

## July 2022 Edition

It is always a delight to visit the Heights Of Abraham in Matlock Bath. Travelling in one of the cable cars to the top of the gorge is a fascinating way to travel in Derbyshire. In mid-May I was lucky enough to take that mode of transport to join the happy throng that were celebrating the opening of the new period costume exhibition entitled 'A Mirror on the Past' as former MP and journalist Matthew Parris officially cut the ribbon and recalled his support for the Pugh family's project when the cable cars were first introduced in the 1980s. The new exhibition in the Masson Pavilion will take modern day guests back through time and come face to face with visitors of the past, whilst learning a little about the social and working conditions of their time. 14 life-sized mannequin figures, beautifully dressed in historically accurate clothing, populate the large exhibition housed in the refurbished Pavilion. Animated picture frames alongside the figures reveal information about each time period. In addition a sculpture trail of willow figures made by Cheshire based artist Caroline Gregson adorn the pathways at the summit and, of course, there are plenty of watering holes when you do get to the top. Do visit this season and see what delights are housed at The Heights!

QUADS stands for the Quarndon Amateur Dramatics Society and, after a fallow period due to the pandemic, the theatrical group came back with a bang to the hallowed stage of the Village Hall with their production of 'Love Begins at 50' written by Raymond Hopkins. The play is set in a town in the south of England and recounts the tale of 'happily married for 28 years' couple Anita and Clive Debanks. The local press described the show as "A hilarious and unmissable treat... a beautifully crafted comedy that never goes off the boil for a second... a roller coaster ride of events." The story takes our hero Clive on a voyage of discovery through the Lonely Hearts Column. Starring the present High Sheriff's younger brother and my great friend, one Jeremy Copestake, the four nights proved to be a rollicking success as farce and absurdity abounded. Watch out for the troupe's next production in November of 'One Night in Lockdown' by Claire Snape. Book your tickets now at [www.quarndonquads.co.uk](http://www.quarndonquads.co.uk)

Another group that has not met for the past two years owing to the pandemic is the Beresford Society. This group meets regularly in the Peak District and attracts members from all over the globe. In 2019 over 51 family members of the society met near Ashbourne with 20 from overseas including 11 from the United States. This year the group held their annual meeting at Tissington and visited our Well Dressing celebrations before their Beresford Family Service at St Edmund's Church in Fenny Bentley where the famous Beresford tombs are located. They are a very effective and efficient association with each member being designated a number (eg 645). This year Reg Beresford 761 stood down as Chairman after 5 years at the helm to be replaced by 897! We have several Beresfords (including Agnes wife of Sir Henry and mother of 12) on the walls here at Tissington and so it is a privilege to welcome them. I look forward to their next gathering in 2023.

May has been a month of many interesting visitors from both home and overseas of which two groups stand out. First we were greeted by a roar of petrol driven engines as the Irish Georgian Society combined with the Rolls Royce Owners Club visited ten stately homes in Derbyshire over a breakneck three days. With over £20m of vehicles parked on the driveway we needed security to mind the motors as our guides and I led the happy group around the house and grounds. Then next a 'Classical Excursions' tour of respected American architects and the like, led by the indomitable Oli Gerrish of Bonsall, came for a sundown tour, dinner and finally entertainment from our archivist David Holt. Both groups expounded a wealth of knowledge and It was a pleasure to host

the Americans as they dined in splendour and happy conversation in the Main Hall. Out of all the homes they visited I trust they enjoyed Tissington the best!

The colours of Ukraine featured heavily in this year's Well Dressing themes such as the hunt for yellow and blue flowers. But, of course, in this Platinum Jubilee year it was our very own Queen Elizabeth that stole the show. At Hall Well designer Gill Heppel incorporated the four flowers of the Union nations in the dressings with the emblems on the side boards in addition to the Logos of the Church of England and the Commonwealth in the upper roundels! The Picture Board was the classic side image of the Queen featured on every stamp and coin in the UK and it proved a great hit with the patriotic crowd we hosted including Lord Lieutenant Liz Fothergill and her husband Richard as well as former High Sheriff Tony Walker and his wife Helen who missed celebrating Well Dressings in 2019 due to the pandemic. A successful week and a glorious entrée to the Platinum Jubilee Double Bank Holiday. It was good to be back.

Photo Jeremy Copestake in the play

Photo Well Dressings 2022-Hall Well

Photo Well Dressings 2022-Yew Tree Well with the Ukraine Flag

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