



A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

SECOND STAR TO THE RIGHT...

By the time you read this we will have opened our Christmas event for the two final weekends of November and the first in December. This year we are turning Tissington Hall into the fantastical world of Neverland with Peter Pan, Wendy, Tinkerbell, Captain Hook, The Lost Boys and that crocodile... What has exercised David Walker and his magnificent team most in dressing the Hall is: how large a cannon can you put on a pirate ship? The galleon that is *The Jolly Roger* carries Hook and his dastardly shipmates around the islands in the story but should the cannon be the size of a loo roll tube or rather bigger? On a walk in the fields with the dogs Fiona and I happened upon the much heavier bigger cardboard rolls that serve the wrapping on silage bags! To my mind these were much more the howitzer-size that I had envisaged on this plundering seafaring vessel! Come and see what we



did and transport yourself to the world of JM Barrie's 1911 novel.
See www.tissingtonhall.co.uk for full details.

IN PRAISE OF THE COUNTY

Two splendid services at the end of October made me blush with joy for all things Derbyshire. First the High Sheriff of Derbyshire's Legal Service, when c. 500 guests were entertained to a memorable blend of hymns, lessons, choral anthems and prayers at Derby Cathedral. Then at St Oswald's in Ashbourne there was an evensong to celebrate Harvest organised by Ashbourne Young Farmers, which included a dedication of the crops and fruits from the field. Both events highlighted the pride of Derbyshire folk and the glorious nature of these two marvellous buildings on our doorstep.



OLD FRIENDS

I have written before about my 1930s' MCC Lords cricket cap that went missing after a wedding at Tissington Hall about ten years ago. I had hoped that someday someone would return my treasure but no such luck. However, I was thrilled at the latest Committee Meeting of the County Club to see one such cap adorning the 2014 portrait of myself by Matlock's Nick Hersey. The explanation was swift, the good Brigadier from Ashford had kindly taken it upon himself to renew my acquaintance with the cap. Thank you. And now to replace the lost beech trees on Millennium Avenue... quite a task!



WELCOMING TO THE VILLAGE...

We have a new butcher in the village. At the end of October Andrew Holmes from Ashbourne took on The Old Slaughterhouse on Chapel Lane. With over 20 years in the trade Andrew has always wanted to have his own premises. He has a great many contacts in the trade including a strong link with the excellent *Black Horse Inn* at Hulland Ward. Andrew is keen to make new friends and find new customers and will be opening six days a week in the run-up to Christmas. I am sure everyone will value his cheery disposition and sense of humour.

Call 01335 350186 for further details.



ON TARGET!

As President of Derbyshire Scouts I was at Drum Hill recently to present prizes at the Rampage Day, where over 40 groups take part in exercises such as fire-making, abseiling, orientation and other craft skills. A new activity is throwing tomahawks at wooden targets! Using my cricket skills (I won the cricket ball throwing prize at Prep School in 1974!), I seemed to be quite adept at hitting the centre! Over 150 scouts and guides attended the day and a great time was had by all.