

June 2022 Edition

Our household has increased by seven. On Francesca's birthday our cocker spaniel, Isla, starting giving birth to her brood at 3am. Expecting only three bundles of fun after the various scans at the vets we were thrilled to see a fourth emerge after two hours of labour. A fifth and a sixth then popped out with a seventh special surprise a full 12 hours after the first. I can report that all are healthy and boisterous and making great progress. The funny thing though is that 24 years ago on her very birthday as Francesca entered the world our then Jack Russell terrier Merli gave birth to seven puppies in the scullery. April 21st ...a great day for births especially as it is of course shared with our Queen who was 96 that day!!

We are delighted to announce a new business has been opened in the village. Annie and Ed Maudling from the candle shop based in the Old Forge named 'On a Wick' have taken on the lease of The Old Joiners' Shop at the north end of the Village. Inspired by the popularity of crafting they have turned the workshop (that used to be where all the Estate windows and doors were fabricated)into the Tissington Craft Corner. Their wide range of candles are stocked in the shop alongside wares from various other local craftspeople. Open Thursday to Sunday every week between 11 and 4 there are plenty of presents for family and friends. In addition Annie and Ed will host various crafting courses at the Shop and all details will be on their wonderful website.

Previously my visits to Heath the small Village east of Chesterfield have been fleeting as I stop for my favourite brew at that well know coffee shop Starbucks off the A617 as well as filling up with fuel before the M1. However it was a joyful occasion when I visited in late April to celebrate the life of Alan Curtis.61 years married to the marvellous Gill, Alan had led the most varied of lives. Although his profession was in the concrete and construction industry Alan was fascinated by heritage and its structures - hence how we met through the auspices of the Historic Houses Association. Gill gave the address at All Saints' Church and we discovered that Alan enjoyed playing golf especially on their overseas travels citing one instance when he encountered a crocodile on the course in Zimbabwe and another time , when in Nepal, he found himself face to face with a wild elephant on the ninth tee! Not exactly animals that you might find on his home course near Chesterfield at Grassmoor ! Friendly and chatty with everyone that he met we send our best wishes to Gill and the family. A life well lived!

Although life is returning to normal I had not driven to Staffordshire for six months when I attended my first non-family 70th birthday at Chillington Hall north of Wolverhampton. As it was a lovely Sunday afternoon on the way home I decided to take a detour and pop by St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Stafford as I had corresponded with Miss Madeley's Year 5 class during the pandemic (receiving over 30 Christmas cards from the pupils) and I was determined to see where their school was. Such then was my penchant for 'dropping by' I then further diverted at Ellastone eastwards crossing the River Dove to view the resplendent Norbury Manor and St Mary & St Barlok's Church. Norbury is our family 's original home with the granting of the Manor to 'William son of Herbert' in 1125. Expecting the Church itself to be closed I was delighted to find the door unlocked and I was able to reacquaint myself with my ancestors (encased in the 15th alabaster tombs) of Nicholas (died 1473) and Ralph (died 1483). I trust they appreciated my visit.

The gates at Norbury Church were decorated with blue and yellow ribbons in support of the people of Ukraine. It made me think of the family from Khartiv that are now settled in Ashbourne as the result of the generosity of local families and then I passed Ashbourne Methodist Church complete with the Ukraine flag draped on the wooden cross outside with further blue and yellow ribbons on its railings. Such support, such unity , such hope from the people of Derbyshire as the conflict continues.

Photo Norbury Church Gates

Photo Sir Richard at Norbury Church Gates

Photo Sir Richard and his ancestors at Norbury Church

03 05 22

NB new email sirrichard@tissingtonhall.co.uk

764 words