

Family News

Lez's Dad John spent much of the year in various county hospitals, returning to LRI where he sadly passed away. Lez's Mum Jackie had long awaited knee surgery at LGH and sadly passed away there. We have spent much time both travelling to/from hospitals and visiting hospitals.

Home

We had 3 wasp nests this year. Julia our gardener has moved to Wales. We are still looking for a replacement. The conservatory was decluttered, to use over the summer. It has since refilled. We are now helping to declutter a bungalow as well as this house. Much "larger" stuff has gone to a charity shop. We had a plumber (thanks, Neil) unblock pipes – by thawing them. Andrew has removed more laminate flooring, the flooring of the devil.

Cat

Olie Cat sometimes can't jump as high as she would like - is now 13 years old. She hasn't brought us many presents this summer.

Technology

Device of the year is a wireless digital cable, connecting Andrew's violin electric pick-up to a pre-amplifier direct input box. It lets Andrew play violin whilst amplified - without being tethered, lovely. Andrew fixed an internet outage by cleaning dirty cable contacts.

Music

Lez is playing bassoon in multiple local groups, bands and orchestras. Andrew plays irregularly with Oakham Baptist Church bands. Is becoming a better musician. Has digital output sound. We've been to lots of music and gigs this year. Sung Evensong (St Peters Knossington), Milly Hubbard Oboe, also Saxophone Quartet and Gilbert & Sullivan (All Saints Oakham), Gigspanner (Tewkesbury and Stamford) and Knight & Spires (Stapleford). Lez has played concerts with Leicester Community Concert Band, Rutland Concert Band, City of Peterborough Symphony Orchestra (winds), 11 Winds (playing Mendelssohn), Rutland Winds, Leicester Sinfonia (plus a wedding), Stamford Chamber Orchestra, Playing Strauss (R) at All Saints, Scraftoft, British Double Reed Society day (Birmingham), Quartet (Tart House Leicester), Beaufort Quintet (St Mary's Ketton), Ellesmere Symphonic Bands, Birthday Quintet (Leicester) and Rutland Symphonia (Oundle).

Lez

Lez has not managed to visit City Hall this year but has met Sue for coffee and a leaving "do". As well as oh so much music, Lez is doing painting and drawing, including digital art.

Musical highlights include ABRSM Bassoon grade 8 (distinction), renovation of her 21st birthday flute, going to Malvern Winds, Rutland Winds, Symphonic Winds "Captured in music" weekend (Ellesmere) and Bass Clarinet and Bassoon weekend (Sheffield).

Andrew

Andrew's hernia repair means he can now lift again. He is no longer doing self-employed work, or part-time work. He has finally retired. To prove it he did a month's Electoral Canvassing over the summer.

Is working on decluttering. Has managed some breakfasts and brunches with "the usual suspects", plus Suzy, Rob and Lizzy. Also, some work outside with Sian and Judy. Has been to

Corby Cube for musical theatre and seen Shakespeare at Tolethorpe. Has visited Mancetter, Keswick and Llandrindod Wells. Once again is going to a small church midweek meetup.

Health

We have both avoided catching Covid-19 again and are taking 'flu and Covid-19 inoculations. Andrew's mental health remains poor, but he tries to be positive. Regular, ongoing talking therapy helps (thanks Carolyn).

Cars and Bikes

The (62) Suzuki Splash was replaced at 124,000 miles. Reliable, yes, but turned into a money pit. Replaced with a (67) Suzuki Celerio at 51,000 miles. Now at 59,000 miles. The (63) Smart is now at 47,000 miles and is a happy, fun car. Andrew used his mountain bike for Electoral Canvassing, bruising his legs when he got onto it awkwardly. The Smart needed two tyres, the Celerio just the one. The Celerio has 5 brands of tyre.

Away from home, Holidays and Fun Stuff

We've been to Eastbourne, and had a "holiday from home" week. Other fun stuff included Mother Goose (Curve), Herstmonceux Castle Gardens, Pitsford Water, Castle Grimethorpe, Lady in the Van (Tolethorpe), Avenue Q (Oakham), out on Rutland Belle (Rutland Water), Hardwick Hall, Barnsdale Gardens, Wollaton Hall, Harlaxton Manor Gardens and a Botanical Illustration Day (Chesterfield).

Getting Organised, Resolutions and Plans

2024 we plan to enjoy more music. Lez wants to produce more art and digital art. Lez now has an online shop hosted by Crafters Market: www.tinyhareart.cmuk.shop. Helping Grayhame declutter the Earl Shilton bungalow. Andrew to continue decluttering here at home, and to become a better musician.

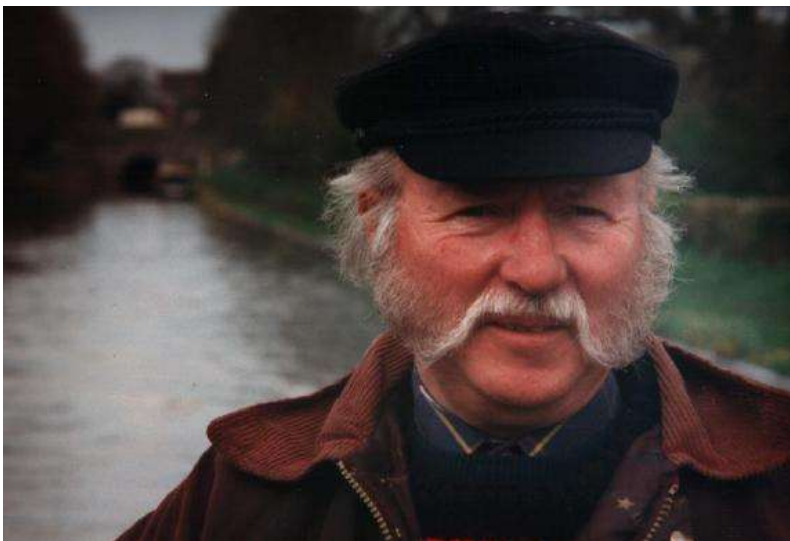
With our love and best wishes



Available online (in colour) at: www.bullwer.co.uk/xmas/xmas.html

Lez's art to be available at www.tinyhareart.cmuk.shop

John Orlebar



11 Jul 1937 to 19 Jun 2023

Jackie Orlebar



18 Oct 1939 to 4 Dec 2023