



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 45 July 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! Members and friends had a fascinating evening at our Spring Social when Shaun Thompson presented graphic illustrations of the skills and materials he uses in conserving ancient manuscripts in Cambridge University Library. We even got to touch some beautiful prepared skins to be used in his work!

Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street

Observant Association members will have seen in the local press that the Meeting House Management Company is applying for a Premises Licence. We would like to reassure members that this does not presage a new night club or drinking den, but it will clear up various licensing anomalies associated with the building being a place of worship and will save hirers of the venue having to apply individually for licences to serve drinks, or to hold any event for which tickets are sold. Hopefully more groups will hire the building and generate the income needed to maintain it in good order.

After work to provide disability access from street level to the side doors, the garden has been re-designed and freshly planted and already looks good. The kitchen has undergone refurbishment and the toilets have been renovated. All such work requires organisation and active input by the committee - for example the new plants need weekly watering. We should be so pleased if any CAA member would volunteer to help with minor maintenance jobs, gardening, publicity or a web-site, even if they were unhappy to join the actual committee with its regular meetings. It would be so good to have more local assistance in running this fine listed building which is the area's "village hall" and which has so much unused potential.

If you can help please contact David Rees on 01284 754618.

For hiring please contact Bury's Tourist Information Centre.

Vision 2031 –please respond!

There is a last opportunity to ask questions about the Vision 2031 proposals for our town this coming Saturday 13th July at the Apex 10.30-4pm. Council officers will be in attendance to show details of the plans.

The Vision 2031 plan grows Bury St Edmunds by 30% , starting in a couple of years time and progressing for the next 15 years.

The final Vision 2031 document is substantially the same as published in 2012. It is available on the Council web site www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk.

The number of houses is down slightly from the original 5950 figure. There is a new associated road study proposing changes to the town's main junctions to help cope with the extra traffic. One thing that has changed is that the hotel development has been removed from the development plan for the Leg of Mutton!

The CAA is submitting its report: "Reducing Traffic in The Historic Town Centre" as a response to the latest Vision 2031 document. The CAA report was the result of a study completed last year. The Report makes a number of recommendations including reducing parking in

the middle of town to help reduce traffic through our streets. The fact that the multi-storey car park is rarely full means that there is always a convenient parking place for shoppers and business visitors close by, without needing spaces actually in the Buttermarket. The CAA report is available at:

<http://www.churchgateassoc.org.uk/2013/05/caa-traffic-report/>

The CAA asks everyone to write to the Council supporting the CAA Report. If you are a CAA member with email, you will receive a standard form to fill out and send to the Council. If you are a CAA member without email, then a CAA Committee member will be delivering you a form. For all other readers of this newsletter who would like to support the CAA report, please drop a note to the Chair, Andrew Hinchley, at 14 Bridewell Lane or the Vice-Chair at 69 Whiting Street and we will get a form to you.

We will be distributing the forms next week and then you have at least a couple of weeks to get them to the Council. The formal closure date is August 9th.

Andrew Hinchley

Council Tax Scam

Suffolk Trading Standards are warning residents to be cautious of letters received advising that they are entitled to a Council Tax refund as their property has been re-banded.

A number of complaints have been received from Suffolk residents advising that the letter states that "the company can help them apply for a reduction in their council tax bill". **The company offer their assistance for a fee.** If you have received a similar letter, please report the matter to Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 040506

You can have your band checked **free of charge** by contacting your local Valuation Office. If you feel that the band on your home is wrong, then all you have to do is contact your local office and explain why you think it is incorrect. They will also ask you to confirm that the details they hold about your home are correct. They will listen to your views and if they agree that the band is wrong they will change it. Bands can occasionally go up as well as down.

AGM and Social

- This will be on Friday 18th October at the Unitarian Meeting House starting at 7pm.

At that time, our long-serving and efficient Treasurer, Robin Geach, will be standing down. We are actively looking for someone to take over this reasonably straight-forward role. Please let Andrew or Vivien know if you would be interested or can make a recommendation.

Petal Power

How lovely to think it is time to enjoy our Summer flowers! Hanging baskets and bright displays are now to be seen around the town. The splendid displays at Gavin Ashley's have a history even longer than his record of wins in Bury in Bloom. Whilst celebrating 35 years in business last week Gavin told me that his father had run several pubs in Suffolk and he found that attention to frontages and floral detail paid off. When Gavin Ashley's was awarded a cup for the best retail shop in Bury, presented by Laver Oliver in 1985 on behalf of the Bury Society, Gavin knew his father was right. He has continued his eye-catching floral displays year on year, setting the example for all of us to brighten up our surroundings, and winning a huge number of Bury in Bloom awards. The final time the competition was run, Gavin was allowed to keep each of the trophies he had won that year including 'best hanging basket', 'best planter' and 'best shop front'.

Police Matters

A message from Police Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore

"In line with my long term plan for policing in Suffolk, this month I'm focussing on the thorny issue of speeding and speed enforcement.

Speeding is a subject which clearly splits public opinion. It is an issue that comes up regularly as I speak to people across the county and it dominates my mail bag. I have just completed a series of community meetings across the county and speeding has been one the most fiercely debated issues. I have been amazed by the breadth of opinion. Some people consider that there should be more robust enforcement especially in villages and near schools, while others vehemently object to mobile speed cameras.

In order to get a true sense of the scale of the issue I have launched a speeding survey to get a real understanding of how speeding enforcement, or the lack of it, is affecting the different communities across the county. I would welcome your views. The survey is published on my website and should only take a few minutes to complete. Please use this link <http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/news/pcc-confirms-community-safety-funds-across-county>. The speeding survey will be available throughout June. The results will be published on the PCC website in July.

I do hope you will be able to have your say. I really appreciate your support.

Kind regards,
Tim"



Your Committee 2013

Vivien Gainsborough-Foot, Vice Chair. 69 Whiting Street, 750887

David Bonnett, Licensing Bethany, Bridewell Lane, 754457

Robin Geach, Treasurer 71 Whiting Street, 750458

Penrose Robertson, Website. 28 Guildhall Street, 725321

Andrew Hinchley, Chairman. 14 Bridewell Lane, 762552 ahinchley@yahoo.co.uk

Stephen Mills, Planning. 39 Crown Street, 754366

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

Judy Broadway, Membership. 25 Guildhall Street, 724034

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