



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No 66 Spring 2020

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 17th April 2020 at 7.00pm at The Unitarian Meeting House

Come and hear Richard Summers, our own Planning Guru, giving us the details of the Glorious Celebrations to mark the Millennium of the Abbey of St. Edmund in 2020, founded by King Cnut in 1020. He will speak for 30 minutes or so and then will answer questions.

Our free upmarket nibbles and wine will be served as usual after the meeting.

Free to CAA members. New members can join for £3 on the door.

James (Jim) Palfrey from Whiting Street

Jim, as he is always known by friends and family, was one hundred years old on 1st March this year. He is the fourth generation of Palfreys to not only be born and live in Bury but also to have worked at Greene King. His schooling started at St Mary's Infant School in Sparhawk Street and then on to Guildhall Feoffment in Bridewell Lane. He left there at fourteen years of age and went



to work straight away at Greene King working his way up to garage foreman before retiring in 1983. As he said, with a wry grin, "I have worked it out that I have had over £500,000 out of the Greene King pension scheme over the years!" To which his son, Malcolm, can only say "Where's it all gone, Dad?" However, perhaps Jim's proudest achievements were in the Army, serving with the 55th Anti Tank Regiment and landing on Gold Beach with the second wave of soldiers on D-Day. For services to his country he was awarded a number of medals including three from the French Government in gratitude for helping to liberate France. For many years after the war, Jim was either Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of the local branch of the Normandy Veterans Association and attended many annual reunions in Normandy. Congratulations, Jim! NL

Traffic and Parking

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who responded to my recent email asking about traffic flows when Crown Street became temporarily one-way due to road works. Although some people were in favour of our proposal to make the one-way permanent, a majority were strongly against, and thought it would bring too much disruption elsewhere in the town. So we will not be pursuing this proposal.

By the time you read this, Vivien and I will have been to a meeting with West Suffolk Council and asked about promised progress on:

1. Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) - this has been promised for April 6th and will mean that our regular traffic wardens will be issuing tickets for illegal parking after that.
2. Additional parking spaces for Zone D – the consultation of local residents by Suffolk Highways took place last October and this was to be followed by a period of analysis, report and signing off with works started this February/March. We have been told to expect the work to start after the introduction of CPE.
3. Pavement repairs – this was flagged as imminent in Whiting Street last December but nothing has been sighted yet. We are aware that pavements in other streets also need serious attention.

AB

Grant received from Bury St. Edmunds Town Council

The Churchgate Area Association acknowledges with thanks the grant of £500 received from Bury St. Edmunds Town Council to pay for our three newsletters in 2020 to be produced in colour. This grant was kindly initiated by Cllr. Jo Rayner as part of her Locality Grant Scheme; we are most grateful to Jo and the Town Council for their generosity.

An Appeal from Gatehouse - your local charity which works with people in need, those living with Dementia and their carers.

Gatehouse is based in Dettingen Way, Bury. It was started in 1986 by Sr. Helena, helping those in need who were struggling with life. We have various projects: firstly, The Dementia Hub, which provides day services for those with Dementia and their carers and secondly we run the Food Bank in Bury. Thirdly, we have a large Homestore which is open to the public selling furniture, clothing and accessories three days a week to raise funds. On other days we work with social care agencies to provide very low cost items to those in need.

When the Recycling Centre was at Rougham Hill we had a contract with the Council to collect items for reuse free of charge. Now that the Centre has moved out of Bury we no longer have access to these items which were our main source of income apart from a few local grants.

This means we can now only rely on members of the local community, like yourselves, to donate items. We do have a van to collect large items. So, if you have unwanted items that would be suitable for reuse please contact our CEO Amanda Bloomfield on 01284 754967 or email homestore@gatehouse.org.uk. Our website is www.gatehouse.org.uk.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our premises to see how we work and how you can help us. Thank you.

Celia Green, Trustee

Air Quality developments

Are you concerned about the number of cars vans and lorries in the town centre area?

Are you also worried about unnecessary idling of car engines – especially near schools?

Air Quality is, we believe, of interest to all residents and we in the CAA have been concerned about air quality within our area, for some time.

Well, all these concerns will now form part of the work of a newly formed Air Quality Group. The group includes representatives from Residents' Associations, council officers and elected representatives, with the aim of improving air quality within the town. Geoffrey House and Cathy Friel are the CAA representatives.

The group will work with interested parties to develop and promote best practice and create a clean and safe place to live and work. An important area of concern has been stationary cars, vans or lorries unnecessarily running their engines, particularly near schools.

The group will examine ways of improving air quality including: vehicle idling; clear road signage; better traffic direction on roads; the impact of lorries in the town; the promotion of Public Transport as a better way to travel; the reduction of car use and a focus on more economical and environmentally friendly driving, including the promotion of car sharing. The list is not exhaustive and could include other items of concern. Please contact the CAA representatives if you have additional areas of concern.

Finally, please note that from April Civil Parking Enforcement will be transferred to the Council from the police this year. Parking Enforcement will include unnecessary engine idling. The attached news article from the British Medical Journal summarises the health risks of air pollution for children and adults. It has been reproduced with permission from the BMJ. GH

Reducing Exposure and Contribution to Air Pollution

Paediatricians and other health professionals should talk to patients and families about how they can reduce exposure and contribution to air pollution, the Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health (RCPCH) has said.

The College has published new information to help paediatricians have these discussions. It recommends that children, young people and families take action such as walking or cycling short journeys instead of taking the car, walking on quieter streets rather than main roads, and taking public transport for longer journeys.

It has also called on the Government to expand clean air zones in towns and cities to protect children and young people from air pollution, and give local authorities the power to close or divert roads when air pollution exceeds set limits. The College has warned that air pollution is the single greatest environmental threat to public health and that it disproportionately affects children, young people and deprived communities. It said that the health affects of air pollution are also linked to asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, dementia and obesity.

The UK Health Alliance on Climate Change - of which the RCPCH and the British Medical Journal (BMJ) are members - has estimated that by 2035 the UK health and social care cost of air pollution will reach £18.6bn (€22bn, \$24bn). Richard Smith, chair of the alliance and former editor of the BMJ, said: "Through their work with children and families, paediatricians have a unique opportunity to influence the next generation to develop attitudes and behaviours that are good for their health and the health of the planet."

It is crucial, however, that the Government also takes action, the College stressed. It has called for the Government to bring forward its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, make investments in active travel infrastructure and public transport, and ensure that a detailed national monitoring of exposure to air pollution at a population level.

Neonatal consultant, Simon Clark, vice president for research at RCPCH said, “The quality of our air is now a significant threat to the health of children and young people. While we should all make changes at an individual level, making the air we breathe safer and healthier requires national and societal change and that can only be led by the Government. This is a fixable and avoidable cause of mortality and disease. A nationally led effort led by the Government and backed by firm policy will save lives and significantly reduce the economic and social cost of air pollution.” Elisabeth Mahase, BMJ.

Car(e) for the Climate

Just in case you don't have time to read the whole article, the main purpose for writing it is to ask: **is there anyone in the Churchgate area who wants to consider sharing a car?**

For many of us climate change has entered our consciousness in a new way over the last year or so. Whether it's through the words of Greta Thunberg, the direct action of groups like Extinction Rebellion, or simply the increased frequency of extreme weather events, we're all becoming more aware of how our lives are impacting upon the climate. Sometimes, however, it's difficult to know what we can do in response. There is a major role for governments to lead nationally and internationally, but there's also a need for us to act locally. It's possible for us to make small changes as individuals, but sometimes when we work together as communities, we can achieve even more.

At this point in time, as my 15-year old car is about to die, I'm personally thinking about a different approach to my car usage. Both my home and office are in the Churchgate Area – so of course I walk to work – and both the climate and I are saved from a daily commute. That said I do often have meetings and conferences I need to attend elsewhere in the country, as well as regularly wanting to visit family members in Hampshire, Berkshire and elsewhere in Suffolk.

In some larger towns and cities there are community car share schemes, enabling groups of people to share the usage of a single vehicle. Some calculations show that the carbon footprint from the manufacture of a car is almost as much as the carbon footprint of the fuel used during its lifetime! This means that sharing a car immediately reduces CO₂ emissions even if the number of miles driven isn't reduced. What happens, however, is that when you can't just jump in the car whenever you want to, you start to consolidate your various journeys, and end up driving less. Sharing a car also means one less residents' parking spot to find – and we know what a challenge that is around Churchgate!

My hope is that there may be other occasional car users who may want to explore the possibility of sharing a vehicle. Others have pioneered these schemes, so whatever approach we take, questions such as insurance, booking, key access and so on have already been worked out for us, and modern technology may well have a role to play. Dependent upon how many people respond, a local project could be as simple as two households having access to one car and sharing the costs fairly, or as complicated as having a few cars available with booking and payment via apps and a swipe card to unlock the vehicle.

If you want to explore this opportunity further, or find out more, please do send me an email at simon@simongoddard.org.uk or call me on 07930 148094.

Future generations are going to look back at those of us living in the early 21st century and either thank us for the actions we took to mitigate climate change or blame us for our inaction and complacency. Wouldn't it be great if the legacy of this little part of Bury St. Edmunds was something our children and grandchildren could be proud of? Rev. Simon Goddard, 54 Westgate Street

A Visit to Guildhall Feoffment School

On a blustery morning in February I had the pleasure to meet Lorraine Ratcliffe, the relatively new Head Teacher at Guildhall Feoffment Community Primary School in Bridewell Lane. We touched on the history of the school dating back to its foundation on 3rd July 1843 as the Guildhall Feoffment Poor Boys School, thirty boys being the first pupils. The school was built on land owned by, and with money provided by, the Guildhall Feoffment Trust. In fact, the school still pays rent to the Trust...all of £2 per annum. Today Mrs Ratcliffe is Head of a school of nearly 400 pupils and 60

staff. Roughly 40% of pupils live within the catchment area and she is particularly aware about the pressures this creates within the local community as far as drop off and collection is concerned as well as engine idling by parents' cars whilst waiting for children on cold afternoons in winter. She is passionate about environmental issues and believes that the issue will dissipate by showing pupils the harm exhaust fumes can do to both people and beautiful old buildings. The school has a team of Junior Road Safety Officers who were reporting to the rest of the school at Assembly during the morning of my visit. She has also established a School Council which, amongst



other things, has the task of improving the school in the local area. There is also an Eco Club whose members are focusing on the environment locally and tasked to improve the role of recycling within the school. To be fully effective this may take a few years but the school has already started by offering secondhand uniforms for £1 thus saving clothes from waste and the extra use of plastic in the making of clothes.

I suggested that it was not just a case of what the school could do for the community but perhaps also what the community could do for the school. Mrs. Ratcliffe thought about this for a minute and then mentioned that the school has a Feoffment Mentors programme. This is where individuals, whether parents or members of the local community, come into the school and give a short talk on their particular interest or career, whether past or present. She also mentioned that the school is looking for a replacement Governor. So, if anyone in the Grid can offer their support to a vital part of our community please contact Mrs. Ratcliffe on admin@guildhallfeoffment.suffolk.sch.uk. Also, if there are any niggles about the school please use the same email and Mrs. Ratcliffe will be delighted to answer in person. At the end of our delightful discussion the Head mentioned that the school has a Summer Fair on 3rd July and we are all welcome to attend. Perhaps it would be a good idea to email your acceptance in advance!

NL

Peter Layman

We are all so grateful to Peter for keeping our streets clean and weed free. Peter and his electric Glutton pavement sweeper patrol our streets every working day. His job is only meant to entail collecting litter but he undertakes the street weeding on a voluntary basis and entirely out of the goodness of his heart as the council have no funds to do the job. The pictures below shows him wearing one of his range of stylish hats in Friars' Lane. Thank you, Peter. NL



YOUR COMMITTEE 2019/20 Vivien Gainsborough Foot, Chairman, 69 Whiting St. 750887. vgf.masongill@gmail.com Nick Law, Newsletter Editor, 35 Guildhall St. nicklaw1@hotmail.com. 07912648138. Brian Jones, Planning, 8 Hatter St. 762342. brian.hessett@hotmail.com. Nick Moon, Treasurer, 58 Churchgate St. 07809687536. 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.

BURY IN BLOOM HANGING BASKETS

Help us Celebrate the Millennium of the Abbey of St. Edmund this year with an amazing display of colour to brighten up our town for the expected increase in numbers of visitors.

Bury in Bloom will do all the work for you as long as you have one or two sturdy brackets fitted to the front of your house capable of holding 19 kgs (42 pounds) in weight

LET'S SHOW BURY at its brightest and best

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



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..... 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

