



Uncle Nick gives the thumbs up as Henry and friend David enjoy monster truck mayhem

## Life in the Fast Lane

### Boys and Their Toys on the Santa Pod Race Track

In September the Coburn lads (and friends) spent a testosterone-filled day at Santa Pod raceway. The fuel-guzzling attractions included back-to-back drag races, a smashing monster truck extravaganza, and speed freaks.

The highlight for Uncle Nick was a flying visit from Eric Teboul and his 247 m.p.h. rocket bike. With decibels and exhaust fumes galore, this day's fun and excitement could only be matched by its carbon footprint.



Henry and David do the 'cradle of democracy' thing

## Acropolis Now

Greece was the word for Henry's first year of GCSEs at the Perse School, which included a school trip to the Parthenon, as well as a dash across the channel to storm the beaches of Normandy. The year concluded with a great pair of A\*s for his French and Maths GCSEs.



New 3D cinema – many spectacles but lacks depth



Henry (16) and his pocket-size grandmother



## Face Fungus

Andrew is suffering a strange affliction of facial hair after losing his razor on an extended holiday. Someone tell him to shave it off!

## The University Challenge

### Alice Tries New Targets



Another string to her bow

Alice (19) is now in her second year reading natural sciences at Jesus College, Cambridge. Her second year is in new digs, with many of the gang she shared her staircase with last year. She is enjoying the pathology module, archery, and the intensive research that is needed to matriculate in Advanced Night Clubbing.



Work: Hair-curlingly hazardous chemicals in the lab



Play: May Ball with friends Helen and Martyn

In the long vacation, Alice was lucky enough to get a summer job in Professor David Tuveson's team at Cancer Research UK. She did a lot of slide staining and photographing, to get a taster of life as a bio-researcher.

Highlights of the past year at University include the Jesus May Ball (the all-night party held in June, naturally) and looking after her own 'children' – freshers needing to be shown the ropes by an old veteran like Alice.



Alice, Henry and Helen with an ancient evolutionary throwback, and a giant tortoise

## Survival of the Fittest

### Exhausting treks weed out weaker specimens in nature holiday

Our holiday in South America saw us following in the footsteps of Darwin by studying wildlife on the Galapagos, paying a visit to Ecuador and then following the Inca trail in the mountains of Peru

Leaving behind a Britain in the clutches of public spending cuts and a Coalition Government, we took refuge this summer in the cloud forests of equatorial Ecuador, the Pacific islands of the Galapagos, and the ancient Inca monuments on the elevated peaks of the Peruvian Andes.

We sailed in a boat called The Beagle round the Galapagos Islands for eight days. It took Charles Darwin five years. We followed his diary entries but ate less of the unique wildlife than he did. Each island has its own ecosystem and species variants, with spectacular scenery and experiences.

### Sharkeling with Snorks

Wet suits and snorkels put you into the domain of playful sea lions, tropical fish, majestic turtles and the occasional time-to-go blacktip sharks. Only Henry thought snorkeling with sharks was cool.

Back on the mainland, the eco-lodge in the Amazonian cloud forest was all exotic butterflies and colourful birds: 5 a.m. plumage viewing anyone?



Alice shoots 'imps of Darkness' – marine iguanas



Macho Picture on Machu Picchu

The Peru Railway to Inca Central took us breathlessly to 2,500 metres elevation, and the monuments of the ancient Inca kingdom at Cusco, the Urubamba Valley, and Machu Picchu. Incredible stone masonry perched on the top of the world. Then like exhausted conquistadors, we collected their treasures and headed for home.



Mutual admiration: triumphant rowers salute their supporters at Ditton Corner

### All Hail and Hearty

#### The 2010 Bumps and Carnage Party coincided with England's opening game against USA in the World Cup

Jesus College always turns out in force to support their rowers at the Summer Bumps, taking over the field next door. This year however they went even further and infiltrated the crowds at Ditton Corner, led by their latest recruit, Alice, who brought a horde of her fellow college mates along. We had more shouts for Jesus than a Baptist gospel meeting.

#### Rowing Up the Division

Sadly though to little avail. Jesus boats could not fulfil their followers' expectations. But now Alice's pals Helen and Moira have their hands on the tiller to improve women's boats next year - they've already got great results in the November novice races.

#### Give it up for Lent

Weatherwise the Summer Bumps were a distinct improvement on the Lent Bumps, which were held during a hail storm. But several proud rower parents joined us on the icy river banks to cheer on their frozen rowers.



Not quite as nice as the Summer Bumps. Hail storm while watching the Lent Bumps in April

The usual...  
**Save the Date**  
 for next year's  
*Bumps & Carnage Party*  
**Saturday 18 June 2011**  
 Make a note now.  
 You know you'll forget later.

The Bumps Party in June had good weather – sunny for the day itself – and some great racing. We had a record number of guests, the booze held out, and so did the hosts.



Oh Mr Green! England 1, USA 1, in the World Cup

The day of the Bumps party coincided with England's opening game of the Soccer World Cup. We held the match viewing in the party marquee that evening. England were due to play the little fancied United States. Nothing could go wrong. Apart from the HD transmission cutting out during Gerrard's goal, and then Robert Green's goalkeeping fumble. We knew then it was going to be a long, disappointing summer. We had no alternative but to party on.

### Obituary



#### Len Coburn 1931 - 2010

Len Coburn, Andrew's father, our Grandpops, and gentle patriarch of the Coburn clan, died in his sleep in October. As a chemical engineer he spent many years copper mining in Africa and loved travelling and adventure. He was a church leader and his faith was a strong element of his life and now sustains his wife of 57 years, Grandma Sylvia in his absence. We will all miss him. And so will the makers of model aircraft kits. He's probably flying Spitfires in heaven. ("Angels, One O'Clock...")



Helen loosens the jesses on Dolly the Harris Hawk

#### A Bird on the Hand

Helen's birthday treat was a day out falconing in Leicestershire. We put beautiful birds through their aerial paces, including owls, eagles, falcons and hawks.



Hemant and Andrew buy iPads in San Francisco

#### iFad

Helen got one of the first Apple iPads and went on about it so much we all had to go out and get one.

### Getting a Bigger CAR

Helen and her colleagues at Cambridge Architectural Research have had a stellar year, achieving a record turnover. The company has expanded and added a structural design group to extend CAR's consultancy capabilities beyond building design, energy efficiency, and risk in the built environment.

#### Energy Use in Historic Buildings

Recent projects include checking how much energy could be saved in upgrading the historic buildings of Trinity College at Cambridge. Measuring the temperature, moisture profiles, air infiltration and thermal bridging helps assess upgrading options: the Fellows wanted to ensure alterations won't hurt their chances of surviving for another 500 years or so.



Holey Trinity: This won't hurt a bit

### Retro Fit for the Future

Helen was a member of two of the winning teams of last year's Technology Strategy Board call for ideas to meet the UK's carbon reduction targets in the existing housing stock. Now, working with social housing providers, the teams are putting their ideas into practice. Both projects will improve performance of the houses' fabric and services. At the same time, they work closely with the tenants to encourage them to make the best use of their upgraded homes.



Renovation project to improve energy efficiency



RMS senior management at their planning off-site, Toronto, Canada

### RMS Joins Top Table with Growth Plan

Risk Management Solutions was promoted to a top level division of parent company DMGT, with RMS record profits contributing to DMGT's return to healthy profitability. The new status for RMS means that for the first time, their business metrics are made public, adding pressure to senior management. Andrew is now senior vice president and co-lead of one of the business units as RMS embarks on a new phase of growth. This year Andrew has led the technical work for a push into a new market of life insurance and pension risk management.



Insurance industry welcomes RMS longevity model  
(Quelle: Thomas Hurn/Adaptator | Published Thursday, August 05, 2010)

New models from RMS find favour with investors

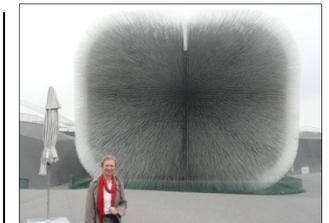
Life and health insurance markets are beginning to embrace models of mortality risk, fuelled by new regulation and capital market interest in mortality bonds. Andrew and his joined-at-the-hip co-lead, Peter Ulrich, have been building a team of modellers and medical specialists to serve this new market.



Buildings that move while you watch

### Interactive Architecture

In April, Helen co-curated an exhibition on Interactive Architecture at Churchill College archive centre with her old Berkeley colleague, Jasmin Aber. Interactive Architecture featured buildings that rapidly change their appearance in response to occupant actions – such as using light displays, moving facades and inflatable components. The exhibits used video and sound and attracted enough visitors to get a second run at the Department of Architecture.



The Shanghai Dandelion – fibre optics en masse

### China Trade Mission

Helen linked up again with contacts in China, as CAR joined an international team tendering for energy advice, consultancy and refurbishment projects in the Middle Kingdom. On a trade mission to Shanghai the consulate provided passes to the award-winning British pavilion at Expo 2010. Nicknamed the Dandelion, the pavilion bristles with fibre optics, with each frond encapsulating a seed. A fabulous sight, even in the pouring rain.