

## September 2021 Edition

With the pandemic preventing tourists from travelling overseas we have seen a huge surge in 'staycations' as people visit the Peak District for the first time having usually spent their holidays abroad. We have opened the eyes of this 'emerging market' to visitors and we have welcomed couples and families from both the south and the north to our wonderful countryside for the first time ever. In our four holiday cottages we invite visitors to leave a message in a book with one recent scribbling being so relevant. I quote ' We loved Tissington, the Peak District and the area so much that we have only one complaint.... That we have to leave'. How nice.

Several times a year I receive missives in the post from relatives of a loved one that has passed. These letters often include personal effects of the deceased that the family no longer want or need and have decided that they might be of use in the Tissington Archives. They are not valuable items in the main but , for us, they are invaluable as they all feature or appertain to something from the Estate in the past.. a photograph, some musings, some recollections of life in our gorgeous village from yesteryear. My most recent acquisitions have been three charming photographs of first the ford (aka the watersplash at Bradbourne Mill) from 1953 and secondly two different shots of Wibbern Hill Farm and the Hall from the 1960s. What is so fascinating is that little has changed except that now the roads are more heavily tarmaced when,then, there was little or no traffic. Interestingly the drive to the Hall in 1960 is lined with pea sticks ( so that cars cannot drive on the grass) an instruction that I am so pleased to agree with my late Great Uncle Sir William as it shows we share the same values! Thank you to Mrs Williams from Coalville for sending them in.

Much has been written about the rise in construction costs after Covid. The dearth of HGV drivers and the lack of shipped materials are two of the most crucial factors affecting the industry and here at Tissington we are not exempt. I have spoken before about the 'bat factor' at our new development to create a holiday cottage on the Estate at High Flatts Farm that looks east over toward Carsington Water and beyond but further delays have ensued. The walls are now built , the footings in, but we are experiencing delays in vital timber supplies for the lathes on the roof and subsequent re-tiling. To obviate this problem we are installing photo-voltaic equivalents on the roof to provide electricity for the unit so making it a carbon neutral property. We are already taking bookings for the 2022 season but it is hoped that we can offer the two bedroomed(both ensuite) letting from November. Please look at our website for details..it is an exciting project!

I am pleased to report that I have now gathered over 2000 followers on my Instagram account @tissingtonhall. I am delighted with progress of this stream which has been going for two years . More latterly I have been posting videos of my adventures not just at Tissington but around the County. Having attended a course on 'social media' it would appear that alluring videos capture the imagination better than a few photographs....and indeed there are certain times of day when you are more likely to be 'viewed and liked'... for instance during the lunch hour and on the way home after work (5pm to 7pm). My most successful posts have involved a trip on a golf buggy driven by the Duke of Devonshire himself at Chatsworth, the stunning summit view of Parkhouse Hill and Chrome Hill near Earl Sterndale and the bride's arrival ( arm in arm with her father) as she proceeds to marry her groom below the rose gardens at The Hall. Dogs and cats are a favourite too so look out for our two dachshunds Daisy and Daphne in future renditions.

During lockdown DCMS( The Department for Culture Media and Sport) understood that there was a funding problem with the upkeep of heritage property considering the lack of business in the economy. To that end they introduced the Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) whereby properties such

as Grade II\* Tissington Hall would be eligible for funding to deal with the costs of running and maintaining the listed building. The forms took hours to complete ( often requiring work well into the night when things were quiet) and we were fortunate to gain a grant from the first round (CRF 1) albeit 10% of the amount applied for. We were then asked to submit for both CRF 2 and CRF 3 with both applications taking further hours of preparation, calculations and complicated forms. Having been rejected for CRF 2 we were informed on the Friday of the Bank Holiday weekend that we had failed in our bid for the essential works for the Billiard Room roof (that needs attention after 120 years). Galling to hear especially as we had been asked to tender. However, we will fight on preserving our heritage by doing what we do best, namely entertaining people and , of course, charging them for it! We already have 44 weddings scheduled for 2022 at present and we look forward to a few more.