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Dear All,

It has been a year unlike any other. We do feel fortunate both in that we have remained healthy and that we have been able to enjoy many lovely walks both in the countryside nearby and further afield.

- We were lucky enough to start the year on a walking holiday in Rhodes, an interesting island little visited in winter.
- We enjoyed the whole of February in Calahonda on the Costa del Sol. Our little apartment was right by the sea and we walked every day either along the coast or in the mountains. Margaret was able to meet up with a cousin who lives in the area and we spent a weekend in Cadiz during Carnival, a noisy and colourful event, with people wearing amazing costumes.
- We drove home through France calling on Margaret's god-daughter near Poitiers, and friends in our twin village of Le Vaudreuil, little knowing these would be the last time we would be able to visit people in their homes this year!
- Lockdown arrived in mid-March and everything went virtual - U3A classes, Bridge playing, Book Club, and Paul's music playing. Having been averse to online shopping Margaret has become a total convert. Thanks to Tesco and Amazon she has not been in a shop in 8 months!
- Paul started recording folk music tunes that he would have played for a local slow session he usually leads. At eight a week, he has now reached 300 tunes. He also hosts a weekly Zoom session to play each week's tunes, which gets attendees from overseas and the UK concertina community, as well as core local players. It's not as good as a real session though.
- Paul has kept his cartography active by extending his village map, documenting the case for restoring a lost historic footpath, and developing ideas for a better footpath network.
- Our walking continued through lockdown. The spring weather was kind and we watched the countryside change through the weeks. When lockdown ended, we spent a week in Devon at a cottage overlooking Slapton Sands, walking and visiting National Trust gardens. Later in the summer we had a similar week near Cromer in Norfolk with lots more coast walks.
- As a next step, we had two stays at HF houses - first at Whitby in North Yorkshire where we did our own walks near Staithes and Robin Hood's Bay, and then near Tissington in the Peak District, which was a small group walking holiday.
- We have done so much walking that Margaret recently got a Fitbit award for having walked the length of India, following her previous one for the length of Japan!
- The garden benefited from getting more attention. As garden centres were closed we were dependent on plants given or bought from roadside stalls which yielded some surprises.
- The second lockdown in November was harder than the first because the grey, cool weather was not conducive to being outside. Margaret has done several jigsaws! Apart from a brief period in summer, when we were able to see some friends and family, life has been conducted on-line. Paul largely enjoys this, Margaret doesn't.

Enjoy your Christmas as best you can, and have a happy and successful year in 2021.

Paul and Margaret