

Did we really need to postpone the V8 Day Out at Hardwick Hall?



Bob Owen says "on Sunday March 17th we were travelling in the ZTT to a family funeral to take place on Monday morning in Guisborough, Yorkshire. We had wanted to go on Ken Clayton's V8 Day Out at Hardwick Hall on Sunday 7th April but this clashed with the predicted birth of our first grandchild, so we hadn't booked. However, since Hardwick was more or less en-route for us and was scheduled to be open, and we had the time, it seemed a good idea to call in. Carolyn was navigating and said we have the option of leaving the A1M at the junction south of Hardwick and using minor roads or leaving north of Hardwick and coming back on more major roads. Because of my stingy nature I foolishly chose the minor roads. So the road photos are of Shepherd's Lane, about 2 miles from Hardwick. During the hour we struggled to dig ourselves out we were helped by two walkers who said that the next lane, Silverhill Lane, was clear. It was - but this led to into Stanley Lane as it left the village and went over higher ground and this too was covered by drifts. We were now about a mile from Hardwick. Having learnt that a front wheel drive car is useless in snow when going backwards, and we'd already covered some snowy ground and had no room to turn round, I put the wipers on full and the pedal to the metal and we barged through the luckily downhill lane with periodic whiteouts and adrenalin flowing. Fortunately no one else was foolish enough to attempt the road so there were no other cars and we got through to a cleared road. The last photo is of the snow decked car near the gate to Hardwick. We found the gate to Hardwick was closed as the house hadn't been opened . . . due to bad weather. So we visited nearby Bolsover Castle instead." **Ken's decision to postpone the event to 26th May was clearly wise!**