

Greenmount July 2019

Monday, 1st July 2019

The first task after the usual morning chores was to clean the blackcurrants that I had picked the previous day and make three and a bit jars of jam.

That and a few other odd jobs took until lunch time.

After lunch, we set off to collect the suitcase I had ordered from John Lewis the previous evening. We needed it for our holiday in a couple of days' time.

We stopped at the medical centre so Jenny could book her annual check-up while I nipped into the chemist for my monthly supply of tablets because I did not have enough to last me through my holiday.

We called in to see Faith Greenhalgh. Faith had popped round with some notepaper for Jenny to reply to her niece, Georgina. Jenny's eldest sister and Gerogina's mother, Winnie, had recently died and Jenny had sent a card of condolence to Georgina, explaining in it that we could not be at the funeral because we were away on holiday. Georgina had replied with a very nice letter and Jenny responded, hoping that we could stay in touch, for which Faith had found Jenny some appropriate notepaper. By way of thanking Faith, we gave her and John a helping of our strawberries.

We called at Holcombe Brook post office to send the letter.

By this time, we were hitting rush-hour traffic, although the journey to the Trafford Centre along the dreaded M60 was not too bad. The collection point at John Lewis was not very busy and we were in and out with our purchase within five minutes. The journey home was as painful as always on the M60.

Back home, I picked more strawberries and found some more ripe blackcurrants on the outside of our fence, on the common land. Our bushes had grown through the fence. Jenny was busy making scones for our batch of jam and was not best pleased to see more of the blackcurrants, which needed topping and tailing before washing, ready for use.

I decided to lend a hand in the kitchen and prepared the vegetables for tea while Jenny finished the scones and cleaned the latest, small batch of fruit.

After that, I started work on the computer again, this time checking some updates I had made to the family tree spreadsheet. I had two versions and I wanted to make sure I had applied all the updates to the latest version and not some to the old version. I downloaded a copy of a Microsoft utility, available from Microsoft officially in a later version of Office, which was an add-in to Excel to compare two spreadsheets for differences. That worked a treat, except I discovered afterwards that when I opened a spreadsheet in Excel, I couldn't see any of the data.

Meanwhile, Rachel had told me that some of the digital TV channels had changed and I retuned my WinTV channels on the lounge laptop. I had to do that a second time after deleting the channel database to make it work properly.

Furthermore, not being able to solve my Excel problem, I uninstalled the add-in which made no difference and then reinstalled Excel, which also made no difference. Then, by chance, I discovered the problem was that the data area was not a full window but had been tiled and on expanding it to a full window, I was able to see my data again.

A further surprise was that, although I had only asked Office to install Excel, all the applications showed up as new ones in my program list and all had been unpinned from my Windows 10 start list, so I had to put them back.

It was not what I would call a particularly productive evening, although I did manage to confirm all the changes I had made to my family tree spreadsheet were to the latest version and my TV tuner was working fine with the revised channel list.

Tuesday, 2nd July 2019

It was a day of preparation for our holiday, which included cutting the grass back and front.

We left about 11:30 p.m. intending to miss all the traffic and have a clear run down to Cornwall. The strategy was essentially sound except that I had never seen so many road works.

The M6 was closed between junctions 14 and 15 with a diversion along other roads. The M5 was closed at junctions 1 and 2 and we were diverted down the M6 and across the M42 to the M5 further down. The M5 was closed again around Burnham-on-Sea with diversions along other routes. The journey was a complete nightmare.

Wednesday, 3rd July 2019

We arrived in a lay-by on the A30 just past Newquay about 7 a.m. and slept for a couple of hours in the car. We had intended stopping off at a Little Chef for breakfast but we missed that due to the A30 having been completely overhauled and upgraded. It was thirteen years, since we were last in Cornwall.

We arrived at The Old Count House around 11 a.m. and met up with Cheryl and Ken Canning, who were in their 29th year at the B&B. It was very nice to see them again after all this time.

We had an afternoon of pottering round St. Ives, visiting Tourist Information, which had moved from The Guild Hall to the Library and finishing off with tea at The Hain Line, a Wetherspoons pub.

Thursday, 4th July 2019

After breakfast, we went to the Lifeboat Fair, which was essentially a few stalls in the lifeboat house, the boat on its trailer and the tractor being outside at the top of the launching ramp.

After that, we made our way to Porthgwidden beach. Jenny and Rachel went shell-hunting and then fetched gluten-free pasties and tea/coffee from The Yellow Canary for lunch on the beach.

After my lunch had settled, I went for a swim in the sea, which was nice and refreshing. My feet caught more of the sun than I intended despite copious use of 50+ factor sun block lotion.

We came back to our rooms to shower before tea at The Lifeboat Inn. It was quiz night and we listened to the questions but did not take part.

Friday, 5th July 2019

We went to Porthminster beach. Jenny and Rachel went shell hunting again and found a giant jellyfish and two small ones. We ate at the Lifeboat Inn again and Jenny's meal was not good. Her steak was full of gristle, her chips were lukewarm and there was a long hair in her mange tout. We were given an apology and offered a free sweet. Further, when I went to order tea and coffee, my payment was refused and the drinks were, as they say, on the house.

Saturday, 6th July 2019

It was cooler than of late but still sunny. We went round the shops and had pasties again from The Yellow Canary for lunch, sitting overlooking the bay. We nipped into The Lifeboat Inn for tea/coffee afterwards and then potted up to The Island (not really an island, just a hill on a headland) where the Coast Guard station and a small church were situated. We fed some sparrows there before sitting for a while by the harbour where we saw a seal.

We walked round to Carbis Bay. Much of the beach front below the large hotel had been developed and was covered in log cabins, a restaurant and such. It was an absolute eyesore and however planning permission was obtained beats me. What people would do and the devastation they caused for money never ceased to amaze me.

We came back for a meal at Peppers Restaurant where there was not a lot of gluten free choice.

Sunday, 7th July 2019

It was cloudy and cooler. We walked round to try to find Bumbles tea rooms, which we used to frequent. We fed the sparrows by the harbour and Jenny and I sat on the harbour front while Rachel went for a walk.

We lunched at Bumbles tea rooms. It was quite expensive for what we had and both the food and service were not a patch on what they used to be. We were quite disappointed.

We stayed round the harbour for the afternoon watching the comings and goings and had a nice tea at Pizza Express. We went on Shanty Baba's very entertaining ghost walk at 9 p.m. and we were back late.

Monday, 8th July 2019

We went on a trip to Godrevy Island to see the seals on a boat owned and operative by Ken and Cheryl's daughter, Leanne and her husband, Andy, who was the skipper. Since it was high tide, the seals were in the water rather than basking on the rocks and they kept popping up to look at us. They seemed to be as intent on looking at us as we were at them.

We lunched at the Scoff Troff café. It was a trifle expensive but well worth it.

We spent the afternoon on Carbis Bay beach and came back to eat at The Hain Line. Since they had no curry dishes left, we moved on to have some very nice gluten free fish and chips at The Hub on the sea front with an excellent view of the harbour.

Tuesday, 9th July 2019

We spent the day on Porthgwidden beach. We had pasties from The Allotment and tea/coffee from the café at the beach. The Allotment sold cheaper and better gluten free pasties than the Yellow Canary.

We all swam in the sea and later had tea at The Mermaid. I can't say it was as good as expected, particularly for the price.

Wednesday, 10th July 2019

I went round to the starboard harbour pier while Jenny and Rachel went to the craft market in the Guild Hall. They joined me later. A seal had come into the harbour and I managed to take a picture of it.

We went round to the sheltered area where I watched the activity in the harbour while Jenny and Rachel fed the sparrows again.

We went for lunch at the Courtyard Tea Room where they had no gluten free items on the menu. I had a ham salad and Rachel had a cheese salad. The ham and cheese were alright but they needed a lesson on how to put a salad together. It was not a patch on the Monk's Haven in Whitby.

We returned to the sheltered spot by Smeaton's Pier and I watched the boats again on the seaward side of the harbour. A rather friendly seal appeared and posed for photographs.

We went back to the guest house to change before the evening meal at Pizza Express. Some of the spaghetti bolognese gluten-free pasta was hard and burnt. When we mentioned this, we were told it was a new batch of pasta.

Rachel ordered a latte coffee made with soya milk. This proved a challenge and took several attempts. Our sweet took ages to come and we had to ask twice for them. It was not as good as our first visit.

We went to see the play at the Boathouse Theatre – Murder in the Pilchard Cellar. It was very good indeed.

Thursday, 11th July 2019

It was cloudier and cooler again. We went round the farmer's market in the Guild Hall. There was not much farm produce and of what there was, there was little that was organic.

Jenny and Rachel went into a craft market on the harbour front while I stayed near the lifeboat and chatted to a German lady tourist who was with her young daughter, waiting for her husband. Her English was much better than my German!

Jenny and Rachel went to the church to light a candle for Jenny's sister, Winnie, who had recently passed away. I moved on to the end of the pier and met a Scottish couple from Bristol.

Lunch was a take-away from The Allotment which we ate on a bench overlooking the harbour.

We went to Porthgwidden beach and swam in the sea. I had taken my wet suit.

We came back for a shower and went out for tea at The Hain Line. Afterwards, we tried to get a seat at The Lifeboat for the quiz but it was full so we retired early and watched some TV.

Friday, 12th July 2019

We caught the bus to Hayle and had a look round. Hayle was much nicer than I remembered and we had an excellent lunch at [The Mad Hatter](#), which was not only tea rooms but also a B&B.

We walked back to St. Ives along the south west coast path, which was not well sign-posted. There were a lot of ups and downs and narrow, overgrown paths.

We returned to our room for a shower before our evening meal at the Harbour Restaurant, by the Lifeboat station. The service was not good and we had cause to complain, at which point we received an apology and we were adequately compensated.

Part of the problem was the organisation's working practice of all the staff having to wear communicators so they could keep in constant touch with each other. Taking an order from a customer while having to listen to various people giving one instructions in one's ear was no way to operate a restaurant. When dealing with a customer, that customer should be the sole focus of attention.

Having made that point, the food was good and, given the opportunity, I would give it another try.

Saturday, 13th July 2019

It took a while to get going with one or two aches and pains from yesterday's walk.

We spent the day on Porthmeor beach. It was cooler with a north or north-westerly wind and the sea looked tempting with big waves but I didn't go in, not having brought my wet suit, which I had only used the once thus far.

We had lunch on the beach from the Allotment again and our evening meal at The Hub again. Unfortunately, they had no gluten free starter or dessert. Otherwise, the meal was good.

We retired early and watched some TV again.

Sunday, 14th July 2019

We had a day out at the Eden Project. We found a gluten-free pizza in the café in the Mediterranean dome for lunch and had our evening meal back in Sat. Ives at the Lifeboat Inn, which was fine.

Monday, 15th July 2019

We had a day on Porthmeor beach again and, being less cool, we were able to swim in the sea, again without the need for wet suits. At one point, I was joined in the water by a seal which swam parallel to me at a safe distance for a short while before diving and disappearing.

We had lunch on the beach from the Allotment again and our evening meal from the gluten-free menu at The Hain Line.

Tuesday, 16th July 2019

We spent the last day of our holiday on Porthgwithen beach. Our lunch again came from The Allotment and afterwards we treated ourselves to a DIY jam and Cornish Cream scone. After lunch, we went swimming in the sea.

We packed up late in the afternoon and walked back by the harbour where we saw two seals.

Our evening meal we had at The Hain Line from the GF menu.

Wednesday, 17th July 2019

We set off later than planned and hit heavy traffic on the A30 as we headed over to Gorran Haven near St. Austel. We had promised to call in and see our old neighbours from across the back, Doreen and Alex, Alex having been living with dementia for a good few years. They had their own annex in the grounds of their daughter, Sandra and son-in-law's house and Sandra and Doreen were Alex's carers.

It was very nice to meet up with Doreen and Alex again and to spend some time with Sandra, who showed us round the large garden and the village. We had our packed lunch there and left about 4 p.m.

The drive home was not too bad. There were no motorway closures, just lane closures and we arrived home about 11 p.m. We stopped at the Strensham North Roadchef services for a break and a snack but all we could find to eat that was gluten-free was some cherry bakewell tarts at the Little Chef. I considered it appalling that motorway services did not cater for gluten-intolerant people.

Thursday. 18th July 2019

We went grocery shopping to Unicorn in Chorlton and Waitrose at Broadheath, with lunch at the latter as usual. When I came back, I put in the TV recordings for the rest of this week.

Friday, 19th July 2019

There were a few odd jobs to do at home before going round to the old school to start work on the electrical jumble before the sale on the coming Monday. For one thing, the vertical blind on one of the windows in the lounge had come loose at one end and I took it down so I could repair it when I had a moment.

When we came home I started work on processing the TV recordings that had accumulated while we had been away and putting in the programmes for the coming week.

The good news was that everything I had queued had recorded. The bad news was that a couple of the recording had a lot of interference.

Saturday, 20th July 2019

I awake as the alarm went off at 7 a.m. and then went back to sleep. When I next woke it was 10 a.m. so it was noon before we were at the old school to work on the electrical jumble.

Sunday, 21st July 2019

Before going round to the old school to continue working on the electrical jumble, I updated my web site with the latest Greenpeace Unearthed issues. Even so, we were at the old school a little earlier than the previous day.

After tea I processed more TV recordings and spent the rest of the evening updating this record of our holiday.

Monday, 22nd July 2019

We rose at 8 a.m. to find we had low water pressure and water gushing down the road. Investigation revealed a major leak just up the road close to where two previous leaks had been repaired and where large, heavy vehicles had been parked in connection with the building of the estate's largest white elephant ever – the monstrous, white, two-storey building on the corner of Greenpark Close and Huntfold Drive, where not so long ago stood a lovely, spacious, red-brick bungalow in keeping with the rest of the estate and which we would have purchased had we had the opportunity.

I reported the leak, except that I mistakenly told United Utilities it was on Greenpark Drive and not Greenpark Close. I hadn't quite woken up! Anyway, they soon found it.

United Utilities were quick to respond, first shutting off the water, then providing tankers of water to supply part of the estate with water temporarily by pumping it into an isolated section of the supply, on which we, fortunately, relied.

Meanwhile, we went out to deliver the leaflets round the estate for the jumble sale this afternoon. When we returned, after meeting and chatting to several people, we were able to carry on with the routine chores, the water supply having been restored, at least, for the present. Jenny kindly made the chaps working on the leak a cup of tea.

I decided there was no point rushing round to the old school to come back in an hour or so for lunch so I waited for Jenny to prepare a packed lunch so we could stay there until the sale finished at 6 p.m.

While she was doing that, I applied some updates to my web site but didn't publish them because there were more to come.

We went round to the old school about 11:00 a.m. to work on the electrical jumble again and returned home about 6:30 p.m. after the sale. It was very warm and we were shattered.

Jenny had not had time to put the lamb shanks in the slow cooker to be simmering away for tea while we were out so she started preparing a tea of stir-fry vegetables and chicken. I sat down, having carried several heavy boxes from our sales room to the cellar at the old school for the storage of the unsold items which I had decided to keep for the next sale. All the rest of the unsold stock was moved by other helpers into the hall for collection by Father Wyatt's team from Salford.

Tuesday, 23 July 2019

We took the old school rubbish to the tip in Bury. Sorting that into the appropriate recycling skips took a while.

After the tip, we topped up our groceries, first from Home Bargains and then from Tesco.

We had lunch at home and afterwards I sent an E-mail to Jenny's niece, Georgina, for her before I started harvesting what was left of the blackcurrants. There was quite a lot left. Three hours in the hot sun was enough and I decided to leave off and finish the job in the morning.

As the evening approached, it cooled down a bit and Jenny asked me to water the beds and pots later in the evening. I also fetched in the washing line as rain was forecast early the following day.

The forecast for the rest of the following day was good with sunshine from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and temperatures reaching 31°C, much hotter than today and today was hot enough.

Wednesday, 24th July 2019

We were woken by a long and violent storm at about 2:30 in the morning. The rain was torrential and the sheet lightning was very bright.

I managed to crawl out of bed at about 9:30. My back and legs were aching, presumably from foraging for three hours in the blackcurrant bushes the previous day and it was still very warm.

The weather forecast had changed. Rain was forecast for late morning and the temperature was only going to reach 23°C. There was a gentle cool breeze which was most welcome after a very warm night which made sleeping difficult.

I picked the rest of the blackcurrants, with Jenny's help, disrupting her baking and bread-making.

After lunch, I did a little more work on my web site pictures, during which Lorna called round for a chat.

It was about 4 p.m. that I decided to go out and cut the grass on the back lawn and I also tidied up the edges and picked some of the larger weeds out of the block paving at the back. I left off about 6:30 p.m. for a cold shower to cool off before tea.

None of the rain forecast appeared and it had been a dry, warm day with sunny periods.

Thursday, 25th July 2019

With temperatures forecast to reach 31°C and thunderstorms predicted for the evening, it was too warm to work outside. Anyway, the blackcurrants needed processing.

I started by rinsing out the wet suits in the bath to remove any residual salt from the sea and sand. I carried them down in the kitchen bowl and hung them out to dry.

It was necessary to open all the doors and windows again to keep the house as cool as possible.

Having updated this diary, I commenced cleaning the blackcurrants and preparing them for a jam making session while Jenny had a shower.

We broke off for lunch and finally finished jam making at about 5 p.m.

I had been listening to my new Jazz CDs (i.e. the ones I had acquired and not yet heard) while preparing the blackcurrants and lunching so I updated my CD list. Part of that process involved improving the accessibility to the list by inserting an A to Z index so that I could jump direction to a section without having to scroll down the list. Unfortunately, this change would, at some stage, require an amendment to the VBA code that listed my CDs for printing.

As with DVDs, I carried a printed list of CDs when I visited charity shops and the like, searching for media I wanted and didn't have so that I didn't buy duplicates. That didn't always work because there were occasions when I forgot to update my printed lists with new purchases and any duplicates ended up on our car boot stall.

That update to my CD list took a couple of hours.

Friday, 26th July 2019

The summer school holidays having started, I expected our grocery run down the M60 to Unicorn in Chorlton, Sainsbury's in Sale and Waitrose in Broadheath and back to be a breeze. Nope!

The smart motorway speed limit signs were operating on the way down and utterly useless on the way back. Our transport system is a mess and will, as the motoring population grows, completely clog up.

Apart from that and finding the food chiller cabinet in Waitrose, in which we normally hunt for our elusive gluten-free lunch, empty, it wasn't a bad day out. The food chiller cabinet had broken down and the contents had been relocated to another one in one of the shopping aisles so all was not lost on that score.

Back home, putting in the TV recordings for the coming week should have been a breeze, having instructed both WinTV and Windows Media Centre to update their guides that morning. Unfortunately, the latter had failed to do so and it took a while, tuning into various channels, to bring the guide up to date. As a result, I only managed to put in the recordings for the following day.

Saturday, 27th July 2019

The day started well even though we rose too late for me to go round to the old school and deal with any electrical jumble that had been donated since the last sale, the previous Monday.

I repaired a lamp I had brought home from the jumble. The fitting at the top had come loose and it needed tightening. The lamp itself was quite tall and large but not large enough for me to put my hand inside to tighten the nut at the top so I had dismantled it to remove the flex and the challenge was to reinsert the bayonet fitting on the top, and secure it with the washers and nut inside. I managed to position the washers on the screw thread using a knitting needle as a guide. My long King Dick (bragging again) socket extension, the appropriate socket and the nut secured inside the socket with a small piece of blue-tack enabled me to fix the nut in place and tighten it. Reinserting the flex was a simple task and all the lamp needed was some material to glue on the base to cover the large hole, something with which I could deal at the old school. The original cover had been removed and, presumably discarded.

I next turned my attention to a Tesco cable extension reel (made in China – where else?) from the jumble. The cable had become trapped and would neither pull out nor rewind. My first thought was to dismantle it and I had found there were two small, removable plugs on the four-socket plate, one on each side. Forcing these out with a screwdriver revealed two screws. These were security screws and required a special driver bit to remove them. Fortunately, I had invested in a set of security bits a good while ago and I was able to remove the socket plate. That didn't help much. I gained access to the centre fixing for the top of the reel and intended pulling it apart but it wouldn't budge and I could not discover what was stopping it.

In the end, I prised a gap between the top and bottom of the reel so I could access the cable inside and managed, eventually to pull out all the 10 metres of cable, removing the obstruction, whatever it was. The challenge was now to recoil the cable on the reel through this gap, which took a little time. When I had finished, I reassembled the bits I had undone, pulled out the cable and then rewound it a couple of times to make sure it was working alright. Finally, I tested it to make sure it worked.

Two items down, one to go. Another small lamp from the jumble I had brought home needed the material covering the hole underneath gluing back on. A quick application of Pritt Stick fixed that.

I finished just in time to inspect Jenny's chutney she had made and agreed with her it needed more simmering time to reduce the liquid.

Jenny reminded me I had another item left over from the jumble some time ago, an old Apple I-Mac. I had looked at it before and shelved it because it needed the OS X (the operating system) reloading and I wasn't particularly au fait with Apple Macs.

I found the OS online and downloaded it. It was big and would need a DVD. While that was in progress, I checked out the Apple Mac to make sure it would read DVDs. It wouldn't. I then remembered I had a USVB DVD drive that had come into the jumble so I checked that out on the MAC and it worked.

I commenced burning the download to DVD using the laptop drive only to discover it needed a dual-layer disc. Fortunately I had just bought some blank dual-layer discs. Even more fortunate was that the portable drive was a dual-layer drive so I used that to burn a disc.

All this took me well into the evening.

I also realised that I could use the USB drive to burn a region-free copy of the region one DVD of Along Came a Spider I had bought and which would not play on my region 2 Sony DVD player. I had already produced a region-free ISO copy of the disc with the intention of doing so but first I didn't have any dual-layer DVDs at the time and second, I forgot I had a dual-layer writer.

I left that running overnight.

Sunday, 28th July 2019

The first signs were that the DVD burning process of Along Came a Spider had not worked properly. The log from Nero Burning Rom had disappeared and it had gone back to the main screen. The disc would not eject from the drive.

I disconnected the drive, plugged it back in and ejected the disc. I put the disc in the DVD player and it started up alright. From the main menu, I chose the last scene and started it at the end of the film, just before the titles. It ran through to the end perfectly. The real proof of success would be when we watched the film in its entirety but the signs were that the copy was alright.

This problem could be avoided quite easily if manufacturers made their products region-free. My argument to the UK authorities that not to do so is a restrictive practice seemed to have fallen on deaf ears.

I resumed work on the Apple I-MAC. While that was progressing, I finished off scheduling the TV recordings for the week. That was interrupted by Jenny who needed an order placing for her baking supplies and then wanted a recipe printing off. I was also supposed to be producing Christmas labels for her chutney she bottled yesterday in preparation for her stall at the Christmas Cracker in November (the chutney took a while to mature) but I needed her scales and she was baking so I passed on that for the present.

With the MAC OS X installation taking a while and still going strong, I started processing the TV recordings ready for viewing, still catching up on some left over from our holiday period.

The MAC finally finished and I packed it away, noticing that the power cord was slightly damaged and could do with replacing. A job for tomorrow, I thought.

I finished all the recordings apart from Jazz Record Requests and I processed that just before I went to bed.

Monday, 29th July 2019

I took all morning to produce the labels for the chutney. That was because I printed them before realising I needed to change the date on the label from last year. At the second attempt, I also changed a couple of other things.

It wasn't until I had printed the second set of labels that I realised that the template I was using had the faint outline of the label on it and that was also printing. I ignored that for the present because, when I checked the weights of the jars, a couple of them had changed (honest) and I had to reprint two of the labels.

After applying all the labels and putting the bottles in the fridge, I set about the task of removing the label outline from the template. While I was at it, I changed the default font to Garamond 12 point and I did so on the blank document word template as well.

Jenny asked me to put out her clothes lines to hang out some washing on the only fine day forecast for the week and also pointed out that the kitchen patio door was making a grinding noise when opened and closed so I oiled the moving parts.

I then looked at the pricing for the chutney and realised that we should have weighed the jars before filling them. The weight on the labels included the jars and it shouldn't have done. Given that our pricing was based on the weight and it was at least half the commercial pricing of organic chutney, I didn't think the cost, including the weight of the jars, was unreasonable.

After lunch, I checked my E-mails. There were no new ones so I went on to update this diary entry.

I commenced the repair of the vertical blind fixing in the lounge by applying No More Nails into the hole from which the rawl plug had fallen out and then reinserting the plug. The hole was not enlarged and the plug fitted tightly but it would not go in very far because of the lintel over the window and there was a gap behind the plasterboard so there was nothing for the plug to grip apart from the plasterboard itself. Hence the glue. I left that to set for 24 hours.

I had a look at the power cord to the I-Mac, which had been slightly damaged in three places and I was thinking of replacing it. I removed the base of the I-Mac only to discover the cord unplugged from the back! I reassembled it, managed to repair the cord, refitted it and made sure the machine still worked.

I also had a go at repairing the shade for one of the lamps I fixed yesterday. I glued part of the metal frame back together and left it to see if it held before tackling another part of the frame. By the end of the day, I had completed the task.

Tuesday, 30th July 2019

The first item on the agenda was a hair cut and a beard trim. I was starting to look a little untidy.

I did intend following that up with a shower but I had breakfast first and then a couple of other minor jobs prevailed.

I put the lamp shade I had repaired on the lamp and the glued bits came undone so I decided to ditch the shade. It really needed spot welding and (a) I didn't have the equipment (not something that has been a problem before) and (b) it wasn't really worth it.

I had more success putting the vertical blind back up in the lounge, except that I had to go hunting in the garage for a spare hanger and two spare weights, the originals having disintegrated.

After my shower, I went outside to clear the larger weeds from the block paving and gave up about 1 p.m. when it started to rain. I decided to have some lunch.

The rain persisted on and off so I continued the reorganisation of my picture gallery on my web site until about 5 p.m. Having completed the galleries on the first two pages of the index, the rain seemed to have stopped so I resumed my weeding. I needed the fresh air after the afternoon's intense concentration.

The rain held off long enough for me to reach the drive and to clear the larger weeds from the bottom of the drive and under the cover of the car port when it started to rain again.

I came in and helped prepare tea.

Wednesday, 31st July 2019

It took me literally all morning to set up my E-mail to download messages received by my Google mail account. The reason for this was that I was using the older POP3/SMTP mechanism rather than the more versatile and secure IMAP facility. My preference for POP3 was that I could use the one Inbox and other common folders rather than having separate ones for each mail client. This meant that all my incoming mail was in one place.

What Google didn't mention in their configuration instructions was that to use POP3, considered by Google to be a less secure application, the Google setting for allowing the use of less secure applications had to be turned on. When I eventually discovered that the reason my E-mail client would not connect to Gmail was because of this, the Google instructions didn't

exactly pinpoint the location of this switch. Instead, the various web links took me round in a circle. Obviously, there were close links between Google and Microsoft. In fact, it was better concealed than the lost city of Atlantis and, I was beginning to think, just as mythical.

I eventually found the setting under Security my Google account administration page. Once it was turned on, it all worked like a dream.

So, Mr Google, why not simply include the fact that this needed to be turned on for some, if not all, POP3 applications within the set up instructions and include a web link to the switch? Or is that making life just a little too easy for your users? Perhaps you would like a bill for wasting my time?

Anyway, by the time I had finished, Jenny had washed the dishes and disappeared upstairs to do some cleaning. The rain had started a little earlier than forecast so any outside work was out of the question.

Oh, I forgot to mention the reason I needed to include my Google mail account in my E-mail was that Jenny had asked me to put some of our car booty online and I decided to give Gumtree a whirl, being free. When asked to sign in, I used my Google mail address so if anyone sent any messages to that account, I would now receive them. I did subsequently replace that primary address with my ken.dearden@networking-consultancy.com address, so, hopefully, messages would be sent to that instead.

After lunch, the rain persisting, I put the finishing touches to my web site update.

I had to break off to take Jenny to Tottington for an hour or so and commenced updating the server when I returned.

That took me until tea-time. Technically it had been a productive day. Practically, I had not really achieved a great deal. At least I had arranged to borrow Matthew's saw this week end so I could try to finish the landing skirting, except that the village drop-in was on Saturday and I would be there working on the electrical jumble, ready for the next sale in late August.

During the afternoon my three bottles of Vogel Saw Palmetto had arrived from the Shipley Health Food Store, much cheaper than buying it locally.