



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 55 September 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.

**The AGM will be held
on 7th October at 7pm
in the Unitarian Meeting House**

**Our speaker is
Mrs Jo Churchill
MP for Bury St Edmunds
Who will give us an amusing, non-political, talk
entitled
“A new girl’s guide to Parliament”**

We are very sorry to learn that our Newsletter Editor, Isobel Ashton, is leaving the committee. If there is anyone out there with literary pretensions, we need you, please, to take over the Newsletter. Committee members submit articles for the newsletter which Isobel then edits. She has said that she will help you and we shall purchase the proper software for you on which to produce the newsletter. Please talk to Isobel if you feel you would be interested. Isobel.ashton@btinternet.com or 01284 754993.

We also need more people on the committee to help us in our work for the good of the Grid. Please think about putting yourself forward. Our committee meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 18.30 in a room given to us by kind permission of Goymour Homes. We try to get through the meeting in an hour. You can get a nomination form to join the committee from Cathy Friel, 42, Crown Street, catherine.friel1@ntlworld.com or 07864 702143, Please return completed forms to Cathy by 16th September.

Membership renewals

Our membership year runs from October 1st. Membership costs £3 per person per year and includes admission to our social evenings with speaker and refreshments, so is a real bargain. Membership is open to all residents, landlords and businesses in The Grid.

Thank you to those who renew already by standing order. Your membership card will be delivered as soon as your standing order is received.

For those who prefer to pay by cash or cheque, please send £3 per head to Judy Broadway, 25 Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1QD. Please make cheques to the Churchgate Area Association. You are welcome to pay on the door at the AGM.

For new members, please ask Judy for a membership form. I have standing order forms available too.

Contact judy@jbroadway.co.uk tel. 01284 724034.

Broadband up-date

It's only taken five long years of lobbying, but BT have at last agreed to place another broadband cabinet in Bridewell Lane, near its junction with Churchgate Street. This will help internet users in that area of the Grid. We have to thank Jo Churchill for lobbying on our behalf.

But we are still fighting for a cabinet inside the wall of the BT building to give faster speeds in the Whiting Street area.

Town Centre Master Plan

We are very pleased that our planning guru, Richard Summers of Whiting Street, Past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, has agreed to represent the Bury Society and the CAA in discussions with St. Edmundsbury Borough Council councillors and professionals on the development of the Town Centre Master Plan. We shall be holding a meeting in October to which all residents of the Grid will be invited to hear about the on-going discussions and to enable them to put their views on the growth of the town centre, shopping and offices, tourism, heritage, environment, traffic, parking and so on.

Music in Bury St. Edmunds

There must always have been music in Bury St. Edmunds with the Cathedral, Chapels and Churches, pubs and taverns; with the Theatre, Operatic Society, other groups and families with various instruments. The teaching and training came from within the groups and from private tuition, the Salvation Army, the British Legion and from the locally-based Army.

Junior schools had choirs and percussion bands and, from the 1930's, recorder playing; and, for a few, violin tuition after school paid for by the pupils. The singing would be of a good standard and many schools took part in the Suffolk Music Festival which was held annually in Ipswich one year and Bury the other.

During and after WWII the teaching of musical instruments started in state schools. In 1960 some senior schools were beginning to bring in music teachers who were undertaking to teach orchestral instruments (Beyton Modern Secondary School had a thriving brass band.) And in 1963 a Music Advisor was appointed for West Suffolk. Mr. Ronald Smith was the first and he started to appoint peripatetic teachers and to start Saturday morning classes and groups. Mr. Smith was followed by Mr. Keith Shaw who formed the West Suffolk Youth Orchestra, bringing together the work done in schools. Mr. Philip Shaw (no relation) continued and expanded the work started, bringing the Youth Orchestra to a very high standard. Guitars and guitar playing has found its place both in school and outside the curriculum. Many varied groups have been playing for years.

Our Upper School Orchestras too are playing at a very high standard and we have many fine venues in BSE including the Apex, the Churchgate Meeting House and Hunter Club. The schools also have Wind Orchestras, Jazz Groups and encouraging work with electronic instruments. Not to be left out, many of the Primary Schools have group tuition for wind instruments, guitars and ukuleles as well as recorders.

The hope is that all this activity is allowed to continue and grow. Fine and good, but do not forget the singing!

This article was submitted by Lawford Smith of College Square who taught music at Silver Jubilee School (now KEGS) and Westley Middle School, as well as time as Musical Director for the Bury St Edmunds Operatic and Dramatic Society. Accompanying services in church, encouraging young instrumentalists, and keen to spread music everywhere, Lawford was happy to entertain us on the keyboard at our Street Party on 12 June.



Party for the Queen - memories



Vivien has two plates left behind at the Street Party. Please phone Vivien on 750887 if they are yours.



SMOKING MONKEY ANTIQUES

I have to confess that one of the reasons Peter and I moved to Bury St Edmunds six years ago was my passion for Lovejoy. Since I was a little girl I have always loved old stuff, dolls houses in particular, so I am very excited at the prospect of opening my own antique shop in Bury St Edmunds.

Although I have always loved dolls houses it was not till about twenty years ago that I finally got one. It was a magnificent four storey house based on a Voysey tower house, designed and built by my husband Peter. I currently have fifteen dolls houses, this number fluctuates as like most collectors I am constantly on the look out for new additions to my collection. With the exception of a couple of modern houses they range in date from around 1850 to 1930 with my current passion being for Victorian Houses. I have a rule that the furnishings should be of a similar vintage to the property, this way you get a good authentic feel to the decoration. I personally feel that the joy of collecting dolls houses comes from bringing them to life and making them look lived in.

Since retiring from my "proper job" I have been dealing in antiques through antique fairs, on line and through antiques centres. Over this time I have gained a lot of experience and met some lovely people, and now seemed to be the right time to open the shop. The shop is at 55 St John's Street and it was opened by the Mayor on the 27th August. I do hope you will come along and say hello.

The inspiration for the shop name comes from a monkey called Jacko who belonged to the great grandfather of my dear friends Pat and Lizzi: He was alive in the mid 19th century, he loved a drink and a cigar.....and in his preserved form he has come to live in the shop. More than anything else I want the shop to be a beautiful and welcoming space where there is always something unusual and fun to enjoy.

Email address: info@smokingmonkey.co.uk I also have a face book page Smoking Monkey Antiques

Marcia Riddington

Look inside the Guildhall

The Guildhall in Bury St Edmunds is a nationally important, Grade I listed, historic building that has been at the heart of community life within the town for over eight centuries. It is England's oldest complete Civic Building.

Saturday 10th September 10 - 4pm, as part of Heritage Open Day, gives you an opportunity to look inside for free, visit the World War II Ops Room, and learn more about the project to ensure the whole building becomes a vibrant 21st Century community venue.

Police News - More Resources to Counter Illegal Parking

Good news - the Town Council have agreed to fund two additional PCSOs for a two year trial to monitor and enforce parking regulations. The PCSOs will be employed and trained by Suffolk Constabulary and it is expected that they will start at the beginning of 2017. Their brief will be to cover the whole town but especially areas where illegal parking is rife, such as the town centre.

Alan Broadway

Traffic speeds

We were very fortunate to be given a grant by our County Councillor, Mark Ereira-Guyer, to enable the County Council to place ten 20mph repeater signs in prominent positions in the Grid on an experimental basis in the hope that speeds would be reduced. Despite this, the recent follow-up traffic survey has shown that the numbers and percentages of vehicles exceeding 20mph have increased across the Grid and particularly in Bridewell Lane. We are now working with the County Council and Borough Council, through the Town Centre Master Plan, to consider how we can achieve more traffic calming and better road safety.

The police are considering setting up a Community Speed Watch in the Grid – five volunteers are needed. If you would like to take part in the Speed Watch, please let Alan Broadway know on 01284 724034.

One-way traffic in the Grid

You will all have received **David Nettleton's plans** for the possible reorganisation of the one-way traffic system in the Grid. Our own Alan Broadway came up with an alternative scheme. Your committee has examined this carefully and asked David, Alan, Cllr. Andrew Speed, Richard and Vivien to work up a modified scheme. Please let us know if you have further thoughts on the subject.

Bury Drop In

In January 2015 the local council approached the Christian Churches in the town and asked if they would be prepared to initiate a project to help the homeless in the town and area. It was accepted that there were some who lived on the streets but the scale of the problem was unknown.

A steering committee was formed and after much prayer and planning the Bury Drop In opened its doors at the Elven Centre (Garland Street Baptist Church Hall) in September. We opened each Friday from 11am until 2pm. Hot drinks and meals were provided. Part of the brief for the Drop In was to be a signposting service for those with housing and other issues. A number of local agencies (23) agreed to attend the sessions and this gave the guests access to services that could be of real help.

Initial attendance on Fridays was poor. Suddenly, the word got out on the streets and we now regularly see 30+ guests each session. In June of this year we began opening each Tuesday as well the Friday and see similar numbers each session. To date we have 150+ guest registered. It is rare for there not to be new guests arriving at each session.

We are grateful to the local churches and local shops and industry for support. We always need support, financial or in kind. If you can help please contact - The Bury Drop In at Garland Street Bury St Edmunds or email me - davidfbonnet@aol.com

Litter bins

Mark Walsh at the Borough Council is an official who is always ready to help us in the Grid. We owe him much. You may remember that four litter bins (in Westgate Street, Whiting Street, Guildhall Street and College Street) were either stolen by persons unknown or removed by the council. I have been lobbying Mark for their re-instatement and the Council replaced the bin in Westgate Street. You will be delighted to hear that the Council have now agreed to place new bins in Guildhall Street and Whiting Street. These will be sponsored by the Churchgate Area Association but paid for by Cllrs. Rayner and Speed's locality budget. We are most grateful for their support. You may also have seen the new bin in the little corner garden at the junction of Guildhall Street and Westgate Street that has been paid for by Bury St. Edmunds Town Council and we are delighted to see this improvement. I think we have all done extremely well with our litter-picking and we need to give ourselves a communal pat on the back.

Your Committee 2016

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