

## THE GUILDHALL, BURY ST EDMUNDS - Steve & Joanne Garner

**Opening Times:** Prior to Covid-19 the Guildhall did offer tours. It plans to reopen on 21st June 2021.

**Admission:** Pre-Covid tickets were £7 per person, children under 12 free.

**Website:** <https://burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk>

**Email:** [admin@burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk](mailto:admin@burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk)

**Travel Time:** From Newmarket by car - approximately 30 minutes.

**Parking:** There are several large car parks. The Arc car park is five minutes walk away - £3.50 for 3 hours.



**General Information:** Situated in Guildhall Street, the Guildhall has been mentioned as early as 1290 and after the fall of the Abbey it became a centre for civic life. During its long history it has had many functions including a hospital, a court room, a prison, an assembly hall and a library.

Part of its history is also the Royal Observer Corp (ROC). It is the only surviving room of its type. These rooms were being set up in the months before the start of WWII to gather and distribute information regarding air defence. They usually were in telephone exchanges but in Bury St Edmunds in the Guildhall, a listed building which safe guarded the building.

During a renovation programme Air Vice Marshall Mike Jackson visited in 2012 and the ROC room was found to be a storeroom used by Scouts and Guides. Although no mapping table remained, the state of the room has been restored with Heritage Lottery money. This room was linked to Trimley Heath experimental RADAR station and monitored air defence of Central East Anglia.

**Image:** From the Geograph website <https://www.geograph.org.uk/>

### Sources of information:

- Bury St Edmunds Guildhall website: <https://burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk/>
- Subterranea Britannica website: <https://www.subbrit.org.uk/>
- The August 2014 Edition of the Subterranea Britannica magazine: <https://archive.org/details/subterranea-36>
- Royal Observer Corp Association websites: <https://www.rocatwentytwelve.org/bury-st-edmunds-ops-room-restoration.html>  
<http://www.roc-heritage.co.uk/roc-displays.html>