

CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No 65. Christmas 2019

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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🎄 *The CAA committee would like to wish all its members and residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year* 🎄

☆FOR YOUR DIARIES☆

The Exciting Programme for the Millennium of the Abbey of St. Edmund

Our next Social is being held on 17 April 2020 at 19.00 at the Unitarian Meeting House when Richard Summers, our local Planning Guru, will outline the exciting programme of events for the 1000 year Anniversary of the Abbey of St. Edmund in 2020

We look forward to seeing you. As always wine and nibbles will be served.

☆ **My First Few Months as your New District Councillor, by Lisa Ingwall-King** ☆

It has now been almost seven months since I was elected back in May and I must say it's been a real whirlwind. I have learned lots and been very busy getting to grips with all the work, from the lovely to the distressing e-mails I've been receiving from residents, and to all the committees, training, workshops, and taskforce meetings I've been attending. This has given me an even better insight into the issues that Abbeygate Ward and the whole of the District battles with. It has particularly been great to see that so many of us in the Ward feel so passionate about the need for reducing air pollution, prioritising the climate crisis, making our streets safer and protecting our trees.

Therefore, the first thing I dedicated a lot of my time to was to develop my motion asking the Council to declare a climate and environment emergency. The Council declared a Climate Emergency in the September meeting, which is a great first step. But, we are still waiting for a decision on the environment emergency as this needs to first be discussed by the Taskforce and Cabinet. However, during the summer I was invited to join the newly set up Environment and Climate Change Taskforce. We have had monthly meetings since August to develop the Council's approach and action plan regarding the emergencies. The first interim report from the Taskforce was due in November to Cabinet, but due to the general election this report had to be delayed until January. The next steps will be decided at this meeting but we hope we will be given the go ahead to contin-

ue our work to develop an action plan for the Environment and Climate Emergencies. I have been very active in the Taskforce work, with the hope of making it as ambitious as possible and my long experience of climate and ecological science from my day job has been very useful. I have been pushing for the importance of a wide stakeholder engagement with residents, to ensure that all ideas and voices are captured in our fight to address these issues. I would thus encourage everyone that is interested in being involved in the engagement process to get in touch with me and express your interest.

The second issue I started working on in May was air quality, and particularly the issue of cars idling by schools, which I know is an issue that the Churchgate Area Association has been pursuing for some time. I was part of setting up the Council's Air Quality working group, which has met twice since July and it is working on identifying actions that the Council should prioritise. The Council's decision to use a campaign approach to reduce anti-idling, rather than anti-idling zones, has been very much delayed but leaflets are now available on the Council's website or contact the West Suffolk Environment team to ask for leaflets to be sent to you (environment@westsuffolk.gov.uk). They are also planning two action days in January with the two primary schools in the ward, so please let me know if you would be interested in distributing leaflets during these days.

The third issue I have dedicated my time to, but didn't fully appreciate its scale before becoming a Councillor, is the level of drug abuse, homelessness and anti-social behaviour that Bury in particular is suffering. I have heard from many ward residents about the problem of anti-social behaviour they face on their doorstep in many cases which is very disturbing and sad. I was therefore pleased



that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which I sit on, focused its agenda on the West Suffolk Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy in September. I took this opportunity to further highlight the problem and to better understand the Council's approach and work on these issues. I have to say, although more clearly needs to be done to improve things, I was impressed with the work the Council is doing. But I challenged them to identify improvements. They then highlighted the following two key areas; first, the uncertainty of the funding situation for a large part of the outreach team, relying on grants rather than having secure sustainable funding. Second, not enough funding for prevention work, an area essential to address the problem. I will therefore work to try and secure a

more sustainable funding for both the outreach and prevention work that is so clearly needed. I have also talked to the police, and they are aware of the problems and encourage everyone that witnessing anti-social behaviour to contact them directly on 101, and if you are concerned about someone sleeping rough you can contact Streetlink (www.streetlink.org.uk, 0300 500 0914).

Lastly, I just wanted to say that I have suggested that a new Tree Strategy should be developed for the Council, so we can protect as many trees as possible as they provide us with so many benefits and beauty. I have also continued my community initiative 'Happy Planet Heroes' where we meet

monthly and connect through our Facebook group for anyone that is interested to learn more about Low Carbon living please join us, we meet every 2nd Sunday of the month at 11am at the Apex. We are also part of organising a Green Fair on the 12th January at the Apex. Here we want to share more widely what one can do to reduce ones ecological footprint, so it has an educational/workshop focus but with lots of green stalls, electric cars and sustainable food stalls as well, everyone welcome.

Think I have to stop there, but wanted to end with expressing my deepest thank you, to all of you who voted for me, I feel very honoured to represent the Abbeygate ward and look forward to continue working hard on the issues that matters most for Bury and the West Suffolk District. Cllr Lisa Ingwall King, (lisa.ingwall-king@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

☆A big ‘Thank you’ to Our Councillor Jo Rayner☆

The CAA has accepted the £500 locality grant offered by Jo Rayner for the printing of the Newsletter.

☆Abbey of St. Edmund 2020 Millennium Celebration Pilgrimage☆

As part of the 2020 Millennium celebrations a pilgrimage is being planned in May. The Abbey was founded in 1020 by King Cnut, who invited twelve Benedictine monks from St. Beets Abbey in Norfolk and eight from Ely to come to Bury St Edmunds. Their journey will be repeated on foot: five days from St Benet’s (about seventy miles) and two days from Ely (about thirty miles). Pilgrims will arrive together on 22 May. The route, accommodation and liturgy are being arranged between St. Edmundsbury, Norwich and Ely Cathedrals as well as St Mary’s, Mildenhall which will be celebrating its 800th Anniversary.

People of all faiths and no faith are welcome but numbers will be limited for the main pilgrimages to just thirty in each group. Fitness and sturdy boots will be required! Most days involve about fifteen miles walking and one day of twenty five miles which will test the most hardened pilgrim. Please spread the word and watch out for booking arrangements which will be on the St Edmundsbury Cathedral website early in the New Year. Sarah Gull (seg30@cam.ac.uk)

☆ Water Meadows Purchased To safeguard For Future Generations☆

Sarah and Stephen Gull from Friars’ Lane have just concluded the purchase of nearly 15 acres of amenity land on the far side of Cullum Road. They are now talking to conservation groups, including the Bury Water Meadows Group, to establish a master plan for their restoration. As Sarah says “it’s wild and not been managed for thirty years - there are four railway carriages hidden in the undergrowth.” She went on, “A lot of people are very excited about this. This is a huge patch of land in the middle of Bury and it is very, very important to prevent development there. It is a very important green site.



The Gulls first task was to invite members of the Bury Water Meadows Group to walk around the site. In this photograph Sarah Gull can be seen pointing out the boundaries and access points to gathered members. Any member wishing to help with or join a work party please contact Sarah Gull on seg30@cam.ac.uk

☆Simon Harding from Church Walks is awarded the British Empire Medal☆

It was around 1997 that Simon, and his wife Val, first opened their picturesque courtyard garden for Hidden Gardens. A few friends brought spare plants round for them to sell on the day. Those that were left over were put outside their new house in Church Walks and were sold to passers by. So started twenty years of fund raising for local charities that raised in total the magnificent sum of



£115,000. Selling plants outside their house was a significant part of their efforts but Val also organised art shows for many years in the Unitarian Meeting House, sometimes cajoling artists to donate their works for charity. Then there were stalls at car boot sales and Bury market which all helped to support forty-one charitable donations to Suffolk-based charities or branches of national ones.

At the presentation ceremony at Euston Hall on 8 November, the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lady Clare Euston also paid extensive tribute to Simon's long history of voluntary environmental work, in-

cluding involvement in the Community Liaison Group for the Energy from Waste incinerator at Great Blakenham which has been an outstanding success. Also, in the late 1990s Simon was involved with the late Doreen Tilley and other concerned residents when Greene King applied to build an access road across the Butts (part of the Holywater flood meadows). It was felt that the road would endanger local wildlife. Due to the publicity Greene King agreed to conserve and develop the area to create accessible wildlife meadows and maintain the river to enhance the habitat. Val and Simon's garden is a tribute to their long-lasting enthusiasm for gardening: Val with the planting and Simon with the eco-friendly planted sedum roof on the garden shed which has featured in both *The Garden* magazine as well as *Gardening Which?*. NL

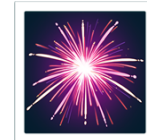
☆Congratulations to Joyce and John Clarke☆

You might think that there is nothing particularly unusual about the fact that a couple have lived in Bury together since 1946 and have lived in the same house in Westgate Street since 1952. What is unusual is that Joyce is due to become a centenarian in December and her husband, John, is to follow in June next year. Joyce was born in Leicester and John was Bury born and bred. After a period as a Japanese prisoner-of-war John left the Army and was offered a leading position with Greene King just after the war. Joyce knew no-one when she arrived in Bury but quickly settled into married life in, what was then, a small and very quiet town. They have two children and several grand



and great grand children. All will be present, along with more than thirty other guests at a very special birthday party at the Farmers' Club before Christmas.

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☆My Father, Polish War Hero☆

Stanislaw Josef Brzeski was born in Poland in 1918 and, at age fourteen, joined the army, later joining the Army Air Force and trained as a pilot. Just after Poland was invaded by Germany he describes a mission:

“One of my most interesting flights in Poland occurred on 3 September 1939. We were sitting in readiness, playing cards in the tent at dawn and listening to the radio which was tuned to the overflying German aircraft, and I remember hearing some of the German words like *Achtung*, *Aching* and *Gustav ist velossen*.....The commanding officer said *there is a German observation balloon behind the lines and the army want us to send one aircraft to shoot it down*. He asked who would like to volunteer for this job and, in reply, all hands in the tent went up. After a moment the CO took out a pack of cards and said *We will draw for it, gentlemen*. I drew the lowest card - two of spades.”

He describes this mission which he completed successfully, in spite of the balloon being protected by three Messerschmitts. He was nineteen years old.

He escaped from Poland after the occupation and made his way to France where he fought with the



Free French until France fell, after which he made his way by sea to England and joined 317 Squadron in Acklington, Northumberland. While he was here he met my mother on a blind date and they were married in 1943.

His luck ran out on 21 May 1943 when he was shot down over France and was eventually captured, hiding in a wood near Abbeville. He writes about his capture:

“My Spitfire came to rest in a field close to the edge of a small wood. A few hundred yards away I could see a small French village from which about 20 or 30 Germans

with rifles were moving in my direction. Like a shot, I was out of the cockpit and within a few seconds I was in the woods, taking off my yellow Mae West, which had already attracted one of two badly aimed bullets.....”

He evaded capture for several hours, but eventually “there was a sudden scream as one of the soldiers’ bayonets uncovered my hiding place. So that was it, I thought, and turned and sat on the ground looking at my captor. His scream brought many of his companions to my hiding place, all pointing their rifles at me. After a minute my captor said *Auf stehen* (get up) and *Hande hoch* (hands up).” He goes on to describe his interrogation and train journey through France to Stalag Luft 111.

While a prisoner of war he kept a diary: to me this was an achievement in itself as he wrote it entirely in English and often in the form of letters to his wife, Sheila, who was then expecting their first child. He eventually received the news that Wanda had been born and he describes the ‘Special Mess Dinner’ that his fellow POWs gave him to celebrate, on Thursday 21 October 1944 (I was born on 14 July).

He remained a POW until the war ended. I was fifteen months old when we first met. He was awarded the *Virtuti Militari* and DFC with two bars. He says:

“Personally, I am very proud to have been honoured and decorated by both his late Majesty, King George VI and the late President of Poland, General Sikorski.” He was even more proud of the fact that “I am one of the few.”

Sadly, he died at the age of fifty-four in 1972.

Wanda Wagstaff, Whiting Street

☆Welcome to the new landlord at the Rose and Crown☆

In mid-September Gordon Graham-Hall took over the tenancy of the Rose and Crown in Whiting Street. Gordon has been managing pubs for Greene King for several years including both the Spread Eagle and the Dog and Partridge.



Assisted by his daughter Leanne (pictured left), the aim is to keep the pub in its present form even though Leanne admits that they are entering the modern age by introducing the use of credit and debit cards. Their roasts on the first Sunday of each month are proving very popular and advance booking is advisable. What is more, the pub is now dog friendly so if you are looking for an excellent pint in very convivial surroundings you are urged to visit the Rose and Crown.

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YOUR COMMITTEE 2019/20 Vivien Gainsborough Foot, Chairman, 69 Whiting St. 750887. vgf.mason@gmail.com Nick Law, Newsletter Editor, 35 Guildhall St. nicklaw1@hotmail.com. Brian Jones, Planning, 8 Hatter St. 762342. brian.hessett@hotmail.com. Nick Moon, Treasurer, 58 Churchgate St. 07809 687536. nick@moon.me.uk. Judy Broadway, Membership/Website, 68 Whiting St. 724034 . judy@jbroadway.co.uk. Alan Broadway, Traffic and Parking, 68 Whiting St. 724034. Cathy Friel, Licensing, Minute Secretary, 42 Crown Street, 755549. Geoffrey House, Police, 8 William Barnaby Yard, 07826852145. Keith Smiley, 17c Whiting Street, 07445722247.

☆Let's brighten up our beautiful town to celebrate the Abbey of St.

Edmund Millennium Year☆

2020 is going to be a very exciting and special year for Bury St. Edmunds, with worldwide publicity, as we shall be celebrating 1000 years of the Abbey of St. Edmund all through the year. It is up to us to make our town as beautiful and welcoming to visitors as possible. To that end you may wish to avail yourselves of the 'Bury in Bloom' offer of Hanging Baskets for your houses: the Order Form is reproduced here.

The baskets are provided by Bury in Bloom at a cost of £90 per basket. All you need is a strong bracket that will take 19kgs (45lbs) [*very important*] which you can put up somewhere at the front of your house. The bracket must be positioned so that the base of the basket is no more than 3.5m (12ft) from the ground.

Bury in Bloom will hang the baskets and keep them maintained and watered all year; they will then remove the baskets at the end of the year. I have had 2 baskets from Bury in Bloom (on the front of 69 Whiting Street) for some years now and they make a beautiful display all summer. VGF

ORDER YOUR BASKETS TO HELP BURY ST. EDMUNDS LOOK ITS FLORAL BEST

FULLY MAINTAINED BASKETS: £90 EACH

- ✿ **We will provide** ready planted colourful displays in water conserving containers installed for you on the outside of your building at the end of May.
- ✿ Baskets watered, fed and maintained all summer until the season has ended*.
- ✿ Baskets removed and all plants recycled at the end of the season.
- ✿ **You need to provide** and fix brackets strong enough to hold a max weight of 19kg (42lbs). To ensure the bowser can reach the baskets, the brackets on the front of your building must be positioned so that the base of the baskets are no higher than 3.5m (12ft) from the ground.
- ✿ Baskets are hung on own brackets at property owners risk.

Please fill and return the order form plus payment by 7th April 2020.

Cheque: Make payable to 'Bury in Bloom' & post to Bury in Bloom C/O CAB The Risbygate Centre, 90 Risbygate Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3AA.

BACS: Email your requirements plus confirmation of your BACS payment date (acc no 30226769, sort code 20-16-12) to Bury in Bloom Treasurer e-mail treasurer@burysociety.com

*Subject to Watering Route



ORDER FORM 2020

I would like to order the following number of hanging baskets:

..... Fully maintained baskets @ £90.00 each Total £.....

Price includes delivery, watering, maintenance, collection & recycling at the end of the season.

Please order by 7th April 2020

PAYMENT

- ☐ I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Bury in Bloom.
- ☐ I have paid £..... by BACS on (Confirmation date).

DETAILS

Name.....

Contact name (Ms/Mrs/Mr)

Business/Home Address

.....

.....Postcode.....

Address where basket/s to be installed (if different from address above)

.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone

Email

Signed Date

