

STEDMAN COUSINS



August 2022

From the President

Newsletter 20

Dear Cousins,

At last, after three years due to Covid, we were able to meet up for our Reunion last weekend. Unfortunately, due to health problems, some of the Cousins who had hoped to join us, were unable to do so, so on behalf of us all, we wish you well.

Sixteen of us met at “The Land of Lost Content” museum on Saturday morning. For those people who haven’t visited it before, I’ll try to describe it. The collection is displayed on three floors of the building and each room is literally packed from floor to ceiling (and including the ceiling) with everyday items of “yesterday” we were all familiar with, including telephones, vacuum cleaners, toys, machines of all description and sizes, even food packaging. As you can see from these photos, there are thousands of items.



Ironically, we were discussing the difficulty of moving such a collection and sadly, talking later with the owner, we discovered that she is having to close the museum and sell the collection. I am sure it will be a wrench for her to part with them since it has taken her thirty years to collect.



After lunch and chat in one of Bishop's Castle's many pubs, we had a look in the "House on Crutches" a timber framed building originally from the 12th century.



The crutches refer to the posts which support the 17th century upper floor. The house is at the top of a steep hill, the last part of which is an uneven cobbled pavement – quite a challenge for some of us, but not all, as you will see on the next photo.



In the evening we enjoyed a “family” meal at our usual venue, “The Horse and Jockey” in Knighton; a lovely occasion and time to catch up on everyone’s news. This year we were delighted to have a new generation of Stedman Cousin joining us when Lila, Dave and Alexia Stedman’s new granddaughter.



Lila with her Mum, Emaly

Sunday was spent at Brampton Bryan at their “Scarecrow Sunday event. It’s an annual event organized by the people of Brampton Bryan, a small village just over the border in Herefordshire (literally a few hundred yards over the border from Bucknell). Apparently, there are only thirty houses in the village of a number of listed buildings including the manor house of Brampton Bryan Hall and it’s medieval castle. The occasion is so well organized and includes a flower festival in the church, tours of the castle (the only time it is open to the public), hog roast, strawberry cream teas, even archery to try.



We particularly enjoyed the dog display which included agility races in the main arena. The ‘Paws for Thought’ organization cares for rescued dogs and aim to restore their confidence and teach obedience. It was amazing to see what they have achieved.



We are still trying to gather information about the family and Dave has been uncovering more documents from the Archives, and I have been attempting to transcribe the hieroglyphs. One interesting possibility Dave discovered, is the location of Torpley Hall (another of the Stedman houses), which we have been discover for some time. From an old map, Dave located the remains or site of a building which now lies in a forested area slightly north of the possible Banke House which we located and visited in a previous Reunion, if you remember.

Please let me know where and what you would like to include for our next Reunion

Best wishes to you all.

Sandra