

**BOROUGHBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY**  
**Councillor Craggs's Weekly Diary**

**13 May 2011**

If you are reading this before 11.30 a.m. you will no doubt be looking forward to seeing our adopted Regiment proudly marching through the town to honour our community and their Royal Colonel in Chief, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. The visit of His Royal Highness is an historic occasion for our community, and a great honour for all of us; it is up to us to ensure that our Royal guest and everyone from Dishforth Base leaves with happy memories of a great day in Boroughbridge.

On Friday we attended the "Local Hero" awards ceremony at the Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate, to be humbled yet again by the extraordinary courage and commitment of ordinary people. Winners ranged from the 13 year old winner of the Child of Courage award, who had raised an incredible amount of money for charity despite her severe heart problems, to the overall winner, a lady who had raised close on £800,000 for research into early onset dementia and other charities. What a dedicated bunch of people.

Sunday was Aldborough's great day of the year - May Day, with the historic crowning of the May Queen, Maypole dancing, Morris Men and many more attractions. Whilst Betty and I were watching the Maypole dancing I was chatting with Eric Gudgeon who was born, brought up and worked in Aldborough all his life; we reminisced over our Sundays in the choir, bell ringing, croquet on the vicarage lawn towards the end of the war when Mr Griffiths was vicar, and- wait for it- dancing round the Maypole, arms firmly twisted up our backs...as I remember, one Roy Turner was also involved, as was everyone else in the village. It is good to see that whilst some names have changed, the current residents of Aldborough still honour the village's traditions and values. Well done to all of you....but don't ask Eric, Roy and me to rejoin the dancers; second childhood does not come with first childhood mobility!

You may recall my mentioning a few weeks ago of the passage through the town in late March of two horse riders who were riding from London to Edinburgh to raise money for Combat Stress and the Light Dragoons Colonel's Appeal. I have just heard from Mrs Angela Collin that the two riders, Colonel Ewen Cameron and Major Neil Cross will have raised £50,000 when Gift Aid and promised donations are taken into account; briefly, the ride took 86 hours, a total of 119 horses ( mostly loaned by hunts), and must have involved the help of many people to ensure horses were in the right place at the right time . The riders were told that riding an average 109 miles a day, with 13.5 hours a day in the saddle would cripple them; apparently they were so crippled that after they were greeted by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh they stayed up until 2 a.m. toasting everyone who had helped in Scotland's national beverage. An incredible achievement, and it is still possible to donate by phoning 01747 810350.