

Peace on
Earth



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THE INGWELL SAGA - CHAPTER 35

Greetings to all. This letter is to wish you our friends the Compliments of the Season and a Very Happy Christmas. As you may notice from the date at the top, our preparations get later each year and here we are in mid-December: still not ready for all the festivities. We are, however, looking forward to being together as a family for the holiday (or as much a one as we can muster given that Dan, Jo, Sam and Lorna are basking in the summer sunshine of Australia). Mum will be making the trip by train from her home in Yorkshire whilst Charlotte, (now Mrs Paget), and Shaun, will be driving over from London to be with us. I am pleased that Mum is making the journey - at 84 she is doing remarkably well and is still able to travel on her own.

We have just had a visit from Daniel. He spent a week in England organizing a training course for his firm, and so he took the opportunity to arrive with an extra empty suitcase so that he could take all the Christmas presents back to Australia with him. Jo and the children wanted to come over too of course but it just wasn't possible. The children are now 5 and 7 and are very happy in Sydney. They are both at school and have just had glowing end-of-term reports. We are looking forward to visiting them next Feb/March when they both have a birthday. We miss them a lot and haven't seen them since they came over in the Summer for Charlotte's wedding.

It was a wonderful wedding - Charlotte looked radiant and was a most beautiful bride with Sam as her page and Lorna & Josie her bridesmaids.. We felt very proud of her, and marveled as, together with Shaun, she greeted the many guests and generally party'd from noon until midnight without a break - we are so happy that they met and decided to tie the knot. Shaun's family from Ireland and Manchester came in force to celebrate with us and it was quite a party !!!!!

Life seems pretty hectic here in spite of the fact that one of us is doing just a three day week and the other only does a few days of supply teaching each month. Work on the golf swing now takes precedence over hard graft for us both and with our current rate of improvement at the game we should achieve a club handicap by 2010-15. We manage a trip to France every now and then, but our spoken French isn't improving much - Stuart has been known to use colloquial expressions such as 'Merde!' - threatening to have us barred from the only French golf course that will accept our standard of play, whilst Bridget settles for the occasional 'Quelle Surprise' - by 2010 we'll be cussing like natives!!!

Can we thank you again for all your letters and cards with their annual greetings and news items. We love to keep in touch with you. We shall think of you all sharing with your families, opening presents and carving the turkey and we shall lift our glasses to you and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year