

09 December 2014

Dear

Long time no hear from you. Are yo OK I sometimes see some activity on Facebook and I have tried to contact you there but I guess your computer is not working.

Me --- 2014 our worst year without a doubt.

This year has not been good but let me start in September 2013. We were on holiday in Dorset seeing Monkey World and the Tank museum. Maureen had lost a lot of energy and couldn't walk far so I pushed her in the wheel chair and she even had a go driving a mobility scooter at Monkey World.

One day she sneezed hard and said "Oh my Back, that hurt" When we got back home she saw the doctor had tests at the hospital and on Nov 2 it was confirmed that she has cancer of the spine, hips and pelvis.

Those weeks of September and October were not easy. In August we had the two young grandchildren. Some said it would be too much, we would not cope. They were here for 7 days and we all had a great time. But this is something else.

As usual after a holiday we got down to some house improvements and had booked a painter to do the hall, stairs and landing with new carpet due after the painting.

Poor Maureen struggled up the stairs with wet paint on one side or other for two weeks. Then we moved her bed down stairs.

On 15 November her pain was so bad that we called 999. They were very good and they called the doctor who prescribed Morphine twice a day.

On 21st November we had a visit from the Macmillan nurse who got a lot of things moving. For instance the OT lady from the hospital came and soon after both the downstairs loo and annexe bathroom doors were re hung to open outwards. What a difference that made.

On the 28th November the carpet was fitted. Since the painting I had done my best to take up the old carpet and stop the creaky floorboards but now I had to do the cooking and washing for both of us.

Christmas and new year came and went but now my thoughts changed to a better way to get Maureen washed. We have a large bungalow with an annexe that has a bathroom and second kitchen on the same level.

The transition from house to annexe had been made easier in September with a new floor covering and threshold but the wheelchair could not get to the bathroom. There was a big cupboard in the way.

A major job was started first to empty the cupboard then sort out the things that I had not seen for ten years and then to take the cupboard down. The last bit much easier than the first.

A plumber and tiller made a good job of converting the bathroom to a wet room but it took so long. I have in my diary :-

30-Jan-2014 Wet room started ----- 19-Mar-2014 Wet room finished

Then on 25-Mar-2014 we heard that James was leaving the marriage that was not yet two years old. Truly unbelievable.

It took until mid April before Maureen used the wet room but it was worth it she did enjoy it.

So that is the nuts and bolts of our situation and it has been hard work.

Up until this September we coped I pay for lady to do a bit of housework on Saturday morning plus someone else mows the lawn and looks after the garden whilst I make a point of working in the garden or house at least two days a week.

It has taken it's toll on me as I do most of my walking in the house my feet are really suffering. A scouting friend and his wife have been very good. Trevor takes me for a walk each Wednesday and Teresa and Maureen have a girls talk.

Maureen has just had her 76th birthday all three Daughters visited today 7/12/14 good fun but a few tears as well as I had to explain to them that each week Maureen's energy and ability goes down a notch.

Maureen's life is restricted to her reclining chair and a painful trip to her commode three feet away. She makes loom bands and plays games on her tablet.

Rebecca is coping but of course I can't help her, Maureen does not like to be on her own for more than an hour. So visits to the mainland are out of the question.

Please let me know how you are.

Cheers

Terry