

April 2023 Edition baronet's Diary

One of the residents of our small village, Meryl Anderson has written her first novel and had it published in London. The spiel about her book reads as such....

The Small Hill is a sacred place, a healing place, where the ancients buried their dead and holy men came to preach. In the reign of Henry I, a knight stood on the hill, a young warrior straight from the heat of battle and knew the hill and the surrounding land was to be his. A settlement grew and a Norman church with a solid square tower was built on the top.

Over the centuries many who owned the land and many who worked on the land were equally drawn to stand on the hill in front of the tower to look out into the distance. From the knight in the 12th century to Tom, an old retired tenant farmer in the 20th century, men stood on the hill looking out to the horizon, to dream of the future or remember the past, each one feeling the small hill's spell.

Meryl has formed a great many of her characters in the book from the residents of Tissington and those that are familiar with her will no doubt recognise themselves in the book. It is an interesting read and copies can be bought from Meryl on 07960 941290. I hope to organise a book signing session at Herbert's Tearooms shortly.

Those of you that have watched Jeremy Clarkson's second season of the eponymously titled show Clarkson's Farm will have chuckled at most of the shenanigans in the show. Apart from the hilarity of his double act with tractor driver Kaleb we clearly learn from the show that farming incomes are in a perilous state due to high input costs, paperwork and bureaucracy. What is really true to life is the interaction that Jeremy had with his local planning committee and the trials and tribulations over his application for a restaurant and a neighbouring carpark. Sadly West Oxfordshire District Council were not keen on his proposed developments. I would trust that our Derbyshire Dales Planning Committee would have been more accommodating!!

It is not often that you gather one present and three future High Sheriffs of Derbyshire in one place. But that was what happened in February when we met, alongside other High Sheriffs from the East Midlands for a Shrievalty conference on what and what not to do in our future years of Office. We met at Chatsworth to be told by the present incumbents about their years of Office and the amusing incidents that happen especially when in full regalia, you have a sword on your person. We were also told about the excellent Crimebeat scheme which assists community groups combating bad behaviour and gives a sense of accomplishment to the young people involved. Thank you, Michael Copestake, for a great 2022/23 and the county welcomes Theresa Peltier of Wirksworth as our next High Sheriff for the forthcoming year.

This year's Royal Shrovetide Football game took place in Ashbourne in cold but sunny weather over Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The popularity of the game meant that, for officianos of the 'good ol game', there were too many players present on Shawcroft for the turning up of the ball by local NFU representative Paul Cook. These heavy numbers stifled play and the ball never really got out of town toward either goal. However local hostleries were busy as a result and one in particular was rumoured to have taken over £19,000 in beer sales on the first day alone. The Wednesday saw a smaller throng to see former postman Mick Mee turn up the ball and play was quick to get to the fields and just before 8pm, after six hours of grueling play, Tom Allen scored for the Uppards at the Sturston goal. Tom's late father used to live in Tissington and Tom dedicated his goal to Brian's memory. We now have to wait another year for further play.

Photo 4 Present and Future Derbyshire High Sheriffs at Chatsworth

Photo Meryl Anderson with Sir Richard and a copy of her new book

Photo Ashbourne Shrovetide

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