



Kartonauts prepare for action



Boys with their toys

Go Kart Kids

Twelve year old boy racers hit the tracks

Henry turned 12 in September and celebrated with a go kart rally at Red Lodge race track with seven of his friends. The boys soon had their pedals to the metal and were bouncing off the tyre walls with the best of

them. Henry is now in the 5th form (that's 6th grade in Imperial units) at St. John's College School and enjoying art lessons, maths, rugby and starting Greek. Next year is the big one: He turns into a teenager - yikes!



Alice at the Flanders grave of her great-great-uncle

Some Corner of a Foreign Field

Modern history gets scarily close. In March, Alice joined a school trip to Flanders, on the Franco-Belgian frontier, to see the battlefields of WW1. Besides adding a new dimension to her appreciation of *Blackadder Goes Forth*, she had the chance to visit the grave of her great-great-uncle Joe Shirt at Lijssenthoek near Brussels - one of several relatives killed or seriously injured on the Western Front.



Animal Movie Magic

Henry is honing his skills in wildlife filming: Safari shots, zoo behaviour and even night-shots of fox cubs.

Novel Wedding



Angie didn't expect to be book signing on her wedding day

The wedding of Rhodri Powell to Angie Sage was spectacular, at Falmouth Castle in Cornwall. Angie is the bestselling author of the Septimus Heap books. The second volume *Flyte* hit number 5 on the best seller list and Alice got a unique book signing, while Angie still had her pen out for the register.

Quinquagenarianism



Liz Bailey kicks off the 50th birthday party season

Andrew turns 50 on Christmas eve this year. He is being eased into his second half-century with a non-stop round of partying which he intends to spin out till he's about 99. And of course most of his contemporaries are celebrating around now too. His own party will be a private screening of *Casino Royale* - you've got your invite. It's a big party year next year (when isn't?). Alice turns 16. Edna is 80. Helen, spring chicken, doesn't have her 50th till next May (party planning in progress). Also a 20th wedding anniversary ("20th - that's 'China' isn't it?" says Andrew. "Nooo, 'Emerald'!" Says Helen emphatically.)

Her Chance in Court

Alice is 15 and enjoying (!) her GCSE year at Perse School for Girls - exams next June. In November, she had a week's work experience at Cambridge Crown Court, learning all about drug running, sexual assault and attempted murder. Now that's real education.



Alice tries out the system for giving evidence by video in Cambridge Crown Court



All present and correct

A Family Year

Takes a crisis to pull you all together sometimes. Its been a bit of a family pulling-together time after Andy's dad, Len, had a brief but severe illness mid year. One of those bonding times, I guess.



RANT, Uncle Nick's band, headlining at Flintstock



Christmas 2006

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Family Website: <http://www.dittoncorner.com>

The Coburn & Mulligan Gazette is now available as a podcast... (not)



Trackers at dawn. (Careful with that elephant gun, Henry)

Into Africa

Our safari through the South African game reserves put us within a fang's length of some of the world's greatest predators. Helen's wounds have almost healed.

This Easter, bunnies were too tame. We got on a jumbo and went looking for the Big Five in the reserves of Londolozi, Phinda and Rocktail Bay.

Wilder Life

Spectacular drives at dawn and dusk put us alongside the awesome megafauna of the African savana, getting up close to elephant, lion, rhinos, leopards, giraffe and others too odd to remember the names of.

A short detour into Zambia took us to the magnificent Victoria Falls but Andrew was keen to leave before the Zambians put him back in prison.

Teeth on Land and Sea

Surfing and snorkeling on the South African coast also got us close to the morays and sharks offshore. Boy, this ecosystem has attitude! But the beasts on land were the real stars. With cameras locked and loaded, we



Vomba female leopard in Londolozi game reserve



The lion pride hunts a wildebeest at dawn - a gnu experience for us all

held onto the landrover as our ranger bounced us around in search of everything from Antelope to Zebra. The traditional entertainment of getting us stuck in the mud to irritate a broody rhino, was also great fun. The hardships of the 5 a.m. wake ups were alleviated by the five course lunches and pool-side digestion, imitating a python. The most vicious item turned out to be sharp rocks, giving Helen convincingly severe leg wounds to dine out on, as it were.



Fine dining with the Ostrach family and guests

California Revisited

Back to the Bay to catch up with old friends

August was an opportunity to catch up with our Californian colleagues and the children's classmates. We put on our sandals, rented a craftsman-style shingled cottage, shopped organic at Berkeley Bowl and sponged off our friends in true hippy mode. Thanks guys for your tolerant hospitality!

Alice and Henry invited their pals to a blow-out at a favourite pizza restaurant - tofu optional. In another trip down memory lane, we took ourselves to a San Francisco Giants ballgame in the hope of seeing veteran slugger Barry Bonds sink a splash hit into McCovey Cove. He let fly with a foul pop-up (!) to universal dismay.



The Jolie, Fry and Coburn families get together once again

Biarritz Crackers

Reunion holiday for three families brought together by deep breathing exercises

The National Childbirth Trust was a great social club back in 1991. The Jolies, the Frys and the Coburns would all go down the Flying Pig after a jolly evening heavy breathing. Nine children later, it was time for a reunion in south of France.

Splashing Out

Alice and her co-foetal friends Alfred Jolie and Sarah Fry turned a total of 45 this summer. Together with six assorted siblings (and of course six well sorted mums and dads) we assembled at the Jolie parental home near Biarritz for a week of cultural



Lemming training camp at Ahetze

activities. Dads were thrown in the pool, surfboards abused in the waves, bikinis popped on the beach and many bottles of red wine slaughtered on the terrace.

Super-Heroics on River



Super-heroes first VIII

This year's party to watch the Bumps rowing races at Ditton Corner was a highpoint of rowing spectacle and, of course, millinery excellence. The fine display of hats (thanks everyone) is featured on our website. Celebrity guests and damsel flies enlivened the day, and it was great to see so many babies and young guys on the river bank - super-heroes of tomorrow.



Siobhan shoots ladies in big hats

Save the Date...
2007 Bumps & Carnage Party
Saturday 16 June 2007

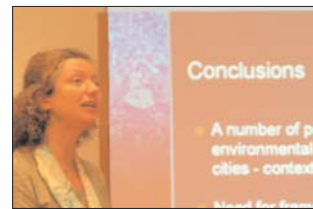


The quick brown fox at Ditton Corner

The Other Family

Another family has also been living at Ditton Corner this year: a family of foxes. It played havoc with the swan population but resulted in a litter of sweet little cubs with big ears (not unlike our own) that trotted around unfazed. It's only a year since fox hunting was banned, but these guys seemed to appreciate it.

We were very sorry to lose our good friend Tony Sylvester, to a sudden and unexpected illness. Our continuing sympathies to Maria and the family.



Helen presenting at World Congress in Mexico

Shrinking Cities Shrink the World

Helen continues to contribute to the work of the Shrinking Cities Group, co-ordinated from the unit at the University of California at Berkeley where she was based during our time in the US. She made presentations at the group's Symposium, held in Dresden in March, and at the World Schools of Planning Congress in Mexico City in July.

Viva La Revolución

The group's bonding experiences continued post-conference with a team assault on the pre-Aztec pyramids of the Sun and Moon, followed by a guerrilla action to regain access to their hotel through crowds that blocked the main Zocalo Square in protest at the disputed result of Mexico's presidential election.



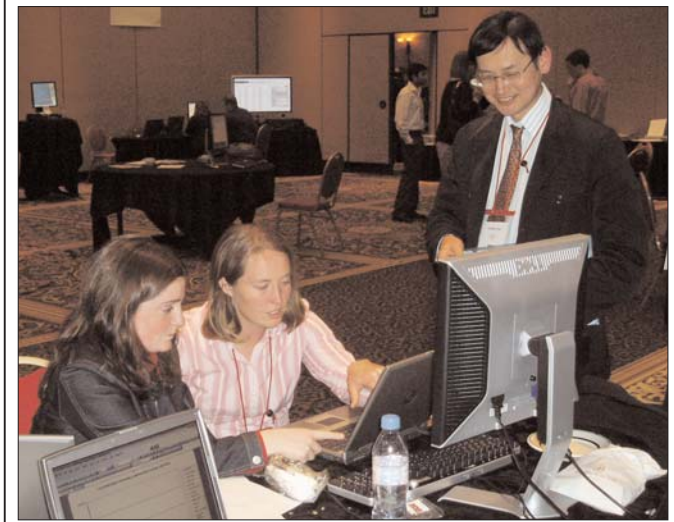
Atop the pyramids of Teotihuacan, Mexico

Where do they get their energy?

The London Olympics 2012 will be a great showcase for British talent, sporting and otherwise. With CAR, Helen's consulting on low-energy systems for the major extension to the gymnasium that's training many of our Olympic hopefuls.



Helen tests out the vaulting pit



Andrew's colleagues calibrate their model of mass demise: Alie Cohen, Molly Sullivan, & Gordon Woo

Calculating the Odds of a Pandemic

A bad dose of the flu would put the world's financial services industry on the sick list

No hurricanes this year (where did they all go?) but the topic on everyone's lips was Avian Flu. Working with some of the world's leading mathematical biologists, Andrew helped RMS build a model of the risk from pandemic influenza.

Viral Marketing

Amazing how much trouble a tiny virus can cause. Some of the world's largest financial institutions have been assessing their risks from a pandemic: life insurance companies, corporate operations and investment houses. The RMS model was launched with seminars in New York and London. Clients have been running analyses of their risk and floating 'excess mortality' bonds on the capital markets.

Warming up

RMS has continued to grow rapidly, with increased demand from insurers still reeling from the huge hurricane losses in 2004 and 2005. RMS updated its hurricane model to incorporate the effects of global warming.

Models of Tomorrow

Andrew has continued to be involved in researching new aspects of catastrophes and exploring areas where new types of models might be of value to insurers and financial services companies. Hot on the list are

liability issues and longevity risk. Could be the big issues for 2007.

And Old Favourites

And those hurricanes? They'll be back. Next year watch out for Hurricanes Chantal, Felix and Jerry. You heard it here first.

Children's Books

Working with our friend Anne Rooney, this year has seen the publication of a number of children's books on natural hazards, including: *Hurricane!* (Franklin Watts) ISBN 0-7496-6924-1.

Volcano (Dorling Kindersley) ISBN 1-4053-0861-3.

and our favourite - the pop-up book: *Earthquakes and Volcanoes* (Silver Dolphin Books) ISBN 1-59223-379-1.

They're available in all good bookstores. Just the stocking filler you were looking for.



Pop-Up Book: A Tsunami rears up on page 16