

The Bury Society

The Newsletter of the Bury St. Edmunds Society
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NEWSLETTER ~ AUTUMN 2007

Moves to have the at risk borough offices spot listed - Susan Sollohub

The Bury Society and Suffolk Preservation Society have joined forces to seek the spot listing of the Borough Offices in recognition of its notable 1930s architecture and importance to the Angel Hill scene.

The society was prompted to take action after finding, to its surprise, that the fine building was not listed and that its demolition was not ruled out.

The neo Georgian brick building will be surplus to St Edmundsbury borough council requirements once the operation is moved to a new Public Service Village at Western Way.

It has been mooted that the building which contains an exceptionally fine staircase and wood panelling, would be sold, or even demolished to make way for other development

Listing would protect it from any future destructive plans.

In 1937, these offices for the then Bury borough, were completed and opened in April. They were designed by architects Mitchell and Oliver (the noted Basil Oliver who inspired the well known Pillar of Salt Angel Hill road sign in 1935.)

Italian craftsmen were imported to lay the marble staircase which is bordered by striking brass banisters. The offices boast a very fine panelled committee room.

The listing application applies to the original building and not the later additions at the back.

Whatever the outcome, features like the staircase, panelling, stained glass windows and fine paintings should be kept though the ground floor statue beneath the stairs is another matter!

Basil Oliver (1882-1948) began practising in 1910 and carried the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement into the 1920s. He was architect to then Bury council in 1935.

His design for the Pillar of Salt at the junction of Abbeygate Street and Angel Hill was influenced by the growth of traffic.

The Ministry of Transport required that letters should be five inches high. It is a much loved and useful landmark.

We were pleased to note that the Norwich Society has succeeded in applying for the listing of Norwich City Hall, also a 1930s building, to be upgraded.

Here's hoping.

Our suggestions for naming new squares and streets

The committee was pleased to follow up the opportunity to suggest names for the new streets and squares on the future Cattle Market development.

Our proposals reflect the former livestock market's important past in the life of the town, an element of our heritage we want to see remembered.

Of course, we fully realised the need to mirror the impending liveliness of the main public square and for this reason our choice was The Playfields which resonates with the past and with what will be the contemporary leisure use by the Venue.

We would like to see Hanchets Square retained as the name for the future landscaped square overlooked by the splendid Hanchet's House building and next to the Bury Free Press offices.

Ideas for the streets were Simpsons Street and Cattlemarket Street, both recalling one-time long established auctioneers on the market and the market itself.

The property known as Simpson's House on the market has been demolished much to our disappointment.

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BURY ST EDMUNDS BRITAINS BEST FLORAL TOWN 2007.

Yes Bury in Bloom has done it again! On Wednesday 26th September in the awesome environs of Coventry Cathedral, The Royal Horticultural Society, declared Bury St Edmunds Winner of Britain in Bloom 2007! What an achievement and Congratulations to every individual young and elderly, corporate bodies, businesses, Council Staff and Officers, and residents who in anyway contributed to gaining this accolade. This will have ramifications for the well being of the town providing it capitalises on it. This award makes us proud of our town and heritage, we are constantly trying to make our environment attractive and welcoming for both residents and visitors.



The strapline for Britain in Bloom is 'Communities Creating Better Environments.' - isn't this synonymous with the very existence of The Bury Society? On behalf of Bury in Bloom Executive a very sincere Thank you. MIKE AMES Chairman.