



A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

THE KNIFE ANGEL

It was a Derby woman, Rachel Webb, who was instrumental in bringing The Knife Angel to Derby in October. For those of you who did not see this magnificent statue outside the Cathedral on Iron Gate it really was the most amazing structure. With knife crime on the rise across the country the statue has come to be a symbol of the hard work that partners in all communities contribute to halt this dreadful disease in society. Rachel's son Tom was only 22 years old when he was stabbed and killed in St Peter's Street, Derby, by a 16-year-old boy in January 2016. The 27 feet high sculpture is made from 100,000 bladed weapons collected in 'amnesty' knife banks across the country and has been on a tour of the country stopping off at Derby before heading for Chester. Powerful.



IN MEMORY

Not many people manage to fill St Oswald's Church in Ashbourne but the late Michael Key achieved just that. I first met Michael and his wife Gill as parents at S Anselms in the late 1990s and our friendship followed our children through prep and public school days where he regaled many and befriended more in his passion for life, the countryside, nature and love of food and fine dining. The congregation beamed in amusement and respect as his dear friend Martin Price gave a eulogy followed by his daughter Hetty's moving tribute. From the church we all repaired to Osmaston's marquee to celebrate Michael's life as he would have wished. Our thoughts go out to Gill and their children Edward, Hetty and Emma. A life well lived.



SALVAGE HUNTERS

Ten years ago an episode of a new television programme was filmed at Tissington. The show was called 'Salvage Hunters' and featured Drew Pritchard, an antiques collector and trader from North Wales. The idea of the show is that Drew rummages around outhouses, sheds, attics and cellars and makes offers to the owner about collectables that take his fancy. Then a form of bantering and bartering takes place. The show is in its 13th series and the producers wanted to bring Drew back to Tissington. On a tour that had taken the team from Hungary to Lincolnshire and then to the Haddon Estate, it was our turn to host the 'relic collectors'. I cannot divulge the outcomes (the programme is due to be aired on Discovery and Quest Channels next February/March) but do look out for the tale of the '11 chairs'.



COUNTY CLUB

It is always a pleasure to welcome the County Club Derby to Tissington. Once based at premises on Ashbourne Road, the Club is now a travelling troubadour outfit that meets monthly under the aegis of Chairman David White. Predominantly the domain of past and present Derby professionals it is a meeting of bonhomie and good humour. This year we welcomed Cheshire cousins as well as a hefty garnering of retired medics. It is a jolly affair to host over 40 in the Main Hall for lunch with the sound of clinking glasses and laughter topped off by an amusing anecdote from David. If you ever need an after-dinner speaker, then David is your man!

BETTER COMMUNICATIONS

As readers will know, planning consent in our area – in a Listed Building in a Conservation Village in a National Park in the most regulated country in the European Union – is difficult to achieve. However, in the country's rush for better broadband, overnight BT erected an eight metre pole in the middle of the village. Engineers had driven for four hours from North Wales to complete the job, but subsequent investigations discovered that it was put up without legal notice so the engineers will have to take it away. I dare not count the waste of money and time, but it is substantial! Why not ask us first?

