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Dear All,

- We started the year in Gozo on an HF walking holiday having spent Christmas in Malta. Both exceeded expectations. The nativity scene models everywhere were particularly memorable.
- We spent the whole of February in Spain in a small apartment by the sea at Cala de Mijas where we did lots of walking along the coast and in the mountains, as well as playing bridge with friends and attempting to improve our Spanish. We had a weekend in Jerez, and also a day in Gibraltar as outings. We travelled there by taking our car by ferry to Bilbao and then driving down through Spain staying in Paradores (state hotels) in interesting towns and seeing some 'real' Spain. The Bay of Biscay was benign going out but rather over-lively coming back.
- We were back in Spain in May on another Adagio plus walking holiday - this time at Berdún in the Spanish Pyrenees, where we had an excellent local leader and saw lots of wildlife including marmots and a chamois which was sitting in the snow watching us watching him!
- We both continue to volunteer for the National Trust - Paul at Wimpole, where he is a walks leader and cartographer, and Margaret at both Wimpole and Anglesey Abbey helping at events for children and families.
- Concertinas continue to be a major component in Paul's life. He attends a couple of concertina music weekends a year in Somerset (and is a tutor at one), plus he takes part in various local folk music events. For the second time, he attended the Scandinavian Squeeze-In held in a scout hut in a forest near Lund in Sweden! He has also been restoring, retuning and fettling three old concertinas, and has a couple more out on loan to help local beginners.
- It was the 20th anniversary of our twinning with the village of Le Vaudreuil in Normandy. The Valderolions came in April and enjoyed a weekend of varied activities culminating in Sunday lunch in Girton College. In return, we went to France in September, for more eating, drinking and sightseeing, including a boat trip on the Seine.
- As well as walking weeks in Spain and Ireland, we had a more leisurely week on a Croatian coastal cruise in a small ship (only 28 passengers) starting and ending in Dubrovnik, visiting Split and a number of lovely islands.
- We have also done trips nearer home. Paul did a geology course in Yorkshire while Margaret explored the area including a ride on the Settle - Carlisle railway. City breaks included Oxford ('the other place') and Cheltenham where we met up with Canadian friends.
- We've again taken interesting courses with U3A. Margaret does Poetry and Spanish. Paul continues with Latin, and has added Astronomy. Unfortunately, none of our current classes offer field trips. A lunar weekend would have been interesting.
- Our health has remained good, other than Margaret had a skin lesion removed from her leg at the end of July, which inhibited her mobility for a month. She's back to normal now.
- Our foster son Dom and partner Sam have moved to Milton Keynes. They have been accepted as foster parents and we are very proud of them.

Enjoy your Christmas wherever you are, and have a happy and successful year in 2020.

Paul and Margaret