

THE Romsey Rag

Lisa & Steve Fagg, 207 Ross Street, Cambridge, CB1 3BS, U.K.

Timeline 2003

December (2002):
Immediately after Christmas we begin looking for a house to rent in Cambridge.

January: 207 Ross Street is the third house we look at. We sign a 1-year lease starting 31st.

February: While the Cambridge house is redecorated, we prepare to move out of Harlow.

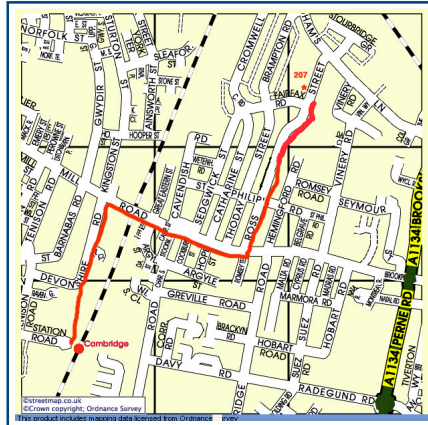
March: We move to Cambridge on 3rd. We put 1 Aynsley Gardens on the market and soon accept an offer on it.

May: Our buyers pull out and we put the house back on the market.

June: We again accept an offer to buy 1 Aynsley Gardens.

October: We finally exchange contracts for the sale of 1 Aynsley Gardens on 13th with completion set for 17th.

On 15th we learn that 207 Ross Street is to be sold at the end of January. We make an offer to buy Ross Street but this is turned down. We start house hunting again...



We live about a mile from the station. If arriving by **train**, take a taxi or follow the red route shown left, depending on the luggage you have.

By road from the **South**, leave the M11 at J11 and take the A1309 as far as the A1134. Turn right onto the A1134 and follow it to Sainsbury's. Turn left onto Coldham's Lane then left again into Ross Street.

By road from the **North**, come in on the A14 as far as the A1309. From the A1309 turn left onto the A1134 then left again onto the Newmarket Road (A1303). Turn right onto Coldham's Lane then right again into Ross Street.

A year of changes...

Steve & Lisa

Welcome, everyone!

...to the first edition of the **Romsey Rag**, the successor to the *Aynsley Gardner*. Now that we live here in Cambridge we thought a change of title was in order.

Our new home is in an area of the city called **Romsey Town**. Romsey has a distinct feel all of its own, quite different from other parts of the city. It's even been called the **Islington of Cambridge!**

As you can see from the time-line on the left, it was far from straightforward getting here from there but

we made it and, yes, it was worth all the hassle.

As well as a new home, there's a new job and new direction for Lisa. Her job in London didn't work out and she left in August.

Soon after, she was offered a job working in **Limoncello**, the Italian delicatessen in Romsey Town. You can imagine a job involving fine Italian food is right up her street!

Lisa says: "I'm fascinated by the mechanics of working in a shop and

servicing customers; it's like theatre: each transaction's a performance.

"Learning about Italian speciality and regional foods is interesting indeed, as is the occupational 'duty' to sample the goods!

"I've now developed quite a taste for Limoncello: the sweet lemon liquor that gives the shop its name.

"We're at **212 Mill Road** or you can visit the shop, and even buy online, at:

www.limoncello.co.uk

"A presto!"

Visitors and visited

We are immensely grateful to Lisa's uncles in **Nice** for inviting us to spend the best part of a fortnight there just after we'd moved house. We were sore in need of a break and the wonderful atmosphere of Nice and the company of **Jean & Perry** proved the ideal tonic! We were

especially glad to be able to help celebrate **Perry's birthday**, which fell while we were there, at a hugely enjoyable lunch in Villefranche-sur-mer.

Lisa's ex-boss, friend and mentor, **Josh Wallman**, was our first overnight

guest in Cambridge when he came for a couple of days at the end of August.

Less than a month later, Lisa's friend of many years' standing, **Pamela**, timed her fortnight's visit to coincide with **Lisa's birthday**.

Timeline 2003

November: We make an offer on a nearby house. Our offer is accepted so we start to make arrangements to buy. Potential buyers start viewing 207 Ross St.

The landlords of 207 Ross Street come back to us to say they'd like to accept our offer after all. We let the other property go and start making arrangements to buy this house instead.

December: we have our fingers crossed that we can complete the purchase of 207 Ross Street and stay out of the property market for a few years!

Contact Us!

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Congratulations!

- To **David & Elza** on the birth of **Paul**.
- To **Sarah & Stuart** on the birth of **James**.

Out and about (in Cambridge & elsewhere)

Steve

Just a couple of nights under canvas this year, up at **Woodlakes** in Norfolk.

Not a whole lot of leisure cycling, even though the pancake flat terrain makes extended rides readily practicable. We did scout out a few local routes we hope to make part of our repertoire.

At the theatre, we added **Love's Labours Lost** and **Henry V** to our Shakespeare collection and saw a hard-hitting production of John Webster's **Duchess of Malfi**.

For both of us, the most memorable film of 2003 was **The Hours** but I have high hopes for **The Return of the**

King before the year is out.

Musically we were restricted to just one concert: a rather downbeat gig in London by our beloved **June Tabor**.

Gunther von Hagens' **Body Worlds** exhibition at the Brick Lane gallery won't be forgotten and, as art should, provoked animated debate.

Feeding stations and watering holes

Unlike the culinary desert of Harlow, Cambridge is well supplied with an abundance of restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs serving good food.

Nearby favourites include noodle bar **Kym Moy**, **La Trattoria Pasta Fresca**, **Al Casbah** (Algerian), **Curry Queen** and **Golden Curry**.

A little further away we've had good meals at **Loch Fynne**, **Café Adriatic**, the

Peking and, possibly our favourite of all, **La Tasca** (a tapas bar) to which we often return *a deux* or with friends.

For refreshment, in contrast to the dire Potters Arms, we have a local that's a real pub! The **Earl of Beaconsfield** is a basic boozer with a bar billiards table, dartboard, jukebox and two TVs that often show different football

matches. The beer's fizzy and there's no food but it has bags of atmosphere and a varied and friendly bunch of regulars.

Food and real ale of a high standard are to be found in the nearby **Kingston Arms**. In the City we're partial to the **Fountain**, the **Bath House** and the famous **Eagle** (as frequented by Watson & Crick of DNA fame).

Home fires

Our new home is a three-bedroom inner-terrace house in a block of four. The upper parts of Ross Street are **Victorian** but lower down the houses get more recent until, at our end, they are only seventy years old.

The land belonged to **Corpus Christi** College till 1931 when Cambridge City Council acquired it to build council houses. Sixty years later, the then council tenants exercised their right to buy the house and our landlords bought it some time later.

The accommodation is quite generous, at least by British standards. Downstairs we have a good-sized through **lounge/diner** (originally two separate rooms) with French windows opening onto the back garden. This room has a polished wooden floor: a big plus feature in our eyes!

The **kitchen** is reasonably spacious and gives us plenty of room to cook together without treading on each other's toes. There's also a rear lobby/pantry (we call it the **mud room**), which leads

to the back door into the garden and the **cloakroom**.

Upstairs we have two double **bedrooms** (one of which is given over to our "office") and a single room that Lisa uses as her **studio**. There is a **bathroom** too of course.

The extra bedroom (which also has a polished wooden floor) means we can now accommodate **guests** more flexibly than before. We've bought two new **spare beds** and hope lots of friends and family will take advantage!

Kitty Kat Korner...

Another year gone by? It may be one year for our **humans**; it's considerably more for me. Imagine it: moving house at the ripe old age of 10!

On the bright side, **Sophia** gets to go out a lot, leaving me at peace in the house. On nice summer days, even I get to go out for a while; if

heavily supervised. Bliss.

In winter there's a wonderful **gas fire** for me to sleep in front of – when I win the battle for possession of the rug; which, I usually do!

Sophie and I enjoy the big, accessible windows: we can spend hours looking out. I don't much care for the

floors though: **polished wood floorboards!** Now, how's a cat supposed to gain any purchase on that?!?

Thank goodness there are lots of new nooks and crannies to hide in when guests arrive – which they seem to do much more often recently than in past times.

Peace to all! TTC + Ms SC

Thomas T. Catt