

March 2023 Edition Baronet's Diary

Another two tv requests hit my desk. This time the synopsis is along the lines of the latest Claudia Winkelman show on BBC 1 called **Traitors!** The show is to be called 'Rise and Fall' and follows various conspirators on a journey where scheming and trickery is very much part of the process to win the loot! After a lengthy conversation I turned it down only to then receive a call the next day from a researcher of well-known Channel 4 show **Gogglebox**. Regular readers of my column will recall that Fiona and I have been asked before onto this show. We feared that we were not able to watch all the shows that were suggested but I gather that Channel 4 send advance copies of the programme pre-transmission. With ideas of the two of us in dinner jackets and ballgowns swigging Bollinger we also turned that down! Perhaps we should try for the 2024 series!

Those of you who have driven to Tissington since the New Year will have noticed that the main gates at the entrance to the village have been heavily nudged to the ground.....again! An errant driver for a local haulage company decided to turn into our village on January 6th with his tractor and load of straw. Sadly, the driver failed to negotiate the turn adequately and knocked down the said pillar at an estimated repair cost of £30,000 plus. Of course, the driver (who incidentally has since left the employ of the contractor and also has never apologized to me personally) had been told not to enter this way with such a load but ignored all requests. These gates were built for the horse and cart in the 18th century (see a postcard image from 1903) not these huge pantechikons that roam the roads these days. Only last April we completed our 5th rebuild in 7 years after previous incidents!! Now the time MUST be right for the authorities to address the issue! I trust that my request to 'move' the gateway to a safer position will NOT fall on deaf ears. I am fuming.

Two of my greatest friends have died within a fortnight of each other. First Jeremy Copestake of Bradley died suddenly on 1st January on his way to hospital. Jeremy featured numerous times in this column (most recently as the lead actor in a production from the Quarndon Amateur Dramatic Society) as he was a man of Derbyshire and a man with many many friends so much so that he packed St Oswald's Church in Ashbourne with over 600 for his funeral. His amazing wife Lia gave the 30-minute tribute to the memory of the loveliest friendly and affable fellow that had time for everyone. We walked together with our Peak Strollers group every Thursday and his wit, humour and bonhomie will be greatly missed.

Second Mark Hodson who died at the age of 58 in mid-January of cancer, a disease fought hard by this amazing person. Only in November Mark had stayed the night at Tissington to show off his prowess at Warsop the following day but then the disease took over again. The Church in Bremhill near Calne bulged with 400 as the Village Hall(via relay) hosted a further 100 souls to celebrate his joyous life. Another 30-minute tribute to a fabulous person and a further celebration at a local hostelry. Incredibly both funerals were set half an hour apart on the same day a distance of 150 miles apart....and I had to chose which funeral to attend. Both super people, both will be greatly missed. Our condolences to both widows Lia and Kate and to all their families.

It is not often that one receives a card from the King but the Parish Council were thrilled to get a letter from Buckingham Palace that was presented to the Council by the Clerk at our latest meeting. We received the missive after we had written expressing our condolences to King Charles after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth. The Council decided that we should get it framed and hang in the Village Hall for posterity. Touching.

719 words

sirrichard@tissingtonhall.co.uk

Photo 1 The gates knocked over the Tractor and Trailer

Photo 2 The Tissington gates from 1903

Photo 3 Tissington Parish Council and the letter from King Charles.