

Reeve Talks Bungay

DECEMBER continued to be very hectic. I attended the Bungay High School presentation evening, and was very impressed by the standard the students are achieving in all aspect of the curriculum, and sport. The town is fortunate indeed to have a school such as this, at which students and staff alike follow a positive ethos.

I also attended the Festival of Christmas, presented by Bungay Choral Society and the Youth Choir, Cantaria, at St Mary's Church, where there was a wonderful atmosphere and music that really brought Christmas alive. It was of course the time of year when you sing lots of carols – there were more at the Mayor of Lowestoft's carol service at Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in Lowestoft.

On Christmas Day itself, along with the Mayor, Olly Barnes, and our wives, I visited All Hallows Nursing Home at Adele House in Bungay, and the staff and residents at All Hallows Hospital, by long standing tradition. It is always good to visit these places where the care of residents and patients is of such a high standard, and where the day centre was open for those who might otherwise have been alone on the day.

December's busy schedule ended on Boxing Day when I started the Groggy Doggy cross country event organised by the Bungay Black Dog Running Club on Outney Common. I resisted the temptation to join the runners as I then adjourned to the town centre to welcome the Waveney Harriers hunt for their traditional gathering in Earsham Street before their Boxing Day meet. They were warmly applauded by crowds estimated at 2500, there to support a tradition that helps to raise the profile of the town. Bothy these events were a great success.

With January being much quieter as far as official engagements are concerned I am now in the process of organising some charity fundraising events through the year. More details on them in due course – meanwhile, with the help of my social events committee, I'm planning an event to mark the 90th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II. It will be on Friday, June 10 – book the date on your dairies now! – and will be a family evening at the Castle Meadow, with something for everyone to enjoy. It will end with the lighting of the beacon and a fireworks display, and if things go according to plan will be a fittingly glorious celebration of the landmark birthday for our monarch who has given such unstinting and committed service to our country for the last 63 years – and hopefully many more to come yet.

Eamon Gaffney
Town Reeve of Bungay