

**BOROUGHBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY**  
**Cllr Geoff Craggs's Weekly Diary**

**22 April 2011**

A week of very good and very bad "happenings". I'll talk about the bad first. For several years Boroughbridge Football Club has turned a blind eye to youngsters gathering at the "dugout" on the Sports Association field, mainly on Friday evenings, to socialise. Despite requests from the Club for these young people to clear up their rubbish, every Saturday members of the Club have had to pick up litter, broken bottles and other more offensive discarded items before the football matches could start. It says much for the tolerance and good nature of the members of Boroughbridge AFC that they have allowed youngsters to continue to misuse the "dugout" However, an event occurred last week which is likely to change things. The "dugout" has been comprehensively destroyed by some young thugs in a mindless act of criminal damage; enough is now most definitely enough. By their actions this group of anti social misfits has alienated everyone in the community, including their peers- the vast majority of the young folks of this town and surrounding villages. Your behaviour is unwelcome here or anywhere else in this community and the sooner you realise this and either mend your ways or go back from whence you came the better for everyone.

That was the "bad", now for more pleasant matters!

On Tuesday there was a full meeting of the library steering group; a business plan has been produced, which is being submitted to County so that negotiations can start on the transfer of the building and the running of the library by the local community (and I stress the word "community") by April 2012. More on this when we know more!

On Thursday morning Betty and I joined the Mayors and Mayoresses of Ripon and Pateley Bridge in a collection around Ripon market to raise money for the Families Support Section of Ripon and District CVS, which covers both Boroughbridge and Pateley in its catchment area, as well as the associated villages in between. As a result of the current economic climate many families are struggling financially and demands throughout the area are high- hence the need to raise as much awareness and support as possible. Ripon CVS has suffered cutbacks in Government funding; if you feel you would like to help in any way, you can either contact Ripon CVS or have a word with David Allon at Boroughbridge Community Care.

On Saturday morning we were invited to Scuba Diving for All's fund raising coffee morning at Ripon Town Hall (why don't the burghers of that historic city call it the CITY hall...it is, after all!), where we met many old friends and in general had fun in the name of one of the most worthwhile local enterprises I can think of. Well done to all of you, in particular Yvonne and her team of helpers (even the rather dubious frog with even more dubious looking scuba equipment). Saturday being by no means over, in the evening we went by kind invitation to the Hightimers' production of "Tomb with a View", an edifying and intellectually challenging drama for cast, crew and audience, with high moral overtones and that certain touch of "je ne sais quoi"- it's all right, I am studying to be theatrical critic for "Hello". Suffice to say that the family in the play made the Addams Family look normal, corpses proliferated and the few left alive at the end of the play joined the deceased cast at the curtain call, when everyone toasted the audience and fell to the stage, poisoned. I was told afterwards by a survivor that the behaviour portrayed by some cast members was quite normal for them. A superb and hilariously funny

production by an excellent cast and back up team- thanks for a great evening, Hightimers; you go from strength to strength.

On Saturday night the Chamber of Trade held their traditional Race Night at the High School. This event has been popular and successful for many years and has raised a great deal of money for the Town's Christmas lights and other local needs, as well as for local charities. The two charity races this year were for Jennyruth Workshops and Pancreatic Cancer Research. As usual the evening was very enjoyable, although attendance was not as good as in previous years.

The week finished off on a high, non-Mayoral, note. As some of you will know I am an old car fanatic and Sunday the 17th. April was designated as "Drive It Day" when as many owners of veteran, vintage, and classic vehicles and motor bikes take to the roads in a display of national solidarity to show off our heritage.

With other local enthusiasts, we set off from Thirsk market place in our Wolseley, drove via Masham to Hawes, over the Buttertubs Pass into Swaledale, thence down to Reeth, Richmond and home; 110 miles or so in absolutely superb weather through the finest country anyone could wish to live in. We are truly blessed to live here, and must never forget it.

Don't forget the official opening of the allotments on Sunday 1st.May, 11.00 a.m.- I understand refreshments will be available and that stiletto heels are not considered suitable!

Returning to the "bad" side of life, it has just been reported that some of our local "little darlings" have trashed all the daffodils in the picnic area; these "daffs" were still in glorious bloom. What is wrong with these young thugs?