

## MAYORS DIARY



### MARCH 20/2016

#### Spring Equinox

At long last after a dark and extremely wet winter, Spring is officially here. The Vernal (Spring) Equinox has arrived and now days are longer than nights. A good but busy time of year especially for farmers and gardeners alike and it's nice to see a decent bit of sunshine and blue skies.

Boroughbridge Town Council held the Monthly meeting on 1st March, the details of which can be seen on our website. Sadly I was unable to attend this meeting due to ill health. I had an attack of 'Man Flu!' which took me out of action for a few days. Fortunately I was able to attend the Joint Parish Meeting a week later. One of the main subjects covered by this meeting was the astonishing amount of litter in the area especially on roadside verges. I will never understand the mentality of someone who throws rubbish out of their car window for someone else to deal with.

Leading on from this Brighter Boroughbridge and District group have been extremely busy over the last few weeks not only making the area look nice but also preparing for judging for Yorkshire in Bloom 2016. A team of volunteers have already been collecting and bagging litter and rubbish. Boroughbridge High School also provided a team of volunteers to help with the 'Clean Up!' The judging takes place on the 12th April and I would like to personally thank all those involved in the clean up and the planting etc in time for this prestigious event. Good Luck!

Politically this week has been interesting, especially following the Chancellors proposed cuts to Disability benefits. This has already resulted in the shock resignation of a senior

cabinet member. I have a feeling that the proposal to cut these benefits may subsequently backfire. We shall see.

The Chancellors Budget always manages to puzzle me in some way or other. The Budget was all about putting the ' Next Generation first'. Something I agree with but please don't forget that previous generations are still here. The Tax and pensions proposals get me so confused that sometimes I don't know whether to wind my head or scratch my watch.

Sticking with politics we are now as I predicted getting bombarded with lots of Pros and Cons for staying in or leaving the European Union leading up to the Referendum in June. We even have a new word ' Brexit!' short for British Exit. I will leave it up to you how you vote but as I have said before, please use your vote. Prior to the Referendum there will be a lot of local elections in the area where everyone on the electoral roll will get the opportunity to vote for new local Parish/Town Councils. These elections will take place on Thursday 5th May, again please use your vote.

Finally next weekend is Easter and in Boroughbridge the Boroughbridge and Lower Ure Valley Walks Team are holding their Annual Walking Festival. This is a popular and well organised festival held over the Easter Weekend with lots of different walks for all comers, so please come along and support this superb event. Details are in this week's Gazette and on their website. Happy Easter!