

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

17 June 2011

The monthly full meeting of the Town Council took place last Tuesday, the 7th. June; councillors reported on meetings and seminars they had attended including one on "Localism in Practice" which was held in Thirsk. Some of the suggestions proposed by Government within the White Paper on this subject are quite disturbing in relation to possible changes in planning regulations (amongst other matters), and all local councils should be studying this document very carefully.

On Wednesday Yorevision held its AGM at Boroughbridge Primary School; the main item on the agenda was the preliminary report by Genecom- the firm which has been carrying out a survey of publicly available venues for meetings and other activities in our area. Whilst the final report's findings are not yet ready it has become apparent that whilst some venues are over-used many are under-used, possibly because of lack of awareness of their existence and availability. A case for co-operation between organisations if ever there was one, as I am sure will be suggested in the final report.

Sunday saw us at the Salvation Army Outreach Centre in Ripon at the invitation of the Mayor of the city for the morning service. We have been to the Centre many times in the past, and have always left cheered by the sheer goodness and kindness of everyone involved with this superb organisation, one richly deserving of everyone's support; after all, they always support and provide comfort for everyone else, whatever the situation. In the afternoon Betty and I were invited to open the Kirby Hill Summer Fete, organised by the Kirby Hill Parent Teacher Association in conjunction with the Church and residents. The event was in the school and grounds, and it was such a shame that the weather was so wet- however as one sage remarked "it only gets as far as the skin"! There was a good variety of stalls to part us from our money, from tombola to hamburgers, welly-chucking to goal kicking. In the school hall, more refreshments and brilliant dance displays from young ladies from the Lisa Marie School of Dance, who were so very obviously enjoying what they were doing- as were the members of the school choir who entertained us with rock and pop songs- and how good it was to hear them harmonising, perfectly in pitch.

Throughout the afternoon we were escorted by the Chairman of Kirby Hill Parish Council Gerald Smailes and his wife Mavis, who looked after us so well, and even provided a guard whilst we judged the children's fancy dress competition! Every entrant was a winner in our eyes, and I hope their parents thought we made the right decisions! Despite the weather, it was a brilliant event, and I hope the good folk of Kirby Hill will repeat the exercise for many years to come; traditionally an annual garden party was held in Kirby Hill but this lapsed for a number of years and congratulations and thanks are due to those who worked to make Sunday's event such a great success.