



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

Established 2002

NEWSLETTER

Number 78

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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 Friday 25 October 2024 at the Unitarian Meeting House at 7pm to which all residents and businesses are welcome

After the main business of the AGM Dr. Michael Walker will give a talk on the Battle of Fornham 'a hard and grievous battle' and the Siege of Haughley 'a bloody battle of rape and pillage' both in 1170 featuring Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk who was a 'powerful and crafty man' and Petronelle the high-spirited Countess of Leicester who fought at the side of her husband. We will learn of a panoply of amazing warriors both for Henry II and against. And of course he will tell us about an absolute hero William Marshal, the best knight who ever lived. Michael will sell his book: '*A Hard and Grievous Battle*'.

Wine and Canapés will be served after the meeting

Welcome to Dr. Peter Prinsley, the new Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. It is hoped that Peter will come and speak to the CAA at sometime in the future as did his predecessor.

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 25th 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. 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 do anything.

And if you have joined recently your subscription will cover you for the year to 2025 so there is no need to pay again.

You can pay by cash or cheque (payable to Churchgate Area Association) to the Membership Secretary, Judy Broadway, 68 Whiting Street, IP33 1NR.

Could you claim Pension Credit?

You have probably heard that many pensioners will not be receiving the Winter Fuel Payment of £200 or £300 (for over-80s) this year if they are not claiming Pension Credit. Pension Credit is a very under-claimed benefit which, if you claim it, can also help with reductions to your Council Tax and housing costs. And you are eligible for a free TV licence if you are over 75.

Pension Credit is a benefit which tops up your state pension weekly amount to £218.15 if you are single, £332.95 for couples. Couples need to both be over state pension age to qualify. There are extra entitlements for those who claim disability benefits such as Attendance Allowance.

Full details are on the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>

To see if you might be eligible for Pension Credit you can use the online calculator on the gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>

You can claim online or by phoning the claim line on 0800 99 1234.

Citizens Advice can help check whether you are eligible, and help you to claim.

You can ring Citizens Advice on 0808 2787868 or drop in to our Bury St Edmunds office at 90 Risbygate Street on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, 10-12, to arrange a call to check your eligibility.

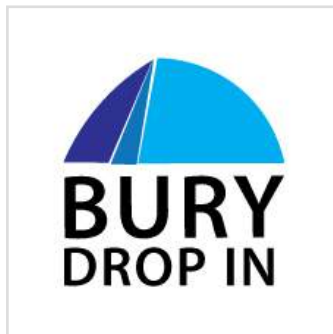
If you'd like to pay by online banking, or set up a standing order (which we would prefer), our account name is Churchgate Area Association, sort code is 20-16-12, account number 50100951.

Many thanks in advance. Judy Broadway

Bury Tour Guides - Marketing Officer

John Saunders reports:

Despite the weather, it has been a good summer for tours. Excellent reviews on Tripadvisor have placed us in the top 10% of worldwide attractions - a wonderful accolade and a great advertisement for the town. Our Masters of the Air tours which relate how Bury was affected in wartime and include a visit to the Guildhall's Operations Room have so far been undertaken by more than 500 people - such has been the demand that they will feature again in September and October. We are also trialling a new venture, a special tour for dog-lovers on 1 September. Halloween in October will see us resuming our ghostly and macabre tours. So, there is plenty happening and, as ever, the Churchgate area features prominently. Our website www.burystedmundstourguides.org provides all the information you need to book.



Always read the small print



The tough economic climate forced up demand on our services and increased numbers. We provide support with a cooked meal in a safe place and emergency provisions for over 150 registered guests. Homelessness is often the result of multiple, complex crises that come together causing a person's life to fall apart.

We support first and foremost every guest's individual and immediate need. But we aspire to inspire, and we do have so many talented people coming through our door.

One of our guests won last year's Recovery Got Talent competition with her interpretation of 'This is Me' from the greatest

showman. Considerate person as she is, she sung and signed at the same time.

We ran two art projects, one as part of the Primadonna festival in Stowmarket and one with The Artbranches. Many guest complete word puzzles or doodle, the artwork above is one piece. What is so exceptional, is that another guest got engaged and contributed the comment, in small print.

Every interaction is rebuilding trust in a caring and compassionate society, rebuilding the feeling of safety and belonging and a stepping stone to further opportunities to change lives.

With the current kitchen refurbishment at our host location we are only able to serve sandwiches and some finger food snacks. Our guests are very appreciative that we are keeping the drop in open and love the sandwich variations.

Every prayer, fundraiser, donation, and volunteer hour make a difference. Bury Drop In sessions run every Tuesday and Friday 11am-1.30pm at Trinity Church, Brentgovel Street, BSE IP33 1EB. Please visit www.burydropin.org for further information or contact me directly sabine.dornbusch@burydropin.org or 07483314445 or visit www.burydropin.org/donate for a much appreciated online donation.

Roderick Sprake 27th June 1938 -25th January 2024

When in 2000 Roderick and Carol moved into Bury St Edmunds from Rougham Green to retire, or so they thought, they seemed as busy as ever. Roderick along with James Langston and John Corbett started the CAA, James as Chairman, Roderick Vice Chairman and Law and Order. John

being Secretary. Later when James gave up Roderick became Chairman.

Mike Ames Chairman of Bury in Bloom approached Roderick to become a Coordinator for Bury in Bloom. One of the main tasks was helping to organize the large number of Judges required. Roderick enjoyed all the different roles he was asked to do.

Roderick along with John Pearce started the Men's Breakfast at St Mary's Church, such a good idea, as there are many things for Ladies to do but very little for Men, so this fitted the bill.

Shortly after moving into Town, Roderick and Carol were fortunate in getting an allotment; they had always grown vegetables and flowers, which has given them both so much enjoyment over the years. Carol will continue with it and find great solace in doing so.

Roderick was married for over 60 years, and we all miss him very much. Patrick Sprake

The Battle of Britain: See and touch World War Two history at the Guildhall

Sunday 27th October 2024

11am to 12pm

Tickets £7.50 per person

For more information, visit: www.burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk/events/

Location: Bury St Edmunds Guildhall, Guildhall Street, Suffolk, IP33 1PR

Military historian Paul Hunt, an active member of the Royal British Legion, is coming to the Guildhall on Sunday 27th October to showcase some of his unique and rare collection of genuine WWI and WW2 artefacts, including an authentic Enigma Machine! Paul will give a fascinating and interactive presentation during which the audience is invited to examine the items and ask questions.

His talk will delve into the Battle of Britain (July 10th - October 31st, 1940); an event which followed the German occupation of much of Continental Europe and the forced

evacuation of British forces from France through Normandy, leaving Britain standing alone against the mighty onslaught. With fewer men and fewer planes, as well as numerous other disadvantages, Britain achieved what Winston Churchill later called "our finest hour," as the Luftwaffe, led by Herman Goering, changed tactics and from previously targeting ports and airfields began to bomb cities in what became known as The Blitz.



The artefacts on show during the talk will include relics from British Spitfires, Hurricanes, and German Messerschmitt 109s, multi-signed items from The Few and several very rare relics from the Blitz.

Paul says 'I pride myself on having a collection of artefacts rarely seen outside museums, if at all. I feel it's very important that this part of history is taught and never forgotten. We owe it to the men and women who gave so much for us.'

Greene King update

Many of those who live in the 'Medieval Grid' would agree there may be advantages to the proposal to move the brewery to a new facility in Moreton Hall. The reduction in heavy traffic in the historic parts of the town being one of them. However, while Greene King (GK) are being very open about their proposal to move the brewery, they are being less than clear as to what they propose for the historic buildings and

other holdings they have in and around the existing estate.

Greene King are adamant that they will keep 'some presence' at the historic 'Westgate Site', but have not divulged what this may be. It seems they will not address this until they have planning permission for the new building. But they must know what activities will take place in their new brewery (and the dispatch building for which they already have planning permission) and what the residual ones will be that need to be located elsewhere so, surely, they must know in principle at least what will be retained in the historic sites.

The loss of the brewery in the town centre will be a sad one, bringing to an end over 200 years of such use in the same location, and the result will leave a vacuum to be filled. GK must understand that their actions could have major implications for the character and use of their current landholdings. It is most concerning that sites may become vacant and surely there is likely to be pressure for most to be developed for residential uses. They include:

- Greene King Maltings
- Greene King Brewery Buildings on SE & SW corner of Crown St
- Green King Main Brewhouse Brewery Yard
- Greene King Brewery Buildings on SW corner of St Marys Square
- Bridewell Lane, old fire station
- Property on Crown Street, Cullum Road, Maynewater Lane, Westgate Street and the car park behind Theatre Royal

While the historic buildings have a measure of protection, others parts of the estate do not: several are statutorily 'listed' and a large percentage of the holdings are in Town Centre Conservation Area (CA).

To get technical for a minute (it's

important to know what is and what isn't statutorily protected), the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is the legislative basis for decision-making on applications that relate to the historic environment. In respect of conservation areas it requires that '*special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area*'. With regard to listed buildings, it requires the planning authority to have '*special regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses*'.

In effect this means that listed buildings are protected from harmful change and what are known as 'undesigned heritage assets' (in effect buildings, or parts of buildings, that make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area) are also protected, or at least their elements which make the contribution to the CA are. Any undesigned assets outside of the conservation area have very limited protection. A few years ago the Bury Town Trust undertook an exercise which identified the undesigned heritage assets in the Town Centre CA. This is accessible to all at the BTT's website ([HERITAGE ASSETS – Bury St Edmunds Town Trust](#)) and I'd urge you to look at the entries for the brewery buildings under the various streets they address. The largest majority of the buildings were felt to make some contribution to the CA.

Addressing the reality of the situation, re-development for housing may be acceptable in places but the wholesale development for this purpose would lead to hugely increased traffic movement and would compromise the character of the 'Grid'. We have already a gated development off Westgate Street which followed a sale of Greene King land. And, of course, the robust nature of the

brewery buildings adds significantly to the character of the CA.

Greene King should come clean and make it clear what their intentions are and start to plan for the future of this large and very important historic area. To start with a Conservation Management Plan should be prepared to guide any future proposals. This would set out the historic significance of the sites and their relationship to the wider historic and natural environment, to guide planning for new uses which will protect this significance. Peter Riddington

Caring for the elderly and isolated in our community

The word care takes many forms, from simply enquiring how someone is, checking in on a neighbour, doing a spot of shopping for someone who can't get out, to visiting someone when they are ill, isolated or in need of day-to-day assistance.

It is not too hard to see how elderly people may become more isolated later in life. As people grow older, they will unfortunately begin to lose more of their friends and family whilst also struggling with declining health. Many are also struggling to care for a loved one who may be living with dementia, which can also lead to severe isolation and a reluctance to leave the house. Being able to help is something very rewarding as, heaven knows, we will all need that assistance at some point and this togetherness is what a community is all about.

To that end, I decided to move to Bury St Edmunds in 2021 to open a care and companionship business covering West Suffolk. There are many such businesses in Bury which suggests there is an obvious need, however, in addition to care agencies there are dozens of local community groups that are often free to access, and which offer companionship and a chance to meet others in a friendly environment. They also offer an opportunity for those who are caring for a loved one to share their experiences and

gain access to local community services that they may not be aware of.

It was always my intention to run a care business that is community focused, and I am in the process of drawing up a free What's On Where guide of all of these community groups. If you would like a copy, I'd be more than happy to send you one.

In the meantime, please see a very small selection of groups/services in Bury that meet regularly and that may be of interest.

Lunch Club at St Mary's Church, Honey Hill, every Wednesday, 11.45 to 13:30 (a social community group, lunch and refreshments supplied, all welcome)

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Together on Tuesday, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm (a short, quiet service in the day chapel for those living with dementia and their carers, followed by tea and cake)

Coffee Morning at United Reformed Church, Whiting Street, Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.30, (tea/coffee and chat, all welcome)

Carers' Café at Davers Court, Shakers Lane 1st Monday of the month 10:30 – 12:30 (a community group to help those caring for someone living with dementia and a chance to meet local healthcare professionals and get advice)

U3A Bury St Edmunds – U3A is a national organisation that offers opportunities to develop interests and make friends in retirement – please visit u3aburystedmunds.co.uk for more information

Fun & Fitness Davers Court Shakers Lane, please call 01284 748410 for more information (fun chair-based exercise classes specifically geared for the elderly)

If you need any advice whatsoever on care in the community, I can be contacted at brian.mcfarlane@bse.homeinstead.co.uk or on T: 01284 658100 or M: 07711 820021

Highlighting Local Businesses

Buy The Light in Whiting Street

Buy the Light is an independent gift shop based at the town end of Whiting Street. The business was started in September 1998 by Lesley Bancroft, after deciding that she didn't wish to work for large Corporations any longer. She took the decision to start her own business, so would survive or die by her own hand, rather than following instruction given by others. Here we are nearly 26 years later showing that if you have a vision and are prepared for hard work, you can succeed!

Initially based in Risbygate Street, Buy the



Light opened selling mainly Candles, Home Fragrance and Glassware, but when an opportunity arose to relocate to Cornhill Walk Shopping Centre, Lesley decided that it was too good an opportunity to miss.

The shop quickly became the "Smelliest Shop in Town", as fragrant candles really began to take off and the fragrance filled the store and the mall. Another nickname was "The Candle Shop", which people still use today, even though nowadays candles are just a small part of the overall portfolio.

In 2010 Buy the Light took over the large front unit in Cornhill Walk, previously occupied by Vodafone, allowing for expansion

into different product ranges, which now form the core offering of the business. It was at this time that Lesley was joined by Store Manager Claire, who is still Lesley's right-hand woman today!

The Shopping Centre was closed in December 2016, forcing the move to Whiting Street. With only four weeks notice, number 4 was the only sensible sized shop available, and as it turns out, it is a great space with loads of character.

The Ladies pride themselves on selecting perfect gifts for all occasions, from birthdays and weddings to christenings, anniversaries and Christmas, always trying to stock unusual, quality products, not available in other local shops. Buying British is top of the agenda and currently the store has more British products than ever before. For example, home fragrance products from Classic Candles are the best-selling brand of candles, melts and reed diffusers and get a big tick as they are based in Suffolk, as indeed is the pot pourri supplier, Manor House Home fragrance, which is based in Stanton. Other British candle brands stocked are St Eval, based in Cornwall; Emily Victoria, in Cheshire; Solas Home, from Warwickshire and Sassy Scents from Bristol.

The amazing Edge Sculptures have been stocked for over 12 years and are 100% handmade and based in Shropshire and whilst many of them are rather imposing and need a lot of space, they have just launched a range of 6 miniatures, which are a little easier to house.

English soap and hand creams are best sellers, coming from Sussex and the newest product range is from Cornwall., an amazing range of handmade artisan earrings, featuring tiny original abstract artwork set in resin, perfect for gifting as well as for personal use.

Other best-selling brands unique to Buy the Light in BSE town are the amazing home fragrance lamps from Maison Berger, which eliminate odours quickly and add fragrance into a room and the original fun-loving wooden ducks from DCUK. A good selection of bags and scarves are always on hand, which make great affordable gifts.

Greeting cards from 3 British designers, Alex Clark, Berni Parker and Sarah Reilly from Lowestoft complete the gift buying experience, along with a purchase of wrapping paper or taking advantage of the in-store premium wrap service.

Buy the Light has won several awards, the most prestigious being Best Independent Gift Retailer East Anglia in 2011 and 2020 and second in the Muddy Stilletos Awards 2023 for Best Lifestyle Store Suffolk & Cambridgeshire.

There's loads more in store than we've had space to mention, so please do pop in to see Lesley and Claire, their experience and help is second to none, especially with Christmas round the corner and you never know, it might save yet another Amazon delivery van on the street!

Lesley

EL MAYBOO

ANTIQUES INTERIORS COLLECTIBLES

Timeless character for your home.

We are delighted to have to have been asked to contribute to the CAA Newsletter. It is a wonderful opportunity to tell you a little more about us and to share our thanks for the support we have received from so many of you.

We have forged many friendships and contacts amongst the Bury residents and

beyond. For those who we have yet to meet you will see me, Elaine, mainly in the shop neighbouring both Hatter Street and Langton Place. My husband, Mark, also supports the business through his wealth of knowledge and searches out many of the items we bring into the shop.

The journey for Ellimayboo started in November 2019. As we collected more beautiful antiques our little shop in Langton Place began to burst at the seams. So, when the opportunity arose to lease the former newsagents, we jumped at the chance! Seeing this new location as a perfect opportunity to grow the business.

We have eight other knowledgeable dealers who rent cabinets from us and who all support our ethos of presenting items to their very best. They too, with their individual specialities and interests add to the wonderful eclectic mix that we display.

So please do come in and say hello and see if you can find something to be the next custodian of for yourself or your home. Or maybe choose the perfect individual gift for friends or family?

In today's world, where environmental consciousness is at the forefront we take pride in saying that our business has always been committed to being green. By purchasing from us you reduce your carbon footprint while at the same time gifting or adding items to your home which have personality and individuality. We make sure that wherever possible we research to provide information and provenance.

How it all started

The River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) is a community-based group looking after the river Lark wherever it can best use its resources.

It's funded by a national Government-backed initiative to establish community-based management of rivers across England.

These groups receive varying levels of financial support. For our group a basic £2000 which pays some of the essential bills such as full public liability coverage of volunteers and full indemnity of trustees.

The group was started back in 2015 when the Environment Agency suggested to Jim Stephens and myself back in the day when I chaired the Bury Water Meadows Group (BWMG).

It has moved a long way to its current position as East Anglia's designated chalk stream recovery group. That's a national initiative backed by OFWAT to be supported through the individual water companies across England. RLCP focuses on the Lark from its headwaters just south of Bury as far as Isleham just downstream of Mildenhall. This article focuses mostly on river stretches either within walking distance from the Grid or a 5 minute car ride.

Ensuring all Bury's water meadows are preserved. A huge news story of recent weeks is that all Bury's water meadows will be given "Green Belt" level of protection as part of the new West Suffolk Plan. This has



resulted from an RLCP "Local Green spaces" planning submission in 2019.

Restoration work on the river. An important early development for RLCP was to set up voluntary restoration on the river. This is a skilled task with training needed for all volunteers. Even in a small river such as the Lark, work in the river can be dangerous -you only have to think how high the water levels have been through most of the last winter. In fact it has been impossible to carry out all the restoration work planned. For the last couple of years RLCP have been working downstream of the Co-op (now closed) in Mildenhall Road. The river (and footpath) between there and the golf course has been somewhat neglected but bit-by-bit it is now being improved.

National Trust RLCP started by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Trust at Ickworth. This MOU generously offers us access to the whole estate 24/7 365 days a year. The MOU covers all citizen science activity, subject to sharing results with the National Trust. We understand that this one of the first times that the National Trust have signed such an agreement. The RLCP and National Trust commissioned an expert study of the Linnet. If you look at the photo, you should, like us, be very pleasantly surprised at what we saw, and at what can be done in the future to improve it.

Citizen science has been a much more recent initiative. For many, water quality testing provides a direct way of understanding some of the many threats which the Lark and many other rivers be experiencing these days. Our citizen science projects have attracted a record number of volunteers over the last year or so. It's been a great learning exercise working out what is the best equipment to use. We decided to focus for now on the river Linnet. It's a short tribu-

tary of the Lark but has a key position near the headwaters, potentially contributing substantially to sedimentation which, once swept downstream is a major obstacle to biodiversity for the whole Lark.

Working with Guildhall Feoffment school

Last Friday two classes of Year 5 pupils headed to the Lark to start water sampling. RLCP are helping the school to set up regular water quality testing on the Lark using equipment supplied by RLCP.

Flagship The Lark Flagship project is one of a number of largescale projects by OFWAT and water companies (including Anglian Water) to select a number of chalk streams to be improved as exemplars for all of England's 200+ chalk streams in a work programme 2025-2030. A Catchment Plan is being developed which will prioritise restoration work. Our ever-evolving citizen science work will complement the Plan by building a better picture of the river. A project for our Bury water meadows, for instance, is very much of interest.

Volunteers RLCP very much welcomes new volunteers. There is an application form on the web site www.riverlark.org.uk. Recruiting more volunteers increases and broadens the work we can do. The Bury Water Meadows Group led by Libby Ranzetta also recruits volunteers who focus on Bury's water meadows.

Andrew Hinchley Trustee River Lark Catchment Partnership

Churchgate Chatter

I am sure many CAA residents have been looking after children over the summer holidays and coming up with interesting and fun activities to amuse them. There would also have been other residents who, like me,

would have been on grandparent duty, which comes with the added joy of handing them back at the end of the day!

I remember the first school holiday after we moved to Suffolk from London with young children nearly 20 years ago. The weather was terrible and other than going for a country walk in the rain or travelling to Colchester, Cambridge or other bigger centres, it was a struggle to find much to occupy them. How we pined for all the free London museums, especially the Natural History Museum (the 'Hasty Misty' as my children called it) or the vast choice of children's holiday activities or theatre – even the National Theatre would put on excellent productions of Shakespeare, adapted especially for children. By comparison, Suffolk seemed more adult - focused and weather dependant.

However, things have definitely improved over time and there were plenty of activities for children this summer. There was Theatre in the Parks performances, 'Dorothy, Back In Oz' at the Theatre Royal and the 'Quentin Blake: The Illustrated Hospital' exhibition at Moyse's Hall, as well as numerous activities organised by leisure centres or other local organisations.

My 1- year old grandson enjoyed going to Little Wood Worms, a play café on Churchgate Street, where there are imaginative, good quality toys and an outdoor space in a lovely, safe environment (even though their website warns us that they offer 'hot drinks, tasty cakes and *snakes* for the little ones'!). Further afield, Hollow Trees Farm in Semer, near Hadleigh, which once had free admission, is still worth a visit with its adventure playground, themed trails and

an array of (albeit rather elusive on the day) farm animals. I noticed they'd replaced the 'Welly Wanging' activity of previous years for a more Health and Safety aware bean bag throwing game (spoils sports!). The Food Museum in Stowmarket (previously the Museum of East Anglian Life), by contrast, had plenty of animals (including a Suffolk Punch foal), river walks and a free tasting counter, using produce from the farm, where we enjoyed some delicious blackcurrant and mint sorbet. My older teenage grandchildren had fun going to Ickworth and the beautiful formal gardens, café and shop at Wyken Gardens, near Stanton, where there is a challenging maze ideal for losing grandparents in!

Of course, nearly all of these activities cost money and you would still have to go to Ipswich, Colchester or Cambridge to visit free Museums. Although there are a few children's

events or activities that are free, such as exhibitions at the Apex, the Food and Drink Festival and, of course, our wonderful Abbey Gardens, holidays can end up being expensive for families. Wouldn't it be good if some of these venues could offer the occasional free or reduced - price days so that they could be more available to everyone? Anon

And more Grid Dogs...



Leaf from Guildhall Street



Nellie from Guildhall Street



Tara from Guildhall Street



Maisie from Guildhall Street



Dexter from Churchgate Street

YOUR COMMITTEE 2023-24

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Don't forget to look at CAA Facebook to catch up on all the latest news:



facebook.com/ChurchgateAreaAssociation

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