

2021 – Here We Go Again

Another year, another lockdown. But this time we've had added extras, like supply chain disruptions, shortages in the shops, panic on the forecourts, and piggies that can't get to market because the abattoir staff have all gone home to the EU along with the lorry drivers. I don't know about taking back control; lost it, more like. But on a positive note, at least we've now all had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated and (most of us) boosted.

So, once again we've not been up to much this year. A trip to Madeira and a cruise fell victim to the pandemic again, for the second time, but in a fit of wildest optimism we've re-booked for 2022. Watch this space!

We did manage two short trips in between Covid waves though. In July we spent a few days in the Cotswold and visited the gardens at Highgrove. We enjoyed it immensely and were impressed with how the estate was being managed, working with nature instead of against it. They serve a mean sausage roll in the tea room as well.

Then in October we had a few days in the Lake District, near Cockermouth, in a hotel with Susie, Liam and Maddie. We were lucky with the weather and got a few walks in as well as seeing Peter and new girlfriend Charlotte, who are living close by.

Peter has left the Quiet Site and now has a job as Videographer and Editor at a firm in Cockermouth, called Knox, who supply all manner of protective clothing and accessories, aimed mostly at the motorcycle market. He's very happy to be turning what was a hobby into a proper job! As I mentioned, he has a new girlfriend, Charlotte, who's just finishing a Masters at Northumbria Uni, and they're renting a small cottage near Cockermouth.



Lynne, Charlotte & Peter



Maddie as Flower Girl



In the Bookshop

Susie & Liam have settled in to their new house near Sheffield and have various home improvements in the pipeline. Little Maddie is coming on very well and will be 2 in a few days' time. She's as cute as ever and loves looking at books. If we all manage to avoid Omicron we're planning to spend Christmas with them this year, assuming Lockdown 3.0 isn't announced first!

Ben and Ruth have added to their flock in the form of a little boy, Isaac William, born in July. That makes SIX now! He's doing very well but has a disinclination to sleep at night. We've been helping by doing most of the school pickups for Adia and Heath who are still at the school in Rufford where they lived before Ben & Ruth's wedding last year. They're also building an extension, and as if that wasn't enough they have a mad cockapoo with spring-loaded legs to look after. And yes, we get roped in to take her for walks from time to time. Lovely dog, but *very* enthusiastic.



Isaac



Adia



The Horde (Reuben, Heath, Poppy, Oliver & Adia)

Well, I think that's about it for another year, so hope your Christmas and New Year plans aren't disrupted, and that 2022 is a better year for all of us.

With love from

Ian & Lynne