

# PETS' MEWS

The MewsPaper for Instagramming Pets, Plushies and their People

## Lockdown Life

by @[misterfish511](#)

*Hello Friends of Plushiestan! When Miss Tippy Bose approached us to ask us to write an article about "Life in Lockdown" we had absolutely no idea where to begin, so we will have to take you all the way back to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 for this one.. We also suggest making a cuppa tea, or something stronger, before reading this as D.A.D. does have a tendency to waffle...*



In short, "Storm Dennis" was announced on the weather, literally days after Storm Ciara battered the UK, so one of our friends created an IG Chat Group was set up with around 15 other UK Plushies to talk about the weather... unbeknown to the creator of the group, we are amateur meteorologists with 30 years experience so was able to explain who would be affected, how strong the winds would be and timings of when it would push through. After the storm, we all got



to know one another; sharing photos; thoughts; you know, all the personal stuff and chatted every day, even when we went on holiday til early March 2020, we all spoke every day...

Not long after we returned, the UK went into its first National Lockdown... There was immediate shock; turmoil; disbelief; no going out; everything was closed and overnight, the world was a different place. What did happen though, was short of miraculous. The friends that we had spent a month getting to know, became the most important support network... there were key workers within the group struggling with the new daily lives of dealing with a pandemic; people were furloughed not knowing what to do or where to go next and all our lives were literally turned upside down by the new rules and regulations "Stay Home! Stay Safe!"



And Doyka really is a SuperCow, because she's managed to translate this month's issue! Благодаря Дочке @doyka and hedge, газету Pets' Mews теперь можно читать на <https://www.travelswithmycat.com/?p=2366!>

Hello Everyone,

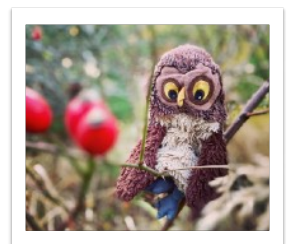
Welcome to the first issue of Pets' Mews for 2021. We're so happy to see you here.

We can't wait to share a little of what's been going on in the Plushie Community with you, and are always looking for new articles and photos, so please get in touch if you have something you'd like to tell everyone about. Take care, keep safe.

Lots of love, Tippy xxx

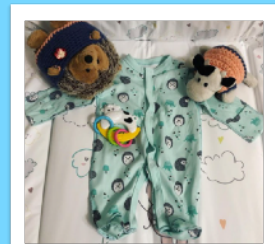


Lesen Sie die Zeitung jetzt auf [Deutsch](#) dank unseres Freundes @[ausruheulen](#).

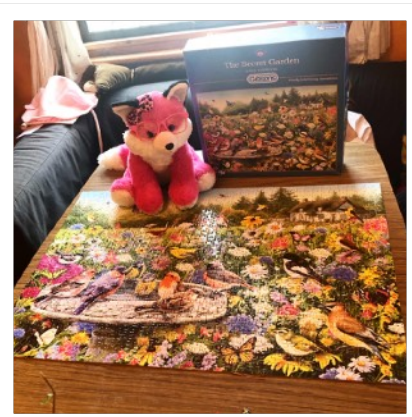


\*\*\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\*\*\*

Huge congratulations to Pets' Mews' very own Doyka & Hedge who have become Plushie Sister and Brother. Wishing them and MaPa & Baby every happiness!



This group of friends that we had never met, were our own little "Support Bubble" and we would make each other laugh, say silly things, ask how everyone is, be daft, have drinks or even get drunk online together. It didn't matter whether we'd actually got up and got dressed (that was a big one for us!) but most importantly, care for one another and help each other get through the darkest of days... We'd never known what to was like to be told "No! You cannot go fishing!" as that was the first place that we wanted to run away to through April, it was horrible for us; it was horrible for everyone, but with our UK Plushie friends IG "Support Bubble", the new love and care that we were giving and receiving, anything seemed possible... Mental health and anxiety was a big thing for us at the time, D.A.D had never had to worry about things like that, but we had a horrid April 2020 and learned a lot and understood exactly what it was like for those that suffered in silence, which was a real turning point for us and for the rest of the group, as all of us really did start to wear our hearts on our sleeves and talk about everything and anything; good and bad... we learned so much about ourselves as well as what it meant to have to deal with hidden illnesses that are not visual to outsiders looking in, and for that, we are grateful.



In May, the "Plushie Puzzle Exchange" started where we were encouraged to receive a puzzle, complete it and then get every plushie in your family to sign a piece each (91 in our family at the time) and send it on to the next family of plushies... This was a brilliant concept and embraced that

idea and was very definitely another highlight of the Summer of 2020... Yes, we know we still have 2 to do, but we have been quite busy lately...

We were still suffering anxieties and fears about whether to look for work as the infections rates dwindled in June, but we were encouraged to learn a new craft to take our mind off the worries that we were experiencing to keep our minds busy. The subject of knitting was brought up, so we decided to tell the group that D.A.D used to knit 10 inch squares when he was at Junior School in 1984 to help make blankets for the "Feed the World" and "Famine Relief" fundraising campaign to keep the children warm at night. Well, we decided to get onto You Tube and relearn this, so, during June, we made a few squares but they were taking ages to knit; so the subject of crocheting was brought up. We had never done this in our lives, but after being told it was "easy peasy" we got a couple of crochet hooks and some yarn from Hobbycraft and started

crocheting chains, then flat squares, then granny squares just to get used to holding the wool and learning the stitch types. We did keep it all really simple though, but by October, we felt confident enough to try and knit a mini beanie hat with a bobble, which looked alright, but took ages and we knew that crocheting was likely to be quicker. We then came across a "Crochet Star" pattern that we felt would be great to make and send some out to our friends for Christmas; the first one took 5 hours and over time, we eventually got it down to about ½ an hour, but found the whole thing very therapeutic. We are now at a stage where we are going to crochet Easter Eggs, but haven't actually started that challenge yet, after all, it's still only January!



To close the article, and to try to stop the waffling, we learned so much from our luvverly group of friends in that you have to only do what you can, not what others expect you to do; don't overdo it; if you only do one thing in a day, then that should be to make yourself a cuppa tea; try not to beat yourself up if you really aren't coping with all the trials and tribulations that life is throwing at you; but most importantly "FORGIVE YOURSELF"...

We would like to thank each and every Key Worker and anyone that has put their health at risk across the whole of Plushiestan for all of the outstanding work that you have done over the last 12 months and will continue to do as we head deeper into trying to eradicate this vicious virus affecting the whole world; we are all eternally grateful and acknowledge the heartbreaks you've seen as well as the mental anxieties and stresses that you are having to deal with on a daily basis. xx



## Good Mews Photos

It's been an eventful start to the year, and here we see [@stiepanou\\_1\\_hippo](#) putting on his mittens (top left) and [@candy\\_and\\_the\\_jolly\\_mahs](#) getting ready for the new era in style (top right). Then, we have [@huhni\\_world](#) (bottom left) in a wonderful igloo, and [@deborahmargarethededgehog](#) and [@mlinddolls](#) (bottom right) enjoying the small snow squall on the way to work.

