



October 2021

**BTT Members,**

**The BTT Board hope you will find this newsletter useful and informative.**

**If you wish to comment or include something in the publication, please contact the Chair on [p.riddington@outlook.com](mailto:p.riddington@outlook.com)**

**Or the Secretary on [gayerynsardbtt@gmail.com](mailto:gayerynsardbtt@gmail.com)**

**The Board values your feedback and contributions.**



## **Chair's Comments**

Dear Friends and Members

This newsletter is, as much as it is an update on our recent activities, to publicise the AGM on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian Meeting House at 7.30pm. This will be our first face-to-face meeting since February 2020, so it is with a mixture of excitement and trepidation that I, for one, approach it.

We have our own health and safety risk manager in Paul Rynsard, who has set out a plan to ensure we are as safe as possible but please do expect there to be open doors for ventilation,

so if you are coming do wear warm clothes and, because of the alarming rise in cases we are asking folks to have a lateral flow test too. We'll be having the usual drink pre meeting and after the business Paul Rynsard and I will update you about what has been happening over the last year at 11 High Baxter Street with an illustrated talk.

Otherwise, John Popham has been chivvying us up to take some action to help the owners of historic buildings wishing to lower their carbon footprints, and this is a matter we are now gearing up to address with Aoife O'Gorman convening a working group.

I was alerted to the urgency of the issue when the Suffolk County Council invited me to take up the chance to have 'Solar Panels' added to the roof of my house. Well, I, like very many of us, live in a listed building and so I know that to install such panels would require listed building consent, which in the case of my house would certainly not be granted. So, I took this up with the excellent conservation officers at West Suffolk Council, who have now asked the County Council to make it clearer that this is not a straightforward matter where listed buildings are concerned.

Having said that, the BTT is signed up to 'Heritage Declares' and firmly believes the historic environment does have to play its part in solving the climate crisis. But the old 'babies and bath water' analogy is appropriate here as what is needed is an approach to the historic environment, and individual elements/ properties in it, which

ensures the 'special interest' and 'character' of listed buildings and conservation areas survive any such changes.

Historic England advise a 'whole building' approach be taken, so that all sorts of options are explored to ensure the least invasive/ harmful changes only are adopted. Indeed, there are ways that historic buildings can be made more sustainable that are benign and wouldn't 'harm' either their significance, or their setting.

The BTT hope over the next few months to put together some guidance for property owners on where they can get coordinated and sensible advice and this will be included on our website.

In the meantime, if you have been attracted by such offers as those from the County Council do bear in mind you may need listed building consent or even planning permission if you live in a conservation area. You would be advised to take advice from a suitably qualified professional.

**Peter Riddington**

**BTT AGM 2021 . . .**

**Will be held on Wednesday,  
November 17 at the Unitarian  
Meeting House, Churchgate Street,  
Bury St Edmunds.**

**Refreshments will be available from  
6.30p, with the meeting starting at  
7.30pm.**

**We are very concerned about  
safety, especially as Covid cases  
have risen so much and so many of  
us are vulnerable, so please do  
have a lateral flow test before  
coming!**

### **Membership reminder**

Thank you to everyone who sent on their membership subscriptions for 2020. However, there are still a few subscriptions to collect for this year though.

Please could I ask anyone who has not paid yet this year to either send payment directly to the BTT through their bank or to bring their payment along to the AGM.

Our bank details are Bury Town Trust at Barclays Bury St Edmunds, sort code 20-16-12, account no 30225738.

Annual membership is £12 per person, or £18 for a couple.

I look forward to meeting everyone in person at the AGM.

Please contact me if you have any questions about your membership at [carolinecommins@gmail.com](mailto:carolinecommins@gmail.com) or 07966 302125

**Caroline Commins**

**Membership Secretary**

## **11 High Baxter Street**

As you can appreciate, progress has been a bit slow over the past three months - with summer holidays, covid and the growing supply pressures for the construction industry.

Despite the setbacks, we have completed the installation of the windows and doors for the new extension to the house, we are now weather tight as we face the Autumn gales.

Currently, progress has been slowed up as we have to move the main electricity cable which involves UKPN and until this is completed the new staircase cannot be installed.

Once this is resolved we will take advice from our Agent on current valuation of the house and the Board will review the options going forward.

At the beginning of September, we had a visit from the Architectural Heritage Fund who are providing a loan in addition to that supplied by our members. They were very impressed with the work so far and what we have achieved given the unusual circumstances we have progressed the works.

Sincere apologies to members that they have not had the opportunity to review the works on site. We hope you will understand the restrictions we have been under. Hopefully, this situation will change and we can commence some tours in the near future.

**Paul Rynsard**