

Report from The Mayor
July 2017

Another busy month has flown by!

At the end of June I was asked to open the re-named Limelight Café at Fisher Theatre; Chris and I were treated to a delicious lunch - the all day breakfast is highly recommended!

Afterwards, the theatre held a volunteers afternoon and I was asked to say a few words of thanks to them all. A new package of volunteer benefits was introduced and a buffet cooked by the new chef allowed us to sample the new menu.

26th June – sad to say goodbye to Dave Faulkner our PCSO who has been promoted. Cllr Lincoln and I welcomed our new PCSO, Gary Wilkinson to the town. I have since met and spoken with Gary several times to ensure he is aware of our historical issues and problems.

1st July - A meeting was arranged with David Ritchie to walk round the town centre to raise his awareness of the results of our survey and gain his support for potential changes. I had an unscheduled trip to A&E, so Cllr Lincoln attended on his own – thanks Mick!

5th July – We were invited to the Summer Theatre in Southwold – a really fabulous evening. Interesting talk with the Mayor of Southwold about the towns approach to fundraising and events which has given me food for thought! More to follow on this.

7th July – Opened St Edmunds School Fete and helped to judge the ‘decorate a kite’ competition! I have been asked to go back into the school in September for an assembly.

8th July – Attended the Bungay Flower Club Festival in St Mary’s Church – an incredible display of book themed flower displays. It was also the start of the Bungay Festival – I said a few words and the Town Reeve raised the flag. This was followed by The Family Fun Day

9th July – Duck Race on Falcon Meadow – I started the Business Duck race and announced the winners. A hugely successful day, which is growing year on year with over 100 volunteers helping out.

10th July – Meeting with headteachers from Bungay High School and Bungay Primary who outlined their plans and vision for moving the primary school into the old middle school. It seems to be a very sensible idea, and one which I am sure BTC will support as and when we receive more detail.

10th July – after the schools meeting I popped over the library to catch the end of Elly Griffiths talk – I missed her speaking, but was able to talk to her at length afterwards about her 12 years experience as Chair of School governors.

11th July – Visit to the town hall in Beccles, to look at their CCTV operation. Richard and Claire shared their experiences and advice of setting up and running. Suggested that a walk round the town with the police sergeant before we confirm camera positions and gave us valuable insight into ways we could tackle tricky areas with hard wiring!

12th July – town walk around looking at bins, rubbish, trees, landscaping etc with:

Mark Ross, Ground Manager

Richard Hackney – Ops Manager, Grounds

Stuart Mortimer, Ops Manager Cleansing.

12th July – Bungay High School music concert – incredible talent coming out of the music department and some very brave youngsters who performed solo for the first time in St Mary’s Church in front of a large crowd. It was a real pleasure to attend.

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I have been in near constant contact with Mark Kerridge regarding our survey / stage 4 safety audit etc. I am sure he may start blocking my number soon!

David Ritchie and I have spoken many times on the subject and are arranging a meeting for w/c 24/7 to review

I am speaking with Amy at BBJ about having a regular BTC / Mayor’s month feature which will give us a platform for communicating the work the council plans to do, our progress and will hopefully encourage more residents to attend council surgeries.

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Sad to report that the Town Ball had to be cancelled – thanks to Cllr Groom for all the hard work and effort over the years that has made the ball such a great event. The lack support for this year is very disappointing, but I hope that next year, the ball can be revived.

The festival continues to run over the weekend and through the week, so please continue to support events where you can

