Season's Greetings from Owlsbury Oast



December 2020

We hope this letter finds you well, at the end of this strange year. I think that most Christmas letters will have the same comments this year – we stayed at home!

However, unusual for us, because Philip had just semi-retired we decided to have a Winter holiday this year and booked an extended week-end at a sea front house at Worthing in January. It was a "back in time" holiday, as our three children joined us for two days, which was really great. We dug out some old family board games, and even played one called "Agrihazard", which is the farming version of monopoly! Also we had some really good weather.





Although it has not been a good year is some ways, at least we had plenty of time to sort out the house and garden. Our shredder has been working hard shredding reams of paperwork during the year. Although the tomatoes took a long time to germinate, we still had a good supply in the greenhouse. The squirrels came into the garden early on and tried to take all our apples and pears. We managed with the help of nets to save some pears, and most of the cooking apples, but lost all of the eating apples, but one. The birds started helping themselves to cherries and blackcurrants, but thanks to netting some of those were saved, and we have never managed to save any cherries before! We also had some massive carrots and beetroot,(after erecting more netting to keep out the rabbits etc.) and more runner beans than we have had for many years.We even grew (two) water melons, which was a first!







During the first lockdown we were told there was a shortage of gowns and other things in the NHS. Joy was busy making things and I was also asked to make some gowns. I made four in all.





Although we have continued with charity work, most events and meetings that we usually attend were held online (virtually) this year, so it was good to have the technology to be able to keep up with things. It had some advantages in that trustee meetings were shorter than usual, as people could not keep talking too long! Philip has continued as chairman of Fermor/Smith charity, and has also been busy with his family-tree, so if anyone from either side of the family would like information we might be able to help… He had some work in the summer,mainly fencing, hay-making, combine harvesting and hedge cutting. We were able to have a Harvest Thanksgiving service at Jireh Chapel, before we were shut down again, and a variety of goods were provided for Lewes Open Door charity for homeless people.
One day recently, a scarecrow appeared in our garden – it looked almost real!
Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.