

CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

Established 2002

NEWSLETTER

Number 75

Autumn 2023

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

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 28 October 2023 in the Unitarian Meeting House at 19.00 to which all residents and businesses are welcome

After the main business of the AGM Alex McWhirter, Curator of Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds will entertain us with a tragic tale entitled:

Infanticide and Insanity - A Victorian Suffolk Tragedy

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 so that we can include your observations.

Membership reminder: subscriptions due soon

Our membership year will start again on October 1st and we trust all our present members will want to renew. If you would like to pay at or before the AGM on October 28th 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.

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

On-street parking reminder

Residents are reminded that residential permit holders can now park in West Suffolk Council off-street car parks in Bury St Edmunds town centre between 4pm and 10am seven days a week, including bank holidays, at no additional cost. The car parks to which this applies are:

- Arc - Cattle Market car park
- Lower Baxter Street car park
- Parkway Multi-Storey car park
- Parkway Surface car park
- Ram Meadow car park
- School Yard East and West car parks
- St Andrews Flexi and Long Stay car parks
- Vinery Road - Holywater Meadow car park

Please note that this does not apply to the parking spaces on Angel Hill and Buttermarket.

Coronation Street Party 7 May 2023

WELL, this was our third Street Party; amazingly this year's was in glorious sunshine which made it even more special.

Very ably organised by Patricia Clifton and her committee it was a remarkable success with almost four hundred people attending an ice cream van and 93 donated cakes. (And delicious they were too.) It was great to see so many people stay on well past the (supposed)



Photo by April Urquhart



Photo by April Urquhart



Photo by April Urquhart

closing time, chatting, and having fun which meant that we did not re-open Whiting Street as we should have done at 5 o'clock: but nobody minded.

We were enormously grateful as always to the 6th Bury St. Edmunds Scouts for generously storing our four hundred metres of bunting and lending us a great number of



Photo by April Urquhart

Cllr. Jo Rayner and substantial donations from:

Churchgate Accountants

Dignity Funeral Services (Fulchers)

Guildhall Studios

Hayward Moon

Jackson-Stops Estate Agents

We are truly grateful.

But you should have seen us the evening before when we were just like drowned rats: putting up the bunting, climbing ladders and stringing the bunting from third floor window to third floor window - no-one could have believed that the Sunday would be so sunny. The



Photo by April Urquhart



*Photo by April Urquhart.
With thanks to Maison Bleue for the cakes*

tables and chairs. We were assisted by the Unitarian Meeting House and the United. Reform Church and, of course, by many, many willing and cheerful residents of the Grid who all put their best foot forward.

We were also thankful and delighted to receive a £500 locality grant from the Bury St. Edmunds Town Council arranged by



Photo by Jennifer Baker

champagne, kindly donated by Patricia and her husband, Brian, made us all quite giggly with the absurdity of it all. So very English, so ridiculous. VGF

The Coronation Crown

A Floral Crown fit for a King!



The designer of the fabulous new floral crown on the corner of Crown Street and Honey Hill was Duncan Drye of Vikings Forge. He also fabricated this beautiful structure, and beautiful it is as you can see from the attached photograph. The structural engineering was carried out by Jonathan Morrish of Morrish Structural Engineers of

Whiting Street who told me that it is very well anchored into the ground to prevent it blowing away.

Woolpit Nurseries supplied the plants, and the Abbey Gardens Team prepared the ground and carried out the planting.

Bury Town Council and West Suffolk Council sponsored the Crown which was unveiled on 17 May by Barbara Segall, an award-winning horticulturalist and freelance garden writer. Her wonderful new book 'The Secret Gardens of the South East: a Private Tour' was published last Autumn and has been described as "*A tour of some of the UK's most beguiling gardens in the counties of Kent, Sussex and Surrey, the counties that exemplify 'the garden of England'.*"

Bury in Bloom had hoped to plant it up before the Coronation, but frost was still lingering and could have killed the annuals; therefore, it was decided to wait until mid-May. It is looking completely splendid and is a fitting tribute to our new King.

VGF

Libby Ranzetta receives British Citizen Award

At a recent ceremony at the Palace of Westminster, Libby from Bridewell Lane was awarded the British Citizen Award as co-founder of Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw. The BCA was established in 2015 and recognises 'exceptional' people who work 'tirelessly' to create a positive impact on society.

Libby co-founded Rickshaw in 2018 to give



free rides around town to people experiencing limited mobility and/or social isolation. It encourages individuals to go outside, get fresh air and interact with others. In 2020, during the pandemic, Rickshaw volunteers mobilised to deliver medicine and food by bike to those self-isolating and to charities working with vulnerable people.

Last year, the scheme received the Queen's Award for Voluntary service. Libby's charit-

able work for the Rickshaw is not her only charitable involvement. In 2022, she co-founded EcoCarriers in Bury, a social enterprise aimed at promoting and facilitating a shift from car and van use to cycling for local journeys and includes a zero-emission delivery service, bike library and award-winning schools 'Bike Train'.

Bury St Edmunds Guildhall

Free Heritage Open Days – Creativity Unwrapped

16th & 17th September 2023, 10am - 4pm Daily

The Guildhall will host talented local musicians in our panelled Court Room. Using our beautiful grand piano, and their choice of accompanists, the musicians will be free to express their creativity for your enjoyment. Celebrating a mix of genres from different eras, the Guildhall invites you to join us for a weekend of live music and heritage.

Wander in the beautiful walled garden, which has been lovingly crafted over the last 4 years from a wilderness thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers. Discover more about the creative use of herbs and other plants throughout the ages in our sensory garden.

You will also have free entry to a truly unique local feature - the Guildhall ROC Operations Room - the last of its kind left in the country. The Ops Room was the war-time home of 14 Group Royal Observer Corps (ROC) whose incredible efforts helped win the Battle of Britain. Visit the Guildhall during Heritage Open Weekend to explore the untold stories of these everyday heroes.

If you have musical flair and would like to book a slot to play our piano during the Heritage Open Day, contact us by email: admin@burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk

What's On at the Unitarian Meeting House

Bury Concert Series. - Monday 18 September and Monday 16 October. For tickets visit buryconcertclub.co.uk

Yoga Nidra - Friday 22 September (7.15-9.30pm) and Sunday 29 October (10.30-12.30).

United Service - Sunday 01 October (2-5.30pm)

Little Makers Market - Saturday 07 October and 04 November. All welcome.

Saturday 14 October, **Bury Baroque** - Orchestral workshop (daytime event). Musicians and/or keen observers should visit angliabaroque.net or email c.dexter-mills@ymail.com or rosypayne@hotmail.com for details.

Literature Festival - 20-23 October. Visit burylitfest.co.uk

Terrace Garden

You may have seen my small window vegetable garden as you pass by the window on Churchgate Street. What you may not realise, however, is that there's an even bigger hidden garden up the stairs on my terrace. I am an American transplant from the sunny state of Florida and have been a resident for only about a year. When I initially was looking for a place to live, I wanted one with a garden because my favourite hobby is gardening and I couldn't imagine a summer without a vegetable garden, having had one my entire life. However, I was unable to find a house with a garden no matter how hard I looked. While I was very discouraged at first, after some time, I wondered if I could use my terrace to create a vertical garden even though the space is so small. I made the decision in the spring to at least try to see what could grow.

Early in the darkness of spring, with my house being so cold, I knew seeds would never germinate in the damp, cold temperatures. I decided to set up a table next to my towel warmer by a window, turned it on, and planted my seeds to see if they germinated. Unbelievably, they did despite the cold and dark! This gave me hope that a garden might in fact, happen despite not having a single square centimetre of garden to use to plant them. This gave me such joy, and got me through the last cold, discouraging, parts of Spring. I moved the seedlings to my windowsill after they got big enough and started gathering pots and soil to move out to my patio. When the weather was warm enough I transplanted the young plants outside to grow. Currently, my corn and tomato plants stand "higher than an ele-

phant's eye", at around 8 feet tall and growing, and I am able to feed myself with the vegetables I grow from my terrace garden. I have enough hot peppers to feed a small army that likes spicy food, my squash are producing enough fruit to get me through the winter, and I have canned 4 jars of pickles so far.

There are two lessons that I learned from



my terrace garden experiment that I would like to share with you. The first is to bloom wherever you're planted. Life will probably take you places you never expected, but that does not mean you can't find a new, different way to do the things that bring you joy. The second thing I learned was to not give up. As small a thing as a vegetable garden is, it is something that brings me so much happiness. I learned that by pressing on, and not letting go of my dream of an impossible garden, I found new ways to make it happen. As clichéd as it sounds, my terrace garden has not only given me food and peacefulness, but also taught me to never let a dream die due to discouragement and seemingly impossible circumstances. Kate Vechik

Fundraising for Suffolk Mind

Our fundraising link is -

www.justgiving.com/sisters-in-lawinmind



We will take on the three highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales. Considered one of Britain's toughest outdoor challenges, the National 3 Peaks Challenge takes in the dizzy heights of Ben Nevis (1,344m), Scafell Pike (978m) and Snowdon (1,085m).

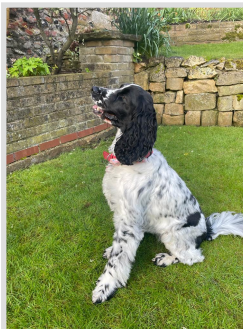
Over the course of two days, we will trek around 26 miles and ascend to a total height of almost 3,000m. However, our hard work will be rewarded with spectacular views and a huge sense of achievement.

Ella Warren with husband John and his sister Liza.
57 Guildhall Street

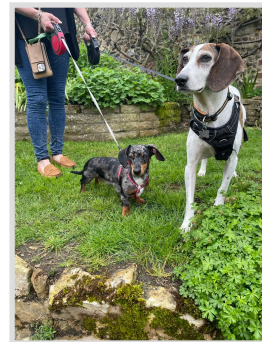
More Grid Dogs...



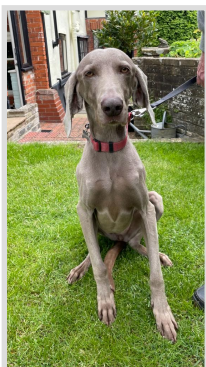
Margot from Honey Hill



Cassie from Whiting St



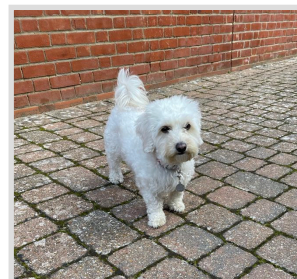
Lily and Lulu from Whiting St



Bali from College St



Sunny from Whiting St



Luna from Westgate St

YOUR COMMITTEE 2022-23

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