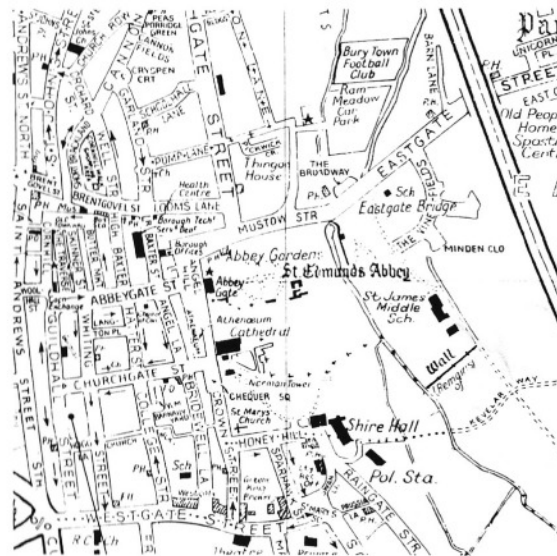


THE BURY ST. EDMUNDS SOCIETY

Officers and Executive Committee Members 94 - 95

Chairman	Mrs Barbara Hill Rose Cottage, The Street, Fornham St. Martin, Bury St. Eds. IP31 1SW.	Tel: 760130
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THE CITY OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS?



THE BURY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February - April 1996

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

24 February from 5.30 p.m.

Visit to the Theatre Royal

One of the country's finest theatre companies is bringing one of the most popular plays in the repertoire to Bury this month. The Oxford Stage Company are presenting 'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare. The Society has arranged a special deal with the Theatre to include a guided tour of the building, a discussion with the Theatre Director, afternoon tea and good seats for the performance. We are already sure of a good representation of Society members for this special offer but if you would like to join them please contact Barbara Hill on 760130. The cost of the evening will be £17.50 all inclusive.

28 March from 7.00 p.m.

Unitarian Meeting House

Mark Pawling, the Society's Planning Officer, will talk about Architecture, Art and Sculpture.

25 April 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start

Cathedral Lecture Room

Talk by Chief Inspector John Cant on 'Policing in Bury St. Edmunds'

30 May from 7.00 p.m.

Unitarian Meeting House

The Society's annual general meeting.

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Happy New Year

Barbara Hill, Chairman

A Happy New Year to you all — although by the time you read this, the New Year will be well on its way.

Phyllis Lane Leaves Bury

Those members who know Phyllis Lane will be saddened to hear that she is moving away with her husband from Bury to Dorset in order to be near her daughter.

She is one of Bury's great characters and is very knowledgeable concerning the life of the town during the last eighty years. She has the rare ability to notice, remember and record all aspects of life concerning local families, buildings and the day to day workings of the Town.

If one wished to know where such-and-such a shop or pub once stood she would invariably know the answer.

As a Society we hope that her treasure trove of memories will be able to be preserved for the benefit of posterity.

The Oakes Diaries

Mrs Jean Fiske provided the Society with a most entertaining evening by talking to us about her books entitled 'The Oakes Diaries'. These record the life and times of James Oakes, who was both a merchant in the wool trade and a banker, whose bank subsequently became Lloyds.

Mrs Fiske brought to life the commercial and domestic life of Bury during this period. Her descriptions of the wool trade, which was the principal business at that time, together with stories and anecdotes involving the hot political debate and junketing in the Athenaeum, carried a most receptive audience back through the years. Indeed it was almost possible to smell the wool fat in the warehouses such was the picture she painted.

Amongst the sixty members and visitors present we were pleased to have the present Mrs Oakes.

The Oakes Diaries can be commended not only as an absorbing read, but as a chapter in the history of Bury during one of its most formative periods.

Bury St. Edmunds — First City Aim in Year 2000

Cllr. Mike Ames (Abbeygate Ward)

Since my election to the Council in 1991 I have often questioned how pro-active Councillors and the Electorate are in promoting dear old Bury St. Edmunds. Recently my civic faith has received some encouragement.

At a full Council Meeting on 12 July 1994 I raised a Question under Standing Order 7.(2) (a).

The Millennium

'Would Councillor Aitkens, as leader of the Council, agree that this Council should establish a Member level Working Party to explore the possibility of marking the forthcoming Millennium by way of suitable celebrations and events throughout the area? Would he also agree, therefore, that an initial report on the principle of marking the Millennium and forming a Working Party should be presented to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee?'

Reply: 'No. This question is too previous. At the present time the question of Unitary Authority outcome is not known and there is a Council election in May 1995.'

A true slap in the face by someone who, in my opinion, was not fully appreciative of the importance of the forthcoming Millennium. Although somewhat disappointed I was not downhearted.

Meanwhile whenever and wherever the subject of the Millennium was a topic of conversation I asked further questions and listened to what people had to say.

During 1995 I discussed the matter of Bury St. Edmunds receiving city status to mark the Millennium in private with the Chief Executive of St. Edmundsbury Borough Council and then entered into correspondence. In short I was doing my homework on the matter, for I do not believe in creating a need but satisfying one with a certain amount of faith in achieving the objective in mind. It followed that at a full

Council Meeting on 2 January 1996 I raised another question related to marking the Millennium, but this time taking the bull by the horns.

'Would the Chairman of Policy and Resources Cllr. L.G.M. Kiernan, as leader of the Council, consider in order to mark the Millennium in a fitting manner for St. Edmundsbury, a most appropriate gesture would be for the town of Bury St. Edmunds to receive city status? Will the Chair of Policy and Resources instruct the Officers to take the matter forward with the Home Secretary as soon as possible?'

Reply: 'Yes. I see no reason why this prospect should not be explored.'

My initiative had received Council recognition, now the period of consultation and negotiations had to follow.

On 4 January 1996 the news made the front page of the East Anglian Daily Times, was on every news bulletin broadcast by BBC Radio Suffolk, followed as the main topic of debate on Suffolk Daily for over an hour. It was a TV item of news in the evening news bulletin 'About Anglia' with myself, within minutes, having to state the case of city status for Bury St. Edmunds to viewers throughout East Anglia. Unfortunately the Bury Free Press made its editorial decision of only an inside page three news item on 5 January.

I believe the history of our town, the way it has been caringly looked after throughout the passage of time and administered, its close association with the bedrock of individual liberty, the Magna Carta and the centre of ecclesiastical and civic ceremonies of Suffolk calls for recognition by the Sovereign in making it The City of Bury St. Edmunds. If this came about, the status and profile of our town and the county would be raised, with history not only being made but rectified.

I have received many comments of support and initial reaction from the Cathedral and the local MP proves favourable. If this status is achievable, and I believe it is, then I call upon everyone who has our beloved town and its patronage at heart to be pro-active in bringing it to fruition by writing to the Chief Executive of St. Edmundsbury or the town's MP.

Millenium Madness

Some ideas for claiming and spending the millions of pounds that seem to be there for the asking are now emerging. Amongst the suggestions are that part, or all, of Angel Hill be restored to a traffic free area (if it ever had been free of traffic of one kind or another) the completion of the Cathedral tower and one from David Weston who put forward the idea of restoring the Abbey Gateway floor. Yet another proposal is to replace the figures in the so obviously empty niches on each side of the Gate.

Do let us have your favourite ideas for improving Bury now that the opportunity has arisen.

1996 looks set to become a busy year with the Local Plan and the 25th anniversary of the Society, just for a start, to occupy the minds and time of the Society.

Rodney Tatchell

Peter Plumridge

Regretfully we record the death of Rodney Tatchell, LVO, FRIBA. Mr Tatchell had, as an architect, enjoyed a distinguished career in London; amongst his many activities he had had a responsibility for the care of the City churches, a role he conducted with great sensitivity.

He was one of our unassuming behind-the-scenes members and in my period as Chairman I valued greatly his wise counsel in the great Cattle Market debate; a gentle man he had nonetheless forthright views on the plan which could have desecrated our town!

All who know him remarked upon his great courtesy. I regard it a privilege to have enjoyed his friendship.

Campaign '96

Mike Ames. Chairman, Bury in Bloom

It was in 1986 that the Bury Society launched the very first Bury in Bloom. 1996 marks the In Bloom's 10th Anniversary coinciding as it does with the Society's Silver Anniversary year — what a marvellous opportunity for the membership to say congratulations with flowers! I am sure the town will rise to the occasion as only Bury St. Edmunds knows how to.

The success of Bury St. Edmunds in the Nations in Bloom Campaign over ten years is a compliment to the whole local community's annual effort. The record shows:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1987 | England in Bloom Award
The Tidy Britain Trophy |
| 1988 | Britain's Floral Town Award
Asmer Trophy National Award |
| 1989 | Grande Prix d'Excellence
Entente Florale Award |
| 1990 – 95 | Anglia In Bloom's Floral Town Award and
National Finalist — Britain In Bloom. |
| 1995 | Asmer National Trophy for Public Gardens Award |

With the advent of Spring, it is time for everyone to begin planning our floral displays in order for Bury In Bloom to continue a Blooming Success environmentally.

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