



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 61 Autumn 2018

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 off it.

www.churchgateassoc.org.uk

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Our AGM will be held on Friday 19 October 2018 in the Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street at 7.00pm.

Peter Riddington, local resident and semi-retired architect with Douglas Insall Associates, will give a brilliantly illustrated talk on the Restoration of Windsor Castle after the devastating fire.

Following the disastrous fire at Windsor Castle, Douglas Insall Associates were commissioned as Co-ordinating Architects for the main phases of Reconstruction and Restoration. Work included re-creation of the magnificent architectural interiors in the destroyed principal State Rooms for which Peter was the architect responsible. His talk will explain quite how this was achieved. With the works completed on time and within budget, the Castle was restored to royal use exactly five years from the date of the fire, since which time it has received an increasing number of visitors and very many awards.

Wine and canapés will be served after the meeting

If you have anything that you particularly wish to discuss please email Vivien on vgf.masongill@gmail.com or telephone 01284 750887 so that we can include your observations

Membership Subscriptions due in October

Our membership year runs from 1st October, with membership continuing at £3 per person for the forthcoming year. You can renew your subscription at the AGM on 19th October if you wish, or put the money through my door at 68 Whiting Street. Cheques should be made out to *Churchgate Area Association*. Would new members who have joined since April 2018 please note that their membership already paid will cover them until October 2019. For them there is no need to renew in 2018.

I have Standing Order forms available for those who wish to pay without being reminded each year. About a quarter of our members pay automatically by Standing Order: could you please consider being one of them? It would help enormously if you can. I can bring you a form or email one. Just contact Judy Broadway, Membership Secretary on judy@jbroadway.co.uk or call at 68 Whiting Street, tel: 01284 724034. Thank you in advance.

15 Years of the Churchgate Area Association

I have inherited a complete collection of the CAA newsletter and very interesting reading it makes. Your association was formed on 17th September 2003 and a committee elected with James Langston as

Chairman. At the first committee meeting, when there were already over 100 paid-up members, it was decided that Crown Street and Guildhall Street should be admitted (these obviously being considered 'outlying' districts; it was several more years before Westgate was added). It was also decided to produce a regular newsletter, at first a single A4 sheet, which has grown into the copy you are reading today.

As well as speeding and parking, early concerns were various licensing proposals in Churchgate Street, some of which have happened others not. In each case your views were represented.

November 2004 saw our first AGM followed by an enjoyable talk from Clive Paine and then a social. This formula proved a success and continues today.

March 2006's newsletter saw a comment on the number of cars driving the wrong way down Bridewell Lane and an increase in parking on yellow lines . It took a number of years and much lobbying of the councils before proper 'No Entry' signs were put up at the junction of Bridewell Lane and Westgate; the problem of yellow-line parking remains, now worse than ever.

Another popular newsletter topic was the badgering of BT for them to install super-fast Broadband cabinets – they seemed reluctant to do this even though we are Bury's closest customers, the BT exchange being in Whiting Street. A result was reported in the September 2016 issue, five years later.

And for those of you who were there, and as reported in the newsletter of April 2016, you will certainly remember the Street Party for the Queen's 90th birthday that was celebrated that year. Alan Broadway

Heritage Partnership Progress

The mission of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership is to deepen public understanding of the life and times of St Edmund and the Medieval Abbey and to encourage people to experience the spiritual, historical and archaeological significance of the Abbey of St Edmund in the modern world.

The Heritage Partnership now has about 30 partners and 30 associates including over 15 local and regional partner organisations in the public private and voluntary sectors. It ran a successful Heritage Workshop in February and it is undertaking two consultancy studies funded by Historic England and the Borough Council and steered by two Advisory Groups.

The “Heritage Assessment”, undertaken by Richard Hoggett Heritage, was presented to Heritage Partnership partners and associates in June. It assembled for the first time all of the known and some rediscovered historical and archaeological information for an area twice the size of the Abbey Gardens. But it showed that much still remains undiscovered.



The “Conservation Plan” is currently being prepared by Purcell UK (Norwich) and will report in October. It is establishing the ‘significance’ of the heritage assets across the project area and its various subareas.

It is also identifying a series of heritage conservation policies and a range of potential heritage conservation, improvement and interpretation projects.

The Heritage Partnership has recently appointed Heather Lomas Consulting, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), to run a skills audit and a series of management consultancy and skills training workshops to help build its organisational capacity. A one-day study visit to a similar partnership at Abingdon Abbey near Oxford will complement the workshops.

The workshops will help the Heritage Partnership to develop its abilities to manage projects that are emerging from the two consultancy studies. HLF funding will also be used to procure basic IT and office equipment. Discussions are planned with HLF managers in the autumn to explore the scope to bid for further funding for major projects in future years.

The Heritage Partnership plans to hold a conference in the Cathedral on Saturday 26 January to present the key points from the two consultancy studies and to outline the way forward. Local people will be invited to attend and there will be a parallel schools event to ensure as much community engagement as possible.

Richard Summers

Busy Programme of Events Planned for Guildhall

After a hugely successful grand reopening, which saw hundreds of people visit the Guildhall over two days in July, Bury St Edmunds' newest visitor attraction has quickly become a must-see destination for all the family.

An exciting summer programme now gives way to the autumn and winter season with a jam-packed last three months of 2018 planned.

The events below give a snapshot of what is going on, but for full details please check out the Guildhall's website via www.burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk/.

Every Wednesday and Sunday, visitors can be intrigued and amused by **themed tours** – 'The Good, the Bad and the Unlucky' or 'Bury St Edmunds at War'.

The calendar is filling up all the time so the Guildhall website – and the What's On In West Suffolk – are the places to go for all the latest news.

Many sessions require booking. Find out more by calling Guildhall Reception on 01284 247037 or emailing info@burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk

The WWI Town Trail continues across the town until 11th November, drawing many to The Guildhall to take part in a host of related creative, reflective, poignant and fun responses to the Bury St Edmunds Art Society panels on display.

A floral theme takes over on 14th October with special **Autumnal Flower Workshops** running at 11am and then 1.30pm, one of a series of seasonal flower workshops planned.

Hallowe'en will be celebrated with several events, including Mummified Cats and the Witch Trail on 24th, 25th and 28th October and then a scary Ash Tree evening on 31st October, between 6pm and 8pm.

One of the biggest celebrations on the Guildhall's calendar, the '**St Edmunds Day Lantern Parade**', takes place on 20th November. For parents and children alike, '**Lantern-making Workshops** on 4th November and 11th November will culminate in an '**After Dark Lantern Exhibition**' on 14th to 16th November. The sight of the children processing through the town, faces a-glow, on November 20th, returning to the Guildhall for a warming feast, will surely establish this as an annual fixture.

The fun then turns to Christmas with ‘**Medieval Craft Workshops**’, ‘**Wreath Making Sessions**’, atmospheric ‘**Carols and Readings**’ all taking their place on The Guildhall’s exciting calendar.

The Guildhall becomes part of the famous **Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre** between 22nd and 25th November. With seasonal crafts, entertainments, as well as a quiet refuge to warm up, rest your feet and enjoy seasonal refreshments. Children will be delighted by ‘The Elves Toy-Making Workshops’ from 22nd November to 9th December (booking recommended), where children can make toys to keep, or donate it to worthy a cause.

The Guildhall Management team had a volunteer recruitment drive on the Heritage Open Days in September. They are extremely short of helping hands to run the building. On a normal day they need at least 4 volunteers on site in the morning and again in the afternoon (9:45am-1:15pm and then 12:45am-4:15pm (Sundays 10:45am-1:15pm 12:45pm-4:15pm). There needs to be one person to welcome visitors on reception, a general steward on the ground floor who can also support reception and serve teas, an upstairs steward for the WWII room and Robing Room and someone who can oversee and interpret the gardens and Tudor Kitchen. Are you able to be involved? VGF

Litter Bins in the Great Churchyard

As anyone who has walked through the Great Churchyard will know, there were always five litter bins in the area. The Borough Council took three bins away which resulted in unsightly litter being scattered through the churchyard. But, thanks to Alan Bond, an indefatigable member of the CAA committee, one more bin has been added back near the benches in the middle of the churchyard which we hope will result in a more pleasant space for everyone.

A Police ‘Listening’ meeting - 12 July 2018

I attended a meeting called by the Deputy Chief Constable, Stephen Jupp, together with the Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, at the Newbury Community Centre, St. Olaves Road, with about 50 other people, the majority of whom were local councillors from surrounding villages. The meeting was specifically called to address concerns of local people.

There were four main topics for discussion:

- a) Lack of funding for the Police Authority. Suffolk has one of the smallest grants in the country and this has greatly restricted the number of police on the beat and the work that the Police are able to carry out.
- b) The areas where crime/burglary was most prevalent are where the street lighting was switched off at midnight. After numerous complaints this has been rectified in the most crime-ridden areas.
- c) Domestic abuse has risen 42% in the last 12 months recorded and calls to 999 have almost doubled in the same period.
- d) Speeding - this topic was, in some ways, the most troubling. The main reasons are:
 - i) vehicles not abiding by the speed limit in built-up areas (particularly prevalent in the centre of Bury)
 - ii) boy racers, particularly on the Moreton Hall Estate. In the last recorded year 40,000 speeding tickets were issued.
- e) The other prevalent problem was the lack of parking in all built up areas. The Police intend to set up teams of volunteers who will walk the area in pairs placing Police notices on cars parked illegally i.e. on double yellow lines. A list of these cars will be then reported to the Police.

On other issues, outside of the above meeting, Suffolk Constabulary has once again joined forces with ‘Ring’ - a home security company - in a major thrust to tackle burglary in the county. Ring has provided 200 video cameras free of charge in addition to 50 donated devices installed earlier this year. These have proved very effective. Two prolific burglars have been caught and heavily sentenced. Tim Passmore said that this was a great initiative and we should follow this up in all areas. *Edward White*

BURY THEATRE WORKSHOP – Autumn Programme – Unitarian Meeting House

Betrayal by Harold Pinter. 27-29 September 7.30pm with matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm

Lysistrata – the Sex Strike by Germaine Greer and Phil Willmott after Aristophanes. 8-10 November 7.30pm

From Rob Butterworth.....Memories of Life in the Grid

We have a saying in our house, “All our visitors give us pleasure, some by their coming and some by their going”. Here are a few which fall into both categories.

The day the coal man came was really something unforgettable. We lived in an old timber framed house which had a cellar and was right on the street front. In the foot path in front, like every other house nearby, was a hinged and grated coal hole. The coal man would come with his horse and open flatbed cart and delivery would begin. Up to twenty 1 cwt. (112lbs) sacks would be emptied down the chute. Each one would be counted & sometimes weighed on scales on the back of the cart. Although the cellar was closed off with a door to the house the dust that the operation created would give my mother extra work for the next few days.

The milkman was a daily visitor, but of much more refinement. He also came with a horse and cart but was always very clean with shelter for both the delivery man and his produce. Probably out of the need to protect paperwork & produce from the elements rather than any altruism for the driver. That was normal in those days. The horse, which I think was called Peggy, knew the daily routine by heart. She was as good as any programmed computer and would move from stop to stop without the driver, just on his whistle. A feat as yet unequalled by modern technology. The dairy and stables for the horses were only 100 yards from our house. Occasionally, with permission from the owner & when the drivers were about, we children could visit and feed the horses.

The baker would come in a horse and trap. Occasionally mother would buy at the door, from the bakers open wicker basket, some extra breadly delight, my favourite being Chelsea buns. Often still warm those doughy delights with currants & mixed spice rolled inside & sugary topping can still make my mouth water today.

One man who did not have a horse and cart was the muffin man. Mr Pashler I think his name was. He came on a bicycle with a wicker pannier on the front and would ring his bell. On opening the wicker basket one could see a large cloth of dazzling whiteness and inside that were fresh made crumpets. What a treat for afternoon tea.

Finally near to our house was a Catholic Church and Convent school staffed by nuns. Occasionally my mother would tell me, upon my return from school and in a state of high dudgeon the following tale. During a busy day she would answer a knock at the door only to find a nun at the door with an open hand asking for financial support. Mother would have to tell them we did not use their church. In our case a very counterproductive visit and waste of time for the nuns.

These and many other colourful visitors such as Gypsy Peg Sellers, The Rag & Bone Man, Knife Grinder, Brush Sales Man, Paraffin Dealer etc. all added great piquancy to my childhood. In retrospect I should like to thank them, one and all.

The itinerant Gypsy pedlars who came to our door confined their visits to the summer months. Usually a female would turn up on a fine day with a wicker basket on her arm offering “lucky heather and pegs”. My Mother did not believe in luck from them, telling me that the harder you work the luckier you will be! However the pegs were always useful so a deal would sometimes be done. The pegs were made of split willow and the two halves secured by a tin band nailed round the top. The women themselves were a novelty to a curious child like myself. Smelling of wood smoke they usually wore long flowing skirts and ostentatious jewellery. Their long dark oiled hair would be tied up. A swarthy complexion and strong hands ingrained with grime seem to complete the picture in my memory. It all seemed so remote from my normal life at the time. My big sister told me that they would leave a secret mark outside your house to let others of their kind know if you had made a purchase.

The Travelling Paraffin Man. This was a smelly occupation but a vital one in the days before central heating. By today’s standards of health and safety it was a travelling bomb on wheels. The battered old van would pull up outside our house and within the back doors of the cab would be revealed a tank with a brass tap on. Our one gallon conical topped receptacle can was filled with the aid of a funnel and the transaction completed. We had an outside toilet in those days which in the depth of winter could get mighty cold. Those of a sluggish digestion could find their bowels lock solid under such conditions so a paraffin heater could be a great relief.

The Travelling Brush Salesman. A man used to come to our door with a battered old suitcase containing a selection of his finest wares. He seemed a sad and unfulfilled sort of character and was probably a damaged ex-serviceman from the war. Attired in his Trilby hat and Demob. suit he always did his best to be polite and helpful. Mother often purchased something from him as much out of kindness as of necessity.

No list of itinerant traders would be complete without mentioning The Rag and Bone Man. He would come slowly down the street with his horse and cart shouting out “Rag-Bone”. Always very scruffy as the job demands I suppose. He rewarded you with very little for whatever he collected. An early form of recycling in fact. When one considers his cart was locally hand made from a renewable resource, as was his horse, which ran on locally produced food and produced a useful exhaust the whole operation was quite efficient really.

The Knife Grinder. This gentleman made an occasional appearance at the door with his request, “Any knives, scissors or shears to sharpen?” There was rarely any custom for him at our house as my father regarded it as his duty to keep all edged items in tip top condition. However the man’s contraption for performing his task is worthy of mention. Attached to the rear wheel of his bicycle was a revolving grindstone on which he would carry out his commissions. I last saw this man in the late 70’s. Now very old he came to my shop seeking business. “Just a novelty these days Guv., just a novelty” he explained sadly. It is a source of constant regret that, as in the days of yore, I could offer him no trade.

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**Your Committee 2018/19.**

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