

## Family News

We met up with Lis and Dave at Boughton-on-the-Water at 'twixtmas 2018/19.

Lez's [Jackie and John Orlebar](#) parents are both slowing down. Both have visited hospital; Jackie has had an elbow revision and is currently recovering. John sold his Traveller (Woodie). They have replaced their conservatory, now claimed by Hollie Cat.

## Home

We replaced the rear fence (thank you Stephen), Andrew has done tree work/emergency gardening, much done in the wet. We were gifted a concrete coal bunker (thank you Maggie), now installed (thanks to Helen and others). Also gifted much cut wood (thank you Judy), Other homegrown trees were added to the woodpile. Bought Ash logs from UKLogsDirect. The lawnmower was replaced with a 140cc unit. The NiCad powered strimmer has also been replaced.

There have been numerous tip trips this year as decluttering has begun.

## Cats

Both cats continue to tolerate each other. Amii and John (Muddy Paws) are our new cat visitors. A monthly struggle to find local cat food ended when we sourced cat food online (Zooplus). Ben Cat has had a supervised visit from Anne.

## Technology

[Ben Cat](#)

[OlieCat](#)

We've replaced a mobile and a PC box. Andrew managed to network the PCs and (legacy) printers, but every (major) Windows upgrade undoes this. At present nothing connects.

2 of the 3 outside house lights (sealed units) failed as autumn called - and warranty expired.

Device of the year: hot glue gun - mending several items.

## Music

We've both been to Rydal Hall for a wind quintet retreat. Andrew played one evening.

Lez has started a recorder group at Rutland Concert Band (RCB), and played with RCB at Rutland County Show, Oakham Proms in the Park, Castor House 100 and Oakham Remembrance Concert.

Lez still plays with Leicester Community Concert Band (LCCB), playing with LCCB at Big Shed Leicester and with LCCB and the Band of the Royal Grenadier Guards (Army) in Wigston.

Lez plays irregularly with Beaufort Wind Quintet, with concerts in Wing and Oakham Castle>

She has joined Stamford Chamber Orchestra (SCO) and played in Stamford with SCO and Mathilde Milwidsky (Violin).

Andrew started violin lessons, plays irregularly at Oakham Baptist Church (OBC) and at every opportunity he gets. He is finding his violin's limits.

Lez uses local repairer (Mr B – Birstall) who looks after her oboe – for repairs and servicing.

We've seen Steve Hackett (Guitar) at Leicester DMH. And been to six Concerts with Peter Knight (Violin), with Gigspanner, John Spiers and Edgelarks. A first was a day at the New Forest Folk Festival.

## Lez

Lez is working at Rutland County Council (RCC) as "Systems Officer".

Lez has enjoyed building her social circle here. Uncle Tony passed away suddenly this spring.

Lez had a retreat in Leicester in September.

## Andrew

Andrew turned 60 this year, and now gets free prescriptions and eye tests. He's taken financial advice and his pensions have started to pay out. He's still doing x5 part-time jobs but has cut back on x3 part time jobs (on distribution, electoral canvassing (for RCC) and gardening). After the cooking course last year, he is now our primary meal provider. He's continuing to declutter and sort through the Bullwer Archive. Much has gone to charity and been recycled.

He is meeting up regularly for breakfasts, lunches and coffees, building his social circle here.

He's visited friends out of the area, been to a conference, on hospital visits and to a car purchase, at a Priest Licensing, had (at a local church) a chocolate feast and a murder mystery evening.

## Cars and Bikes

### Stoneywell in Winter

The Suzuki had a new clutch. 93,000 miles. The Smart had a light stalk, wiper arm repair, rear panel repairs, exhaust welding and the suspension was bottoming out. 135,000 miles. We gave up and traded her in for parts, to be replaced with a 55 plate Smart. The Signal Acquisition & Actuation Module (SAM) failed immediately; we had a loan car for a month. 47,000 miles. The Lecy bike has been used extensively for local electoral canvassing and went to The Pond (Rutland Water) for a picnic with people from OBC. Is paying her way now. 3250 miles. George the MTB has finally been used again after the drive train was replaced. Fleur the Dawes (mixte frame) has been rehomed in Nottingham.

## Away from Home – Holidays, Days out and Fun Stuff

We visited Eastbourne twice. Highlights were the Pier, Fusiardi Ice Cream Parlour, Lewis, Polegate windmill, Herstmonceux Gardens and Stonecross Garden Centre. We also visited Rousham Park and Garden. Locally we visited Melton Country Park, Castle Grimsdale Gardens and spent a day being tourists in Leicester. We went to Pete Bullwer's and Tim Dixon's big birthdays and met up with Carol and Andrew Larkin in Oakham. Andrew visited Tickencote and Exton Churches.

### Fountains Abbey and Bishop Huby's tower

## Health

We've both struggled with a lingering cold, both had a 'flu injection and both had a Thai massage this year. Andrew is "monitoring" skin tags and has been referred to an eye clinic about his sight.

### Remembering Rutland Fallen from the Great War

## Getting organised, Resolutions and Plans

We plan to spend less time working, Lez to move to part-time work, Andrew to reduce each of his part-time jobs. Also to continue the Bullwer Archive, and work on garden and borders .



decluttering the house, reducing maintaining and enjoying the

With our love and best wishes

Lez and Andrew

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