



# CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

Established 2002

## 🎄 NEWSLETTER 🎄

🎄 **Number 73** 🎄

🎄 **Christmas 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.

**Editor: Nick Law.** For future articles, comments, etc. please contact [nicklaw1@hotmail.com](mailto:nicklaw1@hotmail.com)

☆The CAA committee would like to wish all residents living in the Grid a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. ☆

☆Are you inspired to run a Street Party for the Coronation? ☆

**We are here to help you!**

The CAA Street Party Committee has produced a Manual on how to run a Street Party for the Coronation on 6 May next year with all the names, phone numbers and email addresses of everyone you need to contact to make the party a success.

**Can I inspire you to put your hand to the plough as it would be a pity not to celebrate this great occasion?**

**Of course there is nothing to stop you running the Party your own way.**

Ring me on: 07769 756 249

VGf



**Is anyone missing a tumbler from the Platinum Jubilee street party? If so, please call Vivien on 07769756249**

### ☆Bury Drop-in☆

Last year we were blown away by the generosity and passion of the local organisations who have been supporting our RIF (Reducing Isolation with Food) project.

This Christmas [Bury St Edmunds Town Council](#), [Abbeycroft Leisure West Suffolk College](#) and [Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw](#) are partnering to support individuals spending Christmas on their own.

With the amazing financial support from Bury St Edmunds Town Council, we are

providing 200 heat-at-home meals for adults who may be vulnerable or isolated and spending Christmas day alone. Our Christmas dinners come with all the trimmings and dessert, and are delivered straight to their home on the 23rd December.

If you know someone who lives in Bury St Edmunds (IP32 or IP33) and will be spending Christmas day alone, please email to make a referral at:

[community@acleisure.com](mailto:community@acleisure.com)

### ☆Local welfare support for Suffolk residents☆

There are several schemes available to both tenants and home-owners to help those on low incomes manage this winter. We've listed some below and if you need help applying please contact us. Our details are on the last page of the Newsletter.

**Surviving Winter** has been running for several years and is funded by people donating their Winter Fuel Allowance to a pool, to help those in fuel poverty. Last year Suffolk Community Foundation raised over £350,000 to distribute, and this year have already been given £100,000 in donations.

The scheme is administered by Citizens Advice in Ipswich, and gives grants to low-income households, including those in receipt of means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit, Universal Credit, or a disability benefit. Grants of up to £175 are given to help with heating costs, paid directly to a bank account.

To apply, you can ring the Surviving Winter Helpline on 01473 298634.

If you received an award last year you will be contacted automatically this year again, you don't need to re-apply.

If you wish to donate to the Surviving Winter fund, please ring 01473 602602 or visit <https://www.justgiving.com/suffolk-foundation>

**Warm Homes, Healthy People** is an initiative run by Suffolk County Council which provides advice on energy use in your home and can help to make your home more energy-efficient. They can lend heaters if your boiler breaks down, and help access renovation grants, or grants for insulation and draught-proofing.

A household needs to have a total income of less than £30,000 to be eligible for a grant. In particular the fund helps those whose houses have a poor energy rating (D-G). For details of help available you can ring 03456 047 686. Or visit <https://www.warmhomes-suffolk.org/>

Finally, the government's Household Support Fund is being distributed by the County Council's **Local Welfare Assistance Scheme**. Full information is available online, with an application form (Google 'Suffolk LWAS') where you can see if you are eligible and which documents you need to upload to provide evidence of this. The

scheme gives direct grants of up to £200 per household. If you don't have internet access, you can phone 0345 606 6067 (Suffolk County Council customer services) to ask for help.

For those who need expert help applying to any or all of the above schemes, don't forget

that Citizens Advice is here for you. Advice is free and confidential.

Contact your local branch on 0808 2787868 or complete the form on our website <https://suffolkwestcab.org.uk/contact-us/> and someone will ring you.

### ☆A Warm Space near you this winter☆

This winter, St Edmundsbury Cathedral is opening up a warm space for those who may not be able to heat their homes during the day.

It will be open to all who need it on Thursdays from 10.00am – 3.00pm and will be overseen by two members of cathedral staff or volunteers. The warm space will open for

the first time on Thursday 3 November and remain open until at least March 2023.

The warm space is located in the diocesan library and is furnished with comfortable chairs, free tea and coffee, an opportunity to charge electronic devices and desks available for those wishing to work in a warm environment. There will also be board games and jigsaw puzzles available. The library is situated in Abbey House on Angel Hill.



### **RHS Britain in Bloom Gold and Anglia in Bloom Gold award 2022**



### ☆Bury in Bloom Certificates of Merit Front Garden Judging☆

2022 proved to be very successful for Bury in Bloom with the Certificates of Merit particularly impressing the judges. Britain in Bloom judges asked if residents have to enter – answer is no, as every garden or front

of house within the borough boundary will be judged by the ever-increasing team of judges.

Next question: how many gardens does that involve? After some number crunching it was confirmed as over 16,000 in 2021. This number will increase in 2023 as we plan to include Marham Park for the first

time plus properties on Moreton Hall that are being reclassified as Moreton Hall (previously Rougham) so almost 20,000 gardens will be judged.

Bury in Bloom is the only UK group to organise a front garden award scheme. Needless to say it was a great help in achieving Gold in this year's Anglia in Bloom and Britain in Bloom awards. Apart from the enthusiastic support from residents the scheme showcases high quality gardens and tidy neighbourhoods in time for the external judging.

The RHS in 2021/22 revised guidelines to encourage more wildlife friendly gardens. This has been reflected in the scoring system. Full details on Bury in Bloom website. ( <https://www.buryinbloom.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/110260-Points-System.pdf>).

## ☆THE UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE☆

In 1662 “non-conformists” were driven out of the established churches following the Act of Uniformity. Following the Act of Toleration in 1689 the “non-conformists” were able to stop meeting illegally in each other's homes, and in 1711 (a date recorded on the rainwater heads of the street façade) the relatively wealthy Presbyterians built this grade 1 listed building. The architect is unknown but it has been described as “one of the jewels of Bury St Edmunds ranking with the finest buildings in Bury St Edmunds”. Unitarian views were emerging in Presbyterian congregations during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but use of the name was not permitted until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Before certificates are awarded judges will have walked your subzone to form an impression of how many gardens are loved. The judges are looking at your garden from the pavement or end of your drive so it is important all elements of your garden are clearly visible from the pavement. Judges are looking to award certificates to enthusiastic gardeners who have obviously put huge effort into their garden.

We are always looking to expand our team of judges. No problem reaching your 10,000 steps on judging days. If you would like more information or interested in becoming a judge then please email Lynne Wright [certificates@buryinbloom.org.uk](mailto:certificates@buryinbloom.org.uk)

For more information please follow link to Bury in Bloom website. (<https://www.buryinbloom.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Front-garden-judges-guidelines-2022.pdf>)

By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the building had become dilapidated. The building was gradually restored 30 years ago with the aid of grants from English Heritage, the Bury Town Trust, the Bury Society and St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The UMH had a difficult time during Covid when all bookings dried up. Recently a new enthusiastic manager and caretaker have been appointed and it is available for concerts, meetings, and weddings etc. We are appealing for residents to become Friends of the UMH to help with the general organisation and to encourage use of the building. I am a friend and occasionally do a little work in the garden.

For more information please contact: Brian Jones at [brian.hessett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brian.hessett@hotmail.co.uk)



### ☆The discontinuation of certain postage stamps☆

You may have read in the press or social media or seen on television that our current postage stamps (the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps without the bar code alongside) are being discontinued. The date for the discontinuation of these stamps was going to be January 2023, but you will be pleased to

hear that these stamps will still be legal until Summer 2023 which gives us plenty of time to use up our old stamps during the next 6 months.

Unless you are a hoarder of course and wish to keep them for old times' sake! VGF

### ☆And finally More Grid dogs.....



*Skye from Guildhall St.*



*Tilly from Greene Mews.*



*Stanley from College St*



*Stanley from Whiting St.*



*Mia from Whiting St.*



*Dolly from Bridewell Lane*



*Elsa from the Grid.*

*Casper from Whiting St.*

*Piper from Bridewell Lane*

## **YOUR COMMITTEE 2022-23**

**Vivien Gainsborough Foot, Chairman, 69 Whiting St. 750887 or 07769756249 [vg-f.masongill@gmail.com](mailto:vg-f.masongill@gmail.com)**

**Nick Law, Newsletter Editor, 35 Guildhall St. 07912648138 [nicklaw1@hotmail.com](mailto:nicklaw1@hotmail.com)**

**Brian Jones, Planning, 8 Hatter St. 762342 [brian.hessett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brian.hessett@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Nick Moon, Treasurer, 58 Churchgate St. 07809 687536 [nick@moon.me.uk](mailto:nick@moon.me.uk)**

**Judy Broadway, Membership/Website, 68 Whiting St. 724034 [caainfo@btinternet.com](mailto:caainfo@btinternet.com)**

**Cathy Friel, Licensing, Minute Secretary, 42 Crown St. 755549**

**Geoffrey House, Air Quality, 8 William Barnaby Yard, 07826 852145.**

**Paget Fulcher, Traffic and Parking, 7a Bridewell Lane, 07857424504, [pagetf@gmail.com](mailto:pagetf@gmail.com)**



**[facebook.com/ChurchgateAreaAssociation](https://facebook.com/ChurchgateAreaAssociation)**

*Image of the Norman Tower reproduced with the kind permission of Kim Whittingham.  
[www.kimwhittingham.co.uk](http://www.kimwhittingham.co.uk)*

