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SocietyReview

Spring 2020

Everything is changing at a bewildering pace



The West Suffolk Hospital, in Bury St Edmunds, which is dealing with local coronavirus patients.

In a few short days we have learnt what exponential change means. At first nothing seems to happen, then events accelerate, and everything changes at a bewildering pace. Norms we have taken for granted are tossed aside. We and our town will never be the same again. There will be a time for adjusting to a new normal and mourning what is lost. But now is the time to stay oriented as we respond to the change

that is being forced on us all. To do this it helps to focus on what is known and leave any outstanding questions for another day. This is what we know about the Bury Society (including Bury in Bloom) on April 1: Members should stay home and stay safe wherever possible. Please accept the help that is offered by West Suffolk Council and more informally from your neighbours. Thanks to Russell Cook, Sue Savage and the Gipping Press, we

have published and delivered this issue, whilst maintaining the government's social distancing requirements. The Society's Executive Committee now meets online to keep the show on the road. All April and May events are cancelled as is Anglia in Bloom judging in July. The June AGM is also postponed. We don't know when the current

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Plenty to cheer for the town as Anglia in Bloom goes online



The emergency regulations have impacted Bury in Bloom's plans (along with everyone else) and I am sad to report that the main Anglia in Bloom competition has been postponed for 2020.

This therefore means many – although not all – of our 2020 projects are suspended even though most of the preparations were complete and some had already started. However, an ever-resourceful Anglia in Bloom team have suggested alternative ways of submitting entries and have introduced an “online” competition for 2020 and suggested 11 categories ranging from “Best Local Authority Planting” to “Best Display using Recycled Materials” and submitting entries of each with three photographs with a 50-word description of each.

We are therefore looking at how best we can take part before the July 31 final entry date. Judging will take place in August.

One of our original 2020 entries was to be the “Certificate of Merit” scheme in the “Special Awards” nomination and we hope this can now be entered in the “online” competition



under the “Best Community Effort”. Of course this depends on emergency regulations having been eased enough to allow the scheme to go ahead in July. We can take that decision in late June when we know. Jane Hamblin who co-ordinates the Merit Scheme hopes she is much closer to having sufficient judges although she still needs more – we need a minimum of 80 and are looking for 100 as Bury St Edmunds continues to expand – so we are very keen not to stand them down before we need to.

Jean Hardy, one of our dedicated volunteers and co-ordinator of “Young

Green Fingers” has decided to retire from her Bury in Bloom activities after many years and she leaves a big gap that I am desperate to try and fill. Barring a clone of Jean my ideal candidate would be someone with teaching experience, enthusiastic with children and probably recently retired.

If you can say yes to even one of these please contact me on Coordinator@buryinbloom.org.uk we really want to hear from you.

I mentioned “although not all projects” at the top of this piece, so what are we continuing to work on?

Well, we hope to have our new website up and running within the next month, I'm still talking to businesses about locations for storing harvested rainwater as we aim to water our hanging baskets using harvested water (You would be completely amazed how much rainwater can be harvested off even a modest sized roof) and we continue to promote “Roots in The Community” a perfect self-isolation project for 2020.

Please pay your membership

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restrictions will end or what other events we may have to cancel. But we will let you know as soon as we can. The Society has financial reserves to weather the financial difficulties that accompany this pandemic.

You can help by paying your mem-

bership fees when they are due in June and keeping us updated with news about you or other members. Finally, Bury in Bloom supplier, Woolpit Nurseries need our support. They have tonnes of unwanted plants and are offering free delivery on purchases to within 15 miles of town.

Tim Page

David Irvine
Bury in Bloom co-ordinator

2020 Christmas Fayre is cancelled

This year's Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre has been cancelled to help public services concentrate on tackling COVID-19 and support businesses across West Suffolk. The decision also follows clear instructions from the Government not to tie up public and emergency services in events so they can concentrate on prioritising COVID-19 actions.

More than 130,000 are attracted to the Christmas Fayre and the planning work which needs to be carried out now requires a tremendous amount of input from public services.

The move to cancel this year's event frees up officer time and council resources to support businesses now and, importantly their recovery in the future.

This means the council can introduce tailored help across the whole of West Suffolk for businesses and high streets at Christmas to celebrate the festive time and respond to any restrictions still in place.

Equally it is unclear whether later in the year the event would be able to be held anyway.

As many things have to be booked now it could prove to be a waste of money which is better spent on businesses and communities.

John Griffiths, leader of West Suffolk Council, said: "We know how popular the fayre is and it is with a heavy heart we have taken this decision.

But in the circumstances, and when you see events like the Olympics being postponed, it is the right one.

"Planning for the Christmas Fayre is a massive task and much has to be planned or booked now. Postponing it this year means we and our emergency service partners can continue to concentrate on helping our businesses and communities through this difficult time.

"It also means that we can free up resources to not only help residents and businesses across West Suffolk who are facing hardships now but also in their economic recovery down the road. We understand many may be disappointed, but this really is the sensible way forward to ensure we



The Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre.

focus on helping our businesses and emergency services to weather the current challenges brought by the pandemic.

"It will also hopefully put us all in

a better position, come Christmas, to celebrate and help businesses in Bury St Edmunds and throughout West Suffolk make the most of the festive season."

Theatre Royal appoints a new CEO/artistic director

Owen Calvert-Lyons (*pictured right*) has been appointed the new CEO/artistic director of the Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds.

He succeeds Karen Simpson who sadly died, aged 62, just after the turn of the new year following a battle with cancer.

Mr Calvert-Lyons comes to the theatre having spent four years commissioning and creating new plays as head of theatre and artist development at Ovalhouse, in London.

Prior to that he was artistic director at The Point and the Berry Theatres and has worked in theatres across the UK including Arcola Theatre, York Theatre Royal and Theatre Royal Plymouth.

He said: "I look forward to working with this team and the wider Bury St Edmunds community to stage great plays and create dynamic



projects, which inspire and delight our audiences."

Roger Quince, chairman of Theatre Royal's board said: "We are delighted to have found the candidate who we all feel can not only continue the fantastic legacy left by Karen Simpson, but one who can deliver a sustainable programme of high-quality presenting and producing work." Mr Calvert-Lyons will take up his post in June and in the interim, Adrian Grady continues as general manager/interim CEO.

Applications rising to find other

A sign of the times is the rising number of applications to find alternative uses for vacant properties in the town.

Plans have been approved to convert the closed **Bank of Scotland premises on Guildhall Street** into an Italian restaurant and plans have also been agreed to replace the empty **Lloyds Bank building on Risbygate Street** with flats for “retirement living”. An application has been lodged to subdivide the vacant **Palmer’s department store on the Buttermarket** into two smaller shops.

The Society expressed support but has suggested the town might be better served with loft apartments rather than offices above.

We supported plans to convert the former **Ashtons solicitors’ offices on Guildhall Street** into two large houses on the frontage and four smaller properties at the rear.

The building is Grade I listed and was designed by Sir John Soane. The Society also supported the Bury Town Trust’s application to convert **11 Higher Baxter Street** from a house in multiple occupation into a three-bedroom dwelling. This vacant property represent probably one of the last remaining medieval listed houses in the town which has yet to see major refurbishment. Hopefully, the application will bring new life into this somewhat utilitarian service street.



The building in High Baxter Street which the Bury Town Trust is to convert into multiple occupation.

Plans have been presented to build nine new houses next to **St Andrews Castle on St Andrews Street South**.

St Andrews Castle is a listed early Victorian folly designed in the Regency Gothick style with castellated parapets and stone walls. The Society considered the scale of development about right but had strong reservations about the detailed design. We are growing weary of pastiche 18th century facades and are not convinced the new houses will enhance the setting of this quirky building, held in fond

affection by many in the town.

A second separate application seeks to demolish the existing **St Louis School** (actually, most of it has gone already) and build a 334-space open car park with access from Robert Bobby Way. The Society recognises that many of our members would welcome more parking for the town, but we also wonder whether these proposals might undermine the government’s plans to promote an effective zero-emission public transport system. The Society therefore suggested that the application should be determined within the context of the Town Centre Masterplan, which might advocate alternative uses. If the application proceeds in its current form, however, we recommended that a thick tree belt should be planted along the boundary with Old Convent Orchard to minimise the impact of noise, fumes and light pollution. Responding to concerns raised by members, the Society commented upon two applications on the edge of town.

The first was to replace a bungalow on the junction of **Hardwick Lane and Vinery Road** with eight flats



St Andrew’s Castle, in St Andrew’s Street, the site where nine new houses are planned to be built.

Continued on next page.

uses for empty town centre sites

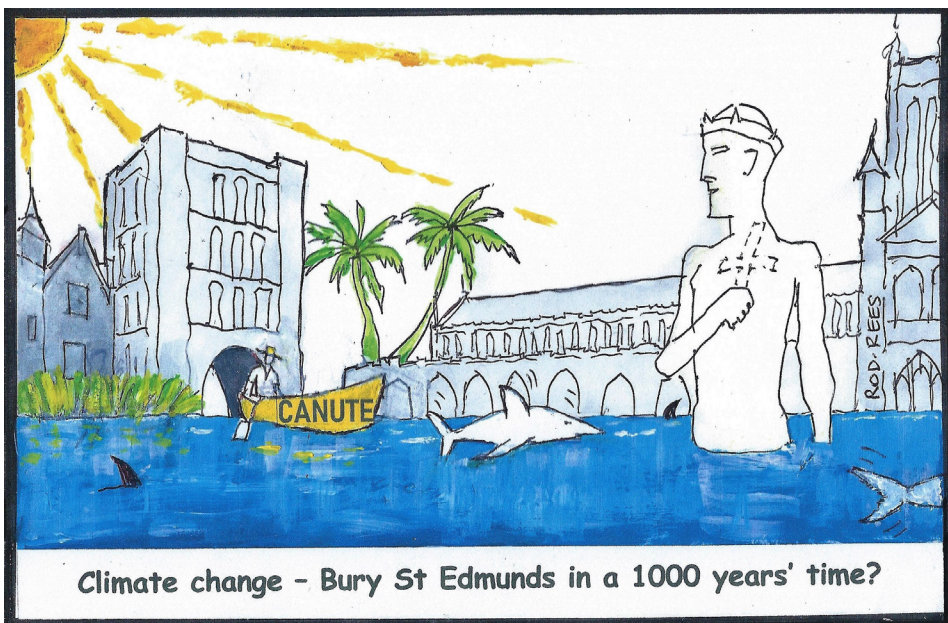
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and the second was to demolish a pair of post-war semi-detached houses on **Abbot Road** and build a further six apartments. In both cases, we considered that the plans represented over-development and would have a negative impact upon the street scene. The Abbot Road submission has since been withdrawn. Meanwhile, West Suffolk Council have lodged ambitious plans for a new public/private sector **Business Hub on Western Way** to combine support services such as police, NHS and West Suffolk College. The plans include a new multi-storey car park and will also relocate the Leisure Centre.

The Society was generally supportive, although there is some concern about the impact of extra traffic on Newmarket Road, especially when the “Bury West” housing development at Westley is built out.

Over recent months, several members have expressed unease about the scale of new development in the **Station Hill and Tayfen Road** area of town.

Members may recall that the Society had expressed concern that the Millers Quarter apartments might diminish the station frontage and we also suggested the new apartment block under construction



on the Tayfen Road EMG Motors site should be set back from the road frontage and was probably one floor too high. Members are encouraged to take a look at both and judge for themselves.

Finally, and looking to the future, plans are well advanced with a **13ha greenhouse development on the edge of Bury at Ingham**, potentially supplying 12 per cent of the country's tomatoes. It is a carbon neutral project using waste heat from an Anglian Water recycling centre. Perhaps another sign of the times.

Roderick Rees

A scandal at old West Suffolk Hospital way back in 1826

Within three months of opening its doors to patients in January 1826, the hospital was embroiled in a scandal over drunkenness amongst the staff.

William Braithwaite the Porter, who brewed beer on site for the staff and patients, the water not being safe to drink, was dismissed for drunkenness, and Mary Spink, the cook and a nurse Mary Catton, were reprimanded for the same offence. Unfortunately Mary Catton didn't seem to heed her reprimand as within months she was dismissed for what in modern terms would be classed as “inappropriate behaviour” with the apothecary (house doctor), a Mr Mournemant, who was severely reprimanded.

The other casualty of these early problems was the matron who was forced to resign as being to blame for the breakdown in discipline. Not all problems were staff problems as in the same year two patients were expelled for daring to complain about the food.

Terry O'Donoghue



The view of the Bury St Edmunds rail station from the new development currently underway nearby.

Abbey 1000 celebrations put on hold

The Abbey 1000 Millennium Celebrations were successfully launched at the Cathedral in November 2019.

A varied programme of events from May to November 2020 was announced including a procession of Benedictine Monks and Nuns in the Abbey Ruins, a special exhibition at Moyse's Hall Museum and a Spectacle of Light to mark St Edmund's Day. An impressive range of local company sponsors representing a cross section of local business has been secured and fundraising is progressing well.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus has meant that several events planned for May and June, including the exhibition of Abbey Manuscripts and the

Bury Festival have had to be postponed and others are under review. The Abbey 1000 Group continues to follow government advice and is working with partner organisations to offer a full programme of events from the summer onwards.

Events postponed in 2020 will hopefully take place in 2021.

The overall aims are to ensure that Suffolk can celebrate this momentous Millennium since the Abbey of St Edmund was founded in 1020 and to enable local people and visitors to take part.

The Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership has given priority to planning and fundraising for the Abbey 1000 programme.

It has prepared and submitted an

application to the Heritage Fund (formerly HLF) for substantial funding for the Millennium Celebrations in collaboration with West Suffolk Council and the Abbey 1000 Group. This is now under consideration. The Heritage Partnership has recently had a positive joint meeting with the Heritage Fund, Historic England and English Heritage to review the plans for longer term projects that it would like to progress from the momentum of the Millennium Celebrations. The heritage agencies support the work of the Heritage Partnership and the involvement of the local community.

*Richard Summers
and Matthew Vernon*



St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



West Suffolk
Council



Appeal for Bury in Bloom judges

Bury in Bloom is on the look out for judges to help them adjudicate the colourful garden displays and experience the "wow factor" of the blooms in and around Bury St Edmunds. Certificates of Merit are given out to residential and commercial properties displaying attractive use of garden and container grown plants that enhance the appearance of their neighbourhood.

It is an award-winning scheme that to many people in Bury St Edmunds represents the face of Bury in Bloom and run by an enthusiastic group of volunteer judges.

Each year between 80 and 100 volunteer judges visit all parts of the town and present the coveted certificates to recognise the efforts of the (sometimes unsuspecting) recipients and it hopes to encourage more people to take part. This year the Certificate Awards scheme is being co-ordinated by Jane Hamblin and assisted by Lynne Wright, and they have produced a special (perhaps one-off) 2020 certificate to celebrate the



new decade. David Irvine, the Bury in Bloom co-ordinator, said: "We are immensely grateful to our many volunteer judges for giving up their time year after year – it is a very special event only made possible by them and so our Certificate of Merit scheme is being nominated for the Special Award 'Best Community Project' in the 2020 Anglia in Bloom competition so this is an extra special year for us.

"In addition, we are introducing two new categories 'House Champion Award' (a sort of winner of winners) and 'Notable Neighbourhood Award' (to recognise neighbours working together for overall effect.)"

Jane added: "Our problem is the success of the scheme as well as continuing to cover all Bury St Edmunds as it continues to grow. We hope to cover the Marham Park houses and the extended area of Moreton Hall, however we need more judges to help us.

"We're not looking for horticultural expertise – it's more observation judging of the wow factor of that locality and where judges agree a certificate is given."

If you can help Bury in Bloom win the Anglia in Bloom Best Community effort category's Certificate of Merit Scheme email

@buryinbloom.org.uk or contact Bury in Bloom co-ordinator David Irvine on Coordinator@buryinbloom.org.uk

Town trail to unlock history of town

One thousand years of a town's history is due to be unlocked this summer in a trail of local landmarks, which could lead to prizes for those taking part.

The trail around Bury St Edmunds follows on from previous years events which have featured work by local artists commemorating historic events and honouring stars who have appeared at the town's theatre.

For 2020, the Business Improvement District (BID) Organisation Our Bury St Edmunds has organised the Abbey 1000 Heritage Trail in conjunction with local historian and chairman of the Bury Society Martyn Taylor. The trail will be supported by Coastline Graphics which, as in previous years, is a creative partner and major sponsor.

Chief executive of Our Bury St Edmunds Mark Cordell said: "Our



Martyn Taylor and Mark Cordell at one of the landmarks that will feature in the Abbey 1000 Heritage Trail.

previous trails have been wonderful events for Bury St Edmunds and we certainly saw from the Wolf Trail, which focussed on the story of St Ed-

mund, how much interest there was in the history of the town.

"This year, as we celebrate 1,000 years of the Abbey, we'll be including landmarks, blue plaques and specially designed graphics to focus on individuals including Charles Dickens, James Oakes and some of the Abbots from the Abbey.

"We know that people love following the trails, which are free to take part in, and it really adds something to a visit to the town – they can make a day of it with some shopping or perhaps a meal at the same time."

If restrictions on the coronavirus outbreak are lifted in time it is hoped to run the Abbey 1000 Heritage Trail from Saturday, May 23, to St Edmund's Day on November 20, with a leaflet to be produced and Our Bury St Edmunds donating shopping vouchers as prizes.

Second bike for town's rickshaw team

The Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw is now a familiar sight around the town, as it glides through the Abbey Gardens or trundles down Abbeygate Street with its two passengers at the front, smiling and waving.

The rickshaw rides are for residents who are more or less housebound, and have little opportunity to get out into the fresh air. Thanks to support from the town and district councils, as well as local businesses, and to the volunteers that operate the rickshaw, the rides are free and available seven days a week.

The project has grown since it started in 2018, and with 4,000 miles under the tyres the trustees plan to purchase a second machine this year.

The new bike, or "trishaw" thanks to the tadpole wheel arrangement (ie two at the front and one at the back), will have a dual purpose. Its flatbed design means wheelchair users will be able to use the rickshaw service for the first time. When not engaged on wheelchair passenger duty, the trishaw will carry cargo. All winter, the origi-



A delivery by the Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw team to Trinity Methodist Church.

nal rickshaw has been busy moving surplus supermarket food for Bury Drop-In and the Best Before Project, and taking donated tins and packets from Waitrose, Co-op and Tesco to the Foodbank at Gatehouse. Wooster's Bakery, Greggs and Muffin Break donate unsold goods at the end of each day and these are collected by the rickshaw and taken to homelessness projects. This cargo service has been so well-used that the trustees are confident a second trishaw is needed.

With the coronavirus outbreak, the volunteers have shifted their efforts

to moving goods for self-isolators – shopping, medication and other essential supplies – using the rickshaw to carry bulky shopping, and their own bicycles for smaller items, whilst maintaining strict safety protocols and social distancing at all times. Volunteers collect and deliver prescriptions from all of Bury's pharmacies, shopping that has been ordered by phone or online from any shop in town, and Foodbank donations and parcels. To arrange a free delivery, call 01284 339449.

Libby Ranzetta
Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw Trustee

Reflections of filming David

Do you remember the time that we went out to go to the cinema, theatre and other events?

It seems a long time ago!

Whilst we are all dealing with the current issues, I thought it might be good to reflect on the recent David Copperfield film that featured Bury St Edmunds and its effect on the town.

As a duty manager at the Theatre Royal, I was able to watch the film in the theatre auditorium itself, a surreal experience to be sure, watching on the screen the very building you were in.

Many locations in Bury were chosen to stand in for London and we all remember the Angel Hill and Chequer Square being taken over by the film crews, catering and costumiers.

The three days spent in Bury were the hottest days of that summer so pity the cast in their Victorian finery in the blazing sunshine.

Local tour guide Mike Dean had a starring role (!) and recalls the time it took to do the simplest shots ... camera angles were checked and checked again, sound and lighting took hours to set up and the cast and crew numbered over 100 people, no wonder the budgets are so big. One scene I remember being filmed was on Chequer Square when the crew were filming alongside Baret House.

The director was getting annoyed because he could see the reflection



The filming of 'The Personal History of David Copperfield' outside the Angel Hotel, in Bury St Edmunds

of us locals standing by the Norman Tower in the windows of Chequer Square and that we were visible in the shots. After the film was shown at the Theatre Royal we were able to meet some of the film crew who hosted a Q&A session.

Location managers told of the intense work and amount of travel needed to scout out the perfect shots and that potential locations were visited a whole year before filming started. Bury was thought to provide a perfect backdrop with its Georgian facades and handsome squares (indeed mentioned by Dickens in *Pickwick Papers*).

As Bury doubled for London, we all remember the strange shot of Angel Hill and the Angel Hotel with St Pauls Cathedral in the background. As a tour guide in Bury I hope not too many visitors are disappointed when they realise that St Pauls is not actually here and that it was some clever CGI filming.

Film and television have a huge impact on tourism across the world ... as well as Bury, I also guide in Lavenham and recently I had a customer who had flown into Heathrow from Brisbane, had a taxi to Lavenham, came on my tour and only wanted to see the two buildings in Lavenham used in one of the

Harry Potter films. She took some pictures of herself in front of them and then went straight back to Heathrow for that evening's flight back to Brisbane. She was in the UK for less than 10 hours.

Indeed, on a recent tour in Bury, I had a group who were really interested in the David Copperfield film and wanted to see the locations used in Bury on the general tour.

At the Norman Tower I was valiantly trying to get them interested in the history and architecture but they were only interested in the oval window on the former Masonic Hall on the north side of the square.

For the film promotions Dev Patel is shown standing in front of the doorway with the window clearly visible. The location managers praised Bury for its warm welcome and ease of access and said that the town was "perfect" in every way.

Other towns that featured included Rochester, Scarborough and Windsor.

Back at the Theatre Royal, it was a joy to see the auditorium bathed in candlelight as it would have been, and the circulating corridors looked stunning too ... perfect for those assignations and (shady) business

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Dev Patel who played the part of David Copperfield in the film part of which was shot in Bury St Edmunds.

Copperfield in the town

Continued from previous page.

dealings that must have gone on. The Athenaeum façade was dressed to become the theatre, a task that took two days, but ultimately the shots ended up on the cutting room floor.

Mike describes the filming as “highly organised chaos” and that the smallest detail was agonised over, lighting, sound and camera angles were changed, costumes altered and scripts re-worked.

The costumes were made by the production team and Mike had to travel down to the Warner Bros. studios, near Watford, for a fitting - in the same studio that the Harry Potter films were produced.

As one of over 100 “extras” Mike can clearly be seen in the audience at the theatre at the beginning of the film sitting in the second row. The theatre had to look full as it



Films crews actors take a break from the filming of 'The Personal History of David Copperfield' in Bury St Edmunds.

would have been in the 1860s with Mr Dickens giving readings.

Hopefully, and when we get back to “normality”, we will be able to welcome visitors back to Bury and

share the stories of the town which in future will now include David Copperfield as well as the Pickwick Papers.

Stephen Moody

Addressing state of the Lark and Linnet

The rivers in Bury suffer from lack of water, with very little flow in the Lark, and much of the Linnet completely dry in the summer.

The underground chalk aquifer that feeds them has been depleted by years of abstraction of water for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes.

There is evidence of pollution from agricultural run-off and the river also has to carry the output from all our water treatment works along the Lark.

The river faces growing pressure from climate change, population growth and expanding populations of invasive non-native species. Chalk streams such as the Lark and Linnet are rare.

Estimates vary but there are only about 200 in the whole of the world, and 85% of them are in England, rising from the sedimentary bedrock that formed approximately 66 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.

The aquifer extends from the south east of Yorkshire, southwards across the Humber and into Lincolnshire.

It is present east and south of the Wash in a swathe across central southern England from north Norfolk and Suffolk, through the Thames Basin and along the Kent coast, down to the south coast, the Isle of Wight and into Dorset towards Portland Bill.

It is associated with the iconic scenery of the chalk downlands and the white cliffs in and around Dover.

Chalk streams are characterised by clear water and a diverse flora. Most have been modified in some way, usually for milling, fishing, irrigation or watercress beds, but despite weirs, impoundments and abstraction, the best chalk rivers still support a fine aquatic flora and a diversity of invertebrates and fish. Bury Water Meadows Group (BWMG) is developing a pro-

gramme of activities to address the state of the Lark and Linnet.

BWMG is a member of the River Lark Catchment Partnership that works with the statutory bodies in our catchment, including the Environment Agency, at policy level.

The group is also set to be a founding member of a new alliance of grass-roots chalk stream groups that will lobby on common issues.

One major development to watch out for is an Anglian Water project to improve flow in the Lark through Bury, by pumping water upstream via a pipeline from Fornham and combining 50:50 with fresh water from the aquifer, within Anglian's water existing extraction allowance.

For more information on BWMG's activities, or to become a member of the group, see burywatermeadowsgroup.org.uk

Libby Ranzetta
Secretary

Bury Water Meadows Group

Behind the scenes of the Winter Lunch - making 'Dickens Doubles'

When we were first approached with the idea of a kind of "chamber" performance for the Winter Lunch, the film of David Copperfield (featuring well-known Bury places and faces) had just been doing the rounds - plus I noticed that the date of the lunch happened to be the day after Charles Dickens' birth date. With our own Angel Hotel featuring quite affectionately in his first novel, "Pickwick Papers", it seemed like the most obvious choice to take the great writer as our theme for the show. I'm a big fan of Dickens' characters - they are always both completely quirky and yet absolutely recognisable amongst one's own acquaintances and colleagues. They are both of their time and yet timeless. So, knowing that there would be two of us (My 'Not-Husband', Tim Welton, and I) we thought of seeking out some of Dickens' double acts. We had a secret weapon I confess: my brother-in-law is an academic and author and is something of an aficionado when it comes to Dickens. He is practically a resident at the Dickens Museum and was therefore our first port of call to help us choose the characters. Most of those he found for us we were at least familiar with, but the wonderful one-legged Silas Weg



Lynn Whitehead and Tim Welton take a break from entertaining guests at the Bury Society's Winter Lunch.

and self-improver Nicodemus ("or Noddy") Boffin from "Our Mutual Friend" we met for the first time and immediately fell in love with. We added a couple of our own favourites, shuffled everything into a good order (or what Tim would call "landscape") and then set about learning the piece. You may have passed us during January on the way up into town, looking for all the world like we were in deep conversation but in fact we were bashing away at the script. People often ask actors: "How do you learn the lines?" And the answer is - you work really hard at it and go over and over and over

it for hours at a time even when you're in the queue at Tesco's. I wish I could say there is a magic wand, but there isn't. We knew that the set up would need to be simple, so added a selection of hats, spectacles and the occasional (and easy to reach) cup which we hung on our trusty hat stand (that hat stand has been in more shows than I have!) Rather surprised that the attendances at the lunch were to top the 70 mark, we ramped up the volume a bit, held our breaths and "ta-daaa". I hope you enjoyed it.

Lynn Whitehead

Coronavirus puts a stop to twice-weekly market

The markets across West Suffolk, including the twice-weekly ones in Bury St Edmunds, are to stop during the coronavirus outbreak. They had been running up to the end of March but are now to cease operating. Market users and traders had been following social spacing and government guidance with stalls spaced out to enable people to get essential food shopping. The council has tried to keep the markets running as long as possible under government guidelines. But operationally it can no longer

be done as the numbers of traders and customers dwindle and the demands on staff due to the impact of COVID-19 rises. Therefore, for operational reasons, the council said it is better to redeploy those market staff onto other vital COVID-19 work or the extra measures the government has brought in to support communities and businesses. West Suffolk Council is working with traders to minimise the impact on them and their customers. Although the council will keep these under review as some are run

with partners. John Griffiths, leader of West Suffolk Council, said: "These are extraordinary times and an operational decision had to be made in the face of dwindling numbers at the markets, increased demands on staff and safety. "Our staff can also be better used in other even more demanding areas to tackle the impact of COVID-19. I would like to thank all those who did use our markets, and of course our traders, for sticking to the rules and keeping people safe. I recognise this may be a blow for some."

Work to create 80 more car park spaces at railway station complete

Good news at the railway station is that the new 80 space car park is now complete (charges £4.20 per day).

Also, despite a delay caused by bats, refurbishment works will start shortly to make the Station Master's House fully weathertight.

The interior will be left in a "shell" condition until a tenant has been identified and should be completed by the Autumn.

Further good news is that Greater Anglia has been successful with its funding bid to open up an existing archway from the new car park and create a proper north-south course.

With an annual footfall of 660,000 this should hugely improve the smooth running of our station. The council is also providing financial support.

More generally, there is now an hourly Sunday service into Cambridge and Greater Anglia are consulting about the timetable for 2021.

GA are also considering six coach trains at peak times from Cambridge and there are plans for a new Cambridge South station with easy access to Addenbrooke's Hospital. The Bury Society is an active member of the Rail Station Group which is a wider community body created to promote and safeguard the future welfare of the station.

One of the group's main objectives is the preparation of a formal Conservation Management Plan to identify what works are still needed to keep this remarkable heritage asset in a condition of which the town can be proud.

The future of the empty north side buildings is an area of special concern.

Finally, members are encouraged to try out the new Stadler 755 bi mode (part electric, part diesel) three and four coach trains, which are now fully operational from Ipswich to Cambridge or Peterborough.

We believe you will find the new



Bury St Edmunds railway station.

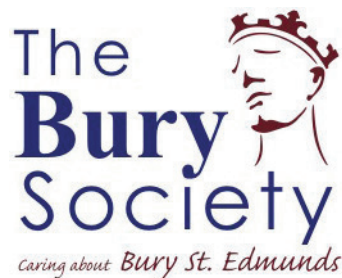
stock represents a truly massive improvement on the previous one coach trains.

You might also consider the new Stadler 745 inter-city Norwich to London trains which were intro-

duced in January.

The acceleration is exhilarating, they are eerily quiet and scarily fast.

Roderick Rees
Railway Station Group



The Annual General Meeting

planned to take place on Thursday, June 4, at the United Reformed Church in Whiting Street, has been

CANCELLED

due to the coronavirus outbreak

Plans to stage it at a later date are being discussed by the executive committee of the Society and members will be notified of the new date.

The agenda includes

- 1 Welcome and introduction by the Chairman.
- 2 Apologies for absence.
- 3 Approval of the minutes of the 2019 meeting and any matters arising.
- 4 Chairman's report.
- 5 Planning officer's report.
- 6 Treasurer's report.
- 7 Appointment of trustees and officers.
- 8 Questions from the floor/open forum.

New website for Bury Society is set to be up and running by the end of April

Alan Baxter reports on the latest developments to redesign and relaunch the Bury Society website.

At the end of 2019 it was decided that the Bury Society should have a new website which would include the Bury in Bloom aspects which are very much a part of what we do. This coincides with the new co-ordinator, David Irvine, and new targets for Bury in Bloom. One of the main reasons for doing this was to ensure that more people understood that Bury in Bloom was part of the Bury Society. We also wanted to increase the financial options possible on the website and improve security. After accepting a proposal from Logic Design, at Tostock, David and I have been working with Yasmin Palmer, one of their web designers, on this new joint website. The Bury in Bloom element is being done first as the priority is to have a new site online in April. The Bury Society site will look very similar and each site will refer to the other to encourage visitors. At the start of February, we uploaded the first files and the basic structures (they call them wire frames) were



The planned home page for the Bury Society's new and updated website.

approved as a starting point, but amendments can be made if required. The first proposals for the look of the home page of each site were also discussed and we both agreed that the more colourful of the two options would be best.

Later in February we met the designer to discuss the homepage details and the linking of the Bury in Bloom site to the Bury Society site. A key issue is how to show that Bury in Bloom is part of the Bury Society without overemphasis.

Currently there will be no "landing page" where you select which site you want (ie Bury in Bloom or Bury Society) before proceeding, as that demands extra time and effort from the visitor.

So, the idea is if you put in the Bury in Bloom address you land on this part of the homepage.

The title would have a layout like this screen grab (*pictured left*).

It clearly states that Bury in Bloom is part of the Bury Society and is "proud to be", rather than any such acknowledgement dominating the home page.

There is a section on the Bury Society lower down this homepage with a link to our side of the website which would help clarify the relationship.

If you put in the Bury Society address then you would land on a page headed with the Bury Society name and logo but with a Bury in Bloom logo and wording perhaps something like "proud to include Bury in Bloom".

Further pages have been drafted and more amendments will no doubt be made.

The aim is to have a functioning website by April which explains the work of Bury in Bloom, acknowledges sponsors and on which people can carry out simple financial transactions like sponsoring a hanging basket or making a donation.

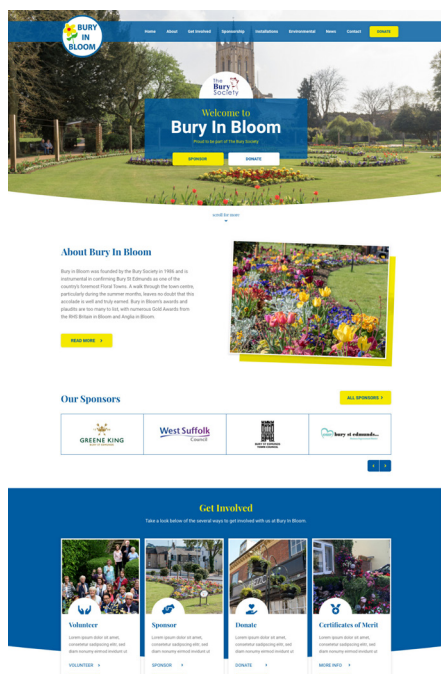
That will not be the final version as there will be other amendments to details necessary.

The Bury Society site will follow because that has a functioning website at the moment, so time is less pressing.

Once complete, a few of us will be trained so that we can update the websites as required.

This is a very exciting new development and will allow us to do much more in the future for the Bury Society and Bury in Bloom.

We hope you will be able to use it soon at bursociety.com or thebursociety.org.uk or buryinbloom.org.uk



Breathing new life into an historic medieval listed building in the town

The Bury Town Trust is planning to breathe new life into one of the last remaining medieval listed houses in the town.

Here Peter Riddington gives details of the work already carried out along with historical details about the property.

11 High Baxter Street is a part of the Norman layout of the town, created by Abbot Baldwin in the 12th century.

By the late 15th century it was built with a first floor and probably two rooms on the ground floor.

The house was altered considerably in the late 16th/early 17th century when the attic was converted to habitable accommodation.

It was further remodelled in the later 18th/early 19th century, when it was apparently still in reasonably affluent occupation, but by the mid 19th century it seems to have been in multiple occupancy of tradespeople.

At this time the street buildings had probably been either rebuilt or, as in the case of number 11, heavily remodelled and extended to accommodate workshops and service buildings, such as livery stables, supporting the local population and businesses.

The late 1960s saw High Baxter Street largely demolished and the historic buildings except number 11 removed. 1970 was the year that the house was bought by the Suffolk Hotel, in Buttermarket. They used the house for staff accommodation and undertook a thorough "modernisation" covering up most of the building's historic fabric and fitting it out with modern joinery and finishes.

In terms of the Town Centre Conservation Area, and High Baxter Street in particular, the historic and architectural interest the building exhibits is of major significance.

It is the last remnant of what had been an almost continuous terrace of buildings from the late middle ages onwards until mass clearance of the 1960s.



11 High Baxter Street which is set to be restored by the Bury Town Trust.

The building itself is a palimpsest. It is not an architectural statement of any significant quality and it has no particular historic interest, excepting of course it tells a long and complicated historical story, but special interest it certainly has and this is reflected in:

- Its core fabric and plan form dating from the late 15th century;
- Its surviving fabric from the late 16th or early 17th century attic conversion, and addition of staircases and chimney stacks; and
- Its surviving 18th or early 19th century first floor layout.

While appearances would suggest the house seems no nearer being restored, we have not been inactive over the year since we purchased it. We have over the last year carried out the following exercises, almost all of which have been funded from the Trust's own resources and in consultation with the very helpful Conservation Officers at West Suffolk:

- Preparing options and, feasibility studies, condition surveys and cost plan;

- Clearing the house of detritus remaining from the previous occupations;
- Removing plaster-boarded areas to expose historic construction;
- Clearance of vegetation in the garden;
- Removal of redundant electricity circuits and installing safe lighting;
- Preparation of designs for the repair, restoration and extension of the building and making applications for listed building consent and planning permission; and
- Preparing tender documents for the works, particularly the external repair works and approaching contractors.

We are expecting to receive Planning Permission and Listed Building consent in April and discussions with builders have been positive.

In light of the current Covid 19 events we hope that we may be able to employ local tradespeople who otherwise may have to be laid off by their companies.

We have promises of funds in the way of loans from our membership to allow us to commence the works.

What happened to Abbey and chattels?

It is well known that Bury St Edmunds was owned, taxed and controlled by the great Benedictine Abbey of St Edmundsbury for over 500 years.

However, with the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1539 what happened to the abbey and its chattels?

The last abbot, John Reve or Reeve aka De Melford, was given an enormous pension and along with about 40 monks, fled out of the abbey on November 4.

Reeve, a capable abbot died within a year it is said of a broken heart, in his house in Crown Street; he never collected his pension.

Henry's commissioners despoiled Edmund's magnificent shrine and in their own words said: "It was exceedingly cumbrous to deface."

Edmund was not within; what happened to his body is a mystery, the latest theory is that he could be under the old tennis courts.

Some of the monks would go on to find employment as teachers, others took on the new Anglican church orders though probably reluctantly. The Court of Augmentation set up by Henry VIII to dissolve the monastic houses was overseen by Suffolk man Nicholas Bacon but much of the abbey's wealth had already been confiscated before 1539.



The Abbey stone in Barn Lane.



The old tennis courts in the Abbey Gardens. Could it be the site where the remains of St Edmund will be found?

Various parcels of abbey land were obtained by John Eyer the Receiver General of Suffolk (Tax-Collector) who enjoyed the patronage of Bacon. Some of the monastic manors were purchased by Sir William Drury and Sir Thomas Jermyn, the latter's family to figure in the Abbey site story via the Davers and Hervey connection, once owners of the abbey site.

Sir Thomas Wingfield purchased the abbey site in 1550 and in 1560 John Eyre, by then an upwardly mobile feoffee, purchased it for £412 19s 4d during the reign of Elizabeth. He could also collect Hadgovel rents, the town rents.

In 1579 another feoffee, Thomas Badby, purchased the site, though controversially - it would seem he was feathering his nest.

Badby had a bill of complaint in the court of chancery brought against him by the trustees of the Grammar School for misuse of the great churchyard. He was dismissed as a magistrate and died in 1583. The Guildhall Feoffees were running the town by then.

As the abbot was mitred and represented the town in Parliament the town was effectively disenfranchised from 1539 until 1614 when the third charter in 1614 of James I/VI finally allowed two MPs voted by the town's corporation of 37 to attend Parliament.

Unforeseen circumstance of the demise of the abbey were that the poor of the town were no longer

looked after via alms and charity, there was also a shortage of employment, all of this would have to be addressed by the feoffees.

Another consequence was that the townspeople took apart the abbey, brick by brick, stone by stone. If ever Bury residents wanted their revenge on the all-powerful rule of the abbey now was the time to do it.

By 1767 most of the ashlar limestone blocks had been removed leaving just a flint core, evident today.

It is said you will find abbey stone all over the town particularly in walls and cellars but not much further than six miles from the town, the distance covered by a cart in a day.

Even the renovated Abbot's palace had been demolished by its owner, Major Richardson Pack.

By the end of the 17th century houses started to be built into the west front. They are still with us today and the abbey site would be transformed when in the ownership of the 2nd Marquess of Bristol into horticultural gardens by their creator and curator, Nathaniel Hodson.

Initially it was chargeable to enter but in 1912 to celebrate George V's coronation a year before, the corporation obtained a lease on the gardens, finally purchasing the freehold in 1953.

Now we have wonderful award-winning gardens and a fantastic amenity appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

Martyn Taylor

Parking regulations due soon for the town centre

Long-awaited changes to parking in Bury St Edmunds are due soon. The first (Civil Parking Enforcement, or CPE) is due to start on April 6 and will apply to the whole town.

It will mean that our regular traffic wardens will have the power to issue tickets for illegal parking.

Up to now and unlike most of the country, this has been in the power of the police with fines going to central government.

Now the fines will go to West Suffolk Council and be used to employ more wardens (or more correctly, civil enforcement officers). Here at the Churchgate Area Association we are concerned that the introduction of CPE will bring even greater pressure on residents parking as the number of permits issued for on-street parking in no way matches the number of marked-out spaces in our area (Zone D).

So we welcome the fact that the Zone D Parking Report is finally to be implemented.

This is expected soon after CPE and

may give us 30 additional spaces. But this will still not give sufficient spaces for all those who have purchased parking permits.

The ratio of permits to spaces in Zone D stands at almost 4 to 1 which makes it far higher than any other zone in the town.

Not only should the zones be redrawn but more bays which are at present pay-and-display only (and so cannot be used for residents parking) should be brought into shared use. As to traffic flow – like much of the town centre, the streets in the Churchgate area (The Grid) were laid out long before the car was thought of and, although usable for local traffic, get overloaded by those vehicles using the streets as a short cut or accessing parking in the Buttermarket. Pedestrianisation of the Buttermarket is part of the Town Centre Master Plan and should be easy to implement (it works on market days). I keep reminding our councillors about this, but no action has been seen so far. We live in hope.

Alan Broadway

Can you spot what's missing?

I just thought I would run this by you. You may find it, you might not. In word construction a solitary individual such as this is normally about but in this draft it is missing. Writing construction contains important information. Most scripts cannot do without what is missing in this summary. Study this info and you may spot it but do not dismiss anything lightly.

You may think it is grammar, it is not. Is it paragraphs? I do not think so. Truthfully it is not punctuation. It is not that obvious or is it? Could vocabulary impart the solution? No way! If you focus on it wistfully it may jump out at you, or will it? Probably you think this individual is too cunning for his own good, but I

am not committing anything that is basically wrong.

What I am trying to do is show you how brilliant our lingo is.

I am constructing this as I go along, without any caution, in fact you could say I was injudicious in trying it out. You could probably do it automatically as I did.

This conundrum was brought to my notification of what I think is an unusual situation or so I thought but I sought a way how to carry on with it.

Short or long words bring it on I said but could not on this occasion. Mind you, if anybody can find what is missing you can if you try.

Martyn Taylor

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Events overtaken by coronavirus outbreak

Sadly the Covid-19 virus has decimated all of our planned events for 2020, including the popular spring and summer excursions.

Once the future is a little clearer we may be able to review the situation based on best advice and produce a small revised programme in the autumn and closing months of 2020. If such action is possible we shall publish any details as widely as possible, including on our own Bury Society website.

On a more positive note we do, at least, have a very successful Winter Lunch (February 8) to look back on. The 2019 lunch was a very hard act to follow, but by all the positive feedback received, 2020 proved to be a great success.

As in 2019 we were fully booked with over 84 guests. The venue and caterers provided a solid foundation for the day, but the jewel in the crown was the opportunity for everybody to

immerse themselves into the world of Charles Dickens for 30 minutes whilst local and professional actors Tim Welton and Lynn Whitehead played out "Dickens Doubles" a compilation of scenes from some of the vast catalogue of Dickens' work. The timing could not have been better, not only being close on the heels of the anniversary of Dickens' birthday but also with the release only two weeks earlier of the David Copperfield film, in which the town featured as a major backdrop. In another article Lynn has given us a glimpse into the work required to produce such a magical performance. It is only when we are deprived of the ability to meet up can we fully appreciate the delight in being able to gather and enjoy meeting old friends in such a great atmosphere. Rest assured the Bury Society will once again bring you those opportunities in the future, hopefully another Winter Lunch early in 2021 signalling a full year of activities for its members.

*Terry O'Donoghue
Events Secretary*

Tributes are paid to Roy Hudd

"A true legend of a performer."

Just one of the many tributes paid to comedian, actor, writer and music hall expert Roy Hudd who has died after a short illness.

The 83-year-old, who lived near Stowmarket, was active until recently and in 2018 he played Mr Tom in Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds' production of "Goodnight Mr Tom".

Last year he toured the UK in a production of Oscar Wilde's play "A Woman of No Importance" alongside Liza Goddard and Isla Blair and appeared in an episode of "Casualty".

Mr Hudd hosted BBC Radio 2's "The News Huddlines", starred in "Coronation Street" and was a supporter of Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds.

He passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 15, and the theatre issued a tribute saying: "Everyone at Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds is deeply saddened by the news that Roy Hudd has passed away. He was a huge advocate for the theatre, performing in many shows here over the years including his own show 'Roy Hudd's Very Own Music Hall'; as host for 'A Right Royal Revue' and of course his wonderful performance in the title role in 2018's 'Goodnight Mister Tom'.

"A true legend of a performer and a shining example of kind heartedness, we will all miss him terribly. We send our thoughts and sympathies to his wife Debbie and the rest of his family."



Radio personality and writer Danny Baker said: "Bravo, Roy Hudd. I hope you can hear the applause thundering in your ears."

Writer, broadcaster and raconteur Gyles Brandreth said: "Roy Hudd's death is so sad. He was such fun, so funny and so talented. Here's hoping there's a heaven where he can be reunited with old friends."

Copy deadline for next edition of the Review

The copy deadline for the next edition of the Bury Society Review is Monday, July 20. 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 the views of the Bury Society.