

## March 2022 Edition Derbyshire Life Baronet's Diary

We have not moved the books in the Library for several years. In the spring and with the house closed to visitors the new 'home team' and I decided to invoke the good practice of looking after such a bibliothéque by removing all the books individually, dusting them down and flicking through the pages in order to give them all air. To our utter dismay we found that some- certainly the ones on the bottom rows- had developed serious mould and were home to varieties of bug life. The technical term is 'bookworm' and if these creatures are not disturbed for some time they tend to bury down into the pages and then proceed to eat the paper! With a total of 3017 books in the library the team had a hard task to get through all the volumes in the time allotted. I think in future we will allocate a full week in January/February to spring clean our library and release the bookworms into the wild. A job well done.

Three funerals in a week. First to Ashford in the Water to celebrate the life of Joy Wilkinson the beloved wife of the Brigadier Edward for over sixty five years- with a tribute from son Tim and readings from the granddaughters we were told of her love of dogs, horses and life with the maxim of six 'Lessons from Joy' culminating in the phrase 'be constant'. Then to a packed St Oswald's Church in Ashbourne to commemorate the passing of Lewis Rose OBE, lawyer, local politician and family man. A full version of 'If' by Rudyard Kipling (look it up if you are only familiar with the abridged version) beautifully read by son Robert and a tribute from son Andrew enthralled the congregation that had gathered from all over the country to celebrate his life and support Janet his wife. And finally to All Saints Catholic Church in Ashbourne to join others in memory of Teresa Bury the wife of Stanley formerly of Ashbourne agency Bury & Hilton. A tribute from son in law Philip and respect from 3 children and 11 grandchildren – another stalwart of the town has passed. Three great Derbyshire lives well lived and our condolences go out to these three Derbyshire families.

I thought I had finished the 'school run' when Emily left Repton three years ago but I was reminded of those ghastly Sunday evening drives when son Freddie emerged at Tissington one weekend. Freddie has now immersed himself in the movie business and has recently taken on a four month contract in Glasgow as the city serves as the backdrop to the new Marvel film of 'Batgirl' starring an American protegee actress. After a week of hard filming Freddie returned home via EasyJet and Emi and Birmingham airport. On the Sunday night I had to drop him back for his return flight at 9pm and with the complex eerily cavernous and silent it reminded us both of the Sunday night runs to Stowe nearly a decade ago! Spooky!

In early February Fiona and I were delighted to welcome back to Tissington the step daughter of my late Uncle John from whom I had inherited in 1989. Rosy had grown up at the Hall with her Mother and Sir John in the late 70s and early 80s and then settled in London with her husband and family. For her special birthday the family took the rejuvenated Callow Hall for the weekend visiting old haunts during the day. We were delighted to host the tribe and learn from each other how 'growing up' in such a marvellous home was so different then to now. Stories abounded about old members of staff and my subsequent revelations but we both agreed that the people who Rosy and I would most like to ask to our imaginary dinner party were all the characters that hung in portraits on the walls. We are all just passing through. A fascinating tour for all involved!

Much has been written already about the Queen's special Platinum Jubilee year of 2022 celebrating her 70 years on the throne. One of the initiatives is to plant trees in her honour as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. A national committee is distributing trees to individuals and groups as part

of the process. Here at Tissington we are transplanting some self set trees from one patch of the Estate to another. We have one clump of lovely sweet chestnut saplings that will now adorn another woodland on the Estate. We are told that trees that only move a mile or so from where they were first nourished fare better in near re-locations. We took out so many ash last year that we need to restock so this is the start of some serious re-planting that will also benefit our green credentials.

Photo The books laid out in the Library getting an airing

Photo The Birthday Cake

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