

Greenmount November 2023

Wednesday, 1st November 2023

I had arranged to help Mike, one of our neighbours across the road, to configure his new laptop. When I arrived, Mike said his son had configured his laptop yesterday. Mike asked if I would still look at his laptop and I spend a couple of hours adding one or two bits of software and chatting with Mike.

I came home for lunch and spent the afternoon dealing with a backlog of e-mails.

Thursday, 2nd November 2023

Over breakfast I glanced through yesterday's post – the latest update from Greenpeace. It focussed on climate change and I put it on one side to read more thoroughly later, not that it would so much good. This planet was doomed. The vast majority of people were too wrapped up in themselves and greedy to do anything about it. They might love their grandchildren but gave little or no thought to their long-term future. Most would ask what could they do? Voting for the Green party at the next election would be a start. Joining and contributing to Greenpeace would also be constructive.

I started my morning dealing with the TV recordings from yesterday. I only had to top and tail them since they were from the good, old BBC.

I moved on to my e-mails. Having blitzed the most recent hundred yesterday, there were only a few new ones.

One was about the Christmas market at the local care home. A DJ had been booked for the occasion so we would not be going there. Now, had it been a trad jazz band...

The other was from my old school chum, Terry, who gave me a brief outline of his latest escapades, which stopped short of dragon-slaying.

I was geared up to commence cleaning in the kitchen following the usual morning pot washing session but Jenny said she had other plans so I decided to price up some car booty that Matthew had donated to us and which had been cluttering up the lounge for ages.

That and applying Windows and anti-virus updates to Rachel's laptop for her kept me busy until lunchtime.

For most of the afternoon, I was looking through the Radio Times, which had risen in price again to an extortionate £5, for programmes to record for the coming week. Jenny went with one of our neighbours, Lorna, to the weekly, social drop-in (Cuppa and a Chat).

Friday, 3rd November 2023

I started my day with a visit to the dentist for my six monthly check-up. That went well and all my teeth needed was a clean and polish. I left with my six-monthly appointment.

We went to Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park for our weekly grocery shop and, after lunch at home, I scheduled the TV recordings for the coming week and dealt with other bits of administration, including accepting the quotation from the plumber for the installation of my new radiator in the back bedroom.

Saturday, 4th November 2023

We were up early and at the old school for the table-top same by 8 a.m., which gave us ample time to populate our stall with the electrical items we had tested and priced. I managed to test a few new items, one or two of which we sold. We had some large sales early on which helped to boost the coffers. The sale was busier than I had expected after we had the jumble sale last week.

We came home for lunch and I spent most of the afternoon catching up on more administrative work. I left off to go out and bring in the bins through the gate after they had been emptied yesterday. I filled them up again with the accumulated rubbish and the leaves from the patio and the back garden. The food waste bucket outside the back door also needed emptying into the compost bin and our friendly robin came to keep me company for some of the time, so I put out some meal worms for it (I would say him but it is very difficult to distinguish between male and female robins).

Sunday, 5th November 2023

By the time I had washed the dishes, cleaned the worktop, cleaned the ceramic hob, cut my hair, trimmed my beard and had a bath (the shower was still out of commission), it was 12:30.

Marie and Bob were due at 1:30 p.m. We were giving them a lift to Cosalea at Walshaw where we were lunching with Matt and Carrie.

I dealt with the only e-mail I had, which was the weekly one from Talking Pictures and blocked an unsolicited caller on Skype before Bob and Marie arrived.

We had a very nice lunch at Cosalea.

Bob and Marie came back with us to collect their car and went home. Jenny and I looked through the bathroom brochures in readiness for our final planning meeting with Dan at Bolton Bathrooms on Tuesday, after which I fell asleep in my chair for about an hour.

We had a light snack for tea and settled down for the evening.

Monday, 6th November 2023

We were back in the kitchen, cleaning.

There was another good couple of day's work left to finish it and our next opportunity was not likely to be until next Monday.

Tuesday, 7th November 2023

We went to Bolton Bathrooms to finalise the bathroom refit. We saw Dan Smith again and he was most helpful when it came to choosing the furniture, counter-top, tiles, flooring, shower tray, and accessories. The good news was that the work had been brought forward a week, now scheduled to commence of 27th November.

We met one of our neighbours as we left and stopped for a brief chat.

We had some rubbish in the boot and decided to come back to the transfer station in Bury before coming home. Our first port of call was Tesco, primarily for a comfort break. Jenny felt better for that but the disabled toilet was out of action. Rather than shop, we came straight home, which was a great relief to me!

We had lunch and a brief rest before recommencing the kitchen cleaning.

I left off at about 4:30 p.m. having completed about half of the overall task.

Wednesday 8th November 2023

The plan was to drive down to the Trafford Centre and order a fitted carpet for the back bedroom from John Lewis. What a shambles the day became.

We started with a brief visit to the pharmacy for a medication order for Jenny and then we called at the library in Ramsbottom for Jenny to return the books she had borrowed while I finished listening to a CD of Clarence Williams with his various ensembles (for the uninitiated, that is Trad Jazz).

We joined the M66 motorway and then the M60 round to the Trafford Centre. So far, so good.

The John Lewis carpet department was in turmoil and there was no sign of the samples of carpet we saw when we last visited the store in July. We were told they were completely overhauling that area of business and turning it over to a franchise. That would not be ready until December.

The day was not going well.

Jenny returned the poaching pan we had purchased in July and we obtained a full refund. It was not really fit for purpose. It was flimsy and the aluminium has discoloured after the first and only use.

We looked for a replacement but could not find one so we went to Lakeland, where Jenny bought one or two items in readiness for her baking for the upcoming Christmas fair.

We returned to John Lewis for a snack lunch, not that there was a lot of choice of gluten-free food.

Back on the hunt for a poaching pan, Jenny finally spotted one that was much more robust and we purchased that and a couple of other baking items.

We returned to the car and came home, just ahead of the school run, as the volume of traffic was starting to increase.

I updated the accounts with the day's transactions and filed the receipts.

The desktop PC, which I thought had been indicating a problem with the CPU cooling fan, seemed to be alright. It was now the laptop's turn to throw a spanner in the works. Windows Defender was not working.

Rebooting did not resolve the problem and I searched the web for a possible cause and fix. The first suggestion was to delete all third-party security software and then reboot. I went through the list of installed applications and found some McAfee software in there. Removing all of it and rebooting solved my problem.

I searched around for a local carpet supplier and discovered that the local carpet manufacturer, Cormar Carpets had a retail shop in their Ramsbottom premises. We decided to go tomorrow.

Thursday, 09th November 2023

We went to Ramsbottom, parked the car in the station car-park as usual and walked back along the road to Cormar Carpets. There was no sign of a retail shop and the security chap with whom we talked, said there was no shop. He suggested we try the company's other plant, which was within walking distance of our home.

Fortunately, we had other business in Ramsbottom, not least being the usual tour of the charity shops. That did not result in any purchases. We bought a few groceries from Tesco and finished with a visit to Plentiful for more grocery items and to place an order for two 500g tubs of organic Biona Sunflower spread. That was difficult to find in shops elsewhere due to its price. Unicorn only stocked the 250g tubs, which were not sufficient for our needs.

We came home for lunch and I brought the accounts up to date, then planned the TV recordings for the coming week using the schedules from the Radio Times we had purchased, as usual. The price was back to £4.50. Meanwhile, Lorna had called round and she and Jenny had gone to "Cuppa and a Chat", which, this week, was in the church since there was some renovation work being undertaken in the old school.

Friday, 10th November 2023

The day started off reasonably well with a shopping trip to Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park.

While shopping, I started to feel unwell with pain and discomfort in the right-hand side of my chest and in my stomach. I also felt a little dizzy, a little sick and, at one point, briefly, totally disorientated. I also ached across the top of my back, in my neck and in my upper arms and I felt very tired. Pushing the trolley containing groceries was somewhat difficult.

Fortunately, I managed to help Jenny finish shopping, load the car and drive home, where I went to lie down. I had no lunch and Jenny brought me a tonic water and I eventually fell asleep for about an hour or so.

I felt much better when I woke up, had a bath and came down to finish off the TV recordings for the coming week. I had another can of tonic water. I still wasn't feeling quite right by tea-time. I had no idea what the problem was.

Saturday, 11th November 2023

We went to the Remembrance Service at the church. I was in my suit, shirt and tie, for a change, because I had been asked to hang the wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the village community. I went to the church early to collect the wreath from Julie, our village chairperson. Jenny and Lorna, our neighbour, followed on later.

We came home for lunch and while Jenny was preparing it, I fetched in the bin that was emptied yesterday, put out the washing lines, tightened them up and hung out all the washing in the warm, winter sun.

After lunch I decided to make a start on tidying the garage. The first job was to tidy up the shopping bags and then clean and store away the lawn mower. That took most of the afternoon and I finished just as it was turning cooler. That was the end of my working day.

Sunday, 12th November 2023

The rain was back and it was cold so we decided to carry on with the cleaning in the kitchen.

Monday, 13th November 2023

We started our day with Jenny's visit to the Podiatrist in Bury while I waited in the car, listening to Benny Goodman and His Orchestra.

The usual visit to Tesco followed. Again we went our separate ways as Jenny went into the store and I went on a fruitless search for some bits and pieces from Victor Wright's shop in the town centre, after which I joined Jenny.

We came home for lunch, in the middle of which I realised I should be at the local surgery for my doctor's appointment and I arrived, in the old Japanese tradition, just on time.

I saw Dr Ali, primarily to discuss my Omeprazole medication. He asked me how I was, so I told him about my funny turn on Friday in Sainsbury's store (before I had paid the bill). He was quite concerned and gave me a thorough check-up. My blood pressure was up somewhat, probably due to the fact I had been walking fast to arrive on time. He suggested I monitored it at home. Apart from that, everything seemed fine. He arranged for an ECG after the consultation just to be on the safe side and that did not detect any issues either.

Meanwhile, I also mentioned my problem with my catheters and he suggested I contact the Urology secretary at the hospital and request a consultation with the specialist to arrange an internal examination. I was overjoyed.

We finally discussed the original reason for my visit and, while Dr Ali was willing to prescribe the Omeprazole on a repeat prescription, he suggested I tried to manage with one tablet every other day or even less frequently, which was fine by me.

Dr Ali telephoned me after I came home to confirm the results of the ECG, which the nurse had given me and to advise that if I had another similar experience, I should go to A&E immediately or dial 999. In fact he was arranging for me to see the cardiology team anyway just to be sure everything was alright.

It was the best consultation I'd had for ages and Dr Ali was excellent, reminding me of the good old days when John Hampson was in charge.

In what was left of the afternoon, it was time to deal with e-mails and tidy up the recorded TV programmes we had watched.

Tuesday, 14th November 2023

Well, the day started well. I thought it was Wednesday today, Tuesday yesterday and I was trying to remember what we did on Monday!

Job number one was pot washing.

Job number two was to jump-start Rachel's car, move it onto our drive, leaving mine on the road at the top of the drive and then connect up the battery charger to charge Rachel's car battery.

Job number three was to clear a space for the gas man to service the boiler. He was due between noon and six p.m. Jenny helped me put the long lengths of small coving that had been delivered by mistake and for which I was not charged, into the garage loft, at least for the present.

Job number four was to empty the recycling rubbish into the various refuse bins. While I was outside, I grabbed the leaf rake and cleared the patio of all the leaves the recent high winds had blown off the trees. There didn't seem to be quite as much as the previous, recent clean-up but, since the garden waste bin had not been emptied properly the last time, it was now almost full again. I also took the opportunity to empty the vegetable waste into the compost bin.

By this time I was thinking about lunch and came in to ask Jenny what delights were on the menu.

After lunch, I caught up with a bit of administration work.

The gas engineer arrived and gave the boiler its annual service, which didn't take long and then we went up to the post office at Holcombe Brook. I planned on driving up to Bolton Road West, to the top of Longsight road and coming back down it to approach the post office on my left, so that I could simply pull in and park at the front of it. There was no right turn into Longsight Road at Holcombe Brook due to roadworks. I didn't see what roadworks were taking place but my guess was that it was yet more disruption due to the installation of Virgin fibre.

I turned round and came back, turning left onto Brandlesholme Road and left again down Vernon Road to approach Longsight Road much further down. Turning left up Longsight Road, put the post office on my right. Turning across the road wasn't a problem because not much traffic was coming down due to the roadworks. Every cloud....etc.

I picked out a birthday card for my old school chum, Terry and bought two first class stamps, one for Terry and one for the card for my cousin, Ann's, husband, Trevor, whose 80th birthday was in a few days' time. I produced the envelope for the stamp and the very helpful chap behind the counter said my card was a large letter size and needed a more expensive stamp. I squirrelled away the two stamps I had already purchased and bought another for Trevor's card.

Keeping the Post Office going was starting to prove expensive. Had the PO still been the only telephone provider, they could have subsidised snail and parcel mail with the huge profits from the telecommunications business and there would have been no need for other companies to inconvenience road users by installing fibre. It was all the fault of meddling politicians who were more interested in money than in people.

But I digress. One can do so in the privacy of one's own home.

We came home and I took Rachel's car off charge, since the battery was fully powered and I started the car to make sure. It was just as well I had uncoupled the charger because the crocodile clip on the charger's negative wire was loose and dropped off. The positive one was hanging on by only a thread.

I brought the charger in and proceeded to repair it. I had two red, insulated spade-connectors and a load of blue ones. One of each sufficed. The repair only took me about fifteen minutes, using my crimping tool, which saw the light of day once a year if it was lucky.

After tea, I went to the Greenmount Village Community AGM which was followed by the Greenmount Village Community Meeting, the difference being the former was held only once a year and the latter, when and as necessary to discuss village affairs – in the organisational and business sense.

Wednesday, 15th November 2023

It was scrub the kitchen floor day and, since the porcelain tiles were also laid in the hall, those too.

The latter meant moving everything out of the hall into the lounge, which looked an even bigger tip than usual. All that was scheduled to change next week, when I planned to tidy and clean it.

I finished the floor just in time for lunch, before taking Jenny to her 2 p.m. hair appointment in Ramsbottom. I waited in the car, the plan being to listen to a couple of Jazz CDs, except I had left them at home, so I spent the best of 2½ hours twiddling my thumbs, trying to keep warm with an outside temperature of about 8°C.

It was worth the wait. Jenny's hair looked very nice indeed, thanks to the stylist at the Hairworks salon.

We called at Summerseat Garden Centre on the way home for a couple of doormats, one for the front door and one for the back door, to improve the look of the hall and kitchen respectively and to try to keep the floor clean.

We had a short rest and a cup of tea and then resumed cleaning the hallway and putting everything back where it belonged. We left off when Matthew paid us a visit. Afterwards, Jenny went to prepare tea while I continued the cleaning until tea was ready. What still needed doing would wait until tomorrow.

Thursday, 16th November 2023

Tomorrow arrived and the cleaning frenzy continued in the entrance hall, after I cleaned the front of the oven in the kitchen, which I had missed yesterday! The inside of the oven was scheduled for Saturday.

I left off for lunch, having cleaned the front door inside and out and the radiator.

We had an early lunch because Jenny was going to Cuppa and a Chat with Lorna, as usual.

My frenzied activity was focussed on the lounge door, cleaning the wooden frame and the fifteen, small, bevelled-glass windows and the door frame. That was followed by the wooden, louvre door to the storage cupboard under the stairs and that door frame. I finished about half an hour before Jenny was due back.

Since we were grocery shopping tomorrow, I thought I ought to have a bath and I put the heating on for about fifteen minutes before venturing into the bathroom. It would be a relief to have the walk-in shower in a few weeks' time.

Friday, 17th November 2023

It was grocery shopping day with an excursion to Unicorn in Chorlton and, on the return journey, a visit to Sainsbury's at Heaton Park. Our grocery bill this week soared as Jenny was gearing up for a week's baking session with Rachel for their gluten-free produce stall at the village Christmas Fair a week tomorrow.

That took most of the day. I did manage to schedule the TV recordings for the coming week.

Saturday, 18th November 2023

We went into Ramsbottom, primarily to collect an order from Plentiful. I dropped Jenny off at Cakecraft while I parked the car and we met up at Plentiful, where we bought a few more grocery items as well as collecting our order.

Returning home, I started to clean the oven in preparation for the baking frenzy. That consumed the rest of my day and I hadn't even finished the bottom of the oven. The recommended method of cleaning by Smeg, using water and washing-up liquid and/or white vinegar and/or lemon juice definitely did not work, even after two attempts. Heeding the advice not to use anything abrasive,

I resorted to using a wooden skewer to attach the burnt-on deposits, together with the recommended solution, and a rough sponge. Progress was slow.

The plan was to resume tomorrow morning.

Sunday, 19th November 2023

I sorted out the temperature for cooking the mincemeat, which Jenny had mixed late yesterday afternoon and had left standing overnight, using the left, lower oven. We had not used that oven before because Jenny could not kneel down and I set the oven and put in the mincemeat.

While that was cooking, I resumed cleaning the right oven until lunchtime. I took out the mincemeat when it was cooked, turned off the left oven and resumed work on the right oven. I managed to clean most of the centre of the oven floor before Rachel took over for a while to clean the surface grease off the oven sides.

I then carried on, concentrating on the more stubborn deposits for a short while.

Monday, 20th November 2023

Jenny and Rachel commenced their baking for Saturday's Christmas Fair at the old school.

I started tidying and cleaning the lounge and managed to complete the fire-place end, including the corner behind the TV cabinet and the TV and cabinet externally.

Tuesday, 21st November 2023

I left Jenny and Rachel to their baking and went to help Matthew with the construction of his garden office.

Wednesday, 22nd November 2023

I was back on cleaning duties, tackling the TV cabinet internally, which involved moving all of the hi-fi equipment, cleaning it and reseating it. I also cleaned about half way along the front wall, including the media cabinet and tidying up the media that lived therein.

Scott from Harwood Heating Services Limited came to fit the back bedroom radiator. He was very good and neat, the only problem being that the radiator was slightly to the right of centre of the window. That was due to the middle of the three mounting points on the radiator not bring in the centre of the radiator and Scott had put this beneath the centre of the window. He did offer to move it but I said it was satisfactory. The window was not in the centre of the back wall anyway, the radiator was closer to the other outside wall of the bedroom than it would otherwise have been and more central in the back wall itself. Moving it would have meant filling in the holes and repainting them.

The only problem was we discovered, later in the day, that the hall radiator was not heating up. I said I would telephone Scott tomorrow.

Thursday, 23rd November 2023

I took Jenny to her 9:20 a.m. hospital appointment and she was seen by the consultant almost straight away.

We called at Tesco in Bury on the way home, naturally and we were home for about 11:30 a.m.

I telephoned Harwood Heating Services Limited and explained the central heating problem. The lady in the office was most helpful. She advised me to turn off all the radiators except the one that was not working and turn on the central heating system for about half an hour. It took a while to push hot water through to the radiator, so much so that I went to check the pressure in the boiler, which was fine. The radiator did start to heat up within the half hour.

I let the lady know and checked if I should turn on the other radiators in any particular order. She said not, so I turned all the downstairs radiators on first and they seemed to be fine. The radiators upstairs also seemed fine, with no sign of the airlock, if that's what it was. Normally, any air or gas collects in the highest point in the system and has to be bled off. Inhibitor chemicals are used to prevent a build-up of gas.

After lunch, I tackled the remaining front part of the lounge, which included the grandfather clock and dismantling my computer bits, cleaning each of them and reconnecting everything.

Friday, 24th November 2023

I had planned to do so much today and in the end, I did none of it.

The first priority was to check the TV listings for recordings of the various series we watched and to schedule the recordings for the coming week.

After that I was bogged down by administrative work, which included paying the balance of the equipment for the bathroom, due to be delivered next Tuesday and paying the TV licence fee for another year.

Saturday, 25th November 2023

I took Jenny, the home-made, gluten-free cakes and the table-top cover to the old school and helped to prepare her stall for the Christmas Fair. I came home and took Rachel with more items for the stall.

I came home again, emptied the compost waste, put the recycling waste in the appropriate bins and picked up more apples that had fallen off the tree. After that I started to clean out the garage gutter that was brimming with debris, mostly from the trees. Unfortunately, I could only reach the first quarter or so of the full length without the steps and the process was not wholly successful because the wet base of the black mess in the gutter was frozen to the guttering, so I gave up and came in.

I only had time for a pear, a healthy snack bar and a glass of water before going back to the old school to take some pictures of the Square Street Singers, performing on the stage at the Christmas Fair and of the various stalls for the village web site.

After that, I stayed at the stall with Jenny until the Fair closed at 3:30 p.m. and helped to dismantle the stall. I had to leave Jenny to come home and take Rachel to Bury to catch the tram to Manchester. She was going out with some friends from work for the evening and then returning to her flat for a few days. I collected Jenny, the stall items and the unsold produce on the way home.

It had been a long and tiring day with no progress in the lounge yet again.

Sunday, 26th November 2023

The first job of the day was a thorough clean of the newer Miele fridge-freezer which was again showing traces of mould growth inside. The design really was appalling and most unlike Miele. The original Miele fridge-freezer was fine and why the design was changed I would never comprehend.

Having completed the cleaning process, we spent some time boxing and storing the produce that was left over from yesterday's sale, some of which went in the freezer and some in the fridge.

The next task was to remove all the items from the bathroom ready for the commencement of the refit, starting tomorrow.

All this took longer than expected and we had a late evening meal before relaxing at the end of the day.

We did not have time to tidy away all the cake stands, etc. that were used to display the cakes on our stall.

Monday, 27th November 2023

Peter Donahue arrived on schedule at 9 a.m. to start work on the bathroom and by the end of the day he had removed all the tiles, the fixtures and fittings, except the bath and the boarding from the floor. The room looked like it had been bombed and the bath was full of broken tiles.

The rubbish was sitting on our front path awaiting a skip which I had ordered for tomorrow morning from ISM, a local company with which Bob, Matthew's father-in-law, used to do a lot of business.

During the removal of the units, a connection in a water supply disintegrated and water went everywhere. Peter yelled for assistance and asked me to turn off the main supply as quickly as possible, which I did. Peter did his best to stem the flow and installed a new fitting to cap off the pipe. Water was dripping from the light fittings in the kitchen and the ceiling in the dining room.

Jenny and I commenced operation clean-up, which took a good part of our day. Peter apologised several times.

What we didn't notice for some time was that the water penetration had caused the ring main power breaker to trip. It was only when Jenny went to use the dryer that we discovered the problem. Fortunately, I was able to reset the breaker.

By the evening, much of the damp had dried out, with the heating and the dehumidifier both working hard.

Before tea, after Peter had left, Jenny and I reorganised the back bedroom to provide storage space for the new bathroom units, arriving tomorrow. Two of the sheets covering the old carpet were still wet at the edge nearest the bathroom wall so we replaced them with clean, dry cloths.

I had also been out to shunt the cars around to provide space for the skip to be delivered tomorrow.

Tuesday, 28th November 2023

Day two of the bathroom refit started well. The floor and ceiling had dried out, the skip arrived and the new equipment arrived, for which I had to move our car, except the shower tray. The one specified was unsuitable because it could not be raised and that was necessary to provide ample fall for the waste pipe. The bad news was that a suitable tray would take a week to ten days to arrive.

I cleaned the filling valve Peter had, at my request, salvaged from the old bathroom cistern. My plan was to remove the faulty filling valve from the separate toilet cistern and replaced it with the one I had cleaned. Peter was renewing the pipework so I would not have to reconnect the supply.

My next job was to clean a small toolbox I had acquired from the old school jumble so that I could carry my tools and some test equipment I used for checking the electrical jumble instead of using the computer bag, which was heavy and difficult to close. The latter also made it difficult to find what I needed when I needed it.

I left the toolbox hanging on the washing line to dry in the winter sunshine while we had lunch.

After lunch, I carefully removed the filling valve from the small toilet cistern and inserted the one from the bathroom cistern that Peter had removed for me. I poured a small amount of water into the cistern and checked the entry point on the cistern for leaks. It seemed to be alright. Since there was no water supply to it, I could not test it properly. Peter was in the process of rerouting and replacing all the water supplies and he had not yet connected one to the small toilet.

I resumed my cleaning and tidying of the lounge by putting all my tools and technical items into the toolbox I had cleaned, making access to them much easier than keeping them in the computer bag, which was now somewhat lighter.

The next item to clean was the piano stool, followed by the piano and the picture frames above it. I completed the top of the piano, including all the broadband and telephone equipment, the ornaments and photographs, together with the pictures on the wall.

I had to leave off to help Jenny put away all the items she had for her stall on Saturday, which meant tidying out the storage cupboard under the stairs. We couldn't do that while Peter was working because he kept going out and coming back in again and we would have been in his way

in the entrance hall. As he left for the evening, he said that Bolton Bathrooms had managed to source a shower tray that would be supported by legs and it would be here in a couple of days, which was good news.

It had been a long day and Jenny's day was not over because she went to prepare tea.

Wednesday, 29th November 2023

The day did not start well.

There was another water leak when Peter forgot to connect up the feed to the separate toilet. I had turned off the water and opened the kitchen taps at Peter's request so he could alter some plumbing in the bathroom. When I turned off the kitchen taps and turned on the water supply as requested, water came gushing out of the open pipe in the small toilet and dripped from the light fittings in the kitchen.

I immediately turned off the water and Jenny and I commenced mopping up operations for a second time.

I helped Peter fit a connection to the pipe in the small toilet since it needed someone in the bathroom at the other end to support the pipe while the push fitting in the toilet was put on the pipe.

Peter connected up the toilet cistern, including a new isolation valve which he turned off until I could check the filling of the cistern.

I turned the water back on and all was well. I checked the filling of the toilet cistern and it did fill with water with no leaks but the filling valve was not working properly in that the water was not coming out of the spout but seeping through the cut-off valve, so filling took ages. It did cut off though and the toilet flushed so the problem would wait until the bathroom was sorted out – and dry.

I updated my web site with the latest changes.

Lunch time was approaching.

I dealt with a little administrative work, updated my web site and then prepared to fetch Rachel from Bury and take her to her dental appointment at Holcombe Brook.

Unfortunately, our car would not start, so I had to take Rachel's car.

After collecting Rachel and taking her to the dentist at Holcombe Brook, I went into Ramsbottom for a few groceries from Plentiful and Tesco and then arrived back at Holcombe Brook just in time to collect Rachel and bring her home.

I immediately put our car's battery on charge.

I came in and continued my administration work, primarily preparing for tomorrow night's meeting of the Civic Society.

Thursday 30th November 2023

It was not a particularly productive day, with yet another water leak, this time at the back of the kitchen, coming through the light fittings from a dislodged drain pipe in the kitchen extension loft. Peter had been in there fitting the new pipework for the bathroom. Admittedly, there was not much room in the loft to work and Peter was not exactly small but he could have been a little more careful. Fortunately, it was residual water and we mopped up quickly.

I spent much of the day dealing with e-mails and selecting programmes to record from next week's TV listings.

In the evening, I went to the Civic Society meeting. It was a nice way to end the month.