

The Notley Review 2014

20th December already?! What about the Christmas cards? Hmm, we promise to be better organised next year! Just a few photos to let you know what we've been up to in 2014...



You probably didn't know we had punk roots, but Laura and I went back to them for Roger's 50th birthday party in February!



At the end of April, we joined Liz, Paul, Matthew and Tom for some well-deserved R&R on Saint Martin in the Caribbean. Nice!

In July, we saw Adam graduate from Hogwarts. He came home for the summer with a first class Master's Degree, but left again in September with one of the cars. He's now working as a data analyst for a 'big data' company in Warwick.

Mark finished his one year acting foundation course at LAMDA in the spring. He is currently training at a local youth theatre company as well as working



front of house at The New Victoria Theatre in Woking. He's now applying for three-year acting courses again. Fingers crossed!



There were a few milestone birthdays this year – my brother-in-law, Paul was 50 in July, and Dad was 80 in August. We had a family gathering at home to celebrate. You may not have seen a birthday camembert before.



In 1982, I went as far as Exeter University to escape my family in Kent. In September, my nephew, Tristan (now 18)

started at McGill in Montreal – 12 time zones and almost 7000 miles away from Liz and co. in Beijing!



As always, great to see all the boys together, even if it's only for a take-away pizza.

And another milestone – one that I would have preferred to overlook – was my own 50th birthday in August. Laura went completely overboard, throwing a surprise party for me on the day itself, and then taking me up to London for a night at the Shangri-La Hotel in The Shard. Dizzying!

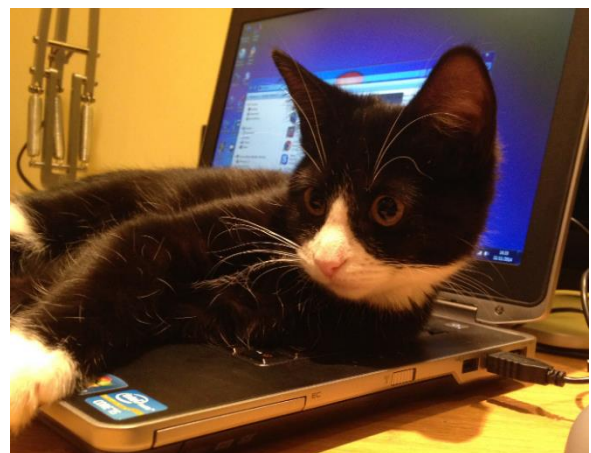


Adam and Mark joined us for cocktails on the 52nd floor of The Shard, and for the theatre ... twice! Laura and I enjoyed a day in London and got to see the poppies at the Tower. (Please excuse the selfie!)

Just over a week later we joined Peter, Rachel and (new team member) Katharine for a walking holiday in Northeast Spain. We only walked about 100km in six days this year, but the high temperatures and difficult terrain made this the most challenging of our walks yet. Never has an end-of-hike beer tasted so good!



Sadly one of our cats, Ash passed away earlier this year. For Laura's birthday, we brought in a look-alike, a twelve-week-old kitten called Kooks. We've spent a couple of months dangling balls for her to play with, and now she's finding it tough to understand why the Christmas tree is out of bounds! Meanwhile, I'm finding it harder to get work done at home.



Well, that's about it, and still time to nip out to the Hogsback Brewery to stock up on T.E.A. and Hogstar for the festive season.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas, and hope to see you in 2015.

With love, Richard, Laura, Adam and Mark xxx

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