

Greenmount February 2026

Sunday, 1st February 2026

I commenced the day with routine household tasks followed by dealing with the accounts and preparing for the financial year end. This year's prediction was that it was not going to be as good as last year, which was slightly disappointing.

I subscribed for another year to Schedules Direct for electronic TV listings but the cost had risen quite a lot and I thought that this might be the last year I would do so, since I could obtain the listings from TV transmissions, although they did not contain all the supplementary information that was on the Schedules Direct listings. Over the past year, that latter had not been as accurate as one would expect though.

Carrie had sent Jenny an Amazon link for some comfortable socks, designed for people with circulatory problems and I ordered her a pack of nine pairs.

After lunch I updated my web site with the latest diary entries, bringing them up to date. In so doing, I found some errors in previous monthly diaries and I corrected those. I also discovered I had not dealt with some other updates I had prepared and I included those.

I had some difficulty in deleting items on the hosting site, the process taking longer than expected.

Since I had converted the diary page to version 4 on the laptop, I updated that as well. The sooner I could implement version 4 the better, but there was still a lot of work to do.

Monday, 2nd February 2026

Jenny and I discussed decorating the lounge and the probability of having to dump our unwanted 3-piece suite at the waste transfer station in Bury since there were no takers on the Freecycle web site.

I dealt with some of the electrical items I had brought home from the old school, two of which were working and two of which were consigned to the tip.

I decided not to go outside and test the items for which I needed the car since it was quite cold. Instead, I resumed work on my web site development.

Tuesday, 3rd February 2026

We went to Sheffield. It was the birthday of Jenny's brother's wife, Anne, tomorrow and we had arranged to go out for a meal to celebrate the event. We checked in at the Travelodge at Meadowhall and ate the packed lunch Jenny had prepared at home in our room before, going up to see Wilf and Anne.

We were also greeted by Noah and Thomas, two sons of Anne and Wilf's son, Barry and his partner, Kerry. Anne was child-minding for the day.

We left for tea at Wetherpoons in the Meadowhall Oasis, The Steel Foundry. The gluten-free food was nowhere near as good as it used to be. The Chicken Tikka sauce was more like soup.

We returned to the hotel about 8:15 for an early night.

Wednesday, 4th February 2026

We spent the morning in the Meadowhall Shopping Centre. We would have gone to Lakeland to buy two more loaf tins but it was closed for refurbishment. Instead we went to Marks and Spencer. Jenny found a lovely Jaeger wool coat but the smallest size was a 10 and it was too big for her. I found a pair of cotton cord jeans, similar to the ones I already had, but in a lighter colour. It was the only one of the correct size and there were some pulls on the waist top so I did not buy that either.

We did buy some sandwiches for lunch and we had those in our hotel room.

We went to Anne and Wilf's house in the afternoon and to The Acorn at Burncross for our evening meal, it being Anne's birthday. The table had been booked for 4:45 p.m. and we arrived on time.

The first disappointment was that the Hunter's Chicken had been removed from the gluten-free menu. I had the sirloin steak instead. It was passable but I had eaten better sirloin steak and I much preferred fillet steak, which was not an option. The sweet of apple crumble and custard was not a patch on Jenny's apple crumble. It was most disappointing. To make matters worse, before the sweet arrived, we were told we would have to finish by 7 p.m. because a large party had booked several tables, including ours. I was not accustomed to rushing my meal and I had no intention of leaving until I was ready. Fortunately, we had ample time to finish our meal, so the situation did not develop.

While on the subject of poor management, I had occasion to visit the gentlemen's convenience, where there was water all over the floor. It was a terrible mess. Neither did I see any accessible toilet and I did bother to enquire about one, being able to manage in the available facility, all being it somewhat damp.

My experience of eating at the Green King establishments such as this one was that standards varied from one pub to another and, at the same pub, from one visit to another.

We dropped Anne and Wilf at home, stayed for a short while and then returned to our hotel.

Thursday, 5th February 2026

We checked out of the hotel and called to see Anne and Wilf before returning home.

Not having done a grocery shop this week, we called at Tesco in Bury for a few items.

Friday, 6th February 2026

I spent most of the day sorting out the TV recordings for next week and tidying up the programmes we had watched from last week.

I did not finish the job because we had a power cut at about 6:30 p.m. The only item working after that was my mobile phone. We spent the evening in the lounge by candlelight, telephoning to report the problem and chatting amongst ourselves. Using my phone to access the internet, I discovered that 27 properties in the area were affected and I was able to track the repair progress, not that there were that many updates. I did receive a telephone call informing me that the fault was being investigated and engineers were on their way to deal with it.

We retired about 10 p.m. Not long after, we were awoken by the house alarm, triggered by the power supply being activated. I reset the alarm and settled down to return to my slumbers. The power went off again.

I had just about nodded off when the house alarm was triggered again by the restoration of power. I reset the alarm again and returned to bed.

Saturday, 7th February 2026

I was disturbed again at about 1:30 a.m. by my mobile phone's incoming call. It was a gentleman informing me that the electricity supply had been restored. I asked where the fault was, what caused it and why the supply had been restored once and then disconnected before finally being reconnected. The response was that he did not know exactly where the fault was. The fault was due to a blown fuse on a pole. The supply being restored and then disconnected was because the engineers had omitted to connect a cable or two before restoring the power and had to disconnect the supply in order to reconnect the cable(s) before finally restoring power to everyone who was affected.

I thanked him for informing me and went back to sleep.

We were up at 7 a.m. so that we could be at the old school early to deal with the electrical jumble and we were there until about 4 p.m. When we had finished, I could not access my corner on the stage in the hall because a group of people were preparing for the evening's entertainment of "Would I lie to You?". Instead, I had to bring home a lot of items that would otherwise have remained at the old school.

Sunday, 8th February 2026

I was working on the laptop for most of the day, much of it being on my web site version 4 development.

Monday, 9th February 2026

The day started reasonably well, with a pot washing session, a visit to the bins and to the garage.

I switched on the laptop to deal with a list of tasks I had prepared the previous evening before retiring. The Dell Thunderbolt dock would not recognise any devices connected to it. I tried reloading the laptop, twice, but that did not resolve the problem. I then had one of those rare occurrences these days, a brain-wave. I moved the USB connection to another USB port and all the devices appeared! This has happened before.

I looked online for a solution and then decided the safest option was to run the Dell Support Assist. That worked, apart from the check for updates. I reran that and it found three software updates, which I applied. That required a restart. I had restarted the laptop several times already, so I deferred this one since the machine seemed to be working alright once again.

Another unproductive half an hour spent.

We went for a walk round to the pharmacy for some of Jenny's medication and to exercise Jenny's leg.

I finally finished the recoding of a picture gallery web page for version 4 of my web site, except for the last item, which was a video. That was proving difficult and I needed to think about it.

Tuesday, 10th February 2026

It was another in a long sequence of dull, damp days but at least the rain forecast for the afternoon did not mature. If I had known that it was not going to rain, I could have done some work outside.

Jenny and I did go out for a walk to the medical practice for her appointment, followed by a visit to the village shop for next week's TV Times and we took a slightly longer route home.

I started to schedule the TV recordings for next week. Jenny decided to make some scones.

Wednesday, 11th February 2026

It was a day of odd jobs. Jenny could have done with a short walk but it was too wet. The highlight of the day was placing an order with Ocado!

We had hoped to be able to attend the evening talk about the Kirklees Valley Wildlife Rescue Centre, but it was raining and Jenny had to keep her left foot dry. Apart from that, we were both tired.

Thursday, 12th February 2026

The rain forecast did not make an appearance, so Jenny and I went for a walk, taking the long route up behind the church and back down the main road to reach the Kirklees Trail. After a brief rest on the bench at the top of the trail, we walked down the old railway line, taking the first path on the left to reach Island Lodge. Jenny sat on a bench overlooking the Lodge while I went to the edge of the banking to feed the ducks. There were quite a few on the water but not many seemed to be interested in the food, initially. Eventually, a few mallard, a couple of coots and a Canada Goose arrived. The swans remained at the far end of the Lodge on the opposite side. I did catch sight of a water hen too.

We walked back up to the trail, joining it nearer the viaduct and we took the first left on a track which was uneven and there were a lot of puddles we had to negotiate. That brought us on to Holcombe Road and we came home via Brookside Close, making it a round walk.

When we arrived home for lunch, Jenny discovered she had done almost fifty minutes of active walking, despite the pain in her left leg and foot.

I put out the paper waste bin for collection tomorrow, emptied the food waste into my compost bin and fed our friendly robin a few dried mealworms.

After lunch, Jenny fell asleep on the settee, having had a restless night with pain in her left foot. I managed to stay awake and worked quietly on my laptop.

Friday, 13th February 2026

We shopped for groceries at Home Bargains and then Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park, followed by Tesco at Prestwich.

The township of Bury should have received an award for perpetuating road works requiring temporary traffic lights to control single-file traffic.

On leaving our estate, there were traffic lights to the immediate right, on Holcombe Road. We avoided those lights by turning left and then right, down Brandlesholme Road, on which there were traffic lights just past the left turn into Vernon Road. We avoided those lights by turning left into Vernon Road.

Having made our way across the Irwell Valley, through Summerseat, we reached the top of Bass Lane. There were traffic lights on Walmersley Road to the right. We turned left to access the skip road to the M66.

On leaving Sainsbury's store, we headed up Sheepfoot Lane towards Prestwich, encountering a set of traffic lights on the approach to Bury Old Road.

Our usual route took us up Bury Old Road, cutting across to Prestwich on Heys Road and Fairfax Road. The latter was closed yet again due to prolonged building works and we took a roundabout route to Tesco.

The last straw was the closure of a lane on the approach to the main junction at Whitefield, on the way home, due to works on the north-west corner. This lane had been closed for weeks towards the end of last year for the same reason and not for the first time.

Much of the work seemed to be associated with supplying gas. I wondered why, since we were facing series consequences of burning fossil fuels. It occurred to me that, perhaps, when central London was permanently under water, someone might take global warming seriously.

Saturday, 14th February 2026

We spent most of the morning making and baking two loaves of gluten-free bread.

I spent the rest of the day catching up with e-mails and working on the picture gallery of my revision of my web site.

Sunday, 15th February 2026

We were working on the electrical jumble at the old school for much of the day. We had the place to ourselves, which was unusual, since a few people usually dropped in after the church service or to work on other items for the monthly table-top sales.

Monday, 16th February 2026

I took Jenny for her medical appointment in Bury and then we called at Tesco for a few items. It was cold and wet so we decided not to prolong our outing.

After lunch and a brief rest, it was time for a few routine domestic duties before dealing with administrative matters and then relaxing as evening approached.

Tuesday, 17th February 2026

The plan to go to the nearest Lakeland franchise in Bents Garden Centre in Warrington, followed by a visit to John Lewis in the Trafford Centre was postponed because Jenny was having a lot of discomfort from a couple of toes on her left foot.

Instead, I spent much of the day compiling a document regarding my passing, designed to help those I leave behind. My reason for this was the sudden demise of Matthew's mother-in-law just before Christmas and the difficulty he and Carrie had dealing with her mum's affairs. Not that I had any immediate plans of joining the Heavenly Choir.

Wednesday, 18 February 2026

We started the day with a visit to the pharmacy for another batch of my medication and next week's TV Times.

When we came home, I decided to start tidying up by taking the household rubbish to the bin, tidying up the compost bin, from which the compost was exuding from the bottom again, emptying the household compostable waste into the bin and picking up the wood that had fallen from the trees onto the patio. For the latter, I used a wooden box from under the car port so that I could store the wood for kindling.

While I was outside, I thought I might as well start collecting all the bits of wood off the back garden and from amongst the soft fruit bushes. I filled the box and fetched another, which I half filled before breaking off for lunch.

After lunch, Jenny wanted the kitchen floor and carpet vacuuming so I took on that task and dealt with the entrance hall as well.

I finished about 3:30 p.m., somewhat shattered and had a rest while Jenny started the preparation for tea before the auctioneering programme "Flog It" commenced at 4:30 on BBC 2.

Thursday, 20th February 2026

It was not a very nice day outside.

I was delegated the task of vacuuming the kitchen and hall floors. With Jenny's left foot problem, neither if us was sleeping well and the house was somewhat untidy.

The attempt to give away our green, leather suite which was quite old with some signs of wear on the armchairs and no fire labels was as much of a waste of time as was trying to dispose of the piano.

The plan was to take it to the tip.

Friday, 21st February 2026

We commenced the day with a morning visit to Mike and Lorna, walking the short distance down the road. It was Lorna's birthday and we took her a card and a small present. We chatted with Lorna and Mike for a while, before leaving to go grocery shopping to Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park and to Tesco at Prestwich.

It was a day of showers, some extremely heavy and, while it was fine when we arrived, I had to pick up Jenny from Sainsbury's store entrance, when we left, to avoid the rain wetting her left foot.

We arrived home in a torrential shower and I had to reverse the car down the drive, under the car port, with poor visibility due to the heavy rain and the darkness from the clouds, to keep Jenny dry.

Having brought in the groceries, Jenny had occasion to go into the conservatory, where the dehumidifier had leaked water all over the floor. I cleaned up the mess and, having moved the dehumidifier, I had to make sure it was level again to avoid further spillage.

Saturday, 21st February 2026

The first task of the day was to mop up another leak from the dehumidifier in the conservatory. I had no idea why it had started to leak.

Jenny and I had a short walk down the Kirklees Trail and back. There was a fair amount of heat in the sun but the clouds soon put a stop to that!

Apart from that, it was the usual kind of day with little activity apart from the necessary household jobs.

Sunday, 22nd Febraury 2026

We woke to a blue sky with bright sunshine and the house was actually quite warm, particularly at the back, which received the morning sunshine. We had left the heating on all the time for a few weeks by now, since Jenny was feeling the cold, due to her medication, which thinned her blood.

We had a restful morning in the lounge in our dressing gowns, since we were eating a late lunch out with Matthew and Carrie.

The meal was a banquet (a four-course meal) at the Armaan restaurant in Radcliffe and it was very nice. It served as lunch and our evening meal.

Prior to that I tidied up my table in the lounge and commenced writing up the minutes of the last Civic Society meeting. I finished off the minutes when we returned home and sent a copy to our chairperson for her to check them before I issued them to all our members.

I caught up with the news on TV, still banging on about the King's brother, Andrew, his connection with Epstein and his alleged offences. I had heard enough of Andrew's trial by media. There was, to date, no solid evidence that Andrew had committed any offence and until some was produced and charges were brought against him, the man was innocent of any wrong doing, as he said. In fact, he was innocent until proven to be guilty in a court of law. Only then did he deserve all the bad press and punishment.

Should that happen, there is no reason why one ought to believe that the monarchy should shoulder any blame. Their position aside, they are no different to any other family and we all know that a lot of families have a rotten apple in the barrel through no fault of their own. These people need the support of good friends, which is why we, the people, should support the monarchy.

Monday, 23rd February 2026

I commenced cleaning the shower room (i.e. what used to be the bathroom) while Jenny rested on the settee, having had a painful night.

All went well until I removed the light fitting from the shower to remove the rust from the so-called stainless steel downlight. Having cleaned it I could not make it go back into the false ceiling.

I carried on cleaning the ceiling over the shower and then started cleaning the next two ceiling panels in the opposite direction, removing the downlight to see how it fitted into the hole. I struggled to get that one back in place after cleaning as well and I spent several minutes trying to work out why. Then it suddenly dawned on me how the fitting gripped the ceiling and I put it back. I then replaced the one over the shower.

At that point, I had to leave off to take Jenny, who had just woken up, out for a walk before the rain started. We were out for about half an hour and we came home for lunch.

After lunch and a rest, I recommenced the shower room cleaning and left off at about 4:30 p.m. because Jenny needed the step stool which I had borrowed from the kitchen, having cleaned about half of the room. I intended to finish the job tomorrow.

Tuesday, 24th February 2026

We started the day with a visit to the Townside medical centre in Bury for Jenny's 9:25 appointment and she was seen at about 9:55. I was concerned about the delay because she had an appointment at the Greenmount medical centre at 11:10. We made the latter with time to spare and the treatment Jenny received at both establishments was excellent.

We took the opportunity after the latter appointment to walk the short distance up the road to the village shop for next weeks' TV Times before returning home.

We met two people we knew at the Greenmount medical centre and another just outside the shop, having a short conversation with each.

I spent the rest of the day in the shower room, resuming the cleaning and tidying. I also released the gas from the radiator. There were a few items left to clean, leaving the floor until the last.

Wednesday, 25th February 2026

I had a fairly restful morning, working on the laptop.

After lunch, I finished cleaning the shower room.

Next on the list was the toilet which not only needed cleaning but also need some repairs.

Thursday, 26th February 2026

We collected Bob from Ramsbottom and drove down to join Matthew, Carrie, Margaret, Catherine and Stewart for the burial of Marie's ashes in the Skinner (Marie's maiden surname) family grave in Bury Cemetery. Afterwards, Stewart took Bob home.

After lunch, I took Jenny and Lorna to Cuppa and a Chat at the old school and I stayed to work on the electrical items for the table-top sale until the ladies were ready to come home.

On returning home, the general waste bin went out for collection tomorrow morning.

Friday, 27th February 2026

We went grocery shopping to Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park and Tesco at Prestwich. Not finding everything we wanted at the latter, we called at Tesco in Bury, which proved to be a waste of time.

Saturday, 28th February 2026

We finished off the month with a day at the old school testing and pricing electrical equipment donations for the table-top sale next Saturday.