

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

30 September 2011

We seem to be back with the promise of an Indian Summer again, so let's hope it lasts this time! On Friday (the 23rd.) we attended an excellent concert by the Band of HM Royal Marines, Scotland, in Ripon Cathedral. The concert was organised by the Vice Chairman of North and East Yorkshire Royal British Legion, Colin Northridge MBE to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Legion- and incidentally the Boroughbridge Branch can also trace its foundation to the inaugural year, 1921, so our Branch is one of the oldest in the country. The Boroughbridge Standard Bearer, Mr. Peter Fowles, was one of the 16 Standard Bearers present, and they were all a credit to the RBL. The concert was very well attended by an extremely appreciative audience, and acted as a timely reminder that Remembrance tide will be here in a few short weeks.

On Saturday evening we were invited to Menwith Hill for the 64th. Air Force Ball, which proved to be another excellent evening, with many old friendships being renewed and new ones being made.

During the week I had a phone call from a fellow councillor which gave me pause for thought. The councillor has lived in Boroughbridge for a considerable number of years and he had just been asked a question which he was unable to answer- fortunately as someone who has lived here almost since the Romans left, I was able to provide one. The councillor had been asked "can you do something about those oil drums in the river near Riverside Court? Someone has dumped them in and they are unsightly". The drums in question were dropped in the river in 1945 on election day, when a Pickford's low loader with a very heavy load caused the long suffering Ure bridge to collapse partially, depositing the load and much of the trailer in the river; the drums are thought to have been ballast, and went in the river- in the ensuing work to rebuild the bridge they were left behind and only reappear when the Ure is fairly low - possibly we could apply for Grade 2* listing for them as historic monuments, after the lapse of 66 years! Obviously neither the enquirer nor my fellow councillor was aware of this story or many of the similar idiosyncratic tales which add to our rich heritage, and this must apply to many newer residents of the area- hence my "pause for thought"- perhaps we "oldies" should be passing on some of the folklore of the township before we shake off this mortal coil, by joining the Historical Society (and why don't you join, gentle reader?)