



Editorial Independence

Henry wants to read English at University next year. He got a summer work experience placement at *The Mail On Sunday*, the largest circulation Sunday paper. It entailed moving to London for the Olympic-crazed summer and working in the prestigious DMGT headquarters at Northcliffe House. Henry worked on the *Live!* magazine, learning the ropes of mass-circulation journalism, and getting a taste of living free.



These readers' letters are so brilliantly edited



...and what would you like for Christmas, little girl?

The Graduate

Alice enjoyed her final year at Jesus College, Cambridge. She donned gown and rabbit-skin to become a right old BA. Then she went off to an another medieval institution to do her PhD. At Glasgow University Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences in collaboration with the Edinburgh University Roslin Institute, she is now working in the genetics lab, studying the interspecies transmission of the influenza virus. One slip of her pipette and we're all doomed.



Starting on the doctorate at Glasgow University



Alice and a newly hatched leatherback

Turtle Rescue in Caribbean

Took my wife to the West Indies. Jamaica? No – Barbados actually.

Our Caribbean sailing holiday had it all, blue skies, rainbows, the odd hurricane injury, but also rudely-named rum cocktails, pirate coves, jet ski racing and amazing wild life.

We reached Trinidad in time to help out with the hatchling turtles, saving them from vultures as they emerge from their beach nests and releasing them into the sea at moonrise.

Amazing people, fantastic calypsos, beautifully warm seas, and great snorkelling, plus of course, the famous Parrots of the Caribbean.



"My Grandfather's Clock": Uncles Pete and Nick dismantle the heirloom to move it to Cambridge



Olympian Heights

London hosted the 2012 Olympics. In the opening day of the athletics programme we joined 79,993 others in the stadium to inspire Jessica Ennis to hurdles qualification on her way to heptathlon gold. Great show, London!



Jack & Karen Riley join us at the Olympic Stadium

A Tale of Two Hurricanes

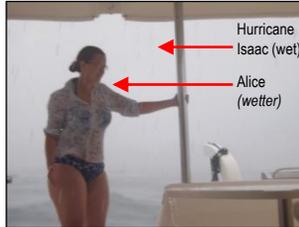
An important rite of passage for the family of a catastrophist is to be exposed to natural hazards.

Hurricane Isaac

Andrew thought it would be good for moral fibre if we experienced the 40 knot winds of Hurricane Isaac while sailing in open sea in a 43ft catamaran off St. Lucia. The mainsail needed a few stitches, and so did Helen's leg.



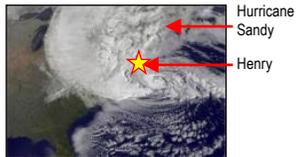
Map of the tropical wind field of Hurricane Isaac



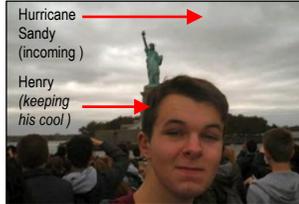
Alice braves hurricane rain storm aboard the *Binti*

Hurricane Sandy

Henry enjoyed Isaac so much that he headed off for New York with his school to be there in time for Hurricane Sandy. A 3 day culture trip became a 10 day reportage, as planes were grounded and power failed. Our hurricane veteran commented: "It was a bit blowy, the subway flooded and a couple of cranes fell over, but I've seen worse."



Satellite image: Big storm clobbers New York



Your on-the-spot reporter



Checking the family silver: Helen and Andrew celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary at Darwin College

Children Vanish from Household

A big year of milestones, graduations, and parties. Henry turned 18, Alice had her 21st, and Andrew & Helen celebrated a silver wedding anniversary.

In a year of British national rejoicing – Queenie's Golden Jubilee, the London Olympics, the engineering of a fourth generation of hereditary monarchy – the Coburn-Mulligans had a cluster of our own celebrations. Like buses, they all arrived together.

Henry attained his majority and turned us into a family of adults (on paper at least). He got the vote, to elect a new Police Commissioner, but sadly not the chance to elect Batman.



Fellow companions in the past quarter-century

Being 18, Henry can now buy his family a drink in a pub. Theoretically.

Alice's 21st birthday meant that she received the key of the door, so she promptly left home. Alice graduated from University and headed off to another wee country to do her PhD.

In the Olympic year, Andrew and Helen celebrated their silver in the endurance event with a party where they had their wedding in 1987.



Well toasted: 2012 was a fine vintage

2012 was a year of parties. What were we thinking hosting two-in-one-day? Never again will we let Alice have a 21st on the same day as our Bumps party, that's for sure.

But memories are made of this: the Golden Jubilee fly-past aircraft taking off over our house, Olympic lights of London from our apartment, our big tent approach to summer parties.

It rained a bit, we hear. Yes but not on any of our parades.



Maturity much in evidence at Alice's 21st Party

Class War on the Banks of the Cam

Mr Asbo the psychotic swan was redomesticated away from his river territory at Ditton Corner. His removal prompted animal rights protests and police arrests at the 2012 Bumps. Revolution was narrowly avoided.

Mr Asbo would have been proud of the aggro that ensued in his name. Whisked away in the spring to a less stressful and disruptable home, the boat-attacking swan is much missed and protested. Witnesses at the *Bumps & Carnage* party had a grandstand view as civil disobedience was met with the forces of law and order, in a titanic clash of opposing world views.

Anti-Race-ists

In April a swimming political activist disrupted the Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race on the Thames to protest 'class privilege'. The same group threatened to disrupt the Cambridge Bumps races. They joined with animal rights protestors who blamed the University rowers for the removal of Asbo the Swan. On police advice, our party was on full security alert.

Swanee River

The protestors came in force. At least 14 marchers stormed the tow-path. More impressively the Swan Protestors – in full costume – sailed a small boat to disrupt the races for over an hour. Eventually police patience snapped and a SWAT team used an amphibious interception vessel to bring the perps to justice.

Give Sport a Chance

The barricades were unmanned and the rowing races resumed. Party guests saw a slightly delayed afternoon of racing, of young sportsmen and women giving their all, of crews meeting with triumph and disaster and treating those two impostors just the same. We celebrated their sporting achievement as a prelude to an Olympic summer.

In a record rain-filled summer, this was a mercifully sunny day. Guests needed their hats. But at least they didn't need their class war helmets.



Swan-rights protestors disrupt Bumps races



Come in number 3 – your time's up



"I say Tarquin, the rozzers have nabbed 'em."

Don't miss next year's class war!
Save the Date for
Bumps & Carnage Party
Saturday 15 June 2013

 Our *Bumps for Hearts* fund to honour Ian Mulligan, Len and Sylvia Coburn now stands at over £9,000 after the Bumps Party. Thanks to everyone for their generous donations to the British Heart Foundation.

Sylvia Coburn 1933 - 2012



Sylvia increased the world's population by over 600

Andrew's mother, Sylvia, died in the cold weather of the new year. Many of our Bumps party guests will remember her infectious laugh and spectacularly floral hats, and none of us were spared the knitwear that she generated on an prodigious scale.

Mid-life Midwife

Sylvia was most proud of her career as a midwife, coming to it later in life after home-making. She was a district midwife in Cheshire, then a decade in Zambia. Her log-book records the names and procedures for each of 600 children she delivered. Her memoirs *Bush Babies* make fascinating reading. She is much missed as grandmother, mother and fount of generous unstinting support for us all.



Margaret Morris
 1930 - 2012
 Another sad farewell to Helen's much-loved Auntie Margaret. A twinkle in the lives of many...



Nice Year for a White Wedding

Congratulations on the nuptials of:

- Cousin Pam and Chris Bloomfield
- Godson Jamie and Susan Barber
- Bill Thompson and Katie Thornburrow
- Eleanor Fawcett and Nathan Jones

Back Garden Safari

We know you shouldn't intervene in safari drama but when we saw a newly-born muntjac deer being hunted down by a domestic cat in our garden we had to rush out to save it. The fawn was reunited with its mother, bloodied but unbowed.



You can do more with it than just feed pandas

Taking the Bamboo out of Bamboozle

Bamboo is a fast growing, renewable resource that loves warm rainy days. There's a long tradition of using natural bamboo for buildings in South America and Asia, but building control authorities frown on its use for new urban buildings. Helen has set up a project, funded by the Joint Research Councils of the G8 countries, with the University of Cambridge, MIT and UBC in Canada to prepare codes for the use of engineered bamboo components.



Old steelworks at the end of the road in Belval

Spot the Shoots

When Accor Mittal shut down the blast furnaces of the Belval steelworks in Luxembourg, the city needed to rebuild around the sculptural ruin. When the port of Ghent in Belgian lost some of its old industries, it looked to biofuels to provide new products and new jobs. Working for the OECD, Helen advised on green growth indicators to assess these regeneration projects.

Workers of the COST project, unite!



Uranium mining town severely depleted Helen's work on shrinking cities took her to Estonia for the final workshop of the Cooperation on Science and Technology project. Over the past 4 years the project has looked at the problems of cities that are faced with economic and demographic decline.

Platform Souls

The launch of cloud-based LifeRisks platform helps RMS gear up for release of the flagship platform, RMS(One), in 2014



New RMS branding repositions the company image in preparation for the launch of RMS(One)



Dukes of Vulnerability: Coburn's California Cars RMS LifeRisks made the headlines as the modeller for a Deutsche Bank capital markets transaction for Aegon, de-risking their \$13bn longevity risk. Andrew is now driving the technical marketing activities of LifeRisks, with publications and viral marketing – quite literally. LifeRisks is integrating closer to the Capital Markets team, and this year welcomed Peter Nakada as the senior manager of both groups.

Andrew's RMS LifeRisks team has new products and models for the life insurance and pensions industry. Their new product platform provides clients with all the LifeRisks mortality models integrated into a single suite. The cloud-based architecture is a trial-run for the technology that will be released in RMS(One) the core product platform, currently in development.



LifeRisks team supports San Francisco Giants on their way to winning the baseball World Series



Peter's backing Britain with Union Jack pants



Andrew shows guts with obesity presentation



Plague Inc.

Download *Plague Inc.* from Ndemic Creations onto your iPad, iPhone or Android device and you can design a virus to wipe out the human race. This best-selling game is sponsored by RMS, and Andrew wrote copy for the game content. Enjoy!

Cambridge Risk Centre Produces First Outputs

The Centre for Risk Studies hired its first Research Associate and started to produce publications and a new website showcasing a risk taxonomy and network modelling. New funds will enable another hire in 2013.



Attendees of Risk Centre meeting on networks and catastrophe risk in Asia-Pacific region



Fighting on the beaches: Bumps party guests prepare to repel borders