

CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

Established 2002

NEWSLETTER

Number 76

Christmas 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.

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**The Chairman and committee of the CAA would like wish all residents a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Fire safety in your home



Suffolk County Council Fire Service will come and check your smoke alarms for free and give you a leaflet to guide you through fire safety procedures. I had a visit from a gorgeous red head who checked all my smoke alarms and reported that the batteries needed renewing.

Because this only needs to happen every 10 years, of course I had completely forgotten. It was a good wakeup call and I urge you to ring 01473 260588 or email: Fire.BusinessSupport@suffolk.gov.uk to make an appointment.
VGF

Some Past Residents of Whiting Street

I found this faded photograph, a typical Victorian 'carte de visite', beneath the floorboards at No. 47 Whiting Street. It bears the handwritten date '1895' and shows a young man, probably in his thirties. No. 47 is one of three properties built by Greene King in the early 1880s. These replaced what was



known as Beggar's Corner (officially Whiting Court), together with the Pheasant beer house, whose inhabitants in 1881, as well as the beer retailer and his wife, had been a pensioner, a woodcutter, two labourers and a bookbinder. According to the 1891 census the new No. 47 was occupied by a 35-year-old Frederick George Parmenter, his wife Cecilia and two children. Although there is no way of knowing whether the photograph is of him, it was an opportunity to find out something about the Parmenters and their neighbourhood.

The Parmenters are an old-established family in Suffolk and Essex. Confusingly, another Frederick Parmenter appears in the court records in the 1880s on charges of larceny, riot and criminal damage. However, Frederick George and Cecilia were born in London - in Paddington and Pimlico. There is a record of Frederick's birth in 1856, but

apparently nothing else until 1881, when he surfaces as a member of the Clerkenwell Fire Brigade, living in Farringdon Road Fire Station. In 1883 Frederick married Cecilia Maud Overton. Sometime in the next few years the couple must have moved to Bury and in 1891 Frederick was described as Superintendent of Westgate Fire Brigade, attached to the brewery. By 1901 Frederick was both Superintendent and night watchman. There were now four children in No. 47. The eldest, Leonard, 15, was a post boy, the youngest, Irene, was just 4. Their closest neighbours were the families of bricklayer Arthur Valiant at No. 45 and Edward Smith, brewery cellar man at No. 46.

By 1911 Frederick was night watchman only. Leonard had moved out, eventually becoming a messenger for Barclays Bank. His brothers were both employed, Maurice as a chauffeur in a motor engineering firm, Albert as carpenter in an iron-work engineers. Irene was presumably still at school. Records show that Frederick died in 1930. According to the England and Wales Register taken on the outbreak of war in 1939, Cecilia still lived in No. 47 with Irene, now married and listed as county council office cleaner. There were two other people in the house, Joan Matthews, a shop assistant and Maurice Hill, machinist in the brewery.



Zerlina Zerbin Harrington

A Snapshot of the street in the 1890s

The occupants of Whiting Street and Finsbury Place on census night in 1891, men, women and children, amounted to 176 males and 226 females, some. Of them visitors. Most were born in Suffolk but some were born elsewhere, including one in Bermuda. Twenty men were described as employers, mostly tradesmen and shopkeepers but including a bank manager, the landlord of the Mason's Arms and the auctioneer Henry Lacy Scott. There were three women employers - two were dressmakers and one a greengrocer. Others on the census were

It's big and beautiful

And it's in Westgate Street. No, not the theatre or the brewery although they would fit the description! Many people walk past St Edmund's Catholic Church without knowing its history or what is inside but look first at No 21 which is the priests' house. That was built in 1762 at a time when it was still unlawful (and punishable by death) to overtly practice Catholicism. It was then that the decision was taken to build a chapel at the rear of the house – out of sight and out of mind, where Mass could be celebrated. This beautiful chapel, licensed for worship in 1791 when religious toleration came into being, still exists and had it been in continuous use it would have been amongst the oldest surviving Mass centres in England.

By 1837 Bury's Catholic population had expanded resulting in the opening of the Church alongside. Its Greek revival style, with grey Ketton stone and Corinthian columns create an Imposing and austere external appearance but venture inside and you will discover a place of great beauty and tranquility. There is too much to describe in a short article so

mainly craftsmen, brewery workers and general labourers. Temporary residents of No. 76 were actor-manager Charles Harrington and his wife Zerlina Zerbini, with fellow actors Ethel Carlow and a New Zealander, Joseph Jacob. Another member, Harry Kirk, was at No. 55. Two more were at No. 56. The Harringtons ran a touring theatre company, notably employing black actors rather than those blacked up, particularly in their musical version of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* which drew packed audiences all over the country.



next time you are passing, why not pop in and have a look around or if you want more detail contact jes767894@btinternet.com. John Saunders

The Three Goats' Heads (the early years)

During lockdown when the idea struck to research the history of our wonderfully named house and home I felt it would be important not to focus on the building, architecture (the fireplaces, beams and features), but wherever possible to focus on the people who lived and stayed here.

Bury St Edmunds is blessed with so many amazing listed buildings from the grand homes of the notable through to the more modest. The Three Goats' Heads, though listed and old, is not an architectural gem, but our research shows it does have a lot of stories to tell about the people who lived here. For me the major impact from the work so far is just how much history really does repeat itself whether it's conmen and scams, wars and immigration, crime and mysterious deaths, personal tragedy and achievement. In addition, just as we see today, the impact world events have on ordinary lives; it's all reflected in the history of the Three Goats' Heads.

The stories then are the stories now!

The Building in Brief

The Three Goats' Heads is a timber framed and rendered grade 2 listed building situated in Guildhall Street. The building dates from the 15th century and contains a number of features from over the centuries. In addition, a Tudor fireplace and wood panelling with a small section of a 17th century balustrade. There are a large number of exposed beams throughout the property (various dates) and wood panelling from the early 19th century. The roadside front of the property is 17th-century complete with a jetty. The grade 2 listing documentation lists 3 small cast iron

goats' heads on the eaves soffit. These are in fact three small lion heads (Victorian). They have been wrongly assigned as goats heads presumably due to the Inns historical name and there being 3 of them!. The most likely origin of the name of the Inn relates to the coat of arms of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers (workers of fine leather) this shows three goats heads. A number of other pubs like the Three Goats Lambeth have

similar traceable origins. There is evidence that in 1433 John Dalington a cordwainer occupied and operated from a property near the Guildhall.

Some General Background

Our story begins in 1707 with James Godby, the freeholder and most probably the man responsible for the roadside appearance of the TGHs as it looks today.

It's worth noting the building is pretty much contemporary to the wonderful Unitarian church which was completed in 1711 around the corner in Churchgate Street.

By 1715 William Mason is the new owner and unusual for the time he is also running the trading side of the business. William is also careful to protect his investment as he takes out a policy with Sun Fire Insurance, London in 1726. William has a claim to be the Simon Cowell of his day by launching his very own version of BGT (Bury's Got Talent) as on the 18th October 1725 he advertises a singing competition to be held at the TGHs.

We know the building to be substantial as several advertisements throughout the century refer to its make up; bars, bedrooms as



well as 'a suitable brew house and stables'. The window tax records for 1780 show that the TGHs was assessed as follows....

Number of lights 22 Duty one year £2.1.6d. Quarterly charge 10/4d.

William Willingham the owner at the time did pay his dues.

In 1823 the TGHs has its first female licensee, Hannah Gardener. She is followed by John Newell who runs the Inn from 1825 to 1830 so it is he who would have benefited from the trading opportunity that was the Red Barn murder trial and the subsequent hanging of William Corder, all held in BSE. The newspaper reports a crowd of 20,000 people for the hanging with 5,000 queuing just to get a closer look at Corder's cut down body.

By 1833 having enjoyed a good trading period the Payne's survey shows the Three Goats' consisted of stables, lodges, offices, brew house and yards (today the stables and yards are Bedfords car park). John Plumptre was the landlord Thomas Harmer of Westgate Street was the owner.

From 1879 to the 1950s the ownership of the TGHs remains consistent as Greene King purchased the property for £1,100.

The Three Goats' Heads – Its People and Stories

A Mystery Death at the Three Goats' Heads, Bury St Edmunds

Ipswich Journal - 2nd September 1775

"A few nights since, Mr Tatsell, a Baker of Mildenhall, fell out of a three pair stairs window (an attic or garret window) at the Three Goats' Heads in Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds, fractured his skull and after languishing a short time died"

It would be no easy accomplishment and some might say extremely suspicious to single-handedly achieve from any garret window particularly from the one that survives today.

Was he drunk, did he jump, was he pushed? I am afraid I haven't yet discovered.

The Three Goats' and the French Wars

The turbulent end of the 18th century from the American Wars of Independence and the Revolutionary, then the Napoleonic Wars with France, kept Great Britain and the Three Goats' Heads busy with the Three Goats' taking a very active hands on approach!

In 1795 an advertisement appeared in the Ipswich Journal which read:

Able Bodied men now have an opportunity to make their fortunes by entering His Majesty's Royal Navy where in addition

to

liberal pay and plenty of prize money they will be entitled

to

the under mentioned bounties:

Able Seaman 25Guineas

Ordinary Seaman 20Guineas

Able Bodied Landsmen 20Guineas

Apply to the landlord of The Three Goats' Heads – where they will hear further particulars. God Save the King

The Case of the Missing Regimental Waistcoat 1783

This story is taken from the transcripts of the Sessions Depositions, Bury St Edmunds (1760 – 1820) which I have summarised. The depositions were sworn before James Mathew over 2 days in January 1783 in the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds.

Isaac Robinson, a pawnbroker in Churchgate Street, was approached by two privates of the West Suffolk Militia, William Ransom and Densley Smy, in the closing

months of 1782. Pte Smy had lost his regulation regimental waistcoat while staying at the Three Goats' Heads. At the time soldiers from a number of Regiments were being quartered at the Inn. The loss was an offence probably worthy of a flogging and a deduction in pay and, therefore, in Smy's interests to rectify.

They asked Robinson if he had received anything similar, which he had. Robinson refused to release the waistcoat though Ranson on behalf of his friend was prepared to pay the 6d redeeming fee. Robinson stated that the waistcoat had been pawned by Pte David Jones of the 20th Light Horse (a completely different uniform). Robinson stated "he had lent Jones sixpence upon it" and that it was for him to redeem it. On the second day of the hearing David Jones who was also staying at the Inn appears and confesses to the theft from the Three Goats' Heads and pawning the waistcoat. The sixpence was paid and the waistcoat restored. The strange thing is the only person punished by the hearing was Isaac Robinson who was fined £5 (he must have had previous!).

The Suffolk Militia history shows that it was organised at Bury St Edmunds in 1759. It was embodied in 1778 becoming by 1782 known as the 26th. The regiment remained active throughout the French wars, unfortunately, there are no pictures or remaining waistcoats, but the records which do exist indicate that in 1768 the waistcoat had been shortened and changed from red to white.

War Refugees, Economic Migrants or Spies?

The story below is taken from the Sessions Depositions in 1803. The significance of this year is the restart of the French wars from then on renamed the Napoleonic wars. The wording as it appears in the records. "Names of two Aliens who appeared at the Guildhall before Mr Barwick in pursuance of the Act"

Bernardo Bordali and Carlo Marrione. B.B has been in England for 8 years, CM for 7. Both are quartered at the Three Goats' Heads. BSE. 15.9.1803.

The act referred to required 'Aliens' to report to the authorities due to the outbreak of war.

The names of both gentlemen sound Italian though of course Italy had not become a unified country at this point .

The French first moved against Northern and Central Italy and its allies in 1792. There were major battles across the region until a treaty in 1797 and again in 1801. Rome itself doesn't fall to Napoleon until 1809. However, just looking at the length of time Bernardo and Carlo had been in England there is a case to be made, for either they came here because of conflict/persecution in their homeland or just for a better life away from a war torn area. The case for being spies is perhaps not so compelling.

Crime and The Three Goats' Heads

An 18th Century Scam at the Three Goats' Heads

No internet in 1793, but a Scam nonetheless taken from the Sessions Depositions 1760-1820. Some people might feel the surname of our first victim to be an appropriate one!

Samuel Prick of St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds (a cordwainer) alleges on 20.6.1793 Henry Hills and John Crisp of BSE asked him to join a Benefit Society at the Three Goats' Heads, BSE. They said he could only join if at least 9 members were present. At about 4pm he went to the Three Goats' Heads and met Henry Hills and John Crisp and some of the other members that he had been told would be there. They asked him for 1/8d admission fee plus 4/6d to become a full member which he paid. He found out later from the landlord of the Inn (William Willingham) that "no such benefit club exists."

He swore this before Mathias Wright on 4/7 1793.

The very next day in the Guildhall Mr Edward Minister, a tailor of BSE, alleged that John Crisp and William Chilver asked him to join a Benefit Society at the Three Goats' Heads. He alleges the same as the above story except he paid 1/8d for entrance but only 2/6d for his full membership. However, what I think added a theatrical element to his initiation proceedings, he was asked to swear "An oath or something in the nature thereof" which he believed was necessary to be taken as a member of the said society.

The outcome of these allegations and the fates of the named individuals remains un-

known, but what is for sure this was not the last confidence trick tried in a pub!

In 1860, about the time Charles Dickens was staying at the Angel Hotel to undertake his reading gig at the Athenaeum, the Three Goats' Heads had some visitors more suited to be characters in one of his novels. The Ipswich Journal states that Robert Grimwood (very Dickensian) of Angel Hill and Charles Cook of St Andrew's Street South were apprehended and charged with stealing 2 bushels of potatoes from the Three Goats' Heads, the property of Henry Brewster (another appropriate name) the licensee. I have yet to discover what happened to them, but they were no doubt relieved that transportation finished in 1858! Colin Pedrick

So sorry...In the Autumn Newsletter the Coronation street party photos of the bunting and the Maison Bleue cakes should have been attributed to Jennifer Baker

More Dogs Grid...



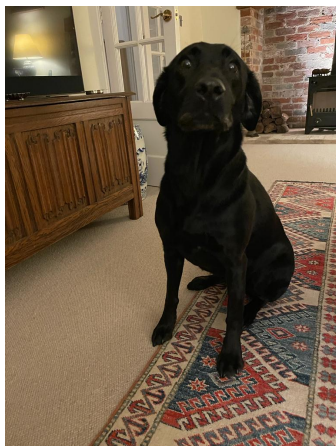
Bella from Old Dairy Yard



*Maggie and Olive from
Hatter Street*



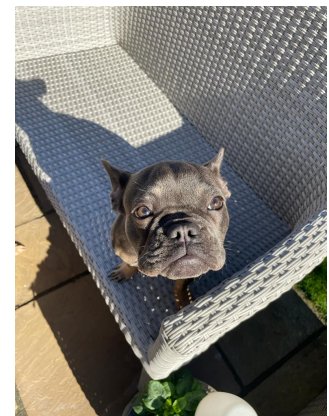
Bobby from Bridewell Lane



*Whisper from Guildhall
Street*



*Otto from The Great
Churchyard*



Lolly from Greene Mews

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