



Owlsbury Oast, Hadlow Down Road, Crowborough, TN6 3RG

December 2013

It is time to send you our seasons' greetings again, and reflect on another year.

We hope you like the scarecrows above, taken at the local Ploughing Match. Perhaps you can recognise some? Michael was photographed with his granddad, looking at the mole catcher (No. 3) and this was later published in the [Courier newspaper](#). Philip was asked to be a judge for the grass class for the Petworth Ploughing Match this year. He is also back to normal speed on farm work!

Apart from this we seem to spend a lot of time attending meetings, but not achieving much! However we have both found some new challenges this year. Philip is now chairman of the Fermor Smith Charity, which helps needy people in the area. Also a local Christian organisation called World in Need held a concert for their funds and needed a real fireman for a part (not to sing I hasten to add)! Although it's not really his scene, they thought Philip would be just right as he has a uniform he wears when on duty with the council's vintage Fire Engine. In July I was asked to help at a Bible Exhibition at a local primary school. That did not sound too onerous, until I found I had to dress up as a Bible character and tell 'my story' to six different classes. I think I was just getting into the swing of it by the time the last class came along!

For our holiday in May, we returned to Pevensey Bay, but this time stayed the opposite end of the village to previous years. The bungalow was similar and was in a peaceful spot on the sea-front. Unfortunately the weather was cold and rainy most of the week, but we had a relaxing time.

We have gone 'green' this year and added some solar panels to our house, which work well when it is sunny weather. However in order to get the government feed-in tariff we needed an Energy Certificate, which proved to be a problem, because the computer programme did not recognise our house (being a converted oasthouse). Although it is the hottest house in the area in Winter, with wood burner, under floor heating and loads of insulation, at first we failed the survey. However, eventually the surveyor managed to pass it.

The grandchildren are all growing up fast and Len started at Secondary School this year. Samuel and Rachael are expecting another baby in January. We hope you are well.

