

2009 News Letter

Once again we are sending our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Rosanna Lintott, who arrived on 16th December, sister for Len, Sarah and Nathan.

This year has been a busy one for attending family weddings – four in all- (three nephews and one niece). These were all very enjoyable. However, the highlight of our year was definitely the last week of Philip's mayoral year in May, when we visited both of the twin towns of Crowborough – Montargis in France and Horwich in England. We made our first trip through the channel tunnel, going with a group of "Friends of Montargis", leaving on Thursday and staying with French hosts, then returning on Monday. We enjoyed a boat trip and a reception at the Town Hall on Friday, a tour round Montargis on Saturday, and attended a "house" church on Sunday. Philip did not understand much (any!) French, but I was able to get by with my 'O' level French! However we did have a translator to translate his speech at the Town Hall.

Then on Thursday we caught a train from Crowborough to Bolton, Lancs, and spent an enjoyable two days with an old school friend of mine and her husband, who is involved in leading Methodist churches in that area. In the evening we attended the annual meeting of Horwich Town Council, when a new mayor took office, followed by a reception. We went out on Friday with the previous mayor and mayoress, who we had met the previous year, visiting the Horwich Heritage Centre, which was very interesting, and enjoyed a meal at a restaurant overlooking a lake. The train trip back was rather tiring as there were engineering works on the main line into London, so we had to go all the way to Southampton and then back to Crowborough, taking about ten hours! We did visit Southampton again later in the year, as a Birthday outing, this time to look over one of the large cruise liners- the Ventura, which was in dock for a day. However I don't think we will be going on a cruise – yet!

Philip is missing running the farm, but has managed to find enough contract work and odd jobs to keep him occupied. One of these has been delivering loads of manure from a neighbouring farm to some allotments. They have certainly had some good crops as a result of it! We have managed to acquire the field below our house, which used to be part of the farm, so we are thinking of some ideas for that, such as camping holidays. We also have a self-contained annexe to let now, for holidays etc., as Samuel and Rachael have now moved to a house in Jarvis Brook, Crowborough.

We are looking forward to seeing Joy and family and the new baby at Christmas.

We see Priscilla with April quite often as it is not too far to come from Hailsham, and Andrew sometimes gets carpentry work in the area. April is growing up fast – it doesn't seem possible that she is nearly two.

We hope you are well, and wish you a Happy Christmas,

With love from Philip and Elizabeth