

GARDEN/OUT AND ABOUT TRIP TO TISSINGTON HALL and WELL DRESSINGS

(photos courtesy of Rosalind Duckmanton and Val Coldwell)

We were in high spirits as we set off to see the Well Dressings and Tissington Hall near Ashbourne in the Peak District. The annual festival begins on Ascension Day every year with a service in St Mary's Church and then a procession around the village to bless each of the six wells.

Our tour of the house was after lunch, so we began with a walk round the village to look at the wells. They are amazing. Each well has a team of people working on the design and images which start weeks before the festival. The detail and colours of flowers and petals are stunning.

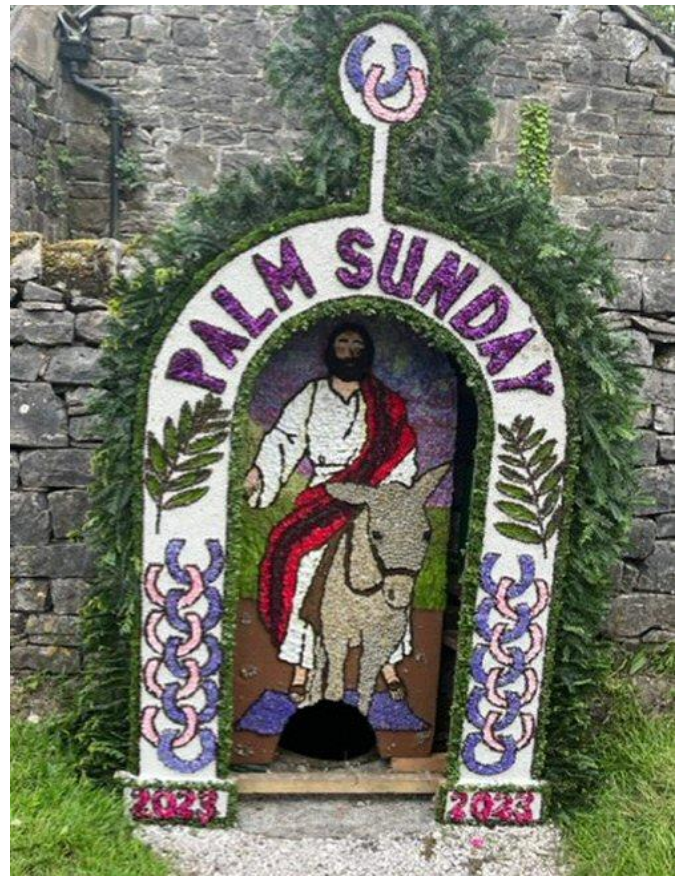
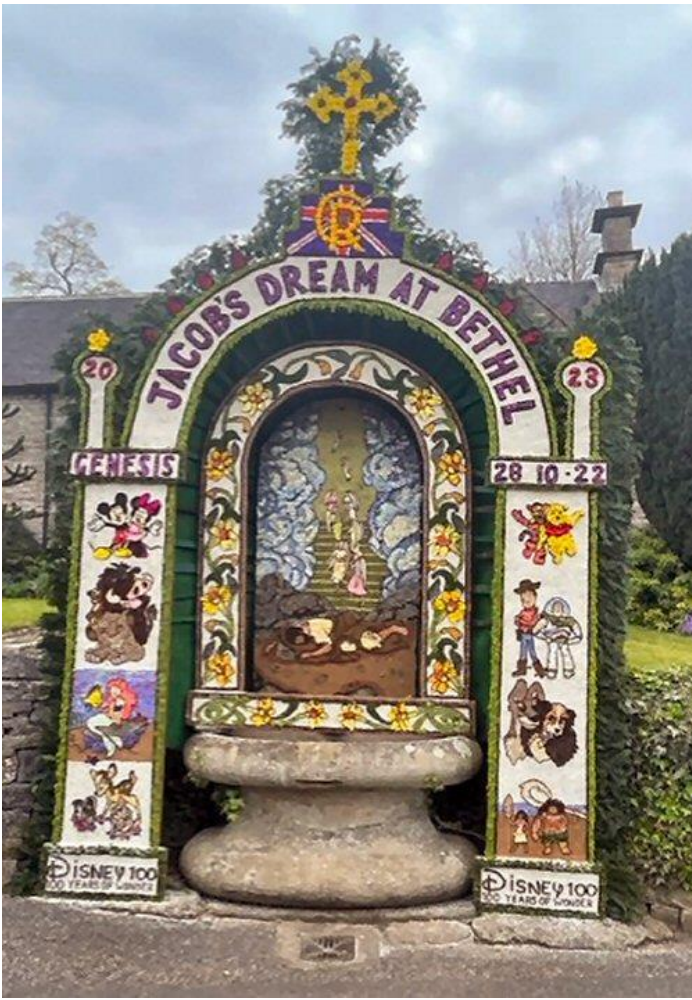
The village itself has a tea room, craft shops and a plant nursery to browse. After a lunch of Derbyshire oatcake with cheese and caramelised onion (delicious) it was time to head for our tour of the Hall, a beautiful building in the heart of the village.

The Hall was built in 1609 by Francis Fitzherbert and has remained in the family. Sir Richard inherited the estate and hall in 1989. We were fortunate that day to meet Sir Richard who is the ninth incumbent, the family are very much a part of village life. Our guides were Irene and Clarke who did a sterling job of showing us around and giving us lots of information about the history, artefacts and portraits we saw. We ended with a look at the grounds which is roughly 2,000 acres. There are also cottages you can rent, and the Hall is a venue for weddings. Altogether a good day out, thoroughly enjoyable.

Lesley Clark, GOAT Team



The group with Sir Richard (on right at end of back row) on steps to Tissington Hall





Blessing the wells

