

Baronet's Diary November 2022- A Tribute to Her Majesty the Queen

Thursday 8 September

We all remember where we are when we hear serious news. I had just completed my only round of golf this year in the Fisher German day at Willersley Park Ashby when the news of the death of our Queen filtered through. We observed a minute's silence in Her Majesty's Memory prior to our dinner .

Friday 9 September

I stay overnight and on the way home to Tissington I stop and buy fresh copies of 5 different newspapers ready to put away in a drawer for future generations to discover. I often do this on momentous occasions and this certainly is one. Our bell ringers assemble in St Mary's Church for an hour's long peal between 12 and 1.

Saturday 10 September

I attend the wedding of a distant cousin at St Mary & St Barlok Norbury as Tom Fitzherbert Wright marries Anna Bonevitz alongside the family tombs. Although we all enjoy the wedding we honour our late Monarch by signing the Book of Condolence in Church and then party into the evening back at Tissington in the marquee.

Sunday 11 September

We watch spell-bound on television as the Queen's body leaves Balmoral and weaves its way through the glens to Edinburgh and the vigil at St Giles. The Church Council open a Book of Condolence at St Mary's Tissington for residents and visitors to sign.

Monday 12 September

I travel to Matlock to pick up the District Council bus as we tour the Dales to look at planning application sites. In the Town Hall I sign a further Book as a tribute.

In the Village Hall at 7pm I chair the Tissington Parish Council as we conduct our usual business but our minds are drawn elsewhere.

Tuesday 13 September

Fiona and I attend Uttoxeter Races with friends and, prior to racing, attend a poignant Minute's Silence in the parade ground as we celebrate the late Queen's love of the Sport. There are photographs of the late Queen all over the racecourse.

In the evening I return to Matlock as we attend the Planning Committee. I think the Queen would have applauded our decisions about supporting the rural economy.

Wednesday 14 September

We honour the life of a Bakewell resident, Sharon Wakeman, gone too soon at the age of 54. Our thoughts are with all grieving families at this time.

Thursday and Friday are spent in London and I find time between appointments to walk around Buckingham Palace and gauge the mood of the nation. The atmosphere is extraordinary as SO many people pay their respects. My sister joins the queue at Southwark Park at 8.00pm and sees the coffin in Westminster Hall at 5.00am. My schedule prevents me. I should have gone.

I sign another Book at St Peter's Eaton Square after a memorial to the parents of a great friend.

Sunday 18 September

Rev Duncan Ballard invites us and others to join in a Service of Thanksgiving at St Oswald's Church in Ashbourne. The Bells ring out, the Choir sings and the Ashbourne Town Band play....inspirational.

Monday 19 September

The Day of the State Funeral

After our morning dog walk I pop over to St Mary's and congratulate our team ringing the bells for an hour prior to the funeral. It is Tissington's small tribute. I post a video of them on Instagram and get a hundred 'likes'.

We watch ...again spell bound... at the Funeral on our television before I break off at 1.30 to head for Cubley Estate.

The Keeper has organised various countryfolk to pay tribute with a 96 gun salute-one shot for every year of the late Queen's life. Inspired, we all 96 parade to our positions and line the field as we each individually fire one shot airborne above Accession Wood. At the end the Last Post is played and we have our last Minute's Silence.

In total (I respected) 7 silences and (signed) 4 books of condolence. A small token of appreciation for 70 amazing years of service. Long live the King.

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