

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

27 May 2011

Last Tuesday, the 17th, was the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council when the Mayor and Deputy are elected for the ensuing year. The Council honoured me by appointing me as Mayor for 2011/12 with my wife Betty as Mayoress. Councillor Freda Cooper was elected as Deputy Mayor, with her husband Geoff as her Consort. Our appointments take us to May 2012 when the Town Council will complete the statutory four year term and stand down to seek re-election or retire. The complement of councillors is eleven, and it has always been a matter of pride with our Council that party politics remain outside the council chamber- in other words the council is apolitical and long may this continue. I know I speak for my fellow councillors when I say that it would be a good and healthy thing to see more interest being taken by members of the public in the running of the council by standing for election next May; why not attend some of our monthly meetings, and find out what goes on?

On Thursday we were invited to RAF Linton on Ouse for the annual cocktail party in the Officers' Mess, followed by the Sunset Ceremony to the accompaniment of the Band of RAF Cranwell, a flypast of Tocarnos, crowned by a breathtaking aerobatic display by that great RAF icon, a Spitfire, showing agility and sheer power completely at odds with its great age. What is it about the sound of a Merlin engine that brings a lump to most throats? Possibly the realisation of the debt we owe to our Forces past and present.

Our Civic Service was held on Sunday at St. Andrew's, Aldborough. This service is the opportunity for the Town Council, all other organisations within the township and all members of the community to come together for a short service of dedication, some rousing hymns and a chance to chat afterwards over light refreshments - on this occasion in Aldborough's splendid village hall. It also gave all of us the opportunity to meet the new Chairman and Consort of North Yorkshire County Council, the Mayors and Mayoresses of Harrogate, Ripon, Pateley Bridge and Knaresborough, our local MP Andrew Jones and gently mention any local concerns. As I mentioned in last week's Diary, the Civic Service is NOT a "closed shop", but affords everyone an opportunity to meet and chat- unfortunately several other services and events took place locally on the same day, and I do really feel that in future an attempt should be made to make the Civic Service a united one for all churches in the immediate area, and that other organisations should make a real attempt to attend and ensure that any event they plan does not clash if at all possible. Having said that, one event did clash with the Civic Service, but it was a very worthwhile one, involving a "Family Fun" cycle ride from Boroughbridge to Great Ouseburn and back ; with the almost gale force winds last Sunday it would have been extremely hard work for all the cyclists who took part, particularly the incredibly tiny ones. I was honoured to present certificates and "goody bags" to the youngsters who took part, and as some of the smallest riders came into the car park, their little legs were a blur as they pedalled their tiny bikes; 12 miles on those bikes in those conditions? They should have been shattered....but weren't! Well done all of you, riders and organisers alike. A group of responsible cyclists has asked to use the Community Open Space to start safe cycling instruction sessions, which will be starting soon, I believe; good for them.