

I thought with this November bulletin and a lead-up to “the festive season”, I would be heaving a sigh of relief that COVID rules and restrictions were a thing of the past but hey-ho, here we go again.

Another lockdown, our lives back to only essential activities and the partial freedom we enjoyed for a few months taken away from us. But we can look back on those joyous summer days enjoying our Cotswold hills, countryside and gardens, or further afield for those who took their staycations elsewhere with friends and family.

I’m sure we’ll all get a great deal of pleasure reading about and remembering those dog days and that we can look forward to the halcyon days to come. **Isobel**



An early summer Twinning activity was the socially distanced boules match on 20 June



In September Colin and I had a short break in North Yorkshire, and were blessed with amazing weather. We stayed near Whitby, enjoying a wander round the harbour and the wide open beaches. The North Yorkshire moors were stunning, a scenic drive proving far longer as a diversion caused our sat nav to go into meltdown. On asking a local for directions, he welcomed us to the ‘middle of nowhere’. It really is ‘James Herriot’ countryside. The steam railway at Grosmont was a must, having reopened under careful Covid regulations. We finished with a visit to RHS Harlow Carr in Harrogate, a beautiful garden with a handy quick office for Colin, enviable vegetable garden and handy growing ideas for beans! A lovely early autumn visit.

Sue Smith





Our Summer Staycations. By mid-July, we both had jail fever. Although we live in a beautiful part of the country and have many opportunities to get out and about locally, that didn't seem enough. We needed to 'break out'. We took it step by step as other opportunities arose.

We first planned a day trip to Clevedon! Doesn't sound very exciting but we had never been there before and were very pleasantly surprised at what an attractive 'nearly seaside' place it is. It was so nice, we took the grandchildren again over this half term playing mini golf, building stone castles, paddling and eating fish and chips on the promenade. Never mind the parking ticket for having the ticket the wrong way up!!! £25 wasted. What else?

A two day hotel break in The Quantocks. Very relaxing to be waited on and the G&T brought to you rather than going to the bar. Again, a beautiful spot less than 2 hours from home.

We then got brave – a whole week in west Wales just inland from Aberaeron. A couple of years ago we stayed in a converted goat shed

and discovered that our hostess had lived in Chalford for many years and that her father had owned the carpet shop in Nailsworth. It was so nice, we decided to go again. It was very peaceful and walking the coastal path in the sun really lifted the spirits.

Finally, we are very fortunate in that my nephew owns a converted barn near Dartmouth, which we were able to borrow and spend a few 'socially distanced' days with two friends of many years. Dartmouth is so lovely. Enjoying the town, visiting Agatha Christie's house, walking the coastal path and just sitting by the sea all made it a lovely break from the realities of Covid – nearly all in beautiful sunshine.

Oh well – back to reality now. **Keith & Sharon Mansell**



Slimbridge with Leila. My daughter and son-in-law decided to go away for a few days to celebrate their wedding anniversary at the end of August and I was roped in to look after my granddaughter and the two cats. As the weather was forecasting a warm and sunny day midweek, I booked us (Leila and myself – not the cats!) in at the Slimbridge Wetland Centre. We got there shortly after opening and found the queue to get in manageable, bought a bag of seeds and started our walk around the park, feeding the hordes of Canada geese, ducks and swans as we went. Leila, only 19 months old, was a bit overwhelmed at first and she dropped most of the seeds at her feet which meant the birds came a bit too close for comfort. When we'd seen as much as we wanted of the wildlife, we made our way to Welly Boot Land but that day it was more like Bare Feet and Swimsuits Land. Leila had to be coerced into stepping into the water but after five minutes of paddling and splashing, decided she wanted to spend the rest of the day there. Luckily, the area was closing for lunch to do some COVID cleaning and I was able to get her away. Slimbridge makes for a truly memorable day out for old and young and as Leila gets older, she'll be able to learn all about the wildlife in the park and the conservation that goes on there. **Isobel Hié**



This summer I spent a lovely couple of weeks in Lèves, visiting the Fruchards in their beautiful home. I've been taking part in the Twinning with my mum for the last 12 years, but this is the first time I have been to Lèves alone! It was wonderful,

they took such good care of me! So sad that the Twinning Exchange was cancelled this year due to the pandemic, but I can report that Lèves is in good spirits as always! The Fruchards took me on some great adventures in the area and introduced me to their grandchildren and other family and friends. It was a brilliant opportunity to practise and improve my French conversation. I also got to catch up with some other Twinning friends, like Philippe and Odile, and the lovely Brigitte - who took me to some beautiful local sights! My trip and the gorgeous Chartres Cathedral inspired this drawing.

Lilia Kayani

Ardreck Castle, Assynt



We were supposed to go to Crete in September but that couldn't happen for obvious reasons so, instead, we decided to spend two weeks touring Scotland. Our first overnight stop was in Peebles, a lovely town on the river Tweed just south west of Edinburgh. From there we made our way to Grantown-on-Spey via St. Andrew's, Dundee (somehow we managed to cross the Tay Bridge three times!), and the Highland Tourist Route through the Cairngorms. It was a very long day! None of the distilleries on the river Spey were open for tours but we did manage to visit the Speyside Cooperage, where thousands of barrels are made or repaired every year – a worthwhile visit. After three nights in Grantown we moved on to Inverness via Macduff and Banff where we visited a former work colleague who I had not seen for about twenty years.

We then travelled over to Wester Ross spending one night in a village called Plockton where the TV series Hamish Macbeth was filmed, then on to Gairloch, Ullapool and Inshegra. Apart from one day in Ullapool, the weather was glorious and the scenery is just magnificent, no other word for it! All the B&Bs had strict Covid regulations in place, but our experience at the Old School House, Inshegra was certainly different. Our breakfast was delivered to our room in a cool box the night before, so no cooked breakfast those two days! We then travelled along the north coast via Tongue and Thurso to John O'Groats and down the east coast for a night in Dornoch – a delightful little town with a beautiful cathedral, built in the 13th century. The last woman to be

found guilty of witchcraft in Scotland was burnt to death there!

We would have liked to spend more time in Dornoch but we had to leave the following day to get to Dumfries and from there home to Nailsworth. Altogether, we travelled over two thousand miles. We booked the holiday through a company called Absolute Escapes in Edinburgh, which we had used before, and they are excellent. We would definitely recommend them. **Judith Haines**

A quiz question for you – which Beatle spent his summer holidays as a boy in Durness on the north coast of Scotland? Answer at the end of the Bulletin.

Clashnessie



Lockdown. Wednesday 2nd September 2020, great anticipation as we are at last on our way to Cornwall to visit our son and daughter-in-law, having last visited in December 2019. The lockdown has separated many families, but we delayed going until September as we knew Cornwall



was a bit crowded. Jonathan and Irene moved to Cornwall to work on the railways in 1998, and while living



there Jonathan had never been on the Hop-on Hop-off open-topped bus from Penzance to Lands' End. The weather was sunny and we managed to get seats on the top deck. How the double decker managed to navigate the narrow lanes was amazing. We had good views of many drivers having to practise their reversing. We hopped off at Porthcurno for lunch, tea at Lands' End and cocktails in St. Ives. We can recommend this trip (especially if you have an OAP Bus Pass).

Tuesday 2nd October saw us again loading up the car, this time for a journey north to Staffordshire to spend a few days again with Jonathan and Irene in a converted farm barn on the edge of the wild and windy Derbyshire Dales. The farm was so isolated it took us an hour and a half to find it. We thought the Cotswolds were beautiful, but the Dales are something else. Winnie (our dog) greatly enjoyed our time away as well.

We feel blessed to have been able to spend time away from home on these two trips and now look forward to who knows what!! **Allan and Daphne Beale**



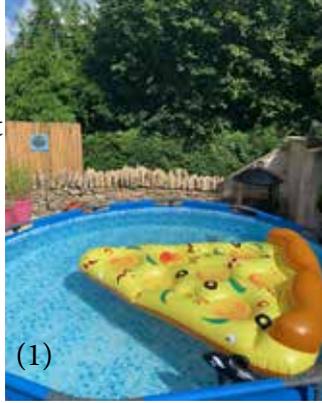
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What do you do with kids during a hot and sunny spring when all the pools are shut? (1) Best investment this year... complete with pizza lilo just like the costa del sol!

(2) Staycationing in Devon with friends, in the sea every day...

(3) A family trip to Severn Beach during deepest darkest lockdown, it felt like a huge adventure!

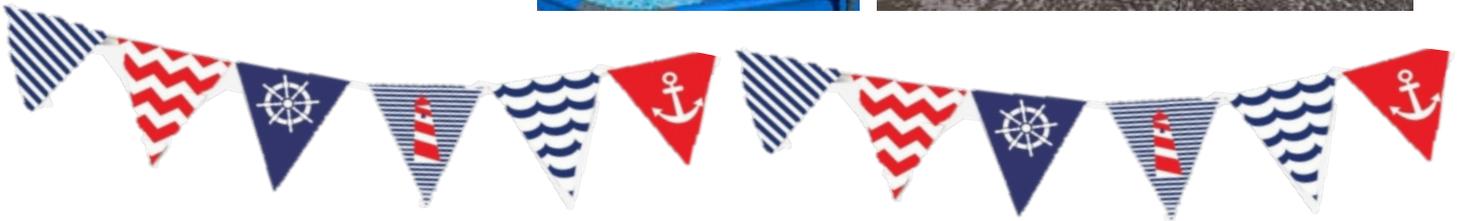
Rachael Tapping



(1)



(2)



We enjoyed two holidays in our camper van in Devon and Cornwall this summer with our little dog. We were supposed to be staying in Villefranche sur Mer and Sainte Maxime on the Côte d'Azur for our holidays but had to cancel due to Covid. The beaches in Cornwall were almost as nice as the Côte d'Azur but the sea was certainly much colder!! **Lisa Corrigan**



2020 Holidays – not spent far away but still good times. Last year, we holidayed in the USA, in New England, to experience the Autumn colours. Back then, we couldn't possibly have imagined that this year, due to the pandemic, we would spend our main holiday less than 70 miles from home. But, this October, we went to Leamington Spa, (Warwicksire), population 50,000, where our son Evan lives. Leamington became well-known because of its natural springs, and earned the right to use the title Royal Leamington Spa by Queen Victoria who loved the gardens by the river Leam and the Regency architecture. The term Regency derives from the period 1811-20 when England (I mean Great Britain) was ruled by the son of King George III, due to the king's illness.



The gardens and elegant buildings are still there, as well as the boulevards edged with cherry trees and sycamores. The town is rather like Bath or Cheltenham, only smaller. Leamington is close to Stratford on Avon. The signs at the side of the road proclaim "Welcome to Warwickshire, Shakespeare's county".



So, what did we do while in Leamington with Evan? Well, we cycled along the Grand Union Canal. We saw quite a few windmills, and before leaving, we explored the walled gardens at Baddesley

Clinton, a moated manor house.

Of course, we would really like to go back to these places with our friends Nadia and Philippe from Lèves. We know that, one day, that will be possible again.



Les vacances de 2020 – pas très loin mais très bien. L'année dernière, nous avons passé nos vacances aux Etas-Unis, dans la région de New England, pour voir les feuilles d'automne. A cette époque, nous ne pouvions pas imaginer que cette année, en raison de la pandémie, nous passerions nos vacances principales dans une ville moins de 100km de Nailsworth. Mais, cet octobre, nous sommes allés a Leamington Spa, dans le Warwickshire, une ville de 50,000 habitants, ou habite notre fils Evan.

Leamington est devenu bien connu grâce à ses sources naturelles, et recevait le droit d'utiliser le nom Royal Leamington Spa par la reine Victoria en 1838, qui aimait les jardins à côté de la rivière Leam et l'architecture de la période « regency ». Regency : ça veut dire la période 1811-1820 quand La Grande Bretagne était gouvernée par le fils du roi (The Prince Regent) George III qui était malade.

Les jardins et les bâtiments élégants existent encore, aussi bien que les boulevards bordés de cerisiers et de sycomores. La ville ressemble à Bath ou à Cheltenham, mais en plus petit. Leamington se trouve près de Stratford on Avon. Sur les panneaux au bord de la route on peut lire les panneaux «Bienvenue à Warwickshire, Département de William Shakespeare». Donc, qu'est-ce que nous avons fait pendant nos trois jours à Leamington avec Evan ? Nous avons fait un tour de vélo à côté du canal. Nous avons vu quelques moulins, et avant de partir nous avons exploré le jardin fermé de Baddesley Clinton (un manoir avec des fossés).

Naturellement, nous avons hâte d'y retourner un jour avec nos amis Nadia et Philippe de Lèves. Oui, un jour, ce sera possible.

Christopher & Rosemary Bailey

Square photo: © The Times.

Other photos © Rosemary / Christopher Bailey.



A Covid Wedding. Well, it wasn't the big elaborate wedding in a vineyard in the south of France that Louise had always dreamed of, but rather a very modest immediate-family-only affair at the in-law's farm in Somerset. Louise and Ed only decided to get married in June and didn't want to wait until they might or might not be able to have a big wedding next year. After a nail-biting wait for the Registrars to reopen so they could book a date, they were eventually offered 25 September with a month to spare.

A sample dress was located that Louise could buy straight away. Thanks to her contacts in the business, and the lack of work around at the moment, a caterer, florist and photographer were quickly booked up.

Hair and makeup were to be done by a close friend, who unfortunately had to drop out at the last minute having contracted the dreaded Covid bug, so Louise and Joanna did their own, and mine. And we all looked just fine!

We were lucky to get the very last day of the summer. The weather was mild, the sun shone so the ceremony could take place outside as planned. It got a bit cold during the al fresco dinner later but we had plenty of coats, blankets and patio heaters to keep warm.

A very different sort of wedding to what we are used to, but nonetheless wonderful in its rustic simplicity and not at all disadvantaged by the minimal gathering. A week later and numbers would have been even further reduced and everyone have to wear masks, so all in all, we were very lucky. **Carole de Lacroix**



we've decided we all rather like Paul's new wild covid-hair look!

My Staycation in Nailsworth 2020. I am so glad that I live in such a lovely place so the view from my window became even more important during lockdown. I did not venture beyond my garden during lockdown. My gardeners kept the weeds under control and lawns cut. The succession of flowers and daily walks round the garden with my cat kept me occupied. My wild patch was fantastic again, with the annual display of over 100 wild orchids. Food was delivered by friends, family and volunteers and the lovely vegetable boxes came from Marrows. It took a while to get supermarket delivery slots, but eventually more became available.

Box Art Group have kept in touch with all members. We are having a weekly email newsletter with art-related information sent in by members. Our two tutors have continued to set competitions and offer advice. Art challenges and jokes are in every issue along with sketches, photos and articles written by members.

Since we are still unable to meet indoors, we have been going out socially distanced, on Thursday afternoons to sketch. You may have seen some of us sketching in Nailsworth on 2 occasions. We have also been to Stratford Park, Minchinhampton Common, Box village and Amberley. We will continue until the weather defeats us. Our next competition is about water - there seems to be a lot of that around lately. Throughout lockdown and now as the weather becomes more challenging, we are encouraged to do our art on Thursday afternoons, our normal meeting time, so that we can be together in spirit if not in person. Nailsworth is a lovely place to live. **Ann Jackson**



Were you aware that this French National was buried in Forest Green graveyard? He had an English wife whose family was from Nailsworth.

Robert Loyalty Cru, a French national, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Director of the Rothschild Institut de France, Kensington, London.

On the 19th Feb 1944 the institute was bombed in the Blitz and he was killed instantly.

Steve Robinson



Answer to Judith's quiz question on page 3: John Lennon - there's a memorial garden to him at Durness.