

Christmas 2002

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Well hello again! What a year it has been...

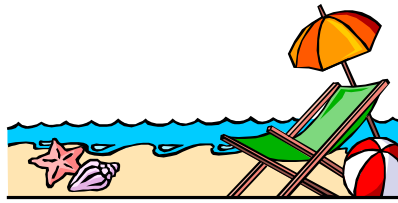
We went ahead with our plan and purchased a property in February this year. It is near Lymington in Hampshire and only 10 minutes from our sailing club. The house needed completely modernising so we worked on it full time until the end of June. Taking a few days off every couple of weeks to keep the house in Swindon up to scratch to ensure that we got a good price for it.

The house in Swindon sold in April and completed at the end of June, perfect timing as we were only just ready to receive furniture. We had been living with camping chairs and tables since we moved in.

We are sending the Christmas cards out early this year to ensure that you all get our new address and the poor lady who bought our house in Swindon doesn't have too many letters to forward.

■ Holidays

Well we haven't had a holiday this year, that has to go down as a record! Mind you, living here you don't need holidays as much with the sea on your doorstep and the New Forest just 5 minutes away!



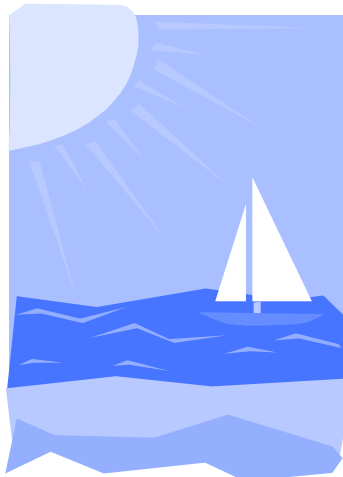
However we are going to make up for lost time next year as we are planning to take Lesley's mum to Spain for her 70th birthday and to visit Julian's Dad in California.

■ Sailing

We got plenty of sailing in this year, which is just as well since that was one of the main reasons we moved here.

We have joined a sailing club at Keyhaven which is really friendly and has a great club house which is always warm and inviting after a rather cold capsized!

We have sailed to the Isle of Wight on a few occasions and to Lymington which is rather more exciting than sailing around a few buoys at our old sailing club at the lake. We did get dragged through the Hurst Narrows (the narrowest piece of water between the Isle of Wight and the mainland) on a receding tide a couple of weeks ago which was rather more scary than exciting but you have to take the rough with the smooth when sailing on the sea!



■ Work

Work hasn't really happened too much this year, at least work of the paid variety. We spent the first 6 months of the year buying the house and then doing it up.



We spent July and August enjoying ourselves, sailing whenever we could and doing a bit of gardening when the wind and tides weren't favourable. Julian has continued to work on the house but ...

I (Lesley) applied for a new job around April and was offered it on the day of the interview. This was to be a Lecturer in Electronics at the local technical college. Although the job did not start until the end of August I started preparing during July and August to ensure I could remember all the things I had learnt at University a few years ago!!

The job has been a complete nightmare!!! I was expected to do a teachers training course on top of a full time work load which was crazy... Also I expected that the students would be interested in the subject since they had chosen the course and would therefore be motivated to work and be well behaved.

This is certainly true of my A level class but the vocational and BTEC students are a bit of a nightmare, they are really lazy and spend their whole time messing around. As a result I resigned just before half term and am counting the days until I can stop.

