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SocietyReview

Spring 2019

Heritage Partnership boost with funding from councillors



Rev Canon Matthew Vernon, the chair of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership.

Children's theatre workshops and other events to encourage the community to engage in the work of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership have been backed thanks to funding from local councillors. The Partnership is to receive a total of more than £6,200 in locality budget funding from St Edmundsbury Borough councillors Patrick Chung, Robert Everitt, Sarah Stamp, Clive Springett, Julia Wakelam and Frank Warby, and from Bury St Edmunds Town councillors John Augustine, Wayne Hailstone, Tom Murray and Andrew Speed. The funding will support seven projects to run a series of community engagement events and children's theatre workshops, to produce a new

visitor leaflet and wall map about the Abbey of St Edmund and to help develop website content, social media and IT to help communicate the work of the Heritage Partnership. Rev Canon Matthew Vernon, the chair of the Heritage Partnership, said: "We are grateful for this funding which will help us to develop our work further and communicate what we are doing more effectively. This will be important in our bids to the new National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly HLF) to support and to fund future projects." The funding follows on from public feedback at the successful Past Present and Future conference earlier this year at which the findings of two studies – a Heritage Assessment and

a Conservation Plan – were revealed for the first time.

The conference discussed some exciting ideas for the future and the grants from local councillors will help to secure national funding to progress some key projects. The Heritage Partnership aims to deepen public understanding of the life and times of St Edmund and the medieval abbey and to encourage people to experience the spiritual, historical and archaeological significance of the Abbey of St Edmund in the modern world.

Conference over the Partnership's aims at Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds is hailed as a success by organisers of the event. See Page 8.

Children design wheels for art work



Children from Bury St Edmunds primary schools have decorated wheels which form part of the new art installation celebrating James Moore, who won the world's official cycle race 150 years ago. Art group The Crafty Foxes were commissioned by Bury in Bloom to hold several workshops around the town which included Sebert Wood Community Primary School and Abbots Green Academy. The pupils learnt about local man James Moore, one of the first stars of cycle racing. Each wheel created in the workshops represents an inspirational quote. The Abbots Green's rainbow dream-catcher wheel used recycled bottle tops and was influenced by the Dolly Parton line: 'The way I see it, if you



Pupils at Abbots Green Academy pictured with Michelle Freeman, of The Crafty Foxes, with their decorated wheel.

want the rainbow you gotta put up with the rain'. The Sebert Wood wheel is sunshine and uses recycled items which were donated to The Crafty Foxes by Bury residents. The children drew around their hands and then wrote their own inspirational thoughts on the yellow or orange recycled foam hand they had created.

The quote they chose was: 'If you have great thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely,' by Roald Dahl.

The wheels have been donated to the project by the cycling club The West Suffolk Wheelers and residents. Each wheel will be displayed in the Abbey Gardens during the summer and there will be a competition to try and guess which quote inspired the creation of each wheel.

The Crafty Foxes will also be holding open workshops in the Abbey Gardens this summer.

Bury in Bloom is grateful for support from Haart, The Bury St Edmunds Town Council, West Suffolk Wheelers, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council.

Restoration of the Guildhall makes the awards shortlist

A £2 million project to restore The Guildhall in Bury St Edmunds has been shortlisted in the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Awards. The Guildhall has been recognised in both the building conservation as well as the tourism and leisure categories in the RICS Awards 2019, East of England shortlist.

The RICS says the project "reinvigorated an 850-year-old, Grade 1 listed Guildhall, on the buildings at risk register, into a multi-purpose civic building."

The eight-year, £2 million restoration was led by the Bury St Edmunds Heritage Trust with grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England, private donors and local organisations such as the Bury Society. The Guildhall, which is the oldest continuously used civic building in the UK, now serves as a

visitor attraction with a World War Two Observer Corps Control Centre and a community hub. The awards are on May 15 at The Apex and the RICS Awards grand final is in November.



Pupils at Sebert Wood Community Primary School with their decorated wheel for the James Moore art installation.

Roundabout sculpture paying tribute to legend James Moore is unveiled

A sculpture paying tribute to a Bury St Edmunds born cyclist who won the world's first official road race 150 years ago has been officially unveiled in the town.

Crowds gathered at the Mount Road/Orttewell Road roundabout on March 20 to see the tribute to James Moore – who won the 130km Paris-Rouen race on his velocipede in 1869 – revealed for the first time.

Moore, who was born in Long Brackland in 1849 but moved to Paris when he was four-years-old, was one of the first stars of cycling and went on to dominate the sport for years.

Bury in Bloom commissioned the life-size eye-catching sculpture of Moore on his velocipede, which was designed, made and installed by artist Nigel Kaines from Stowlangtoft.

Members of the West Suffolk Wheelers cycling club and the female-only Bury Bicycle Collective attended the ceremony along with pupils from Sebert Wood Primary School and Moreton Hall Preparatory School.



James Moore's grandson John Moore beside the sculpture of his grandfather on the roundabout on Mount Road.

Moore's grandson, John Moore, unveiled the special tribute. Addressing the crowd, Mr Moore, 84, who lives in Hatfield, in Hertfordshire, said: "I am sure my grandfather would have been especially proud to know he would be hon-

oured, not only in his birthplace, but in the 150th anniversary year of his winning the first long distance road race from Paris to Rouen.

"I would like to thank Bury in Bloom for their James Moore roundabout project and especially its co-ordinator Melanie Lesser and all the other contributors who have made this tribute possible."

Mrs Lesser, who stood down as co-ordinator before Christmas but stayed on to see the end of this project, said the sculpture had been a "fantastic team effort" across all areas of the town.

Mrs Lesser said the idea for a tribute had come from Peter Heath, the former membership secretary and long-time member of West Suffolk Wheelers.

Mr Heath said: "Ken Hoxley, our former chairman, wrote a book of our history in 1997 to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

"There is a chapter in the book which is all about James Moore and in it he said that it was a great pity that Bury has never honoured him.

"Well here we are, 150 years since he won the first road race, commemorating this great cyclist, who was the forerunner of all cyclists."

Lighting has been ordered so the sculpture will be lit later this year.



James Moore with his velocipede and cyclists ride around the roundabout to celebrate the unveiling of the sculpture.

Melanie Lesser

Busy past few months with series of events held throughout the town

The Society started off 2019 with a well-attended talk at the Unitarian Meeting House by Adrian Tindall on Bury at War.

Adrian took us through a timeline on how the Suffolk Regiment was formed and via various conflicts up to the present day.

February saw the popular Bury Society Winter Luncheon held once again at the Southgate Community Centre.

Accomplished magician Marco Pusterla entertained and enthralled a full house with his sleight of hand manoeuvres.

It was good to see so many members enjoying good food and good company.

It also illustrated the need to book early if members wish to participate in the enjoyable programme that is put together by the membership, communications and events sub-committee chaired by Sue Savage.

The events this year, and last year, were arranged by Stephen Moody who has worked in consultation with the members to provide popular and well-attended talks and social get-togethers.

Our grateful thanks go to Stephen for all the energy and enthusiasm (as well as the wonderful catering) that he put into this demanding role.

No booking was needed for the Members and Friends' Coffee Morning held in March at the United Reformed Church, in Whiting Street.



Terry O'Donoghue who has been welcomed as the Bury Society's new events secretary.

These coffee mornings are always convivial occasions.

The photo competition was a real challenge to some but to others less so.

My thanks to all those who helped make the occasion so successful - especially 'the washers uppers'! A selection of our media co-ordinator, Alan Baxter's, photographs can be viewed on the website.

With Stephen Moody moving across to his new role as Bury-in-Bloom co-ordinator following the retirement of Melanie Lesser, we welcome Terry O'Donoghue as the new events secretary.

Both Stephen and Terry are already relishing their new roles.

Melanie's swan-song was the unveiling of the James Moore bicycle sculpture at the Orttewell/

Mount Road roundabout - a crowning achievement to say the least.

One of the main objectives of the Bury Society over the years has been the monitoring of planning applications - committee member Roderick Rees to the fore here.

By his own admission it has been a quiet start to the year, perhaps uncertainty over a certain national issue might have something to do with it. The Society has been heavily involved with the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership, extremely well stewarded by Richard Summers.

A substantial grant recently awarded by the town council was gratefully received by the Heritage Partnership. The proposed Post Office development via the Town Centre Masterplan and the setting up of a Railway Station Working Party Group has also been on our agenda.

As May draws near so does the Bury Society AGM, with an eagerly anticipated talk by Dr Richard Hoggett on the Abbey.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Page and Doug Beardon for their unstinting work on the governance of the Society and all the other members of the Bury Society executive and Bury in Bloom committees, who give up their free time for the good of Bury St Edmunds.

*Martyn Taylor
Chairman, Bury Society*

Terry is the new man for planning events for Society

Since January Terry O'Donoghue has been involved in the planning of community events for the society so ably co-ordinated by Stephen Moody for several years.

Although born in Essex, Terry grew up in Newmarket and was a pupil at Newmarket Grammar School.

Following a period of further education at Cambridge a career in industry followed.

Since escaping into semi-retirement Terry and his wife, Marion, returned

to Suffolk where they started married life. Finally after so many years he has been able to pursue his keen interest in history, particularly local history, and since 2017 has been one of Bury's ITG registered Town Guides and since 2018 an active committee member with the EATGA, the East Anglia Tourist Guides Association.

Terry was also a 'behind the scenes' volunteer prior to the opening of the recently revitalised Guildhall.

All of the team responsible for bringing together the society's social gatherings and excursions aim to build upon the successful events of the last few years.

As such, members views on the programme, current, and for the future, are always welcome as the aim is to reflect the interests of the membership.

Terry looks forward to meeting with members at the various functions and outings during this year and beyond.

Plans for empty Argos store is well thought through application for site

The Bury Society wrote in support of an interesting application for the makeover of the empty **Argos premises on the Buttermarket**.

The plans propose that the shop and offices are retained facing the Buttermarket with the rear building converted into four apartments, incorporating an internal courtyard. The design takes advantage of a fall from front to back to insert four garages below the flats served from High Baxter Street.

The view to the Buttermarket is not changed.

We considered this to be a well thought through application which will bring life back into the High Baxter Street area.

The Society also sought reassurance that the hidden gallery of the adjoining former **Half Moon public house** will be carefully protected during construction works.

The Bury Society also welcomed plans to convert the former **Bowers Motorcycle showrooms on Risbygate Street** into 10 apartments with two small shops because they demonstrated how, by imaginative design, a redundant building can be redeveloped to blend in with the street scene in a contemporary manner.

The Society said it was not convinced that new signage planned for the **Angel Hotel** would be an enhancement of the façade. We believe that the current understated approach to the Angel Hotel is its attraction. We wrote a robust response to revised plans for the empty **Cornhill Walk** premises.

We expressed concern about the scale of development, how it will impact upon the local community and the long-term viability of 18,000 sq ft of retail space at this location.

We prepared a sketch illustrating how the site might be redeveloped in an alternative, less intensive manner. The sketch suggests that the retail space is reduced to four boutique-size shops on the Brentgovel Street frontage and that the remaining site is developed in a community-based manner with apartments grouped



around a central parking court with all development restricted to three floors.

The Society addressed the March planning committee expressing its very real concern about the scale of development. The plans were deferred by committee against the officer's recommendation to approve. We lodged objections to two revised applications for the redevelopment of the closed **Health Centre on Looms Lane**.

One of the submissions shows seven of the flats re-designated as offices – so we questioned the issue of affordable homes and repeated our concern about the design's over-bearing bulk and monolithic appearance.

A sign of the times application has been lodged for change of use of the former sports shop at **3 Whiting Street** into a restaurant.

The application to re-build the **Cycle King premises on Angel Hill** and the new **Sixth Form Centre on Beetons Way** were both approved – but plans to redevelop the service yard behind the **Rose of Bengal restaurant on Risbygate Street** were turned down.

Meanwhile, building works on new affordable homes on **Tayfen Road** have started and works are also nearing completion on the new

Travelodge and Starbucks on Etna Road – despite very real concerns about road safety and an 'any-town' design (take a look and judge for yourself).

No news yet on plans for the redevelopment of the former **Ashton's offices at 81 Guildhall Street** or the **Magistrates Court on Honey Hill**.

Roderick Rees

PCSOs take up new posts

Two council-funded Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have officially taken to the streets of Bury St Edmunds, marking the start of two years on the beat.

Mark Ellis and Jessica Cullen-McLeod took up the roles, which are funded by Bury St Edmunds Town Council, at the beginning of March, after both left different jobs within the police service. Jessica, who is originally from Braintree said she is looking forward to facing different challenges while Mark, who retired as a police constable, said it was "refreshing" to hear positive comments about his role.

Sponsor needed for Tollgate Triangle

According to research in 2014 by CityLab, France had the highest roundabout ratio at 1:45 intersections whilst the US had one for 1,118 intersections.

How Bury St Edmunds fares I do not know. They can be 'mini', 'circular', 'dog-bone', 'hamburger', 'turbo' etc. and apparently in Swindon there is a seven circle 'Magic' roundabout. The largest, I understand, is in Malaysia and measures 2.1 miles across.

But I do know which I think is the nicest and that is ... the Sainsbury's roundabout, in Bury St Edmunds. I understand the traffic snarl-ups etc, but in summer when it is fully planted, it waves me on my way in the morning and welcomes me when I return at night. Perfection.

But back to reality, this is hopefully the first in a short series on the roundabouts of Bury and the one that I would like to feature in this article is the Tollgate Triangle Roundabout. There is a reason for my choice but that will come later.

This roundabout comes with some interesting history.

In his book 'The Abbey of Bury St Edmunds – History, Legacy and Discovery', Dr Francis Young describes the Abbey Church of St Edmund as '... one of the largest churches in the world with an approximate floor area of 13,648 square metres. If the church were still standing, it would be exceeded on floor area only by the largest church in the world, St Peter's Basilica in Rome (15,160 square metres)'.

The Abbey was a Benedictine institution of national and (in its time) international importance.

Parliaments met at the Abbey in 1296 and 1447 and it was lodged in by many distinguished visitors including Kings and at least one Papal Legate. The town of Bury St Edmunds grew up around it. A powerful and rich institution of its size was not only an attraction to important donors and supporters but also to its rivals keen to obtain a presence in the town.

Two of the most significant groupings involved in this were the Franciscan and Dominican Friars,



The Bury in Bloom team at the Tollgate Triangle which now needs a new sponsor.

itinerant preaching orders established to evangelise and serve the poor. Faced with this competition, the Abbey resorted to Papal Bulls (or orders) to maintain their authority whilst the friars appealed to the secular authorities. Needless to say, this all ended in violence and, after several decades and alternate periods of negotiation and skirmishes, the Franciscan (or Grey) Friars were allowed to establish themselves at a site called Babwell, just outside the north gate of the town at the junction with Tollgate Lane. Although the Franciscans at Babwell were out of sight, they were certainly not out of the Abbey's mind and relations were fraught for some years before a rapprochement in the early 15th century.

With peace established, the Babwell Friary became popular with both episcopal and noble benefactors choosing to make generous endowments and to be buried within its precincts.

However, at the end, the friary suffered the same fate as the Abbey, and it was surrendered to the secular authorities in December 1538.

It was first leased out in 1541 to one Anthony Harvey at a rental of 10 shillings and over the succeeding centuries, the site passed through the hands of a number of eminent Suffolk families including the Cullums.

In 1975, it was sold to become the Priory Hotel at the north end of the Tollgate roundabout. But – why the

Tollgate?

Martyn Taylor, the current Chair of the Bury St Edmunds Society, takes the story further.

"It derives its name from the Tollgate Inn, the first inn encountered by weary travellers coming into town by the Thetford Road. A toll booth was once here in the days of turnpike roads when tolls were levied for the upkeep of roads. The first recorded landlord of the Tollgate Inn was a Titus Manning in 1780 ...".

The roundabout at Tollgate joins together the main Mildenhall Road with Tollgate Lane and the road to Fornham and Barton Hill.

It is a busy intersection, one of the main entrances to Bury St Edmunds and the roundabout is suitably large, in fact large enough for pedestrians to walk across it. It has always been an attractive roundabout but in recent years it has been beautified by the 'River of Flowers' a unique design feature created by Adrian Bloom of Bressingham Gardens with the help of local volunteers. So why have I chosen to write about it?

Well, at present, the roundabout is looking for a new sponsor who will help Bury in Bloom to care for and beautify it. If you are interested the contact is the BiB co-ordinator Stephen Moody whose email address is stephen@buryinbloom.org.uk

Doug Beardon

85 members attend the winter luncheon

The newly refurbished Southgate Community Centre was the setting this year for the annual Bury Society Winter Luncheon held on Saturday, February 9.

The hall is light and bright and had ample space for the 85 Bury Society members who came along to enjoy this social occasion.

We were joined by the Very Reverend Joe Hawes, the Dean of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, as our guest of honour.

The event got under way with a performance by Marco the Magician who created an entertaining light-hearted atmosphere and who dazzled the audience with some very clever card tricks and illusions.

Members of the audience including myself entered into the spirit and participated in some of the tricks – I am pleased to report that my left hand is still intact.

The magic show was followed by a hearty lunch, our caterer Andrea Davey, of Elite Cakes, provided a superb three course meal of home-made tomato and basil soup, home-made steak and ale pie or vegetarian option, winding up with sherry trifle, fruit salad or cheese and biscuits.

Whilst enjoying the food, Marco continued to perform magic tricks at individual tables and the rounds of applause continued throughout the meal.

After thanking the catering team, we got down to the serious business of the raffle - a huge thank you to all who donated raffle prizes which included wine, whisky, chocolates, toiletries and biscuits.



Martyn Taylor, centre, and guests chatting to the Very Revd Joe Hawes, the Dean of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, left, at the Bury Society's Winter Luncheon. And below, Stephen Moody with Marco the Magician.



We ended up with 15 super prizes and a healthy sum to go into the society's funds - again thanks to all of the members who bought multiple raffle tickets.

Look out for photos of the luncheon on the Bury Society's website - a thank you must go to Alan Baxter for

stepping up to be our photographer on the day plus a huge thank you to the committee members who volunteered to help set up the event, serve the wine and soft drinks and even more importantly helped with the washing up.

Stephen Moody

Hopes of setting up group to tackle issues at rail station

The Bury Society has met up with other local organisations to see whether a community-led group could be formed to address critical issues at the station, especially the longstanding problem of building repairs.

Bury station opened in 1847, originally as a terminus.

It was designed by Sancton Wood who was also the architect responsible for the Ipswich and Cam-

bridge stations.

With its renaissance towers, it provides a dramatic entrance to the town and was featured in Simon Jenkins' recent book Britain's 100 Best Railway Stations.

Current passenger footfall at the station is in excess of 650,000 a year which is projected to rise to one million.

By 2030, 56,000 dwellings are due to be built between Cambridge and

Ipswich, and some 73,000 jobs created.

As part of this new group, the Society is therefore pressing to create a true commuter hub with good car parking, the enhancement of the station setting and a half-hour commuting service to Cambridge.

We are also seeking improved access back into the town centre.

Roderick Rees

Conference at Cathedral hailed a success

The Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership held a very successful conference at the Cathedral in January.

The authors of the recent 'Heritage Assessment' and 'Conservation Plan' presented the key findings of their consultancy studies in the morning and there were some lively discussions around various themes during the afternoon to identify priorities for potential future projects.

The Heritage Partnership has now begun a series of face-to-face visitor surveys in and around the Abbey of St Edmund and a digital version of the survey has been launched on the Bury St Edmunds and Beyond website at <https://www.visit-burystedmunds.co.uk/blog/2019/abbey-of-st-edmund-visitor-survey>. Your views will help our future work about the Abbey.

The Heritage Partnership is also launching a series of community

Town guide to give lecture on Rose Garden

The Abbey Garden Friends are inviting people to a lecture by Bury St Edmunds guide John Saunders on "A Suffolk Summer in the Rose Garden of The Abbey Gardens".

John T Appleby was an American serviceman stationed at Lavenham in the Second World War.

He loved cycling the lanes of Suffolk and especially enjoyed the Rose Garden.

In 1948 he published his personal story of his time spent in Suffolk with all proceeds from the book supporting the Rose Garden.

John Saunders is a local man, a Town Guide and supports numerous local groups and organisations.

The lecture will be held on May 15 in the Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, at 6.30pm. Entry fee is £5.

The Abbey Garden Friends is a volunteer organisation, which supports the award-winning Abbey Gardens.



The Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership conference at the Cathedral. Below, Richard Summers and Dr Richard Hoggett addressing the event.

engagement meetings with local groups to disseminate the key points from the 'Past, Present and Future' conference and to outline its developing approach to preparing a series of funding applications for potential projects from the new National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England and English Heritage.

The main thrust of these initiatives is to involve local people, community groups and visitors to the Abbey of St Edmund in the development of projects for the future conservation, interpretation and improvement of the Abbey of St Edmund.

They include the evolving plans for the 2020 Millennium Celebrations of the foundation of the Benedictine Abbey by King Cnut in 1020 AD. As plans for future funding applications develop, it is becoming clear that the role of the Heritage Partnership will evolve from its present research-based and visionary functions into a more practical and viable operation.

This will link together with its planned formation as an independ-

ent charity. It will then need to attract a wider range of volunteer skills to achieve its vision.

If you would like to get involved in the work of the Heritage Partnership, take a look at its temporary webpages at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/visitors/Heritage/abbeyofstedmund.cfm and <https://stedscathedral.org/abbeyofstedmund> and contact lorna.heritage@protonmail.com with a contact form from the webpages to ensure your data protection.

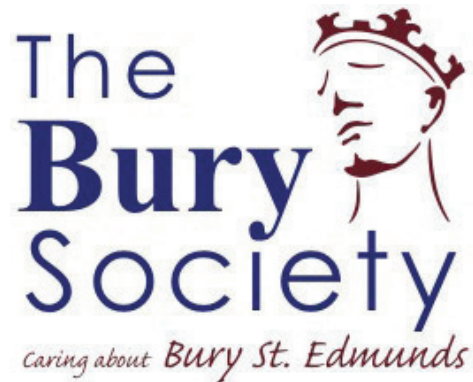
Richard Summers



Loss of two prominent members from Society

We are sad to report the loss of two prominent Bury Society members earlier this year, Sir David Rowland and Andrew Todd - our condolences go to their wives and families.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 48th Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds
Society will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2019,
in the United Reform Church, Whiting Street**

Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm and the meeting will commence at 7pm.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman
2. Talk by Dr Richard Hoggett from the Abbey of St Edmund Partnership
3. AGM
 - a. Apologies for absence
 - b. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM (2018) and any matters arising
 - c. Chairman's report
 - d. Planning Officer's report
 - e. Treasurer's report
 - f. Appointment of trustees and officers
4. Questions from the floor / open forum

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

Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Society

Held on Thursday, May 24, 2018, in the Unitarian Meeting House, at 7pm.

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman

The Chairman, Martyn Taylor, opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. 63 members attended.

2. Presentation of the Bury Society's Architectural Award

Roderick Rees, the Society's Planning Officer, announced that this year the Society had been unable to identify any suitable candidates for the Architectural Award.

3. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4a Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Colin Taylor, Lucy and David Perkins, Christopher Spicer, Margaret Charlesworth, Jos and Susan Bird, Kerr Clement, Mr and Mrs B Waghorn, Elaine Adams, Roland and Frances Bee, Joseph Boyle, Judy and Alan Broadway, Chris Payne, Jane Patton, Sarah-Jane Stebbing, Melanie Lesser.

4b Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were approved and there were no matters arising.

4c Chairman's Report

Martyn Taylor reported that the highlight of the last year was the town winning the Anglia in Bloom competition. Martyn thanked the Society's Bury in Bloom sub-committee under the guidance of Robin Burnett and Melanie Lesser and the Bury in Bloom team including Elizabeth Clements and her Certificates of Merit volunteers. The Membership, Communication and Events team under Sue Savage is celebrating an all time high of 640 members and Stephen

Moody has organised many successful events, including the annual lunch, the Stamford trip and visits to the Great Churchyard and Moyse's Hall. Martyn reminded members that their subscriptions were due by June 1. Following a review in 2017, the Society made several substantial grants including £20,000 to the Guildhall Project and £500 to help purchase a jewelled aestal (the end of a book pointer) for Moyse's Hall. Other grants were made to West Suffolk College and the Bury Water Meadows Group.

Current heritage projects include the renovation of the Ouida memorial. The Society has had several successes with its policy of constructive engagement with the borough planners thanks to the diligence of Roderick Rees our planning officer. Thanks go also to Richard Summers for his work on behalf of the Society on both the Town Centre Master Plan group and the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership. Martyn lent his support to the proposed change in the Society's constitution and thanked Tim Page and Doug Beardon for their work in revising the Society's governance documents and procedures.

4d Planning Report

Roderick Rees reported a dramatic increase in applications to redevelop redundant commercial premises in the town. Permission had been sought for 16 flats on a small infill site facing St Andrews Street South, 55 flats on the old Lloyds Bank premises on Risbygate Street, 49 flats above the new Cornhill Walk shopping centre and 16 flats at the Blomfield Health Centre site on Looms Lane. Previously plans were approved for 46 flats over five floors on Tayfen Road and the construction of a three-storey apartment building over the rear of the Cancer Research shop on Lower Baxter Street. Roderick confirmed the Society's policy is generally supportive of

bringing new homes into the town centre, but in each of these applications we have expressed concern about the scale of development and raised issues about parking and affordable homes provision. The Society has also asked why the detailed design could not more clearly reflect local context and the unique character of the town. We now have potentially 300 new apartments under construction and wonder is there really such a demand for this type of accommodation?

4e Treasurer's Report

The Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet for the financial year ending March 31, 2018, were circulated at the meeting. Doug Beardon explained briefly how the accounts are prepared using the SORP provisions and are subject to independent examination by Knights Lowe chartered accountants. As the Society is a charity, many of the accounting rules applying to commercial organisations are not appropriate. Also, much of the income and outgoings are for one-off projects, so looking at year-on-year comparisons are not that useful. It is the Society's policy to balance its books over the medium term whilst making savings for specific purposes. We do this by having budgets and a reserves policy to ensure we keep an appropriate amount of funds to achieve our objectives. This year we have used a substantial amount of our savings to make grants to other organisations to fund specific projects. Doug thanked the careful stewardship of his predecessor Roy Prosser for enabling the Society to be able to do this.

4f Special resolution

Tim Page briefly explained how the Trustees felt a change in governance will keep the Society fit-for-purpose

Continued on next page

Pay on exit cashless parking scheme to be trialled in Bury St Edmunds

A trial cashless pay on exit parking scheme is to be run in a car park in Bury St Edmunds this summer to increase flexibility for shoppers and visitors.

Existing ticket machines will be

Annual General Meeting continued

From previous page

into the future by converting to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) structure and adopting the new draft constitution.

The special resolution to change the Society's constitution and convert to a CIO was passed by the members present with no votes against.

4g 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 (Chairman), Timothy Page (Secretary and Vice Chairman), Doug Beardon (Treasurer), Roderick Rees (Planning), Sue Savage (MCE), Robin Burnett (Bury in Bloom), Russell Cook (Review Editor), Colin Taylor (Health & Safety), Patrick Chung, Kerr Clement and Sarah Nunn.

4. Talk by Martyn Taylor – Mary Tudor, Bury's own queen

There followed an interesting talk by Martyn Taylor which highlighted the town's links with Mary Tudor, Queen of France and Henry VIII's favourite sister.

5 Questions from the floor/open forum

There being no questions Martyn Taylor then thanked everyone who was involved with the AGM. The meeting closed at 8.11 pm

modified along with new signs at a cost of £10,000 to enable people to 'check in' and 'check out' in the short stay area of the St Andrews car park from June. It follows calls from Our Bury St Edmunds, which represents town centre businesses, who say that some retailers reported they were missing out on sales as customers said they needed to hurry back to their cars before their parking ran out.

Susan Glossop, Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth at St Edmundsbury Borough Council, said: "We recognise that it is a challenging time for many of our local retailers. Town centre footfall, which had been increasing year on year, has dipped slightly. More importantly is the amount that people actually spend in the shops and other town centre businesses. We can't control whether somebody chooses to visit a shop to buy an item as opposed to ordering it online but we can encourage people to shop local, visit our town centre more often, stay longer and spend more."

To 'check in, check out' people will simply park, wave their debit or credit card at the contactless pad, type in their vehicle registration and then off they go to shop.

Peter Stevens, Cabinet Member for Operations, said: "We are pleased

to be working with Our Bury St Edmunds to trial the check in, check out parking. Collectively we will need to monitor its success in terms of the numbers using it, its impact on congestion and queuing at Saturday lunchtimes when car parking demand is highest, its popularity and its impact on footfall and retail spend.

"If the trial proves a success we can then look to extend its use to other car parks in Bury St Edmunds and elsewhere in West Suffolk. We will of course continue to offer competitively priced long stay options in our other long stay car parks around the town."

Garry Easter, chairman of Our Bury St Edmunds and manager of Marks and Spencer in the town, said: "We are delighted that we have been able to work with the council to find a solution to how we can deliver a more flexible form of parking.

"We have heard some anecdotal feedback from businesses that people are leaving shops or cafes and restaurants because they need to get back to their car before their ticket expires. This overcomes that problem and shows the council's support at a time when the nature of the high street nationally is going through change and retailers are having to adapt to the challenges ahead."



Pictured, left to right, are Mike Kirkham of OurBuryStEdmunds Business Improvement District; Peter Stevens, Cabinet Member for Operations at St Edmundsbury Borough Council; Garry Easter, chairman of Our Bury St Edmunds and manager of Marks and Spencer in the town; and Susan Glossop, St Edmundsbury's Cabinet Member for Planning and Growth.

Call goes out for members of the Society to become more involved as volunteers

Have you noticed that the Bury Society is changing?

Your views on our activities are vital, and it is through your ideas and those of new members that the most important changes can happen.

In 1971 a group of individuals concerned about proposals to redevelop St John's Street founded the Bury Society. Their aim was to ensure that Bury St Edmunds remained a beautiful town in which to live and work whilst fully embracing its need to grow and prosper in the modern world. They succeeded and made a difference. Much has happened to the Society since then.

It has adapted and matured and now runs a programme of social and cultural activities whilst still maintaining a watching eye on developments within the town.

Now we have Bury in Bloom, the part of the Bury Society which is dedicated to promoting a greener and more colourful Bury St Edmunds. More recent involvement with the Town Centre Masterplan, the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership, the Magna Carta 800 celebrations and many other community groups



Pictured, left to right, are Stephen Moody, Joan Pawling, Sue Savage, Wendy Wheeler, Patricia Mackie and Stephen Hiner.

demonstrates that the Society still aims to make a difference.

We foresee an exciting future for our evolving town and for the Bury Society's new and overlapping activities, but that depends upon our members and the work of our volunteers who help shape the future.

Our members help in many ways, not least financially, by joining the Society.

They also offer their time and abilities to ensure that we can carry out our work.

Volunteering to help at an event, serving on a committee or assisting

with the Bury in Bloom certificate of merit awards are some of the very many ways, large and small, which will help the Society to continue to make a difference.

So, now is the time to act if you would like to meet new people and help to make a difference for everyone in Bury St Edmunds, wherever they live. We would love to welcome you.

You can contact me or Sue Savage (Membership Secretary), 01284 719243, members@brysociety.com

Alan Baxter



Treasurer Doug Beardon helps at events and chats to members.



Stephen Moody's baking, and that of other members, is popular at events.

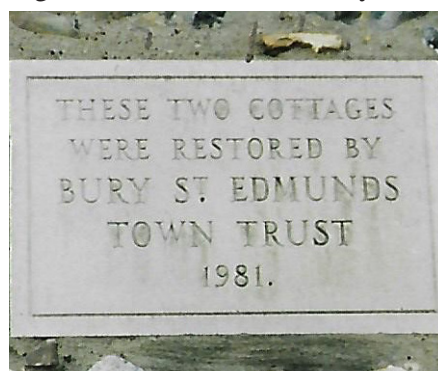
Town Trust is helping to save some of our precious historic buildings

To many folks in Bury the Town Trust may seem to be something of an enigmatic organisation. On our website www.burystedmundstowntrust.org.uk we have tried to summarise what we do and what we've been largely doing since the charity was set up in 1979 having benefitted from a very generous bequest from Dr Alison Rae. Our objective is to help conserve and bring back to use the built heritage in Bury St Edmunds to ensure its survival for the benefit of society both today and in the future. The Trust is a charity which carries out its aims in practical ways by undertaking projects that repair and enhance what is important in the historic environment and by providing building conservation trade student training and scholarships. Our website also gives a description of all the projects we've carried out and many of them to buildings which will be familiar to everyone. The first was 26 and 28 Mustow Street and the latest being 6 Angel Hill, but in between a multiplicity which includes the Unitarian Meeting House and Elsey's Maltings behind Risbygate Street. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that the Trust has made a major contribution to saving some of the Town's most precious historic buildings when others would or could not. Over the last few years it has become more difficult to find projects where the Trust could invest in unloved historic buildings and while we were able to provide major financial support to the Guildhall Project we otherwise found other ways to help support the historic environment. Particularly, we have, for several years, supported the West Suffolk College in their building skills department, offering scholarships to students in order for them to have a better understanding of working on historic buildings. The Trust's expertise in planning and architecture has meant we have been able to help with projects and cam-



26 and 28 Mustow Street, one of the many projects to help save the town's most historic buildings.

paigns within the town such as the railway station and post office site. Here stakeholders have found our contributions positive and supportive of strategic goals. We are also in the process of assessing all of the unlisted 'heritage assets' in the town's conservation areas to support the borough's conservation team. And more recently we have been assisting the Athenaeum Astrological Association with their project to repair and improve access to the historic telescope. But while all these activities have kept us keen and busy there is no substitute for a real live project to save an historic building for the town. We're so proud to be able to say we have now bought 11 High Baxter Street, a sad and uncared for building which has, for the last 50 years



or so been in multiple occupancy but which is a 15th century building which has had a hard life with a resulting series of layers of history. We are determined that this shall be an exemplar project which we and the town will enjoy seeing unfold. We have to raise money for the necessary repairs and conversion but already have a small grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund to undertake 'options studies'. These will examine the potential uses for the building. Ideally this would be for some form of community/charity purpose if this is not possible a dwelling seems to most suitable. We will consult widely in the community before making this decision. The purchase of 11 High Baxter Street has used most of our funds and we will be seeking grants and loans to complete the work. Meanwhile, we have no regular income other than a small membership fee and some small ground rents that help cover some costs and we would really appreciate any financial or other support in helping us to save this important historic listed building for Bury St Edmunds.

Peter Riddington
Chair, Bury St Edmunds Town Trust

Eclectic mix of artists and acts for this year's Bury St Edmunds Festival

From Rick Wakeman to Nigel Kennedy and from close harmony group The Puppini Sisters to the multi talents of John Cooper Clarke ... just four of the many well known and local acts who will be performing at this year's Bury St Edmunds Festival.

There's also a host of many other artists, acts, cinema screenings and walks set to take place during the 11 days of the event across 14 venues and locations in the town.

Organisers are promising an eclectic mix of music, theatre, jazz and films to suit all tastes and appetites.

"It's a fantastic line up that has been secured for this year," said Jo Rayner,

St Edmundsbury Borough Council's portfolio holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage. "There's a concerted burst of activity collaborating home-grown talent with those of international reknown."

Rick Wakeman kicks off the festival on Thursday, May 16, as part of his Piano Odyssey UK Tour, at the Apex, and the Chineki! Orchestra, which is the first group of musicians to feature a majority of black and minority ethnic players and founded by pioneering double bassist Chi-chi Nwanoku, closes it on Sunday, May 26, also at The Apex.

But in between there's an absolute raft of thrilling shows and events

taking place.

It includes Hervey at the Court of George II, based on the memoirs of the King and the Queen's Vice Chamberlain Lord Hervey of Ickworth, and staged at Ickworth House, on Saturday, May 18, guided walks round the historic town; Songbook Sunday: Georgia Mancio, at The Athenaeum, on Sunday, May 19; Swan Lake, Theatre Royal, Tuesday, May 21; the phenomenal Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, The Apex, and Latin jazz from Picante, Hunter Club, Friday, May 24; Brighthouse and Rastrick Brass Band, St Mary's Church, Saturday, May 25; and Duo Diez, Unitarian Meeting House, Sunday, May 26.

Theatre to celebrate its 200th anniversary

The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds turns 200 years old in 2019 and to celebrate there is a special line up of shows and events planned throughout the year.

Built in 1819 and designed by William Wilkins the theatre has stood the test of time and only opened for a few weeks in the year but now over 75,000 people of all ages and backgrounds attend performances, tours, or community and education projects. Karen Simpson, the artistic director, said: "This anniversary is a chance to

celebrate our past, but even more importantly, look forward to the future.

"The work we do this year will become part of Theatre Royal's legacy for the future, whether it be producing a brand new play or working with school children from across the region to create a permanent installation for future generations to enjoy." The theatre has had a varied and chequered career.

Bury St Edmunds brewers Greene King used it as a beer store in the

first half of the 1900s to preserve it from being knocked down and in the 1960s it was restored as a theatre.

Renovation work took place between 2015 and 2017 to restore its Regency origins and the theatre has a variety of events planned for the anniversary year.

Apart from the regular shows and performances, events include a school mural teaming up with Rojo Art to work with primary schools in Great Whelnetham, Great Barton, Hartest, Barrow, Risby and Fornham All Saints to create a mosaic on the brick wall in the theatre's garden; a special anniversary brew called Trapdoor from Greene King; a "Theatre Star Trail", similar to the Wolf Trail in the town in 2015 and last year's World War 1 Trail, where 25 stars will be dotted round the town with each one featuring a star that has appeared at the theatre; and a 200 for 200 sponsored walk following the historic route taken by Norwich Circuit of Players some 200 years ago. There will be an anniversary gala to mark the 200th birthday which is on Friday, October 11. The evening will include comedy, music and drama featuring a star-studded cast.



The Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds.

Church Walks shows off its own St Edmund symbol



Bury St Edmunds owes its very existence to St Edmund and his story, so it's not surprising that his symbol, the crown pierced with arrows, appears in old and new versions all over the town: from the county flag of Suffolk, to the arms of Greene King and the sculptures on various roundabouts. It's a sign of identity and pride in Bury's long heritage. The latest addition to this collection,

in Church Walks, takes the form of a steel pillar formed from arrows, supporting the pierced crown. The intention is to form a link between the communal garden and the view across Bridewell Lane to the Norman Tower and Cathedral. Steve Jones, the sculptor and a relative newcomer to Bury, who lives in Church Walks, hopes visitors and residents will enjoy the addition to the townscape.

Rail prospectus launched for better links

A prospectus to bring better rail links in West Suffolk and across East Anglia as well as increasing jobs, the economy and managing growth has been launched. The East West Rail Eastern Section Prospectus aims to connect Oxford with Cambridge. This would also include improved inter-connections in between to create greater connections for

Suffolk and better services. West Suffolk plays a vital role as part of the Cambridge Sub-Region, an economic driver for the UK. Improved transport links, such as rail, to Cambridge and beyond have been identified as crucial to helping bring jobs, support communities and manage housing growth. The prospectus includes the improvement to the Ipswich to Cambridge line.

YOUR CONTACTS

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Members programme for the coming year

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Day trip to Woodbridge with a cruise on the Deben.

Tickets £22.50.

Booking form in this month's Spring Review edition and on the website.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

6.30pm for 7pm.

Annual General Meeting with a talk by Dr Richard Hoggett from the Abbey of St Edmund Partnership. United Reformed Church, Whiting Street.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

10am.

Themed guided tours of central Bury St Edmunds with registered tour guides.

Meet at the War Memorial on Angel Hill.

Booking at the TiP.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Day trip to Kings Lynn and Sandringham House and Gardens.

A guided walk around historic Kings Lynn with coffee on arrival and a chance to visit the Queen's Norfolk residence.

Tickets £42.

Booking form in this month's Spring Review and Website.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

10.30am.

Heritage Open Week.

A talk by Martyn Taylor on 'Lost Bury St Edmunds'.

United Reformed Church Hall, Whiting Street.

Book at the Cathedral Tourist Information Point.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

A Heritage event.

Departs 3pm from the Abbey Gate. 'People Who Made A Difference'.

A walking tour lasting 90 minutes conducted by John Saunders, an accredited guide.

The guide will explain how people have impacted on local history and made a difference to Bury St Edmunds.

Religion, politics, personal gratification and law enforcement all merge in an interesting and informative session.

Book at the Tourist Information Point at the Cathedral (maximum of 20 people).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

10.30am to 12.30pm.

Autumn Get-Together.

Unitarian Meeting House.

Coffee and cakes.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7pm prompt.

Drive-through is a first for the town

Staff and customers at a new Starbucks drive-through in Bury St Edmunds have celebrated its grand opening.

The store in Etna Road, which opened on Friday, March 8, is the town's first drive-through and is operated by franchise 23.5 Degrees. It was officially opened by Rachel Card, corporate fundraiser at St Nicholas Hospice Care, which has

been chosen as the store's charity of the year.

She said: "Speaking to management and staff it's clear that they've all got personal connections with the hospice."

And Kerry Lloyd, the store manager, said that they would support the hospice in any way they can and they were trying to organise fundraising events.

Film shoot's £82,500 boost for the town

Filming of an adaptation of a Charles Dickens classic in Bury St Edmunds generated £82,500 for the town's economy. It has come following figures presented to the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders gathering of council chief executives and leaders in March which revealed that in two years local spend from film and TV productions shooting in Suffolk exceeded £3.8 million, based on an average spend of £11,000 per day.

The film crew spent five days in Bury last July for the David Copperfield shoot.

Copy deadline for next edition of the Review

The copy deadline for the next edition of the Bury Society Review is Monday, July 15.

Email copy to the editor Russell Cook at russellcook@sky.com

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 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.

Contributions to the Review do not necessarily reflect that of the Bury Society.