

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

**10 September 2010**

On Tuesday the 31st August I represented Boroughbridge at a meeting in the Tiger Inn, Coneythorpe; the meeting had been called by local residents who were anxious for information about the County Council's plans for a major waste plant at Allerton Park. Both relevant Members of Parliament were present along with County Councillors John Watson and John Savage. "Nimbyism" was not an issue at the meeting, but the long-term viability and need for such a huge and expensive plant was most definitely of great concern to everyone, as well as the obvious environmental uncertainties. For me, what came out of the meeting is the way in which the people of North Yorkshire- not just our "patch"- have so far been given the "mushroom" treatment by County Hall about this proposed plant which will deal with domestic (and many suspect commercial) waste for the whole of our County .....mushroom treatment?- kept in the dark and fed....you know the rest! Belatedly, public meetings are being arranged around the County, the most important one for our area being at the Old Swan in Harrogate from 4 pm on Wednesday 22nd. of this month, and the date for the County Council's final decision has now been postponed until December. We need to know more about this one, NYCC .

On a happier note Betty and I were invited to a wonderful service of welcome and celebration in Masham Methodist Church, along with Ripon's Mayor, without the Mayoress who is regrettably unwell- we hope you are better soon, Denise! The service was to celebrate the formation of the new Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit, which covers Bedale, Boroughbridge, Masham, Ripon and the surrounding areas and also to welcome two new Ministers, the Rev. Pat Malham ( Boroughbridge and district) and the Rev. Kathleen Wood ( Bedale and district). The service was wonderfully warm, full of vitality and faith, with a strong ecumenical presence, as is so vital in these troubled days when the Christian Faith, which is after all our national one, is under so much pressure.

A wonderful afternoon in Masham, and thanks to everyone involved.

On Sunday the Family Cycle Day starts off in the Shared Space in Back Lane at 11 a.m. The local M.P. Andrew Jones is to start the event, which will involve a road run to Lower Dunsforth and back, as well as providing cycle proficiency and road safety training for children along with bike tagging by North Yorkshire Police. Road safety training is something which has concerned the Town Council and most residents for a long time; sadly children learn how to actually ride their bikes but an increasingly large number put themselves and others at risk by riding on pavements with total disregard for pedestrians and by riding on whatever side of the road (or middle) they fancy either on two wheels or one, completely regardless of traffic. Miraculously I don't think there has been a serious accident yet, due solely to the vigilance of motorists.

All of you cyclists, have a great day, but listen and learn! Sadly Betty and I cannot attend as we are committed to represent the Town at the Battle of Britain Service in Ripon on Sunday morning; unfortunately no invitation was extended for the Mayor to attend the Cycle Event until today, in an e mail to the Town Clerk asking for the event to be publicised on the Town website.

Everyone who holds the position of Mayor is delighted to represent the Town officially, especially at local events, but could I gently point out that being psychic is not a "perk" of the job! I speak for all Mayors of the township, past and present, in saying that we are always happy to attend local events, but please ask as long in advance as possible and preferably through the Town Clerk who keeps the engagement book updated.

