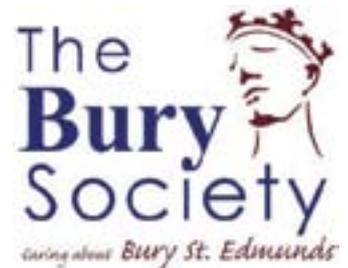


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# Society Review

Spring 2017



*The Athenaeum buzzed to the sound of questions, answers and discussion of the Town Centre Masterplan on 22 March. Right, Richard Summers, Martyn Taylor and Patrick Chung lead the meeting.*

## ‘Issues and Options’ prompt lively debate

About 150 local people met on Wednesday 22 March at the Athenaeum to discuss their collective response to St Edmundsbury Borough Council’s consultation questionnaire about the consultants’ “Issues and Options” report on the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Masterplan.

Martyn Taylor, Chairman of the Bury Society, said, “It’s great that so many people from the town’s local communities came together to discuss the issues and options for the town centre masterplan.”

The open meeting was coordinated by Richard Summers, a retired professional planner who lives in the town centre. Stephen Moody was the time-keeper and Rachel Hogger was the “friendly planner” from outside the town who bullet-pointed the discussion for all to see.

The meeting began with a brief summary of the “Issues and Options” report. Most people agreed with the issues that were identified (72%)

although some others were noted. Many (57%) agreed with the proposed objectives but again some others were noted. Some people (38%) broadly agreed with the options but others recognised they will be worked up in the next stage of the consultants’ study.

There are particular local concerns about traffic and car parking, problems with personal safety and air pollution for pedestrians, difficulties for people with disabilities trying to move around, the localised congestion around school drop-off and collection times and conflicts between the evening economy and the interests of some local residents.

There was a lively discussion about the objective to accommodate growth in the demand for town centre activities. Some people thought growth isn’t necessary even though the population of the town and the region is growing and the town is also planned to expand. Others thought the town should maintain its economic position in the East of England.

Discussion about some of the

other proposed objectives questioned the scale of development that will be needed and argued that the water meadows and green spaces on the eastern and southern sides of the town centre should be conserved to protect wildlife, to maintain important views and to provide leisure activities for local people and for visitors.

It was generally accepted that historic towns like Bury St Edmunds must continue to adapt to change.

There was general agreement that the approaches to the town centre should be more welcoming to visitors, that better signage is needed and that key vehicle and pedestrian routes should be improved, particularly links with the railway station, the new arc centre, the older shopping area and Angel Hill.

The meeting was a great success and will provide a broad-based collective response to the “Issues and Options” report. There will be another open meeting on Wednesday 26 July.



# New sculpture crowns winter activities

It has been a busy winter for Bury in Bloom with public art, planting and preparations for the year ahead, as Melanie Lesser reports.

'St Edmund's Crown' on the Cullum Road/Nowton Road Roundabout was unveiled on 15 March. The sculpture, which is made from metal and willow, was created by local sculptor Elizabeth Cooke from Lark Valley Willow.

The willow was grown on the meadows near Greene King and the inspiration for the sculpture are the crests for both Greene King and the Bury St Edmunds Town Council showing a wolf guarding the head of St Edmund with three crowns beneath.

## John Williams' carvings

Anyone who spotted sculptor John Williams at work as we shivered through the icy chill of January would assume he's a man prepared to suffer for his art. He spent hours chiselling away in his studio – a disused birdcage in the Abbey Gardens. Far from suffering, he couldn't have been happier.



I asked John to take on the project, making our carvings featuring significant figures from the gardens' history; a stonemason, a physician, a scribe and a herbalist. The wood he chose came from elm trees that once stood in Haverhill.

## Crafty Creatures

The Crafty Foxes and Bury in Bloom are working together again this year to have a new competition, 'Crafty Creatures'. We are inviting children and adults to use recycled containers to create a creature and grow a relevant plant, flower or seeds inside it. We hope the bloom will complement the creature in some way.

The Crafty Foxes will be running workshops in several Bury schools, The



Elizabeth Cooke, second left and St Edmundsbury Mayor, Julia Wakelan, second right, with Melanie Lesser, sponsors and Parks Department staff at the 'St Edmund's Crown' unveiling.

Dementia Hub and the West Suffolk College.

Pictures of the crafty creatures will be posted on Facebook and the winners will receive their prizes at the Young Green Fingers presentation in October.

Woolpit Nurseries have kindly offered to donate plants to entrants on production of the flyer at the nursery.



## School Yard tidy-up and planting

Focus 12 (based in Risbygate Street), the RHS, Bury in Bloom, the Borough Council and local residents from Nelson Road have been involved in clearing the area at the back of the car park in the School Yard ready for planting.

This is a RHS 'Grey to Green' initiative', to improve built-up areas by planting trees, plants and wildflowers.

School Yard was once the site of St James National School built in 1854 and demolished in 1937. (pictured below)

## West Suffolk College Project

The project involves the catering students from the college. Alison Findley from the RHS and the catering students measured out the site outside the Edmunds Restaurant, did a soil test and sowed some edible flowers and herbs.



They talked about what kind of plants to include and Alison showed them examples of traditional kitchen and herb gardens as well as more contemporary ones. The garden brief has evolved from being a demonstration kitchen garden into an outdoor seating area with a kitchen/herb garden theme.

The students visited Wyken Hall for inspiration and to meet the chef who is an ex student of West Suffolk College. Other students from the college's construction department are also involved as they will be building the brick planters to surround the whole site.

BiB is helping by sponsoring the project which has also attracted funding from the RHS.

## Cathedral Planters make-over

Dilapidated planters in beauty spots have been restored to their former glory thanks to a project helping people with learning difficulties.

Several planters outside the cathedral, within the Abbey Gardens area, have been repaired thanks to a partnership between Bury in Bloom, the Borough Council parks team and social enterprise Realise Futures.



## Dementia Hub planter

BiB commissioned a striking 18 foot long blue planter from Realise Futures. It is made from 100 per cent recycled plastic planking.

We are keen to encourage gardening across all age groups, from pre-schools to nursing homes and having the planter at the hub, we feel, provides the chance for gardening skills to be used there for all to enjoy.

The suggestion for the planter was made by senior Green Fingers co-ordinator Sue Thompson who has seen the benefits of gardening in nursing homes across the town. We have commissioned workshops for the hub's clients to create floral textiles with one of our artists.



## New A14 Sign

After three years of campaigning Bury in Bloom has finally got the very tatty sign on the A14 replaced.

Originally, we just wanted it removed by the contactors who agreed to replace the sign if we paid for it. Coastline Graphics quickly produced the sign and it was installed in January.

The new sign matches the other Bury St Edmunds 'A jewel in the crown of Suffolk' signs on all the road entrances into town.



Bury Water Meadows volunteers on their mission to litter pick, lay turf and river restoration.

# Water meadows volunteers set about spring cleaning

Five work parties went in different directions on the morning of Sunday 19 March from their base camp in the Crankles, writes Jillian Macready.

The Bury Water Meadows Group (BWMG) was on a mission to get three litter picks, one turf laying project by Abbot's Bridge and one river restoration project underneath the footbridge in the Abbey Gardens, carried out by the end of March with vital funding from the Environment Agency via the River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) who co-hosted the event.

First out at 9.00am was the river restoration group. A £2,500 grant from the Environment Agency to the RLCP allowed Glenn Smithson, our restoration organiser, to buy in all the materials needed.

Volunteers from BWMG who had been specially trained to work safely in the river were guided by Glenn to get the first part of the job done, providing marginal habitat and trapping silt in the river.

Hopefully, in the future, more extensive use of this type of work will improve the overall habitat for insects, birds, mammals and the spawning potential for coarse fish and wild trout.

The pre-planted coir rolls were held in place with chestnut stakes, driven into the river bed. Hazel faggots were added which act as the main silt trap and create a 'complex mosaic' habitat (scruffy and intertwined!), perfect for hiding in when everything around wants to eat you!

Bank erosion on the Abbey Gardens

side was also a problem since dredging and bank modification had been carried out last year, so Glenn suggested this side be stabilised with planting. For this operation he teamed up with me, founder member of BWMG and BWMG representative on the RLCP.

I suggested wildflower turf mats made up of a mixture of 50% native wildflowers and 50% native grasses all beneficial to insects; these are sown into a substrate and knitted onto biodegradable netting, which makes for easy handling.

Will Cranstoun of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust gave his expertise and Simon Collin of St Edmundsbury Borough Council was on hand to help another team of eager volunteers lay 60sq metres of turf.

As if this wasn't enough for the BWMG committee to be organising, three different litter picking teams were also dispatched. Following a request from a BWMG member Joanna Van Kleeck, who lives close by, one group tackled Holywater Meadows and another The Butts.

Greene King has recently cleared a number of the ditches on their Butts land and, with their permission, this team focussed on the remaining untouched ditches.

Cans and litter were picked off with energy and hope that once clean, people will choose to not drop their litter! That has been the Group's experience on No Mans Meadows as this third area to be tackled was very light on litter apart from an enormous tractor wheel!



## Russell is new Editor of Society Review

Russell Cook, above, is the new Editor of Society Review, taking over from Richard Carter who has been producing the newsletter for the last five years.

Up until the end of January Russell was the West Suffolk editor of the East Anglian Daily Times and the West Suffolk Mercury Series which includes the Bury St Edmunds Mercury, Mildenhall Mercury, Sudbury Mercury and Stowmarket Mercury.

Russell has spent his working life in newspapers and brings with him a wealth of experience to produce Review.

Since taking up his Mercury role based in the Archant office in Woolhall Street, he has been instrumental in championing community news and campaigns and takes an enormous interest in the well being Bury and the future prosperity of the town and its surroundings.

Russell's previous roles include being head of news and deputy editor at the Evening Star in Ipswich and editor of the Lowestoft Journal. He has worked all over Suffolk including in Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Southwold.

"I'm hoping to take an active role within the society and look forward to meeting as many people involved in the organisation in the coming weeks and months," said Russell.

"I am very glad that Russell with all his experience is succeeding me as Editor," said Richard. "I know how important it is to members."

Russell can be contacted via email at russellcook@sky.com

## Society highlights its three priorities for railway station

In December, the Bury Society was represented at a *Strategic Plan* meeting to discuss the future for our railway station.

The meeting was chaired by MP Jo Churchill and attended by the Bury Town Trust, Network Rail, Greater Anglia, Department for Transport, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and the Station Supporters Group.

The timing of the meeting was important because the new nine-year franchise had just been awarded - and also because it has now been predicted that the annual footfall at Bury station will increase from 600,000 to 900,000 over the next ten years.

From the Society's viewpoint there are three priorities; monitoring the structural integrity of the station building (especially the station master's house), improved car parking and an enhanced timetable.

It appears Network Rail still do not have funding for any of the major infrastructure projects in the Eastern Region such as Haughley junction or Ely junction - all of which are higher priorities than station improvements.

Also, Greater Anglia say improving

## Record number of new members

Bury Society membership has reached an all time high at 576. Following a successful leaflet drop around the town and an intake of trainee Bury Town guides and their partners, over 40 people have joined recently.

Numbers naturally drop after subscription renewal time on 1 June and build up again as those lost are replaced, so we are constantly in need of new members.

Despite our best efforts to publicise the good work that is done by the Society, and by Bury in Bloom, a large proportion of Bury residents still seem unaware of our existence.

With subscriptions at only £15 a year for individuals and £20 for a couple at the same address it is a small contribution towards helping to maintain the beauty of Bury.

Membership application forms are

rail stock is its priority, with trains increasing from one/two carriages to three/four carriages - so we are unlikely to see much financial support from these sources.

However, everyone was agreed that more car parking at the station is a priority - and so we were all asked to put our heads together over the next few months to come up with firm proposals.

The most likely location for a new car park would be an area currently used for rail maintenance on the north side of the station, with perhaps a hundred spaces.

Looking to the future, it appears that Network Rail's long term objective is to sell off redundant property - so possibly there is some scope here for wider community involvement (it may help that the station is now included in the new Town Centre Masterplan).

Meanwhile, members may be interested to hear that a Japanese company has just bought a large stake in Greater Anglia - so maybe sometime soon we will be speeding to Cambridge on a 200mph bullet train!

Roderick Rees

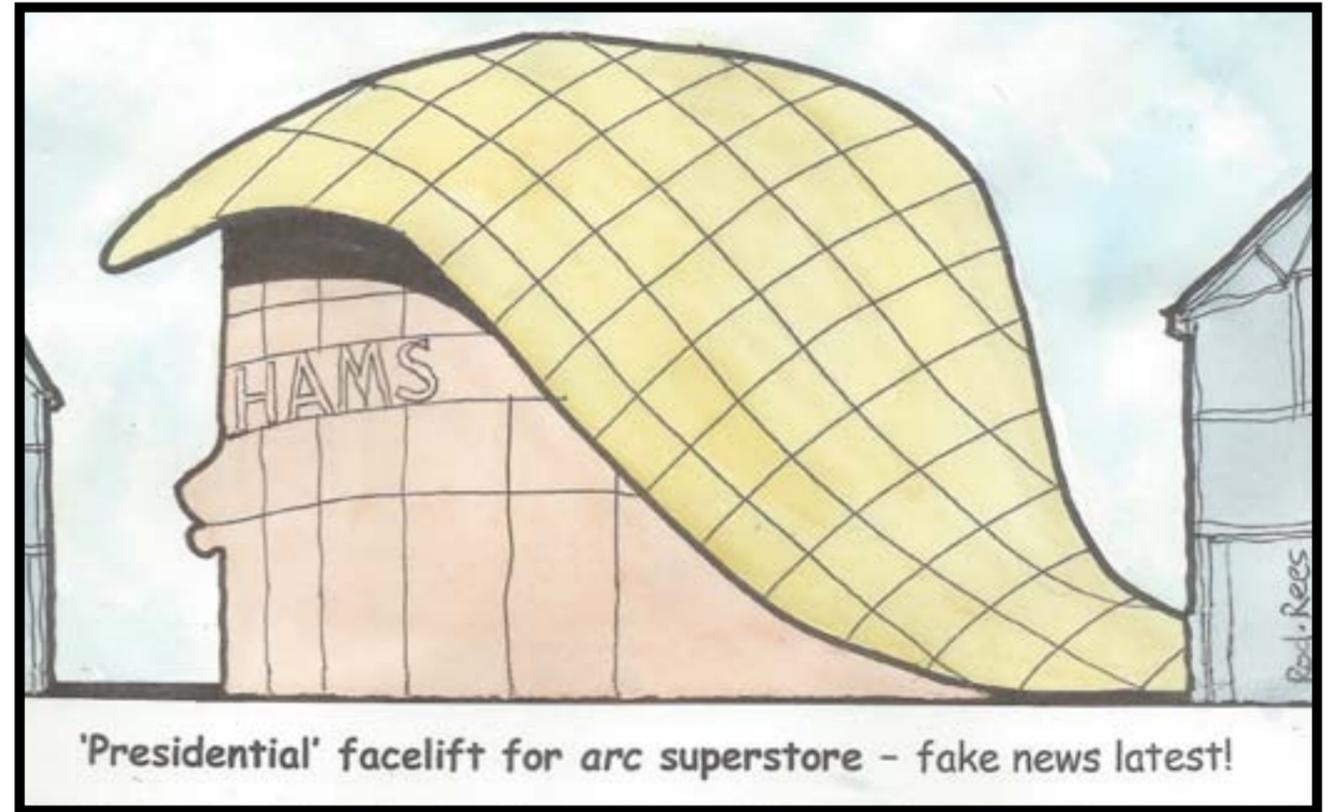
available online at [www.theburysociety.org.uk](http://www.theburysociety.org.uk) and from the Tourist Information Point on Angel Hill so please encourage friends and neighbours to join.

Sue Savage  
Membership Secretary

### SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Annual subscriptions are due again and we are extremely grateful to those who already pay by standing order as it reduces the workload considerably.

If you wish to set one up either contact your bank or ring Sue Savage on 01284 719243 for a form. The Society's bank details are: Barclays Bank, Cornhill, sort code 20-16-12 account 30225134. BACS transfers are fine and cheques can be sent to Sue Savage at 19 Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2BP made payable to 'The Bury Society'.



## Vision 2031 schemes coming on stream

The Society wrote in support of recent plans to convert *Palmers'* store on **St Andrews Street South** into eight flats and with a small shop on the frontage.

It means the loss of one of the town's larger long-established shops, but the current facade is also probably one of the least attractive in the centre. The new design is certainly a great improvement, endeavouring to reflect the appearance of the adjoining *arc* development. However, the delight of the *arc* is the attention given to some of the timber cladding details so we suggested the developer look again at this aspect of the design.

In response to concern expressed by local members, the Society also wrote to object to an application for an extension to **30 Whiting Street** (on the corner with Finsbury Place). We said the plans represented over-development of this very modest site. Also, we did not believe the proposals enhanced the setting of a listed building, nor did we believe it demonstrated good neighbourliness with a first floor roof terrace. The plans were subsequently revised and approved.

We expressed concern over plans to convert a three storey rear extension

to **30-32 St Johns Street** from commercial to residential use because it represented over-development and we noted plans to redevelop a site on the corner of **Fornham Road** and **Avenue Approach** with five new flats.

We also considered an application for a change of use of the former Bonhams' offices on **Churchgate Street** into a new kitchen shop with a self-contained apartment above, as well as plans for a makeover of the **W H Smith's** premises on the **Cornhill** (interestingly, it includes an escalator up to the new Post Office).

Elsewhere, the Vision 2031 sites are starting to come on-line with the approval of an outline application for 1250 new homes at **Abbots Vale Rushbrooke Lane**. The Society had earlier commented that we were supportive of these plans, but had reservations about the impact of traffic, footpath links back into town and respecting river frontage.

The application for 135 new flats on **Station Hill** has eventually been approved and demolition work is now well underway. Members may recall that in 2014 the Society had called for the developers to make

their full contribution towards local infrastructure costs including affordable homes; 13 are now included as well as a substantial financial contribution.

The Society will shortly be commenting on a very recent application for the new Waste Transfer Hub at Hollow Road Farm **Fornham**. It is a very comprehensive submission supported by almost 100 documents including transport assessments and an environmental study. The Council stresses that the application relates to matters of design and will not be revisiting the question of site location.

Recently, plans have been submitted for a new four storey *Travelodge* hotel and *Starbucks* on **Etna Road/Compiegne Way**. Already several residents have expressed their concerns about road safety, especially traffic generated by the proposed coffee outlet.

Members may recall that this site was once occupied by a landmark iconic malting's building. The Society considers that the new hotel should therefore reflect in a similar manner the site's gateway location on one of the major approaches to our historic town. It should not be an 'anywhere' design.

Roderick Rees

# The millennium story of St Edmund's Abbey

*Historian and Burian Francis Young tells us why he has written a complete history of the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds*

The Abbey of Bury St Edmunds has received much attention from historians, most notably Antonia Gransden in her two authoritative volumes on the Abbey between 1182 and 1301, but it was not until I happened to overhear a conversation in Churchgate Books a few years ago that I realised no-one had ever attempted to write a complete history of the Abbey from foundation to dissolution.

A customer asked the proprietor if such a book existed and he explained that it did not. I found this hard to believe, and over the next few days I trawled library catalogues in an attempt to discover one.

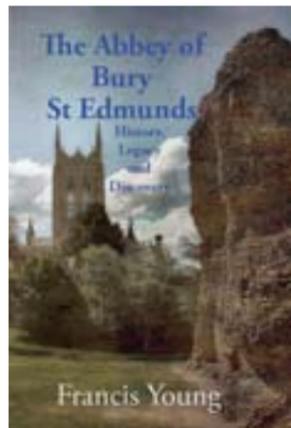
He was quite right; although numerous specialist studies of different periods of the Abbey's history existed, no-one had ever told the story from start to finish in one volume, and there was no authoritative and affordable guide to the Abbey in print.

The English Heritage guide to the Abbey ruins, last reprinted in 2012, is still based on an article written in the early 1950s.

Mindful that the millennium of the Abbey's foundation was looming in 2020, I decided to write a new and comprehensive history of the Abbey.

In reviewing all literature written on the Abbey, I found that certain periods of its history had been subjected to more historical attention than others.

The reign of Abbot Samson (1182–1211), unsurprisingly given Jocelin de Brakelond's vivid account of it, had been the focus of the most interest.



*The Abbey of Bury St Edmunds: History, Legacy and Discovery, published by Lasse Press Price: £16.00*

However, the history of the Abbey in the late Middle Ages (1300 onwards) has been neglected by scholars in recent decades. I felt it necessary, therefore, not only to tell the story of the Abbey from foundation to dissolution but also to explain how its history was unearthed since the seventeenth century.

For an abbey whose physical remains are so meagre in comparison with its former grandeur, the historical records of Bury St Edmunds are fairly plentiful, although it was not until the 1690s that John Battely overcame the prevailing post-Reformation Protestant distaste for Catholic history and wrote a partial history of the Abbey from its foundation to 1272 (although this was not published until 1745).

No further original work was attempted on the Abbey until 1805, when the first part of a study by Richard Yates appeared (the second part was published posthumously in 1843). 1843 was, in fact, the breakthrough year for the history of the Abbey since it also witnessed the publication of Thomas Carlyle's influential collection of essays, Past and Present, which featured a long analysis of Jocelin's Chronicle.

Carlyle had encountered Jocelin by accident in an edition of the Chronicle by a local antiquary, John Gage Rokewode, when he stopped at Bury while on a research trip into East Anglia to study Oliver Cromwell.

Captivated by the character of Abbot Samson, Carlyle cast off Cromwell and chose to focus on Samson instead. In doing so he brought the Abbey to a national audience for the first time.

The late nineteenth century saw an explosion of scholarship on the Abbey that culminated in the groundbreaking work of Montague Rhodes James, a local antiquary of international reputation, in 1895.

James was the first person to consider looking beyond England to research the Abbey's history, and found a remarkable document in the public archives of the French city of Douai that allowed him to reconstruct the interior of the Abbey church in detail.



*Francis Young*

James's discovery allowed the site of the Chapter House to be identified, which led to the discovery of the tombs of Abbot Samson and others in 1903.

The Abbey was once more at the centre of national attention, which enabled the Corporation to lease the site from the Marquess of Bristol in 1912. This marked the beginning of public interpretation of the Abbey ruins, which is still an ongoing effort and has led most recently to the formation of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership between St Edmundsbury Borough Council, St Edmundsbury Cathedral and others.

Amongst other things, the partnership will be discussing how best the millennium of East Anglia's greatest Abbey should be marked in 2020. For in spite of its dissolution in 1539, the story of the Abbey has continued down to the present day, both in the physical and institutional marks it left on the town and in the convoluted history of its interpretation by antiquaries, archaeologists and historians.

Without the Abbey, West Suffolk would not have had the distinct identity that led to Bury St Edmunds becoming a county town between 1874 and 1974, which led in turn to St James' Church becoming Suffolk's Cathedral in 1914.

The glory of St Edmunds Abbey, in the past and in the present, is what makes Bury more than just a market town and sets it alongside the great Christian pilgrimage sites of Europe.

Let's hope we celebrate it fittingly when the millennium comes around in three years' time.

## Members delve into texts in the Ancient Library

With Storm 'Doris' in full force and the wind whirling around the Churchyard in February, it seemed a perfect night to shut out the storm and curl up with a good book.

Thirty hardy souls braved the weather to hear a fascinating lecture given by Stephen Dart, an archivist at the Cathedral's Ancient Library.

Stephen described the history of the collection, the lives of the benefactors and the range and topics of the books whilst weaving the stories into the long history of the town and the struggles for power and authority.

Joined by local historian, Margaret Statham, we were then given the opportunity to split into three groups and visit the Ancient Library itself. This amazing collection includes maps, books on theology, an early Latin version of the Quran and many books and texts dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Another visit took us to the Cathedral Treasury where manuscripts and books were on show along with the impressive church plate.

Stephen also very kindly allowed some of the books



from the library to be on show in the Lecture Room where the third group were given the opportunity to handle and read them, *above*. The English versions were much easier! By rotating the groups, everyone had a chance to get up close and explore the collection.

A short Q&A session concluded a fascinating evening. My thanks to all who came along on such a stormy night and I hope everyone enjoyed this 'hidden treasure'.

A huge thank you to Stephen Dart for his support and lecture.

*Stephen Moody  
Events Secretary*

## Work on Guildhall roof nears completion

Since the beginning of the year our contractors have been working on the set of roofs at the back of the building.

Our greatest concern was about the condition of the cupola over the former Council Chamber, later to be the WWII Operations Room. While what they discovered was not a pretty sight with some significant deterioration in places the fundamental structure remained sound.

After repairs to the timbers and some reinforcement works tiling is underway. The contract is on schedule to be complete next month, and thanks to some creative thinking and excellent cooperation between the architects and the contractors it should come in on budget albeit having used the full contingency allowance.

It is a big day for the Project Manager when major tender documents are complete. Over the past three months James Mellish has been coordinating the architects, the quantity surveyor, the interpretation consultants and numerous sub-contractors in order to craft a realistic and practical tender proposal.

With the intended use of the whole site as the baseline it has been necessary to draft a work schedule aimed at every

*The Guildhall restoration is making progress as Project Director  
Mike Jackson reports*

last detail - from significant demolitions, to alterations, conservation works, and installations ranging from lavatories to wall power points and light fittings.

In the background are constraints with regard to Health and Safety, local planning regulations, heritage and archaeology. In the foreground is affordability – the proposal must aim to be achievable within our budget if the responses are to be of any use.

Well done James to have pulled off this trick (with some excellent support from Whitworth)!

The tenders were sent to potential contractors at the end of last month. We expect to review the responses on the 10 May and to award a contract shortly afterwards. This should dovetail nicely with the end of the roofing contract and allow for a seamless move into the main works.

We will have a better estimate of when that work will be complete when we hear back for the bidders but at present we believe that we are on target to finish on time next summer.

Even allowing for completing the

capital works contract on budget we are still looking for more funds in order to make the most of the project.

The tender is based on a plan which has been subjected to a short back and sides haircut, in particular with regard to some of the 'lower level' conservation works which at present are being shelved but ideally should be completed without delay.

The budget for interpretation is also very tight, so that some of our more exciting plans are on hold. And we would like to make more of the educational facilities in particular.

Last but not least we are short of space for offices and for rest facilities for our volunteers. We are striving to find a way of keeping 79 Whiting Street within the project to provide these and to generate some working income. But unless we can raise funds from other sources we shall have to sell it.

We have had some very generous donations since we drew up our budget, including some from individuals for which we are most grateful. If you are able to help in some way or another please do get in touch with Sarah fundraising1@btinternet.com, James james@jmenvironmental.co.uk, or me jackson.corsbie@btinternet.com.



Guides out on a training session with Peta Levantis, left, and Stephen Moody, right.

## JOHN SAUNDERS - Trainee Town Guide

Age: 68

### Were you born in Bury?

No, at Long Melford Police Station (dad was the sergeant there; it was not that mum had misbehaved!)

### Do you live in Bury now – for how long?

My family moved here in 1952; I joined the police service in 1965 and although I retained my links it was not until 1981 that I returned to live in Bury.



### Are you still working?

I retired in 1997 having had various postings including being in charge of Bury's police. Since then I have worked at the Cathedral and been a non-executive director for a NHS Trust. I am chairman of the

Suffolk Branch of the Retired Police Officers' Association and have been a trustee of Gatehouse Caring in East Anglia.

### Principal interests

I enjoy researching family and local history and I have worked on some publications including the histories of St Edmund's Catholic School and the Catholic Church. Most sports interest me but my participation now is mainly from an armchair!

### How did you find out about becoming a guide?

Through conversation with other qualified guides.

### Why do you want to become guide?

I felt that becoming a guide would satisfy my desire to know more and allow me to pass on useful information to others.

### How have you found the process?

In a single word, 'challenging!' I underestimated the extent of knowledge that I would require and the difficulty of 'debunking' some of the myths I had grown up with.

# Trainee Town Guides put through their paces to inform and entertain

Thousands of people visit the town each year and many of them would like to know more about what they are looking at and how it comes to be here. A dedicated team of guides bring history to life for our visitors and this winter and spring a new band of volunteers have been on a rigorous training course to join their number as Stephen Moody explains.

The 'official' Bury St Edmunds Tour Guides are an association of fully trained town guides accredited by the national Institute of Tour Guiding.

The association began in the 1980s and we currently have 10 guides who offer a daily 90 minute tour of Historic Bury St Edmunds from Easter until October starting at 2.00pm. During the peak season 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September, we also offer a daily 11.00am tour.

To receive accreditation, the guides have to undertake a nine month course which includes theory lectures and practical assessments on all aspects of Bury history, culminating in three exams.

As you can imagine, there is an awful lot to learn! We are currently in the process of training 15 new guides to join the team and they will be 'live' later in the year.

Not being a 'Burian' is not a deterrent. We have guides who have moved to the area and wanted to learn about the town and then share their knowledge with visitors. The training includes project writing, weekly lectures and tour practices as well as how to manage a large group.

As well as the daily tours, the guides also undertake group tours organised through the Apex throughout the year.

We also have a range of specialist subject tours available

### What has been the hardest thing about it?

Not only cramming facts but being able to manage a group – the dynamics require time management and flexibility. It's all a bit like herding cats!

### What has surprised you the most?

The amount of time that it has consumed.

### What are the top three things you want to make sure you show or tell people about Bury?

St Edmund and the Abbey; the great fire of Bury in 1608; the enchantment of the area surrounding Church Walks.

### What motivates you to do it?

The satisfaction of never being too old to learn and the pleasure of meeting people whether they are the town's residents or visitors and giving them insight into Bury.

### Is there anything else you would like to share with the readers?

There are many local people who have not been around the town with a guide. The ones we have are superb, know their stuff and will educate and entertain you and your families.

– everything from Inns and Pubs to our ever popular Ghost Tours during the darker months. We also write and plan three new tours each year for the Bury Festival. There is always some thing new to learn!

Tour guiding is harder than it looks. You have to be responsible for up to 20 guests at a time, be aware of all Health and Safety issues, know your subject and British history, be engaging and welcoming and able to project your voice.

We have all types of guests, many from overseas, and get asked every question imaginable. You really do have to think on your feet! Many visitors expect us to know everything, we often get asked about visitors' relatives - where they lived, where they might be buried etc. Quite a challenge!

I have been a guide since 2006 and am Bury born and bred. I love sharing our history with anyone who will listen. Most visitors arrive without any pre-conceptions about the town; almost everyone leaves wanting to return for a longer stay.

I also enjoy presenting my specialist tours, including Ladies of the Town, Ghost Tours, Tudor Times, Georgian Bury, Victorian Bury, Bury Businesses and That's Entertainment. I also guide at the Cathedral and do the tower tours. As we start another guiding season, I look forward to welcoming everyone and sharing our 'Jewel in the Crown'.

## CAROLINE HOLT - Trainee Town Guide

Age: 58

### Were you born in Bury?

No but I moved here at the age of 8 and lived in Bury until I went to Leicester University. I returned to live in Bury in 2013 as I wanted to return to East Anglia.

### Do you live in Bury now – for how long?

Yes just over 3 years.

### Are you still working?

I have worked in the Probation Service since 1981 and, sadly, yes I am still working!

**Principal interests** Walking, cycling, travel, history (of course!) and reading

### How did you find out about becoming a guide?

By chance I read an article advertising the course in the Bury Mercury and thought I would apply.

### Why do you want to become guide?

I love history and working with people and felt this would be a



There is lots to talk about in Guildhall Street but the pavements are narrow and the traffic can be noisy.

good way to combine my interests and skills. I also wanted an antidote to working with offenders.

### How have you found the process?

The training has been challenging but very enjoyable. I also now know the town tour route off by heart!

### What has been the hardest thing about it?

Learning key dates and being able to remember those whilst delivering the key points for a stop.

### What has surprised you the most?

The thoroughness of the programme both the academic study and the practicals and how much there is to remember. The current guides make it look easy!

### What are the top three things you want to make sure you show or tell people about Bury?

Our beautiful and historic cathedral; The lovely Abbey gardens and ruins of the Abbey Church; The Nutshell public house which for many years has held the record for being the smallest pub, a claim now being challenged by a pub in Margate!



### What motivates you to do it?

I am proud of Bury St Edmunds and want to show visitors the beauty and varied history of the town.

### Is there anything else you would like to share with the readers?

Through the tour guide training I have made a lot of new friends from all walks of life. As a group we have been very supportive to each other through the course.

Who would have thought six months ago that we would be sharing and comparing historical information on Bury with each other? Have we become history bores?!

# We mourn the loss of two great friends

## SUE TAMLYN

It is hard to believe that this forceful character is no longer with us. She died, aged 82, of a very aggressive lung cancer, *writes David Rees*.

Sue was Chairman of the Society from 1984-87 and served again after a contested election in 1990 - both unique events in the Society's history.

Sue was born and brought up in Potters Bar in north London, went to school at Malvern and studied economics at Manchester University.

Although her mother was Jewish she was a practising Anglican, still taking interest and pride in her maternal heritage. She married a fellow socialist - a doctor, had three sons and came to Bury in 1964.

Very soon Sue was a Labour councillor and became involved with environmental and planning issues. When St John's Street was threatened with obliteration she fought this as a founder member of the Bury Society.

Sue taught politics and history at King Edward VI School and became 6th form head. She inspired respect and awe and then affection among her students. Many were grateful for her help and encouragement and advice

and were present at her funeral.

Very soon Sue was involved in the Suffolk Preservation Society of which she was a charismatic and energetic chairman.

She remarried in 1976 and with a Tory spouse, while yet maintaining her left wing views, had a lively and extremely happy marriage. It is said that Bob slept with a photo of Mrs Thatcher by his bedside while she had one of Michael Foot.

As chair of the Bury Society she was keenly involved in the restoration of the West Front and relished battles with John Knight about "unpicking" the houses therein.

Sue inspired Mike Ames to start Bury in Bloom; she urged better use of the Manor House and promoted the Borough to come up with plans for the empty Cattle Market site; initiated the architectural awards scheme and was a founding member of the now defunct Conservation Area Committee.

With her school colleague Monica Place she initiated an anti-litter committee; Sue was a guiding light in the restoration of the Churchgate Meeting House; she felt that the town

had too much supermarket shopping and in a rash moment urged rejection of a new Sainsbury's!

After a brief flirtation with the SDP in 1980 Sue returned to her Labour roots and told me in her last weeks that she was still a "Corbynista".

It would be hard to list all her interests and activities; the West Suffolk Association for the Blind, the Bury-Compiegne Twinning, her interest in churches and opera and music; but above all Sue was devoted to the work of the CAB in Risbygate Street and worked tirelessly for the disadvantaged.

Sue did not care about upsetting people in her campaign for a cause. She had the advantage of having a thick skin to counter insults and criticism and could and did reply in equally trenchant terms.

Members of the Society may remember the grilling she gave (some say rudely and unfairly) to the Borough's CEO at an AGM in 2002. Sue soon forgot and forgave but was rarely repentant.

We have lost a good friend, a fine colleague and a great fighter for the environment of Suffolk and the life and community of Bury St Edmunds.

riding Edwardian and earlier cycles. A frightening looking bunch they were if you met them on Suffolk's roads.

Ted also took great pride in rarely transgressing from his beloved Suffolk, although education at Uppingham in Rutland, had been an earlier trial.

A loving marriage to Isobel in 1986 brought a new dimension, particularly the family inclusion of her children Mariane and David and latterly grandson, Barnaby. Their shared big project was the restoration of their house and College Lane garden, transformed over the years into a wonderful sanctuary for both plants and animals, and shared annually with visitors during the Hidden Gardens day.

As a lawyer he was wise and careful, always advising to settle disputes amicably rather than resorting to the law.

When I first met him at the Bankes Ashton office, the scene was Dickensian. The building, at the top of Guildhall Street was a warren of small rooms above winding staircases crammed with legal gentlemen. Much different to the present Sir John Soane building also in Guildhall Street, although Ted's office still contained a near impenetrable cacophony of black deed boxes, as one might rather have expected.

Ted was a wonderful friend to everyone lucky enough to meet him; Bury through and through, and it was very much through him that I came to know and love this town.

## TED ASHTON

I first met Ted when I came to Bury as a qualified dental surgeon in 1964, *writes Martin Lightfoot*.

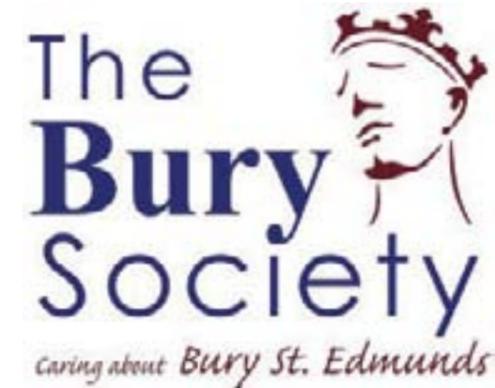
His uncle, Dr Marcus Bird, whilst giving a dental anaesthetic at ours, told me about his young nephew Ted, who was shortly to return from Lowestoft on completion of his articles. Marcus knew that we would share a common interest in vintage cars, and so it proved.

Ted had his heart set on a Humber and after discovering a 1928 car hidden away unused for many years in a garage at Southwold we towed it back to Bury, behind my similar aged Humber, as one regularly did in those traffic free days!

Ted kept this car right up until he was no longer able to drive. But that really was Ted, absolutely steady, always available and ready to help anyone, leading a very unpretentious and enviably humble life.

The things he achieved (and you would never hear this from Ted himself) were as a Churchwarden and keeper of the clocks at St Mary's Church to which he was devoted, a great drummer with the Chancery Jazz Band, a nimble squash and tennis player, an expert on all things relating historically to Bury St Edmunds, and a meticulous engineer in his car and cycle restoration.

He also organised many local cycling tours, basically



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Society will be held on

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

in the

**Unitarian Meeting House**

**Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds**

Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm and the meeting will commence at 7.00pm.

All members are welcome, and encouraged to attend.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman
2. Presentation of Architectural Awards
3. **Talk by Julia Wakelam – My year as Mayor**
4. AGM
  - a. Apologies for absence
  - b. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (2016) and any matters arising.
  - c. Chairman's report
  - d. Planning Officer's report
  - e. Treasurer's report
  - f. Appointment of trustees and officers
5. Questions from the floor / open forum

The minutes of the previous AGM are printed in the Spring Issue of the Society Review.

A summary of the accounts is printed separately.

# Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Society

Held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
in the Unitarian Meeting House at  
7.00pm

## 1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman

The Chairman, Tim Page, opened  
the meeting by welcoming all those  
present. 53 members attended.

## 2. Presentation of the Bury Society's Architectural Award

Roderick Rees, the Society's Planning  
Officer, announced that this year there  
would be two Awards.

The first award was to Andrew and  
Nicola Hunter for the refurbishment  
of Maynewater House, Maynewater  
Lane.

This skilful and imaginative  
refurbishment significantly enhances  
the appearance of a 1960's building  
on one of the main gateways into  
the town. It also enhances the  
Conservation Area by creating a  
coherent and harmonious design  
behind a modern façade.

The architect was Lionel Thurlow,  
Thurlow Architects Ltd.

The second award went to  
Francesca Popham-Cooper and Alex  
Duchesne for 6 Mill Road.

This new house complements the  
street scene within the Conservation  
Area by careful attention to detail and  
skilful workmanship.

## 3. Talk by Mark Cordell of Our Bury St Edmunds on "Business Improving Bury"

Mark Cordell explained how Our  
Bury St Edmunds was created by  
the Borough Council in 2009 after a  
referendum of town centre businesses  
and is funded by an extra levy on the  
rates of the firms affected.

All monies raised are spent on  
enhancing the town, often with Bury  
in Bloom.

Projects included more Christmas  
lights, the Flower Market, Food &

Drink Festival, Whitsun Fayre and a  
Christmas Ice Rink.

In response to questions from the  
floor Mr Cordell commented that:

- A revival of the carnival is  
unfeasible, as it is too much work for  
a one-day event and would cause too  
much disruption to local business.
- The closure of the Crown Post  
Office was a ludicrous decision as  
access to WH Smith's is fraught with  
problems especially for the disabled.
- The Our Bury St Edmunds budget  
is around £400,000 a year.

Tim Page thanked Mr Cordell who  
then left the meeting.

## 4. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### 4a Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Canon  
& Mrs Norburn, Melanie Lesser,  
Margaret Charlesworth, Alan Jary,  
Peter & Elizabeth Main, Clair Steer,  
Colin Taylor, Darren Johnston, Kerr  
Clements and Sarah-Jane Stebbing.

### 4b Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were approved and there were  
no matters arising.

### 4c Chairman's Report

The Bury Society is the town's civic  
society, which means that we all love  
Bury St Edmunds.

It is a town where residents,  
businesses and the council get stuck in  
together to get things done.

A recent example of this is John  
Williams, who is turning an ugly tree  
stump on Eastgate Street into a wood  
sculpture.

He contacted Melanie Lesser  
who in turn got permission from the  
council – and soon we will have a fine  
bit of street art: for free.

This is how the Society serves its  
members. Not just with the Society  
Review and events, but with the many  
little ways the Society works behind  
the scenes to help keep the town  
special.

As a registered charity, the Bury  
St Edmunds Society is established to  
pursue three objects in the town on  
behalf of its members.

The first is to stimulate public  
interest.

Bury in Bloom is a key to this, and  
it goes from strength to strength under  
the Chairmanship of Alan Jary and  
Co-ordinator Melanie Lesser.

This year marks 30 years of Bury  
in Bloom and to celebrate the town  
has already enjoyed a visit by the BBC  
Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time.

The Society's events team continues  
to provide a varied and interesting  
programme of talks and visits. Stephen  
Moody has joined the team to organise  
events and Sue Savage will continue as  
Membership Secretary.

The Society's second object is to  
promote high standards of planning  
and architecture.

## *Town Centre Masterplan gathering steam*

Roderick Rees, our Planning  
Officer continues his sterling work  
responding to planning applications.

The Town Centre Masterplan  
which is slowly gathering steam in the  
bowels of West Suffolk House.

Thanks to Richard Summers, the  
Society's thinking has already helped to  
shape the scope of this work.

The final object of the Society is  
to secure the preservation, protection,  
development and improvement of  
features of historic or public interest.

Our town's railway station is an  
architectural gem which is threatened  
by neglect.

The Society and other local bodies  
have lobbied to ensure the needs of  
the railway station form part of the rail  
franchise tender process.

The town's Magistrates' Court  
and crown Post Office on Cornhill  
are both buildings that are also under  
threat.

In more positive news the Guildhall

# Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Society

Project looks like it is making real  
progress and the Cupola House is  
almost ready.

In the Abbey Gardens the Magna  
Carta sculpture was unveiled in  
February.

Bury in Bloom has started a 30  
trees project which will leave a lasting  
legacy in the town.

Tim Page thanked Alan Jary and  
Colin Taylor for the Love Where  
You Live campaign. The Society has  
received several offers of help from  
people who did not even know the  
Society existed.

A key role of the Chairman is  
to ensure a steady flow of new and  
talented trustees to serve the Society  
and its members.

There are several new faces both  
standing for election as trustee tonight  
and volunteering in other roles.

The Society still needs a secretary.  
This is an important role not least  
because of the need to review our  
governing documents.

Therefore, Tim Page will stand  
as Secretary and Vice-Chairman and  
stand down as Chairman at this AGM.

Keen historians of the Society will  
know there is a precedent for this.  
Reg Sharpe became one of our finest  
Secretaries after he was Chairman.

This decision was made  
considerably easier with the knowledge  
that Martyn Taylor has offered to step  
in as chair.

Tim Page thanked the committee  
and all the many volunteers for their  
support and efforts, especially:

- Margaret Wilkin, Marian Shaw, Jane  
Watson and Martyn Taylor who have  
all helped with the Secretary role in  
last year.
- Sarah-Jane Pearce who has helped  
Roderick with Planning and who is  
stepping down as a Trustee whilst she  
has her second child.
- Roy Proctor who has been a  
Trustee for 10 years and a fine  
Treasurer for the last 7.

The Society is lucky to have found  
Doug Beardon as a replacement.

Roy designed many of the

roundabout sculptures in town. The  
last of these will be the Flight for  
Peace sculpture commemorating the  
World War II US airmen who flew  
from Rougham airfield. Roy will be  
sorely missed.

### 4d Planning Report

Now that Vision 2031 has been  
adopted, we have seen master-plans  
for most of the major new housing  
sites around the town.

The Society commented upon  
the schemes at Rushbrooke Lane,  
Moreton Hall and Fornham. Regarding  
housing within the town, the major  
new development will take place in the  
Tayfen area.

New homes are planned for the  
former gas works site, Burlingham  
Mill and Lucky Break premises as  
well as the long-delayed Station Hill  
development. Also, plans have just  
been lodged for 43 apartments on the  
EMG Motors site.

The Society commented upon  
plans for a new Public Service Village  
off Western Way, nursing home at  
Nowton Park, Waste Hub at Hollow  
Road Farm and conversion of former  
ACAS offices on Southgate Street into  
flats and houses.

This last year has seen building  
works start on the new secondary  
school at Moreton Hall, an extension  
to Feoffment Primary School, repair  
works to the Guildhall Museum,  
the conversion of Ounce House on  
Northgate Street into a boutique  
hotel/restaurant as well as new homes  
off Westgate Street.

The turnover of shop premises in  
the town continues at a pace with the  
conversion of the Canton Chinese  
restaurant on Hatter Street into a  
wedding dress shop, a new shop-  
front to convert Country Casuals  
into 'Jigsaw' and conversion of the  
Officers' Club on the Cornhill into  
Edmondos restaurant.

Also, the new Premier Inn is now  
open and makeover is under way to  
McDonalds.

In the forthcoming year, the

Society shall continue to press for  
the Town Centre and Railway Station  
masterplans plus the county council's  
Sustainable Transport Plan.

### 4e Treasurer's Report

The Statement of Financial Activities  
and the Balance Sheet for the financial  
year ending March 31st were circulated  
at the meeting.

Roy Proctor explained briefly how  
the Society raised and spent its money.  
He highlighted the small surplus from  
events and the overall surplus for the  
year.

The accounts were approved by the  
meeting.

### 4f Appointment of Officers

Tim Page reminded the meeting that  
the Society was a charity which was  
run by elected and co-opted trustees.  
All the trustees proposed were elected  
unanimously.

They included:

- Martyn Taylor (Vice Chairman);
- Timothy Page (Secretary and Vice  
Chairman);
- Doug Beardon (Treasurer);
- Roderick Rees (Planning);
- Sue Savage (MCE);
- Alan Jary (Bury in Bloom);
- Patrick Chung, Colin Taylor, Margaret  
Charlesworth, Darren Johnston and  
Kerr Clement.

### 4g Questions from the floor/open forum

- Sue Tamlyn asked the incoming  
chairman to update the document  
produced on the Society's 25<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary which included  
recollections from past Chairmen.
- Suzanne Drown raised the issue of  
car parking for residents in the town.  
Tim Page said this is being raised as  
part of the Town Centre Masterplan.  
Whilst matters are not helped by  
the council selling too many parking  
permits, he hoped that technology  
might help mitigate this in future.

There being no more questions,  
Tim Page then thanked everyone who  
was involved with the AGM.

*The meeting closed at 8.23pm*

# New activities and events boost numbers

By Martyn Taylor, Chairman

As I end my year as Chairman I reflect on it with a positive mind and thank all those who have supported me especially our outgoing chairman, now secretary, Tim Page.

So with great pleasure I am able to report that Bury Society membership is very much on the up.

There are various reasons involved, one was a very successful leaflet drop that targeted outlying areas of the town.

There have been also several events which members have requested: a visit to the St James ancient library, a town quiz and a town tour.

Then there is the Society Review, now in full colour. It is a credit not only to the contributors but to the Editor Richard Carter. Sadly, this will be his last edition, as after five years, he is standing aside to allow Russell Cook, former Editor of The Mercury, to take on this role. We wish Richard all the best as he takes a well-earned sojourn and I know that Russell will be carrying on the good work.

Another successful event, the Society luncheon was again well received; good food and speaker in the inimitable, Charlie Haylock and there was also an enjoyable visit to Eltham Palace and along the Thames.

Alan Baxter, our social media guru is moving the Society further into the modern age which helped us to host, along with the CAA, a second Town Centre Masterplan open meeting at the Athenaeum.

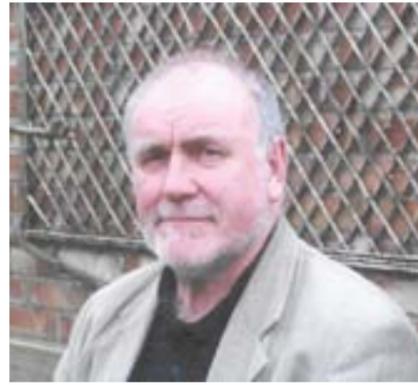
Well attended, St Edmundsbury Borough Council kindly allowed the meeting to be held here without charge and there was a great deal of discussion and debate ably led by Richard Summers who has given up so much of his time to this very important part of the future planning of the town.

All our committee members have to be thanked for their commitment to the Society.

As ever the monitoring of planning applications plays an important part of the Bury Society and we are fortunate to have Roderick Rees to keep a watchful eye on what is being considered for the town.

Melanie Lesser's dedication to Bury in Bloom is incredible; the two roundabout works of art of The Flight of Peace and The Crown of St Edmund have been major achievements.

Two committee members are standing down after years of service. We owe a great deal of thanks to Margaret Charlesworth for her sterling



work with Magna Carta 800 and Alan Jary, once Chairman, and his work with Bury in Bloom. and more. Thank you both.

Another person to whom we are indebted to is Sue Savage, our membership secretary, whose tireless work behind the scenes has enabled the Society's membership to be at its highest ever level.

Sadly, we have lost two Society stalwarts, Ted Ashton and Sue Tamlyn, they will be greatly missed.

My final words are: please keep spreading the news of the benefits of being a member, for it is through a strong membership that our voice can be heard!

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian Meeting House, 6.30 for 7.00pm.

# Tribute to Margaret Charlesworth

The departure of Margaret Charlesworth from the Committee of the Bury Society cannot go unrecorded.

Brought up in the town, Margaret shared the enthusiasm of her father, Harry Marsh, who was a Society supporter from the time of its inauguration in 1971. She followed him, too, as a Borough Councillor and as Mayor, a post she enjoyed in 2007.

Margaret joined the Society Committee at the AGM in 1999 and became Membership Secretary three years later. But she abandoned the post because it was felt that there could be a conflict of interest if Margaret served on both the Borough Council and the Society's Committee.

For two years husband Roger took over the role using the techniques he had introduced some years earlier as a computer programmer.

Margaret returned to the Committee in 2009, bringing with her all the knowledge and experience she had gained with the Borough, including membership of its Planning Committee.

With her known enthusiasm for the town and its history, Margaret was appointed by the Borough in 2007 to become its Magna Carta Trustee, working alongside representatives of the Cathedral, the Borough itself and collaborating with members of the

national Magna Carta organisation at meetings in London and elsewhere. Later, she asked the Society to adopt the group as a sub-committee, which it was pleased to do, and that situation continued throughout the 1214 Magna Carta celebrations.

These included a colourful son et lumière display, a Civic Service in the Cathedral and the exhibition of the treasured Lincoln Magna Carta.

In Bury the celebrations were held a year earlier than elsewhere, because it was in the Abbey church here that the Barons had congregated in 1214 to plan their defiance of King John.

In those early days there was doubt whether that meeting was real or just a rumour, but just before the event its truth was established without doubt by the learned Professor David Carpenter.

Withdrawal from the Committee does not end Margaret's activities, as she remains, among other things, a busy helper at the Tourist Information Centre.

Never at a loss for words, Margaret has not hesitated to express her opinions at Society Committee meetings and is well known for her contributions. As she now relinquishes her post there, she well-deserves a generous round of sincere applause for all her accomplishments both on that Committee and beyond.

Reg Sharpe

# Members enjoy annual lunch

The largest social get-together in the Bury Society calendar has for some years been the annual lunch. Held at the Southgate Community Centre for the second year running it was well supported this year by our sociable and outgoing members.

New members had the opportunity to meet other local residents in pleasant surroundings and talk about what goes on in Bury St Edmunds and the role the Society plays. The atmosphere was relaxed as friends and acquaintances exchanged conversation over a delicious lunch provided by Angela Davey and her team.

Entertainer Charlie Haylock, a regular on BBC Radio Suffolk, gave a talk on 'The Eccentricities of the English Language' relating it in particular to Suffolk pronunciation and place names. He has an impressive knowledge of obscure villages and hamlets in East Anglia.

The raffle, organised by the Chairman's wife, Sandie Taylor, raised almost £100 in extra funds for the event.

Although the lunch was an enjoyable occasion numbers have noticeably reduced since the venue was moved away from the town centre three years ago. It is therefore very likely that it will return to a more central location next year, and the date moved to early February, in line with feedback from the membership.

Sue Savage

## Thank you, I hope you have enjoyed the read

*After five years of producing Review this is my last edition as Editor. In future I will only be a reader, looking forward to learning about what the Society is doing and learning about the fascinating people and events that make up the rich history of our lovely town.*

*Fifteen issues seem like a lot but the time has gone by in a flash and with it the material to fill the pages. This would not have been in anyway possible but for the many contributors to Review.*

*As Editor, I have seen myself in the role of a conductor, bringing together the players who make up the orchestra. I may prompt and cajole and do the arrangement, but it is the writers and photographers who truly make Review what it is.*

*I would like to thank all of them for the amazing support they have given me. In particular, Rod Rees, who not only does the planning round up but, as you will be aware, is Review's resident cartoonist. I wanted Review to be a well-rounded magazine of substance and one hallmark of that, in my view, is to make space for a proper cartoon.*

*Cartoonists, have a way of looking at the world that make the rest of us stop and reflect, and chuckle, and see things differently. Rod does all these things with his clever eye, charm and sharp wit.*

*I have worked with four Chairmen, Alan, Karen, Tim and Martyn all of whom have been very supportive – and considerable contributors. Other members of the Committee, in particular Sue Savage, have been unstinting in writing articles and taking pictures.*

*The articles, I am pleased to say, reflect the true mission of the Bury Society, not just to look back but rather respect the past and ensure it is integrated with the future so that our town remains special.*

*With so much happening, and unprecedented pressure coming on Bury through residential and commercial demands, never has it been more important that we have the Bury Society.*

*So, for the last time, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this edition and remind readers that the views expressed in it are not necessarily those of the Bury Society. The deadline for the Summer 2017 issue is Monday 17 July.*

*Please send your contributions to our new Editor, Russell Cook at russellcook@sky.com.*

*I know Russell will do a great job and I wish him all the best for Review's future.*

Richard Carter, Editor

# Members go on a guided tour of . . . Bury St Edmunds

In response to members' feedback regarding more local events, the Bury Society organised a guided walk around the town on Saturday 11 March.

The weather was with us and 45 members and five guests enjoyed a stroll around our beautiful town and the Abbey ruins.

Martyn Taylor, Stephen Moody and John Saunders are members of our Events Committee. They were ideal to lead this event with both Martyn and Stephen being accredited Green Badge Guides and John in the latter stages of his training to become a guide.

To manage the numbers and routes and provide a more personal experience, tours were split into three groups with Martyn heading for the town centre. Stephen and John concentrated on the Abbey site and gardens.



Bury was, as usual, at its best - buskers were playing in the streets and the flower beds in the Abbey Gardens were a reminder that spring was finally here.

With lots of engagement and interaction, the hour and a half walk whizzed by and everyone went away with (hopefully) a few new facts about the town we all love.

We hope to repeat these events

for members and guests and will be including themed tours such as Victorian Bury St Edmunds, Ladies of the Town, Crime and Punishment and Written in Stone.

A huge thank you to Martyn and John for their support and to everyone who joined us for the walk.

*Stephen Moody  
Events Secretary*

## MEMBERS' PROGRAMME

### THURSDAY 27 APRIL

#### Open House

Members and Friends 'Open House' Coffee Morning. Enjoy a free coffee and cake whilst listening to a talk by town guide Martyn Taylor on 'Bury Now and Then'.

Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street.

10.30am-12.00pm

### THURSDAY 25 MAY

#### Annual General Meeting

Followed by a talk on 'My Year as Mayor of St Edmundsbury' by Julia Wakelam.

Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street

6.30pm for 7.00pm

Free drink and light buffet

### FRIDAY 2 JUNE

#### Treasure hunt

Around the centre of Bury with cryptic clues. Tea and cakes.

Start and finish at the Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street.

2.00 to 4.30pm

Free to members, £5 for guests

### THURSDAY 20 JULY

#### Day trip to Stamford & Burghley House

A guided walk around this lovely Lincolnshire town. Free time for lunch followed by tour of Burghley House.

Coach leaves Ram Meadow 8.00am

£40 pp (incl coffee) members & guests

*Booking form with this Review.*

### SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

#### Heritage Event

'The Inns and Alehouses of Bury St Edmunds', a talk by Martyn Taylor.

United Reformed Church, Whiting Street. 10.30am.

Book at the TIP, Angel Hill

### SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

#### Autumn Get-Together

A social gathering with coffee and cakes.

'Ephemera and Book Collections' display.

Unitarian Meeting House.

10.30am to 12noon

Free to members and their guests

### THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER

#### Talk

Michael Rimmer speaking on

'The Angel Roofs of St Mary's and St James Churches'.

Unitarian Meeting House. 7.00pm

Free to Members, £5 non-members

**Don't miss the opportunity  
to add your weight to the Bury Society team.**

**Apply for membership now.**

**Either use the website: [theburysociety.org.uk](http://theburysociety.org.uk) to download a  
membership form from the Home Page by clicking the**

**"Join us" panel**

**or**

**telephone the Membership Secretary, Sue Savage  
on 01284 719243**