

Hi Everyone,

I thought that some of you might like to hear different story from all the other lovely stories we had during the lockdown from members of the Club.

Lock down was hard on my family as my 16 and half years old special need grandson couldn't go anywhere. So, we built ourselves a bubble, they could come to me, I could go to them but none of us could at any time meet anyone else or go anywhere near a shop. So, Oscar came here at least 3-4 times a week for lunch with my daughter and I entertained him while she worked here. In the afternoon we went for walks in Kidlington, where it is flat for the wheelchair. Oscar loves being out, but, alas, he couldn't go on bus rides, train rides, taxis (he adores all of those). He likes to watch music/musical DVDs and I learnt lots of new sign language. He can be very funny and has many facial signs, like fluttering his eyelashes at great speed, can raise his eyebrow if he wants a laugh from us and smiles as he knows he looks funny. He can also twist his nose as one of their au-pair taught him how to do it. Kyan, Oscar's his 12 years old brother kept up with his school studies winning much praise from his teachers, he was even invited to have cocoa online with the Headmaster. He was invited once before into his office. Always one child from each form.

On a different subject, I took up French again via Duolingo, as Bridget kindly told us about it. So good to pick that up again, I wish I had the time to do this with German as well. But no time. When Oscar is not here and I am not at their house, I am in the garden madly growing as much vegetable as I can (I am kind of pescatarian on and off) and my flowers also look amazing. There are some really lovely butterflies around including the not so lovely white butterfly who attacks my kale and pak choy plants.

My holidays and my daughter's like everybody else's were cancelled but we manage to talk to friends and relatives all over the world, by Skype, What's App, Facetime or now Zoom. My daughter and her husband bought a SPA jacuzzi for their garden, it is absolutely divine to sit in it and comfortable sits 5 of us. On my birthday last week, we all set in it and drank champagne. How decadent is that.

My son and his family live in Sydney, where they got away quite lightly re Covid. Now they can do most things, kids back to school though facemasks are still compulsory in public places and so on.

Kati and I went for 3 walks the best being in the University Garden. We went (in our separate cars) via Norham Road (greeting the Club as I drove past) passing Lady Margaret Hall, we got into the park. There were quite a few people around and not everyone kept their 2 m distance so we had to get out of the way. It was a lovely walk enjoying nature and have a good chat.

Shopping is done by deliveries, but getting bored with washing, wiping down the shopping. Does anybody do this?

I started to make all sort of exotic food, like Vietnamese spring rolls, baba ghanoush, sushi, Moroccan dishes, courgette fritters etc as Oscar likes this sort of thing, but it is hard work, but yummy! Tomorrow I am making pizza with courgette base.

As for bridge, I registered with BBO but had no time to do much about starting or even viewing. I must do it soon as I would love to do some friendly bridge or do the odd duplicate one.

Has anyone seen the Joy of Painting on BBC4, Remarkable Places to eat on BBC, The Tutankhamun Mystery, and a few others which are really worth viewing.

Where has summer gone?

On that note I finish. Keep safe and healthy. Hope to see all sooner rather than later.

Tunde