

Greenmount – February 2008

Now the kitchen is finished, it is time to turn attention to the entrance hall. Sadly, there has been no progress there since Rachel obligingly ripped all the wallpaper off the walls, what seems like months ago. The delay is due to

- a) the need to chisel out some of the wall to fit another switch to operate the lights on either side of the garage front and this, in turn, is awaiting the completion of extensive rewiring inside the garage
- b) my spending far more time than I should on my computer researching the family history.

Happily, the garage rewiring is now almost complete and it only remains to wire in two separate two-way switch systems.

One is to operate the garage lights from either the front or the back, since we now use the back door to access the garage, except, of course, for the car. Doing so in total darkness is proving to be something of a challenge, with a night in casualty as the first prize.

The second is to operate the outside lights on either side of the garage at the front from either the garage or the entrance hall. Having the car port down-lights wired to an automatic sensor does tend to make these old lights somewhat redundant, although the latter are more economical and, when lit, cleverly illuminate the down-light sensor sufficiently to prevent it operating the car port lights. I have to admit, this is more by accident than design.

I have found time to install a telephone extension for a friend and to install and configure her broadband, for which she has actually offered to pay me in real money.

The trip to the dentist was not as daunting as expected and even with both sides of my upper jaw anaesthetised I was still able to mumble and dribble.

My back is not improving as fast as I would like and is annoying. I suppose I should go and see somebody.

I did go to the vet but that was for the stray cat we took in. Tabatha has had dirty ears for a while and that is a sign of ear mites. The vet agreed and prescribed ant-biotic ear drops to kill off the mites. Trying to squirt cold liquid into a fully-grown cat's ears isn't easy but at least it didn't come out the other side. After doing it twice a day for a fortnight, I was a bit tired. Treating the cat's ears was a bit of a chore as well.

I have been recording the "I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again" series currently being broadcast on BBC Radio 7. On listening to a couple of episodes, still as funny as they were when originally broadcast, I discovered that the good old Beeb has chopped five minutes out of each show. That amounts to a reduction of almost 17%. I shall, accordingly, deduct same from next year's license fee.

ITV 3 is the worst offender for editing chunks out of movies, though. The channel has

repeatedly destroyed the Spielberg film "Duel". I think they use a shredder instead of an editor.

The family tree continues to branch out in all directions with well over 500 entries and I have made two new important contacts, one in the UK and one in the USA, who are related to a family into which four different members of Jenny's father's family married back in the 1800s. I have managed to trace Jenny's father's family back to 1796 in Huntingdonshire and my father's family back to 1816 in Ecclesfield, Sheffield. The research is fascinating and very time-consuming.

The grass on the back lawn is growing quite quickly and needs cutting. Although we have had some sunshine (about to weeks' worth this year so far) the ground has either been too frozen or too wet. No doubt things will improve as spring approaches and we are looking forward to the end of March, when British Summer Time commences once again. If and when British Summer Weather will commence is anybody's guess.