

# Polly Rubery's Round Robin...



15<sup>th</sup> December 2016

This year started better than it is ending when in January I was contacted by a new cousin on my own family tree. As she lives in Gloucestershire, it wasn't long before we arranged to meet and have continued to share research and life. As mentioned last year, that while there were STILL many people waiting for responses or things done or finished, I was gradually making inroads into the long list. Somehow this year the list just got longer again! However I did manage, with the ten year anniversary of my move here coming up in July, to get the twin room en-suite stripped out and refitted in May, as per my "ten year plan." Also the "new" car having sailed through its third MOT in my ownership I finally took the decision to get the dents and scratches it had when I bought it tidied up.

For the rest, life has carried on as usual in many ways, with plenty of house-sitting, B&B guests and work for the Elections Office of the council, including, of course, **The Referendum**. There have been no more traffic counts, and yesterday a trip to Hereford proved that a private company is now undertaking the Transport Surveys, which we used to do. There have been several groups of American and Canadian visitors, mostly with local ancestors, although one group wanted to trace their ancestors from South Wales back to the Forest of Dean and then go on to visit Bath, the Cotswolds and finally be delivered to Birmingham Airport. An interesting journey of 499 miles, to say the least!

Then there were the ROWBURY descendants who wanted to come and meet some English cousins that they had discovered, and whom I did not know about! It **had** to be turned into a **Mini-Family Gathering**, and with a huge amount of help from Keri Rubery, it was! And while it was hard work, it was also very enjoyable!

There have been three Phil Rickman events this year that I was able to attend, in Dilwyn, Ledbury and Hay. All brought friends (and one ferrets!) to stay with me. There were other adventures as side events, including discovering Grosmont Castle (thanks Carol!) and a trip down the Heart of Wales line, which finished up with dinner in Craven Arms, with my house-seeking flood-battling B&B visitors of July 2007.

The highlight of my year was a visit to the Severn Valley Railway's *Pacific Power* event. At long last I managed to see *Tornado* (60163 being coaled above to the left) the youngest steam locomotive on the mainline – even far younger than my car, having only emerged from the workshop in 2008; as well as the famous *Flying Scotsman* (60103 to the right). While this was outshopped in 1923, it only returned to the mainline in 2016.

Finally the good bits came to an end with the MORRIS Family Gathering in late October. Having worked myself and my little ACER laptop very hard to get all the trees revised and printed for this, the laptop expired two days later! The problems caused by that are still ongoing, but thankfully at least none of my work was lost...

November was taken up by Electoral Register Canvassing, which came to a sudden halt on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> when I was attacked and badly bitten by a large dog. Most of my time since then has been spent in visits to the hospital, surgery and police. Even the aforementioned bus trip yesterday was to go to Hereford Hospital to have the hip replaced in 2012 X-rayed, as it suffered in the event and is still painful. The attack and injuries have left me feeling very shocked and depressed, particularly as I'm not sure that I will be able to undertake this particular work again (and if the hip remains a problem, it may also impact on other work that I do). So I face a very uncertain future at the moment, but hope that 2017 will bring better news. For the moment I have sought some solace by acquiring a third Ford Escort! Or maybe that just demonstrates that I really have lost the plot?

On that note I will close hoping this will find you in better health than me and sending all my best wishes for Christmas and 2017