

2012 – The Rodgers' View

And so, as Christmas steams into view over the horizon an eventful year draws to a close. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics proved we can still put on a show to impress and/or baffle the world; though you can't help thinking someone should have told Paul McCartney to quit while he was ahead. And as for the weather; well, don't get me started...

But on to more important matters.

Ian & Lynne have become proud Grandparents, and therefore officially 'venerable'. Ben & Heather's daughter **Adia Francesca** was born in May. She arrived obligingly on Susie's birthday, thus avoiding us having to remember another date. Obviously, she can do no wrong and Ben's complaints about sleepless nights, endless nappy changing, etc. etc. fall on deaf ears. Whenever we babysit she goes out like a light, right on cue, and sleeps soundly all evening!



We decided to holiday in the UK this year, in the fond hope that this summer couldn't be as bad as the last one. Big mistake! We thought Cornwall would be nice, and we've never been there together before, so off we went for a week near Truro. On the positive side, we managed to do most of the things we wanted to do, apart from some coastal walking. We visited the Eden Project (see picture of sunflowers) and lots of other beautiful gardens, houses etc. On the negative side, we didn't have a day without rain, interspersed with periods of low cloud and drizzle. Still, much of Devon was flooded, so we should be thankful.

Ian is still working at Fish.Net, but manages to spend 2 days a week working from home, which helps reduce the strain of a 100 mile round trip. Health-wise, all major organs still appear to be functioning, and no bits have dropped off.

Lynne is still working 2-3 sessions a week and looking forward to drawing whatever is left of her NHS pension the minute she reaches 60 (which isn't for a while yet, I hasten to add). Her Mum is still in the same care home; frail but content and slightly bemused by the little baby that turns up to visit from time to time!



Ben & Heather are thrilled to bits with their new daughter and managing the enormous change very well. Ben is now into his PhD in Advanced Metallic Systems at Manchester, which seems to involve torturing expensive bits of aluminium as far as I can tell. He's enjoying it, and expects me to understand everything he's doing. I obviously did a good job of bringing him up to believe that fathers know everything.

Heather has started back to work a couple of days a week, so Lynne is getting some one-to-one time with Adia at least once a week now.



Susie found she had passed her accountancy exams in January, and almost as soon as she was fully qualified she was approached by another firm. So the upshot is that she is now working for Grant Thornton, in their Sheffield office, but travelling around quite a bit to clients. She seems to be enjoying it though.

Her partner, **Liam**, also changed jobs this year and is now working in Sheffield rather than near Birmingham, so he is at home all the time now. I get the feeling they're fairly well settled there now.

Just to avoid any confusion, or unfounded rumours, the baby in the picture above is Adia!

Peter, on the other hand isn't settled anywhere. He finished his degree in Music Technology at Huddersfield this summer with a 2:1. We knew he had been talking with a couple of friends about going travelling in Europe, but we didn't think anything would come of it, until he announced in September that they had booked flights to Florence in October!

After a short sojourn there looking for work that didn't involve serving drinks, the next we heard was "we're off to Seville (that's in Spain)". It seems they had decided to go on a Help Exchange scheme, whereby people who need help are put in touch with people who are willing to give it, in exchange for room and board.



Now he's moved on to Portugal where they are helping to convert a convent (not sure what to), and is enjoying it immensely. I look on it as a belated gap year; all good experience.



So, that's us for another year. And as the Christmas elf of destiny misses the nail of opportunity with the hammer of fate, and smashes his thumb to pulp, and the Health and Safety Officer of eternity demands to see Santa's risk assessment; I see it's the end of our letter.

It only remains to wish you all a joyful Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.

With love from,

Ian & Lynne & the family