

## **Greenmount January 2026**

### **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

Jenny and I went for a walk round the golf course. I followed that with a session outside, picking up the apples that had fallen from the tree. I had forgotten how many times I had done so this season. They were destined for the garden waste bin.

After lunch, I helped Jenny prepare to bake a chocolate cake and then I finished scanning the document of Marie's Order of Service, having commenced doing so before our walk.

### **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**

We commenced dismantling the Christmas tree and started tidying up a little. Jenny did not get her planned short walk.

### **Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

We finished packing up all the Christmas items and I stored the boxes away in the garage loft for another year.

It was a bitterly cold day and Jenny's left foot was much colder than usual and her left leg was quite stiff and painful.

### **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

We decided to postpone contacting the vascular unit about Jenny's leg and foot until tomorrow. We weren't happy about it though and we were both dreading the consequences.

I wasn't feeling that well either.

I started off with washing the dishes and tidying up after breakfast, Jenny sat down in the lounge for a while, before her shower and I had one afterwards.

The rest of the day was one of general household jobs and a bit of PC work.

### **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The first job of the day was to arrange a podiatry appointment for Jenny and that was for early tomorrow morning. Jenny prepared for the outcome being admission to the vascular triage unit at Oldham, just in case it was necessary.

I went out to clear the driveway and public footpath of snow and frozen rain which settled yesterday afternoon. That was easily swept up and shovelled onto the front garden. Our next door neighbours passed by as I was working and stopped to talk for a couple of minutes and then

another neighbour, Mike, stopped for a chat as he was passing. I finished off the driveway and footpath by spreading salted grit.

After lunch, I helped Jenny prepare our evening meal.

### **Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

I took Jenny for her podiatry appointment and her left foot was fine, which was a considerable relief.

We called at Tesco for a few groceries before coming home and as we left the store, there was a stall giving away free pet food, so we took some for Gwen's dog, Ruby.

I stopped in the village to collect the medication I needed from the pharmacy and at Frank and Gwen's house to deliver the pet food, but there was no-one at home.

After lunch, I worked on the laptop.

### **Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Apart from the usual routine jobs, Jenny and I went for a short walk to loosen up her left leg. Jenny found it quite challenging. Despite the pain, mostly in her knees, Jenny did manage about fifteen minutes of brisk walking.

### **Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

It was mostly a repeat of yesterday. The walk was a little longer and we called at the pharmacy for Jenny's medication. On this occasion, Jenny's main problem was stiffness in her left calf muscle. Again, despite the impediment, Jenny managed 30 minutes of brisk walking.

### **Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The plan was a grocery shopping trip to Sainsbury's Store at Heaton park and Tesco at Prestwich.

On the way, we dropped off the dog food for Gwen and we called to see Matthew for about half an hour.

### **Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Despite the freezing weather, we went into Ramsbottom for a tour of the charity shops and a few grocery items from Plentiful.

My afternoon was spent tidying up the recorded TV programmes we had watched.

## **Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

After breakfast, my first important but small task was to bleed the bathroom radiator because the top of it was not warm. I meant to check the central-heating water pressure in the boiler in the garage afterwards to make sure this had not reduced it too much but I forgot to do so.

We made two loaves of gluten-free bread and they went into the oven just before lunch.

After lunch, I started the preparation of an old Windows 7 Sony Vaio laptop for the next old school jumble sale. I removed all the users and software.

## **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

I finished off the Sony Vaio laptop by scrambling the free disc space. It was now a bare Windows 7 system with only the Administrator user, with the password of "Password". Since Windows 7 was no longer supported and it would not support Windows 10 or 11, it was not worth much.

I did some of my own laptop work as well.

## **Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

I took Jenny round to the local surgery for her appointment in the car since it was raining. There was a brief break in the wet weather as we left, so we walked the brief distance up to the convenience store for next week's TV times and back to the car.

The rest of the morning was somewhat productive. I put the mop head back onto the shaft and finally fixed a twig onto the wooden head of the rustic reindeer, thereby giving it some antlers, the old one having broken off about a year ago. The reindeer was one of several made by the local wood-turners group. I was supposed to do this in time for the Christmas just passed but I didn't get round to it.

I tidied up a few things (i.e. put them where they ought to be) that were laying around too.

After lunch I tackled some PC administrative work and when the rain had stopped and the sun came out, we went for a walk.

## **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

I spent the first part of my morning on short, odd and routine household jobs, including feeding the birds, resulting in visits from several common species and a grey squirrel turned up too, foraging for food.

That was followed by taking items into the garage and putting them away. I ended up sorting through my large collection of small boxes of various items for which I had an inventory on my PC so that I could search for items when I wanted them. I disposed of some obsolete items in the process.

I desperately needed some storage racking so that I could access items more easily. That was a task for warmer weather.

After lunch, I dealt with a Technics SL-DL1 direct-drive record deck which had been donated to the old school jumble. I tested it with an LP and it worked perfectly. I was surprised to discover that it was collectable and worth around £150 to £250. The down side was that a new stylus would cost between £25 and £50. Fortunately, it didn't need one now. Testing it took some time and I had to reconnect the power plug, replacing the fuse, which was 5 amp, with a 3 amp one, since the power requirement was only 17 watts. I put a price of £200 ONO on it but I suspected that it would not sell at the jumble sale and would have to go on our E-bay page.

I also dealt with the trees on council-owned land overhanging the house. With help from Chris, the chairman of The Friends of Huntfold, I reported the problem to Bury Council via their web site and I was to expect a visit from a council representative within 28 days.

### **Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

We went for our weekly grocery shopping a day earlier than usual. Jenny wanted to leave tomorrow free for cooking, primarily to make a casserole for Saturday, for our evening meal after we had been at the old school, working on the pile of electrical items that had been donated over the past few weeks.

After spending two hours at Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park, we motored on round to Tesco at Prestwich for a few more items before returning home.

It was almost 3:30 p.m. by the time we had returned home, eaten a late lunch and settled down.

### **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

We eventually set off to walk to the post office on Long Sight Road, which would normally take about 20 minutes. Jenny found this very hard going with lots of pain in her left leg and foot. When we finally reached the Co-op on Vernon Road, we decided to purchase the stamps we wanted there and we posted the birthday card to Jo, the wife of an old school friend of mine at the pillar-box outside the shops.

Coming home was a little easier going, until we reached the incline up Holcombe Road, Jenny having to stop and sit on a wall for a few minutes once again.

Despite all the pain and rests Jenny had, she still managed to register almost forty minutes of active walking.

Apart from that outing, I was working on the laptop for most of the day.

### **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

We spent most of the day working on the electrical jumble at the old school. We did not manage to finish it all and planned to have another go at it next week end.

We finished the day with Rachel and a meal at what used to be The Bull's Head village pub and is now a Miller and Carter establishment. The meal was very good.

### **Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

I spent most of the day planning this coming week's TV recordings and dealing with the programmes we had watch during the last week.

### **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

I was up at 7 a.m. to take the car for its annual service and MOT at Finney's Garage on the other side of Bury, down Manchester Road. I gave Rachel a shout, as arranged, so that she could move her car, which she had parked across the drive, because someone else had parked a van in front of the house and so that she could give me a lift home.

We both left at about 7:40, expecting to be at the garage well before 8:30, the arranged time.

The first delay was on Brandleholme Road, about half way to Bury, where a set of temporary traffic lights were installed. After about ten minutes, I reached the lights. There was no obstruction on the carriageway and the lights were on red in both directions. I ignored them and carried on. My guess was that some idiot had discovered the lights overnight and had switched them on.

The dual carriageway in Bury was grid locked as usual and I put that down to legless children being driven to school. After another good ten minutes queuing, I discovered that was not entirely the case. There were another set of lights on Manchester Road, by Whitehead Garden, where there was single lane traffic, 3-way controlled due to roadworks. This was just after two lanes of congested traffic had been funnelled into a single lane.

Closing such a busy road at rush-hour was completely insane. These works should take place overnight or at a weekend.

Once through that traffic jam, the journey was not too bad, except that I missed the turning into the garage due to two lanes of queuing traffic in the opposite direction due to the same roadworks.

I did a u-turn at the traffic lights at Dumers Lane, just past the garage and joined the queuing traffic in the opposite direction. It took another ten minutes to move about 100 metres to the garage.

Rachel had not missed the turning and had been waiting at the garage for me.

I dropped off the car and devised an alternate route home for Rachel via Radcliffe, Ainsworth, Walshaw and Tottington. That went smoothly enough, despite the odd school crossing and set of roadworks yet again until we approached Tottington, where there were yet more roadworks with single lane traffic controlled by temporary lights and queuing traffic in both directions. Having just previously just telephoned Jenny, whom we had left alone for much longer than intended, to say we would be home in about ten minutes, we had another ten minute delay.

Despite the latter inconvenience, we were home much quicker that we would otherwise have been, returning along the route we took on the outward journey. It took me about an hour to drive to

the garage and the journey home was about 40 minutes. Under normal circumstances, it would take about 20 minutes using the more direct route through Bury.

I decided, weather permitting, I would walk down to collect the car when it was ready. It would take me about 1¼ hours and I would not have to disturb Rachel, who would be working.

The rest of my morning and early afternoon were occupied with putting our 3-piece lounge suite and the two matching storage seats on the Bury Freecycle web site, offering them free to anyone who wanted to collect them.

Just before lunch, I had a call to say my car was ready for collection and, since Jenny was a little fed up, I suggested we go down to the garage together by bus.

We caught the 1:57 p.m. 380 bus that ran through the village, to Bury and then the 153 which ran down Manchester Road, past the garage, to Piccadilly Gardens in Manchester. It was just a case of working out at which stop to alight, which proved to be quite easy.

I collected the car. The MOT and service was completed without a hitch and cost less than I had budgeted, which helped to pay for the meal we had at the Miller and Carter on Saturday.

There were a couple of minor details, which were easily resolved.

I could not find the locking nut for the wheels and the chap who worked on the car found it for me. It had rolled out of the well behind the gear lever onto the floor, under the passenger front seat.

I had to find the chap a second time because he had not reset the “Service Now” warning message. This was quite a common omission after the service was completed.

It had been a busy day for him.

We were home for about 3:30 p.m. and the car seemed to be running much better.

## **Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

We had a late and lazy start to the day, my having stayed up to watch an episode of Bruno Cremer as Maigret, in French. I managed to understand the odd bit of the language here and there but it was far too fast for me for the most part. Fortunately, I could read the sub-titles in English!

I wasn't feeling too well.

I walked Jenny round to the local surgery for her annual check-up appointment and made an appointment for myself.

Jenny's examination went well and my request resulted in a telephone call, fixing an appointment for me in Tooting today.

Needless to say, I didn't do much.

### **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

I did not have a good night and did not really want to leave my bed but I had to do so in time for Jenny's first eyedrop treatment of the day at 9 a.m.

Jenny and I had a stroll round to the Greenmount Surgery to drop off a small item before calling for the Radio Times at the village store.

I attended my medical appointment at the Tottington surgery. I came away reassured that the impediment to my hearing was only temporary and with a ten page biology lesson on the Eustachian Tube, supplemented with instructions on how to warm it.

Jenny had joined me for the outing and we went in the car because it had started to rain.

### **Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**

Having followed the advice before retiring last evening, my hearing was a lot better this morning.

Unfortunately, Jenny was having some pain in her left foot and I telephoned the podiatry triage number at about 9:30a.m. to try to arrange an appointment for her prior to her scheduled appointment on Monday afternoon. The mobile number was supposedly monitored Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. I had heard nothing by 11 a.m.

I downloaded a PDF copy of the article provided at the surgery yesterday.

We had a very pleasant lunch with Frank and Gwen at Owens Restaurant in Ramsbottom and a not so pleasant gift of a parking fine in the Station Car park opposite. Jenny and I had both forgotten to display her blue badge when we parked in the disabled bay.

On returning home, I spent a couple of hours appealing against the fine on the basis that we had a blue badge, providing evidence of Jenny's problem and apologising for my oversight. I wasn't that hopeful though.

I was quite tired afterwards.

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

I checked my e-mails before leaving for our grocery shopping trip and there was one about the parking fine. Bury Council had confirmed that, following my appeal, they were not going to proceed with the process on this occasion and confirmed that the fine was cancelled. Unfortunately, it was a no-reply message, so I could not express my gratitude.

We went to Unicorn in Chorlton because we were running short of a few items we could not source elsewhere and then we returned to Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park for the rest of the items we wanted.

We had a late snack in the early afternoon and I dealt with the rest of my e-mails and the accounts before tea.

## **Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Jenny and I spent most of the day testing and pricing electrical equipment for the table-top sale at the old school on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

I dealt with some paperwork, storing it as PDF documents. The receipts I had accumulated were filed away.

The planned tip run was postponed until tomorrow due to the forecast for rain, which did not mature to the extent predicted.

## **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

After breakfast, the major task of the day was to sort the rubbish for the tip and pack it in the trailer, ready for a tip run, which we had postponed until Wednesday, when the weather was expected to turn a little warmer. Currently the temperature felt like 0°C. The forecast for Wednesday said it would feel like 4 degrees warmer and the sun was supposed to shine for a change.

There was no sign of anyone wanting our 3-piece, leather suite in the lounge, which we want to replace, once we had decorated.

After lunch, I took Jenny to her medical appointment in Bury and then we made the usual visit to Tesco for a few groceries.

I spent a little time before and after our outing to work on the picture gallery for version 4 of my web site.

## **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

It was Jenny's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Jenny was first up and prepared breakfast. I managed to drag myself out of bed at 3 minutes to 9. I could quite easily have stayed in bed for another hour or two but it was time for Jenny's eye drops.

Jenny didn't open her cards or presents until after breakfast. The former was an emotional moment and one of the latter, a 70's joke book, had her in stitches.

Meanwhile, I dealt with the dirty dishes, followed by e-mails to thank a couple of people on Jenny's behalf for their birthday cards.

After lunch, I continued my work on the revision of my web site until it was time to meet Matthew and Carrie at the Miller and Carter restaurant, about ten minutes walk from home, for Jenny's meal, which was very nice.

### **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

After finishing off a few loose ends on my web site revision left over from yesterday, I hitched up the trailer and prepared for our trip to the tip.

Jenny joined me when I was ready and we had a pleasant morning out in the sunshine even though it was still quite cool. There wasn't a lot of traffic and there was very little activity at the tip. Having sorted the rubbish yesterday made putting the rubbish in the various skips much quicker than usual.

We called at Tesco for a few items, the most important being something for lunch and tea.

The main task after lunch was to put the trailer back in the garage.

### **Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

After putting the waste bin for collection tomorrow morning, I resumed work on selecting the TV recordings for next week.

I left off to go for a walk with Jenny, taking in part of the Kirklees Trail. It was a little wet and muddy underfoot due to the recent rain and there was a very cold, south-easterly wind but we still managed about 40 minutes of walking, with a couple of rests.

After lunch, I finished off the TV recordings using the TV Times schedules.

### **Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

We went grocery shopping to Sainsbury's store at Heaton Park. Since we had paid a couple of visits to Tesco during the week, we decided to come straight home.

We actually had lunch at the regular time this Friday, for a change!

In the afternoon, we made arrangements to go to Sheffield for Jenny's brother's wife's birthday, which is next Wednesday and we booked an early evening meal at the Acorn pub and restaurant at Burncross.

I finished off the TV recordings for next week by scanning for episodes of the various series we watched.

### **Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

We finished off the month with a visit to the old school to try to finish off testing and pricing the electrical items for the table-top sale next Saturday. Unfortunately, we had to pack up early because the hall and the stage, where we keep all the electrical items, was taken over by the people preparing for the evening event based on the TV series "Would I Lie to You". Needless to say we did not watch the programme and we did not go to the event.