

BOROUGHBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY
Councillor Cragg's Weekly Diary

12 November 2010

A couple of events which were too late for inclusion in last week's "Diary":-

On Saturday evening, Betty and I joined in the "Bingo Fest" at the Coronation Hall; the evening was a hugely enjoyable one run by Boroughbridge Community Care in aid of local charities, and was a sell-out. Most of us enjoyed losing our money, helped on by a magnificent supper which had been laid on by the organisers; "Communicare" do a wonderful job in and around the township and deserve our special praise and thanks.

Following my heady success in almost winning the Irish Bingo, Betty and I went to the Social Club, where we had been invited to judge the Halloween fancy dress competition (having first made sure that an escape route was available in case our decisions were disputed!). Another brilliant event and it was good to see so many folk in the Club having a good time. Having managed to sort out those wearing fancy dress from those who weren't (sorry, H !) we managed to reach a decision which did not end in a lynching and spent the rest of the evening chatting to old friends.... a good evening.

Unfortunately, on Monday I succumbed to a chest infection which was bad enough to send me to the Health Centre where I was prescribed antibiotics and "grounded", which meant no Town Council meeting; Rob Young, my Deputy, chaired the meeting competently, as ever, and our new Councillor Iain Maltby was welcomed to the Council. Iain has lived in Boroughbridge with his wife Jan for many years; he is heavily involved with the Allotment Society and will, I am sure, be a useful member of the Council.

Through the good offices of the Newby Ward District Councillor Nick Brown, on Sunday Langthorpe and Boroughbridge Councils had the services of 41 young soldiers from the Army Foundation College at Harrogate, with a Bombardier and a Captain. These competent, cheerful and enthusiastic young men cleared up a great deal of rubbish both North and South of the bridge; they also got rid of as much graffiti as they could from the Langthorpe side and trimmed back as many bushes as they safely could near the Water Rats Club. Once given their tasks they needed no further direction from the "locals", and enormous piles of bags of rubbish now await collection by HBC. The lads were well fed by Mike Collins and his team on bacon "butties" and coffee- thanks Mike and thanks also to Rob and Iain from the Town Council who liaised on the day. Warmest thanks of all of course to these fine young men for their work; they are a credit to themselves, their training and the Army- I am sure I speak for everyone when I wish them well in their chosen career.

Fittingly, this week for Betty and I is taken up by organising Poppy sales at Morrisons with the great team of volunteers who will be up there every day until tomorrow evening. Every morning I will have been at the High School for year assemblies, usually along with an ex- Service man or woman, talking about the activities of the Royal British Legion in these troubled times; our young people really are interested in the origins of the Poppy Appeal and the Legion's role- in particular its relevance nowadays, which is as great as it ever was since its founding in 1921. Sunday is of course Remembrance Sunday; I hope to see you at St. James' Church at 9.45 and/or at the War memorial at 11.00