

Welcome to the SEVENTEENTH edition of Stack News!

For part of Roger's Christmas present a couple of years ago Jayne commissioned a local artist, Jon Tremaine, to do a picture of Casey. This now hangs on our living room wall at The Stack, but Jon has kindly agreed that we may share this with you as our cover picture this year. The original is an ink drawing that Jayne has incorporated into this special monochrome edition of Stack News.

There is another reason that Casey is on the cover. It is to give him some reassurance after, for the second year running, the judge at the Cornwall Retired Greyhounds Trust Christmas party failed to correctly identify the most handsome dog! Casey was so offended that he didn't even bother to enter the 'best kisser' competition, but saved his strength for the biscuit catching. He won first prize of course, and he helped out by clearing up all the biscuits dropped by the lesser contenders.

Sadly, several of Casey's friends have passed away this year, but the good news is that their passing has created new homes for other retired greyhounds. Hopefully they be coming on the regular RGT walks in the new year.

Our nearest neighbour Templeton (Spotty) was joined by two other horses one of whom surprised everyone with a foal not long after her arrival. They made a 'happy herd' for a while but sadly Spotty lost his fight against cancer.

Meanwhile, the foal (Tredinick) has grown quickly and has proved an excellent escape artist necessitating new electric fencing which (usually) deters him from exploring the roadside verges in search of delicate morsels.

Roger's mum, now 92, was 'supervising' the tree decorating at Trevaylor last week in the run up to her fourth Christmas there. We will be going to the 'candlelit supper' next week and, back in August, Roger won six bottles of wine at their summer fête.

After nearly two years on the market, his mum's house has finally been sold so Roger no longer has to make regular trips to Mylor Bridge.

On a rare trip 'out of county' Jayne had a day trip to Birmingham for her annual moth recorders shindig, and in April we all had a cottage for a week at Bentley Wood, near Salisbury. Bentley Wood, together with the adjacent Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Reserve Blackmoor Copse, form one of the largest contiguous areas of woodland in Wiltshire. That's a lot of trees! 'Foresters Cottage' was a good base for exploring including Stonehenge, Woodhenge, Figsbury Ring, Old Sarum, and Salisbury Cathedral. We also visited Jayne's mum on her birthday.

Jayne continues with web based activities as well as her artistic efforts including the local Wesley Rock Art Group and part time courses in various locations.

Roger came home with a large box of various breads that he made on a course Jayne got him for his birthday, and he even managed several days on the beach when he wasn't working on the refurbishment of our underfloor heating system.

Casey found the latter rather distressing as access to some of his beds was restricted when the flooring in each room was replaced, but he seems pleased that he now has his own rug, as well as a bed, in the office/spare bedroom.

Christmas came to us early this year with presents from Jayne's mum. We now enjoy 'cinema quality' surround sound when watching television, and Jayne has an 'all singing and dancing' professional quality printer that has already produced saleable artwork.

So there we have it – our seventeenth edition comes to a close.

Watch your letterbox in twelve months time for the next edition but meanwhile, if you're desperate for more to read, the back issues of Stack News are all available at www.dingdong.me.uk

Best wishes for the festive season from:

Roger and Jayne

