

A sad year



Harry Cat

Hi there! It's okay, it's only me, Harry. Yes, I'm the cat. But, I'm pretty intelligent.

I make sure they wake up every morning before the alarm clock (see how considerate I am?!) and bring them shrews in the summer (which they don't seem too pleased with, but never mind).

At the beginning of the year there were two cats, Jilly and me. Jilly died in the summer. She hadn't been very well at all. In fact she was hardly cross with me, so I knew she wasn't well. Andrew buried her in the front garden and I helped. It was all very

sad. And there has been more sad news. Andrew's Uncle John died recently. Andrew was muttering that he would have to join the grown-ups now. Not sure why he said that, though. Andrew's dad, John, is still alive and over 90! That is just



John at home

ancient to a cat. He is still living at home, with help.

So, what else has happened this year?

The conservatory has been used lots and lots this year. They had blinds fitted to the roof. It was used mainly by me in the summer, but I let Andrew and Lez share it for entertaining friends. You can barely see out of the window as there are piles of wood outside, waiting for Andrew to cut up for the fire. I like the fire now winter is here. It keeps



Jilly Cat

the lounge lovely and warm all night.

Lez is still working at the Leicester City Council, but she has stopped being a school governor. She hasn't done any studying this year, so I'm not sure what she's been doing instead. Mostly reading, I think. She has moved offices again, but I've not seen any of them.

Andrew is still at Rutland County Council, where colleagues retire and leave, meaning more work (but no more pay) for those left behind. His toe has been causing some problems. A wardrobe fell on it ages ago. I don't understand such things as wardrobes. There aren't any in this house. He is no longer church cleaner.



Conservatory and woodpile



Lez, Andrew & boatdog Skye on Charter Hotelboat Willow at Falkirk Wheel

During the summer Andrew and Lez left me for ages while they went off to Scotland to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary. I had a fabulous time with Myra and with the other cats of Knossington while they were swanning about in a narrowboat from Falkirk to Edinburgh. They also



Glasgow school of Art

went to the Glasgow School of Art (yes, the one that burnt down earlier this year),

and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo (I didn't notice any pictures on their arms when they got back . not that sort of tattoo apparently). They also visited a few gardens again this year. Why they have to go to a garden is beyond me. There are so many exciting things going on in our garden.



Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Andrew has leased an electric-power-assisted bike and has used it for work - lots. Not so much now it's really cold. Lez's little Smart car has had a new engine and clutch and exhaust and still failed the MOT. Sounds like when I go to the vets.

Lez's parents are still plodding as always. Lez's dad (another John) bought himself a moggy (Morris Traveller), but I haven't seen it over here yet.

As always, there is so much more that needs to be done and more that could be said, but it's time for tea.

Purrry Christmas and Happy Mew Year

With our love and best wishes

Harry (and *Lez and Andrew*)



Stowe Gardens, Biddulph Grange Gardens, Little Moreton Hall and Stirling Castle



Drummond Castle, Alnwick Castle and Fox & Hounds (Knossington)



Lez resting at Loch Lomond, Linlithgow Palace and Andrew travelling at Glasgow

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