Greetings from Owlsbury Oast. December 2024.



We hope this finds you well.

It's time to sort out a few memories from the past year again.

We didn't have a very good start to the year, as I was recovering from shingles, but things soon improved. The year also started with changes for us, as in January the Free Presbyterian Church decided to close the church at Lewes, where we had been attending.

So, since then we have been attending Jarvis Brook Baptist Chapel, which is half a mile rather than half an hour's journey. We didn't mind missing all the potholes on route!

Philip has been busy in the garden as usual. We did get a good crop of carrots this year, and a lot of beans, so the freezer is getting full. There were also a lot of apples on one of our trees. But we had to compete with the usual pests and diseases for other things – e.g. cabbages.







It has not been a good year weatherwise for farming. In fact, the hay crop was almost a disaster, although we did not have much anyway, due to the fact that the wild deer are growing in numbers and come and help themselves to the grass! We managed to book the holiday bungalow at Pevensey Bay in September, and actually had about four days of good weather before the rains came again. Some of the family joined us one day for a fish and chip tea.

We had a viewing of the 'northern lights' during the autumn which was something not seen here before.

Philip continues as chairman of the Smith and Fermor Charity, and is also still very involved with Crowborough Ploughing Match, including looking after the website. The Annual Match went ahead in spite of the 'wet weather' forecast, but the number attending was down a bit. It was held at Renhurst Farm, Mark Cross, where Philip had worked for several years, until 2020.





At the end of September there was a special "chartering" service at Jarvis Brook Chapel, (i.e. forming of a membership), as it is a re-opened chapel. So, there are eight members, plus a baby. In October there was a Holiday Bible Club, to which several children came (about 40 in all), and in November we had a Remembrance Day Service in the morning and a baptism in the evening! We also had a group of young people round to our house in the summer, so, we're being kept quite busy. We got to witness a baptism in the sea, connected with another church at Brighton, which was something a bit different for us.





Philip's sister, Becky celebrated her 60th birthday in November, so we met up with quite a few of the Fermor family, some of whom are now grown up and not very recognisable… Here are the brothers and sisters:- Debby, Becky, Marcus, Lois, James, Simon and Philip. (Paul was missing.)




The theme for the display cabinet is now 'Winter in Crowborough past'. Some interesting articles about past snow, floods and storms were found.
We hope you will have an enjoyable time at Christmas and a Happy New Year!