

BOROUGHBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY
Councillor Craggs's Weekly Diary

3 June 2011

In last week's "Diary" I reported on the Cycle Fun Day which took place on Sunday May 22nd, starting and finishing in the Community Open Space in Back Lane. Unfortunately I was unaware of the major part which was played by the Lions International Club in the safe running of this event and omitted to give them the credit which is their due. Some 20 Lions and friends were on duty along the route, marshalling and safeguarding the entrants, and 20 without their presence the event would not have been able to take place.

Lions are extremely modest about their activities in our community and indeed in every community where their help is called on. It could be argued that they are far too modest, as the species is apparently becoming endangered in Boroughbridge for lack of members! Unlike most other endangered species, a breeding programme would be impracticable, but new members would be warmly welcomed I am sure.

I see that Mike Collins wrote an excellent letter to the Gazette last week refuting the suggestion in the very good property supplement on Boroughbridge the previous week that there is "a lack of non-sports facilities for young people". Mike very rightly mentions the numerous organisations in the community which welcome young people, and goes on to mention that these facilities are, at least, as good as can be expected in a small town. However, it is very difficult for young and old to travel from our community to- for instance- Harrogate or York to enjoy the greater range of facilities which are available there because of the lack of public transport, particularly during the evening. This applies of course to young and old, and not everyone has access to a car, so maybe there is a case for a "meeting of minds" to try to find a solution.

The Town Council has just had a letter from the Inspectorate to announce that a decision on the Motorway Services Area at Kirby Hill has now been delayed until the end of February 2012, a month later than originally stated, and another month of anxiety for our community; let's hope that when the decision is reached it is "No" to an MSA at Kirby Hill and that this decision is final and irrevocable.

On a lighter note, on Thursday we were invited to a performance of "Iolanthe" by the Harrogate Gilbert and Sullivan Society at Harrogate Theatre, and what an excellent evening we enjoyed from a superb cast and orchestra. Years ago Betty and I never missed a performance by D'Oyle Carte when they came to the Royal Hall and it is good that Harrogate G and S Society is still producing performances to match those of the professionals- and also that W S Gilbert's acerbic wit is as relevant today as it was 120 years ago, and Sullivan's music is still magical. A superb evening.