



EUROPE! IN OR OUT? PLEASE USE YOUR VOTE

Since my last diary entry in this paper, Harrogate Borough Council has decided to charge £39 per year for garden waste collection. This will be an opt-in service meaning that only those residents who want the service will pay for it. Quite a number of Boroughbridge residents that I have spoken to are not happy about the new charge and have already decided to opt-out. This service will start from Summer 2017.

The beginning of February, Julie and I were invited to RAF Menwith Hill for a Winter Reception. This informal event allows local Mayors, Councillors, Civic and Military leaders to meet members of the base. We met some very nice and interesting people however none of them would tell us where the 'Alien Submarine' was kept, which was a bit disappointing. Joking aside I would like to thank them for the invite and for a wonderful evening.

On Saturday 13th Feb the Mayor of Pateley Bridge, Councillor Stan Lumley invited us to his Valentine's Day Fundraising Ball. All funds raised at the Ball will go to help local organisations and projects. This was a superb 'Black tie' event that I hoped raised a lot for these worthy causes. Our thanks go to Councillor Lumley and his wife Angela for the evening and their outstanding hospitality. Sadly we had to leave early for other reasons. This may have not been such a bad decision due to the fact I felt a bit 'woolly' the next morning. It must have been the water in Pateley Bridge.

This weekend the Government have announced that there is to be a Referendum on the membership of the European Union. The referendum will be held on Thursday 23rd June which is only 17 weeks away. Unfortunately between now and then we are going to be bombarded with advice on whether to stay in or leave the EU. I have already spoken to a local resident who informed me that he will not be voting because it will not make any difference. I pointed out to him that this is not true and his vote will make a difference. I am a firm believer in the saying 'No Vote/No Voice!' It is important is that you use your vote whether you want us to leave or stay. Have a good week.

