

THE BURY ST. EDMUNDS SOCIETY

(Founded October 1st 1971)

President: The Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds

Chairman  
J.A. Bird, Esq. M.A.  
30 Crown Street.

Joint Hon. Secretaries  
Mr. and Mrs. A. Mann  
23 Westgate Street.

NEWS LETTER NO. 5 JANUARY 1974

1. The Chairmans Letter.

We are sad to have lost the services of Mrs. Stephanie Hall as Secretary, but are glad that she has now recovered from her illness. The thanks of the Society go to her for all that she and her husband Ken (who remains on the Committee) did for us.

In Stephanie's place we welcome as joint Secretaries Adrian and Julie Mann of 23 Westgate Street. They are two of our younger members, and for that reason all the more welcome, because we hope that many of their contemporaries will come forward to play an increasing part in the Society's affairs.

I think you will all agree that the Programme Sub-Committee have done an excellent job, both in planning the 1973/4 events, and in carrying out those which have already taken place. The trip to Harwich, the Austro-German Choir, and Mr. David Abbon's lecture have all been greatly enjoyed. Our thanks particularly to Hugh Thomas and Nick Reeve for their arranging ability and effort.

I have addressed the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Bury Rotary and the Business & Professional Women's Club, and have taken part in a forum organized by the East Anglia Branch of the Institute of Civil Engineers. I have done my best to put over the Society's aims and objects (and have reclined a few new members while doing so).

The matters we have dealt with in Committee are dealt with elsewhere in this letter - and I am always pleased to hear from individual members who notice things. The Committee cannot be omniscient - so if you see something being done which ought not to be done - or something left undone (or underpacked) which ought to be done - please let a Committee member know.

The advent of St. Edmundsbury District Council on 1st April 1974 will mean that we have an even bigger part to play - the more active the support from the members the better equipped the Society will be to play it.

2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING May 22nd 1973

This took place at Everards Hotel. Our President the Mayor of Bury St. Edmunds taking the chair. Mr. Bird paid tribute to the valuable work of Mr. Dymond, and thanked him for his leadership as Chairman of the Society in its formative period.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following were elected to serve during 1973/4

Chairman	J.A. Bird
Vice Chairman	H. Thomas
Secretary	Mrs. S. Hall
Membership	Miss J. Patterson



Treasurer  
Committee

Mrs. P. Collet-White  
N.G. Reeve, Mrs. Trappes-Lomax,  
J. Whitehead, D. Dymond, Mrs.  
Backhouse, Dr. G. Heathcote,  
K.Hall, Mrs. Rampling, M.Lightfoot  
Mrs. Hancock

LIASON Suffolk Preservation Society. N.G. Reeve.  
Mrs. Backhouse. The Past Present Society Miss  
Patterson.

#### 4. PLANNING.

This is the most important subject to concern our Society, so it might interest members to know how this is dealt with by the Committee. Each month, one representative meets the County Planning Officer (North) at the Shire Hall, and another representative meets the Town Planning Officer at the Borough Offices. All applications which affect the town are thoroughly gone through. Any of these which either representative thinks of sufficient interest, or importance are brought to the meeting of the full Committee of the Society, where it is decided what action should be taken. In addition the County Planning Office sends the Committee the plans of those applications on which they wish to ask for the views of the Society. These applications are usually viewed on the site by our representatives before they report to the Committee, at the next meeting.

In this way, though some of the preliminary work is, of necessity, done by the planning representatives, all are considered by the whole committee, and all letters on planning matters are approved by the Chairman. This valuable time consuming work is done for the Society by Mrs. Backhouse and Mrs. Rampling to whom we are very grateful.

#### MORTON HALL DEVELOPMENT

The major part of the development visible from the old part of the town has been saved, with the exception of the disputed 11 acres. These will be built on. The issue continues to be of great importance, and it is now our aim to press the Local Authority to appoint an eminent planning consultant. In any event we will be carefully watching all plans for the development to see that they are of the highest possible quality.

#### BUTT'S CORNER

The Society has worked hard to preserve the group of interesting cottages and small shops at the corner of Westgate Street, and St. Andrews Street South. Demolition Orders were deferred for six months in June, and information about the availability of grants was gathered. A scheme to restore this site is strongly supported by your Committee, though so far without success. These houses were adjacent to the old Westgate of the town. The developer had planned to preserve the old facade of the existing scheduled cottages, at the same time providing two shops and other residential accommodation. The Department of the Environment considers them of sufficient importance to offer a substantial sum towards their restoration. The Scheme also had the support of the Planning Officer. We feel that this block occupies a very important position at the entrance to the Conservation area of the town, so we must hope that they may yet be saved. It would seem a very appropriate project to carry through by 1975, as a contribution to European Heritage Year.

#### MACRAE PITCH AND PUTT COURSE

Discussion is still taking place, the application for a driving range having been withdrawn.

## SPORTS GROUND FRIARS LANE

The Committee has no objection to this application which they feel would be a welcome addition to Greene King's staff facilities. But the Committee has told the appropriate authority that this does not mean that the Society would agree to any further development on the brewery's existing sports field at the Victory Ground.

## 11 GUILDHALL STREET

All applications for the alteration of this listed building have been refused by the Planning authority. The committee also feel that this fabric should be left intact.

## OTHER PLANS

The Committee's attention is often drawn to other old buildings which could be vulnerable. Bells Furniture Shop in Mustow Street. The Almshouses in College Street, which are part of Marlow's yard, and the Workshop in Bridewell Lane are but a few examples.

They are also concerned at the number of applications for office use near the town centre. While recognising the need for more office accomodation they feel that this should not be at the expense of the conversion of those houses which are suitable for continued use as private residence. They will continue to be very conscious of this problem.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP

Thanks partly to publicity in the Press but thanks even more to a number of talks given to organizations in the town by our Chairman, the membership of the Society continues to grow steadily. We have now 212 paid-up members and there are also several members whose subscriptions have recently become due. The Membership Secretary would very much appreciate it if subscriptions could be sent to her at 38 Garland Street. Obviously the more members we have the more effective we can be, so if you have friends who care about the future of Bury St. Edmunds and who are not already members of the Society please do try to recruit them.