

# CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

Established 2002

## NEWSLETTER

**Number 70**

**Spring 2022**

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

The Association promotes the interests of all residents, businesses and property owners, not only in Churchgate Street, but also in the general area of all those streets that lead directly off it.

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### Another Great Success

Let's admire the musical and fund raising efforts of those who played and sang Christmas carols on Angel Hill in the cold on the Saturday before Christmas. This was in aid of St.



Nicholas Hospice. Richard Smith, cello, of Whiting Street, Jackie Griffin, mandolin, of Finsbury Place, Rachel Wood, violin, from Chevington, Martin, violin, from Woodbridge and Neil, mandolin from Chevington were joined by Jeremy Warbrick, also of Whiting Street, who corralled a choir of friends, plus members of the Irving Stage Company to swell the sound.

We had to admire them for their courage and perseverance in a bitterly cold wind, and there was a goodly crowd of passers-by who joined in the singing. Altogether a most moving and productive morning enjoyed by many people; the players and singers showing great versatility and enthusiasm. VGF

**And they raised the sensational sum of £1,438.24**

## Two dates for your Diary!

Our April Social will be held on Thursday 7 April at 19.00 in the Unitarian Meeting House to which all **Churchgate Area Association** members are invited.

We are very privileged that Hugh Belsey, the world authority on Gainsborough, has agreed to come and speak to us during the evening which will be followed by questions. His talk will be entitled 'Gainsborough: the changing circumstances of his work'.

Gainsborough moved to Bath in 1759 when his work changed dramatically to match his national ambition. This lecture will examine these significant changes in his outlook and try to explain what goals he wanted to achieve.

After his lecture we can speak to Hugh in person while enjoying our up-market nibbles and a glass or two of wine. We look forward to seeing you.



## AND THEN.....ON 5th JUNE.....

We can really let our hair down and enjoy ourselves! We are shutting part of Whiting Street South for another of our brilliant Street Parties to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> June from 15.00 – 17.00 and every house in The Grid will receive an invitation next month.

Find your flags, hunt for your Union Jack hats! Keep the date!

Do you remember the fun we had in 2016?



And here are a couple from the archives. A street party in College Street, possibly sometime in the 1960s. Supplied by Sarah Beaumont. Contact the Editor if you can recognise anyone. Do you have other photographs of street parties in the Grid?



## Full Fibre Broadband

There has been a fair amount of disruption for the residents of The Grid caused by CityFibre/Telec digging up Guildhall Street and Westgate Street during the last few months. But it does mean that we will be able to have Full Fibre broadband speeds if we choose to sign up to one of the 19 providers who are affiliated to CityFibre (i.e. Vodafone, Pure, Legend, Talk Talk, Zen to mention a few). The choice is entirely yours.

The probable dates for digging up each street are provisional and may well change, but I think it gives some indication as to when things might happen. Of course, there are always unforeseen problems and overruns which will affect the dates given. Martyn Caulfield, who runs the construction company Telec, has been unfailingly patient and helpful with any problems.

West Suffolk Council parking team have given all motorists holding a Zone D permit permission to park in a town car park free of charge when residents' bays are blocked because of the work.

Here are a few facts and figures:

### CityFibre Update - Bury St Edmunds

#### Contact points

CityFibre has a general "Enquiry" button on the top right of the website homepage at [www.cityfibre.com](http://www.cityfibre.com) For general enquires, compliments or complaints there is a dedicated telephone number

0800 083 6160

Complaints can be logged by emailing [Complaints@cityfibre.com](mailto:Complaints@cityfibre.com)

If you wish to escalate or contact your local manager directly then please email [charles.kitchen@cityfibre.com](mailto:charles.kitchen@cityfibre.com)

This provides Contact Points on the roll out of the CityFibre £8 million Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) network in Bury St Edmunds.

Angel Lane **see attached list**  
 Athenaeum Lane **no works required**  
 Bridewell Lane **see attached list**  
 Chequer Square **no works required**  
 Churchgate Street **see attached list**  
 Church Walks **no works required**  
 College Lane and College Square **no works required**

College Street **see attached list**  
 Crown Street **to be confirmed**  
 Finsbury Place **no works required**  
 Greene Mews, off Westgate Street **no works required**  
 Guildhall Street North from the junction of Churchgate Street to Abbeygate Street **to be confirmed**  
 Guildhall Street South **see attached list**  
 Hatter Street **see attached list**  
 Honey Hill **to be confirmed**  
 Langton Place **no works required**  
 Tuns Lane **no works required**  
 West Front of the Abbey **no works required**  
 Westgate Street **should be complete by 4 March**  
 Whiting Street North and South **see attached list**

Westgate Street; jct of Southgate Street to jct of Maynewater Lane	13 January 2022	24 January 2022
Westgate Street; jct of Parkway to Jct of Guildhall Street	24 January 2022	04 February 2022
Westgate Street; junction of Maynewater Lane to junction of Crown Street	07 February 2022	11 February 2022
Westgate Street; junction of Crown Street to junction of Guildhall Street	07 February 2022	04 March 2022
Angel lane. Jnc of Abbeygate street - O/s Angel hotel	07 February 2022	25 February 2022
College Street. Jnc of Westgate Street - Jnc of Churchgate Street	18 April 2022	10 June 2022
Churchgate Street. Jnc of Guildhall Street - Jnc of Angel Lane	16 May 2022	17 June 2022
Whiting street. Jnc of Abbeygate Street – Jnc of Westgate Street	18 July 2022	09 September 2022
Guildhall street. Jnc of Churchgate street - O/S No.34	13 June 2022	22 July 2022
Hatter street. Jnc of Churchgate street - Jnc of Abbeygate street	20 June 2022	12 August 2022
Bridewell Lane; junction of Westgate St – Jnc of Churchgate Street	08 August 2022	30 September 2022

The CAA will be emailing our members with any further information re. CityFibre as it comes in. And please see the CityFibre leaflet that is being delivered to your house with this newsletter.

VGf

## The National Lottery Heritage Fund has approved a Heritage Grant of £99,200 to support many of the events planned for the Millennium Celebrations of the foundation of the Abbey of St Edmund in 2022.

### **Pilgrimage and Town Tours (May 2022)**

A group of walkers will make a pilgrimage from St Benet's, Norfolk to Bury St Edmunds arriving on 14 May. Another pilgrimage group will walk from Ely to Bury St Edmunds in the spring to mark the

historic anniversary. Uvius, the first Abbot at the Abbey of St Edmund (1020-1044) came from St Benet's accompanied by 20 monks, believed to be 13 from St Benet's and seven from Ely.

### **Abiding Wisdom and procession of Benedictines (14-15 May 2022)**

One hundred Benedictine monks and nuns from communities across Britain, and possibly abroad, will gather in Bury St Edmunds for the first time in 500 years since the dissolution of the monasteries. They will be joined by 400 other people and Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of

Canterbury, who will also be attending. The gathering will take part in a procession into the ruins of the Abbey Church; there will also be talks and workshops in the Cathedral and Ecumenical Vespers with monastic chanting.

### **Abbey Crypt Sculptures exhibition (May – November 2022)**

There will be talks and workshops in the Cathedral and Ecumenical Vespers with monastic chanting.

## **How do you make a park even better for the environment?**

West Suffolk Council has issued a press release entitled "How do you make a park even better for the environment?" The park in question is Nowton Park, but the council has also proposed decarbonisation plans for many council buildings in West Suffolk. The CAA received the press release from Councillor Robert Everitt.

What follows is a résumé of the press release which concentrates mostly on aspects relevant to the CAA and the town.

West Suffolk Council (WSC) has plans for a £1.8m property decarbonisation

programme, which should save or offset a total of 124.95 tonnes of carbon emissions. Councillors expect it to "make a significant step towards its commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030".

The programme has been funded by £1.43m from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and a £370,000 investment from the Council. As well as the carbon savings, the measures will save around £80,000 a year. In addition, 1500 trees were planted in 2020/21; more are planned for this year.

In Nowton Park work has started to install an air source heat pump that will serve the café and toilets, replacing the existing gas boiler. The £22,000 investment will be installed before the school half term. No trees will be lost, and it will save four tonnes of carbon emissions per year. Air source heat pumps will replace gas boilers at Bury St Edmunds Bus Station. Both sites should save a total of 10.3 tonnes of carbon emissions per year

At Vicon House in Western Way, 335 solar panels have been installed, saving 45 tonnes of carbon emissions per year

At West Suffolk House a battery energy storage system will be installed. This will take the excess electricity generated from existing solar panels at the Council building

and use it to supply power during peak demand. It means that in the event of a power cut, the site will have an uninterrupted power supply. It will also generate an income by selling renewable energy to the National Grid.

This will add capacity for additional renewable energy generation which should be installed in the nearby area, helping to save at least 9 tonnes of carbon emissions

WSC already owns one of the largest council owned solar farms in the UK and it uses 100 per cent renewable electricity at its office sites.

WSC has invested in EV chargers at 16 locations across West Suffolk enabling 66 EVs to be charged at any one time. More EV chargers will be delivered this year.

## **Report a Pothole and find out ways to claim for damage**

Potholes and other defects are an increasing problem on Britain's roads, causing damage to vehicles and presenting a potential safety hazard whether you are on four wheels or two. Although it is up to highways authorities to fix them, you can do your bit by reporting those you see - which is free and easy to do on this website: [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). This site is for any street defect including street lights out of action.

If a pothole you want to report is on a motorway or major A road in England, you

can contact National Highways on 0300 123 5000 or visit [www.report.highwaysengland.co.uk](http://www.report.highwaysengland.co.uk).

To make a claim for damage you must address it to the right authority. Sending it to the wrong place could mean your claim is delayed or doesn't get looked at. If damage is done on a major A road or motorway in England, contact Highways England on 0300 123 5000 or by sending an email to [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk). If damage is on any other road, contact the council that is responsible for the road. You can look up the relevant council at the GOV.UK website.

## **Did you know?**

Bury was the first town in the world to have mobile internet access before wi-fi? In 2001 Microsoft, with its UK base in Cambridge, ran a competition and Bury was selected. More precisely, an internet bench was established in the Abbey Gardens where four people at a time could access the internet from the modems supplied by Microsoft. That was until two very smart teenagers discovered that you could make international phone calls for free using the

modems provided. They even tried to call Bill Gates to thank him but only got through to his secretary. After that engineers disabled the ability to make long distance phone calls

## **Abbey News**

It is with great regret that we have to announce...but maybe I shouldn't start this paragraph with that particular sentence as we have to be happy for Andrew and Mei See as they start their new (retired) life when Abbey News closes its doors at the end of February after 32 years; although I can be nothing but sad to see them go as they have given 7 days-a-week service to our community for all those years. Andrew has faithfully delivered newspapers, starting work at 4.00am and in all weathers, and has kept keys for old ladies like me for when I fall down the cellar steps, while Mei See has kindly and gently welcomed hundreds of customers calling into the shop.

I know that the really disgraceful break-in to their shop has not made life any easier for

Andrew and Mei See and, every day that Andrew walks down Langton Place to sort the papers, he dreads as to what he might find. This must be very tough.

We are pleased that Andrew will keep delivering newspapers until the end of March and then this service will be taken over by the Sicklesmere Post Office.

It has been delightful to have this little corner shop in the centre of our community – so handy to be able to go in and buy cards, magazines, chocolates, milk and many other goodies. I am going to miss Andrew and Mei See very much and am really sorry that they are leaving. But I am sure we all wish them well in their new life together and we hope that they have many years in which to have the time to enjoy themselves and to spend as long as they wish in Hong Kong.

VGf

## **Walking with Ferrets**

Many know me as a late Stuart and Georgian historian - but others know me simply as 'the ferret lady'.

My love of these highly intelligent, lively, mischievous, inquisitive and loyal creatures stems from childhood. My father kept and worked ferrets to take rabbits for the pot. The ferret does not kill the rabbit. It drives it out of its burrow not a carefully placed purse net. It is then culled by the warrener. My ferrets have all come from working stock but as my suppliers, Scottie and Sparky, tell them, they can put up their feet once they are with me - that is, with regard to taking rabbits. Their feet are, instead,

busily employed for about three quarters of an hour, twice a day, going walkies.

I generally keep two at a time. They are invariably brothers, neutered, vaccinated and named after late Stuart or Georgian local people. My first two were albinos called Marco and Cullum. They came from Robbie the ferret man in Ayrshire via my sister-in-law. Robbie became amused at their near celebrity status thereafter.

Unfortunately, ferrets only live an average of six or seven years. So, over the last twenty years of keeping them, there have been a succession of colours and very different characters! If you ever witness their so-

called 'weasel war dance' you will understand why they can make people's day. An expression of happiness not anger, it is a joy to behold. All four feet leave the ground as they twist and turn in the air.

They smell don't they? Certainly they have their own 'eau de ferret' which some think a cross between musk and honey. The real stink is experienced when they are being over exuberant or, more usually, if frightened. When one of mine was attacked by two loose dogs I had to hang my wax jacket in the greenhouse for twenty-four hours. Thanks to my vet, the ferret survived. Sometimes shock alone can kill.



They are vicious? Kendall was a one-person ferret. He did not share his affection with anyone but me. Ferrets can be a bit nippy and if they ever 'lock on' can give a nasty, extremely painful bite. Defensive of me, neither my brother or sister were permitted to share our bond! Blood was occasionally drawn. Have I ever been bitten? Surprised by the vet's needle Oakes got me instead of the vet. He looked

somewhat apologetic afterwards at his mistake. If you keep ferrets you have to accept the odd blood donor session!

There were no hard feelings on either side. Having razor sharp front teeth, accidents are bound to happen.

In addition to showing his devotion to me, Kendall - or 'psycho' as Ron sometimes referred to him - developed a particular skill, finding money. Coin and paper money dropped by the careless attracted his attention. In his short lifetime he must have ferreted out about fifty pounds. He certainly paid for his dry food and his small daily ration of fresh raw meat.


The current two, now middle aged, are named Hervey and Davers. One is a light sable and the other dark in colour. They, like all their predecessors, continue to explore the Great Churchyard with me. We keep a close eye on this sometimes rather unappreciated area of great importance to Bury's environment and history.

Born a short distance from the Great Churchyard I have seen many graves disappear, either from deliberate removal or general neglect. Some of those that remain will feature in my next lecture for St. Nicholas Hospice Care on Thursday 30 June at the United Reformed Church (see Hospice website for details). Entitled 'Meet the Inhabitants' it will consider the lives of some of Bury's late Stuart and Georgian residents buried there. On that occasion, however, you will not encounter the boys. They will have an early night with a raw beef takeaway. Nice life for a ferret. Pat Murrell

**In this year of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee let's make our lovely streets a riot of colour...**

## 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 8th April 2022.**

**Cheque:** Make payable to 'Bury in Bloom' & post to: Bury in Bloom Treasurer, 9 Poppy Close, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7JT.

**BACS:** Email your order and confirmation of BACS payment date to [treasurer@burysociety.com](mailto:treasurer@burysociety.com). Bank details: Barclays Bank, Account name: The Bury St Edmunds Society CIO, Sort Code: 20-83-69, Account No: 00733091.

\*Subject to Watering Route



## ORDER FORM 2022

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 8th April 2022

### 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 .....

## **YOUR COMMITTEE 2021-22**

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