

CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 53 January 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 Evening

Friday 15th April 7pm – 10pm

At the Unitarian Meeting House
Churchgate Street

A great opportunity to meet and share interests

Drinks and nibbles will be served at no charge

We will welcome two speakers to talk about the general principles and practice of town centre planning

Mike Burrell, Planning Policy Team Leader at Norwich City Council, will discuss these issues using Norwich as an example, rather than specific planning in Bury St Edmunds
and

Chris Rand who is a Town Centre Planner for St. Edmundsbury Borough Council

20mph Repeater Signs for the Grid

Vivien and Richard's early morning fun with mock 20mph signs (September Newsletter) has resulted in the news that real experimental signs will be put in place by 27th January. Follow up to the previous traffic survey is arranged to take place after Easter with speed monitors in various streets within the grid.

Rogue Bin?

If you need to report bins being left on the pavement you can get help by calling St. Edmundsbury Borough Council (01284 733233) and the receptionist will help deal with things.

Membership reminder

If you have not yet renewed your membership for the year to October, you can do so now. Membership is open to all residents/landlords and businesses with addresses in the Grid.

Membership entitles you to come to our twice-year social evenings, which include a speaker and refreshments. A large membership gives the Association more clout when negotiating with, for example, the Borough Council. So please consider joining us. New members very welcome.

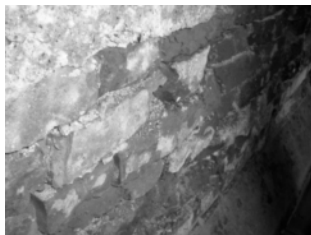
Many thanks to all who have already renewed.

Please send your subscriptions, still only £3 per person, to:- The Membership Secretary, Judy Broadway, 25 Guildhall Street, IP33 1QD. Cheques should be made out to the Churchgate Area Association. I have standing order forms available if you would like to sign up. Please contact me on 01284 724034 or judy@jbroadway.co.uk

GUILDHALL HERITAGE CENTRE PROJECT UPDATE



The repairs to the front roof of the Guildhall are almost complete and the scaffolding will soon be removed. With grants from Historic England, the Alfred Williams Charitable Trust and the Pilgrim Trust we gave this work top priority because the roof was not weatherproof and already there was some damage to the very rare timber beams beneath. Also once up there we discovered that the parapet brick and stonework was in places in a bad state, in some cases perilously so.



Our next priority will be to repair the back roof over the 18th Century extension which houses the former Council Chamber, converted in the Second World War into the Royal Observer Corps Operations Room. This is also in a bad state, with some water ingress, and until it has been made weatherproof and secure we will not be able to develop the Operations Room for the public to view.

Funds are a problem, with all of the charities under pressure as routine public funding for local projects is cut back. We have nearly one hundred applications in the pipeline. We were recently disappointed that the Wolfson Foundation was unable to offer us a grant and our main hope now rests with the Heritage Lottery Fund. They will consider our application in March and we cannot assume a successful outcome because we have to find a significant sum in addition to their contribution in order to show that we can develop a solution that is good value for their money. The Town Council has pledged a generous grant, but we continue to look for additional local support.

Mike Jackson

A new chance to learn or improve music skills

From my first show at the Grapes in Bury to the hundreds of live shows & thousands of people to whom I have performed all over the UK since, I have come a long way in my musical career. And after studying at the Academy of Contemporary Music in Surrey, I made music my full time job splitting my time between recording, performing & teaching. I have now decided to share my knowledge with aspiring musicians by opening a small music school in the heart of my home-town of Bury St Edmunds.

TF music school offers a range of music lessons from guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin to keyboard and music theory lessons. We teach all ages and abilities and help you achieve your goals. Whether they are academic, health orientated or purely for fun, we can help.

Our ethos of providing relaxed & professional music tuition in a fully equipped, friendly environment is where students can progress by learning the songs they've always wanted to play. Get in touch for any queries or ask about a free trial lesson at tfmusicschool.com

Tomas Frankson

Police News:

1 - 10 Tips to beat the Burglar after Christmas

Read these tips (from Bury Town Sector Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter) to ensure your home and Christmas gifts are secure at all times.

1. Invest in a motion sensor flood-light or even some outdoor Christmas lights to highlight your home's exterior. This will hopefully make approaching your home too conspicuous for a burglar.
2. Also, highlighting the fact your possessions are security marked and registered on Immobilise and using window stickers provide a further warning that your goods are traceable and not worth the risk of stealing!
3. Be careful not to advertise your home to burglars on social media!
4. Check doors and windows for weak spots. Government statistics show that 30% of burglaries happen through windows. Installing a few dead-bolts and new window hinges could increase the security of your home even more.
5. Keep your curtains and window blinds closed at night, making sure valuable items are out of sight.
6. When going out for the evening make use of inexpensive timers to give the illusion of occupancy.
7. If you're going away, be sure to cancel any newspaper subscriptions or milk deliveries. Do not leave descriptive telephone answering machine messages and again make use of light timers.
8. Secure garages & sheds. Make sure that garden tools or ladders that could be used to force entry into your home are not left lying around or accessible from an unlocked garden shed.
9. Don't hide keys & use alarms if you have them. Give the spare key to family or trusted neighbour. Many houses these days have alarms, many though are rarely set; make sure yours is on and protecting your home.
10. Lastly, don't forget to register your gifts on Immobilise! www.immobilise.com.

2 - Driving after 70 "scam alert" for older people and the new driving licences.

Driving licences automatically expire once you reach the age of 70 and if you wish to continue to drive you must renew your licence – online or by post. From then on you must continue to renew it every three years. Renewing a driving licence in the UK is free for drivers aged 70 and over.

Unfortunately, in recent years third party websites offering to handle driving licence renewals for a fee have sprung up – some even appear as Google ads at the top of the web search results.

If you see an ad offering to renew a licence for someone over 70 for a fee, it is a scam. The official DVLA pages are ONLY found on the www.gov.uk website. Be alert and make older relatives and friends aware of the dangers of clicking on money-making third party sites that offer to handle licence renewals for you.

Alan Broadway

The Queen's 90th Birthday



Moves are afoot to arrange for CAA residents to enjoy a tea party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. A street party in Whiting Street South on Sunday 12th June is proposed. As a community event, many people will be involved. If you are interested, please feel free to contact Vivien Gainsborough-Foot before she contacts you! vgf.maisonigill@gmail.com / 750887

Your Committee 2016

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, Membership/Website, 25 Guildhall St, 724034
Cathy Friel, Licensing, Minute Secretary, 42 Crown Street, 755549

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

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
Sarah Stebbing, Bonne Doone, Albert Street, 704546