

Christmas Newsletter 2006

2006 was a good year. Lez got acquainted with Ikea and Andrew completed an OU course.

Lez

DIY: assembled our living room furniture (Ikea – 3 cupboards, a sideboard and a sofa).

OU courses: Passed T188-Making Policies Work and Y159-Understanding Management. Started DB123–You and your money and T306–Managing Complexity.

Music: Played with North Warwickshire Chamber Orchestra, started with the Leicester Recorder Players, went to the Early Music Festival (and danced!) and bought a 1920's Grove musical dictionary from a second-hand bookshop.



Regal Jilly

Andrew

The Bookshop continues to trade despite difficult conditions, seeming to have to work harder each year for less revenue! I have done my first OU course (T175 technology) Result: Pass. Finally I have had compensation from the 2002 barrier incident at work.

Family

Lez's parents have relocated to a bungalow in Earl Shilton. Andrew's parents continue to slow down. We've upgraded Mary's mobile phone and she's discovered texting. John is taking a computer course, and has already shown Andrew a timesaving shortcut. Andrew's sister Lis (and Dave!) have won the picture framing industry award (FATG) for set piece framing, after "running-up" for several years. Andrew's cousin Ruth is engaged to Chris.

Cats

Jack had an expensive plumbing blockage, all now sorted. He enjoyed spending much of the summer in the garden. Jill continues to amaze us with her early morning escapes just before the alarm rings. They both shared a flea problem with us, happily now sorted.

Teignmouth Towers

This year we've decorated the office, our bedroom and the lounge. In the lounge we replaced some Danish Modern units and a tired settee. Jilly has left footprints on one windowsill! We didn't manage another car boot sale, but have lots of stuff ready to go on eBay. We bought 3 fans this summer; 2 for us and 1 for a computer. We've found a roofer who did a great job in less than a week and even chased us!

Technology

Another expensive year! Andrew's computer was replaced. It still has some problems. We got a router for our home office network, and found WindowsXP networks more easily than Windows98. O2 turned off Andrew's mobile phone without warning. We've replaced it (via eBay). Lez's car had a headlight, door-lock and window problem, all being electronically controlled with no manual option. There is something to say for "old" stuff! We had a bad experience buying a phone on eBay. Some of you will have received this annual letter by electronic means. Others will be contacted about this during the coming year.

Outings, Holidays and Fun Things

We took Lez's Smart Car with us by ferry to the Irish Republic and travelled around County Cork with a Humpty Bunny. Andrew now equates the smell of vanilla with the ubiquitous Irish heather! We had a weekend in an hotel in Eastbourne (where Alfred Lord Tennyson stayed.) We've visited several gardens: Baddesley Clinton, Hinton Ampner, Packwood (in a thunderstorm) and Waterperry. We also enjoyed the triannual Barkby Country Fair and visited 78 Derngate Northampton, a Charles Rennie Mackintosh House. We were part of the band at a barn dance (in a barn), playing Blue Grass music. We spent a day in Repton, the ancient Capital of Mercia exploring a Saxon crypt in the church. We were at the wedding of Jane Powell and Steve Hale in Didcot.



Grave Stones at Cashel, Co Tipperary

Bikes and Cars

Lez's car "bottomed out" in a deep hole on an Irish country road. At a service we found we'd broken a suspension member! It loosened other things, too. The electronics have been uncooperative as well, but it's now

working normally. We've decided to keep the Skoda for the time being. Lez refuses to use it through lack of trust; it's full of character! Despite having 7 bikes in the garage, Andrew still hasn't caught up with maintenance, and only 2 are servicable. We often go cycling early on Sunday mornings.



Lez and Andrew at Hook Lighthouse Co Wexford

Health

We're pretty much as we were last year. On Saturdays we often have an early morning swim. We try to eat less rubbish food, and to walk or cycle when possible. We've visited Pitsford Water several times, and walked the perimeter twice.

Getting Organised and Plans

We plan to move home next year, and we've been trying to clear out unnecessary things. We've had dozens of tip trips this year. We went on a course to learn how to make picture frames. We've since used this skill, but have put this on hold as we finish preparing our home for sale.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year:

Andrew *Lez*