

Greetings and annual news from Joy and Eric in Nottingham for Christmas 2017 and New Year 2018. We're all another year older!

Joy's activities have been just a little limited this year by sciatica / trapped nerve in the back. But she still clog dances and MCs with the band as much as ever, even though she may inwardly shout "Ouch!" now and then. Her Kathak Indian classical dance lessons continue weekly in our dance studio. And she has weekly sessions on Tuesdays helping at a local Foodbank, and Wednesday swimming with my impressive old biddies group at Aquafit.



Eric has passed the fifth anniversary of being declared terminal, very satisfying, and the nice surgeon man says he never wants to see me again; great! Cycling goes well, I've cycled 40km a few times as well as the shorter rides, still hard work, and I'm tired for a whole day after the exertion. Ceramics still keeps me busy, but I can't stop making porcelain tiles like the ones I did for the city



artwork contract last year – another contract for the City is under discussion. We now have to find a use for the new tiles! And this year there are porcelain Christmas snowflakes for any visitor to collect (see photo on the front).

Summer holiday started in Brittany (the first eight days were spent staying with French friends who don't speak English; speaking French all the time is brain tiring, but excellent language practice!), then camping eastwards across France. The last stop



was, of course, staying with family in Frankfurt. This year the weather for the whole holiday was wonderful, and we found some lovely campsites in France. And in Frankfurt we did our usual ceilidh with Joy as MC in German. One of the best, a good time was had by all!

In May we tried a cruise for the first time, and

chose the Danube from Passau to Budapest (arriving in Budapest at night was wonderful). Our first ever cruise!



All excellently done and perfectly organised by Viking, you can't find fault, but it's not really our scene. We prefer camping and being free to do whatever takes our fancy whenever we want.

In December we flew to visit the German branch of the family for a week, and see the Christmas markets.



The band and morris and clog are as busy as ever. In the band we're losing our bass/guitar Chris who's been with us since 1964 or thereabouts. He's moving south to be nearer his family, we'll miss him. Any budding bass players out there want to join us?

The rest of the family all thrive. Anita and Hamish are busy with music and

cycling/running as well as looking after Jenna (now second year studying Interior Design at Coventry) and Sean (now at sixth form college doing science). Jean and Rory keep dancing, gardening, singing and fiddling and have a great circle of folkie friends around Horsham. The German tribe all have German citizenship as well as UK now, Brexit was such an appalling mistake. The twins' volleyball team keep winning. Suzi is engaged, and very happy living with Jan in Bremen, is getting married next summer, and has just published her first book.

Total cycling this year was more than last year. Not much walking though, cycling is easier on the legs and you can freewheel if you're tired! Total pottery only 150 pots, but lots of tiles and 75 Christmas card ceramic snowflakes (every visitor receives one), using 500 lbs of porcelain and 38 kiln firings using 2500 kwh of electricity.

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