

Bungay Town Council Mayors report March 2015

Another very quiet month for official engagements.

Unfortunately due to a severe cold I was unable to attend the Choral Evensong for her Majesty's Courts of Justice, hosted by the High Sheriff Nick Wingfield Digby in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on 8th March, but knowing that the Reeve was attending I was able to rest assured that Bungay would be represented.

On Tuesday 10th March I did attend the Anglican Ladies church group meeting to which I had been invited to speak (albeit somewhat croakily!). It was a very pleasant afternoon and my talk "How to become Mayor of Bungay" very well received. From comments received I believe that there is a better understanding of the role of mayor and the duties and responsibilities of the council.

The information session, conducted by SALC, to advise on the timetable and procedure for standing as a candidate for the town council was also held on 10th March. I had hoped for a better attendance but everyone was given the opportunity to attend.

I should like to thank the Town Clerk for his work in getting the newsletter printed and comprehensively distributed, and for ensuring publicity for the event.

Despite my dismissal of superstitions surrounding Friday 13th it certainly provided me with a challenge. I was alerted soon after 8am by a distraught trader with the news that access to Earsham street was closed from Market Place and that there was a somewhat circuitous diversion in place with a forest of diversion and road closed signage around town (the diversion sign with an arrow pointing down being particularly curious!).

Given that this weekend is the busiest of the year for many traders; that there had been no notification of the closure and investigation then proving that Network Assurance had authorised an emergency closure for Essex and Suffolk Water to repair a leak, lasting until 16th, we clearly had a problem. Much of the day spent on the phone, having what I think would be called robust conversations with the E&SW manager responsible finally resulted in the repair being completed and all signage removed by late Friday afternoon. A good result for the town and traders, though I fear I may now be on a water company hit list!

The very long awaited remedial work to address some of the issues outstanding from the TES are due to start on Monday 16th. I hope that disruption for both residents and traders will be kept to a minimum and that the changes/additions will correct and improve the problems with which we have had to deal for far too long.

May I also remind councillors that we are now in the nomination period for the Civic Awards and the Besant and Trevor Collyer Cups. This was publicised in yesterday's BBJ and nominations are open until 13th April. Nomination forms are available at WDC Broad Street office and at the library.

The Civic Evening is Friday 24th April - please publicise both of these to help to ensure we get a good number of nominations and attendance.

The Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday 27th April.

SK 14/03/15