

# Bury St Edmunds

## Shrine of the King, Cradle of the Law



### The King

The town grew up around the powerful Abbey of St Edmund in early medieval times. For five centuries it was visited by pilgrims from all over the world, coming to worship at the shrine of St Edmund – the martyred King of East Anglia. St Edmund was the patron saint of England until the dragon-slaying George took up the title in more militant times.

We invite you to follow in the pilgrims' footsteps and enjoy our Suffolk hospitality. Today the streets still follow the grid pattern devised by the abbots, making it easy to explore the town on foot..

### The Law

Sacrarium Regis, Cunabula Legis – Shrine of the King, Cradle of the Law is the motto of Bury St Edmunds, combining the connection between St Edmund and the Magna Carta. It is said that at St Edmund's Altar in 1214 AD the barons responsible for the Magna Carta met and swore an oath that they would force King John to accept the Charter of Liberties. This would become known as the Magna Carta.



**Bury St Edmunds Festival**  
Bury St Edmunds Festival is one of East Anglia's premier arts events, bringing top international performers to the town each May.



### Our in-town country parks

On the southern edge of town, just off Nowton Road, **Nowton Park** has almost 200 acres of landscaped grounds over 100 years ago in typical Victorian style. In spring some 130,000 daffodils flower along an avenue of mature lime trees. With its arboretum, wild flower meadows and wood sculptures, Nowton Park is the perfect retreat from the bustle of town centre life. So too is its sister park, **Hardwick Heath**, with its tree gallery and 200-year-old cedars of Lebanon. Next door to the West Suffolk Hospital, off Hardwick Lane.

### Just out of town

#### West Stow Country Park and Anglo-Saxon Village

A reconstructed Anglo-Saxon village on the site of an original settlement. Finds excavated from the site can be seen in the Anglo-Saxon Centre. The village is set in a 125 acre country park containing a river, lake, heathland, woodland, a nature trail and walks, bird hides and feeding area. The park also boasts a visitor centre, café/shop and children's play area.  
**Off the A1101, 6 miles NW of town, follow brown tourist signs for the Anglo-Saxon Village.**  
**Tel 01284 728 718**

#### Pakenham Water Mill

**The last working water mill in Suffolk.** For almost 1000 years millers on this site have been using the simple technology of water power to produce stone ground flour from locally grown wheat. See the Blackstone Oil Engine and the 16ft high iron water wheel. Guided tours, picnic site and shop with flour on sale. Special events throughout the year.  
For opening times contact **01284 724075**  
**www.pakenhamwatermill.co.uk**

#### Ickworth House

One of the most unusual houses in East Anglia. The huge Rotunda of this 18th century house dominates the landscape. The Capability Brown park is rich in plant and animal life and provides acres of space for walks and family fun. The Italianate garden complements the house and the terrace walk gives impressive views of the surrounding parkland. Other attractions include an adventure play area, woodland trim trail, deer enclosure, family cycle route, licensed restaurant and gift shop.  
**In the village of Horringer, 3 miles SW of town.**  
**Tel 01284 735 270**

#### Rougham Control Tower Museum

Open to visitors on all show weekends and Sundays, May to October 11.00am-4.00pm  
**Tel 01359 271471**

#### Rougham Airfield

West Suffolk's open air venue. Many different events throughout the year including country fairs and air displays  
**Tel 01359 271555 or email info@roughamairfield.org**  
**www.roughamairfield.org**

#### Useful websites:

[www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk](http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk) - includes local accommodation guide  
[www.choosesuffolk.com](http://www.choosesuffolk.com) - general visitor information on Suffolk

## The Tourist Information Centre

### A warm welcome guaranteed

- Much more than just a bed booking service
- Guided tours, maps and town trails
  - Concert tickets, local excursions and coach tickets
  - Bus and train information
  - Local events list - What's On
  - YHA memberships
  - Great British Heritage Passes
  - Free information about destinations in the rest of Britain
  - Phone cards, stamps and large stock of souvenirs
  - Mobility scooters & wheelchairs available to hire
  - Internet cafe

Call in, you'll be surprised

6 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1UZ  
Tel 01284 764 667 Fax 01284 757 084  
e-mail: [tic@stedsb.gov.uk](mailto:tic@stedsb.gov.uk)

### Blue badge guided tours

Daily tours from mid-May until end of September 2.30pm from the Tourist Information Centre

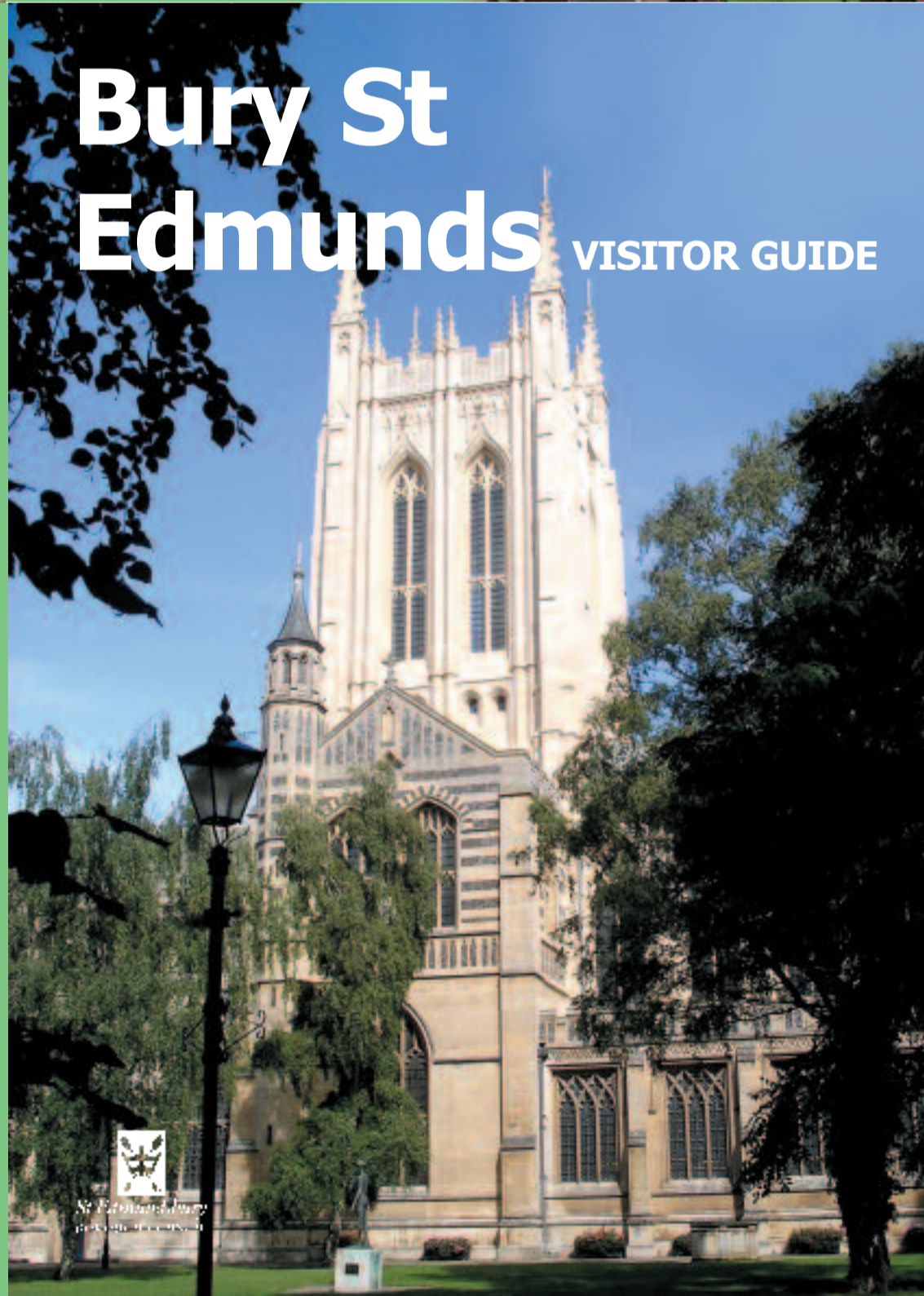
### Take a stroll

A stroll around the centre of Bury St Edmunds is an interesting experience. Fine façades reveal a wide range of unusual, independent shops offering traditional service and endless inspiration. The twice-weekly provisions market in the Buttermarket and Cornhill is a social event as well as a shopper's delight, and the dozens of cafes, restaurants and pubs offer the visitor an endless choice of refreshment. In the summer, the town becomes a riot of colour with flowers cascading from window boxes and hanging baskets. Small wonder that the town has won so many awards for floral excellence.

**Audio tours of the Abbey ruins available from the Tourist Information Centre**

"A handsome little town, of thriving and cleanly appearance"  
Charles Dickens - Pickwick Papers

# Bury St Edmunds VISITOR GUIDE



# Some of the things that make Bury St Edmunds so special

## 1 The Abbey Gardens

This peaceful haven, just a short walk from the hustle and bustle of the town centre, has had a special place in the hearts of local people for generations. The Gardens are also the first port of call for many visitors, as they search out the ruins of the Abbey of St Edmund. The glorious floral bedding displays have been a deciding factor in the town collecting numerous national and international awards, including 'Green Oscars' from the Nations in Bloom competition in 1999 and 2000.



## 2 Moyses Hall Museum

**Moyse's Hall Museum**, one of England's few surviving Norman houses, is believed to be the oldest town house in East Anglia and dates from around 1180. Since 1899 it has been the town's local history museum. Inside is a fine selection of unsavoury items such as man-traps, gibbet cages, mummified cats and wrinkled shoes - built into the walls of houses to ward off evil spirits. Most chilling of all, relics of the Murder in the Red Barn, celebrated in Victorian melodrama, including the guilty William Corder's scalp and a book bound in his skin! **New exhibitions for 2007 'FACES OF TIME'** featuring time pieces and paintings from the museums collection and **TRANSFORMATION - Changing Costume 1800-1980**.

Cornhill Tel 01284 706 183



## 3 Theatre Royal

**New from September 2007** First opened in 1819, the exquisite Theatre Royal is the only surviving Regency playhouse in Britain. Following two years of extensive restoration work to return it to its former splendour, the Theatre will re-open its doors in September 2007. As well as presenting a year-round programme of drama, music, comedy and dance, regular guided tours of the building will be available.

Westgate Street Box Office 01284 769 505  
www.theatreroyal.org

## 4 Greene King Visitor Centre

Greene King has been brewing in Bury St Edmunds since 1799. The museum's storyboards, illustrations, artefacts and audio technology provide great insight into the history and art of brewing. They detail the natural raw ingredients used in brewing and explain what it is that makes cask beer such a wholesome - as well as enjoyable - drink! Tours available daily.

Westgate Street Tel 01284 714 297



## The Town's public halls

**5 The Athenaeum**, on the Angel Hill, scene of public readings by Charles Dickens, has been a focus for the town's social life for 300 years. Restored in the early 19th century, its main feature is an Adam-style ballroom hung with chandeliers and graced with a curving, double staircase. Her Majesty the Queen enjoyed lunch in the ballroom during a visit to the town in July 2002.

**6 The Corn Exchange** in Abbeygate Street, stands on the site of the Shambles, once the town's meat market. It is home to craft fairs, clubs, concerts, dances and formal functions. It was originally constructed in 1862 as a one storey building.

## 7 The Nutshell

The smallest pub in Britain, according to the Guinness Book of Records. Owned by Greene King. It is interesting to see how many people can fit inside.

The Traverse



## 8 The Art Gallery

Designed by Robert Adam, the Art Gallery is popular with lovers of art and architecture alike. The gallery runs a programme of nationally important exhibitions and off-site projects, together with a shop and a popular Christmas exhibition by the Suffolk Craft Society.

The Market Cross, Cornhill Tel 01284 762 081



## 9 The Angel Hotel

A former coaching inn made famous by Charles Dickens in Pickwick Papers. The room he used when he visited the town is still available for patrons - with the very bed in which the author slept. The site has been occupied by an inn as far back as 1452.

Angel Hill Tel 01284 714 000



## 10 Edmundsbury Cathedral

Built by Abbot Anselm in the 12th century and with later building carried out by John Wastell in the 16th century and by Stephen Dykes Bower in the early 1960s, it had been the last incomplete cathedral in Britain. However, work has recently finished to crown the cathedral with a 140 foot (43 metre) Gothic-style tower that will be a feature on the town's skyline for future generations.

Tel 01284 754933

## 11 The Norman Tower

At the foot of Churchgate Street stands the Norman Tower. Built between 1120 and 1148, it is the most complete surviving building of the original abbey complex. It now houses the bells of the neighbouring cathedral.

## 12 West Front of the Abbey

Behind the Norman Tower, the ruins of the west front have been converted into private residences.

## 13 The Great Churchyard

Thought to have been created between 1120 and 1148, the Great Churchyard sits on a site probably used for housing and trade as early as the 8th century. It has been closed for burials since 1854 but contains many ornate and carved tombstones.

Between the Cathedral and St Mary's Church

## 14 St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church is Bury St Edmunds' hidden treasure. Built between 1290 and 1490 as part of the Great Abbey complex, St Mary's is the third largest parish church in the country, has the second longest aisle, and the largest west window. It has a remarkable and unique hammer-beam 'angel' roof. The church is the final resting place for Mary Tudor, sister of Henry VIII and Queen of France, after whom the Mary Rose was named. St Mary's is open during the week from 9 till 4 (in the winter, from 10 till 3), and admission is free.

Crown Street Tel Parish Office 01284 754680



## 15 The Malthouse Project

Visit the last remaining Old Maltings in Bury St Edmunds, which is of great historical significance to this important brewing town. The Malthouse Project, a former 17th century maltings once owned by Greene King, is now a unique facility that provides a café, heritage and training centre, community rooms for hire, accommodation for local people and central offices for St Matthew Housing. Tours of the project offer an insight into the building's history and the maltings process with a replica 'mini' model, a museum of original artefacts and architectural finds dating back to the 1600s. Tours available Wednesdays from 12-4pm.

Eley's Yard off Risbygate Street Tel 01284 732550

