

### Greetings from the Hawkers' Garden!

I'm not sure if the same can be said for Debbie and Dave, but for me 2018 has been quite eventful!

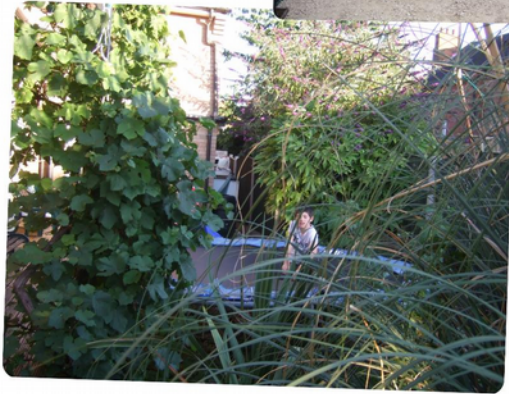
They bought me on the promise that I was low maintenance. After twelve years of neglect, Dave finally paid me some attention, for most of the cold winter of 2018.



2006



I can't say he had it easy. He bears the scar, after a tip trip with my clippings which saw him passing out instead on his way to A&E.



2018

I was hoping for a long and meaningful friendship. But to my disgust, apart from a few water fights etc (photos not suitable), Dave spent most of the hot summer indoors dealing with GDPR, a kind of confused anagram of garden. GDPR doesn't cover friends and family, so you are not invited to read a privacy policy.



I had my revenge.

Dave planted garlic, peppers, broccoli, pak choi, beans, kale, courgettes, sweetcorn, mint, basil, coriander. I gave him a tomato bush and woody nightshade (not baby red peppers, as Dave discovered after tasting one).

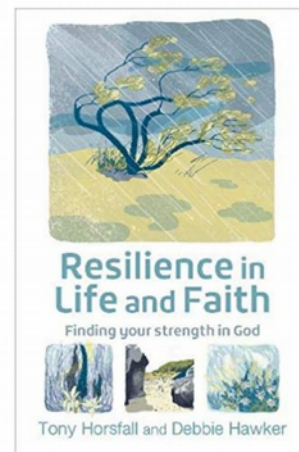
He's hardly doing better in the kitchen. Here's a "loaf" of bread he made this year.



Despite GDPR making Debbie think of giving up, she and Dave continued their work supporting mission workers around the world (please ask them if you want to know more). With colleagues she launch BPS guidelines on supporting refugees. She helped organise the Global Member Care Network conference in Ecuador for 250 participants, where she enjoyed a trip to the equator, or el ecuador, as they say in Spanish.



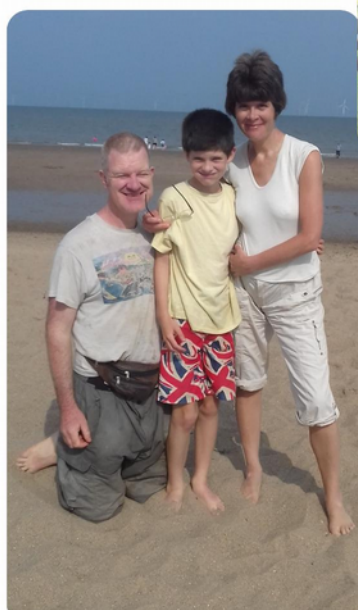
Debbie's latest book, written with Tony Horsfall, is due out in March - 'Resilience in Life and Faith: Finding your strength in God', published by BRF. Please get in touch with Debbie if you would like a retreat or a presentation about resilience. Please get in touch with me to ask how to be a resilient garden.



To the Hawkers' delight, Jamie's junior school teacher won School Worker of the Year in a national competition! Thank you to everyone who voted. I demand a People's Vote on the Garden.



Jamie was busy surviving SATs, starting secondary school, and reading a lot. He enjoyed wild camping in Dartmoor, a Lake District holiday with aunts, going down a coal mine, and especially trips to see his cousins and other friends and family.



Sometimes Dave even opens his eyes in photos Gardens aren't very good at Christmas. Easter: now there's another story. In 2019 may you find hope springing from despair.

With love from Debbie, Dave, and Jamie Hawker, and myself, their hopeful garden.

