

**Our annual Well Dressings at Tissington were sensational this year. Blessed with glorious weather over the seven days from Ascension tide we were truly fortunate with the spectacle and the turnout. The Thursday saw the Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church followed by the Procession and blessing of each Well as a swarm of visitors joined the snake-like procession around the village. This year our High Sheriff Theresa Peltier joined the congregation along with her Staffordshire equivalent Victoria Hawley from Rugeley. This unusual brace stood out in their wonderful finery even being asked if they were characters from the Netflix drama Bridgerton! The sunny weather, however, does mean that the clay in the dressings begins to crack and the collages wane so it is pertinent that we dismantle them after a week . Next year Ascension tide falls earlier on the 9 May and I plan to go one better and get a trio of High Sheriffs to our celebrations!**

As regular readers will know I stood down from my position as a District Councillor in May but I did assist the nominated candidate in my Ward. I am pleased to say that Nigel Walker from our own village became the new representative at Derbyshire Dales District Council after an impressive campaign and a substantial majority in the new ward of Dovedale Parwich & Brassington. Elsewhere the results were not so good for the Conservatives and so the Council is a NOC (No Overall Control)!. The Lib Dems, Labour and the Greens have announced a Progressive Alliance under a power sharing initiative over the coming four years!! As I write we are awaiting the naming of the specific roles the new cohort will undertake as I suspect I will continue to interact with the new planning committee.

It was a pleasure to attend my first Derbyshire Lieutenancy Dinner at Morley Hayes to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Over 80 members of the Lieutenancy and Shrievalty joined together to congratulate the four impressive Lord-Lieutenant's cadets in their roles as aides to Liz Fothergill during the year. These young people represent their chosen discipline in the forces and gave inspiring introductions to the gathered throng as they explained their roles and ambitions. Before the Loyal Toast and the National Anthem our Lord-Lieutenant gave a speech about her representation of the County in the past year at both the Funeral of The Queen and the recent Coronation of Charles III. I can report that our County, as ever, is in good hands.

Over Lockdown and once restrictions were lifted a number of us started a walking group in our area on Thursday mornings. Now the weather is brighter this season we meet at various locations not far from Ashbourne to enjoy an early morning stroll and a saunter on circular walks around the area. We take it in turns to 'host' a walk and so far this year we have walked The Nine ladies at Stanton, Osmaston Park, Narrowdale just north of Alstonefield and of course I led the group around Tissington at 8am on the morning of Well Dressings. Presently we have in the diary to walk Friden ,Wofscote Dale, Wensley and Winster and, when we go, we always take a selfie on a bridge. We have named this Thursday morning club The Peak Strollers. Stroll on!

The Peak District National Park has a new Chief Executive, Phil Mulligan. Having started his job last September I asked Phil over to Tissington to show him the challenges and issues of a traditional agricultural Estate where we live in a Listed Building in a Conservation Village in a National Park in one

of the most regulated countries in the European Union. He is the seventh Chief Executive that I have personally introduced to the Estate and he is charming and easy to communicate with and to. However he alone cannot change the rules and regulations stipulated by Government and it was up to me to show him what those of us who live in the Park need to let our communities thrive. Interestingly we had met before when we both sat on the National Trust Council with Phil representing the Canal Trust and me as the Historic Houses delegate. So we meet again.