

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

**22 July 2011**

Because of deadline constraints in submitting the "Diary" I was unable to report on last Monday's meeting in the Crown Hotel to hear the report from Genecom, the firm commissioned by HBC and Yore Vision to survey the number, size and availability of public rooms in the catchment area of Boroughbridge.

The report confirmed that there is no shortage of available buildings for meetings, functions and other activities, but these facilities are dispersed over quite a large area, some are heavily used, but some- with excellent facilities- are under-used chiefly because the general public is unaware of their availability. No real case could be made for an additional large public building in Boroughbridge itself at this time.

In discussion, the main points which came from the meeting were that the list of venues compiled by the consultants should be made available in the library, Town Council office, Tourist Information Point and by booking officers of all facilities and also on the Boroughbridge website. All information to be regularly updated; early days, but on the whole a worthwhile exercise which can lead eventually to a more "joined up" approach to maximising the use of our area's facilities.

As you read this, the school year is coming to an end and in Boroughbridge, sadly, an era ends. The Head teacher of Boroughbridge County Primary School is retiring after 19 outstanding years of service to school and community. David Roberts came to the school as an apparently rather shy, diffident young man, obviously full of enthusiasm. Over the years Mr. Roberts' outward manner- and indeed his appearance- remain startlingly unchanged. What has become very apparent over the years is that this is someone who had a steely determination to steer his school along the course he knew to be the right one, but with the God-given ability to do so with the full co-operation of his governors, staff, parents and pupils- particularly the latter who obviously return the love and care he has bestowed on them for so many years. On the many occasions I have been at the school, I have been struck by the way in which Mr Roberts and all his staff are able to handle the children with such a very "light rein"; this is surely because of the way that courtesy, thought for others and self discipline is quietly instilled in their charges by the superb team and their Head at Boroughbridge CPS.

Mr. Roberts has remarked to me on more than one occasion " We aim to give our children a good grounding in curriculum subjects, but more importantly we aim to turn out good citizens"; these good citizens, when they move on to secondary education, do so well prepared for the future thanks to their years at Boroughbridge in the care of Mr Roberts and his staff.

On Tuesday the 12th July I had the great pleasure of attending the full school assembly and presenting a plaque to Mr. Roberts from the Town Council and the people of Boroughbridge as a very small token of appreciation and thanks for his outstanding contribution to the school and community. David, enjoy your future in the knowledge that you leave behind a rich legacy of love and care for your charges; it could be said that "you will be a hard act to follow", but yours was no act, but the dedication of a very caring mentor to his charges for so many productive years amongst us.

**There will not be a Diary for the week 29th July; we are in fact absent from 15th to 26th July.**