

Diary of a Yorkshireman

mont, of Ripon, are no strangers to top Civic office.

They will hold the distinction of being the only civic heads of Harrogate to have previously been Mayor and Mayoress — of Ripon in 1959 and again in 1972.

Coun. Beaumont, who retired two years ago as Financial Director and Secretary of Alton Structural Steel of Ripon, is now 67.

As a long-serving member of the Old Ripon City Council Coun. Beaumont well remembers the days of friendly rivalry between Ripon and Harrogate before Ripon was finally swallowed up under local government re-organisation.

"People in Ripon used to say that Ripon was a city when Harrogate was a bad smell under the ground — a reference to their famous sulphur wells," says Coun. Beaumont whose wife, Emily, is looking forward to the prospect of donning official robes yet again.

Harrogate, said Coun. Beaumont, had progressed from its Spa days to a conference centre while Ripon still maintained its old traditions.

Billy bows out

THIS MONTH sees the swansong of Carl — "Billy" — Willmott, one of the stars of the light opera society at the City of Leeds and Carnegie College, Beckett Park.

Billy (65), deputy principal of the college since 1965, makes his final appearance, as the jailer in "Yeomen of the Guard," from February 16-21. He also retires from his college post at

this term's end.

News of his retirement will surprise many who have witnessed his energetic portrayals of leading Gilbert and Sullivan roles.

Coun. Michael Meadowcroft, chairman of the college governors and a member of the "Yeomen" chorus, is confident that the light opera tradition which Billy has done so much to encourage, can survive both his retirement and the college's impending merger.

City and Carnegie is to go in with Leeds Polytechnic and James Graham College.

"It can survive as long as students and staff at Beckett Park realise there will still be a residential campus there and a busy centre of academic life well able to support such excellent college traditions," said Coun. Meadowcroft.

"But with Billy Willmott's retirement, education in Leeds will lose one of its key personalities," he added.

Floral date

YORKSHIRE floral artist Brian Halliday is to direct the Marquess of Bath's flower festival at Longleat, in Wiltshire, this September.

Mr. Halliday who lives at Houghside, Pudsey, and runs an arts and crafts centre in three Georgian cottages at nearby Fulneck, said: "I am naturally absolutely delighted with the prospect.

"Among the arrangements will be some in true Victorian style. The state dining room table, laden with silver, will be the setting for a typical

THE PIQUANT PAST

IT is unlikely that there will be future Government grants towards new works undertaken by Leeds Corporation for the relief of unemployment. Leeds relief works, begun in 1921, has provided jobs for 29,622 men, from the Evening Post of 50 years ago.

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