



A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

SENDING OUT AN SOS

The theme of one well at this year's Well Dressings at Tissington has attracted the attention of one of the nation's greatest naturalists and broadcasters. Yew Tree well's design was based around the pollution of the seas by debris and waste, even featuring plastic bottles at the bottom. It was picked up on, through social media, by a researcher on Sir David Attenborough's programmes who forwarded it to Sir David himself. Sir David kindly wrote to the designer, Sarah Allen, saying that he hoped his programmes had inspired the people who created the dressing. His letter is now framed and in pride of place at her home. This year we were delighted to welcome over 30,000 visitors to our celebrations and the teams are already looking forward to next year when Ascension Day takes place at the end of May.



Yew Tree Well

BAILEY'S TUMP

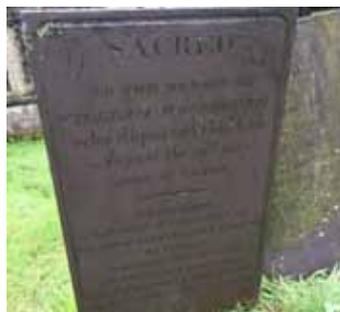
One of the pleasures of sitting on the planning committee of Derbyshire Dales District Council is that our decisions can change people's outlook on life for the better, but it can also prove very educational. A site visit to Asker Lane in Matlock brought our team to Bailey's Tump and the discovery that this tump (mound) is made of spoil from the excavations for the Derwent Valley Aqueduct in the early 1900s and pipelines beneath it carry the water from the Derwent Dams as far as

Leicester. The landowner at the time was well known Matlock businessman Ernest Bailey and so the site became known as Bailey's Tump.

In the Second World War it was fortified as an air defence site and an attacking German Dornier bomber was brought down 10 miles to the west at Great Longstone by ack-ack fire from Matlock. In 2005 Matlock Civic Association and the Town Council attracted HLF money to restore the area. It proved a fascinating stop on our Planning Committee trip.

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

I am always learning something new about Tissington. Following the last minute cancellation of our village fête due to a torrential thunderstorm – after 50 consecutive days of sultry summer weather! I decided to spend the time tending the family graves at the churchyard. I stopped at a couple of gravestones that had not been attended to for some time, wiped away the grime, and was delighted to discover a memorial to one William Woodhouse who died in 1839 aged 53. This was fascinating as William had been a butler who had lived in the family of 'Sir Henry for more than 20 years and was highly respected for his integrity and conduct during his long and faithful service.' What a great aide he must have been but, coincidentally, another William Woodhouse often stays at Tissington today – he



is a great friend of my stepson. Perhaps the present WW even stays in his namesake's room!



OPEN MIC!

My trips to Buxton Festival this summer ranged from three very enjoyable book talks – culminating with Charles Spencer, younger brother of the late Princess Diana, extolling his new book about Charles II, *How to Catch a King* – through weird small theatre plays at the Fringe, to the *Phantasmagorical* show from merrily macabre Sylvia Sceptre at The Old Clubhouse. However, I enjoyed most the late night comedians in the Rotunda Tent. For me, the stand-out act was Christopher Macarthur-Boyd from Glasgow – a name to watch out for. It's been a fun and funny fortnight. Well done, Buxton!

WORLD CUP MEMORIES

I watched England's 1990 appearance in a World Cup semi-final in the Library at Tissington Hall, having just inherited the Estate. This time, we walked to the *Old Dog* at Thorpe where the landlord had erected a huge screen in the outdoor seating area. Over 100 souls were encouraged by the lead from the early free kick, as more ale was purchased. However, the equalizer and then winning goal for Croatia put paid to our hopes! More ale made the walk home along the Tissington Trail bearable on a balmy evening. Now we must wait for another four years!