

Autumn 2010

SocietyReview

Society's first chairmen look back with pride.....

Founding chairman Dr. David Dymond and successor Jos Bird stand in Abbeygate Street to recall a successful 1970s battle to save the beautiful green open space beyond, once threatened with housing development.

The Newsletter of the
Bury St Edmunds Society
Registered Charity Number 263230



The importance of an amenity society to safeguard Bury from devastating schemes was highlighted during their periods of office, which followed the most serious alarm of all - the proposed demolition of most of St John's Street in 1971.

Thanks to vigilant campaigners this did not happen. Efforts to preserve the best in the town and protect it from ill-considered schemes will be described in this edition of the newsletter and in following editions by past chairmen.

Inside, Jos Bird, a retired solicitor, remembers the successful fight to oppose the complete urbanisation of the fields overlooked by Abbeygate Street.

We will look back on those exhausting and exhilarating days, while remembering heroes of the battles, among them the late Lady Kate Playfair.

This is a great opportunity to turn the clock back and to celebrate 40 years of the Bury Society. An exciting programme is planned including a talk on St John's Street by historian Clive Paine.

The year 2011 heralds a new look for the Society's newsletter and paperwork and a warm welcome for a planned new heritage centre, the Guildhall Project, bringing exciting new life to the important, historic Bury Guildhall. The Society strongly supports the plans.

Please help spread the word about our work and achievements so that our fortieth anniversary will be even more worth celebrating!