



# A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

## A NEW PAINTING FOR TISSINGTON HALL

Every year I commission a local artist to paint their version of Tissington Hall. Having sold a number of artworks to keep the roof on the house I thought gathering an amalgam of pictures that presented very different views of the property would be a suitable way of refurbishing the walls. Usually I visit the excellent local art exhibition at Buxton Museum to see if I can spot an artist that I like and think can do a great job.

This year, just after Christmas, I contacted Rebecca Morledge of Ilkeston and at the beginning of February she produced the most amazing painting. In it Rebecca has shown the village at its very busiest when a wedding has taken place at church, the tearooms are full and the street scene full of hustle and bustle. It's on show in the library at present before it is hung next to the other paintings by the billiard room staircase. Why not come and view it on one of our open days this season?



DJ Bliss admires the painting by Rebecca Morledge



The Irish Lottery winners at break-time

### A LUCKY BREAK

Every morning at 10.30am the staff gathers in our kitchen for a coffee break with biscuits – cake on a special occasion and even sherry or port at Christmas. My appearances are not mandatory but I pop in and impart vital estate and village updates on occasion. Imagine everyone's surprise when, early in March, Ben produced a bunch of envelopes and handed them out. Our Works Syndicate had won on the Irish Lottery and we each secured £60. There had been recent murmurings of closing down the syndicate but now we are gunning for an even bigger win!

### ROOM FOR MORE CYCLISTS

It is important to reassess businesses from time to time. Over the winter we re-engaged our catering consultant to give an overview of the operation at Herbert's Tearooms. Generally impressed with our turnaround since his last visit in 2012, two straightforward changes were recommended. First, a slight re-setting of the tables and second, a reconfiguration of the serving counter space. Four days were needed to complete the work and we re-opened on 1st March with a simplified and more effective operation... oh yes, and extra bike racks!



Changes at the tea rooms

### HEADLINE ATTRACTIONS

At the start of every tourist season I chair a group of representatives from neighbouring attractions. We range from historic houses (eg Haddon, Hardwick and Eyam) to caverns (eg Treakliffe and Poole's) and industrial heritage sites (Cromford Mills). We met recently at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's offices. The good weather over half term brought out the visitors and most equated it to a week in August, so the signs are good for 2019. The filming of *Mary Queen of Scots* has proved a huge advertising asset to Haddon and the development of the café at Renishaw with a first class chef increased income in the north. We discovered that the imminent opening of a new Gulliver's Kingdom at Rother Valley Park, would bring huge benefits to tourism operations nearby. There's certainly plenty to explore out and about in Derbyshire in 2019!

### ANCESTRY ENQUIRIES

I received an email from Australia about descendants of one Fulcher de Edensor, c.1114-1190, of Edensor and Chatsworth, son of Sewallis Shirley, and whose fourth son, Richard, lived at Tissington in the 13th century. Derby historian Max Craven told me that the Tissington Edensors were well known and held freeholds in the village in medieval times but our knowledge was thin on this particular Richard. I replied to my Queensland correspondent but have heard no more. I hope she hasn't given up on her search and welcome any enquiries about the village and our family.