

The Fourth Estate 2010

John and Noelene Gillatt: 23 Fourth Avenue, Heaton, Bolton, Lancs BL1 4LU, UK
 Tel: +44 (0)1204 843429, E-Mail: us@gillatt.org, Internet: http://www.gillatt.org

"Wot, Still No Christmas Cards?"



Refugees and Asylum Seekers). How about doing something similar?

Goodbye Ma

Very suddenly and unexpectedly in March Merle died, just a couple of months before Jack came along. It was as if nature was renewing itself with one life finished as another began. Those of you who met her in Bolton last year will know what a lovely woman she was, a wonderful mother and my favourite mother-in-law. We all miss her greatly.



Hello Jack

The reality is even better than the promise! June 2009 This time last year Jack William Morris was just a twinkling in all our eyes. On May 30th, after 36 hours trying to escape from his mum, he burst into our lives and has been at the heart of them ever since. "Grandparenthood" is highly recommended and you can always hand him back to mum when he starts squealing!



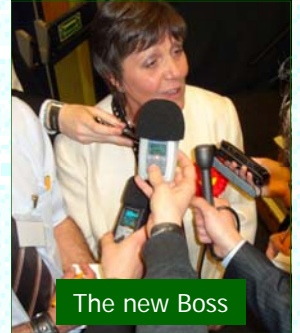
Jack Sprat



4 months later!

Goodbye BEC, Hello Jules!

Just before the 2009 Fourth Estate went to press Noelene was made redundant by the Bolton Equalities Centre and spent some time "reflecting on her future". But you can't keep a good woman down and now she has two jobs — part-time for the Bolton Hindu Forum and full-time as the Senior Caseworker for Bolton West's new Labour MP, Julie Hilling.



The new Boss

Still at It



Just wait 'til next time!

Talking of elections (and you knew this was coming, didn't you!) it was the rest of the UK that really let Bolton down in May. Here we elected three Labour MPs, strengthened our position on the Council and I got almost 2,000

votes in the safest Tory ward in the Borough. Mind you, I didn't win, of course! So now we have several years of this damn ConDem coalition and the greatest attacks on those who are most reliant on the state since Maggie's era. At present I'm making as much use as I can of my bus pass, free swimming etc and keeping my fingers crossed that I'll still be able to retire in 3 years, 6 months, 20 days and.....hours!



Morecambe Bay



Ingleborough

In The Pink!

This has definitely been the "year of the hospice". In June Noelene did the Midnight Memories Walk, in August we did the Morecambe Bay crossing (a trifle "damp" at times) and later the same month I tackled the 25 mile Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. Altogether we raised almost £1,000 during the year, so a very big thanks to all of you who supported us.

Places to Go, People to See!

As the years go by we celebrate more and more our lives past and good times still to come. So it was wonderful to begin 2010 with a long weekend in the Scottish Borders to mark our friend Gary's transition to the bus pass generation. The weather was good, the company fantastic and even Noelene's trial of deep fried Mars bar didn't go too badly!



As you'll have read, we were in South Africa in March, in less than happy circumstances, but we were able to catch up with the family there and spend a little time putting sad thoughts behind us and having several "get away from it all" nights, including jazz in Soffiatown (home of Hugh Masekela). On the way back we met up in Dubai for a one night stand (surely not at our ages!) and spent a night in London to see the rather superb Tangerine Dream. Yes, Edgar Froese **IS** still alive!



Unfortunately no long walkies this year but, after about two years, we did finish walking the Llyn Coastal Path from Caernarfon to Porthmadog and, of course, we celebrated in fine style (it's Champagne in the mugs, naturally!).



In the summer we joined the Lotus Eaters Gary and Charo in España for the spectacular Festival of the Moors and Christians in Almoradi. It was a wonderful holiday, but southern Spain in July for someone used to English summers..... However, when it's so warm, the advice is always to relax and take plenty of fluids and we certainly did a fair bit of the latter!



Next year? Perhaps a return to the Cambridge Folk Festival after several years away and a nice long walk in Scotland, maybe — possibly the West Highland Way/Great Glen Way or Southern Upland Way, who knows? But we do know that we'll be in Bonny Scotland with Goughie, Julie and the Titters at Crinan on the NW coast for New Year - haggis hunting with the locals, no doubt and possibly imbibing just a little of the local speciality!

Zounds, Those Sounds!

This was a good year for music, but quality rather than quantity. We saw the exceptional Fado singer Mariza in Manchester, Tangerine Dream at the Royal Albert Hall, Noelene and sister Helen went to the Mark Knopfler concert in Manchester and I saw another blast from the past (ain't that what we all are these days?) the superb Doobie Brothers. And 2011 promises good sounds too. We've already booked for Roger Waters performing The Wall in Manchester and Eric Clapton + Steve Winwood, again at Albert's Royal Hall!



Finished?

Of course not, but at least, after 18 months prevarication the front drive has been completed. So now we only have one car there's room for two! Mmm, that makes sense!



Want to Read More!

As always we've run out of space but there's more at www.gillatt.org/2010. There's also no room for our Top Ten for the third year running. But, as always, number one this and every year is the love of our families and all our friends — which we send in return to you all.

Finally

If you like our photos you can see lots more of them at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/giblets09>.

You never know, you might just spot yourself in one or two of them!

