 69 Whiting St. 750887 vgf.masongill@gmail.com

Isobel Ashton, Newsletter, 6 College Lane, 754993 isobel.ashton@btinternet.com

David Bonnett, Licensing, Bethany, Bridewell Lane, 754457

Alan Broadway, Police & Parking, 25 Guildhall St, 724034 alan@jbroadway.co.uk

Judy Broadway, Vice Chair, Membership/Website, 25 Guildhall St, 724034

Cathy Friel, Licensing, Minute Secretary, 42 Crown Street, 755549

Brian Jones, 8 Hatter Street, 762342 brian.hessett@hotmail.com

Stephen Mills, 39 Crown Street, Planning, 754366 caa2011@hotmail.com

Nick Moon, Treasurer, 58 Churchgate St, 07809 687536, nick@moon.me.uk