

Greenmount – November 2008

I declined the invitation to assist at the Greenmount Scout bonfire and firework display on the 1st this year. Doing so would have meant missing a rather delicious meal of venison washed down with a bottle of Jacob's Creek Shiraz. One must get one's priorities right.

My black, plastic guttering on the south side of the house has been leaking and missing an end-cap for several months and a couple of weeks ago I sent a service request to Anglian, the company that installed it for me, with just a month to run on the five year warranty. I received a telephone call to arrange for an "engineer" to call on the 5th November and a further telephone call a day or two before the appointment to refine the arrangement to between 8 am and 1 pm. Sure enough, two chaps turned up in an Anglian van as arranged, looked at the missing end-cap and told me that was the only part they didn't have with them. They asked me what I had done with the old one. Answers on a post-card, please.

Not to be deterred, one of the chaps brought down his ladder and shot up to inspect the gutter where it had been dripping. The missing end-cap was half-way down the gutter. The chap retrieved it and the other one cleaned it and refitted it. This second chap then went up the ladder to find the leaks were due to the two joints in the guttering not being correctly clamped in place. An application of lubricant and a bit of brute force soon resolved that issue.

So, all-in-all, this was a very successful visit and, in spite of Anglian not providing a spare part, another tick in the box for the company.

I have never regretted using Anglian for all my exterior UPVc work and strongly recommend the company to anyone, especially if you care to mention my name when placing an order so that I receive my cut. They might be a bit more expensive (I have expensive tastes) but they are good and you can be reasonably confident they will be around in five or ten years' time to honour their guarantees. What's more, placing a service call is easy and they turn up when they say they will, which is more than can be said for some.

Jenny started as a Beaver Leader on 6th November. According to a good friend of mine, the role is not too demanding. The trick is to think five minutes ahead of the kids. I'm not sure Gordon Brown would cope though.

The 13th saw Jenny enlist Rachel as her second in command of the Beaver troop on a visit to Bury Fire Station. Jenny was volunteered to dress up in the full fireman's kit, including breathing apparatus and heavy boots, following which, despite the fact she could barely stand, she was asked to run up two flights of stairs, an offer she declined.

I am told she even had the opportunity to play with the fireman's hose and the least said about that the better.

Unfortunately, what pictures were taken probably will not turn out very well. Jenny did not take my new digital camera.

Having managed to obtain tickets for the Theatre Royal in Ramsbottom for Saturday 16th

November, we attended an excellent performance of *Gaslight* given by the local repertory company, Summerseat Players. For the theatre and film buffs amongst you, here are two little-known facts about this Victorian drama, written in 1938.

The American film, released in the USA in 1944 marked the debut of a young English actress as Nancy, the maid and she was nominated for an Oscar as Best Supporting Actress. Her name was Angela Lansbury, aged just 17.

The play marked Alan Ayckbourn's directional debut at the Library Theatre, Scarborough in 1962. Not many people know that.

And, last but not least, most people will be familiar with the American film starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer but did you know there was an English film version made in 1940 starring Anton Walbrook, Diana Wynyard and Frank Pettingell? Do you care? Both the English and American versions are still available for purchase.

For most of this month, I have been plagued with my stomach troubles yet again. After over three weeks of annoying aches and pains, bloatedness and almost constant indigestion, I changed my diet and considerably reduced my gluten intake. In a couple of days, the problem had subsided. Could my missing gall bladder have caused me to develop a gluten allergy? We shall see!

As November draws to a close, we have plans to assemble and decorate the Christmas tree and our attention is turning towards cards and presents. If you are not fortunate enough to receive a card from us, it isn't because we've forgotten you, whoever you are. We all send our love and best wishes to you for Christmas and the coming New Year. If you are even less fortunate and do not receive a present from us, that isn't because we've forgotten you either. It's because we're skint. We've just paid the gas and electricity bill for the last quarter and I think it's for the whole country.