

Ella's Flat Stanley goes to England

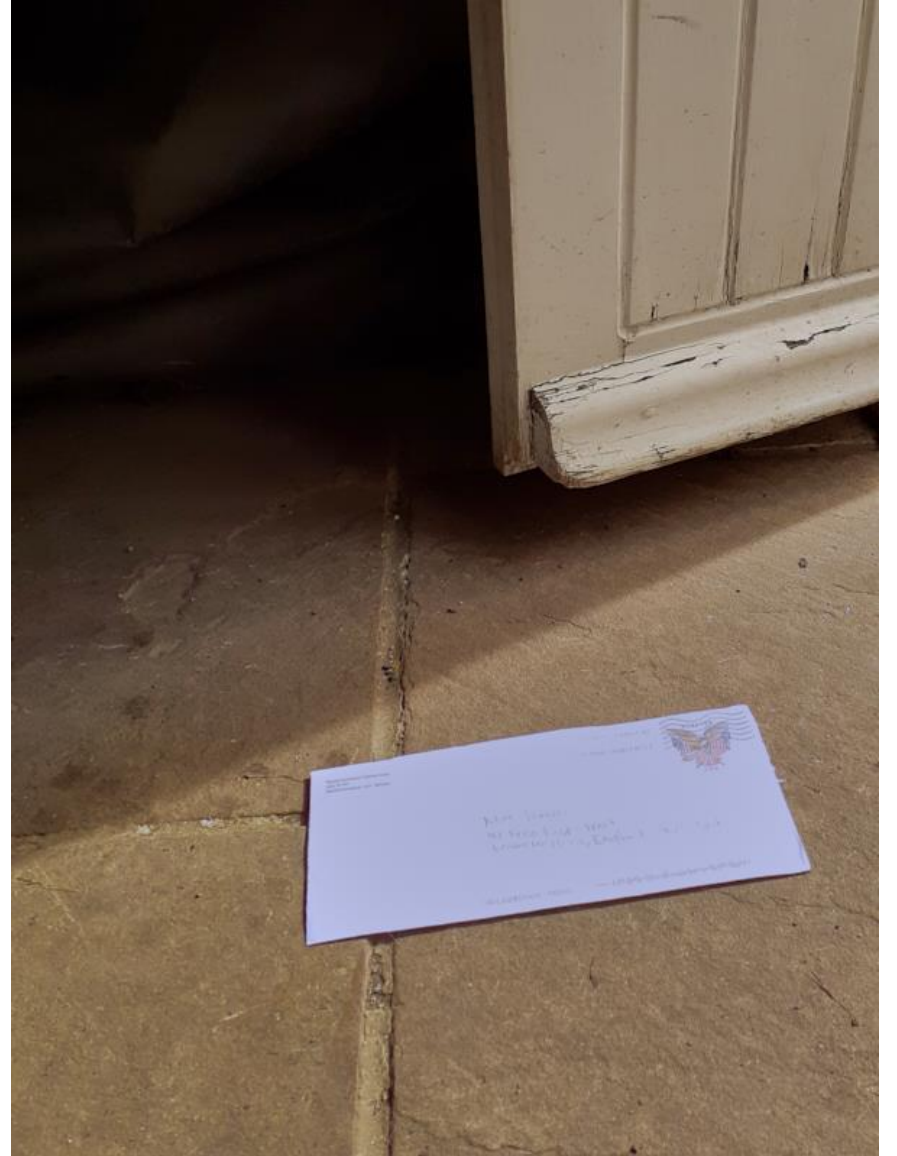
March-May 2020

Dear Ella

Thank you for sending me to visit
Klint and Amanda Janulis.

I have had a great time, though it
wasn't quite what we all
expected!

The postman put me through
their letterbox on a lovely sunny
day...



I was a bit “squished” up when I arrived, but I soon stretched myself back to normal...



I realised something was a little strange...

The house seemed almost empty.

Only inside the door was a pile of big “flat-packed” boxes...

Later on, they would grow to take a lot of things. While they were thin, like me, I decided to try climbing on top of them.



After a while, I started to feel a little hungry.

So I found the kitchen and looked inside their refrigerator...

But it was empty!



They have a dog,
called “Ringo”.

But I figured they
had left in a
hurry, because
he had left his
bowls behind!

(Don’t worry... I
wasn’t THAT
hungry!)



I heard some noises, so went to see what was happening...

A man had come to pack Klint and Amanda's things to send them back to Kansas...

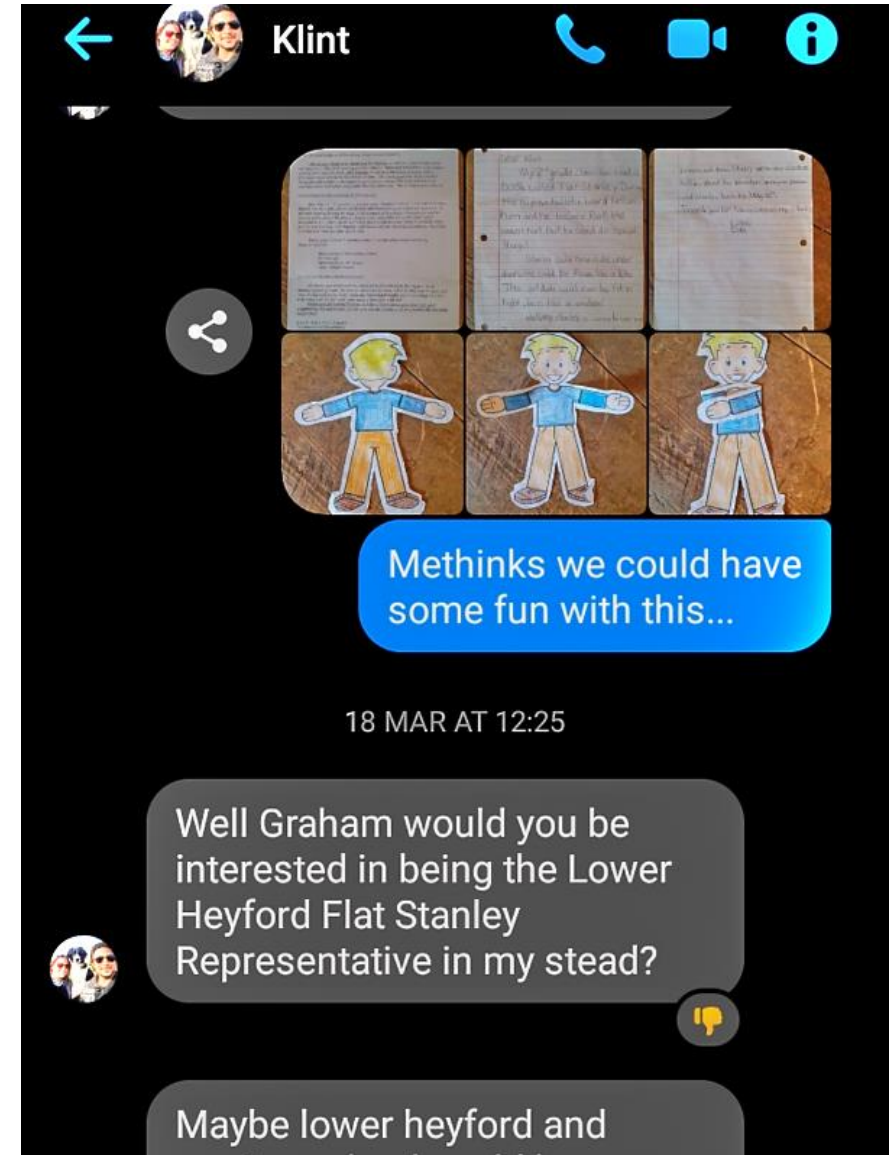


The man with the van told me to ask the people who lived next door what I should do.

Their names were Gilli and Graham.

And they sent a message to Klint.

Who asked them to look after me!

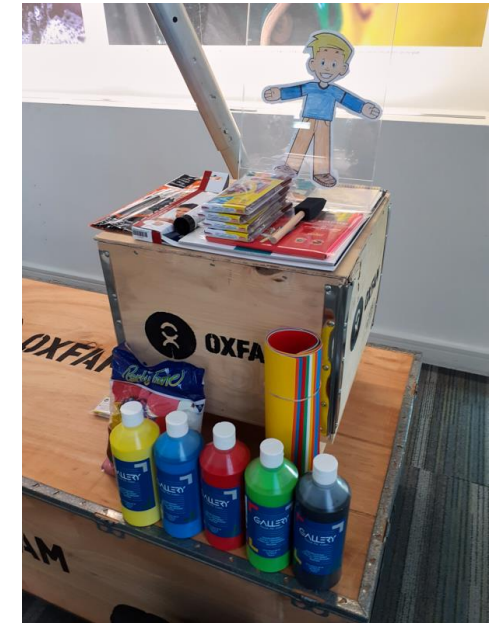
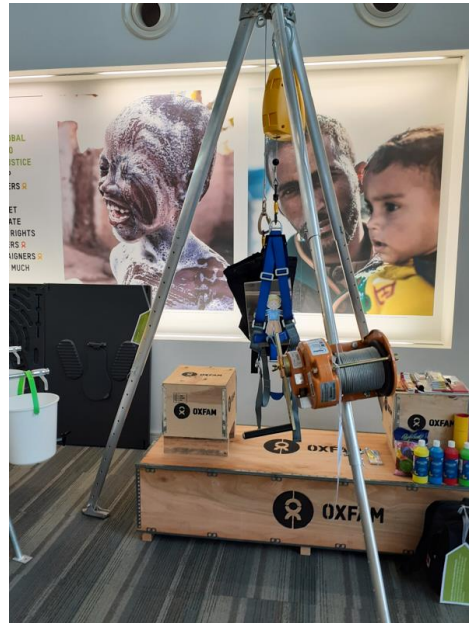


You will have heard of this horrid virus that people have caught. Well, Klint, Amanda, and Ringo had left in a hurry, because they heard that everywhere was going to be “locked-down”.

Just before this happened, Graham took me to meet some other flat people!



These new friends are engineers. They work for a charity called “Oxfam”. I met them just before they flew to Africa. They were going to make wells, so that people in very poor villages could get water to wash and cook and drink. They let me try their cradle, and we packed some paints and drawing things for the children in the villages.



Because we couldn't travel far, we went for lots of walks and saw lots of interesting things.

Right behind Klint and Amanda's house, there is a canal. It is 250 years old and is full of water. There are bridges to let people, cows and sheep across...

This is called a "lift bridge" because it lifts up to let boats through.



The canal is very flat, but the land isn't. So, every few miles there are "locks", which hold the water back, while boats go up and down.

The boat goes in one end. The gates are closed, then water pours into the middle. As it rises, the boat comes up. Then, when the water inside the lock is the same height as the water outside, the gate is opened and the boat can leave.



This is an old bridge. It let horses and carts cross the canal.

Every bridge has a number. This is number 204.

Only one boat could go through the bridge at a time.



There are two types of boat on the canal.

People live on these ones... they are called “narrowboats”, because they are... not very wide!



The other kind of boat is a “working boat”. People used to live on these too, but not any more.

This one was being used to repair the canal.

Don't tell the men that I jumped on board!



Beside the canal
are some VERY
old buildings.

Here you can see
a farmhouse, with
a church behind
it, and a long barn
on the right.

These buildings
are 800 years old!



On one of our walks, we came across this old house. It was very big, with its own lake.

It is called a “manor house”, and used to be lived in by a “lord of the manor”.



I asked Graham if I could go for a swim, but he didn't think the people, who live there now, would like that...





We went to the railway station...



...but the trains were very fast!

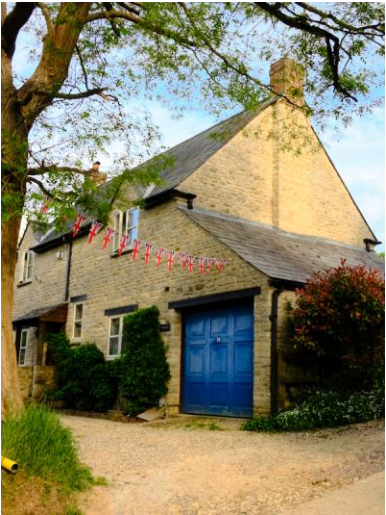
We made friends with some rare cows... They are called “English Long Horns”.

These ones were still babies so they didn't have very long horns at all!

Look closely, their names are on their ears...



Just before I had to fly home, people in Britain spent a day remembering a big war which finished 75 years ago. You will learn about this one day, and can explain it to me. They hung flags and bunting on their houses...



When we got home, there was more bunting... but it was for me! Gilli and Graham had cooked us sausages and beans and rice, for a goodbye supper!



So, thank you, Ella for sending me here. I have had great fun, and there's so much more to see.

Gilli and Graham say that I am welcome any time!



By the time you get this, I will be catching a flight home! I'm going to Klint and Amanda first, and they will make sure I get to you safely.

Xx Flat Stanley!