



A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

IN PRINT & WAITING TABLES

It is always agreeable to be featured in a newspaper article but to get a whole page in a national Sunday broadsheet was fantastic, not just for the publicity it generated but also for the acknowledgement of the hard work that all our teams put in to keep the Hall and the Estate going. *Sunday Telegraph* reporter Eleanor Doughty penned a piece on Tissington in the 'Great Estates' feature before Christmas under the headline 'Is that Lady FitzHerbert clearing the tables?'. Indeed the answer was 'Yes' and we can prove it as on New Year's Eve and Day both Fiona and I were furiously clearing tables, collecting trays and loading the industrial dishwasher to serve the happy visitors. We even had a few comments on TripAdvisor. It was a charming piece... a copy of which is framed and hanging on the wall at Herbert's if you would like to see it.



THE WINDOW

'I've come to collect Jesus' was the message. An odd request to explain, but for our Christmas exhibition Ben cut out life-size cardboard silhouettes to illustrate the carol 'O Holy Night'. A visitor from Hartington was looking for props for their Village Advent Windows and promptly borrowed 'Jesus' and his parents for a fortnight after we closed. The villagers' amazing roadside window displays can be viewed online at hartingtonvillage.com.



WHAT A PICTURE

Every day our house, Tissington Hall, is photographed from one angle or another. As regular readers will know we host the occasional crew for a TV or film appearance, mainly in the Antiques-type TV show bracket, but in mid-December we were approached by a group of AMG Mercedes enthusiasts to take a photo of a grouping of their high performance cars at the front of the Hall. Fortunately it was a lovely winter morning and their visit lasted a couple of hours as they took conventional and drone photographs before repairing to Herbert's tearooms to warm up with a hot chocolate. Quite a spectacle.

NORDIC TISSINGTON

I am delighted to report that Sarah Dines has taken over from Sir Patrick McLoughlin as Derbyshire Dales' representative in Parliament. As I recounted in the January issue I took Sarah and her husband David around my patch. When in Tissington we stumbled upon our local Nordic Walking group on their annual Christmas outing. I am not sure if Sarah has joined the group but there was certainly something 'elfish' about her introduction.



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

We have a fetching new roundabout in the village. Last May water came up out of the road opposite the church. Workmen from the County Council arrived, made a huge hole and surrounded it with bollards. It transpired not to be their problem, so we contacted Severn Trent. They dug two further holes, surrounding them with more bollards. These holes have now been filled in but eight months on the problem seems to have no solution. The initial hole with red and white obstructions is now regarded by villagers as a permanent roundabout. We will look to celebrate its first birthday at May's Well Dressings. How ironic that the village with the ever-flowing wells now has water that flows uphill! Strange.

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