

2020 - What the...?

It all seemed so promising, and then everything went pear shaped. The best summary of our year is probably "stayed in". And the phrase of the year is most definitely "you're on mute!". My only observation on the shambles that is the world's political leaders is that I wish David Attenborough was running things. Will 2021 be any better? Well, possibly. Ask me again in 12 months' time.

Ben Ben got married to Ruth in February and moved house the week after the wedding, to somewhere big enough for them and their 5 (yes, 5!) children. We've not been able to help with childcare either, and have only been able to see them outdoors from a distance.



Even that's difficult with the 'Rule of 6'. Ben finally got to start his new job at BAe in October and has just completed his probationary period successfully, which is a weight off his mind now. And as if 5 children wasn't enough to deal with they've decided to get a puppy, which arrives in about 10 days. (I have an ominous feeling we may be asked to look after it from time to time...).

Susie Susie & Liam's little girl, Madelyn, arrived safely but early – on 20 Dec. All went well and we were able to go and see them at Christmas, but since lockdown most of our contact has been on video calls ☹️. The technology is quite impressive, but it can't



beat real cuddles. Liam has been working from home much of the time which I think has been good for both Susie and Maddie to have him around.

As if Covid wasn't a big enough challenge they've also moved house at the end of November to more spacious premises, still in Sheffield.

Peter Peter's wedding didn't take place in June as planned though. He and Emily have parted now, though they are still sharing custody of the dog for the moment. Emily seemed to have had what I can only describe as an early mid-life crisis during lockdown and felt she needed to be able to spend time on her own and travel. So far she's got as far as her cousin in Edinburgh(!). Peter is still at the Quiet Site, at least for now.



He's been on furlough much of the time and during the latest lockdown he was able to go and spend it with Susie & Liam, getting plenty of quality time with niece Maddie and help with their house move.

Us Like so many others, we've gone nowhere this year either, but the garden has had more attention than usual. And we've decorated the back room.

If we get vaccinated and travel is allowed we're hoping to get to Madeira in April, and on our first cruise (postponed from last year) in October.



So that's about it. All that remains is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Covid-free New Year.

Stay safe!

With love from

Ian & Lynne and family