



A BARONET'S DIARY

SIR RICHARD FITZHERBERT

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

There was real irony in the village as 'The Beast from the East' finally relented in mid-March and the weather began to thaw. This contributed to a great many burst pipes and teams from Severn Trent were reported to be 'working through the night' to get things fixed. The residents of Tissington went without water for one day, then another, and after three dry days our concern turned to complaint with numerous calls and texts to 'the helpline'. It is sad to report that no one seemed to listen to our particular problems and after six days I resorted to using my local contacts, namely Cllr Barry Lewis, Leader of the County Council. Cattle without water was the worst problem but a word from Barry brought the Severn Trent cavalry with bowsers, technicians and pallets of bottled water. The true irony of this sorry

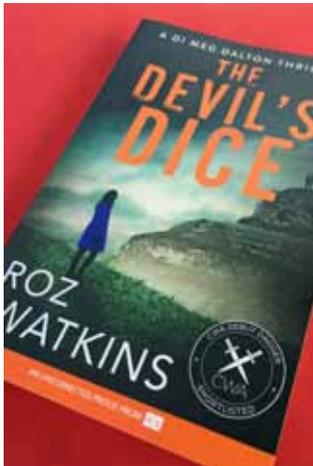


Water supplies alongside Hall Well

episode was that as the village of 'The Home of Well-Dressing' (celebrating the life-giving water from natural wells that have never dried up), we had reverted to collecting bottled water from the car park in Ashbourne! Let us hope we are all better prepared next time...

PEDAL POWER

'Cycling is the new golf', said the speaker at a recent Pedal Peak District seminar at the excellent Hassop Station tearooms and cycle centre. With the health and wellbeing agenda now uppermost in the nation's psyche the demand for cyclist-friendly hostleries is growing. At Herbert's Tearooms we already have over 30 cycle racks but the Peak District National Park initiative provides grant-aid for other cyclist aids such as sturdy permanent pumps and storage facilities. Watch this space as Tissington embarks on further investment in cyclist paraphernalia!



PEAK PERFECT SETTING FOR A CRIME

'A lawyer is found dead in a Peak District cave, his face ribboned with scratches. Amidst rumours of a local curse, DI Meg Dalton is convinced this is cold-blooded murder. There's just one catch – chiseled into the cave wall above the body is an image of the grim reaper and the dead man's initials.'

So reads the back cover of Whatstandwell author Roz Watkins' first novel *The Devil's Dice*, a book that I could not put down on a recent holiday. I had met Roz on the BBC Radio Derby Breakfast Show and accepted a copy with glee. Throughout the tale there are plenty of references to local landmarks, villages and towns and it is a ripping read! I have now shown Roz some of the backwaters of our Estate. Who knows? Perhaps her next novel will feature a grisly end for some poor victim in the boundaries of the Tissington Estate!

OUR CHURCH HERITAGE

Sadly I have to report that the trustees have held our final meeting of the Derbyshire Churches and Chapels Preservation Trust. In late March we met to distribute the final grants to close the charity after 26 years. I have only been involved for the last six as chairman but dwindling income meant there was no point in trying to soldier on. The last three churches to benefit were the Melbourne United Reformed Church, St Lawrence North Wingfield and St Mary's Wirksworth. The Trust has distributed over £1/2m in grant aid over the years but now individual Church Councils will have to raise funds with fêtes, coffee mornings and the like and also try to persuade Historic England and other local charities and companies for funds to assist with the capital costs of keeping our ecclesiastical heritage safe.

A COUNTY TOUR DE FORCE

At the end of March over 400 of us involved in the tourism trade are invited to Chatsworth to officially launch 'The 2018 Season' over drinks and canapés and are personally greeted by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. It is no mean feat to get such a throng together but the importance of the invitation means that *none* of those invited is late! With The Masterplan nearly complete, the Duke explained the Chatsworth Renewed exhibition including the inaugural artist-in-residence Linder Sterling who has put her 21st century stamp on years of



much admired chattels!. Chatsworth is an exemplar in the country house business – once again it is well worth more than one visit this season.

Contact: tisshall@dircon.co.uk