

Greenmount – March 2009

We were up early on Sunday 1st March because Jenny had to supervise the Beavers at Church Parade. Jenny's Thursday Colony was well represented with seven out of nine attending. When the Beavers were asked which of the three groups was the best, there was an instant, loud cry of "Thursday Beavers". Jenny's second embarrassing moment came when she was prodded by one of her little group to put up her hand when the vicar asked if any new Beavers had been invested.

I briefly braved the cold weather at the beginning of March to go out and clean up, for the third time in a week, the cat's latrine. Since then, I have tidied up and fed the borders in the garden a couple of times and the few small groups of snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses add a bit of pleasing colour at this drab time of year. The tulips are showing encouraging signs and the rhubarb is struggling to show itself once more. Even the sun is trying to shine a bit. Sadly, the lawn is full of moss and I spent a whole day hand-raking it. I have also put in another blueberry bush and another red raspberry bush.

On 4th March, we went live with Talk-talk for our domestic telephone service. Switching from BT was not without its problems at Talk-talk, although, it seems these have been quickly resolved and, so far, most satisfactorily. The mistakes I made in switching were, firstly, I was talk-talked into the wrong package and, secondly, I did not realise and was not advised that I needed to tell Talk-talk that I required caller display from day one. The bad news is that it takes a month for Talk-talk to change the call package and a week to implement caller display. The good news is that, because I complained, I get the Anytime package free for the first month and then I go onto the Evening and week-end package and I also get caller display for free. So far, so good.

My broadband is still with Demon Internet at about £20 per month because only they will give me unlimited access and a fixed Internet address.

On Wednesday morning 11th March, there was an accident at the crossing Jenny patrols. A lady driving up from Ramsbottom failed to observe the red traffic light and her vehicle ploughed into one driven by another lady crossing the junction at right angles to hers. Fortunately, no-one was seriously injured and Jenny remarked that such an incident was long overdue, given the poor standard of driving exhibited by those using the junction.

Now, you will be familiar with the saying that lightening never strikes twice, etc. Don't you believe it. Guess what happened that afternoon? Yes, if I had a cigar, you'd win it. A young male driver came up from Ramsbottom, ignored the red traffic light and swiped the front of a vehicle completing a right-turn manoeuvre from the opposite direction. Debris flew in all directions, a large piece of bumper narrowly missing Jenny, who was standing on the island, in the middle of the road, with her School Crossing pole. The driver who caused the accident also flew off, having failed to stop. He has since been caught and is being prosecuted.

It is only a few weeks since a young lady lost control of her car at the junction and crashed into the school railings, missing by a few metres children leaving an evening scout meeting.

Jenny is applying for danger money.

On Saturday 21st March, I had to go to Casualty at the hospital to have my eyes checked. The 'floaters' (see January's update) appear to have drifted across from my left eye to the right one and I thought I saw flashing lights as well. There were no bells or whistles though. The consultant examined my eyes and told me there was nothing to worry about and that the retina in both eyes appeared to be quite robust. Then he booked me in for an appointment in his clinic for the 26th. Most reassuring.

I had an appointment for my Gastrosocopy on Tuesday 24th March. Things are looking up, or down, depending on your point of view. I have to say that the service was very good and the staff very pleasant, the low points being the long wait prior to the procedure and the swallowing of the tube with the bare minimum of sedation. I'm glad I didn't take up sword swallowing. I received a copy of the doctor's report to bring home but, alas, not the DVD. The outcome of the examination is that there is some inflammation of the stomach wall and the doctor has taken two biopsies for the pathology department to play with. I am due to receive the results in a month's time at his outpatient clinic. Meanwhile, I keep taking the tablets and suffering. The appointment is booked for May 14th.

On 26th March, we were, once again, at the hospital, in the eye clinic. Again the consultant checked both eyes and it appears I am suffering from Posterior Vitreous Detachment, or PVD, which sounds much worse than it is and it is very common, particularly people over a certain age who suffer from short-sighted vision. The consultant told me that my sight could change quite suddenly for the worse and, in true Hitchhiker fashion, told me "DON'T PANICK". Such defects as might occur can be fixed if treated promptly. I have a further appointment in about six weeks.

On 30th March, it was Jenny's turn. We paid a brief visit to the Breast Screening Clinic where Jenny had her chest photographed. I can't think of any appropriate comment.

On that note, I shall close this update for March and keep you in suspense for another month. This is better than East Enders!