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3 Holly Spring Cottages
Goughs Lane
Warfield
BRACKNELL
RG12 2JS

THE INGWELL SAGA : CHAPTER 27

Another year has flown by and its time to say Happy Christmas to you and yours. They say that time flies when you are enjoying yourself so I guess 1996 must have been a great year. Certainly we have had many fun times and the occasional weekend away to forget the troubles and stress of work/family/the economy etc. Incidentally we went to Stratford for our wedding anniversary recently and saw Much Ado About Nothing - it was super.

Charlotte reached the end of her 3 year combined degree course Yippee! She passed with a 2/1 honours and we are very proud of her. The degree award ceremony was a very special occasion and we enjoyed the pageantry, gowns, photo session etc. We also enjoyed dreaming about all the things we can spend the grant money on, now that we are no longer cast in the role of the Paymaster General! Charlie herself does not feel ready for the cut and thrust of a permanent career or even a steady job with long term prospects at the moment - she has opted for sales work (with Carphone Warehouse) and hopes to earn enough money on top of the basic salary to pay for a long tour of the USA next year.

Daniel is now a happily married man and a prospective father. He met Joanna in Leeds at the end of his degree course and they were able to continue their courtship because Joanna's family home is only 10 miles away from our home here in Warfield. The wedding was a delight - the church service was splendid and the reception was great fun. Our newly-weds are now settled in a sweet little home of their own near to Reading so both sets of parents will be on-hand to help with the baby which is expected in March. Wow! You see what we mean about time flying by - first you're an in-law and then before you can draw breath you are a grandparent - the prospect makes us both feel too old so we refuse to dwell on it.

We are both working hard : Stuart has just started a new job as a Project Manager (no change) with BAe at Farnborough (which is not noticeably different from being a PM with GEC except that the pay is better and the holidays longer). Bridget has taken a specialist role within her same school, teaching three main subject but only for 4 days of the week; imagine having every Monday morning and Friday afternoon off - 4/5ths of the way to heaven!. Grandad Sam is still with us and doing very well in spite of being all the 8's (88 yrs young) - we actually caught him dancing at Daniel's wedding.

Our home in Warfield is now a part of a smart new development and we are gradually getting used to the idea of having lots of new neighbours and an enormous amount of extra traffic; thankfully our lane is a cul-de-sac and the traffic does not pass the door. We also have a long garden which keeps traffic noise away and helps to preserve our sanity by allowing us to commune with nature - such as is left in the M3/M4 corridor these days. When it all gets too much we still escape to our little place in France which is very tranquil out of season. We are heading off there for the New Year to recover from the Christmas festivities

Trusting that your Christmas will be joyful and that the New Year holds nothing but promise

All the very best

Stuart and Bridget