

Baronet's Diary **October 2021**

Once again the lockdown has brought with it more enquiries about ancestry and previous inhabitants of the village. Whilst acting as car park attendant for one of our weddings I encountered a lady who asked if her '13th Great Grandmother' had lived at Tissington Hall. The lady in question was born about 1482 in the south of the County at Etwall and christened Barbara and was the daughter of John Fitzherbert and Margaret Babington. Barbara married one Thomas Cockayne and is related to our correspondent through her father's side. I had to consult my eminent Archivist and he responded having looked again at the 15-foot family tree. I quote 'I have discovered this lady They never lived at the present Tissington Hall as it was built in 1609. I don't think they lived at the earlier hall either but I cannot be sure. You have done remarkably well to have traced your ancestors back to your 13th-great grandmother in 1482. However, an idle thought comes to mind: as each of us have four great grandmothers and eight gt gt grandmothers. when it comes to 13 X great, we each have 16384 of them. 'Wow!

We have bought ourselves a COVID present. In June Fiona and I travelled to an industrial estate on the outskirts of Birmingham to visit a gentleman who converts disused horse boxes into mobile refreshment units. An old Rice trailer was acquired presumably from a paddock somewhere and was transported to his workshop so that 'Aston Villa Steve' could transform the dilapidated vehicle into an asset for our catering operation at Herbert's Tearooms. Dressed up in the grey livery of Herbert's complete with logs and blackboards the unit sits proudly outside the front door ready for action when customers all turn up at once! Armed with coffee, tea hot chocolate ice cream and cake the beauty of the horse box is that we can turn it on and off at a moment's notice! It is also extremely useful when weddings are at St Mary's Church as it provides a watering hole pre the nuptials. Come and see it for yourselves!

One of the delights of my new role as Chair of Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire aka The Tourist Board was the chance to open the Matlock Farm Park Highland Games on Bank Holiday Sunday in late August. Little did I realise when I accepted the honour that I was to lead the parade in to the ring before my opening address. Nor did I realise that a man size yellow and green cockerel would accompany me on the walk into the enclosure. 'Mr DoodleDoo' is the name of the fowl and had limited conversational skills although I can report the children enjoyed his company and posed for photographs with him. Having opened the Games I met the strong men and women that were to take part in the day's feature event to compete for the title of the Games Strongest Man and Woman by tossing cabers, hurling large stones and pulling tractors! Quite an intimidating bunch I can tell you and the day was much enjoyed by the sell out crowd! Find the Farm on the road to Chesterfield north of Matlock ...it is well worth the trip.

The strict rules on gatherings during the pandemic have meant that there is a 'hangover' of Memorial Services for those that we have lost during the past COVID year. I travelled to Hertfordshire to celebrate the life of an old school friend David De Boinville taken by cancer at the age of 56. Such was his appeal that over 900 turned up to show their respects for a life lost too young. Then to the Barbican in London for a service to lawyer and adventurer Sian Jones who died aged 54, at the magnificent Church of St Bartholomew the Great with its amazing artefacts. And finally to Zoom to watch online the service for farmer and local entrepreneur Andrew Sebire broadcast from Alstonefield Church. Andrew was a great friend to our village having instigated the refurbishment and the opening of the Butcher's Shop on Chapel Lane in Tissington in 1992. He lived just outside of Hartington at Lower Hurst Farm and was one of the kindest gentlemen I knew.

Our condolences go out to his widow Lesley and all the family as well as to the other families including Kate and Andrew. A sad month.

It has been two years since I went to Edgbaston Cricket Ground to watch our county Derbyshire compete and lose in the Semi-Final. This year crowds returned to the city to watch four southern teams compete for the title of Vitality Blast T20 cricket champions. The honours fell to Kent Spitfires as they overcame Somerset in a final remembered for an astounding catch (when it should have a six) as fielder Jordan Cox patted the ball back to his fellow teammate Matt Milnes as it seemed to be sailing into the crowd. A stunning end to an entertaining day. I can report however that Derbyshire did win a prize on the day as Racecourse Ground favourite Freddie the Falcon romped home in the Mascot's Race at the interval. It was almost as if Mo Farah was inside the costume such was the ease of victory!! On to next season !