

Greenmount – October 2008

Much to the relief of many, this is the last update you will receive by E-mail. I have decided to post future updates on my web site and you will be able to view the updates for the past year. As a reminder, the web site address is <https://www.networking-consultancy.com:4433/index.htm>, so if you have not yet added this to your list of Favourite web sites, now is the time to do so. Don't forget to ignore the warning about the security certificate being invalid and continue to the web site (the second option with the big red cross). When I find time, I shall sort this out, providing I can afford it.

(This paragraph is included especially for Mike in Australia). Following a brief dry, sunny spell, the rain is back. The only plant doing well in the garden is the water cress.

I am in the process of shooting a roll of film in my old Canon EOS 600, to test out the repair, so my digital camera is currently resting. I have been dodging the showers and taking some pictures of Bury, a couple of which show the large development at the north end of The Rock (the opposite end to the Church). All of the lenses fit both cameras, so I can now take both wide-angle and telephoto shots using my film camera for the first time. I can also use the film camera's standard 50 mm lens on the digital camera. All that is required now is to match the skill of the photographer to the quality of the equipment. A similar remark has been made on the odd occasion in the past.

I have been thinking for some time about replacing our Philips Zenia telephone and answering machine and, after yet another complaint about its unreliability from Jenny, I ordered a BT Diverse 6450 Quad (digital answering machine with four cordless handsets) from Ligo Electronics.

It arrived the following day and I unpacked it and put the handsets on charge for the recommended sixteen hours. It took me a day to configure and install it and to decommission the Philips Zenia, ready for re-sale on the car boot circuit.

The new phones are easy to use and have some very nice features, like being able to copy a contact list from a mobile phone SIM card and hold different contact lists in each handset. Being able to call one handset from another and transfer calls between them saves a lot of shouting and should make our neighbours happier.

One of the handsets developed a fault on the LCD screen and took only a few days to replace, thanks to the efficiency of the returns department at Ligo Electronics, based in Glasgow. This is yet another set of bonus points for Scotland.

On an even more technical front, I have managed to configure my Skype phone to work with the BT Diverse 6450 base station so that I can now use that as a normal landline telephone as well as a Skype phone. I have also configured one of the BT Diverse 6450 handsets to work with the Skype base station and, by introducing short-cut dialling on Skype, I can use the BT Diverse 6450 telephone as a Skype phone.

Why would anyone want to do this, you wonder.

Caroline is featured in the Holy Cross College prospectus for the coming academic year. For those of you with a degree of curiosity or any other academic qualification, see page 60 in the PDF file at the following link: <http://www.holycross.ac.uk/posted/web/prospectus09.pdf>.

Jenny twisted her right knee just before half-term, which did cause her some inconvenience. She thought she had been too energetic on the School Crossing Patrol. Perhaps it's time she gave up pole dancing.

During half-term, we paid an overdue visit to Sheffield and I went grave-hunting in Shiregreen Cemetary once again. On this occasion, there was a distinct lack of success accompanied by severe precipitation resulting in tired and waterlogged feet. A return visit in more clement weather armed with appropriate documentation is required.

I did my bit at the last Old School Jumble Sale of the year on the 24th, testing all the electrical equipment prior to sale and then helping with the sale of toys. The takings were a little down on the last event, making about £1500, which, on this occasion, is donated to the church for ongoing maintenance.

And so to Halloween. Jenny dressed up in her witch's outfit and had bought a broomstick for the occasion. Rachel made a pumpkin lantern and put it in the window while Jenny stuck various objects, such as small skeletons and images of Dracula to the window. Jenny refused to handle the spiders, even though they were made of plastic, or their artificial web and I had to go outside in the cold and fix these to the window.

My digital camera came out of its resting place and I took some rather decent pictures of the event.

We had several Trick or Treat callers who were each given a handful of sweets and Rachel found the small children dressed in their little horror suits and masks quite endearing. I thought they were dressed most appropriately.

And on that note, I shall fade out. As I mentioned earlier, you will not receive further updates in this way so if you do want to find out what is happening here in Greenmount, you need to check my web pages now and again. Monthly updates will be posted there and I hope to develop them to include other information, particularly for family members.