



A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

ONE TO LOOK BACK ON

We were delighted to welcome well known presenter Anita Rani to the village in May to record a piece for BBC TV's *Countryfile* programme. Anita spent the morning with me, exploring the Estate to see how the village functions and has thrived under the ownership of just one family over the last 500 years. Anita was keen to experience our attractions and spent time at the candle shop, the butcher's and with sweet shop impresario David Walker at his emporium Edward and Vintage, where Anita was introduced to the art of fudge making. By the end of her visit Anita revealed that she had won *Celebrity Bake-off* in 2012 and was offering her services to complete our own 'Butcher, Baker and Candlestick maker'. She spied a suitable cottage and at present we are in consultation.



A visit from *Countryfile*'s Anita Rani



A FIELD DAY

I had not donned my 'whites' for two years managed to find my kit to play for the Davie-Thornhill XI at Stanton in Peak against a travelling troubadour team from London. I enjoyed the match but a stumbling innings of 19 (15 singles) and bowling two overs left me feeling stiff and sore. We finished 12 runs short of the opposition total but the view from mid-wicket towards Haddon, Bakewell and the Peak must be one of the finest in Derbyshire... if not the country!



Tissington Well Dressings 2019

MEDIA IMPACT

The producers of *Countryfile* did emphasise that appearing on the programme has an 'effect'. Our item led the show and we were duly inundated with Facebook messages, emails and telephone calls. Luckily our website did not crash, bookings for holiday accommodation increased and other queries were answered.

In fact I could have let the village twice over! Even more fortunately, it was broadcast before Well Dressing Week which increased our numbers, although I was accosted plenty of times with 'Didn't I see you on the telly last weekend?' Someone was kind enough to suggest I should have my own show! I'm afraid there's too much to do here!

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Along with those of many other local councils, the voting patterns in the Derbyshire Dales in May were impacted by the national lack of progress over Brexit and the fragility of the Government. The election result in our District meant the Conservative majority was reduced from nine to a mere one. One seat required three recounts, and was won by one vote. The full make-up of the 39 members is now 20 Tory, 8 Liberal Democrat, 6 Labour, 3 Independent and 2 Green, which means that on certain issues votes will be extremely tight. However, the new intake will focus on making our wonderful Derbyshire Dales a better place to live, work and visit... of that I am certain.

HERITAGE COMMENDATIONS

The invitation to be a judge of the 2019 Derbyshire Museums & Heritage Awards was not only a pleasurable but also a rather demanding task. My fellow judges, namely Bill Bevan and Joy Hales, met to make our deliberations amidst a plethora of paperwork, photographs, CDs and cumulative evidence for the nine categories. As judges we were diligent, dutiful and dignified as we assessed all the entrants under the watchful eye of comptroller Chrissie Van Mierlo and then we had to keep our decisions under wraps until the glittering Awards Ceremony at Barrow Hill Roundhouse. Amidst the classic locomotives housed at this amazing national treasure I had the task of hosting the event owing to



At Barrow Hill with Joy Hales

the absence of BBC Radio Derby's Andy Twigge. The winners are listed elsewhere in this magazine but I would especially like to commend both Erewash and Buxton Museums. Both are well worth a visit and regularly produce imaginative and inspiring exhibitions.