

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

23 September 2011

On Wednesday Betty and I took off to Scotland for a few days to fulfil a long standing invitation to stay with some friends who "emigrated" from Wakefield to Leswalt near Stranraer some years ago; as the weather was decent we seized the chance to give our old Wolseley its last long run of the season before the dreaded County salt pot sprinkles the roads! Consequently we missed Mrs. Caygill's gala day in Boroughbridge, but the Deputy Mayor Mrs. Freda Cooper and her Consort Mr. Geoff Cooper kindly stood in for us, They reported that the day had been successful, although sparsely attended by the public. Mrs Caygill and her friends are to be applauded for their efforts, and no doubt she will be publishing the results of the fund raising for the Macmillan Dales Unit and Help for Heroes in due course.

On Sunday we were quite busy, attending the Ripon Area Royal Air Force Association's Battle of Britain Service at the War memorial in Spa Gardens. The weather was brilliant and the Service was simple but very moving, due in no small part to the active participation of the Air Training Corps, the St. John's Ambulance Cadets, the RAF Regiment guard and the veteran members of the Colour Party- couple these factors with a perfectly timed and executed fly-past by three aircraft of the Northumbrian Universities Air Squadron from RAF Leeming and an impeccable performance by Ripon City Band and their bugler, and the brave souls who defended us over the skies of Britain in 1940 were honoured in dignity and remembered with pride and gratitude.

In the afternoon the "Chain Gang" headed off to Tadcaster for the Mayor's Civic Service, which was held in St. Joseph's Catholic Church. This was a wonderfully informal ecumenical " service of celebration for the town and the community of Tadcaster" (quote); we went into the service in glorious sunshine and came out to be met by inglorious and torrential rain, necessitating a somewhat undignified dash to the Riley Smith Hall for what was modestly billed as afternoon tea, but which turned out to be a veritable feast. Whilst we all dried off more or less naturally and wagered as to whose mayoral chains would turn green first it was so good to chat to neighbours round the table and enjoy the wonderful food which had been so generously provided. The Good Book says "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's possessions", but I was guilty of coveting Tadcaster's "jewel in the crown" which is the Riley Smith Hall- a wonderful and well used building given to the town by the brewing family some 90 years ago I believe.

Finally, the lads and lasses of our Boroughbridge Fire and Rescue Service are having one of their very popular car washing sessions tomorrow, Saturday the 24th. at the Fire Station in Back Lane from 9 am to 1 pm; proceeds to the Fire-fighters Charity; please support this excellent cause - just let me get there first!