



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 50 January 2015

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.

Parking - Questionnaire [the yellow page]

Suffolk County Council has allocated £30,000 to the Borough Council to investigate permit parking zones. West Area Highways Manager, Mr. Steve Bloor, has asked that this money is targeted on Zone D - the Medieval Grid - our area.

The CAA is to be closely involved in any consultation process. To this end, together with this Newsletter, you will have received (on yellow paper) a Parking Questionnaire which we hope you take time to fill in.

This is your opportunity to really have your say in which ways you think the Borough Council can improve parking in The Grid.

This is a once in a life time opportunity - please don't miss it.

Advance notice - Social Evening 17 April 2015

At the Unitarian Meeting House at 19.00 hours

David Dymond, historian, author and local resident, will talk about the history of the medieval grid

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next Social Evening which is a great opportunity to meet and share interests. Drink and nibbles will be served at no charge. Please put this date in your diaries.

New Members

We welcome new members, whether business owners, householders or tenants.

If you have a new neighbour, please encourage them to join us. Membership is only £3 per year. This is an absolute bargain as it includes admission to two free social events, with light refreshments and a speaker.

The bigger the CAA, the louder our voice will be, and the more notice the Council and other bodies will take of our collective views.

So if you aren't a member yet, or haven't renewed (our year runs from October), you can join by sending £3 (cheque to Churchgate Area Association) to Judy Broadway, Membership Secretary, 25 Guildhall Street. Or phone me for a standing order or membership form and I will drop one through your door. Telephone number 724034.

Judy Broadway

Good news on fast broadband

CAA Members and other readers of this newsletter will know that the CAA has been trying for several years to get fast broadband installed in the hundreds of homes and tens of businesses who were not upgraded originally by BT. The problem was due initially to objections by some residents in Churchgate Street to the extra street cabinet needed, and subsequently, objections by a business in Hatter Street to an alternative location there.

Through a request made to our County Councillor Mark Ereira-Guyer, we have now been included in the plans by Suffolk County Council for the second phase of their Better Broadband initiative at the end of the year. Although not guaranteed, Jonathan Chown at SCC states that "no area on any of their previous plans has ever failed to be successfully upgraded". The news will be very welcome to businesses, who otherwise would have to pay large amounts for a direct business connection, residents working from home..and also residents who increasingly view their TV with iPlayer and similar, which really needs the faster broadband to work well.

Andrew Hinchley

Bury Town Pastors

Many people living “in the grid” are probably unaware that there is a vibrant “night time economy” running in central Bury. The party dresses (or lack of them) come out and the streets can be thronged with happy revellers. Sometimes the revels get out of hand – which is where Bury Town Pastors (BTP) can be useful....

Recently the two night clubs on Station Hill have closed and Weatherspoons has opened in the Corn Exchange so the revelry has moved to the centre of town – nearer to us. At times the streets can be full of noisy, usually happy young people. The BTPs patrol in pairs (always a man and a woman) from 10pm to 4am looking out for people in trouble – they may be separated from their friends, have had too much alcohol and are being sick or just be really upset. We stay with anyone in need until we feel they are safe.

Initially the police were very sceptical of BTPs but the crime rate in towns where they operated reduced and they are now one of our most enthusiastic supporters. We have been “on the streets” for 7 years in Bury and our coordinator, Mrs Jo Copsey, has just been awarded a British Empire Medal in the new year honours.

Brian Jones, Town Pastor

Passionate about Food

At Ben’s Restaurant the service made it clear that here they are passionate about the food they bring to your table.

I found Ben happy to discuss the whole experience of supporting producers to bring high quality locally sourced food to his restaurant. To him it is important to know that his pigs, sheep and chickens are given the best life and they, as well as the vegetables, travel as short a distance as possible from farm to plate. Rabbit and game also come from Suffolk freelance providers.

In order to extend customers’ experience and to make use of seasonal variety, menus will change through the year with the first change made last week. Ben is looking forward to offering more fish in the Summer when it comes fresh from the Norfolk and Suffolk coast.

Rebecca has helped Ben, with many hours of hard hands-on work I gather, to create a relaxed and uncluttered setting carefully observed and detailed to reflect a feel for the farms and smallholdings Ben visits to bring ingredients to the kitchen. Not least of which is the family farm at Ixworth where Ben was brought up and grew to know and love the animals. Determined to share high quality meat raised in a good environment, and to support local businesses to improve local food security, Ben has set up a dining experience that customers can enjoy again and again.

Read more at bensrestaurant.co.uk

Isobel Ashton

The Unitarian Meeting House

Churchgate Street

This beautiful Grade I building is looked after by a group of volunteers.

Lettings Secretary Required

Income from lettings is used to maintain the building and keep it open for public use. Our present lettings secretary is resigning in March and we urgently need a replacement. Are you interested in old buildings, do you have some spare time, live locally and have a computer? If so you could be the person to take on this role.

Can you help in other ways?

The Unitarian Meeting House Management Company are the volunteers whose job it is to preserve the building, and to make it available to the public. If you love old buildings, live or work locally and have a couple of hours a week/month to spare we might have just the job you could help us with. It could be keeping the garden tidy or being a key holder or perhaps you are good at fund raising or administration. Please think about a way you might help us continue to maintain this building so it can be used by the public for events such as lectures, theatre workshops and productions, choir rehearsals, concerts dances, parties, weddings, keep fit and exhibitions.

You could also help the Management Committee by:

- Hiring the Meeting House if you are planning an event.
- Organising or sponsoring a fund raising event
- Telling your friends that the building is available for hire and that volunteers are being sought.

**For more details please phone
Delyse Ray 01359 250912.**

Planning Applications

This is the only planning application submitted for our area in the last 4 months:

DC/14/2024/FUL | Planning Application - Two and a half storey dwelling and associated works (following demolition of existing single storey structure) | 32 - 33 Guildhall Street Bury St. Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1QD 27/10/14 Application REFUSED

Stephen Mills

Further to Stephen’s report - the owners of the site held an open meeting for local residents on 13th January in an attempt to bring all parties to a workable improvement for the site. [BFP 16/1/2015]

Abbeygate Picturehouse

Firstly, a Happy New Year to the members of the Churchgate Area Association and thank you for inviting me to update you on the exciting plans we have for our delightfully quaint and historic cinema in the cathedral sector of Bury St Edmunds.

The cinema has had an interesting past under various ownerships from Studios One and Two in 1975 through to ABC, Odeon, Hollywood Cinema and most recently Abbeygate Picturehouse but, since June 2014, it has come to rest under independent ownership headed up by former City Screen Limited founding partner and Cambridge Film Festival Director, Tony Jones.

Going forward, we intend to continue to deliver a quality cinema event; a tasteful and refined theatre-like experience with a strong mix of arthouse, independent and quality mainstream films. Our enhanced Screen Arts offering, including Bolshoi, Royal Opera House, National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company and Met. Opera, is stronger than ever and our Discover Cinema strand will present a wide and eclectic range of films to our customers.

Our private screen and function room hire is becoming increasingly popular as versatile spaces being used for corporate functions, private parties and local festival events. Our weekly parent and baby screenings attract mums and dads within the local community who meet for coffee, chat and film, and our great membership offering continues to draw.

So, with our chic and vibrant café/bar No.4, where our resident chef specialises in Canadian West Coast cuisine blending foods from around the world yet using local produce when possible, Abbeygate Cinema has become a charming and unique cinematic venue with a bright future ahead.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Pat Church General Manager Abbeygate Cinema

Blue Refuse Sacks

A reminder from our Borough Councillor, Paul Farmer:

“Please remember that blue refuse sacks can be seen through, so place any confidential information in another old envelope”

Your Committee 2014

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

David Bonnett, Licensing, Bethany, Bridewell Lane, 754457

Judy Broadway, Membership/Website, 25 Guildhall Street, 724034

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

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

Suffolk constabulary non-emergency telephone number 101

The Suffolk Constabulary non-emergency number 101 is the number to call when you want to contact police when it is less urgent than 999.

The non-emergency number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

When should I use the non-emergency number?

You should call **101** to report less urgent crime and incidents or to speak to your local officers.

For example, you can use the number if:-

- your car was stolen over a period of time, i.e. sometime over night
- your property was damaged
- you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood
- you wish to report anti-social behaviour.

Or to:

- report a minor traffic collision
- give the police information about crime in your area
- speak to the police about a general enquiry
- get in touch with your local Safer Neighbourhood Team

Vivien Gainsborough-Foot

Dog Fouling

Some of our members have reported an increase in dog fouling on pavements in the Grid. The Borough Council has a department (Environmental Health) that deals with dog mess if it is reported. They will also take action against dog owners who allow their dogs to foul, but they do need a witness statement to commence proceedings. It is an offence to let your dog foul pavements and you can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice and taken to court to be fined up to £100. Following a recent complaint the Council acted promptly to clear up dog mess, so if you find any please report it on 01284 757053 (Environmental Health) or 719000 (Customer Services).

Use your Committee

If you have a matter you wish your CAA Committee to discuss please contact one of the committee prior to a meeting. Committee meetings are on the second Thursday of each month.

Stephen Mills, Planning, 39 Crown Street, 754366
Cathy Friel, Licensing/Minute Secretary, 42 Crown Street, 755549
Isobel Ashton, Newsletter, 6 College Lane, 754993 isobel.ashton@btinternet.com
Brian Jones, 8 Hatter Street, 702342 brian.hessett@hotmail.co.uk