

The Fourth Estate 2002

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2002 — Ups and Downs

This year was a mixture of sadness and achievement as we said goodbye to Mum Gillatt — May and Dad Strydom — Terry, Noelene graduated, Dawn and Claire moved homes yet again and I walked a long way once more. Read on.....

Goodbye Ma

Just before last Christmas, and after the 2001 4th Estate had been sent, Mum sadly died at the age of 82 after a long illness. She was buried with dad in Runcton Holme holding her secateurs, all ready to pinch plant cuttings from some exquisite garden or other in the next life!



Mum in 2001

Goodbye Pa



Dad in England - 1997

Then in October, again after a long illness Dad also headed for the great race track in the sky, no doubt exacting his pound of flesh from the horses that had let him down over the years!

We miss them both terribly and will do for a long time and, remembering their last years, we hope they're in a better place. Noelene's belief in reincarnation makes Terry is a righteous bookie somewhere and Mum the next Charlie Dimmock!

Clever, or What?

After five long years Noelene finally graduated, getting a First Class BA Hons. in Visual Arts and no-one deserved it more. Her final project, "Contemplating Space", was a two metre high outdoor room built of stone, ceramic bricks and wood with a grass roof and a camera obscura, which featured in the *Bolton Evening News* (fame already!) Although she's now fully qualified to be unemployed, she's been

completely occupied with the intricacies of setting up her own art practice and has already had work accepted for two exhibitions. Look out Turner prize!

1,200 Can't Be Wrong!

The lucky electors of Bolton's Deane-cum-Heaton Ward were given a real treat this May when they had the chance to vote for John in the local elections. As John O'Farrell would have said "things can only get better" but 1,200 realised how fortunate they were and put their crosses in the right (surely that should be left?) place. Thus encouraged they're going to get another chance next year!



Always Next Year!



Getting It!



As usual we got about a bit during the year.

Heading North

In July we headed slowly north, me on foot and Noelene by car along the English-Welsh border following the Offa's Dyke Path. About 180 miles and 12 days later I walked into the sea at Prestatyn, footsore and brain dead, along with Harry and Steph who I'd met on the way. One of the most spectacular sights was Hergest Ridge, made famous in the title of Mike



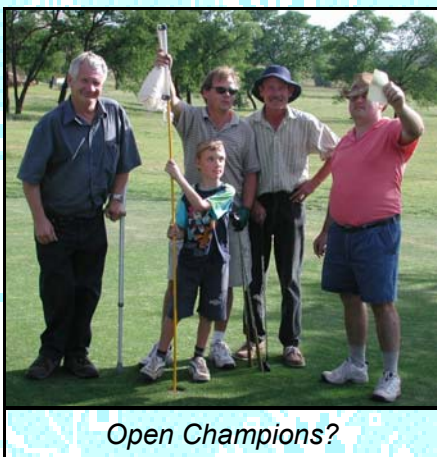
Oldfield's second album. You can see the whole story at <http://www.gillatt.org/offas> — check it out!

I've been told that there are to be no more long walks for a couple of years but I think Scotland beckons in 2005.

And South

Although our visit to South Africa in October was very sad it did give us the chance to see family and friends again af-

We also managed to make a



Open Champions?

Where Else?

Well, in February we went to our friend Gaby's "special" birthday party in Speyer and then again to Germany for Thorsten's "becoming a doctor/housewarming/getting older" party near Blomberg/Cappel in NW Germany. Just as well my German's almost word perfect now!

In March us brave Garstang Ballycottoners headed for another date with destiny near Cork for our bian-annual trip to the 10 mile race. I'll put my increasingly slow performances down to the bad example set by Neil (Bacardi Breezer) Lansom or it could have had something to do with the "few pints of the good stuff" the night before the race! However, we've already signed up for 2004 and I'm preparing for some serious training down the pub!

April and we were in Berlin after a break of 10 years and marvelled at how much had changed. Our visit to Norman Foster's reconstructed Reichstag, especially the cupola, inspired a project that contributed towards Noelene's degree.

In August "wir besuchten wieder Deutschland" (told you I was getting good!), this time to Speyer once more, where unfortunately the weather was almost as good as that of this year's English summer.



Here We Are Again.....

Sounds Muted

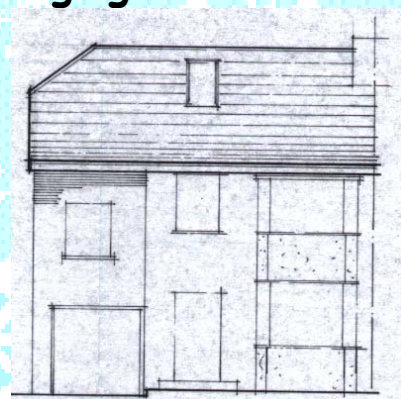
If 2001 had been one of our best musical years then 2002 represented a bit of a famine. Early in the year we saw, separately, the British folk singers Kate Rusby, Cara Dillon and June Tabor and then some "real culture" with a classical concert in Manchester. Noelene "excused herself" from Roger Waters "In the Flesh" but we had our annual "comfortably numb" experience with the Australian Pink Floyd Show a couple of weeks ago and I believe that the Stones, zimmer frames and all, are touring the UK next year. We'll be there!

And Then One Day..

You find, 10 years have gone behind, you! Unbelievable it may seem but we'll have been wed 10 years in 2003. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun! So we hope that you'll join us for a very sober (!) celebration some time this summer, hopefully outside when the sun's shining.

All Changing?

Claire, as ever the itinerant, moved with Carl to a new flat in Bolton as part of the Palace Street Arts Collective and Dawn and Jon upped sticks to the rather up-market Norden area of Rochdale. We're staying put! However, Noelene has managed to turn a planned £200 redecoration of the living room into a major reconstruction of the whole house!



Season's Greetings To All