

Well what a year.

I don't suppose we are the only ones to be surprised at the way things worked out in 2020. I thought the numbers were going to add up to a really good year. How wrong could I be! However, there have been some highs. We started the year with a Hurtigruten cruise up the coast of Norway. It was an official no show of Northern Lights and they will give us a 'free' cruise. We decided quite quickly that we would not take them up on their kind offer due to the lukewarm fish and mashed potatoes served every night for dinner and the cost of the wine minimum £60 per bottle so we drank water every night. The bestest thing was a trip in a snow mobile and the scenery. It is very cold in the artic and very bumpy on the Arctic ocean. Looking back, it seems like a life time ago. We returned to Pewsey towards the end of January. That was when Covid started to rear its ugly little face. At the beginning, I could not really believe that the worst-case scenario was going to come true.

I had been busy arranging a big party for my sister on a boat going down the Thames; not sure if that will ever happen. Our weekend away for our wedding anniversary got kyboshed, but we did manage to celebrate Dave's 64th birthday in October near Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) and that was lovely. Kept singing the Beatles song and yes, I do still love him, now he is 64. Our annual bridge trip in France got cancelled but we can play online and hopefully will be able to join up with a long-lost friend in Canada (as long as we get the timing right). So that is a win-win. We also managed to stay in the Yorkshire Dales at the holiday home of Dave's friend Graham. Never seen so many Ferraris and Astons as that weekend; I don't understand why they go there as the roads are so narrow and windy, but maybe that is the point. We met up with a girlfriend, Sarah Thorpe (née Barker) for lunch in the very posh Harrogate and, all in all, it was just what the Doctor ordered for Dave to get away.

Dave is filling us up full of vitamins. We both rattle in the morning. My hair has grown and thickened up so much so that friends want to buy the same pills as me. Here's the before and after photos (the second taken when we were in Yorkshire):



August 2019



August 2020

Dave has been exceptionally busy which is good for the bank balance and, as he always has worked from home, very little has changed. Dave has done a lot remotely and if necessary, machines can be dropped at the door, well not literally dropped, but you can get the idea.



We have had some work done to the house, painting the outside, new fascia boards and the wall and railing at the front given a good going over. Still more to do, but hey-ho, we have certainly done our bit for this year. In the next few weeks there are a few Christmas fairs, which brings a smile to my face. We absolutely believe in going local so we are in our element. We now have a new farm shop in the next village; Dave's favourite buy is their 'Bloody Good Sausages' (that's on the packet).

With being at home a lot more we have really sorted and tidied inside. The garage has been sorted and has changed from a computer graveyard to a very efficient stock room. I do love a tidy cupboard.

We have hardly seen family and friends, which for us is the biggest downer. Can't wait to have hugs again and wouldn't a party be amazing. Dave has important news about his family so over to him.

Ben & his partner Melissa are still working, as is Lisa's husband Lloyd, and Lisa has a new job lined up when maternity leave ends and they move to Braintree (Essex) next year. I also managed to find time to sort out the MX5 (after the cupboard collapsed on it last year). Have yet to respray bonnet that I got on eBay for £5! There're a few pictures on the next page.

There was really great news in April, another grandchild, Alexander, was born to Lisa & Lloyd in January. He's a very contented baby and seems to be very relaxed and always smiling. As is the case for many, I have not seen that much of him (managed just 3 meets), other than by facetime and pictures.

Later in the year brought some bad news when I heard that my brother Keith had been taken into hospital with a brain tumour. It all happened very quickly and just yesterday (9th) we heard that he had died in the night. Very sobering when you hear that your younger brother has died before you.

We would like to wish everyone happiness in their worlds and can't wait till 2021.

Hugs and love

Lizzie * Dave
x x

Lizzie and Dave Humfress (please everybody note the spelling of our surname)



Norway, January, on Snowmobile



Norway, January, at the top of the world !



Alexander, September



Highclere Castle on Halloween



Ada, Willow & Alex, September



The Mazda MX5 with new roof & bonnet and respray of front