

Greenmount – April 2009

April, so far, has been so uneventful that we are already two thirds of the way through it as I write this first paragraph.

In the earlier part of the month, we decided to take more exercise and commenced a daily trek up the local Holcomb Hill to Peel Tower and back at the invitation of our local Scout Leader, Christine Taylor. Christine was attempting to become sufficiently athletic to tackle Helvellyn and Striding Edge during a Scout week end, later in the month.

For those of you unfamiliar with Holcombe Hill, it overlooks Bury to the north west and it takes about fifteen minutes to reach the base of the steep climb to the top from our front door. On top is sited a monument to Sir Robert Peel, which is open to visitors at week ends and which gives magnificent views from the top on a clear day, these being few and far between in this part of the country. The climb itself takes about half an hour and a fit person can complete the round trip in ninety minutes. I do it in about two hours. Hence the need for the exercise.

For those of you unfamiliar with Helvellyn and Striding Edge, they are part of a spectacular walk in the beautiful Lake District National park for those fit enough to reach the peak and not for those past their peak.

Our training lasted all of three days, after which I was barely able to walk due to a nasty blister on my heel. Either I need a new pair of boots or I need a new pair of feet.

The car boot sale season has started again and Jenny made a staggering amount at the first one at the Greenmount Cricket Club, keeping me, once again, in the manner to which I have become accustomed, at least for another few days.

The 13th April saw the Bank Holiday Antiques and Collectors Fair at Greenmount Old School with Jenny on Children's Toys for the morning and yours truly taking the opportunity to finish off the roll of 35 mm film in the Canon EOS 600 I had repaired last year after Jenny dropped it on the pavement. Having run out of film, I came home and swapped it for the digital Canon EOS 450D. Pictures can be kept out of some future edition of Private Eye for a nominal fee.

On the following Saturday, the Old School held a Collector's Fair. This is really an opportunity to offload all the unwanted items from the previous event at bargain prices and I guess anything left after this will find its way into the next jumble sale. Any jumble sale items left are shipped off to yet another stage of disposal to lucky punters in Salford, which just about says it all.

The second car boot sale of the season coincided with the Collector's Fair, being held in the Old School yard. I parked the car for Jenny in just about the only spot that was not in the sunshine and we (yes, I was around for most of the time) benefitted from the moderate, easterly wind and chilling temperatures for most of the day. Even so, the gross take for the day was only a little short of the Cricket Club event. If Jenny keeps this up on a regular basis, she might even be able to afford to stop working.

The 20th of April gave the Dentist an opportunity to give us both the treatment. I'm paying through the nose (or should that be teeth?) for it so I might as well get my money's worth. Besides, she's quite a nice lady and the gown and mask give her a certain, irresistible, mysterious look – until she starts waving the drill around that is. Jenny escaped with a clean and polish. I, on the other hand, have a small hole in an old amalgam filling at the very back and am destined for further torture in June.

My E-mail (ken.dearden@networking-consultancy.com) ceased functioning on 20th April. I retrieve my mail from Matthew's server using Post Office Protocol 3 (POP3) using Microsoft Outlook and it received a time-out error after 33 bytes of the first message.

I tried reloading my machine and reloading my broadband router. That did not work. I looked for possible solutions on the Internet and tried editing the Windows XP Registry. That did not work. I downloaded Regcure, purchased a licence (see below) and ran that. That did not work. I disabled my anti-virus software and my firewall. That did not work. In the evening of the 22nd, Matthew reloaded his server. That did not work.

I then remembered I had access to my E-mail on Matthew's server using my web browser and I used that to look at my, by then, one hundred messages. I permanently deleted all the junk and my E-mail service on my PC burst into life once more. Obviously, the first (oldest) message contained something nasty that would not transfer to my computer.

The moral of this is that the simplest and cheapest solution is often the one that works.

Now the purchase of Regcure is another story.

I was going to purchase Registry Fix, then I read a web article (not always a reliable source of information) that Regcure was just about the best piece of software for fixing Registry errors and the advertisement said that it would fix my Microsoft Outlook problem. The advertisement lied. It did not fix my problem.

The purchase itself seemed to include a second piece of software to do with access controls, which I did not ask for or want, so I did not download and install it. When I checked the invoice, I had been charged for it.

I sent a message of complaint to the support department and I have since received a refund £2 short of the purchase price, I guess, due to the exchange rate.

In fairness, Regcure did find and fix a lot of Registry problems and my PC does seem to be a lot faster as a result.

What the purchase did not say was that the licence expires after twelve months. You only discover this when you enter the licence key, given after you have paid. The letter of complaint mentioned this as well.

My gastric troubles reached new heights towards the end of the month and I have ignored the advice of my Consultant to drop my Losec dose from the 40 mg per day, previously

prescribed by my GP, back to 20 mg per day and I am now, once again, at the higher level of medication. This has had some beneficial effect and I hope the trend continues. I am due to see my consultant again in a couple of weeks for the result of the biopsies taken when he performed the Gastroscopy. Hopefully, he will be able to diagnose the problem and prescribe some better medication to manage the problem, even if he cannot cure it. My impression from what he indicated at the last session was that he thinks it is a bacterial problem. Mind you, I could have misunderstood. I was under sedation at the time.

This did not prevent me from taking my camera to the St. George's Day Parade in Ramsbottom on the 26th of April and darting about taking pictures of the Greenmount brigade, following the procession for the whole route. I did not attend the church service, taking the opportunity to stroll into Ramsbottom itself and take a couple of pictures of a steam train arriving in the station from Bury. The church, I am told, was packed to the door, which is an encouraging sign in these modern times.

And with that I shall leave you in awe and suspense and wanting more, until next months revealing issue.