

BOROUGHBIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY
Councillor Craggs' Weekly Diary

1 October 2010

On Wednesday last, the 22nd September I was amongst a very large and representative body of concerned residents of the district who attended a meeting called by North Yorkshire County Council to learn more about the proposed Waste Treatment Plant at Allerton Park. Members of the public were given the opportunity to speak after presentations by the County Council and Amey Cespa; all contributions from members of the public were well-informed and researched and delivered in a civilised manner, but in my view we left the meeting with many unanswered questions about the proposed scheme and in particular its economic viability and sustainability in the long term - I do not think I was the only one who left with this feeling of concern.

As has been mentioned, following the retirement of the current managers after 6 years of loyal service, there is now a vacancy for a volunteer manager to run the Tourist Information Point in Hall Square, Boroughbridge. The work commitment is approximately 2 to 3 hours a week during the tourist season helped by a team of 13 enthusiastic volunteers. The Town Clerks are there to help and support. Further details are available from 1 Hall Square or by telephoning 01423 322956.

Yesterday, the 27th September, Betty and I were invited to attend the installation of the Reverend Alison Askew as Priest in Charge of Kirby Hill, Cundall with Norton le Clay and Skelton with Newby parishes, and what a joyous and inspiring evening it turned out to be and a testament to the faith and commitment of all who have quietly and steadfastly worshipped in their churches over many centuries, and even in these allegedly secular times. May I wish Alison a very happy and fulfilling tenure of office on behalf of the "neighbours" South of the Ure. All Saints holds a very special place in our hearts, as Betty and I were married there many years ago.

I recently reported in my "Diary" that Boroughbridge has been presented with a splendid oak seat by the Turner Society, and that the bench now occupies a prime position in Hall Square, where it has been much admired and well used by appreciative "sitters". It saddens and angers me to say that yesterday evening (Monday 27th September) at around 7.15 p.m. the seat was vandalised by graffiti. Sadly, it appears that some of our young people are letting down their peers by actions such as this and I appeal to anyone who saw a group of youngsters near the seat around the time stated to contact the Police, particularly if you are able to identify any of them. The great majority of our young people are decent, but actions by the mindless minority of their peer group discredits all of them and if anyone "out there" knows who did this there is no shame, but rather a great deal of credit, in informing the Police in strict confidence if you happen to know any of the perpetrators. Until recently there has been mercifully little graffiti in our town, and none of us wants to see its return; it is disgusting, defacing and both hard and expensive to remove.