

Bullwer News

A year of change

Family

Bullwer - John made access ramps to enable Mary to get into the garden, sadly never used, as Mary died suddenly in July, taking us all by surprise. Andrew is not as weepy as he was this summer. He visited twice daily at Easter and when Mary returned from Hospital. John is slowly adjusting to a new phase of his life.

Orlebar - We fitted a wardrobe for Lez's parents. Andrew helped paint their bungalow.

Christmas 2011



Lez

Lez controls our finances, we have monthly meetings and make joint decisions. Lez works for Leicester City Council as a manager. Her job is still under review. She enjoys long lunch time walks to Leicester City Centre. She recently relocated her office within Leicester.



Andrew

The bookshop job was made redundant in March. He was given a radio alarm clock and a voucher, used to buy loft insulation. He hoped to produce picture frames, but plans changed, and he has instead been looking for work, now cleaning the local pub three mornings a week. He has tidied the garden and cut all the remaining piles of wood, gathering and cutting up pallets, reducing our kerosene bill. The house is now tidier, and he has peace of mind, despite not having a full time job. We were surprised to get an Operation Rudolph+food parcel! He attends Oakham Baptist Church and Knossington St Peters C of E.



Southwell Workhouse
Ludlow Castle
Offa's Dyke Path
Goodrich Castle
Baddesley Clinton
Knossington Open Gardens

Away from Home - Holidays, Days out and Fun Stuff

We visited Southwell workhouse. We shared a cottage with Lez's parents at Walton (Welsh Borders), Andrew sampled Offa's Dyke path.

We visited several gardens, including Hergest Croft Gardens, Hampton Court (Herefordshire), Barnsdale Gardens and Knossington Open Gardens. We enjoyed 3 local tea rooms, Northfield Farm, Gates Garden Centre and Potting Shed.

Andrew watched the CiCLE Classic Cycle Road Race and a circus.

Lez enjoyed a week in Eastbourne. DWP would not allow Andrew to join her.

We attended 3 (free) concerts at Oakham School. We saw Ceri Dupree, King and I and 42nd Street at Curve (booked when we had money!)

Study

Andrew finished his Open University course and has letters after his name. Lez will finish her OU management course in 2012.

Home

In spring, the builder finished pointing. Severn Trent repaired a leaky meter. John has done several workparty days, initially with Mary, latterly alone. We have replaced the loft ladder and woodstore doors, fixed the side gate, added handrails to the stairs and fitted shelves in the living room. Andrew has made ladder access to another roof void. Our neighbour replaced a garden fence whilst Andrew cut back vegetation. The lawnmower is now unreliable. The woodburning stove is worn out too. Andrew has de-algaeed the garden furniture and secured all the external cables to the wall. A plumber has fixed a tap, removed redundant pipes and stopped water hammer.

Technology

Andrew is now using an old spare PC. He appreciates his backups. He struggled trying to get a mobile broadband signal in rural Wales for tutorials for his OU course.



Cats

Jack is now about 17 years old, and sleeps most of the time. He is deaf, has a broken tail, has lost much of his weight. He really is a small cat - and has his advancing kidney failure under control with medication. Jilly is 2 years his junior. She has decimated the local shrew population, has very stiff joints and loves warm places.

Cars and Bikes

The Volvo has had many parts replaced and the Smartie had a new turbocharger and two sets of rear tyres. Andrew had replacement rims and many punctures on his MTB (mountain bike), cycling to the ROC bunker at Cold Overton and to Borough Hill for sunsets.



Health

Andrew has had a flu jab again this autumn, and has only had 1 cold since.

Getting Organised, Resolutions and Plans

We plan to insulate the loft and make the conservatory useable.

With our love and best wishes

Lez and Andrew

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