

## Christmas 2005 Newsletter

Hello All

May 2005

It hardly seems that 1 year has passed since we last informed you all of the events taking place in the Brown household!

My business is really flourishing now and it seems as though I do not have enough hours in the week to do everything that I would want to do!

Yet, it is important to make some time for yourself, and this year I have vowed that I am not repeating the events of last year which saw me working 7 days a week from March to June.

The students that I tutored last year have all succeeded in gaining university places on their chosen career courses – indeed it is very gratifying to see those written off by their schools succeeding beyond their wildest dreams!

This academic year (from September) has just continued from where I left off at the end of June – the work just keeps on coming!

Caroline is very settled in her job. She made the move to work in London some 6 years ago and has not looked back since.

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Helen has spent a year in industry with the Sanger Institute in Cambridge. Her time they finished at the end of August and she is now in her final year at York reading Biochemistry. Meal times here can be quite funny when Helen is home – Caroline now occasionally gets the Science lectures in stereo!

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Caroline and I have begun our studies in French with the Open University. Hopefully in 4 years time we will have a diploma in French, and then we can look forward to fulfilling our dream of buying a house in France! I would consider finishing the language degree by studying German for 4 years!



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May saw Nicola getting married to Jonathan. The wedding took place near Henley on Thames in a rather nice venue (<http://www.luxters.co.uk/>) and a wonderful time was had by all. What I didn't know was that we were staying the the heart of Boris Johnson country!

Photographs of the days proceedings can be viewed here <http://www.medsan.org/2005>

For those of you who are technophobic this url will direct you to my homepages (<http://www.medsan.org>) and the index page for Nicola & Jonathan's wedding.

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At some stage this year I was due to go into hospital for an operation on an umbilical hernia but at a pre-op assessment in September I was told that I had an irregular heartbeat. It is not a problem at the moment, but in about 10 years time I have been told that I will need to take

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warfarin to reduce the risk of further trouble. It looks as though I have had this problem for years and had not known about it!

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### August 2005



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> saw Stephen marry his fiancée Nicola. This wedding took place on the Wirral peninsula on what turned out to be a rather odd day for the weather.

Immediately before the ceremony it was tipping it down with the rain stopping for outside photos. Once inside again the heavens opened. The venue (<http://www.leasowecastle.com/>) was very pleasant and the staff made us comfortable.

Photographs of the days proceedings can be viewed at <http://www.medsan.org/2005>

A fortnight after this wedding Caroline and I set forth for our annual holiday to Germany. This

year we tried a completely different location – Schwarzwald (or the Black Forest, if you would prefer)! We stayed in a hotel some 1300m above sea level. I can fully understand the sentiments of the Rough Guide when they say that this hotel is a blot on the landscape, but the views from the nearby summit at 1400m are truly magnificent. An album (<http://tinyurl.com/e39sn>) of such views is available online to view.

Other places we visited this year included Colmar in France and Basel in Switzerland. We must say that Colmar

<http://www.medsan.org/2005/Colmar>) really did attract our attention. This was one very pretty town, and is almost certainly worth a holiday visit in its own right! Maybe 2006 we see us stay there for a while.

October saw us once again visiting the Dordogne and Charente for a week. The end of October is really a great month to visit this area. We had superb weather with wall to wall sunshine for every day that we stayed. Temperatures there were also to match!

We managed to visit a few different places this year, notably Cognac – now that is a place to see! I must apologise as the photographs from this trip have not yet been added to the website – but if you are interested just keep checking the website!

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As I said earlier this past year has been very rewarding for my business, so much so that I have managed to replace my car (the Omega which I purchased new in 2000) with a Volvo V70 SE. We did look at the cost of the adaptations of this new car so that Caroline can drive it but £3000 is one heck of a lot of money!

Please keep in touch – it would be very nice to hear your news from the past year. We can be contacted by e-mail

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We both wish you a restful and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.