

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

**17 September 2010**

Tuesday was the monthly Town Council meeting; inevitably the proposed Waste Recovery Plant at Allerton Park came up in the form of notification from NYCC of the public meeting at the Old Swan in Harrogate at 4.00 pm on 22nd September and of public exhibitions from the developers, the most relevant for us being in Marton cum Grafton village hall on Saturday 25th. September from 9 am to 6 pm. I make no apology for reiterating the importance of this proposed development which will affect everyone in North Yorkshire for years to come. More "parochial" matters dealt with were the problem the Town Council has encountered in dealing with a decaying tree in the Tutt Woodland due to the presence in the summer of nesting bats! We are awaiting a report from the relevant authority as to the way forward. Look out for the 'Batmobile' parked up outside the cemetery! The other intriguing matter was a report from the British Museum on the articles which were found on Council land - some coin clippings from post medieval times and a medieval silver pendant; valuation for the clippings has been agreed, and the Town Council coffers will be swelled by £30.00 (the other £30.00 going to the finder), but the more valuable pendant has yet to be valued- more on this later!

Tourist Information Point figures show a phenomenal increase in visitors so far in 2010 compared to 2009, with almost 2,000 coming through the door in July and August- a marvellous achievement for Mike and Gill Jones and their team of other volunteers who run the TIP- thank you all very much for the work you continue to do to promote our town. In reality, along with every other community, without the enthusiasm and dedication of people who give so willingly of their time and energies very little would happen here- the list of organisations which exist, do marvels for the people of our area purely because of the drive and dedication of their members is a long one, and of course in many, many cases the same names keep appearing on the lists of members.

On Sunday, together with the Mayors and Mayoresses of Ripon, Knaresborough and Pateley Bridge, Betty and I had the great privilege of attending Ripon Branch of the Royal Air Force Association's Battle of Britain Parade and Service in the Spa Gardens; there must never come a time when as a nation we cease to give thanks and remember all those who have given their lives, youth and health to protect us in times of peril, and there has never been a time since 1066 when Britain has been as vulnerable to invasion and subjugation as in the summer of 1940. Almost five more weary years of war and hardship were to pass before victory was ours, but September 1940 was the turning point in the war against Fascism and we are forever indebted to the pilots, ground crews, radar plotters, technicians, anti aircraft gunners, balloon site personnel and not least the Royal Observer Corps (more volunteers!) who made victory in the skies over England possible...we WILL remember them.

It was heartening to see amongst the Standard Bearers and veterans of another generation such a well turned out contingent of ATC young people, and to learn that many of them intend making a career for themselves in the Royal Air Force. We must wish them every success in their future; they are shining examples of the real worth and motivation of today's youth to their peers and to the rest of us.

Sunday's Family Cycle Day was apparently a great success; I have not had a report from Jane Barber of Yorevision but a goodly number of cyclists of all ages and proficiency turned out apparently and had an enjoyable day; no doubt Jane will be reporting directly to the Gazette; again, more volunteers filling the breach- in particular the Boroughbridge Lions for their work.

I am delighted to report that a new seat has now been supplied and fixed in the "Rec" by Harrogate Council's Parks and Gardens Department, to replace the one which was damaged accidentally by their employee; our thanks to Harrogate for acting so promptly once their responsibility was established, and for their understanding of the importance of this seat which was donated in memory of Shaun Johnstone, who died so tragically young.