

The English Letter

March 30 2019

Alan Shearn

So here we are!



London. Westminster. Brexit.

The seat of democracy and a guiding light to the world of parliamentary proceedings yet restrained by the outcome of the EU Referendum.

Because we returned from SA I see the events with enthusiasm and optimism.

I have been glued to debates for some time. It is wonderful!

I wanted to write a few words on Brexit but when I did, it turned into more than a page. But I must record something as it is just too important to leave out. What a mess but.....

How can we expect that those in Parliament will enact the wishes of the referendum when they do not agree with it? When they actually believe it to be against the interest of the nation?

We cannot, and so to date they have failed miserably to do so. It is the brake that the system permits and that allows us to think again about the best way forward. But this time without the untruths and dreams fed into the referendum vote campaigns.

Ok, got that out of the way nice and early.

I left you on Dec 24 2018 and thus the first pic has to be of Dec 25 when we did manage to get Ken over for the day.



The traditional pics are inserted here of Christmas dinner, tree and silly hats.



I did mention that we were due to spend New Year in Snowdonia and that is where we went for a few days.

This was a coastal spot that included disused slate mines, walks through forests and beside fast flowing rivers.

No mountains this time.

A school friend, Alice came along for the experience. Our base was a cosy old cottage at Llwyngwril within an easy stroll of the coast.



It was a tough climb up to this old mine/quarry in Gwynedd to reach the Blue Lake.



This goes back to 1867 when the mine started and the access tunnels were developed.



Some took to the welsh ponies for a long beach outride but we also managed a good visit to Harlech and the castle.



The well -known song “Men of Harlech” related to the Wars of the Roses and the siege of the castle.



We all made it to the top but were left unprotected from the chilly Jan air.

Now here is a great real estate offer.

The castle could be yours for £8190 but you would need to have this sum around 1280 when Edward I had it built after his invasion of Wales.



A Jan 1 walk across the River Bar to see the annual sea swim at Barmouth and a stop off at Powis Castle, which was built by the Welsh in 1283, took us back to Swanley.

But we did so much more during our short stay.

Andrea and Courtney have trips here and there but later this year we will be back to Wales and this time to Pembrokeshire. But that is for next time.



Not too much else to talk to you about as we work our way through this rather mild winter.

The [U3A](#) activities of Bridge, creative writing and chess take up a chunk of my week and Bev had a trip to Ilkley to dog sit where she unfortunately fell over and hurt her ankle. It took a while with various medical personnel involved to discover [two small fractures](#).

A big boot and crutches were provided and Bev has not been that active since then. But a natural heal should develop over the next week or three.



I have included this pic because the followers of Strictly Come Dancing will spot Len Goodman standing next to me. On the far right is Peter Sissons of BBC fame a few years ago.

[Citizens Advice Swanley](#) was nominated for an award and this pic captures the moment when these two chaps assisted at the evening's ceremony.

I have been fairly busy with the [Old Camdenians](#) by way of ad hoc communications and a recent Committee meeting where we discussed the arrival of some meaningful donation. There was also the matter of the rebranding and relaunching of the old school as it searches to regain the upper Ofsted rating.

From June it will be known as Beacon High. A full OC write up will go out to OC's in the next few days.

So that is it for now but we head to Yorkshire in April and will bring you news from there and Pembrokeshire when we write again.

Bye for now.

Alan and Bev

March 30 2019.