



A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

For the first time in the 30 years that I have been at Tissington I have just experienced a real case of serious fly-tipping on the Estate. Whilst we have cleared away two burnt-out cars, detritus from passing lorry drivers and huge amounts of casual litter, it was a shock to get a call from the keeper saying that he had discovered a load of used car parts in a field next to one of his pheasant pens. The execution of the deed had taken place in the middle of a Monday night/Tuesday morning and was located about 500 yards from the nearest road down a muddy track near to a silage field. Our local environmental health officer trawled through the mess, discovering many London addresses but I fear that will be where the search ends! The council were not liable as it was located on private



land and so I had to pay for two skips and Ben's time to get rid of it, totalling the best part of £600. As I say this was Tissington's first instance of blatant fly-tipping, I hope it will be the last!



HOME INVASION!

Like most Estates and businesses we contract a company to deal with pest control issues – mainly mice and other rodents. This year as a result of the hot summer we were plagued by an invasion of harlequin ladybirds and are still finding them in window openings and curtain linings all over the house. However, during a recent visit one pest operative was unable to deal with was the crocodile, complete with alarm clock in its mouth, emerging from 'the swamp' in the library... it was one of the props in the Peter Pan and Neverland exhibition we hosted in early December! Such a shame that the croc was unable to devour the ladybirds.

OUR STAR READER

For me, one of the most satisfying aspects of our Christmas openings is greeting visitors on the six public days. Often there will be cheery remarks from readers about this page and how much they enjoy my musings. But this year I was fortunate to meet one particular visitor who claimed the record of subscribing to this magazine for over 70 years! The lady is Mrs Olive Mackay from Padfield near Glossop. Can any other reader beat such commitment and longevity? For the record Mrs Mackay enjoyed her fireside Ghost Story afternoon and was not at all worried by Captain Hook, his pirates and the crocodile! Sadly she missed the visit of Father Christmas on the final Sunday but we look forward to welcoming her and many others to 'Star of Wonder' in 2019.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Much has been said about the commemorations of the end of the First World War on 11th November. We were fortunate to commemorate the three men from Tissington who died in the Great War, namely Leonard Berrisford, James Stirland Staley and Stanley Westhorpe, at St Mary's with a congregation of 20 on the day itself. Then the following day Fiona and I returned to my alma mater, Eton, to attend an inspiring service in the College Chapel in memory of 1,088 Old Etonians. There were also several exhibitions emphasizing the extent of Etonians' actions in combat and a display of 1,088 poppies in the cloisters. It was a memorable and fitting tribute to those who perished 100 years ago.

FELLOW SUFFERERS

I have been lucky not to have needed stitches ever in my life but in December I had a small cyst removed from my face that required eight to sew it up! In sympathy, my labrador Vossie jumped over a barbed wire fence and lacerated her undercarriage, requiring similar surgery from the vet! I was fortunate enough to have mine out after only a week but poor Vossie had hers in for over three weeks! What a coincidence!