

CHRISTMAS

NEWSLETTER

2008

“See Venice and Die”

Who said that? Who cares? Ever since Brenda and I saw the big cruise ships gently sailing past Saint Marks Square in Venice, we wanted to be on one.



This year we did it. The ship left Venice and cruised to Bari in southern Italy, Katakolon in Greece, Izmir and Istanbul



— Coming into Istanbul —

in Turkey, Dubrovnik in Croatia and back to Venice. It met all our expectations and the 300 photographs I took just didn't do it justice. When back in Venice we stayed two nights in a hotel overlooking the Rialto Bridge. Perfect!



By Royal Appointment

Mum always wanted to visit Buckingham Palace but could not stand and walk for the duration of tour, so we spoke to someone (Liz?) in the Palace and they lent us a wheelchair! When we arrived they were changing the guard so the mounted police had to part the crowds for us so we could drive through the front gate. The police security checked the car and then a palace official personally escorted us through the front arch of the palace into the private courtyard. While I pushed Mum into the lift, much to the surprise of other visitors, Brenda was escorted by another palace official up the red carpet, usually reserved for VIPs!



Mum sits on the patio at the palace

Sparkling Career?

Brenda was made redundant in October when her company moved to Poland. Earlier this year she started making jewellery and has sold numerous necklaces so is considering turning it into a business. She is still undecided, but guess what everyone is getting for Christmas? Meanwhile Brenda has started a computer training course to be prepared for the 21st century office environment. Brenda also continues to be a school governor.

Chop and Burn

Jack is doing really well with his Shotokan karate. He is now working towards his seventh belt. As usual he enjoys our narrow boat, especially lighting the fire with the apple tree logs he sawed up himself.



Clockwork Orange

Nikki is now half way through her nursing training at university and was really excited to practice her first injection on an orange. She then progressed to taking blood on a training machine and killed the patient! Oh well, there's always another one waiting in the queue. She has taken up Karate and has earned her first belt and is getting trained by Jack who is a yellow belt.



Double Take & Foliage

Karl and Ruth went on holiday to Egypt again. They loved it so much last year they couldn't wait to return. Karl has worked hard on his garden again this year and it's sensationally tropical.



Karl has started redeveloping our garden too, so we are expecting great things.

Ambition Finally Achieved

Having worked hard for many years, Avon finally recognised it by promoting me to Manager of Disaster Recovery – EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa). They also threw in the extra responsibility of helping out at our other global data centre in New York! Therefore in addition to visits to Turkey, I have been to NY three times this year too. Along with the promotion comes a company car, something I have always wished for in my career. Outside Avon I am still building web sites and helping run blues/rock concerts at a local venue. More details at www.boyles.co.uk