

BOROUGHBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY
Councillor Craggs' Weekly Diary

18 March 2011

As I write this Spring seems to have sprung, the birds are singing (and eating vast amounts of extremely expensive seed), daffodils are venturing forth, the lawn has been cut once and needs cutting again as soon as the Mayoress ceases to heave frost damaged shrubs and other rubbish on to it, and not for the first time I thank God that I have spent most of my life in this loveliest part of God's Own County.

On Friday we were invited to the official opening of Great Ouseburn School's fantastic new hall and catering kitchen, where Keith Scott, the Chairman of the Great Ouseburn Parish Council and I cut the ribbon to officially open the facility- to the great delight of the children, parents, staff and all the folk who have worked so hard to bring the scheme to fruition. Great delight? - the scissors were rather blunt! We enjoyed some wonderful entertainment from the children, including a lesson on beekeeping from a very erudite young lady; Betty was very impressed by this, having kept bees herself in the past - I occasionally remind her from a safe distance that she still has one or two in her bonnet. Only the "oldies" will remember that at one time Great Ouseburn was home to the Great Ouseburn Rural District Council, which made Boroughbridge and neighbouring villages subservient to Great Ouseburn. The GORDC ran the waterworks at Grafton, and GORDCWW signs can still be seen around the area- there is one outside the Black Bull, which the more observant may have seen and wondered at- now you know, if you didn't before!

You don't give a rap? Well, thankfully some people do, and on Saturday morning we met many of them at the Ripon Activity Project (RAP) Annual Talent Contest held in the Youth Wing at Ripon College.

Some of you may remember that just before Christmas I attended this event, which had to be cut short because of problems with the fire alarm system at the campus and we stood outside singing carols and eating mince pies. Saturday's event was the re- run and the Mayors had to judge the entries. The decision was reached that there were no losers, but one winner was slightly better than the others, but only very slightly. What a morning and what a wonderful bunch of characters- wall to wall grins from everyone, except when Jerry was inflicting one of his Christmas cracker jokes on his captive audience, when loud groans were mandatory. Seriously, Jerry Anderson and his team do an amazing job for some even more amazing and impressive people, who all deserve our admiration and whatever support we can give them. They all have enthusiasm and joy in bucketfuls which is genuinely contagious. Thank you all for the example you set the rest of us.

I understand from Mr Roberts, the Head teacher, that the Dog Warden has visited the Primary School to talk to the children and thank them for their help in trying to make grownups more responsible in dealing with their dogs' waste products- the competition to produce the best poster is, or soon will be, under way.