

The Rodgers Review: Christmas 2024 Edition

Already in December, it's time to recall our year and let you know what we've been up to, with apologies to those who already know.

We've had 3 big birthdays this year and our 45th wedding anniversary so we've made the most of these excuses to celebrate and get together. Otherwise we seem as busy as ever with grandkids, Ian helping at church with IT and stewarding, keeping the house going and clearing the clutter.



Possibly the best news is that Ian's PSA result is still at the 'undetectable' level following his radiotherapy for the prostate cancer last year.

Peter and Charlotte have moved in to their own home in Tallentire, Cumbria, and have set about refurbishing it. Peter was delighted to get his photograph included in the top 201 of the International Landscape Photographer of the Year 2024. Click [here](#) for a better view.

In January we visited Ian's sister, Anne, and brother-in-law, John, in Lee-on-the-Solent. We were able to help out as well as enjoying their company and the mild weather on the south coast. This trip was followed by a stint of child minding while Ben and Ruth had a short break in Cumbria, we had a good time with just 2 of their brood (Adia and Heath), made much easier as they were in school that week.

John, unfortunately, had a bad fall just before our next visit south in March. He was in hospital and sadly passed away during our stay with Anne. We were glad we were there for Anne and stayed on until her daughter could come down from Oxford.

In April we had a lovely two weeks in Madeira which was very relaxing. Ian noticed that going uphill wasn't as easy this time; something that doesn't get tested out in Southport. Shortly after our return, we gathered with Anne and John's family and friends for his funeral in Porchester. A sad occasion, but good to be together. We met John's son David and family, who live in America, for the first time.

In June we visited Scarborough and caught up with old friends who were holidaying there. A good time was had by all and we plan to visit the East coast again. The hills there, however, proved uncomfortable for Ian again so it was a relief to get some heart tests done later that month. The tests showed that Ian's aortic valve problem had worsened and it now needs replacing; this is after 5 years of monitoring. The surgery will be early in the New Year and they will do 3 coronary artery bypass grafts at the same time. This was a bit of a shock but it can be fixed and Ian is well, thankfully, except for avoiding hills.

So, on Ben's 40th Birthday at the end of June we all went up to Brockhole (The Lake District Visitor Centre) on Windermere for the day, for a birthday lunch followed by ice creams at the play area and paddling in the lake. There were 16 of us in all, so we booked ahead at the restaurant and they did us proud. Pictures of some of the grandkids over the page.

July's trip was with Ben, Adia, Heath and Isaac to Auntie Anne's. More ice creams on the beach this time, although it was very windy down there this time.



Heath

Adia

Isaac

Elise

Maddie

July 21st was our wedding anniversary, which we celebrated with all the clan and we were delighted to be together for the family service at Christ Church, Southport, where we had been married 45 years ago. Some of you will remember that day too.

Terrible events unfolded in Southport at the end of July, followed by the riots here and elsewhere. We were moved by the goodwill of people and businesses clearing up and doing repairs after the riots. Southport and Banks were full of memorial flowers for months, the town quiet and in mourning for all those affected. Many funds have been set up to help and gifts made to those whose lives were devastated. It was difficult to know what to do and how to help, and still is, we continue to hope and pray.



Clockwise from bottom left: Charlotte, Peter, Anne, Susie, Maddie, Adia, Ian, Reuben, Oliver, Isaac, Ben, Poppy, Elise, Liam, Ruth, Heath, Lynne

Another trip to Madeira followed in October, with lovely weather and lots of swimming this time (for me), and then another big family get-together in Hayling Island to mark our 70th birthdays. Susie had bravely booked all this for us at a holiday resort there. Everyone made it, and we were able to see Anne too. The weather was mild, better than our July trip! There was lots for the children to do and, fortunately, plenty of room to gather at Anne's.

We've recently had a long weekend in Cockermouth, with friends, and then Peter and Charlotte. We finally managed to lunch on the Bassenthwaite Station Train (previously a film set for "Murder on the Orient Express"). This was the weekend of storm Darragh, so it was a very good place to shelter for Saturday afternoon, and the food was excellent. The wind had dropped on Sunday, so we went with Peter & Charlotte to the Hawkshead Christmas Fair. The Bay Beat Street Band were very entertaining while we browsed the various stalls and enjoyed hot chocolate and mulled wine.

We're back home for Christmas now. Susie, Liam, Elise & Maddie along with Peter will be joining us this year. Ben, Ruth and family are close by so we'll all be able to gather at some stage.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Much love from

Ian and Lynne xx