

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

15 April 2011

As I write this on Monday afternoon it turns out that the weather forecasters were right, and it has started to rain, after the brilliant spell of weather we have just experienced; let's all hope that the rain knows when to stop. We are just becoming used to warm, sunny weather, although I must confess that a respite from gardening is welcome! The "Allotmenters" are still beavering away at Aldborough Gate, and it is pleasing to see how much progress has been made, and how great the need was for allotments in our township.

We have not been involved in any social activities this week, but there are a few items to report on from Tuesday's monthly Town Council meeting. Many of you may not be aware that both Aldborough and Boroughbridge cemeteries are owned and controlled by your Town Council and not by the Borough Council. This means that charges can be kept lower than elsewhere in the District where HBC run the cemeteries and we feel that a higher standard of maintenance can be aspired to. Obviously issues arise from time to time over matters such as the reassignment of grave spaces and dealing with unsafe memorials. On Tuesday evening we had the benefit of a talk by an authority on burial matters, followed by a "question and answer" session, which has proved very beneficial to all the councillors.

Other matters discussed were the possibility of installing lighting on the Ure bridge (this as a result of several requests from members of the public). This is being looked into, but will obviously be a major scheme if it is found to be feasible. There has also been a communication from a firm interested in holding a Continental market in the town, on similar lines to those held in Ripon and Knaresborough from time to time. A representative has been invited to come to Boroughbridge to discuss this idea - more of that when we know more! On Thursday 5th May there will be a poll throughout the country to sound out public opinion as to whether the current parliamentary voting system should be changed from the current and traditional "first past the post" system. This column is always apolitical, but please read the literature and articles which are being circulated, and form your own views but, above all, as in any poll, please turn out and vote!

On Saturday morning the community turned out in force for a service of celebration for the life of Alan Smiles who died very suddenly whilst still enjoying an active life caring for his well loved and loving family and the community at large, notably that of St. James's Church. I will truly miss exchanging back chat with Alan; something we had been doing for some 40 years or more particularly relating to his sartorial elegance which was seasonally dictated (shorts in Spring, summer and most of autumn- trousers in winter if it was very cold!). Alan, you will be missed by all of us who knew you and our thoughts and support go to Elaine and the family. On another sad note, Mrs. Wilson, who only a few weeks ago celebrated her centenary has also passed away after a fall. However she will be remembered for her keen sense of humour, the joy she had in receiving her message from Her Majesty and the magnificent party which was thrown for her at Gwendolen Court on her birthday. A great way to move on, full of years, happiness and achievement.

Finally, not many people do not know Ian Hick, who has worked tirelessly for our locality and its manifold organisations for very many years.

Ian's health has not been good for some time, and whilst he and Wendy were en route for a short break in Norfolk last week, he suffered a severe heart attack and is currently in hospital in Grantham; thankfully his condition has been stabilised and he is expected to be transferred shortly to the cardiac unit in Leicester for assessment and further treatment. I am sure we all wish Ian a speedy recovery, coupled with a suggestion that he slows down a little, and send our good wishes to Wendy, Carol, Paula and the rest of the family .