

# Humfress News Christmas 2023

Every year, at this time, I seem to reflect on how fast the year has flown by and this year it is no different. I know that it is not really that way; it just seems so. So, without further ado, let's get down to the nitty-gritty, which is wishing you a very Merry Christmas and here is hoping for a happier world in 2024.

I have started doing some Nordic walking. For those who don't know, it is walking with poles and it took a little time to move the legs and arms at the right time but now I feel quite 'Scandy'. Problem is I haven't actually done a lot, so here is hoping to more in 2024.

I have had both my cataracts removed, which has been amazing, once you get over the idea of what they actually are doing. I didn't have them both done at once so lots of drops and no driving until it was considered safe.



Dave has acquired an electric car (MG EV4) which make lots of decisions on its own, so as yet I haven't driven it. It means I am chauffeur driven which is good. We have had solar panels fitted so in the summer we created lots of electricity which is good for charging the car.



We have been away a few times and each time the sun shone and was absolutely glorious. At the end of March, we went to Amsterdam to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and stayed at the American (now Hard Rock) Hotel. We'd never stayed in a hotel in Amsterdam before and had a lovely time.

After Holland we went to the Isle of Man, it was just after the TT races and I ask you who knows what TT stands for. The answer is at the end of this missive.



In October, we celebrated my birthday in style with a few days in Florence, Italy and then at the end of November we got a bargain deal and went on a river cruise on the Douro in Portugal.



# Humfress News Christmas 2023

I celebrated the Coronation on our driveway with the neighbours; while Dave was being a plus one to a very good friend and they celebrated at Windsor Castle, it was amazing apparently but the journey was a bit of a pain.

We have had some lovely visitors, an ex-colleague and wife Ben and Ingeborg, and it was fun showing over all Wiltshire has to offer.



Mark was back from New Zealand so had some fun days with him and his family. We also went up North, to visit a number of friends stopping at Matlock Bath, Yarm & Redcar.



Dave has seen his family quite a few times and I have been up to Claygate to help Terry settle in her new flat. Coming along nicely but still a bit to do. That is of course true for all houses and ours is no exception, we have been here for 14 years and we have had to start doing some stuff for the second time.

At the end of August, I went back to Amsterdam on a sadder note as a very good friend died and I went for the memorial. Tony had suffered from cancer for quite a few years and in Holland you can choose if you want the pain to end, which he did. I think that is a very good choice to be able to make.



I stayed with his wife and another good friend and to say that it was amazing is maybe a strange thing to say, but the three girls connected so well and we gave Tony a very good send off. It just goes to show that we never know what is round that corner, so, until we have to take a sharp left or right, we are going to enjoy every minute.



Dave couldn't resist adding a photo of his grandkids!

The answer to the earlier question is TT stands for Tourist Trophy and yes they do all drive like maniacs. We arrived in Douglas the day after it finished so we just saw all the bikes and camper vans driving back to the mainland.

We hope that we see as many of you as we can but meanwhile, we both wish you love and happiness in your worlds.