# December 2004 Volume 1. Issue 2

# E Romsey Rag

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### Timeline 2004

January: 207 Ross Street is finally ours!



February: We celebrate the first of several 10th anniversaries.

March: Nice in the spring is very nice!



May: Steve is a cyclist again after four months of buses and walking.

July: We trek down to London to see James Taylor perform in the cavernous Earls Court indoor arena.

August: Lisa revels in the Scottish landscapes.



# We all rode in a Yellow Duckmarine!

The end of August saw us in Liverpool for a weekend of sightseeing. This included a trip around the city and the Albert Dock on the amazing amphibious Yellow Duckmarine known as "Wacker Quacker 1" (left).

# Digging in...

#### Welcome back, everyone!

...to the second edition of the *Romsey Rag*.

After last year's upheavals, this has been one of consolidation. December 2004 finds us in the same home and the same jobs as a year ago. We concluded the purchase of our house here in January and have been settling down to life here on a permanent basis.

The first major change can be seen in the mud room or rear lobby between the kitchen and the back door. This has been transformed by Lisa's boss, Steve T: it now boasts a complete wall of built-in shelving to hold the multitude of ingredients needed for the many different cuisines we love to cook. Now everything is immediately to hand whether we are cooking far eastern, south asian, mediterranean, American or anything in between!

At work, Lisa is similarly transforming the Limoncello delicatessen with a host of clever ideas for improving the place She's also been putting her design talents to work,

#### Words: Steve. Photos: Lisa.

producing a range of leaflets for the shop. Throughout most of the year the two of us have also been working on transforming the deli's website (<a href="https://www.limoncello.co.uk">www.limoncello.co.uk</a>) with a design makeover and all-new product photos by Lisa. The job is now virtually complete and seems to have been very effective in boosting sales through the website.

Lisa has also done a couple of other, smaller scale, web site design jobs this year and hopes to keep this up; see <a href="https://www.oysterweb.co.uk">www.oysterweb.co.uk</a> for more details!

### Getting away from it all

Two of the brightest highlights in our year were the two weeks we spent in Nice as guests of Lisa's uncles. Both in March and November the warm and sunny weather was a welcome contrast to the gloom of the UK and as always much good food and even better company

was enjoyed there!

Lisa left Steve behind for a week in Scotland with her friend Anja in August taking in Glasgow & Skye.

We had a couple of weekends away together, sightseeing in Liverpool and walking amidst the delightful hills along the Derwent valley at Matlock, on the edge of the Peak District.

Lisa has some photos from her first two trips of the year on her website: <a href="www.jazzymac.dircon.co.uk">www.jazzymac.dircon.co.uk</a> - check them out!

August: Lisa gets a blast of British '60s culture in Liverpool.



September: The Peak District provides ideal walking and scenery.



November: Nice is just as nice in the autumn!



December: Another 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary to celebrate!

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#### New steeds for old

Steve had a couple of bad bike accidents this year and saw rather more of the inside of Addenbrooke's hospital than either of us would have liked. In the first accident he broke his left wrist in a tumble over a sleeping policeman (no! not literally!) which led to two operations and eight months' of occupational therapy. Steve extends special thanks to those friends who paid visits during his spells "inside".

In the second accident Steve was broadsided at a junction by a stereotypical white van being driven "without due care and attention" and was lucky to emerge with a smashed helmet and wrecked bike but mercifully minor injuries.

Steve promises to stay extra vigilant when riding although in the heavy traffic

and narrow streets of Cambridge minor spills are a fact of life and even Lisa hasn't been completely immune this year, with one visit to Addenbrooke's after a fall

The silver lining to these clouds is that we have each gained a new (to us) bicycle during the year and the new steeds are proving a joy to ride if a challenge to stable.

#### Welcome to our parlour

As always we enjoyed hosting visits by folks from across the water this year. Alicia, Lisa's cousin from Birmingham, Alabama, stayed with us for a few days in May at the end of a trip to Liverpool for an audition.

We showed her some of the sights (and tastes!) of Cambridge, and a good time

was had by all.

Some months later we heard the good news that she'd got married, in Las Vegas of all places!

Josh seems to find a way to visit us nearly every year and he always evokes memories of her New York home in Lisa. This year he stayed with us while attending a myopia conference in July.

Also doing the conference round in this neck of the woods this year was Lisa's pal from graduate school, Anja, who stayed with us a couple of weekends in November.



From Birmingham, AL to Cambridge, England

Alicia Vaughan, Lisa's cousin, poses outside the bell tower of Great St. Mary's, the University Church. (left)

## Ten years ago

Although we celebrated our bronze (8th) wedding anniversary in October, we've been noting some memorable tenth anniversaries this year too.

It was back in February 1994 that we first corresponded

and exactly ten months later that we first met face to face in the arrivals hall at Logan airport, Boston, MA. It seems like a lifetime ago!

#### Kitty Kat Korner...

What an amazing year!
Nothing much happened at all, which suits an old fellow like me down to the ground: too much change at my time of life could be very unsettling. It must be said I do seem to have a lot more freedom to come and go than I can remember in a while and I even hear rumours of

an impending cat flap. Quite what this is I can't make out as it seems to be a device for letting me come and go when I please and I have two of those already: Lisa & Steve.

The young lady of the house, Miss Sofia, has been making rather an exhibition of herself in the latter part of

#### Thomas T. Catt

the year, having been brainwashed into "playing" with the humans by a passing visitor. It's obvious to a cat of the meanest intelligence that the "dot" she loves to chase is just a spot of light and not at all tasty to eat, but you can't tell these youngsters anything.

Peace to all! TTC + Ms SC