

BOROUGHBIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY
Councillor Craggs's Weekly Diary

11 November 2011

Last week's Gazette and Herald had an article on the campaign by the local WI branch against the problems being caused by inconsiderate parking by heavy goods vehicles in the town, particularly outside the cemetery on Wetherby Road, and also by the use of the town's roads as a "rat run" or short cut when they should really be using the A168, the road designated to carry goods traffic which is not actually delivering into the town centre businesses. Sadly, the report did not mention that the Town Council is solidly behind the WI campaign, and in fact had been expressing concerns about this and other traffic issues to the County Council for a considerable time, and several meetings have been held with WI representatives. To add weight to our case, two bollards have been knocked down in the past few days on the "chicane" very near where the three ladies are standing outside the cemetery in last week's picture ! Discussions are being held with Area 6 of the Highway authority and there is a good chance that some action can be taken in the short term to relieve the problem, but the longer term solutions will depend on the County Council's will to introduce the required legislation and -if put in place- the ability of the overstretched Police to enforce this legislation.

Having lived in Boroughbridge for most of my life, and on Horsefair from 1958 to 1965, I can state unequivocally that the volume of traffic along Horsefair now, particularly heavy goods vehicles, is on about the same level as it was in 1963, when the town was first bypassed! Most of these vehicles could and should be using the A168.

On Friday evening we attended the Harrogate and District Volunteering Oscars event at the Old Swan in Harrogate. This event was started by Councillor John Fox of Harrogate Borough Council, and is still master minded by him, and is I think a brilliant way of acknowledging the commitment of so many community volunteers, who give so freely of their time and hard work to help others. Four individuals and I think three organisations within the Boroughbridge area were nominated for rewards, but were not amongst the winners, the majority coming from Harrogate itself, which is understandable, considering the great number of organisations within the town and suburbs. Possibly the kind main sponsors, Ackrill Newspapers, might consider a separate "Oscars" for the other, more rural, communities? Just a thought, and it was a good and inspirational evening.

As this edition of the Gazette comes out on Friday the 11th. of November, our thoughts are of course with all those who have died or who have been physically or mentally traumatised whilst serving their country, and with their loved ones . Since 1945 more than 16,000 members of our armed forces have lost their lives either in conflict or training accidents, and an undisclosed number have been injured, and sadly this total continues to increase. The Royal British Legion and the other Service Charities fill the gaps (often sadly considerable) which successive Governments have left in the care system for Service families. The Poppy Appeal plays a major role in raising funds for welfare, and the Remembrance Day Services and Parades throughout the country honour the sacrifice made by our Service men and women and their families. We WILL remember them- in Boroughbridge at the War Memorial at 11.00 a.m. today, and on Sunday at the Service in St.James' Church at 9.45 a.m., followed by the parade to the War memorial in Hall Square at 10.45 a.m.

From Betty Craggs:

Despite the horribly wet morning, last Saturday's Poppy Appeal Coffee morning in St. James' Church raised a magnificent £375-00 for the Poppy Appeal. Heartfelt thanks to all those who gave raffle prizes, cakes and for the good souls who braved the elements to help on the stalls and those who attended and spent their money so freely. Most of all, thanks to the good people of St. James' Church who allowed us to use the Church, and even postponed their own coffee morning for the good of the cause.