

# CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

Established 2002

## NEWSLETTER

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[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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**The Annual General Meeting will be held on 21 October 2022 (Trafalgar Day) in the Unitarian Meeting House at 19.00 to which all residents and businesses are welcome**

After the main business of the AGM our own Steve Jones, a sculptor living in Church Walks, will entertain and dazzle us with his sculptures of Street Art. He will also show plans of his Crown of Thorns which is being prepared to be hung under the tower in the Cathedral.

*Wine and Canapés will be served after the meeting*

If you have any topics that you wish to raise at the AGM please email them to Vivien on [vgf.masongill@gmail.com](mailto:vgf.masongill@gmail.com) to that we can include your observations.

On a table at the AGM photographs taken at the Street Party will be on a PC Slideshow for you to view. If anyone wishes to have a copy of any particular numbered photo, arrangements will be made to send it to you by email

### Wit on the wall?

Street Art has a long and controversial history. What prompts it, is any of it any good, is it justifiable and how does it relate to mainstream art?

This talk covers the motivations for street art, exploring the historical and current

methods used by less conventional artists to communicate with the public.

Be prepared to have preconceived views on the topic challenged (and do leave your spray cans at home)!  
Steve Jones



*Imagine a city where graffiti wasn't illegal, a city where everybody could draw whatever they liked. Where every street was awash with a million colours and little phrases. Where standing at a bus stop was never boring. A city that felt like a party where everyone was invited, not just the estate agents and barons of big business. Imagine a city like that and stop leaning against the wall - it's wet.*

— Banksy

*“Everybody writes on the walls – except me”*— Pompeian Graffiti

## The Street Party

Nearly 400 residents of the Grid and their families shoe-horned themselves into Whiting Street South on 5 June to help celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen with great good humour and community spirit.

First we held a party on the previous evening to put up 400 metres of bunting and then, on the Sunday, an army of volunteers,

including a group of strong young Ukrainians, arrived to fetch and carry tables and chairs from the Scout Hut, the United Reform Church (who had kindly stored the 250 hired chairs) and the Unitarian Meeting House. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Street Party sub-committee of Michael and Estelle Watson, Jackie Griffin, Cathy Friel, Jennifer Baker and Eric and Kathy Gooch who masterminded the work.

Huge thanks are given to Robert and Dula Butterworth who most generously provided tea, coffee and soft drinks for everyone, to Cynthia Williams for sponsoring the mugs, to Daryl Griffiths from Burnett Barker who provided the electricity for the urns and to Judy and Alan Broadway and Cal for pouring the tea. Robert had also provided a delightful commemorative postcard which was handed out during the afternoon.

It was a most jolly, happy occasion with dazzling music provided by Emmerson Dutton and his merry band and by Libby Ranzetta and her Trio, all powered by David Chapman’s generous usage of his electricity.

The party finished at 4.45 and an hour later, as if by a miracle, no-one would have known there had been a party. It was an extraordinary.

Buckingham Palace sent us this charming card to thank us for our support for Her Majesty.



And here are your memories of that very special day.....





## The Passing of Her Majesty

I felt I just had to be in Westminster Hall to pay my respects. We joined the queue at 06.30 on Thursday 15 September by the Tate Modern which is only 2 ½ miles from Westminster and could have been walked in about 50 minutes. But Changing Of The Guard took place at the catafalque every 20 minutes which held everyone up and in the end it took 5 ½ hours. We thought this was a bit excessive as these young men are fit and well with great big feet and could easily stand for 40 minutes.

You keep having to stop. The 2 hours it took to zig zag through the pathways on Westminster Green was the worst bit as it seemed to go on forever and by that time we were all feeling a bit worse for wear and our spirits sagged.

Of course I wished to see the coffin and the crown and to be awestruck by the magnificence of the spectacle and the setting, but I also wished to experience the Queue or, more specifically, the spontaneous camaraderie and good will of our great British people. We were so lucky as we met 4 lovely fun people, two from Surrey and (out of 100,000 people) we met 2 from (would you believe it?) Bacton when we found we had some mutual friends. It's a mad world.

Paying our respects was so very special - we bowed our heads and it made the whole thing worthwhile; then coming out onto a pedestrianised Westminster Bridge was splendid and we were carefree and wandered about all over the place. The rest of London must have been in chaos.

We then scooted off to the Royal Festival Hall and had a sit down and a bit to eat. I

thought I would never get up again, but it was OK.  
VGF

**Our beautiful Servant Queen, who passed away with great dignity and grace, has been an enduring influence and inspiration to millions, giving us years of selfless duty, kindness, forgiveness, resilience and empathy.**

**Requiescat in Pace Your Majesty**

## The Proclamation declaring King Charles III King

A sizeable crowd gathered together on Sunday 11 September at 3.30pm in Angel Hill to witness the Town Mayor, Cllr. Peter Thompson, read out the Proclamation declaring Charles III King. This was read out from the balcony of the



Athenaeum when the Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk, Judith Shallow, and Dean Joe Hawes from the Cathedral also spoke.

It was a moving moment, captured in this photograph by Robin Barratt from College Street, and the love for the late Queen was palpable.  
VGF

## To Anyone Who Would Like to Run a Street Party for the Coronation of King Charles III

To give you a heads up, you will be pleased to hear that the Sub Committee who put together the Street Party on 5 June this year has written a manual on how we ran the event. If there is anyone in the Grid who is willing to organise the Party you will find this manual of great benefit to you and at least will set you off on the right foot. I shall not be organising it again but anyone on the Sub Committee will be willing to give advice if needed.  
VGF

### Membership reminder: still only £5 per person

Our membership year will start again on October 1st and we hope all our present members will want to renew. If you would like to pay on or before the AGM on October 21st it would be very much appreciated. Membership is only £5 per person for a year and entitles you to attend our very popular social evening in April, and the AGM, both with interesting speakers and free refreshments. It's very good value. And the more members we have the more power the CAA can exert when making representations on behalf of residents and businesses to, for example, the local Councils.

If you already pay by standing order there is no need to change anything.

You can pay by cash or cheque (payable to Churchgate Area Association) to the Membership Secretary, Judy Broadway, 68 Whiting Street, IP33 1NR. If you prefer to set up a new standing order I have forms available, just telephone 01284 724034 or email [caainfo@btinternet.com](mailto:caainfo@btinternet.com)

If you'd prefer to pay by online banking our account name is Churchgate Area Association, sort code is 20-16-12 account number 50100951. Many thanks in advance.  
JB

### Road closure proposal outside St Edmunds Primary School

Some local residents and CAA members will be aware of a proposal drawn up by the Head of St Edmunds Primary School, Maria Kemble, to create a 'Car-free School Street' in Westgate Street outside the school. She suggests that Westgate Street be closed to through traffic at the start and end of the school day during term-time. The idea is that it would make the area

safer for pupils to walk or cycle to school, and improve the air quality in that area.

Vehicles (except residents, emergency and disabled access) would not be able to drive along Westgate Street from the junction of College Street to Guildhall Street, and would not be able to turn into Westgate Street from Whiting Street, from 8.15am to 9am and 3pm to 3.45pm, Monday to Friday during term-time.

Any vehicles who have to move would have to travel at walking pace supervised by a banksman. Temporary barriers would be used to close the road each day and supervised by school staff and volunteers. Mrs Kemble has apparently been in discussion with Suffolk County Council to progress her idea, although has not yet submitted any firm proposal. We have no more details as to what is proposed apart from those mentioned here.

Many CAA members have already made comments directly to the school. Our Chairman, Vivien, is collecting any further comments which can be sent in when/if the project is developed further and when feedback is invited. You can get in touch with Vivien Gainsborough Foot at 69 Whiting Street, email [vgf.masongill@gmail.com](mailto:vgf.masongill@gmail.com)  
JB

### Traffic and Parking Update

It has been a busy year. It started with a presentation by the 2020 consultancy of its draft report setting out the results of its survey and initial questionnaire sent to those living in the parking permit areas. We have also been seeking to be involved in the proposal by Saint Edmunds catholic primary school to introduce a School Street on Westgate Street. Continuing in the background has been the long saga of the

promised additional permit parking spaces on the street, which we are promised will appear during the Autumn.

When I first saw the presentation by the 2020 Consultant there were a number of results that seemed rather surprising. For example the survey results suggested that in Zone D only four in five parking spaces were occupied which if correct would have made finding a space in the area far easier than is the typical experience. A further, more detailed, examination of the information in the presentation unearthed other discrepancies.

Our concern in the CAA was that, if these erroneous results were accepted and the study was adopted by the Council, future decisions in the area would be based on the 2020 Consultancy results. We informed our two local District Councillors of our concerns and also sent an email to Councillor Stevens the Portfolio Holder responsible for the study. After a somewhat unsatisfactory response a follow up email was sent reiterating our concerns. Because of the apparent lack of concern we decided to undertake our own surveys which we then reported to the Council; these surveys demonstrated the difficulty in finding a parking space in Zone D. We also requested a copy of the Consultant's report which was not forthcoming so a copy was obtained through a Freedom of Information request.

Examination of the report identified a substantial number of additional errors, including the omission from the survey of

some streets that had parking permit bays, and not making any differentiation between the different types of parking bays: for example, limited-stay free spaces were included as being available for permit parking during the day. It was also discovered that the surveys were undertaken when the country was between Steps 2 and 3 after the third lockdown when outdoor venues were open but pubs, cinemas, theatres, and restaurants were closed for indoor activity and there would still have been a high level of working from home.

The need for Zone D to be resurveyed was discussed and the CAA view that, if the Council sought to adopt the report without there being truly representative data, we would have to consider some form of challenge. We await further action.

There are areas where there is the potential for new residential development to take place. We are concerned that, given the existing challenge of finding an on-street parking space, the sale of additional permits would make the situation even worse, even with the promised additional spaces. Accordingly we have made a submission to the Local Plan Consultation that, when the policy on parking is drafted, it includes a condition that there is no automatic right for residents in new developments to be able to purchase a parking permit unless the applicant can demonstrate that there is sufficient spare capacity to accommodate the additional demand.  
PF

### **CAA Air Quality Subgroup Update**

In 2019 West Suffolk Council (WSC) invited representatives from Bury St Edmunds residents' associations and other interested parties to join the West Suffolk Air Quality Group. The Group works with WSC to improve air quality in Bury St Edmunds and is chaired by Councillor Robert Everitt. The CAA is represented by

Vivien Gainsborough Foot, Geoffrey House and Cathy Friel. We helped to organise an Anti-Idling Campaign for Clean Air Day in 2021 and this year we are highlighting the lack of Electric Vehicle chargers in the Grid.

The Government are committed to ending the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030 and hybrids by 2035. They are

providing Local Authorities with funding to install EV infrastructure and on the 25<sup>th</sup> March announced the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot fund. This fund is a charging infrastructure project that ‘supports the transition to EV use in a local area, with a particular focus on provision for those without off-street parking.’ We had emailed CAA members a brief survey in January 2022 to assess the potential demand for on-street chargers in the Grid and the results were presented to the AQ Group on 29<sup>th</sup> March, with a request that WSC produce a pilot project application to

The report is on our website – [www.churchgateassoc.org.uk](http://www.churchgateassoc.org.uk).

As there is funding available, at the next AQ meeting we will be asking WSC to examine locations we have identified as options for EV charging points. These locations are associated with lampposts which could provide the power source. We hope to have a further news at the A G M .  
CF

### **Standing with Ukraine**



After seeing all the terrible images of the Ukrainian war on TV my husband John and I decided that we wanted to offer a home to refugees, so we registered with the hosts scheme in March. We found a mum and daughter from the city of Ivano-Frankivsk in western Ukraine via a face book site and offered them a home with us in Bury. After filling in all the complex forms and waiting about 5 weeks for visas etc they finally flew into Luton via Krakow in early April. We were all a bit nervous about meeting each

provide chargers in the Grid. On 24<sup>th</sup> August Suffolk County Council published the news that they have submitted a bid of £1,362,000 for the LEVI pilot scheme.

To summarise, 71 (33%) of the 215 households emailed responded. 39% of responder’s homes have off-street parking and are suitable for the installation of home chargers and 61% have no off-street parking. The lack of off-street parking is almost double the national average figure of 33%. 42% (30) of responder’s decision to get an EV would be influenced by the provision of on-street chargers.

other but are so lucky that we all get on well and they are pleasant and good company.

Since then it has been a busy time assisting them to adjust to a new country and a different way of life. Y (12) is now attending St Benedict’s Upper school and her mum V has benefited from the free English classes at the Suffolk College and British Language School and has progressed so well that we no longer have to rely on google translate. We have also learnt a few simple words of Ukrainian!

All our friends and neighbours have been so kind and helpful and we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of others in Bury in terms of financial support towards essential items such as uniforms, books and even bicycles! In addition, both have been welcomed by the congregation at St Edmunds Catholic church and have made a number of friends there. Their social life is now better than ours!

I am pleased that we decided to become a host family, it has been an incredibly positive and rewarding experience for us and we have learnt so much from them.  
Caroline Holt

## Bury St Edmunds Operatic and Dramatic Society (BSEODS)

was founded in 1902, with our very first performance (HMS Pinafore) taking place in 1903 at the Theatre Royal.

Now, 119 years later we are still fortunate to be performing at the same wonderful theatre! Next month we have a production of the fantastic play **Neighbourhood Watch**, from Tues 18<sup>th</sup> to Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct (including a Saturday matinee).

Written by the acclaimed playwright, Alan Ayckbourn, this modern play is an hilarious, but cautionary, tale of the dangers of taking the law into your own hands!! The plot is centred around the residents of the Bluebell Hill Development and their well-intended



scheme for a safer community. However, things don't quite go to plan!

First performed in 2011, Michael Billington from The Guardian called it "highly ambitious"

and "biliously funny" and Charles Spencer of the Telegraph said "**this timely and provocative play rivets attention throughout. There are some blissful comic moments and even that staple of Ayckbourn's dramatic world, an ornamental garden gnome, has a crucial part to play.**"

Tickets can be purchased from the Theatre Royal Box Office by calling 01284 769505 or via their website <https://theatreroyal.org/booking-information/>

For more information about **BSEODS** please see our webpage <https://www.bseods.org/>

[www.bseods.org/](https://www.bseods.org/) or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

We are a registered charity which encourages and supports inexperienced performers to learn skills that can help them achieve their ambition of working within The Arts. Many previous members have gone on to gain places in some of the top Performing Arts schools in the UK (including Trinity Laban and Mountview).

One way for you to support **BSEODS** is to become a Friend of our society. Further details can be found on our website, or email [enquires@bseods.org](mailto:enquires@bseods.org) Like all of the Performing Arts we have struggled financially over the past couple of years, due to the pandemic. Therefore, any donations are hugely appreciated to help towards the running costs of our shows and to ensure our society continues to entertain the local community for many years to come! Cath Harvey - BSEODS Chair.

## All aboard Bury Bike Train!

Volunteers at Bury Rickshaw, through sister organisation EcoCarriers BSE, have recently launched the Bury Bike Train project to get children cycling to school. Serving Guildhall Feoffment and St Edmund's schools initially, the Bike Train has four routes, each running once a week to a set timetable. Children accompanied by parents ride their own bikes in a group that is supported by trained outriders, also on bicycles. Thanks to a grant from Bury St Edmunds Town Council each train includes a cargo bike that can take small non-cycling siblings plus bulky items.

The aim is to reduce the number of cars used for the school run, which should improve air quality, congestion and the children's health and well-being. EcoCarriers BSE would welcome offers of

help with this project: donations of adult and children's bikes; volunteer outriders; and volunteer non-cycling marshalls. Libby

R a n z e t t a      0 1 2 8 4    4 1 3 4 4 1  
[hello@ecocarriersbse.co.uk](mailto:hello@ecocarriersbse.co.uk)

## Grid Dogs (in no particular order)



*Cassie from College St*



*Axl from Crankles Corner*



*Bertie from Guildhall St*



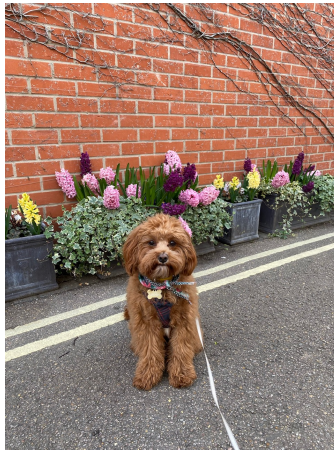
*Raison from Angel Lane.*



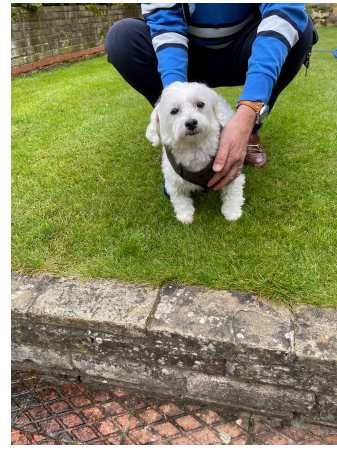
*Nyra, Jack (back) and Coco from College St*



*Lulu from Greene Mews*



*Hettie from Whiting St*



*Aram from Guildhall St*



*Bea and Claude from Guildhall St.*



*Boots from Whiting St.*



*Ishta from Westgate St*

## **Guildhall Feoffment School**

We are delighted to welcome the new Head at Guildhall Feoffment School. Andrew Mathews, who was a headteacher in Cambridgeshire before coming to Bury, took over at the start of this term.

## **A little tit-bit of interest**

The Abbey Gardens was the fourth highest free visitor attraction in the UK in 2021, beaten only by Brighton Pier, the Natural History Museum and the British Museum.

1,276,864 people passed through the gates of the Gardens in 2021.

And we never knew!

## **YOUR COMMITTEE 2022-23**

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