

Reeve Talks Bungay

August, 2016

I think Bungay can look back with great satisfaction on another enjoyable Summer Festival which had several highlights.

With the Town Mayor, John Groom, I was proud to raise the flag at the Castle to signal the start of the festivities, and that was followed by the Kids' Fun Day organised by the Rotary Club – great fun. It is heart-warming to see the youngsters enthusiasm and enjoyment of the old traditional races such as egg and spoon, sack race, football dribbling, dressing-up race, water relay and others.

I and Elaine attended most of the events during the fortnight. The Duck race at the Falcon Meadow, held for the second year, is clearly a popular addition to the festival programme and hopefully here to stay. Apart from anything else it highlights the great asset we have in the River Waveney.

The Town Reeve's Ball, this time at the old grammar school field, was another wonderful success, thanks to John and Jayne Groom. Great atmosphere, great cabaret, great band, great company – a shining example of what Bungay does well and the chance for people to dress up and let their hair down. Long may it continue.

The concert by the Windborne Singers, a group of young Americans, following a workshop during the day, was another highlight. They were joined by the Joyful Voices to present a most enjoyable evening of music and song. The same goes for the Circle '67 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Castle – despite heavy rain the cast valiantly continued, to make it a memorable performance.

The weather was better for the Making Merry at St Mary's evening in the Priory ruins – another new event which worked very well in the historic setting, aided by three interesting speakers. A recording of the Three Rivers Talking Newspaper was among other festival events I attended before lowering the flag with the Town Mayor to bring the curtain down on a great two weeks of community activities.

There were plenty of other engagements in July. I was at the hog roast at Chris and Jean Whipps' home at Denton which raised £1600 for Nelson's Journey, and also at the opening of the Southwold Summer Theatre. I enjoyed the Bungay Society trip to Bury St Edmunds for a guided tour of the Abbey ruins and gardens. I was unable to get to the Beccles civic evening but Elaine represented me there.

The annual meeting of the North Suffolk branch of the NSPCC at Somerleyton Hall was another enjoyable evening with an interesting insight into the work of the charity. And I've presented the prizes at the Bungay Town five-a-side competitions, attended the Bungay Black Dog Jim Jervis memorial run, and Colin Taylor's charity fishing match at the Cherry Tree pit. In contrast August has been quiet so far – I needed a breather! But I'm looking forward to more engagements in September, with the Beccles civic service and the Suffolk county harvest festival at Bury St Edmund's among them.

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