



## PARKLIFE

It is not often that a zebra turns up in the Arboretum at Tissington Hall but that is what happened on a sultry sunny afternoon in June when Wealth Management company Investec brought Debra the Zebra to their tea party in our grounds. The zebra is the logo of the firm and 20 such animals are kept in a West Midlands store shed from where they are summoned to attend various functions. The Sheffield Investec office entertained over 200 local clients with tea and a garden tour from historian Alison Moller, who has recently completed a dissertation on Tissington Hall Gardens 1600–2000. The event was sparked by our association with the yellow book National Garden Scheme which raises over £5million each year for



cancer charities with Investec being their lead sponsor. We hope to welcome these four-legged friends (and their bosses) to Tissington again in the future.



Chief Executive of The Scout Association, Matt Hyde (centre) with civic dignitaries

## SCOUTS... BE PREPARED

As President of Derbyshire Scouts I presided over the movement's AGM at the well-appointed Scout Hut at the Drum Hill site, near Long Eaton, in June. After a decade of fundraising the new structure is nearing completion and will not only provide a lecture room with associated kitchen but also bunk accommodation for over 50 young people alongside their leaders. As County Commissioner James Stafford commented, numbers are up to 9,000 and the organisation is going from strength to strength. Well supported by the new intake of The Chain Gang after the May round of elections, refreshments were enjoyed by all followed by a rousing talk from The Scout Association's Chief Executive Matt Hyde. It was a thoroughly uplifting evening.

## ASHBOURNE'S TERRACOTTA ARMY

Update From the July edition... I visited the 'Our Game' installation of over 5,000 terracotta figures at St Oswald's Church in Ashbourne as part of the Festival... what an achievement, what a sight, well worth a visit!



## MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!

The success of our Christmas Openings over the past three years has provoked much discussion in the Office. This year we will be hosting *Neverland at Christmas* with the antics of Peter Pan, Wendy and the Lost

Boys. This season, in addition to five Ghost Night Storytelling evenings by candlelight, with mulled wine and mince pies, we are introducing three matinee renditions. For tickets call 01335 352200.

## END OF SCHOOL BLUES

It is over. At the end of June I made my final school run as we embarked on the end of term celebrations at Repton. With Fiona's daughter Emily leaving after five years of hard graft it made me recollect the celebrations and events at our four children's various schools. Over 30 speech days, over 100 end-of-term reports and numerous sweets and snacks smuggled in. My career as driver-in-chief on the school run is finally done. At a quick calculation I have covered over 50,000 miles to and from the various institutions. The final Speech Day at Repton included quotes from Churchill, JFK, Einstein, Stephen Hawking and John Lennon - what a mix to inspire the students - and concluded with a rousing Leavers' Service in the wonderfully appointed Chapel followed by the end-of-year Ball. A magnificent finale.