

Family News

John left hospital and it was Jackie's turn to go in in June. Leicester General Hospital, then Hinckley hospital, until September.

Both are now at home; Jackie is getting plenty of daily help now. John is now chief 'Home engineer'.

Home

Rachel has done more electrical work (sockets, kitchen spur, working stairs lights and wired broadband to the 'music room'). Julia has continued to bring the garden under control. Many gifted plants. I halved the height of the silver birch. Alan fitted fireplace surrounds and more skirting and architraving. We are now buying logs in to burn. Thanks, Phil. Lez has moved her living room workstation to get extra light and to face the views. We are spending much time here now, so have replaced the settee for a comfy settee.

Andrew has started de-cluttering; some surplus furniture has gone. We've finally found a heating engineer. The kerosene boiler has been serviced for the first time in several years, repaired and repaired and repaired again.

Cat

Olie is still a very scaredy cat - yet sees off unwelcome feline garden intruders fearlessly.

Technology

Device of the year: Digital food temperature probe. Takes away guesswork as to whether food is cooked or not,

Music

Lez is playing bassoon in all her bands and orchestras. Has passed grade 6 bassoon exams. Oboe and bassoon have been serviced. The recorder group has restarted. Has weekly bassoon lessons.

Andrew has replaced his violin, has an electric violin and another bow. Still plays (irregularly) at the Baptist Church in Oakham. Has weekly lessons.

We have been to several Gigspanner concerts, a gospel choir, Philip Haworth (oboist), Bellowhead and Sam Sweeney (fiddle), Steve Hackett, Tangerine Dream (loud!) plus where Lez has played and others too.

Lez

Is unable to return to work in Leicester as it remains too dangerous but despite this has been able to work in the office 4 days this year. Had a short city break in Leicester.

Andrew

Has started talking therapy (for his mental health). Has begun the process of retirement.

No longer has a monthly contract with Rutland County Council, but still works there occasionally. His sandals and violin came apart in summer heat.

Visited Roger in Llandrindod Wells twice, visited Keswick, went to a conference in November and to Toilethorpe Theatre. Oh, so many breakfasts with friends.

Health

We both caught the pestilence this summer. We have both had x4 inoculations. Covid has left Andrew regularly tired.

We have both been allowed to visit a dentist and hygienist. Andrew managed an (accidental) in person Asthma review.

Andrew has finally had his hernia repaired. He can't lift anything or have a bath until next year! Lez is carrying coal and logs and so much manual lifting stuff!

Cars and Bikes

The (62) Suzuki is at 115 000 miles and has had new all-season tyres.

The (55) Smart had repeated 'actuator' failure – would not go into any gear – and was traded in for a (63) Smart, which is at 45 000 miles. None of the bikes have been used this year.

Away from home, Holidays and Fun Stuff

A short break in Eastbourne (note to read the small print, self-catering with no kitchen), and a further visit for a week.

Also, Burley House, Upper Broughton Art Show, Melton Country Park, Braunston May Fayre, Easton-on-the-hill, plus Castell Coch and Dyffyn Gardens (from Cardiff) and met Karen (Bassoon) at Neuadd Dewi Sant (in Cardiff).

Getting Organised, Resolutions and Plans

2023 we plan for Lez to enjoy much music, Andrew to continue decluttering, get back on his bikes and actually retire.

With our love and best wishes



Available online (in colour) at:

www.bullwer.co.uk/xmas/xmas.html

Giftsgate Court Gardens and Bassoon



Herstmonceux Castle



Driveway at home



Olie Cat has lost something



Under Eastbourne Pier



Andrew and Lez



and Violin

