

TOWN REPORT – COUNCILLOR MRS ELLEN MURPHY

Good evening, Ladies & Gentlemen, and welcome to the Annual Town Meeting.

During my time as Mayor, a lot has happened in our Town. Work is progressing well on the £2.5M regeneration project to St. Peter's Cultural Venue, which is on track to open later this year. We have seen the re-opening of Gainsborough's House Museum & Galleries following the completion of their £10M project 'Reviving an Artist's Birthplace – a national centre for Gainsborough'. I was lucky enough to attend the opening of the new building, which is a fantastic achievement and a work of art in itself.

We have recently heard that Belle Vue House has finally been sold, but as yet we have not been informed of the name of the buyer or their intentions for the house.

I was lucky enough to be involved in the town's Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations last June when HM The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms, and the Commonwealth.

However, one of the most poignant and saddest occasions during my year of office was the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. It was an honour and a privilege to be part of the events following the announcement of Her Majesty. I attended the reading of the Proclamation of King Charles II in Ipswich and then returned to Sudbury where I read the Proclamation from the Town Hall steps to the crowds of people.

During my time as Mayor, I have also had great pleasure in attending many town events, such as:

- Welcoming new businesses to the town
- The Annual Rowing Regatta on Friars Meadow
- Heritage Open Days in Sudbury
- The Remembrance Day Parade & Service
- Switching on of the Town's Christmas Lights.

One of my final duties will be to join in the celebrations on the weekend of the 6th May when we will see the Coronation of His Majesty The King Charles III.

It is now time for Sudbury to move onward and upward, with full consultation with the Town Council and the people of Sudbury on the future plans for Sudbury.

I wish you all well for the year ahead.

Councillor Mrs Ellen Murphy