Two months have flown by since my last blog and here we are heading for another Lockdown. At least this one has an end date which will make it much more bearable for a lot of people. It won’t make much difference to me as effectively I have been shielding since March but I accept I’m probably in the minority. Am I bored with it -NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO but then I am lucky enough to have a reasonable sized garden which at the moment is rapidly turning into a lake, or it would be if the slope was not 1 in 7.

Some of you will know that my nightly chore is to put out two trays of dog food and biscuits for the badgers and foxes – I swear I saw one of the badgers with webbed feet two nights ago.

However I will not complain, the 1st November provided 4 hours without rain and with the very able assistance of the “under gardener” the front garden has been transformed, the winter window boxes are in place, the hanging baskets planted out with ivy and winter lobelia and the troughs, pots and planters now contain white polyanthus, white bellis (big daisies sure to grow well if my lawn is anything to go by) and cerise cyclamen. Just the roses needing a haircut ( but not as much as I do) – and the front garden is finished until the spring.

The huge advantage of not having to be somewhere each day is that when a word or idea or phrase pops into my brain I am now able to google it – each day I learn something new – without the computer I would truly be bored but then probably I would have a set of encyclopaedias or should it be encyclopaedium – no the spell checker says I was right first time. Of course it’s fine learning all these new facts and figures but am I remembering them? Sorry, what was the question????

The online bridge is proving very popular and now that the clocks have gone back and night starts at 4.30 pm some new (well nearly new) names are popping up which is good. Brian has added another session on a Wednesday evening for the less experienced players with an NGS ranking of no higher than 9 – you will have received an email from him with that information and a new list of members of the club which gives the information as to whether or not you are eligible for the Wednesday evening session or not.

Two members of the East Sussex BC have been selected to play in the team matches representing Sussex County and surprise, surprise they are Raquel Berdichevsky and Liz Bornecrantz. They and two other teams played against Gloucester and whilst the First Team won their match, sadly the Second and Third Teams came a close second. BUT, they were lucky, they travelled in The Tardis and were there in no time. Big improvement.

I’m always very happy to receive news, gossip, photos, items of interest etc from anyone so don’t be shy about sharing with me. A momentous piece of news one of my bridge partners (Mark Elliott) is delighted to share with you all was the safe arrival of his first grandchild, a boy named Xavier – he arrived somewhat earlier than expected but is home from hospital now and doing well but still on oxygen. I think Mark and his wife are also recovering and doing well!!

It does feel rather strange for me because normally the Christmas cakes would have been made, the Christmas cards for all members would either be done or mostly so and the Christmas party and volunteer Sous Chefs and menu organised. Still at least it does look as if those of you with families will be able to have a “Family Christmas” even if you can’t go shopping for presents. Thank goodness for Amazon.

The best comment I heard over the past week occurred during the 6 Nations Rugby Match England v Italy. At the end of the rendition of the Italian anthem by the Italian team, one of the commentators said “well, there aren’t many opera singers in the team this year” which I thought was priceless.