

BOROUGHBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY
Councillor Craggs' Weekly Diary

24 December 2010

Up to the eyes in Christmas trees, decorations, presents you ought to have wrapped weeks ago but didn't have time to, mince pies, turkeys which are either too big or too small, and wishing you had- after all- hibernated for the winter? So are we!

Nothing really official to report, but quite a lot of unofficial "happenings", NONE of them at the taxpayers' expense I hasten to add! On Wednesday the Mayoress of Ripon, Denise Bolland organised an evening out for the "Chain Gang", including the Chair and Consort of NYCC at the Old Oak Tree in South Kilvington, where those of us with hair were able to let it down, whilst the rest of us did the best we could; a great evening, and one which strengthened the friendship between our communities

On Saturday Betty and I paid our annual pilgrimage to Harrogate to enjoy the joint concert between Brighouse and Rastrick Band and the Harrogate Gilbert and Sullivan Society. The singing was to the Society's highest standard, and the Band was truly magnificent- as they should be as National champions. On Sunday morning we filled our only official engagement of the week by attending the Ripon Mayor's Christmas Service at Allhallowgate Methodist Church- a very enjoyable service, including a somewhat quirky but thought provoking Nativity play with rather elderly Joseph and Mary and a somewhat irascible Innkeeper- all was well in the end of course!

On Sunday evening, again unofficially, we went to the traditional concert in aid of the Fire-fighter's Charity and enjoyed superb entertainment from West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's Band, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's Pipe Band, the Fisher Singers, Knaresborough Silver Band and a guest appearance by bass baritone John Cunningham. A collection during the interval raised more than £1,600.00 for the Charity. It is all too easy to take the Police, Ambulance and Fire and Rescue Services for granted, forgetting that their members are out in all weathers and dangerous situations serving our communities; they are often in peril and sadly many are injured and lose their lives protecting us.

This evening, Tuesday, a group of councillors will be discussing the way ahead for Boroughbridge's library should- as seems inevitable- NYCC decide to close it; tomorrow evening Betty and I will be attending the Carol Service in St. James' Church, where I am down to read one of the lessons- a fitting way to lead into my wishing everyone a joyful, happy Christmas- I'll leave the New Year greetings until later when we all know what the weather has thrown our way!