

Christmas 2007: News and Greetings

from Colin and Elizabeth Hicks (and their family) - addresses overpage

Colin and Elizabeth

This year was our fortieth wedding anniversary. For evidence of the passing years, see the photos in the central column. Colin's brother, David, transferred the original Super-8 film of our wedding to DVD – this took Elizabeth by surprise when it was played at the celebration dinner table on a portable DVD player. We don't think we had seen the wedding film for 40 years.

To his great surprise, Colin was awarded a CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath) in the New Year Honours List 2007 for "services to science". So in May Colin, Elizabeth, Rachel and Joanna all went to Buckingham Palace for the award ceremony by Prince Charles (the formal 2007 photo at right was taken at the Palace).

Colin is still President of a European organisation called Eurisy which works to ensure that space applications are properly applied to down to earth needs. This takes him back to Paris (and other major European cities) for various meetings and conferences. Sometimes Elizabeth has managed to accompany Colin on his trips. That means she has to explore places by herself while Colin is chairing the odd meeting or two. Elizabeth has also got into various receptions and dinners including one at the former Intourist hotel in Tallin (Estonia) – rumoured to have had every room and closet bugged during construction.

As last year, the whole family rented a house in France for two weeks in August. The party included all our children and grandchildren, plus Richard's mother (Rose) and Elizabeth's sister (Heather). Our friends, Donald and Joy Bell, joined us for the holiday, occupying the spare room! Once again this year we were in the same village as Richard and Rachel's house.

Elizabeth is now teaching a few hours a week at the school from which she retired in 2006. It's a job-share with another semi-retired teacher so we have still managed to make a number of holiday trips together including New Zealand (Feb), Barcelona (April), North Wales (July), France (August), Estonia (Sept), Turkey (Oct), and India (Dec). The NZ trip was the longest and best of these with the renewal of friendship and family relationships.

In September, Colin helped organise a 50th anniversary reunion of his year's entry to Rutlish School in 1957. His rôle was to track down all 118 people in his year – a task he accomplished in good time using family history techniques, with help from many of his classmates as each was found. It

turned out that (so far) only 7 of the 1957 year had died. Of the surviving 111 classmates, 65 attended the reunion (20 bringing their partners) and a few others attended a mini-Reunion in July.

"We have seen His star in the East"
Matthew 2:2 (KJV)



Colin & Elizabeth in 1967



Colin & Elizabeth in 1985



Colin & Elizabeth in 2007



Our family in August 2007

We are still managing to maintain Monday as our day together and keeping a steady string of holidays and trips in the forward diary. We will be spending Christmas 2007

in India with Elizabeth's sister, Heather. In the spring of 2008 we will be visiting Japan.

Richard, Rachel and Jasper

Rachel is still working at Esher College but is 5% short of full-time – she likes it that way as it means her working hours are more flexible. She was appointed the College's International Development Officer in January 2007 – facilitating international connections, teacher and student exchanges. Richard continues to enjoy his work and is still singing in the local choir.

Jasper travelled to and from France with Colin and Elizabeth during August visiting a very French theme park called Puy de Fou on the way down. On the way back Jasper and Colin went go-karting and ten-pin bowling in a wet week in Brittany. Jasper is now 10 and a real book-worm.

Joanna, James, Miriam, and JJ

Joanna and James are about to exchange contracts for a house move in Beckenham but it will be only just round the corner from their present house. James is continuing his research collaboration with Freiburg colleagues. Joanna has completed her MSc at Imperial College in science communication. Her MSc thesis was "The Storage and Transmission of Knowledge of the Natural World in an Oral Culture". She is now looking for paid work as a freelance science writer.

Joanna took Miriam back to Freiburg for a few days in June to visit friends. Then the whole family went there again for an autumn half-term week. Miriam (now aged 6) has caught up well with the year of English school she missed while they were living in German. Miriam and JJ (aka Joshua) are both keeping up with their spoken German – they have a German nanny one afternoon a week. Miriam is learning to read German.

JJ is now 3 and typically his first loves are Thomas the Tank Engine and Bob the Builder. He attends nursery most afternoons.

The Church Family

When our youth pastor left in early summer, Colin took on responsibility for running the church's holiday club (The BIG Top) for over 120 children with 75 volunteer staff. This year he added to his voluntary portfolio the administration of grants to London Baptist churches.

Elizabeth has continued to be on the leadership team at church with responsibility for the buildings among other tasks. This is very rewarding because we are now seeing the church buildings being used almost every day for community activities.

Addresses and Contact Details for the Hicks Family: Christmas 2007

Colin and Elizabeth Hicks

41 Teddington Park
Teddington
Middx TW11 8DB
UK

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| home ☎: | +44-(0)-20-8977 8406 |
| home fax: | +44 (0)-20-8255 3699 |
| Colin's home e-mail: | cphicks@btinternet.com |
| Elizabeth's home e-mail: | ejhicks@btinternet.com |
| home web site: | http://www.cphicks.btinternet.co.uk/ |
| Grandchildren's web site: | http://www.cphicks.btinternet.co.uk/cphgrand.htm |

Richard and Rachel Evans (+ Jasper)

31 Park Road
East Molesey
Kingston-upon-Thames
Surrey KT8 9LD
UK

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| home ☎: | +44-(0)-20-8979 3559 |
| home e-mail: | r.evans33@ntlworld.com |

Joanna and James Carpenter (+Miriam and JJ)

110 Birkbeck Road
Beckenham
Kent BR3 4SS
UK

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| home ☎: | +44-(0)-20-8676 0255 |
| Joanna's home e-mail: | joanna.carpenter@cantab.net |
| James' work e-mail: | james.carpenter@lshmt.ac.uk |
| Joanna's blog: | http://joscianna.blogspot.com/ |

Note: Joanna and James are expecting to move to a new house in Beckenham before Christmas 2007 but as contracts have not yet been exchanged (as at 2 Dec 2007) we have not given their new address details above.