

## September 2022 Edition

I have never officially opened a new Village Hall before but that all changed in June when I cut the ribbon at Marston Montgomery to officially celebrate the enormous efforts of the villagers to collate not just the funds but the planning consents to build a community building on Weston Bank in the Village. Over a hundred locals gathered alongside the Steering Group and local MP Sarah Dines to celebrate this impressive achievement. Speeches to mark the special occasion were made by Village Hall Chairman Mike Thackery, Will Thomson of development company Radmore Homes, as well as Sarah Dines and I was delighted to cut the ribbon on the development as well as assist in planting an oak tree on site in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. An inspiring project alongside an inspiring community. Do visit the site in this most delightful village if you are passing.

In July I like to pop up the A515 northward so that I can take part in the Buxton International Festival. Held over two weeks the Festival includes Opera, Music, various talks and Comedy based around the iconic Opera House but at sites all over the town. This year I attended eight events including listening to Director of the V&A Tristram Hunt talking about his latest book about Wedgwood and Andrew Mitchell MP talking to presenter Iain Dale about his book entitled 'Beyond A Fringe-Tales from a Reformed Establishment Lackey' amongst others in the literary section. This culminated in a visit to a further session with Iain Dale, radio presenter Justin Webb and others talking about American Presidents. Sadly, this last event was more remarkable for the compere Dale falling off the stage at the Opera House into the orchestra pit as we were leaving with the audience hearing a huge thud as poor Iain landed on a rather expensive cello in its case! Fortunately, I can reveal that no bones were broken but Iain was badly bruised and shaken and forever will remember his trip to the Opera!

Over three hundred people supported our Tissington Fete in aid of St Mary's Church at the end of July. The annual attraction had not taken place for three years due to the pandemic and the village were thrilled to have the event back this year. The usual array of stalls from bric-a-brac, tombola, raffle, face-painting, bat the rat and skittles were well supported but many seemed to want to 'Dunk The Baronet' as I was forced to sit under the water balloons that exploded over me if visitors hit a target with a bean bag. In total over £2000 was raised for the Norman Church that this year is hosting 24 weddings as part of the apres-Covid catch up!! I only did forty minutes under the balloon barrage but my efforts did add to the pot for Church maintenance. We were also pleased to acknowledge the efforts of organiser Carole Unwin who is stepping down after nearly 40 years at the helm of our Fete. A great effort for our small community.

The Veiled Lady is back. Who is this most mysterious lady I hear you ask. Well the Lady in question is a statuette that I lent to an exhibition to celebrate the new union between Auction House Dreweatts and the Historic Houses Association. Several member properties were asked to loan items of interest and I proffered an item which is a copy of the sculpture by Raffaele Monti commissioned by the 6th Duke of Devonshire in 1846. It is unknown why or how a copy is now housed at Tissington Hall but it is likely that due to the proximity of ourselves and the Cavendish families, and the impressive technique used to capture the image, that in the name of neighbourliness the 4th Baronet was allowed to have a copy made for Tissington. It is a striking piece and was much admired on show at the firm's offices near Newbury but it (and the other objects in the exhibition) can be viewed virtually on line at <https://www.dreweatts.com/>. Or better still, why not visit Tissington on one of our Open days and see her 'in the flesh'!

And now a very sad tale. Readers will recall that our wonderful cocker spaniel Isla gave birth to seven gorgeous puppies in April . After eight weeks of thorough nurturing and cuddling we said goodbye to five as they joined their new homes. We kept two , a chocolate boy called Milo and a black girl named Mabel. All was well and our family and staff became engrossed in the couple's antics both in and out of the Hall. Milo was the more mischievous always escaping our clutches and exploring the gardens and woods whereas Mabel was more biddable and closer to heel. Sadly, Milo's exploring proved to be his downfall as, one day, he swallowed a stone which led to the perforation of his gut. After a frantic trip to the emergency vets in Derby at midnight we had to let him go with both Fiona and I utterly distraught. We will never be able to take him on the shooting field nor on the gargantuan walks that my companions and I engage in on a Thursday morning in this wonderful county of ours. Milo, you will never be forgotten .Rest in peace.

Photo Milo

Photo The Veiled Lady

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