

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

20 January 2012

It has been a rare treat to have a few days of dry, bright and, above all, still- weather and I hope this is still the case when you read this, with January in its last half, the days lengthening slowly and - if we are being really optimistic- Spring to look forward to. The past week has been quiet, apart from the monthly Town Council meeting, and a meeting on Wednesday at the High School with representatives of the School, Junior Football, Sports Association to discuss the revised plans for facilities at Aldborough Gate. There was also a meeting of the BACLA (library) steering committee on Thursday to receive a report on progress with NYCC library service over BACLA involvement with the voluntary running of the first floor room (formerly St. James's Hall) and running of the library for one half day a week . As yet, the final proposals have not been received from County Hall, but we have arranged a meeting in the room over the library on Wednesday 25th. January at 7 pm for those good folk who have expressed willingness to be part of the team. Obviously anyone else who is interested in helping, but who has not put their names forward, will be very welcome, although it would be appreciated if you could let John Helliwell know beforehand on 01423 320731, so that we can ensure the presence of sufficient chairs, cups and biscuits! On Saturday Betty and I were invited by Harrogate Rotarians to a simple but moving service to dedicate a tree in Crescent Gardens in memory of John Lovell, who was Chief Executive of Harrogate Borough Council from 1978 to 1991. The Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate attended of course, as did the Mayor of Ripon. John Lovell was a very able, gracious and approachable man who realised that the towns and villages which had been, like it or not, made part of the "new" District of Harrogate in the 1974 boundary changes had a voice and needs at least as urgent as the town of Harrogate itself; this was much to John's credit, and I know that he always liked to come to Boroughbridge in particular to see what we were "getting up to " (his words on many an occasion!). Many of us, the older members of the Town Council and Chamber of Trade, treasure memories of sea fishing trips from Bridlington with John as guest in the 1980s. We never caught much but the bonhomie and " après fish" at the Water Mill in Stamford Bridge afterwards more than made up for the lack of marine life contribution to the waiting freezers! A book could be written about the activities of our motley crew- one day, perhaps?

John, you were a good friend to us all and I for one am proud to have known you.