

December 2010

Dear Friends,



I don't usually write a "newsletter", but this year has been somewhat memorable for me. My normal life is quite full of Horspath village matters as I am on the Parish Council and am the village Webmaster, but everything came to a shuddering halt at the end of May. One afternoon I had pains in my abdomen, which became worse, so saw my GP next day; she told me to wait 24 hours to see if it went. Next morning I could hardly move for the pain. I had a home visit from another doc who called an ambulance and I was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital for emergency surgery. During the 24 hours wait I called my sister, arranged for a friend to take my dog to kennels, and packed an overnight bag. I was operated on at midnight on Friday 28th May; turned out I had a burst appendix with septicaemia, so it wasn't keyhole surgery. I was in the JR for nearly 2 weeks, and then my sister and a good local friend looked after me through the summer, with District Nurses calling on me daily to change dressings. I only made slow recovery, mainly due to the loss of my abdominal muscles and a large incision hernia. I now have a cumbersome surgical corset to support my protruding abdomen, and I await another major op to insert mesh into my abdominal cavity to replace the lost muscles. But I shouldn't complain, I am still alive and happily immersed in village matters again.

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On that happy note I will wish you a merry Christmas and a good year in 2011, and hope that you keep well - take care.

Love & best wishes,



Heather

