



A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Each year the Chairman of the District Council hosts a Civil Service in the Dales. This April Cllr Steve Flitter chose the charming village of Tansley as the venue for his service at Holy Trinity Church. With the congregation representing the wider area of the Dales we were addressed by the incoming Archdeacon of Chesterfield the Venerable Carol Coslett about the value of community and partnership in both our private and formal lives. After that we repaired to the village hall for refreshments at which the Chairman presented three of his Community Awards to unsuspecting recipients who had 'given outstanding commitment and service to their communities over the past few years'. One such recipient was Janet Pinder from



Col John Wilson, Janet Pinder and Cllr Steve Flitter

Matlock and the photo shows her receiving the Award from Steve alongside the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire Col John Wilson. Quite a lady, quite an award!



The Estate Staff enjoying the bench for the first time!

SITTING ROOM

A new bench has arrived in the village. Excitement mounted as the 4-seater 'Bericote Bench' from Woodberrys of Leamington Spa was delivered and placed in position overlooking the pond on the southern edge of the village. The bench has been presented as the result of an application to the Local Projects Fund at Derbyshire Dales District Council whereby the Council can assist with projects in the local community. The Parish Council decided on a new pathway around the pond in addition to the bench and I predict that it will soon rival the Emery Church seat that gains many admirers as people sit there overlooking the village.

FESTIVAL FUN

With funding from the Arts Council the team from the Ashbourne Festival are collaborating with the Clayroom an Ashbourne pottery workshop to produce 5,000, 9 inch individual terracotta clay figures which, once fired, will be an art installation in St Oswald's from June till September 2018. The installation entitled 'Our Game' has proved very popular in the town and represents our annual Shrovetide Football, with the figures representing the spectators and the hug made of higher quality figures plus a Shrovetide ball. The installation will feature as part of the Festival (22nd June to 8th July) alongside the other recitals, concerts, exhibitions and events that make the town throb with classical and contemporary culture. With



such a large number of figures needed I took a turn making one of the 'spectators' although people have said that mine looks more like the Gruffalo than a person. It only takes ten minutes and has involved townfolk aged 3 to 93 making 'Our Game' a huge success. Thank you Ashbourne Festival!



LOST & FOUND

Prompted by a missive from Derbyshire County Council over the need to take down a roadside tree, I found the said dead elm on the west side of the dangerous B5056. Evasive action to avoid an accident led me into the undergrowth and to the discovery of an 18th century milestone covered in weeds, nettles and ivy. Armed with my trusty pruning saw I unearthed this gem. Watch out for it as you travel north from Fenny Bentley to Bradbourne!

ON CRICKET

An unusual split vote at our District Council meeting in March resulted in correspondence with Guy Pearce in Wirksworth. During the ensuing debate it transpired that Guy is writing a book on the History of Wirksworth Cricket Club. He has discovered that although a club was established officially in 1849, 'Wirksworth men played against a team from Sheffield in 1757, the earliest match recorded in Derbyshire history. The result was disputed, but Wirksworth won.' The club was also very powerful in the late Victorian era and 11 Wirksworthians, including a wicket keeper, represented the county between 1873 and 1914. Quite an achievement for a smallish town and another worthwhile read when the book is published.