

1999 Christmas Update

Hi and a Merry Christmas from Lesley and Julian.

Well it has been all change for us again this year we have both changed jobs and we have also changed our church! The only thing which hasn't changed is that we are still in Swindon.

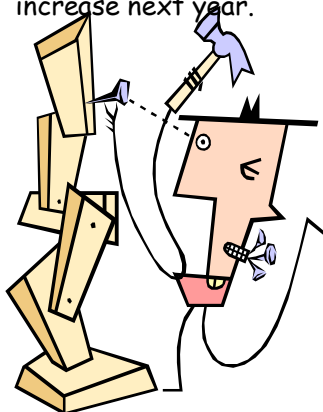
Merry Christmas & Millenium Greetings!

Travel

We have been travelling a fair amount again this year. We did attempt to travel to Lanzarotte on new years eve but after two aborted take-offs we ended up returning home feeling rather sorry for ourselves!!! We rescheduled our trip for later in the month and things went much more smoothly on the second attempt.

Our biggest trip this year was a 3 week stint in California - actually Julian was there for nearly 4 weeks as I had to travel to New Jersey for a business trip and leave him in the sun! We spent a week on the west coast mainly in Santa Monica we then travelled futher north to Yosemite National Park and stayed near by in a beautiful place called June Lake. We did plenty of walking and experienced all the weather the Mountains could throw at us - including hot sunshine and very cold hail. We then travelled south to San Diego for the final part of our holiday to spend some time with Julian's Dad and his brother John.

Julian again has remained at home on many occasions when I have been away on business - fortunately this only happens about every other month at the moment. I am hoping it will not increase next year.



DIY

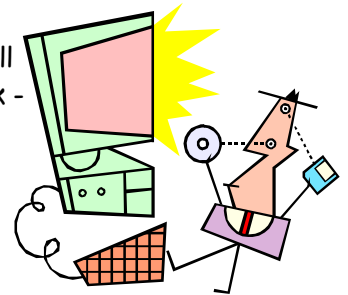
We pulled out all the stops this year and had a loft extension. We have been talking about doing this ever since we moved in (in 1991) and eventually made the decision. The loft is our study and recreation room - to the envy of everyone we have installed a sauna and steam room! Unfortunately there wasn't enough room for a plunge pool but we reckon if we put a slide out of the upstairs window we could use the fish pond for a quick dip!

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Work

Julian and I have both changed jobs this year although we are both still with Lucent Technologies. Julian recently moved from Chippenham to Swindon and is continuing to work as a Software Engineering Contractor. I moved out of engineering into a training role - I am now Technical Training Manger for Lucent Technologies International (everything outside the US). This is an impossibly large task - however I have managed to have quite an impact in a short period of time and I am enjoying the challenge!

I am also going to be working full time from home as of next week - the loft extension certainly is coming into it's own!



Church

We finally decided to move churches this year - we had been thinking about it for sometime but finally made the break. We are now attending Swindon Family Church who meet in a Sports Centre in Swindon. This church is rather more free in it's style of worship and there are many more people there who are our age.

Sailing

We decided that we enjoyed sailing so much we ended up buying a second boat - now we can race each other around the lake. Sailing took up most of our weekends this summer - it certainly beats doing all those jobs in the house!



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