



A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

CAMPAIGN TRAIL TALES

I have been a Member of Derbyshire Dales District Council for eight years. At the election four years ago I was uncontested and helped canvass for colleagues in their wards but this May I was up against two other candidates so I went on the campaign trail in my patch.

The Ward covers the pretty villages of Thorpe, Fenny Bentley, Parwich, Tissington and Biggin as well as the hamlets of Alsop, Cold Eaton (surely one of the most undiscovered gems in the county), Newhaven and Heathcote, not to mention the outlying farms and steadings dotted about.

Our local MP Sir Patrick McLoughlin joined me for a stint around Biggin on Good Friday and we were royally accosted (in a friendly manner, I should say) as we made our way around the village to end at the very busy *Waterloo* pub.

To my fascination I met the grandmother of one of the staff at our Tearoom who informed me that 70 years ago her grandfather had been the gamekeeper on the Tissington Estate. His surname, rather aptly, was Partridge! The things one



Sir Richard outside his local polling station



Sir Patrick McLoughlin and a supporter at Biggin

discovers – other than views on Brexit – on the campaign trail.

Oh, the election... I was safely returned.

THREE FAREWELLS

Things come along in threes and sadly I recently attended three funerals in one week. First, the funeral of Robert Wright at Eyam. Robert and his wife Nicola rejuvenated the family home of Eyam Hall, opening it to the public in 1992. The addresses were poignant and touching and the selection of music a huge celebration of everything that Robert loved. He had

chosen it all himself. A life gone too soon. Then to Fenny Bentley to commemorate a former tenant of the Estate, Kathy Winkley. Mourners were all invited to say a few personal words about Kathy – a remarkable lady. The third was to celebrate the life of 93-year-old expert sheepdog trialist Arthur Humphreys who had lived in Tissington for over 80 years. Three different funerals marking the end of three fulfilled lives.

THREE APPEARANCES

At the start of April I gave three talks on my specialist subject, 'Tissington, Its Past Present and Future Evolution'. Sandwiched between appearances in Derby and Holmfirth was a visit to Stafford's County Showground as the warm-up act to TV celebrity and presenter Martin Roberts. Speaking before over 500 members of Staffordshire's various Womens' Institutes was a new experience. They were a powerful, amusing and rewarding audience. I stayed to listen to Martin's talk with footage from his appearance on *I'm a Celebrity*.... The ladies loved him and celebrated his visit at the nearby gin counter!



Sir Richard with members of Staffordshire WI's at the Stafford County Showground

CELEBRATING ST GEORGE'S DAY

The annual St George's Day Parade at Parwich is a very jolly affair. Members of the Royal British Legion meet in the clubhouse before marching to St Peter's Church for a service in the presence of the High Sheriff of Derbyshire, Lord Burlington of Chatsworth. This year the event was blessed with sunshine as the band paraded through the lanes of the pretty village. This year the day clashed with the London Marathon and I suspect the reader can guess where the more interesting 'watering hole' stops were. There was no alcohol at the marathon!



THE MIGHTY OAK

Wood from the estate could be used to help rebuild Notre-Dame in Paris. As a result of an initiative from the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle, I am one of over 200 estates across the country to pledge an English oak tree to assist with the renovations. In 1992 the Duke garnered a host of mature trees to contribute to the rebuilding of Windsor Castle and when he saw the devastation of Notre-Dame, David felt impelled to rally his cohort to contribute. Other Derbyshire estates involved are Okeover and Haddon. It remains to be seen whether or not the French will insist on using French oak, but the offer has been made.