

## Family News

Jackie and John have both stayed out of hospital for much of the year. John is currently in hospital again. They continue with a little extra support.

## Home

We have had skirting board fitted where there was none (most rooms!) (thanks Alan). Laminate flooring is still being removed. The downstairs lav cistern has been replaced (thanks Neil). A fuse board change (with earth cables and trips that protect humans), fans fitted in the bathroom and lav, outside lights re-cabled, and an extra ring main for the kitchen (thanks Rachel). We have replaced our living room stereo system; DVDs have never sounded so good. We can now make video calls downstairs in our “music room”, using baby monitor technology and an old PC that just runs Windows 10. Julia visits weekly and is slowly transforming our garden. Andrew has made a compost bin. Oh so many trips to the recycling centre, much WEEE waste has gone. We’ve both taken an online course covering activity, nutrition, diet and stress.

## Cat

Olie Cat goes outside more often, and now brings us shrews. Anne has visited and left a memorial on Ben Cat’s grave.

## Technology

Device of the year: portable battery charger for ageing mobile phones with tired batteries. Many video meetings. Andrew gave up on and closed his LinkedIn account.

## Music

Lez now has a lovely sounding bassoon and is taking lessons, regularly plays in 2 bands, and orchestra (oboe) and several small wind groups. The recorder group hasn’t restarted. Andrew is again taking violin lessons. Has had a bow re-haired for the first time in 35 years. Playing with a friend (thanks Kevin.) Again playing (irregularly) at church. We have been to a handful of Gigspanner concerts (countrywide) this year, wonderful. Lez has been to a woodwind retreat. Much was cancelled, sadly.

## Lez

Lez has “in person” been issued an ID card, has met “in person” some of the team at Leicester City Council (LCC). As going into the office remains a very dangerous activity, Lez needed special dispensation (no power for lecy works meaning no internet access did the trick). Lez’s old “standing desk” is now in the living room with an LCC chair and an extra LCC screen, both collected from Leicester. Lez took a short break in Leicester. There has been much art created.

## Andrew

Andrew is meeting up with friends and ex-colleagues again, in Oakham and further afield, many breakfasts and lunches. Still an Electoral Canvasser (Rutland County Council) and self-employed distributor, with some gardening work. The poorly knee no longer needs use of a stick. Enjoys local walks, many never before attempted. Mental health is still not great. Went to a conference in September that was cancelled last year. And a 50/25 party (with a ceilidh band) (thanks Andy

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and Martin) that was also cancelled last year. Farewells to friends moving overseas (Bye Jenny, Darryl and Ruben.) Has learnt how to make Gluten Free Pavlova.

## Health

We have both taken the pestilence vaccinations, and both have enjoyed the dental hygienist.

## Cars and Bikes

The Suzuki and the Smart are at 105,000 and 55,000 miles. The Smart has been snagged (from 2019!), has had a new battery and starter motor, the Suzuki has tired suspension and steering. The lecy bike remains unusable.

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

We visited Hastings, Eastbourne and Shrewsbury (Wroxeter Roman Town, Dingle Gardens Wollerton Old Hall and tea at the Lion and Pheasant), at all three venues we took in a concert. We're also enjoying walks at Melton Country Park and around Oakham.








## Getting organised, Resolutions and Plans

2022 we plan to continue decluttering and making home a nicer place.

With our love and best wishes



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

<u>Snowscape near Knossington</u> 	<u>Dingle Gardens Shrewsbury</u> 		
<u>Post Van in Knossington</u> 	<u>Knossington Sunrise</u> 	<u>Ghost signwriting.</u> <u>Old bookshop van</u> 	<u>Replaced lighting cable</u> 
	<u>Sign in Hastings shelter</u> 	<u>Andrew &amp; Lez</u> 