BURY ST EDMUNDS TOWN TRUST

September 2026

BTT Members,

If you wish to comment or include an article in this publication, please contact the Secretary:

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AGM Diary Date

The BTT AGM takes place on Tuesday, 20th October 2026 at the Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds.

The speaker is Sophie Norton who is Head of Conservation at Messenger BCR Group, they specialise in conservation works and are currently repairing the Abbey Wall, which will be the subject of her talk.

Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Light refreshments provided.

The BTT Board looks forward to welcoming you.

Dear Member

Welcome to our autumn newsletter which finds us at the tail end of a sizzling summer.

This period has been a relatively quiet time for the Trust, our work with West Suffolk College taking a pause during the holiday period. We are currently gearing up for site visits and arranging hands on experience for students during the coming terms. We are also hoping to recommence work on the PoDs based on the College campus.

We had a great time at the Conservation in Action Day arranged by English Heritage and based in the Abbey Gardens. It was great to see a number of members dropping by to say hello and to enjoy the displays prepared by EH.

Finally, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM at the Unitarian Meeting House on 20th October.



Jonathan Lloyd, Chair

CONSERVATION in ACTION DAY – 5th August

BTT Board Member Ron Clare shares some general observations about his time on the stand.



The first visitors to the BTT stand were two Year 11 students who might want to go into the building industry which I thought was a promising start!

Sir John Wheeler visited the stand and we had a general chat about the Bury Town Trust and heritage property. Sir John told me he had been involved with the conservation movement in London in the 80s and 90s, when he was an MP, and would be willing to speak at an AGM if we ever needed a speaker.

He also mentioned that he owns a property in Risbygate Street dating back to the 15th Century.

Another BTT member asked about any future plans for 11 High Baxter Street, with concerns that the property is currently let and that tenants would now be protected under the Renters Reform Act, which they felt may restrict a potential sale.

Many other members of the public were drawn to the stand by the interesting items supplied by Emmerson Critchley including examples of old wall paper and a section sample of a wattle and daub wall, which caused much discussion and intrigue. Hopefully, they left much more aware



The English Heritage stand

of the Bury Town Trust and what it does in the town.

All the Board members involved felt that the interest shown during the day underpinned the importance of BTT supporting this English Heritage event.

Railway Station – Update

The Trust were pleased to note that a recent application has been made on behalf of Greater Anglia Trains for listed building consent for more works to the railway station. Works proposed

centre on the renovation to the northern side facade including: cleaning, re pointing and brick replacement repairs to brickwork, stone work repairs, repair to rendered corbelling and blown course, removal of paint from lower window stonework, decorate upper window rendered stonework, repair and decoration of rainwater goods.

John Popham on behalf of the Trust has written to the Council offering support for the application and reminding all that the Trust has been campaigning for this work to be urgently undertaken since their original 2016 report on the matter.

The former Station Master's House remains of concern to the Trust which remains in a very poor condition. We continue to work with Greater Anglia and other interested parties to try and bring a resolution to these outstanding repairs.