

Christmas Newsletter 2009

Well here we are again writing our newsletter covering the events of the year almost gone! As usual our year was quite hectic and we have tried to fit in as much as was possible.

January was almost a non-event with the grips of winter just beginning to bite! In February we saw the first real snow here in quite a few years, even producing a good sprinkling over our house and cars!



February also saw us visit Belgium again, this time visiting Ypres as well as Bruges and Ghent.



Bruges Markt Square at night

We ventured across to Belgium with some good friends from Derby. The day we visited Ypres we had to drive through the Menin Gate. Caroline spotted the significance of this and I could only concentrate on the road. This is indeed a very sad monument to a war that should not have taken place – 55 000 names of British and Commonwealth soldiers killed in this area. Caroline would like to go back there for a weekend break. Apparently the Saturday evening ceremony (Last Post played by the Belgian Fire Brigade) is meant to be extremely moving.



The Menin Gate, Ypres

March saw Nicola, Jonathan and Robert visit us. Robert certainly has a very healthy appetite and he is growing (up) fast.



A lovely photograph of mother and son.

Easter Sunday saw Nicola, Jonathan and Robert as well as Stephen, Nicola and Ewan visit here along with other family members. A lovely time was had by all.

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Two little handfuls!

Robert was starting to prove that he is not a fussy eater, in fact he will probably eat his mum and dad out of home! Ewan was starting to show a liking for cars.... His dad has him watching the Formula 1 racing on the TV during the season!

The end of May saw Stephen, Nicola and Ewan visiting again. Even in just 6 weeks young Ewan had come on leaps and bounds. He had to help me in the garden water all of my plants. The watering can is just a tad too big, so on a subsequent trip to Chester we bought him a small watering can of his own.



Watering Granddad's plants

I spent about 10 weeks of the June – August period undertaking an Open University course in Digital photography, and as a result I had to go out to take photo assignments. Two such occasions were a visit to Bluewater Nature Trail and another to Leybourne Lakes.

Some of the photos taken had to form a part of a portfolio that was used as an assessment, and I am delighted to say that I passed the course, though probably not as well as I would have liked.



A Damselfly at rest

Early July saw us travel north to Bradford to visit Helen. We spent a lovely day travelling around the Yorkshire Dales visiting Skipton and Bolton Abbey. The day was absolutely glorious.



The canal at Skipton



Bolton Abbey

The following day we travelled across the

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Pennines to visit Stephen & Nicola. We visited a park with Ewan and then I spent a couple of hours do some gardening for Stephen and Nicola – and of course I had a little helper!



Feeding the ducks



Where shall I put this granddad?

The following day we paid a visit to Jonathan and Nicola but Jonathan, if I recall correctly, was not very well that day.

July 18 saw us yet again on our travels but this time to Warwickshire. We spent a very pleasant afternoon at Kenilworth Castle, followed by an evening in Solihull for my cousin's 65th birthday. The barbeque was calling, as was the German beer!! A good time was had by all.



A view of Kenilworth Castle



Does this run in the family?

August saw Ewan (with his parents) visit, and of course there was the now obligatory plant watering!



Ewan and his watering can

The end of August saw us visit Nicola, Jonathan and Robert. We had a lovely day here and young man had found his image in a mirror at the restaurant where we had lunch.

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Hey Look! There are 2 of me!

September arrived and we were off to the Black Forest again! The weather was good and we had a lovely time. The highlights could well have been...

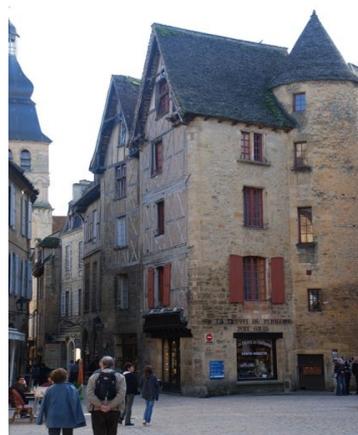


Schwarzwaldkuchen as it should be!



Triberg Waterfalls

October saw us off to France, and again the weather was very good (not like last year!). We did manage to journey considerably further away from the La Charente including a visit to Sarlat la Caneda and Beynac.



Sarlat la Caneda



Beynac

November 23 saw the first birthday of Robert Stephen Hunt. We spent the day at Jonathan's parent's house just outside Northampton. The two little cousins were together yet again and everyone had a very enjoyable day.

November 28 saw us travelling to Chester for Ewan's second birthday. Again another enjoyable day with the two cousins together again.

Photos of the past year: www.medsan.org/2009

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all

Clive & Caroline

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