

Christmas Letter 2025



It's the last week in November, as I start to write this year's Christmas letter. There's been quite a heavy overnight frost, but recently, we've had some really nice sunny days, with blue skies, which is much better than the heavy rain (delivered courtesy of storm Benjamin in October). Fortunately, on the day I picked to organise a walk for the local [NT supporters' group](#), it stayed fine. You can read about it [here](#) (see page 35).



In January, Edward and I were invited to a BOS (British Origami Society) strategy meeting in Colchester. It was a constructive meeting, but it's a long journey, which wasn't helped much, when a speeding BMW driver pulled immediately in front, sending a piece of grit into my windscreen! Fortunately, the resulting chip was on the passenger side, and so it was able to be repaired.

In March, Ed organised an [Origami Convention](#) in Milton Keynes, which was well attended, with Ed's friend [Evan Zodi](#) attending as a special guest. Ed travelled to London to meet Evan, do some sightseeing, and take in a West End show. They got tickets to see [MJ the Musical](#), and were most impressed, so much so, that Ed and I are planning to see it for my birthday in January. Evan then stayed with us for a few days, prior to the convention, to do some local walks and visits, which included a day at Alton Towers. We were back at [Colchester](#) again in September, where Ed and I were presented with [an award](#), in recognition of our contribution to BOS.

In June, we decided to go to Italy, on an all-inclusive late booking, to a nice hotel just across the bay from Sorrento. The pool was a really nice place to cool off, and each evening we saw some wonderful sunsets. Our main excursion was by train to Herculaneum (near Pompeii). We took a guided tour around the excavated town and harbour, where hundreds perished, trying to escape the advancing pyroclastic flows. Much of it is very well preserved, with some wonderful mosaics. Richard and Victoria looked after Guinness whilst we were away, and then they took a holiday themselves, to Bude. It's always good to take a holiday before the schools break up!

At the beginning of August, I met up with cousins on my side of the family, when my sister Elaine and I attended my uncle Denis' funeral. My uncle led a very full and interesting life, and lived to be almost 98. So, although it was a sad occasion, it was nice to hear the tributes from John, Jill and Heather. It just seems a shame that we only ever seem to meet up on such occasions.





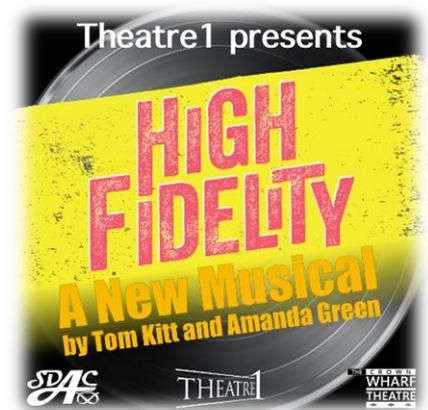
In October, I delivered my 'History of UK Telecommunications' talk to the NWR group, that Alison once belonged to. Looking back on my career of 40 plus years, it's amazing to realise just how much technology changed over that time. Ed also gave his 'Crafting with Digital Cutters' talk for a second time, this time to a WI group that meet in the same hall as the NT supporters (where he'd delivered it previously).

This month, we went to another musical production at the Crown Wharf Theatre; [Songs for a New Decade](#), which was mainly Broadway

shows, some of which we weren't familiar with. In July this year, we went to see 'High Fidelity', which was also good, but featured different songs to the film version, prompting us to watch the film again. We're so lucky to have this facility on our doorstep, and it's run entirely by volunteers.

Most recently, Edward decided to replace his basic Creality 'Ender-3 V3 SE' 3D printer, with an all singing, all dancing, Bambu Labs 'H2D' (approximately the size of an oven, plus accessories) which incorporates a laser cutter, amongst other things.

Fortunately, there is a corner in Richard's old room, where we can install it (complete with its smoke purifier). So far, he's 3D printed several pandas, as he can now print with two filaments simultaneously... quite clever really, I suppose 😊. He's also printed out some more useful items, including several nifty toolboxes and cases, to store all of the accessories. In the meantime, we just need to find somewhere to store all of the packaging!



I'm currently putting the questions together for our ALRA [Christmas Quiz](#) at the local cricket club, which is always good fun. And, as usual, we'll be back there again on 31st December, to see in the new year. December is already looking busy, with various Christmas meals and outings. We're planning to head back to Nottingham, to visit Alison's cousin Geraldine, with her daughter Sara, just before Christmas. And, we'll probably also visit the Christmas market, before going to the carol service at Attenborough. Now, I really must get our Christmas cards written and posted!

All that remains, is for me to wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2026.

Nigel, Edward & Family



P.S. For a PDF version of this letter, go to: holmelee.co.uk/xmasletters.