

The Fourth Estate 2001

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2001 A Odyssey!

This year we got about a bit, learned even more, heard some great sounds and generally enjoyed life. 2001 weren't bad!

The Real Millennium Begins

The 21st century began on 01/01/01 – no argument and we spent the evening once again as interlopers from Lower Heaton to

Heaton Superior at the Coverdale New Year Extravaganza! This year, thankfully, it was indoors but the wonderful grungy Satin Sheen rose to the occasion with a great unplugged set accompanied on vocals by our own Ali G.



Ali G on vocals

How're We All Doing?

Actually, not too bad. I tried to continue with the jogging and can just about manage miles without stopping! Just as well 'cos it's the Garstang runners "let's show the Irish" trip to the Ballycotton 10 next March. Unfortunately I entered a race recently and a 76 year old lady beat me! The distance was too short for me (honest).

Noelene gave up smoking after 30 years and only coughs fresh rather than smoky air now! She reckons she feels worse than before but hasn't touched a fag (cigarette, that is!) for five months now.

Claire and Carl moved from their flat to a house about a mile away and plan another move soon.

Dawn and Jon are living in Bamford near Rochdale but also planning to move as soon as they can.

Claire still works for cuddly animals at the PDSA and Dawn for less than cuddly people as a Community Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in the rather non-salubrious part of north Manchester.

So Where Yer Been Giblets?

We've been everywhere man! – Ireland (twice), Norway to see our Viking ancestors, Cornwall, Germany (every month) and Noelene went on the school college trip to Florence.

In March we went with the Goughies to Dublin to celebrate Irish culture, art, the scenery and just a wee drop of the dark stuff with the white head! If you've never been, Dublin is fantastic. It has a small town feel with the liveliness of a city. I loved in particular its history and sculpture, especially "The Tart with the Cart", "The Floozy in the Jacuzzi", "The Hags with the Bags" and "The Fag on the Crag".

In April it was across a rather rough North Sea for a short trip to Norway and unfortunately sea sickness got the better of us on the way out! Even in April there was plenty of snow around and Vikings everywhere!

Most of the Giblets were in Cornwall this July, taking Mum to see Rob and his gang in the sunniest weather we have ever had on a visit there. Even though Mum isn't in the best of health it was great for us to be together for a while and we had a wonderful time. There's a lot to see and do in the south west and, for us, the best parts were the Eden Project, Anthony Gormley's exhibition at the Tate, Barbara Hepworth's



Proper Twinning!



Sandefjord Harbour

house and The Lost Gardens of Heligan. They're all well worth a visit and the Great and Beloved Leader followed us there a month or so later, so there's no accounting for taste! (Note: This advertisement has been paid for by the Cornish Tourist Board!)



Later in the summer, Noelene and I took off for Ireland again, seeing mainly the west coast, a bit of the north but spending most of our time in the south west at the Festival of Tralee and the All Ireland Fleadh. Again, the weather was perfect, the people wonderfully friendly, B&B and campsite spot on and the food and drink not too bad either.



Mum in Cornwall



Inside Eden

Would you believe that we actually visited a place called Ballybunion!

At the end of the year Noelene went with the college to Florence (Firenze to us Italianophiles!) and spend almost a week seeing the art of a bygone era. I rather think that she prefers Tracey Emin (ho, ho) but had a good time nonetheless.

Bin Learning!?



In The Green!

The easy bit of this article is that I'm still going to German classes every Monday evening and trying to learn the language. But the intricacies of relative clauses of the genitive case don't do a lot for me and the wheels are rapidly coming off of my

"Vorsprung durch technik"!

Noelene had a good 12 months at college and is now trying to motivate herself to finish the final year of her degree. One of the highlights of her 2001 was the very successful "Origins" student exhibition of which she was the joint Chair. She actually sold one of her pieces and now only owes £9,935 for the course! The whole exhibition is at <http://www.johng.dial.pipex.com/origins>. Check it out.

Sounds Good

2001 was one of the best musical years for some time, although as I write it seems

that the greatest band of all time has finally split. It's left me feeling kinda "comfortably numb"! However, the kangaroos flying over Battersea Power station (Australian Pink Floyd Show) were there to remind us of what we've lost and their performance at Bolton early in the year was just right.

David Byrne (the guy in the big suit) was excellent in Manchester with a blend of his own music and from his Talking Heads past.

We saw "Stan The Man" Tracey with his band and renowned Welsh actor Philip Madoc with silky Welsh voice, perform his inspired version of Dylan Thomas' "Under Milk Wood".

And then there was the one we'd been waiting for since "Hell Froze Over", The Eagles. Even without Don Felder's voice they sang and played as never before with a mix of music from the Hotel California era to Don Henley's excellent album "Inside Job". It was a fantastic performance and one of the best concerts we have been to — ever! And there's (supposed to be) a completely new album on the way.

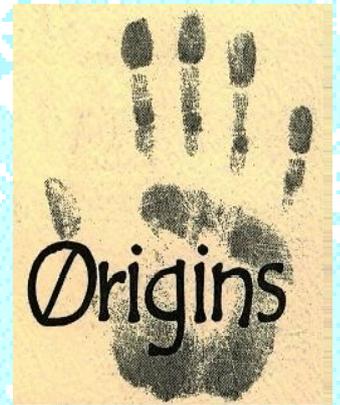
We didn't go to the Cambridge Folk Festival this year but had a wonderful Irish musical trip instead. At the Festival of Kerry in Tralee we saw (Australian) INXS (without Michael Hutchence, but maybe he was there in spirit) and a great set from (English) Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra with excellent vocals from Sam Brown. There was plenty of other music too, including Kila and Aslan (they're Irish!) and Gabrielle!

Better still was the All Ireland Fleadh held at the same time and only about 20 miles away in Lis-towel. There were musicians, singers and dancers on every street corner. With that combination of music, the Irish craic, all day sunshine and a pint or two of the good stuff it was perfect.

There are loads more photos at <http://www.photosland.com/servlet/GuestLogin?USERNAME=gillatt> — password "photos", so take a look when you have chance.

We saw Peter Green, the founder of Fleetwood Mac, at Bolton and the wonderful Yorkshire folk singing lass, Kate Rusby in Salford.

It was truly a great musical year. 2002 is already in the planning and we've so far booked to see Kate Rusby (again), June Tabor, Carla Dillon and Roger Waters (In The Flesh!).



Think I'd Forgotten?!

How could you, when 2001 was another general election year and the Great and Beloved Leader (and US Ambassador to the World!) was returned with 99.99% of the vote

again. Well, the campaign wasn't as much fun as last time but we worked our xxxxx (fingers to the bone?) off to get his local acolyte, Ruth Kelly re-elected for Bolton West in fine style. And what's more, the local Party faithful have selected an excellent candidate for the 2002 council elections — ME! So, as I always say "vote early, vote often"!



Jools at Tralee

Two Wrongs?



It's not that we don't think the US terrorism attacks of September 11th were amongst most dastardly acts ever, but bombing the xxxx out of the poorest country in the world isn't going to solve anything in the long run. Two wrongs don't make a right and fighting violence with peace and tack-

ling its causes are the only way.

Our 2001 Top 10!

Record: "Little Lights" by Kate Rusby
 Book: "Down Under" by Bill Bryson
 Exhibition: "Origins" (of course) at Bolton
 Performance: The Eagles at the MEN Arena,



At The Fleadh

Manchester
 Place Visited:
 The west of
 Ireland
 Home
 Restaurant:
 "Coverdales",
 Bolton, of course
 Outside
 "Plato's",
 Ballycotton, County
 Restaurant:
 Cork
 Event:
 The All Ireland
 Fleadh, Lis-
 towel
 Party:
 The Cover-
 dale Ave. May

party, complete with Italian
 maypole dancing!
 DIY Project: Painting the outside of the house
 but getting vertigo and being un-
 able to do the top half. We now
 have a two-tone house!



A Peaceful and Happy Christmas To All