



# CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER No 59

## Christmas Issue 2017

*[www.churchgateassoc.org.uk](http://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.*

*We would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



**Do join us for the April Social**

**which will be held on**

**Friday 20 April 2018 at 7.00pm**

**at the Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street**

**We will be amused by the well-known story teller Charlie Haylock who is one of Suffolk's leading entertainers. His informative and hilarious one-man shows are legendary in the county and his books have all been best sellers.**

***Wine and canapés will be served after the meeting***

*He's behind you!*

**Come to the Pantomime this year at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds  
Dick Whittington is showing until January 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 and is a traditional family  
pantomime for all the family. Young Dick sets off for London to make his fame and  
fortune.**

**A young country boy,  
one handsome and fair,  
shall vanquish the rats and**

JOLLY FUN FOR EVERYONE

## Good news on the pavements in the Grid

Andrew Speed, our Borough Councillor, has proposed and obtained agreement that the Town and Borough Councils should form a partnership to address the lower grade, Category 7, pavements works. Those that are identified in the curtilage of the Town Council. This means that, at last, resurfacing of some of the worst of our pavements will take place.

Andrew believes that these works can be identified, scheduled and prioritised. It is proposed that these works go to local tender, rather than “buy in” services from the County Council. Evidence suggests that this will offer a more cost effective and efficient solution. In addition, Andrew hopes and expects the County Council to contribute a small sum to the programme on the basis that it has removed these specific works from its considerable workload.

For any comments please contact Andrew Speed on: [aspeed@steds-fs.co.uk](mailto:aspeed@steds-fs.co.uk)

VGF

## A MOMENT IN TIME

The Attached photographs were taken on a mild Spring day in March. The snaps capture a fleeting moment in time the like of which may never be witnessed again. Stood together are three of the longest term residents of the southern section of Whiting Street. There is a fourth who was unable to attend on this occasion.



From left to right are **Jim Palfrey, Robert Butterworth** and **Robin Cracknell**. All of them have memories of their residence in the street which stretch back to the 1940s and the 1950s. In the case of Robin earlier still as he was born in Whiting Street. We show this ‘Band of Brothers’ outside 92 year old Jim’s house.



The second picture is taken outside 32 Whiting Street where Robin and Robert have a further connection. The property was sold in 1957 by Robin’s father to that of

Robert’s father. At that time the front entrance was where the two R’s are standing. Old habits do die hard, I suppose. At that time the property included a garage just big enough for Robin’s father to rent out to accommodate an Austin Ruby! The link does not end there, either.

Robin went to work, as a young man after National Service, at the Angel Hotel. At the time, Robert’s father was the Restaurant Manager.



These few details illustrate something of the circumstances which make our neighbourhood so special. We fortunately still retain a stable, long term population. Many of them linked by a web of family, community or work relationships. Long may it continue.

### **Congratulations on the arrival of Baby William**

We send our congratulations to Annabel Mayer and Ben Miller of 22 Whiting Street on the birth of their baby boy, **William Claude Paget Miller**.

He was born on 22 November at 3.44am weighing 5lbs 2 ½ ounces.

We are delighted and thrilled to welcome new life to The Grid and hope to publish a photograph of the threesome in the next Newsletter. VGF

### **Smoking Monkey Antiques, one year on....**

I cannot believe it's been twelve months since I wrote a piece for the newsletter, anticipating Smoking Monkey Antiques. It has been an amazing year in so many ways.

There is always a risk opening an independent shop, particularly off the High Street, but the encouragement and support from the other businesses in St John's Street has been both remarkable and very welcome. There is a real sense of community in the street which came to the fore with everyone working together for the Christmas Fayre.

Over the year we have built up a diverse group of regular customers, many of whom drop by every week for a look around and a chat and some customers who check out Google from all over the globe and incorporate the shop into their holiday itinerary.

For an antique shop we have a pretty good turnover, so the hunt for new stock is never ending. We have built up a reputation for the weird and interesting, so every week Peter and I are visiting auctions, antique fairs, Car boot fairs and antique shops. I feel sure the thrill of finding interesting and beautiful things will never fade.

During the summer we were very excited to be visited by the television programme 'The Antiques Road Trip'. The expert managed to find a bargain and we are looking forward to seeing the programme on TV early in 2018.

Although retail in the UK has been hit by rising inflation and the uncertainty of Brexit we are determined that Smoking Monkey Antiques will continue to flourish.

Marcia Riddington

### **NOTES TO STIR THE HEART**

Residents of the 'Grid', particularly those who live in the area at the top of Churchgate Street, must have been aware of the lone Trumpeter who played there recently.



On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month he, Josh Pirt, emerged from Whatley Lane estate agents to play 'The Last Post'. As the notes died away it had the dramatic effect of alerting all in earshot of the poignant hour. The hour when two minutes Remembrance and respect to our fallen countrymen and women and our allies was due.

The two minutes silence hung heavy in the still air while observances were made. After the allotted time the notes of 'Reveille' rang out and we were all released from the

moments thrall.

It appeared that the incident was quite a private initiative. However the calls were played with dignified precision by an accomplished and well drilled performer. I for one was deeply moved by the event. Such was its power that I feel the trumpeter should be identified and publicly thanked. Furthermore if at all possible it should become an annual event.

Robert C. Butterworth.

Josh Pirt works alongside James Sawyer of Whatley Lane Estate Agents. He moved to Bury in 2000 for Junior Regiment Officer Training at RAF Honington. At the end of his six year short service commission he worked in a variety of sales roles before joining Whatley Lane estate Agents. He spends his time between Bury and the Company's new London office in Notting Hill.

Twenty years ago, Josh was Drum Major of the Combined Cadet Force at Wellington School and regularly played Last Post as part of his bugling duties. Recently one lunchtime, Josh came across an old trumpet in a charity shop in Bury and keenly performed to James with a couple of rusty trumpet calls. Slightly out of practice, having not played for twenty years, James twisted his arm to play Last Post to stop people at 1100hrs on 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month to which they duly stood to attention to remember the fallen.

**Robert Butterworth**

It may not be generally known by residents of the Grid that among our community is an individual who holds what must be a unique position today. Robert Butterworth still produces those small collectable picture cards that were once so popular in tea packets and, until a few years ago, in (*soto voce*) cigarette packets too. Since 1993 anyone purchasing a packet of Butterworth Tea Bags, now available from Guats Up in Guildhall Street, would find one of these little gems nestling among the contents. Over the years a huge number of subjects have been covered. Here are some examples which relate to this time of year.....

### **A complete set of CAA Newsletters from 2003 till the present day**

A CAA member offered me a complete set of CAA newsletters but, sorry to say, I have forgotten who is this kind member is. We have found someone who would like to keep the newsletters for posterity. Please could this kind member ring me and give me his name? Thank you.

Vivien 01284 750887

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