

Bullwer News

Christmas 2015

A year of change

Family News

Andrew's dad, John, is still living at home - with more support for his day to day living. He spent Christmas 2014 in hospital. Andrew has fitted John's spare room wardrobes and is painting his replacement fencing. Andrew's Aunt Joyce died in March, reminding us of life's fragility.

*Picture of John Bullwer with choc ice.

Lez's parents, Jackie and John, continue to enjoy an active retirement.

*Picture of John Orlebar with a cat on his knee.

Dave (Andrew's brother-in-law) celebrated a birthday in Wigston this year. Lis and Dave have been up to see John Bullwer a number of times – and we got to see them, too!

*Picture of Dave cutting birthday cake.

*Picture of Lis smiling.

Technology

Lez has replaced her PC and her mobile and added a new portable device. They work well together. She is enjoying reading books using her Kindle. We replaced our Dyson vacuum (DC04) with a reconditioned model. Andrew has a 1970's (741) rotary-dial wall mounted phone in his home office. 2015 gadget of the year: stove pipe thermometer (for woodburner).

Home

We enjoyed the conservatory until Autumn. The garden is slowly being brought under control, with many self-setting trees removed. We are no longer using Economy 7 electricity. We've replaced the temperamental fridge-freezer with a fridge, and added kitchen shelves. There has been more kitchen plumbing work. The LED bulb replacement project is complete. We've had a defibrillator fitted in the village.

*Picture of the approach to our house.

Cats

Harry Cat was knocked over on the road and is buried in the front garden near Jack Cat and Jillie Cat. He lived life to the full, up and out before dawn daily.

*Picture of Harry Cat in the garden.

We had Olie (Olivia) Cat in July and Ben Cat in October, both rehomed after we were asked. Sadly they don't like each other.

*Picture of Olie Cat looking up.

*Picture of Ben Cat looking to the middle distance.

Study

Neither of us have done any study this year, rather consolidating life thus far.

Lez

Still at Leicester City Council. Enjoyed seeing New Walk Centre demolished earlier this year. Has a

“standing-up” desk at work. Joined Rutland County Band, playing oboe. Is enjoying letter writing, quilting, sewing and cooking. Spent a few days at Launde Abbey in Summer. Experienced Jury Service.

Picture of Lez and Andrew in Lincoln.

Andrew

Still at Rutland County Council (RCC). Enjoyed watching the Vulcan’s final few flights, including one low over our village. Struggling with shift work and evening meetings. Finding Tax Returns a burden. Has upgraded from jigsaw to (wireless) sabre saw and circular saw for wood and log cutting. Has explored some Nottingham caves whilst the car was repaired. Keeping in touch: (“hi Shaba” “hi Graham”), and Roger in Llandrindod Wells for a few days in Autumn.

*Distant Picture of XH558 over Rutland Water.

*Picture of XH558 keyring.

Cars and Bikes

Andrew’s leased Electric bike is now paid for, but won’t be owned by him before 2018. This is the only bike used this year. The Volvo (V40 Estate) was sold, replaced by a Suzuki (Wagon R+). It’s boot takes Europallets. The Smart (450) has had a frustrating year. The glass roof failed, (it is still drying out), it was off the road much of the year with “won’t start” intermittent faults, two tow-ins - immobiliser failure and puncture, and the suspension and brakes are now being renewed.

Away from Home – Holidays, Days out and Fun Stuff

We holidayed in Sussex this spring, and had two weekends in Lincoln, in May and for the Christmas Market.

We’ve visited Great Dixter, Pashley Manor Gardens and Barnsdale.

*Picture of sunken Courtyard at Great Dixter.

Visited Sue and Ron (Lez’s family) in Fairlight. Saw Steve Hackett (Ace guitar player) in Leicester. We visited the Richard III centre in Leicester, housed in what was Andrew’s “lower” school building. Watched the Solar Eclipse with my father.

Health

Andrew is pleased that his “wardrobe” toe is now back to normal, and is waiting for a scan for a ganglion on his wrist. Andrew’s annual ‘flu jab helps. Lez is doing a lot less this year. We are both experiencing stress and trying hard to maintain a sense of balance.

Getting organised, Resolutions and Plans

For Andrew the getting organised theme continues, many items from a difficult period (2011) have been binned and recycled, there remains much to do. He is hoping to stop working for RCC at 60, earlier if he can.

With our love and best wishes

*Picture of Andrew scriptus.

*Picture of Lez scriptus.

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