



CORONATION TREASURE HUNT – Held Sunday 7th May

I was having a quiet beer with Chas (III) in the Seven Stars snug during the week, he was travelling incognito of course, not wearing his crown and with his sceptre well hidden. He had heard about our Historical Treasure Hunt and rumours of a Hermit being sighted in the vicinity of Biggs Lane. As he fingered his neck somewhat nervously, he enquired if it was true that Cromwell's sword was still being kept sharp within Dinton Hall. I quipped back 'yes, but just in case we needed it for those involved with HS2'. At that, he knocked back his pint of IPA, aptly supplied by Rebellion Brewery, made an excuse about the Queen wanting to catch up on Coronation Street and he was gone quicker than you can say "off with his head"!

More than 100 parishioners took part in our Historical Treasure Hunt the day after the Coronation and what a beautiful day greeted all who gathered at Dinton Village Hall and took brief instruction on the Routes to follow. Twenty-Nine clues led 23 teams of families and friends, including many children, around the parish exploring points and artifacts of historical interest dating from the ill-fated Charles I through to the crowning of Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Commemorative Pencils, Bookmarks and Badges were handed out at the start where it was made clear that the 'Treasure' is in fact the wonderful history of our Parish told through the clues and prepared information sheets on display throughout the routes. Each clue led to the discovery of a letter of the alphabet hidden near an historical point of interest, collect the letters and solve the topical anagram to complete the Treasure Hunt.

Thanks to Rosemary and David Jackson we were able visit the church of St Peter and St Paul which became the centerpiece of the route with 4 letters secreted amongst the artifacts and memorials and a wordsearch puzzle for the kids to complete referencing items within the church.

The magnificent hand crafted Appliqué needlework depicting scenes of the parish was much admired as were the memorials to the Regicides Simon Mayne and Richard Ingoldsby but none more so than the splendour of the stained glass window in memory of St Paul and St Peter.

Depicted within the window, and of more bloodcurdling interest to the kids, is the Dinton Hermit himself, John Bigg, suspected executioner of Charles I, dressed in his patchwork leather clothes and boots which are now on display in the Ashmolean Museum.

Free ice cream was available in Dinton High Street as the trail wended towards Westlington and back past the 'Alpaca's' eventually to Moat Cottage site of the cave John Bigg fled to after the King's execution and where, if you had an 'eagle' eye, could be spotted the Hermit himself. The trail came to its conclusion in the garden of The Seven Stars where the masses gathered to feast on a BBQ supplied by Steph and her team and there was much toasting to our new monarch, King Charles III, and his Queen Camilla. The Treasure Hunt Trail anagram was solved by most of the teams and the winners announced as: "The HARRIKINGS" a combo of the Harrison's and Hawking's families who gratefully received a beautiful standard rose tree they could plant and to bloom in forever celebration of the momentous occasion. The Dinton Lodgers and The Union Jacks also received commemorative shrubs for their gardens. The feedback from those who took part has been magnificent and the organizers thank you all for turning out and making the day so memorable. The scenes in the garden of the pub were a brilliant example of the community coming together in celebration and friendship and one we can all be proud of.

Perhaps we will not have to wait so long for the next coronation? and if Charles III steps out of line, then perhaps The Dinton Hermit will rise once more and sharpen his AXE!!

Steve Merry (Community Events Team)