

### Family News

Lez's parents have taken it in turns to be in hospital, first Jackie, then John and currently Jackie.

### Home

The woodpile has gone, helped with a battery powered chainsaw. We now have 3 new doors fitted downstairs where there were none (thanks Alan). Lez has done lots of batch cooking, and we now use a second freezer for this. We have "decluttered"/purged several rooms and "areas". We now can use our bedroom wardrobe. We still can't dispose of stored asbestos. A van came for furniture and several cars full of decluttering have gone to charity, recycling, and landfill, including 8 computer keyboards and 3 printers. Once gone, we could use a tiny space as a music room. Lower loft boarded out, once the large nest of wasps there was destroyed. Misted French window replaced, external floodlights replaced, and electrical problem fixed (thanks She Sparks). We've had a plumber replace my botched lav repairs (thanks Neil). A named storm blew the ridge board from our top shed. The street held an awkward "apart" VE75 party. One morning a duck visited our front garden to share breakfast with us.

### Cats

Anne (Ben Cat's previous carer) visited him early this year, bringing cat nip gifts. Ben Cat was taken ill in June and died. He is now buried in his favourite spot in the front garden. Olie Cat has visited the cat dentist. She is a much happier cat. We've just found that she is intrigued by violin playing.

### Technology

We've networked 2 legacy printers (laser and inkjet), both still work after a feature update. Andrew's desktop computer failed in February, but happily the data was professionally recovered (thanks Octopus). Andrew now has a Mesh box. Andrew's mobile contract expired - it took 3 months, 2 number changes, weeks disconnected and importunity to get this contract renewed (we are still with Vodafone). Device of the year: Disk Drive Caddy (USB docking station), to move entire discs of data between machines.

### Music

Lez now has a (big!) bass recorder and a Djembe (thank you Sacha). Andrew stopped violin lessons (and stopped playing), with only a few (mainly) online lessons. We attended a weekend "masterclass" about improvising. We saw Peter Knight and John Spiers in Banbury in March. We've enjoyed several online concerts.

### Lez

Lez changed jobs in March, now working part-time for Leicester City Council, as "Performance Officer". She has not yet met her team or been issued with an ID card. She has done lots of art and has produced and sold many cards so far this year.

### Andrew

Started using Skype early March, to "meet" with local church home group weekly. Had all 5 jobs cancelled earlier this year. Some income continued. Now works part-time, as electoral Canvasser

(Rutland County Council) and self-employed distributor. He uses a walking stick (for a poorly knee). He has not thrived during lockdown.

### **Cars and Bikes**

The Suzuki and the Smart are at 100,000 and 50,000 miles, respectively. The Smart had a front spring fail explosively. The lecy bike had new batteries bought but then the controller failed, so it is unusable. In May I did more miles by bike than by car! Currently using the rebuilt MTB and the old BSA.

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

We visited Upton House and Gardens. We had a long weekend near Pateley Bridge, N Yorks, visiting Ripon and Himalayan Garden & Sculpture Park. And a week in Eastbourne, visiting Herstmonceux Castle and Gardens

### **Getting organised, Resolutions and Plans**

Many outstanding jobs are done. 2021 we plan to continue to declutter and make home a nicer place. We are spending lots of time here now.

With our love and best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lez Anderson'.

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

Lez's art at: [www.redsquirrelgreyhare.co.uk](http://www.redsquirrelgreyhare.co.uk)

Instagram/redsquirrelgreyhare