

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

28 October 2011

I must apologise for the absence of the Diary last Friday, and also to anyone who has been trying to contact me on my home telephone since the 10th of October, which is the date on which our telephone line went "down", taking our broadband service with it! After being with BT for many years, I was persuaded by our broadband company to sign up with them for a line and broadband "package"; the scheme started on October 6th and our line started giving trouble on the 8th, finally expiring on the 10th. Then I discovered that my provider has a call centre somewhere in the mystic East, and it is totally impossible to talk to anyone in the UK; as all calls from a mobile phone are very expensive I have had to resort to borrowing a landline phone from a friendly local shop (no prizes for guessing which one) in order to talk to, I suspect, Mumbai and more recently to connect my lap top so that I can send and receive emails- including this one to the Gazette with the Diary. Almost countless phone calls later, we still have no phone line and I have called "enough", cancelled my account with the "provider" and signed up with BT, so that we should be back to normal by next week. One of my maxims in life has always been "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"- for once I ignored this maxim, with dire results!

During the past week we were involved in two memorable events; the first was Aldborough's Harvest Festival on Thursday, which was a joyful and traditional celebration of the harvest in the ancient Church of St Andrew. Whilst I am just too young to remember the Church being built, it was part of my life whilst growing up as a youngster of the Parish, albeit a resident of Stump Cross with grandparents in the village. Sunday School, choir and later bell ringing took up much of every Sunday until National Service came along, but Aldborough and particularly its Church is still very dear to me, and it is good to see that it is still a very special place to the villagers- and they can still put on a superb Harvest Supper in the Village Hall ! Well done, and thanks Aldborough.

On Sunday Betty and I were invited to Skelton on Ure for a very special day in that village's calendar. The village war memorial has been very skilfully restored after a fund raising effort, led by the enthusiasm of John Holt who, although he no longer lives in the village, lived there as a youngster when his father was the Headteacher at the village school. John has written a book on Skelton, the proceeds from which have gone towards the restoration. The Boroughbridge Branch of the Royal British Legion was represented by our Chairman Ken Richardson, the Standard Bearer Peter Fowles and the President, who was also wearing the Mayoral chain. The Mayor and Mayoress of Ripon were also present, along with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, representatives of the Green Howards Association and their Standard Bearer. The memorial was unveiled by Mr. Richard Compton, and wreaths were laid, prior to the Act of Remembrance, and the most important people, the residents of the village were there in force, both young and old.

We are of course on the "run up" to Remembrance tide, with Remembrance Sunday on the 13th. November this year; in Boroughbridge fund raising usually gets under way with a coffee morning, which is on Saturday 5th November this year in St. James' Church. If anyone would like to donate raffle prizes or cakes, please contact Betty Craggs either by phone, 325488 or mobile 07837089282, or bring them to our home, Bridge House, Fishergate (or at G Craggs shop during opening hours)- and of course, attend the coffee morning!