

Winter 2011

# SocietyReview

## Bury Railway Station - Friends Group to Launch in 2012

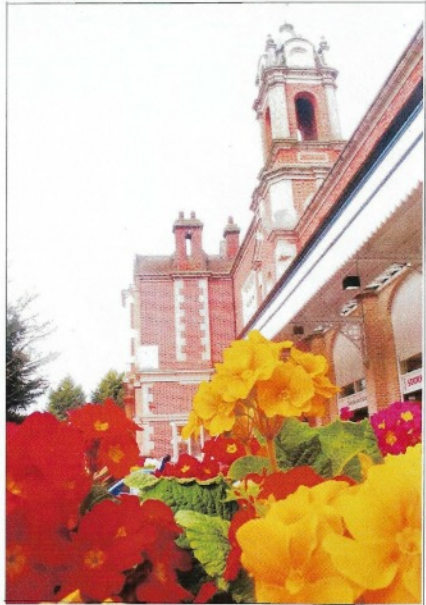
The Society is delighted to announce that the proposal to establish a "Friends of Bury St Edmunds Railway Station Group" to work alongside the train operator to improve Bury's Railway Station is to launch in the spring. You will have probably have read that a new operator will be managing the East Anglian Rail service from next February. Abellio is a Dutch company, and we hope their operation will match their reputation for very good timekeeping and service. They have a 29 month contract and will be in a strong position to compete for the new long term franchise which will run from July 2014.

We welcome news that National Express, the current train operator, is about to begin an 8 week programme of improvements to the stairs, booking hall and ticket office. Some decorating has already been carried out on the platforms and a café is in the process of opening.

In 2012 the Great Eastern Railway Company will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its incorporation, and we hope to be able to assist with the celebrations. Our aim is to enhance what is one of Bury's finest buildings. Opened in 1847, the station has previously been an award-winning complex, and our endeavour is to return it to an area which we can be proud of. Research on the buildings is already taking place. Did you know that the Station Master's house was where Sir Peter Hall, theatre director and founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company grew up?

There are many opportunities for community projects. We will be launching a competition to design and produce artwork for the waiting room. Commercial opportunities also exist; local contractors may offer time during their quiet periods or materials to help improvements in return for advertising space. Containers for plants will be required and could form part of apprenticeship/college training schemes.

The Society plans to launch the Group in the spring. Volunteers have already come forward and are involved in the discussions. If you would like to be involved in this exciting project, please contact me, my details are in the newsletter. We have a number of people involved already but would be delighted to add your skills and welcome you to the Group. With the co-operation of Bury in Bloom we hope we can transform the visiting experience when using the train. *Alan Jary*



Photograph © Katie Thomas

**A VERY HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS TO  
ALL OUR MEMBERS**

Member of

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VOICE**  
making civic sense