

The Elsegood Christmas News

This year was a difficult year with Linda still having panic attacks and teeth problemsBut it looks like we will make it to 2024. We are re-looking at things and making new decisions that may take the stress off us both. I am not going to put this in any order this year but I just remember things as I try and type.

Frank Thompson's Book finally went to press and we produce both Hard Bound and Paperback version of his mammoth book "The Compleat Beau Geste" 456 pages and about 1500 illustrations/photos.

Available through Amazon.



Our "Spring Thing" event at Riverlife unfortunately had to be cancelled because the forecast was for high winds and torrential rains. Of course they got the forecast totally wrong and the day was beautiful but we could not go back on the cancellation. We had put so much work into the fair and it was disappointing not only for us but all our vendors.

Our October Event "Christmas in October" was a huge success with just short of 30 vendors with such a variety of goods from Wonderful cakes to hand made jewelry to Garden and Lawn Art. The day was cool and a little windy but everything went off well. Most of the day we had a good sized crowd enjoying themselves.

Linda had thought of new ways of marking the field which made the job so much easier, I re-did all our signage, produced advertising and articles for the local Newspaper. The music from the porch and a Juggler added to the days attractions. Danny cooked up a treat and sold out early. Certainly will be bigger next year.

The Blue Ridge Relay which passes through Pensacola in early September was a fantastic event again. 154 teams of up to 12 runner in a team came through our 3 checkpoints. These checkpoints are stations for handing over the baton to the next runner on route. We serve a buffet breakfast at the old Pensacola Baptist Church and it was packed from 5am to close to 10am. I was on the cash register for most of the time and had a steady queue of runners wanting breakfast. With the money we took in we help anyone in the area requiring Medical or other help, Christmas toys for the kids and put money on Electrical Bills for the needy. It is such a well run event and the Pensacola Mens Group is proud to part of it. One lone runner (name the Mad Englishman) ran the whole 208 miles in 50 hours. An unbelievable record.



Old Timey Fall Festival

I was this years Old Timey Fall Festival official photographer which I enjoyed and it was paid work. I ended up turning the photos into a video for their website. It was a pleasant day and we both enjoyed getting out. The packed crowd enjoyed all the music, the wide variety of vendors and the kids dancing on the stage. The old car rally brought out a lot of beautiful well kept cars and two tractors.

We had our roof redone this year with new shingles that will hold up on 130mph winds. With very strong winds this year we decided it best to go with top quality. We were amazed that the crew did everything in one day. The light colored tiles helped us keep the cabin cool this summer. Next year it's the guttering. I do have something to keep the drainage from being blocked but it's time for something better.

Visitors this year our old neighbors Mike and Carol came up for a couple of days and we played at Tourists, going around all the shops in town and eating at the Garden Deli on the square. Ron and Laura were up for their yearly visit and we did a couple of outings, a lot of chatting and sitting on the porch watching the mountain and relaxing. We tried the New Mexican Restaurant in town which was pretty good. They took cuttings and a lot of our plants which we had growing in pots.

My right arm is not as strong as it was and I worried the bone cancer I had in my shoulder might have returned. Fingers Crossed.

Driving to Asheville is become too busy. The area close to Asheville is building up fast and the traffic at certain times is at a standstill which has made us rethink our Medical needs, so we have found another medical Group closer to Burnsville and an easier drive and less time on the road. We will still have to go to Asheville for Lindas Psychiatrist visits and our Dentist. We have a good hospital in Spruce pine which is only half an hour away from us rather than 2 and a half hours to Asheville.

I applied for US citizenship this year and I am pleased to say I now have Dual Citizenship. It took two trips to Charlotte and hours of swatting the questions I could have been asked and a mountain of paperwork. The 100 questions that could have been asked depended on how long you had lived in the USA and how old you were at the time of the interview. I was fortunate as I was only going to be asked 10 question. I got the first 6 correct and passed. Reading and writing English and a few other tasks were also on the list. The ceremony was attended by 44 people which consisted of people from 27 countries who stood up as their countries were mention. I of course was last being UK. Staying overnight at hotels as the drive to Charlotte with multi highways, overpasses and bad signage. As my interviews were early morning it made it easier staying overnight as it was a long drive. I went on my own as the stress level would have been too much for Linda.

Linda stopped painting a while back so we are clearing out all of the Canvases, frames and other items. We put an ad out and got a few people come look and buy and the rest we will donate to the Barking Basement (Our SPCA shelters shop in Town) and they will be able to assist the animals when they sell the items. We support the local SPCA and we dropped off another load a few weeks ago.



We were saddened by the death of Chris Smith, who I went to York Art School and Lived in London in a flat, worked with and always came to the reunions I held when we got back to York and London. I have been in touch with Anne and his son Ben after this sad event. Foxy has also gone through a difficult time after being in hospital in Crete for about 3 months. He has finally gone home under supervision of a good helper called Devi who is well qualified. I keep up with them on Messenger and sent him all our best for a full and fast recovery.

We haven't won the Lottery even though we buy tickets every week. Mind you what would we do with a Billion Dollars. I suppose I could buy a Hotel and run for President!

We send you all Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and fruitful New Year.