



MARTIN

NEWS INTERNATIONAL



Incorporating
MAYO! MAGAZINE *And*



Christmas 2020 Special

Welcome to this year's Christmas Edition which is a much reduced edition for reasons soon to be made clear.

A couple of events have curtailed most of our activities this year - the dreaded COVID and a new addition to the family.

Firstly COVID.

At the end of last year we decided to make a concerted effort to get our passports renewed so we could go abroad, something that had been out of the question whilst we spent our holidays visiting Les's mum.

Then COVID lockdown happened here in the UK and across the world so it got put on the back burner.

Just when things were easing we got a new addition to the family which largely killed any immediate plans.

AND NOW WE ARE FOUR

Jon - "Can I have a cat?"

Us - "No way, No, Never, Not under any circumstances, Get your own place etc, etc"

repeat for about two years

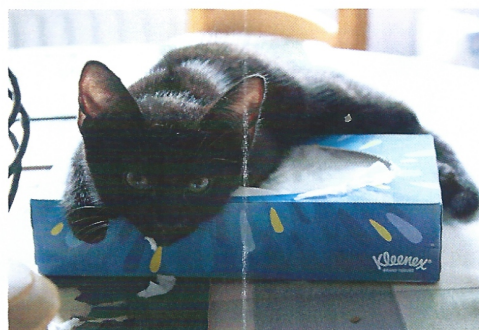
We came home one Saturday after visiting Chris' mum to be introduced to a black ball of fur, claws and teeth from the lesser travelled parts of Revelation.

Jon assured us it was a kitten.

He is called Toothless after the dragon in
"How to Train Your Dragon"
(far right, in case you are wondering)

Consequently, we are now no longer
masters in our own home.

Apparently a 500 lb gorilla and a 1 lb kitten have one thing in common - they sleep where ever they want.
Spaces have appeared that have defied Chris' "clear your stuff up" for decades.



THIS YEAR'S CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Due to COVID, lockdown, cat etc I had time to continue the patio now my leg had healed.

There were some interruptions like 40 degree weather and COVID shutting the DIY shops but it is now three quarters finished.

The earth patch is Chris' proposed shrubbery and has been cleared of the 1930's builder's rubble totalling about half a tonne of bricks, rock, tiles and a steel junction box the size of a briefcase.

Had I not added about 200kg of earth it would have been deep enough for a hot tub.

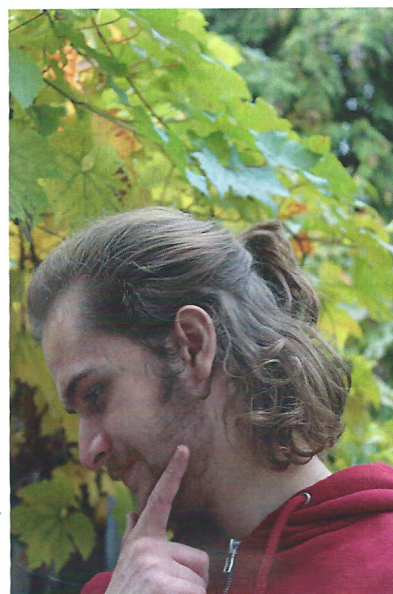


JONATHAN

At the start of the year he got a job as a care assistant however, after a few days training, he was thrown into consecutive 16hr days, no time for lunch or any breaks, little time to travel between clients, some of whom were abusive and violent. It quickly became too much so he quit, and who can blame him.

Since then Covid came has been ensconced in his room "Dungeon and Dragoning" and growing a man bun as the barbers are shut due to lockdown.

It is something we all have to do at some stage in our lives.



Summer Holiday Time - Nowhere to go now

This year, all was locked down, shut and generally unavailable.

The addition of a cat made it even more impossible due to lack of a cat sitter although, in normal times, we may very well have just left Jon behind with a fridge full of pizzas and gone by our selves.

So, this year we stayed at Chez Nous like millions of others.

THE KIT CAR

The tarpaulin has been renewed.

CHRIS' STUFF

Mostly gardening with working at the school when lockdown permits.

Currently as I write this in late November, her mum has been taken into hospital with a broken hip so we will have to see how that all pans out. The hip op went well so "just" convalescence to do.

OTHER STUFF

This year's harvest was much the same as last year - load of apples, pears and grapes. So, lots of jam, chutney and wine again.

Oh, yes - I have officially retired, I am now a pensioner - hooray !!

Happy Christmas all.

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