



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 63 Spring 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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SOCIAL EVENING

Friday 12th April at 7.00pm at The Unitarian Meeting House

The Speaker will be Mark Cordell who is the CEO of Our Bury St. Edmunds Business Improvement District. Mark will speak on what the BID does for its members, visitors and residents. He will speak for 15 minutes or so and then will answer questions.

Our upmarket nibbles and wine will be served as usual

after the meeting.

Planning and Parking

On 1 November I attended a Bury council planning meeting, on behalf of the CAA, in order to object to a planning application at 46/47 St Andrew's Street South, adjacent to *Neptune*. The proposal is to build sixteen apartments without any provision for parking. I was allowed to speak for exactly 90 seconds. The application was passed with a comfortable majority. This will impact on the parking problem in central Bury. The Council were able to pass this application because they say that it is "a sustainable development". According to *Suffolk Guidance for Parking* one of the criteria for "sustainable" is that there should be access to "frequent and extensive public transport". As we all know Bury does not have this requirement. BJ

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

I enlisted our MP's help with attempting to push forward with CPE which will bring traffic wardens back on our streets and help to prevent this crazy parking situation in the Grid where cars and vans are parked with impunity and illegally on double yellow lines, pavements and corners.

Jo Churchill wrote to say that she realises that the lack of police response to illegal parking is a source of frustration for residents and businesses alike. She said that she had met with Jesse Norman MP, Minister of State for Transport, before Christmas to raise the issues that currently exist with CPE in Suffolk. Out of 353 Councils in England only 21 do not have CPE and 6 of those are in Suffolk.

Jo said that it would appear that progress is being made to solve parking enforcement in Suffolk and that the Department of Transport and Suffolk County Council have worked together to bring for-

ward legislation by October at the latest and that there is a strong commitment from the Department to fix this issue. VGF (*Let's hope that, at last, this legislation goes through Parliament*)

A walk round the Grid

It has finally happened – our walk to establish extra residents' parking spaces within the Zone D area took place on a mild February morning – and back to Vivien's for coffee and home-made cake.

As I set out in our last newsletter, we have been waiting for action from the borough and county councils since the Zone D report was produced by Alpha Parking back in 2016. Since then our County Councillor, David Nettleton, has been trying to move this forward on our behalf and finally produced a result with two officers from County Highways and one from the borough council arriving. We all set off about 10.30 (that is David, the three officers, Vivien, myself and two more of your committee) to walk round the streets. (A map of Zone D parking area is available on the borough web site). And after returning to Vivien's for our coffee and cakes we added up the extra spaces identified – there were around 40 of them!

These spaces were dotted around our streets and included extending the area to include Friars Lane but did not include extending the area to include Guildhall Street North (pay-and-display only). This is because the changes to be made will be funded by the on-street parking income and so all pay-and-display machines must remain to generate that income.

We asked about dates and were told that the process would be:

- County Highways would survey the identified spaces to check their viability
- Residents bordering those spaces would be notified by letter and have 21 days to reply
- Work would then take place to remove yellow lines and mark out spaces
- Certain single yellow lines would be changed to double
- Signs would be changed to indicate residents' parking from 8am to 8pm (presently 6pm)

And all this by the end of 2019.

If this were not enough, we heard about some Bury-wide parking news that may well soon happen:

- Car parks to become pay-on-exit and opening hours increased
- The obsolete number-of-space-free signs to be replaced by ones that work
- CPE to be introduced by the end of October this year, so that the borough traffic wardens rather than the police are responsible for illegal parking. AB

Two new PCSOs

The Town Council, at a meeting on 27 February, announced the good news that two Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) were to be employed. One, an experienced officer as well as being a trainer of PCSOs, started work on 25 February. The second would start in a couple of weeks. So, we should expect to see PCSOs around the town, providing support for front-line policing, offering early intervention to prevent crime and dealing with minor offences. GH

Switch off your engine!

Did you know that leaving your engine running (idling) can damage your health and the health of others through vehicle fumes? It's anti-social (and illegal in some places) to keep your engine idling when parked, as it creates pollution for passers-by and nearby residents.

Modern cars are designed to be switched on and off, unlike older models. Idling dirties your engine and can increase wear and tear through incomplete combustion. Turning your engine off for more than a minute creates less pollution than leaving it idling.

It's a myth that an idling engine is good for your catalytic converter, which works best when hot. The converter will retain heat for about 25 minutes after the engine is turned off in any case.

For more facts about engine idling, see the useful poster produced by Transport for London. Just search for 'your engine – TfL' on the internet.

The CAA has been receiving complaints from residents about cars idling when parked outside their homes, which make engine fumes noticeable indoors. There are concerns about health, particularly from residents with young children. We are trying to engage with parents via the local schools to alert them to the problem.

JB

Report from Council meeting concerning pollution

St Edmundsbury Council recently endorsed a campaign to persuade motorists to turn off their engines when stationary. The initiative is shared with other local councils and will rely on their own media and publicity staff to put out a strong message to schools, businesses and the general public.

The belief is that many motorists just do not realise the pollution damage they cause by leaving their engines running and therefore will respond well to a good media campaign.

Although the campaign emphasises turning off engines at traffic lights, it is the school run that most contributes to extra pollution in the grid affecting both their own children and residents of the grid. Most mornings there will be some parents who leave engines running whether to keep the heating going in winter or the air conditioning in summer.

There was an opportunity for the public to speak at the Council meeting. I stated that there would be support from the CAA and grid residents generally to the campaign. I pointed out that the school run was resulting in longer periods that engines might be kept running with parents often turning up 30 minutes early to get a place to wait. School pickup is an extended period these days due to after school activities and after school clubs for working parents.

Councillor Andrew Speed stated that once new PCSOs were appointed later in 2019 they could help the campaign by talking to parents directly when they had engines running. He also proposed that the Council formally review the success of the campaign after 12 months, so as to be able to review additional measures should the schools and media campaign not be successful as far as parent behaviour was concerned.

This meeting agenda was not intended to address the wider concerns on the school run. Vivien has previously reported on a meeting with the new Head at Guildhall Feoffment. He has agreed to add a good practice section to the letter to new parents on school run issues. Andrew Hinchley



A New Sculpture for Church Walks

Church Walks is a quiet place, off the beaten track in the heart of the mediaeval grid between College Street and Bridewell Lane in the heart of the grid. The communal garden, with its unique view across the varied roofscape to the Norman Tower and Cathedral is a welcome stopping point for tourists and a peaceful place for residents.

The garden now has a new sculpture: a steel pillar topped by St Edmund's crown, which links the garden to the historic view. Steve Jones, who lives in Church Walks and made the sculpture, hopes passers by will enjoy the new installation.

Schrödinger's Clock® – playing with time

When somebody asks you, “what time is it?” and you look at your watch, there are two things happening. The first is that you immediately understand that they want to know the time ‘NOW’ and that your watch is telling the time ‘NOW’, i.e. the right time.

Secondly, and more philosophically, when you are not looking at your watch, how do you know that it is still telling the right time?

When you visit the clock collection in Moyses Hall, which includes the Gershom-Parkington collection, there is one underlying principle behind all these clocks: they all aim to tell the right time, in other words, the time ‘Now’. No matter what principle of display is used by clockmakers across the world and centuries, the ambition has always been to tell the time ‘Now’ – and for very good reason. Why would you want a clock that does not tell the right time?

The latest addition to the clock collection in Moyses Hall is Schrödinger's Clock® and it is unique in that it deliberately aims to tell the wrong time – some of the time. The reason for this lies in the intriguing world of quantum mechanics – a branch of physics that has taxed the minds of several generations of physicists.

At the start of the 20th century, the physicist Erwin Schrödinger was trying to explain one aspect of quantum mechanics and illustrated the point with his now-famous ‘cat in a box’ metaphor. Imagine, he said, that you put a live cat in a box, together with a mechanism that, at any random moment in time, might instantly kill the cat. When you close the lid to the box, you have no knowledge of what is going on inside the box – the cat might be alive or it might be dead. In which case, he continued, you could imagine that it exists in both states simultaneously. Only when the box is opened, can the state be determined.

This image of his cat being both alive and dead at the same time, has entered the general world, so many people know about Schrödinger's Cat even if they are not physicists; it appears all over the world!

Schrödinger's Clock® aims to illustrate this point without harming any cats. From the outside, it is a polished wooden case in much the same way that a marine chronometer is in a polished wooden case. When it is running, there is a steady tick-tock like a normal clock (the sound used is actually from a regulator clock in the Gershom-Parkington collection). But with each tick, the clock inside the box changes time; either it is showing the right time, or it is showing the wrong time. Like Schrödinger's Cat, you can't tell which from outside the box.

When you open the lid, the clock will show the time it was displaying at the moment you opened the lid. This may be the wrong time or it may be the right time, NOW. After about five seconds, it reverts to showing the right time (NOW) in Bury St Edmunds.



However, if you press the button next to the display you can fool the Clock into thinking that the lid is closed, so it will proceed to show the WRONG time or the right time (NOW). The Clock acknowledges that the lid is closed because the eyes of the cat in the logo close when the button is pressed.

However, there is another twist to take account of life in the 21st century. If you call somebody in, say, California and ask them what is the time there, the answer will be

eight hours different from the time in Bury St Edmunds. In both cases (slightly illogically), the time seen by the person on each end of the phone line will be 'NOW'.

Schrödinger's Clock® recognises this, so when it changes time with the lid down (or the button pressed), the time can be WRONG, or it can be NOW in Bury St Edmunds, or it can be NOW somewhere else in the world.

Moyses Hall Museum is the ONLY place in the world where you can see this truly unique clock intended to show you that telling the WRONG time can be a way to think more about the world around you.

Antony Hurden will be giving a talk about Schrödinger's Clock® in the Library on 3rd April, from 10.30-11.30am so come along if you want to hear more about the story behind this unique clock.

SOCIAL CLUB

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we announce the formation of a new social aspect to the Churchgate Area Association.

To be known as The Guildhall Club it will provide a weekly venue for every resident in the CAA catchment area where all can meet in fellowship and enjoy numerous benefits.

While tea, coffee and biscuits will be available every week members can also enjoy various entertainments and activities. It is anticipated that these will include a cinema/theatre group and a play reading group. Furthermore quarterly lunches, monthly speakers and entertainments plus a gardening group, a baking group, a scrabble group and a chess group will also be offered. Indeed it is hoped to cater for as many interests as demand requires.

With this in mind it is requested that everybody who feels they can assist in any of the foregoing to contact the organisers prior to the inaugural event early in April.

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A warm welcome awaits all participating contributors and members.

Organisers: Vivien Gainsborough Foot. Chair. e-mail: <vgf.masongill@gmail.com> tel. 750887

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RB

Bury Rickshaw gearing up for new season

The popular rickshaw is gearing up for a new season starting in April. Rides are free to those needing a little help to get out and about. Call 01284 339449 to make a booking or volunteer.

Bury Bach Choir present: J S BACH: ST MATTHEW PASSION

Saturday 6 April 2019, 6.30pm ,St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds

Tickets from £16 (under-25s half-price) The Apex Box Office 01284 758000

or online from www.burybachchoir.co.uk

Bach's choral masterpiece tells the story of Jesus' suffering and death. Last performed by the Bury Bach Choir twelve years ago, this is a rare opportunity to hear the work during Lent. For reserved seats you are advised to book early. ***NB Please note earlier than usual start time of 6.30pm***

BURY THEATRE WORKSHOP

The Real Inspector Hound by Tom Stoppard. Directed by Adam Thurkettle. 25,26,27 April. Farcical and satirical drama parodying the Agatha Christie 'parlour mystery' while examining themes of fate, free will and the 'play within a play'.

Both plays are being performed at the Unitarian Meeting House at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets: £10 online or on the door. Go to www.burytheatreworkshop.org.uk

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