

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

16 September 2011

At last Tuesday's monthly TC meeting we discussed with Police representatives and members of the local Women's Institute the on-going problem caused by heavy goods vehicles parking for long periods outside the Boroughbridge cemetery. Unfortunately no one from the County Council attended the meeting, but a letter had been received from the Highways department which, whilst being courteous and helpful, promised no immediate solution as under current legislation parking, even of heavy vehicles, is legal even in areas such as the one in question as long as they do not cause an obstruction. At times offending vehicles do cause an obstruction either by parking on the footpath or by obscuring the sight line of other road users, but unless these offences are seen by or reported to the Police nothing can be done. Impasse again, but we will keep working on the problem. At the meeting it was decided that positive action should be taken to re-secure the store building in the cemetery, and with Police approval the building has been cleared of the furniture and rubbish which had been placed there by the young people who had broken into the place and thrown out the council property which was stored there for use in the cemetery. A new, substantial bolt and padlock have been fitted, together with a notice forbidding unauthorised use of the building; any further attempt to break in or cause damage will be dealt with as an act of criminal damage and trespass. It is hoped that people who visit the graves of their loved ones will once again be able to do so in peace and tranquillity, and without being intimidated.

On Thursday I had the pleasure of opening the "Blooming Great Tea Party" hosted by the owners of the Chez Nous cafe in the Stoneyard. This event was a fundraiser for the local Marie Curie Nursing Service- another hugely-worthwhile service which relies on charitable donations in order to provide much needed palliative care. Thankfully the weather remained reasonable and a good number of people attended and the efforts of the organisers rewarded by a significant contribution to the charity's funds.

Friday morning saw me at Menwith Hill along with the Mayors of Harrogate, Ripon, Pateley Bridge and Otley for a briefing by the Station Commander Colonel Michelle Clays and an introduction to the other base commanders. It was illuminating to be informed of the huge contribution made by the Base towards the economy of the District, from the payroll of civilian employees on base to rentals of properties by American Service personnel and civilians in Harrogate and the neighbouring towns and villages. Over the more than 50 years since Menwith Hill was established a marvellous rapport has been built up between the American and British communities of our area and the vast majority of us recognise the importance of the contribution to our security which is provided by the RAF Menwith Hill and similar establishments.

On Friday evening Betty and I stood in for the Mayor of Ripon at short notice to present trophies to winners of the various events held at Scuba Diving For All's Great Raft Race; appropriately the presentations were at the Lamb and Flag in Ripon- appropriately because the Lamb and Flag team had once again won the main raft race. Sadly, their superbly built raft now has to be dismantled and they have to come up with another creation for 2012. We had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and I am sure everyone will join me in thanking the good folk who run Scuba Diving For All for the wonderful work they do with their enthusiastic members.

Finally, a reminder that tomorrow, Saturday the 17th, is Gala Day in Boroughbridge. This event is being run by Mrs Caygill and her friends in aid of charity; it is taking place instead of Discover Boroughbridge Day and is NOT being run by the Town Council although we hope that all the local organisations which have taken part in previous events have been asked to participate. Boroughbridge Lions Club invite you to "Meet the Lions" above the library during Saturday. The Lions do an awful lot of unsung work for our community, and are seeking new members, so go along to see what it is all about, if you want their work to continue here.