



by Sir Richard FitzHerbert

An Ode to Tissington Hall

It is always a pleasure to welcome appreciative guests to the apartment that we let out at the rear of the Hall. Called 'Butlers' Retreat' it is in the old staff wing that housed the retinue of workers my forebears employed about a hundred years ago. Lavishly done up last year we welcome guests from around the world and recently a Dubai couple, rather than writing a note on departure, left a touching poem in the visitors' book which read

*'Outside it's cold, there may even be sleet
But you'll always feel cosy in Butlers' Retreat*

*A tasteful oasis, away from all strife
Well-stocked with back issues of Derbyshire Life!*

*Soak up the history of the ancient FitzHerberts
Then pop to the village for some
sweet fizzy sherbets.*

*Three cheers for Sir Richard and Tissington Hall!
Long may it last for the enjoyment of all.'*

HEROES OF DERBYSHIRE AWARDS

I entered Ken and Carole Unwin in the latest Heroes of Derbyshire Awards, sponsored by various Derby companies and organised by the Derby Evening Telegraph. Stalwarts of the village all their lives Carole contributes immensely to our community by organising the fete, the well-dressings and the Womens' Institute with Ken mending walls, strimming the village verges and generally keeping everything tidy. They were one of three finalists in the Special Recognition Award Category and enjoyed a gala evening at Pride Park with the many other 'Heroes'. The actual winner of their section was dedicated guide dog volunteer Peggy Smith whom Carole and Ken met on the night. Peggy has overcome major difficulties in her life to be there for others who have sight loss and was a worthy winner. Formerly known as the Community Champion Awards it was a night to celebrate and honour the people in the county who have done wonderful things for the communities in which they live and work. It was a pleasure to have nominated Ken and Carole.

THE ONLY WAY TO FLY

In the 28 years I have resided at Tissington I can count on one hand the number of helicopters that have landed on our lawns. My sister Sarah and her husband Anto left in one after their wedding reception here in 1992 and Julia Bradbury landed here at a charity event in 2009 but it was by chance that great friends of ours decided to break their trip north (to another wedding) in early June. Having encountered horrific weather on the way up - they had to make an

emergency landing in Staffordshire - George and Bunny made it to the former tennis lawn for the night. On a glorious Saturday morning, George gave Fiona and I a trip above the Estate during which I took over 100 photographs of the countryside below. One interesting snap was of the perfectly linear parking marks on the fields where we had parked the visitors to the well-dressings the week before. Oh what you can see from the air!



The village from the air - with parking lines

Double or Nothing

It is not often that we welcome red double-decker London buses to the village but for a wedding in June a No 15 was diverted via Tissington on its route from Fulham to Bank. The guests had been transported from the church in Micklegate to the reception at our Arboretum Pavilion. The highly adept bus driver successfully negotiated the main gates, and even let me sit in the drivers' seat! But then just a few days later a touring bus from Aldridge in the West Midlands visited the area to recreate 'excursion trips to the Peak District'. The bus contained a group of enthusiasts armed with cameras and camaraderie. The vehicle was a 1940 Willowbrook with Loughborough Coachwork delivered to Trent Buses at



Trent Motor Traction vehicle 417 in front of Tissington Hall

Heanor. Found abandoned in a field in the 1970s, it had been perfectly restored by Trent apprentices and now resides at The Aldridge Transport Museum. Having entered the driveway, she posed for photographs outside the front door with the driver again showing quite magnificent driving skills in the tight confines. As they say in London, you can wait an age for a bus before two turn up at once!

A visiting London double-decker

