

Christmas News 2020 – A most challenging Year

Well, I am alive, solvent and surprisingly healthy. After a couple of fairly ordinary months with plans for VE Day and more the world, as we all know, came crashing down and any subsequent gig, virtual or otherwise became a highlight.

Allcock and Brown made what might be their last appearance on Back in Time for the Corner Shop. I recorded a few songs at home which appeared on various websites and gave me a spot at Houghton Regis virtual Carnival. Then there was a Street Party on VE day for my neighbours including some songs and socially distanced Maypole. The next virtual project was a webinar for The Cambridge Museum of Technology and the last couple of months have been spent sorting out an online version of St Albans Mummers and a live version that got squashed as we went from Level 2 to Level 4 in about 54 hours. To bring the year to an end I have recorded a few unusual carols and will be appearing on Three Counties Radio at 7.45am on Boxing Day.



1 Allcock & Brown on TV



4 VE Day in Runcie Close



3 See the Giant online



2 21st century Maypole?

There is some hope for the New Year as the mAy team now own the large Maypole used at Countryfile Live and it will be given a new home and, hopefully, regular events at the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Also, there is a possibility that I might be appearing on Britain's Got Talent which might be a case of belated recognition. I live in hope that my Country Dances classes for EFDSS will restart at some point, maybe after Easter.

With significantly more time on my hands I have been exploring the wonderful countryside on my doorstep walks lasting anything up to 4 hours at a time. Folk, Morris, Maypole and Early have been almost non-existent but I have managed some other types of dance, both online and with a few classes and swimming during the various periods when the pools were open. My cooking became slightly more adventurous becoming quite a dab hand at baking bread and quite a few reasonable attempts at cakes.

Fortunately, my mother has had “live in” carers for the whole time. All three of my nephews are now abroad in Brussels, Canada and Germany, which is quite wonderful; and my niece is studying at Oxford Brookes when allowed. My concern for the future is to try and ensure that there should be a resumption of live music and dancing and that there is work and assistance for those who have suffered far more than I have over the last few months.

Meanwhile my very best wishes to you all and may we find hope amidst the anger, fear and frustration that we have all been feeling.



6 No Man's Land



7 Sandridge from Heartwood



9 Beech Bottom Dyke



10 Hammond's Farm



5 My own map of walks I have done from my flat



8 Home Made Loaf

*Best Wishes for Christmas
and I really hope that we all
have a Better New Year*



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