

Reeve Talks Bungay – June

HERE we are in flaming June and I'm already half way through my term of office – where has the last six months gone?

But there is no let-up in activities, and June and July promise to be particularly busy, with the annual Bungay Festival taking up much of July. I do hope that will get the support from the town, and tourists, which it deserves. A lot of work has gone into organising it by the festival committee, and the printed programme, now available in various outlets in the town, is attractive and full of information.

I and Town Mayor John Groom will be hoisting the Bigod flag on the Castle on July 9th to open the festivities, and the programme includes most of the events popular over the years as well as some new ones. They include the annual Town Reeve's Summer Ball, organised by John and Jayne Groom – in the marquee which this year will be at the old grammar school field, with parking on the nearby Skinner's Meadow or the medical centre car park. It promises to be another lavish and atmospheric evening, so contact John Groom at his butcher's shop in Wingfield Street to book a table – tickets are £45 each.

The antiques street market is one of the fixtures of the festival, bringing thousands of people into Bungay, and I shall look forward to doing a walkabout that day, spotting bargains and chatting to people – you never know who you are going to meet there. The same went for the spring garden street market in May – it was teeming with people and it is a great sight to see people leaving, laded with a tray of plants, or a tree, or shrubs, and with a smile on their face, eager to get back to their gardens and put them in.

These street markets are a real boost for the town and its businesses, and we should be eternally grateful to the chamber of trade (now the Bungay Events and Business Association) for its efforts in making them as popular as ever.

In the past month I've represented the town at a number of civic events around the county. I was at the Mayor of Southwold, Melanie Tucker's, civic service and parade, the concert in St Mary's Church by the youth choir, Cantaria (what an asset they are to Bungay), the Bungay Civic Evening at the Riverside Centre, the Pearl of the Waveney exhibition preview evening, and the Bungay Charity Cup final, at which I presented the trophy to winners Earsham.

That competition has been going since 1923, and it is still a coveted trophy to be won by local teams in the Bungay area. And the event raises funds which local organisations can apply for item for which they are seeking funds.

Tomorrow<sat> the deputy Town Reeve is standing in for me at the Suffolk county service to mark the Queen's 90th birthday at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and I'm looking forward to attending the High Sheriff of Suffolk's event at Snape Maltings at Aldeburgh at the end of the month.

Oh, and don't forget the Bungay celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday at the Castle this evening – full details elsewhere in this edition of the Journal. See you there!

Eamon Gaffney, Town Reeve of Bungay