



# POTTED JAM

Jane And Mark's Christmas Newsletter – We make a drama out of everything  
Issue 13, December 2009 FREE Outlook: Unsettled

## 'C' IS FOR...

THIS has been another year of challenges and changes as our lives have continued to be affected by cancer.

We have seen family members, friends and their families going through chemo-therapy, radio-therapy, surgery and loss of loved ones.

Mark's mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in May, surgery was swift and the chemo-therapy has been difficult but successful. We still have other friends and family having treatment for cancer and we continue to pray and trust for a positive outcome for them.

Our friend from church, Pip, lost her battle with ovarian cancer in August leaving a husband and 2 young boys. They are gorgeous boys it is both lovely and painful to have them at church without Mummy close by. There was much



prayer for Pip and hope that God would heal her where the doctors could not. It did not happen as we would have wished but we trust that the Lord is still in control.

We know we are not alone in losing friends or family this year. Our hearts and thoughts are with those for whom Christmas is a mixed time emotionally.

Although life is fragile we rejoice that Jesus came as a vulnerable baby into our world to bring us true life. May you know God's peace and blessing this Christmas.



WE celebrated a number of significant birthdays this year: Uncle Peter's 70th, Jenni and James both had their 40ths and brother-in-law Dave hit the big 5-0.

It was great to get together with family at these times for comedy reminiscences, impromptu piano concerts and hedgehog cake.

But here at PotGear our most petroleum-fuelled birthday ex-

citement was Dave's Lamborghini Driving Experience.

"Wooo-hooo Lambobhhh!" – Dave

"It was the best birthday gift...in the world!" – Jeremy Clarkson

"Dave ja vu" – TV Guide



## HEADLINERS AND BINLINERS

### LAND GIRLS

Simeon was delighted that Grandma came into school to tell his class stories of her Land Army days as part of a WWII project.

*It is with pleasure Marjorie spent awhile  
Telling of wartime Land Army style*

*She did relate the farming scene*

*To a class of children, interested & keen*

*Questions on rationing, air-raids, bombs  
and more*

*To answer she shared stories galore*

*Of hatching eggs and cows for milking*

*She worked hard each day without*

*shrinking*

*A medal she possesses for her dedication*

*And in Potted Jam she has earned a  
mention*

– poem by Auntie Brenda

### THE ORDINATOR

Our good friend

Tim was or-

dained as a An-

glican Vicar/

Jedi Knight\* in

August at New-

castle Cathedral

which means he

gets to wear cool

robes and carry a

light-sabre.



The Rev Timms

"The force is strong with this one"

– Jeof Vader

"You'll still need a tray"

– Eddie Izzard

\*delete as applicable

### JET SET JOLLY

As part of his employee representation role Mark had the opportunity to go the Aviva European Forum in Budapest in May.

"Its not as glamorous as it sounds"

– Mark

"My husband went to Budapest and all I got was this lousy salad fork"

– Jane

### BATTY BATHROOM SHOCKER!

Jane's sister Jo and brother-in-law John got a surprise when they discovered bats in their bathroom at home in Northern Ireland. The BBC Life team have been round to film this rare event in glorious HD.

"It's in the paar shaar so ya-ar!"

– Neighbour

## Simmy Lewis and the News

by Simeon Lewis

I landed a job this term as guest editor on the school magazine.

Apart from supplying the jokes page my first assignment was really exciting - reporting on a lightning strike on the school (which hit the ICT suite).

**News Flash!** Reports are coming in that B52s have been bombing Europe and Asia. The Queen and Police have been informed of this Madness. A U2 has been scrambled and the Status Quo will be restored soon.

BTW did you know 121 divided by 7 is 17.285714? Approximately. Check out my web-page at:

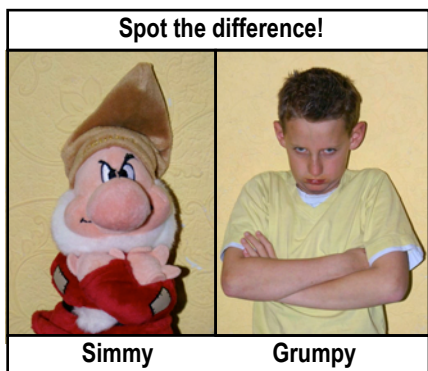
<http://web.mac.com/pottedjam/iWeb/Site/Simeon.html>

**"What was that huge bang?"**

— Simeon

**"Fzzz. Pop."** — the computers in ICT

**"Ach Crivens!"** — Rob Anybody



## BEACH BOYS

By our travel correspondent

**WE had Fun, Fun, Fun this year as we hit the beach in Weymouth (May) and Brixham (August).**

In Brixham we were joined by Jane's niece Jenni, partner James and their boys Rowan and Dylan. Friends Simon & Nicky and twins Matthew & Daniel were also there so we all had a go in the dinghy that Si bought on eBay.

In total there were 6 industrious boys (excluding the Dads – Ed) carving up huge swathes of beach to create boats, planes, space cities, racing circuits, a crazy golf course and a luxury hotel.

**"Excuse me sonny, do you have planning permission for this?"**

— Torbay Council Planning Officer

**"Don't worry baby"**

— Jenni



The boys are black in town!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I am outraged about the demand to repay the cost of my new pigeon loft! I made the claim in good faith and the £3,742 is considerably less than broadband cost claimed by other MPs. Carrier pigeons don't crash like websites or get left on trains. A return to these reliable forms of communication with which we won the war would be a vote winner!

Yours

M.T. Rettorick MP for Barnfield East

## TOUGH BREAK

By our business correspondent

**IT has been a tough year in business and this has had an impact - with changes for both of us at work.**

Jane's 18-month post at York St John Business School was terminated early due to lack of funding. She continues to run Together People and the end of the year is certainly looking more positive than the start!

Aviva was also looking for cost reductions and Mark was offered the option of moving to a 4-day week for 18 months. He started



Our favourite ride at Woodlands dig-dig-dig-dig-ker-chung!!

## TEMPESTUOUS END TO SCHOOL CAREER

by Ethan Lewis

**THE school end of year summer performance was *The Tempest*, I played Caliban.**

It was a musical and I really enjoyed it. At the end of primary I hosted a leavers BBQ for all 26 of my class, in a Tempest-style down-pour which added to the fun!!

As you know I have just started at Archbishop Holgates School, I am really enjoying going to Archies. I have been doing lots of new things since I've been there, including cooking, welding, basketball and sewing.

In my second half term my bike was stolen but with the help of a boy in my form we got it back. It was ruined so I have a new one, like the old one, except it's not new because it's recycled - second hand from The Bike Project!



Let's all have a little drink!

Reviews of *The Tempest*:

- "Caliban steals it" — *The Stage*
- "Mesmerising" — *Time Out*
- "★★★★" — *Love Theatre*
- "Total awesomeness" — *Jack Black*

working part-time in October and has also changed roles and is now the Service Desk People Manager (He's even been taking customer calls! – Ed). Mark is using his "day off" to work with Together People.

Jane is really appreciating the support for Together People and we look forward to see what 2010 brings. Mark has re-vamped the website which you can check out at: <http://www.togetherpeople.co.uk>

The SMALL Print. This newsletter is ©copyright 2009 Jane And Mark Lewis. <http://www.pottedjam.org>. We hope you are feeling wealthier due to the substantial quantitative easing you have experienced and the fact that you now own most of the banks in the UK. We remind you that the value of your bonus may go UP as well as.....SQUIRREL! WARNING: in 2010 GB plc may go Tory or be sold to the US as a Summer House, providing the bankers don't realise it's a sub-prime investment. Potted JAM, a long-time Labour supporter, now backs Moist von Lipwig for PM as he has a proven track record, his fictional status should not be seen as a hindrance to his electrocution. 3 phase power is over-rated, porcelain fuses are fragile and Balfour Beatty are tidy!