

Subject: Sequence of Events**Date:** Monday, September 25, 2006 08:45**From:** Ian Sheppard <iansheppard@yahoo.co.uk>**To:** Stan Baring <stan@stanbaring.com>**Conversation:** Sequence of Events

Good Morning Stan.

There is now no doubt in my mind that there is an intestacy, it is just a case of proving it. On 12 October 2004 my father was almost certainly at Inkpen on his own, recovering from a major operation. He had daily visits from a nurse, who was a lady called Mandy Smith who I was at school with. I have managed to get in contact with Mandy and she has given some pointers on how to get access to her diary records at the time - as she has since moved to a different area.

Margaret's birthday was on 28 September and they always went away, so I am trying to figure out where they went. There was also 3 October which marked six months of marriage, so they may have been away for a week or two. There is a possibility they went abroad for a two week holiday but had to return a week early because Dad was having trouble. I am still trying to establish this.

Anyway the key fact is that later, Dad forgot to send Nicola a birthday card for 18 October. He later said he's been to Inkpen on his own (he was still driving, just) and left the card for Margaret to post, and she had forgotten.

I remember talking to him on around the 14th and he was at Inkpen I'm sure - there had been a 747 cargo aircraft crash and we chatted about that.

I believe what happened before that is that Dad had written the will, and then headed off for Inkpen probably on Monday 11th, leaving the date blank. That was quite in character for him - very much so in fact. Margaret then took it with her to her parents and they signed it, while she filled in the date and her parents' address. Still not conclusive, but if the nurse visited Dad at Inkpen on the 12th then that will be confirmation.

With the later will, I went to the Houses of Parliament on 1 August. Piecing together the calendar, I remembered that I had spoken with my father that night and told him all about the tour. Tristan (my eldest son) had come with me, and Ed, a law student friend. Dad was at Inkpen alone, I am positive, because I remember the conversation being quite relaxed and he was saying how much he liked it at Inkpen.

On 2 August the will was supposed to have been signed. What I think happened is that Margaret came up to meet Dad at Inkpen in their other car, and they came up to London at the weekend (I think for a UFO conference). They called in on the 6th and we sat in the garden - I have pictures of Dad with the boys (including the one attached!)

After Dad died on 24 August I spent a few days staying with Margaret, and went to Heathrow to pick Richard up (a long drive!) When Margaret produced the two latest wills, she said to Richard (and Richard remembers this) that the last will had been witnessed on the night before Dad died, when he was unconscious on morphine in hospital. Margaret had suddenly realised and rushed up to her parents to get it done.

What Richard doesn't yet remember is Margaret's next comments. She indicated (and I forget her exact words) that there was some doubt over that earlier will but that if that failed too, the earlier one left even less money to Richard and I. Thus we left it at that, naturally wanting to receive the greater sum!

Apparently Chris, Margaret's brother, was "furious" with Margaret and said that they could not approve this will. Looking back I realise now why they did - the real reason was not because Margaret wanted Richard and I to get what Dad had wanted for us (as she said) - it was that she didn't want us to get Inkpen. They obviously pieced this together with their solicitor (perhaps) and decided that they would cover it up.

That explains why Margaret has shunned me ever since. I thought it was strange but now I realise that carrying this secret around, she did not really want to deal with me.

But in the light of all this, their behaviour has been appalling. I think we are a hair's breadth away from being able to challenge the validity of the wills. I'm not sure the best way to do that. Presumably if that succeeds I will be awarded costs, and there will be a question over the loss in interest etc to Richard and I in the meantime.

Best regards,

Ian