

Town Reeve's Report Feb 2017

I think that before I start I should just mention that Whybra Baldwin died last week. Whybra was the wife of the late Ivor Baldwin who was Town Reeve from 1974-75 and was also a town councillor - I am sure many of you have fond memories of Ivor and will wish to pay your respects.

I can't believe I am two months into my year and am realising just how quickly this year will evaporate.

Already I have attended several functions, the first at Red Lodge near Newmarket which was a great carol service and band evening and my first mince pie of the season.

The outdoor Carol Service at Jesters was followed by the amazing concert in St Marys Church. This was played to a full house and the local talent was quite incredible.

It was very interesting to help with the presentation of the trophies and certificates to St Johns Ambulance Brigade members just before Christmas, and to acknowledge the fact that so many of our young people are taking on this cause.

Visiting both Adelle House and All Hallows on Christmas morning with John Groom was very enlightening and something which will stay with me forever.

A concert at Endeavour House in Ipswich and a Civic Reception Forest Lodge at Ely have been my two more recent visits.

There are several more invitations in the offing and it is a great way to spread the 'Bungay word' and to get to know some very interesting members of the 'chain gang'.

Now onto my fund raising for the year.

I have been in conversation with a group from Ditchingham for the past few months who are endeavouring to set up a 'Mens Shed'

A Men's Shed is a dedicated, friendly and welcoming meeting place where men, mostly retired, can come together. It's a place where men can share their skills and knowledge with others, learn new skills or redevelop old skills. Good health is based on many factors including feeling good about yourself, being productive and valuable to your community, and connecting with friends.

This idea was originally championed by Age UK but now the 'shedders' have to find their own way and do their own fund raising.

Fred Hartwell is the gentleman with whom I have been in contact and have been helping them try to find premises. This has now been secured at the Maltings Meadow where they will build and run their own shed. Planning permission has yet to be obtained but hopefully

this will all take effect shortly - they will be able to share some of the cricket club/football club storage.

They will need funds for this and my aim is to try to help them as much as I can.

My intention is to stage a concert on 1 July at St Marys Church for a Last Night of the Proms evening. Two soloists from the Glyndebourne Opera have already been secured and am awaiting confirmation from a band and a choral society. This is a real first for the Town and hopefully one that will be remembered for many years to come. I do hope I can count upon many of you to attend this function and inform others of the event.

I also intend to raise money with a couple of separate events for Bungay in Bloom as I feel the Town always looks its best in the Summer months and it is good to welcome visitors with a beautiful floral display during the festival in particular.

I feel sure I can count upon your support in the coming months for my fund raising and other events but can guarantee my feet will remain firmly on the ground. - no abseiling or bungee jumping. '