

Reeve Talks Bungay

HASN'T it been great to have an extended summer, with hot weather right through to the middle of September! Not so good when I have to wear the Town Reeve's robes, however!

But it has been a great summer, and I do think the town has been busier – people have been visiting and spending days here, and that is really encouraging. Bungay is a town well worth visiting for many reasons, and I hope the eating places, pubs and shops have felt some benefit. I don't know if anyone keeps any figures, but it would be interesting to know whether there are statistics to support the feeling that the town is becoming more popular as a tourist venue, at least for day visitors. Certainly it has seemed to be thriving over the past few months

You will have noticed over the past week that the Butter Cross, which is owned by the Town Trust, has been given a much needed spruce up. It is our iconic, most photographed building, and standing as it does right in the town centre it inevitably gets the grime of passing traffic, the effects of the weather and, sadly, some vandalism. The clean-up and repainting is overdue, and I'm pleased we have been able to carry that out before winter sets in. During the summer the hanging baskets have brightened it up well, although some of them were damaged by the canopy of one of the Thursday stalls. I'm grateful to the stallholder for leaving the canopy off last week so that the baskets were able to hang free before they were removed for the repainting.

I enjoyed opening the Friends of All Hallows garden party recently, and attending their 40th anniversary celebrations the following day. This organisation has done wonderful work in the community for the hospital over that time, providing entertainment and fun along the way – let's hope it continues its valuable work for another 40 years. I also much enjoyed the Beccles and Waveney civic service at Beccles, along with the Mayor, John Groom.

So we're now into the final quarter of my most enjoyable year as Town Reeve – it has been memorable for Elaine and I, and there is still plenty to come

Arrangements have been finalised for the Town Dinner – the climax to the year. It will be at the community centre on Friday, December 2nd, and everyone is welcome to attend. Tickets are £25, and will be available from November 1st at A Sweet for You in Earsham Street.

Before that the annual civic service is on Friday, October 14th, at St Mary's Church at 2pm, when the Mayor and I will welcome civic leaders from around the county. Plans are being finalised but we hope schools will be taking part in the service. It is another event at which everyone is welcome – it would be good to fill the church.

My final event will be the annual Town Meeting, which is at the Fisher Theatre on Tuesday, December 6th at 8pm. I'll be announcing my successor – be there to find out who it is!

Eamon Gaffney
Town Reeve of Bungay