

Family News

Jackie has had her elbow mended. John is at times a little slower. They now have a rescue cat, Hollie. Maintaining John Bullwer's home was expensive until it sold. We had much help clearing the house (thanx Sally).



Jackie and John Orlebar

Home

The leaking washing machine grey water drain was replumbed (and further shrew residue removed) and the leaking heating system mended. Fernox inhibitor is helping prevent further furring/blocking. We started

decluttering and disposing of surplus furniture, much being reused. There is still much "Bullwer Archive" here being sorted. Taking photos first is helping Andrew with the sorting. Once John Bullwer's home sold, we replaced furniture, improved storage (tools are now together), filled the oil tank and cleared some debt. Pictures stored for years are now hung. Our front garden was cut back, and the leaning fence replaced (thanx Stephen). Much dry wood was cut and put into the woodstore (full!), and the woodpile reduced in capacity.



Ben Cat

Olie Cat

Cats

Olie Cat (Olivia) (8) and Ben Cat (13) now have play fights. Anne (Ben Cat's previous carer) brought Ben Cat catnip gifts, which they share. Olie Cat worked out that her cat basket is heated - at the start of spring.

Technology

Tesco (bless) have deleted our email account. With Andrew steaming vegetables, the microwave blew up and has been replaced with one without a turntable. Device of the year: Window "mop"/vacuum device with battery suction – clears condensation easily.

Music

Together we've been to an improvisation masterclass weekend with Peter Knight and John Spiers. We both learnt so much. We've seen "The Sixteen" in Peterborough Cathedral, Govannen (ceilidh band) (with lunch and cream tea) at Launde Abbey, Gigspanner big band at Leicester Guildhall, Gigspanner in Peterborough and Peter, John and Gigspanner in Tewkesbury.

Lez is now playing bassoon at RCB (Rutland Concert Band), and has played at Langham Parish Church, Melton Bandstand, Summer Oakham open-air concert, All Saints Oakham and at a 10th RCB anniversary day of 10 concerts – in one day. Playing oboe with LCCB (Leicester Community Concert



Band), Lez has played with the Band of the Royal Grenadier Guards

(Army) in Wigston. She also attended a music department reunion weekend at University of Sheffield. Andrew has tried playing jazz (violin) (Thanx Kevin), but still sounds like a flowery cocktail bar. Has been inspired at evensong at Southwell minster, and plays at OBC (Oakham Baptist church).

Lez

Left LCC (Leicester City Council) after 17 years within "Education", moving to RCC (Rutland County Council) as "Systems Officer".

Andrew

Has taken on more magazine distribution, together with emergency cleaning at the church. 5 key employment areas clashed, requiring 7-day summer working. Has been more social, meeting up with ex-work colleagues and others too, and has been on a weekend conference. He has seen Fort Henry at Horn. Has done more cooking and was ready for a confidence-boosting one-day course.

Cars and Bikes

The Suzuki now has all-season tyres on all four wheels. 83,000 miles. The Smart had a puncture, then a tyre replaced, plus battery, brake pipes, a steering joint and fitting a pre-owned headlight. 130,000 miles. The Lecy bike is no longer leased. The battery pack failed (it was overlooked and left in the bike shed over winter). It has been replaced. The replacement failed – and was replaced. He's been on a local ride (thanx, Phil). 2750 miles.



Fountains Abbey and Bishop Huby's tower (1526)

Lez had a weekend of music at Parcevall Hall, and we explored the steep gardens there together.

Health

We've both had better health this year. Andrew's knee is getting stronger, he no longer uses a stick.



Lez and Andrew

Away from Home – Holidays, Days out and Fun Stuff

We've visited Southwell Minster, Foxton Locks and Inclined Plane, seen Pre-Raphaelite paintings at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and memorial poppy installations at Oakham castle. An Asian food evening at Launde Abbey and meals at The Barn and at Wisteria hotel. We stayed in Eastbourne and visited Batemans, Alfriston and Herstmonceux gardens, and in Skipton visiting Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Gardens, Bolton Abbey (actually a priory), Strid woods, Coldstones Cut and Toft Gate Lime Kiln.



Remembering the Rutland Fallen from the Great War

Getting organised, Resolutions and Plans

Andrew has a big birthday next year and is looking forward to doing less paid work. We want to continue decluttering and for Andrew to sort through the "Bullwer Archive".

With our love and best wishes

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