



# A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

## BACK ON TV

Rather like London buses we get no television filming enquiries for months then suddenly three come along at once.

First I was interviewed for a forthcoming slot on the BBC East Midlands show *Inside Out* about a piece on slavery when the presenter Sue Brown revealed that one of our ancestors, one Robert Alleyne, had been very kind over the sentencing of an escaped slave and had in fact defended him, so granting his freedom.

Second, a show that I had appeared on over ten years ago decided to revisit past haunts. Broadcast on the Discovery

Channel, the show is called *Salvage Hunters* and is presented by celebrity Drew Pritchard who descends on a property and rummages around in sheds and attics to haggle for items his team can restore and then sell on at inflated prices.

Thirdly, after talking to me, the team behind the first show decided that they wanted to pitch for a 30 minute documentary about our village and proceeded to spend the next Saturday filming local characters (of which there are plenty!) for a pilot. I shall let the dear reader know transmission dates.



## GOOD GAME

This year our Derbyshire County Cricket team reached Finals Day of the Vitality Blast T20 tournament at Edgbaston.

I was fortunate to be invited in a lively party to view the spectacle of two semi-finals and the final. Notts managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory to a canny Worcestershire in the first game and then Derbyshire, unfamiliar to the cauldron, lost to Essex after a disastrous run chase. My support then switched to Essex who beat Worcestershire with a four through cover point off the last ball. However, Derbyshire pride was upheld with my efforts to return a pink flamingo safely to Tissington after a day of revelry and fancy dress, and our county did win one prize that day - Freddie the Falcon won the Mascot race between games. We shall return next year with greater hopes of cricketing victory!



Impressive scaffolding as the clock is restored

## MASTER CLOCK

Every so often I have to order scaffolding for various jobs at the Hall. For the first time in my 30 years at the helm I needed some so that we could restore the clock on the stable block. The tower clock is by John Whitehurst of Derby (1713-1788) and looks out resplendently over the village. On the retirement of horologist Richard Blackwell, the job has moved on to the Cumbria Clock Company whose engineers restored the dials and repainted the clock face of our 18th century time piece. The clock chimes with precision and passion throughout the day and night and looks a picture.

## A FARMING CELEBRATION

It is not often that a tenant farming family can claim 100 years of continuous occupancy on an Estate. But that is what I thought was the achievement of the Green family who look after Burns Farm on the Warsop Estate near Mansfield in Nottinghamshire. Armed with a card and bottle of champagne on Michaelmas Day I drove over to present my gift, only to find out that I was six months too early. Richard Green revealed that his grandfather Arthur had been given the tenancy by my Great Uncle Sir Hugo in March 1920 after the previous incumbent - Arthur Robinson - was dismissed for 'poaching'. We decided to celebrate 99½ years and look forward to next March. The family still grows excellent potatoes.



Sir Richard and Richard Green with a bottle of champagne at Burns Farm

## BE MY GUEST

This year we were delighted to hold 28 marriages, either at St Mary's Church or as a civil ceremony, and various styles of invitation, usually on embossed stationery, have adorned guests'

mantelpieces. A local farmer, however, is keen to ensure that his wedding date next year is not forgotten and has issued a 'save the date' reminder in the shape of a cattle ear tag which can adorn a set of keys. A date to remember.



Contact: [tisshall@dircon.co.uk](mailto:tisshall@dircon.co.uk)