

# THE AYNLEY GARDENER



1, Aynley Gardens, Harlow, Essex, CM17 9PB, UK

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**Weather** (or not...) It's been a right miserable old year here, weatherwise, in the UK (so we're fully expecting a warm and wonderful Summer!)- very grey (even in Summer!) and cool-even for us! So far, though, it's not been too damp, so we have our fingers crossed for a mild Winter...



Happy  
Holidays!



**Forecast:** whether or not next year will be the last one of the millennium (opinions do differ!), one thing's for sure: there's going to be plenty of '9's around, all the way from January to December. Whatever the weather, be sure to have a nice year, and don't let the Y2K bug bite!

## "All the News that's Fit to Print"!

### Welcome...

...to the very first issue of the 'Aynley Gardener'! We thought we'd bring you up to date with the 'happenings' on this side of the pond!

**Church Langley** is a large new housing development (aka estate) on the eastern edge of Harlow. **Harlow** itself is located right smack-dab along the middle of the M11 motorway that runs between **London** and **Cambridge**. Lisa loves the rural feel of the town and the fact that it is infiltrated in places by an ancient wood which used to cover much of the surrounding area, including **Epping Forest**. Steve loves the fact that he can get to **Nortel** in 12 minutes--on foot!

### Cat and Carry

Just after the Holiday Season, last winter, we decided that we **needed** a cat, so we went to a cattery, not very far from us, and adopted Thomas! (He prefers we say **he** 'adopted' **us**...) Anyway, he's a great little feller, a 5-1/2-year-old B&W 'moggie' with a heart of pure **GOLD**! He's gentle, not very picky, friendly and a *bona fide* 'scaredy cat'! A real bundle o' love! He was a little bit bigger than we'd anticipated though, so we had to just about **stuff** him into the carrier we'd bought for him!

### Fire Sale

Later that month saw us involved in a near tragedy: We were staying with friends in London over the **Burns Night** weekend when Lisa's waterproof jacket **spontaneously combusted**! The resulting fire burned and smoke-damaged the entire upper floor of the house. Fortunately, no one was hurt and insurance covered most of the cost of the

damage, but... let's just say we were 'shaken, not stirred'! Lisa now has a new jacket...in 'Flame Red'...

### Out and About

We kept busy last winter shuttling between London and the Town Center, here in Harlow, going to see plays and movies. See 'Sport and Lifestyle' section.

### Wheel Deal

After much careful consideration, Lisa decided to buy a new bicycle and give her old one to a friend. See 'Sport and Lifestyle' section.

### A May Birthday



Steve turned 40, finally! We had a BBQ, American style, and invited some friends for the weekend. A good time was had by all, as the saying goes...He enjoyed his gifts, it goes without saying, but none more than the 'Marty Mouse' that Thomas gave him...

### Guestbook

**Josh** paid us a visit in August, on his way back to NYC from a vision conference in Paris. On his suggestion, the three of us went to the **Hayward Gallery** and saw what turned out to be the most bizarre exhibit perhaps any of us had ever seen. A **Video Installation Artist** called Bruce Neuman rattled our brains for about three-quarters of an hour with a mind-boggling array of TV screens, sound and flashing lights.

Afterwards we met our mutual friend **Chris** and went to dinner. We all caught the Last Train home!

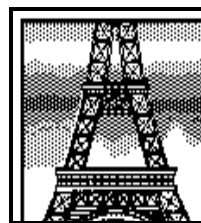
## Postcards from...

by Lisa Fagg

### 'If it's Tuesday...'

This May, we chunneled over to **Brussels** on the Eurostar with our friend Paul Searle. We 'landed' right smack in the middle of a Canadian Lobster Festival! (So we won't bore you with the details of what we ate!) It was my first venture onto 'The Continent' and great fun for three days, all around, especially at the Atomium and Mini Europe.

### 'April in Paris...'



...NOT! It was **July**, actually. We again Chunneled it on the Eurostar and landed, this time, in the middle of Friday Evening **Rush Hour** in Gare Nord on the **Paris Metro**!

What a shock! Fortunately our hotel was just off Boulevard Malherbes, near L'Opera, just a few stops away! We saw as many sights as **we** could manage in three days including the **Champs de L'Eyseees, Eiffel Tower** and **Musée Picasso**!

### Parlez vous...?

I have to admit to being more than a little surprised by Steve's willingness to try out his French--He did quite well! I guess it was around about the last day that I felt brave enough to order my own breakfast! But the French are kind and willing to help someone trying out the language, so it was not as bad as I'd anticipated!

### Allez! Allez!

Both our continental trips were arranged by **Allez France**, who did us proud both times: hence the free plug!

# Sport and Lifestyle

## On the Move

by **Lisa Fagg**, staff writer

### Cycling News



This was truly the summer of the bicycle, here in Church Langley! I got a brand-new

**Dawes Galaxy** touring bicycle and together, Steve and I toured the local countryside. What a **blast!** I peddled a respectable **1,000 miles** between April and September. Next year we hope to embark on our first short cycle-touring holiday, somewhere in northern England.

When we weren't bowling along the country lanes, I was thrilling to the televised exploits of the riders in the **Tour de France** and other big races in the European calendar. I think I've fallen in love with **Marco Pantani!**

### Walking Shoes



Well, now it's winter, we've all but abandoned our bicycles and taken to our **feet!** This little interest rationalised yet

**another** purchase for me--**hiking boots!** There's nothing like 'em for marching around the boggy 'wetlands' of the farmland and other Public Rights of Way here in Harlow. Steve's doing his best to teach me how to navigate with a map and compass. I'll keep you posted as to my progress in that area!

### Howzat?!

In August I got my first taste of **live cricket**. Test Match Special on the radio had given me a taste for the sport but going in person was something else! Typically for me I started at the top with a visit to **Lord's** cricket ground (or 'headquarters' as Steve calls it) on a lovely hot sunny afternoon. Now that I've got the floppy white hat I can't wait to see some **more** next year!

## Out and About Guide

by **Steve Fagg**, staff writer

### Arts



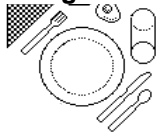
Like Caesar's Gaul, the artistic year was divided into three parts.

In the first six months of '98 our attention was mainly focussed on the big screen at the **Barbican Cinema**. Lisa's fave rave's were *Ulee's Gold*, *Oscar & Lucinda*, and *Sling Blade*, whereas Steve picked *L'Apartment*, *Mrs Dalloway*, and *City of Angels* as standouts from a great bunch. Our web-site gives full details of what we saw and what we thought.

Late summer was given over, as ever, to the **BBC Proms** at the **Royal Albert Hall**: the 'Classical Music Olympics', as Lisa dubs them. The traditional jollifications of the famous **Last Night** are always fun but we'll also long treasure the playing of The Philharmonia under **Leonard Slatkin** in a programme that climaxed with the best performance of Elgar's Second Symphony either of us has ever witnessed. Again, our web-site gives full details of what we saw and what we thought.

Autumn has seen theatre take its turn to dominate, as the recently re-vitalised **Harlow Playhouse** found excellent form with a string of quality productions from *Othello* to *The Master & Margarita*, via Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*. No theatre details on the web-site yet, maybe next year!

### Dining Out



Old favourites **Bu San** (Holloway Rd), **Fredericks** (Camden Passage), and **The Shoes** (Sawbridgeworth)

rubbed shoulders with new discoveries **White Onion** (Upper Street), **Lemon Tree** (Bishop's Stortford), and the **Bengal Clipper** (Butler's Wharf) as the gastronomic highlights of the year, while **Brussels'** Canadian Lobster Festival was an unforgettable experience.

Sadly, the Garcias have left the **Straw Hat** in Sawbo and we await with some trepidation the outcome of the face-lift undertaken by the dynamic new management team.

## Dining In

by **Lisa Fagg**, staff writer

### Big Webber

Having stretched to the limit the mini-barbecue I brought over with me from the States, it was time this year to invest in a full-size **Webber** kettle. Steve seems right at home cooking out in the back yard and we've particularly enjoyed delicious fish and fowl (everything from **quail** to a **whole turkey**) from the big Webber!

### Home Baker

Steve's often told me that if his ancestors had been **Saxons** rather than **Jutes** (you'll have to ask *him!*) I'd be Mrs **Baker** rather than Mrs **Fagg**, so I felt it was appropriate that I got seriously into baking my own bread this autumn. Back home I always lusted after an automatic bread-making machine but I've found it's far more satisfying to do it all by **hand**. The speed with which the products get eaten up indicates I'm not doing such a bad job after all! My recipe will likely show up on our web-site sometime!

### Thanksgiving in England

For the second year running we invited Steve's parents over for Thanksgiving dinner and served them the full traditional menu. From turkey (roasted whole on the Big Webber) to **Pamela's sweet potato pie** we pulled out all the stops and brought a true taste of America to our little corner of Aynsley Gardens!

### Kitty Korner



Ok., 'Thomas' here (at least that's what *they* call me...) Not my idea of a byline, but...*they* think I'm cute, I'm feline (and, therefore, purrrfect!) and I'm

having the time of my life since being 'adopted' in January, this year! I've amassed a huge collection of 'cat toys' and I'm currently running the household (but don't tell *them*...!) and doing a fair job of it, too!

Anyway...*they* insisted that I send 'Feline Felicitations', so...

<<μ νυ ξ ιδι ωε ζοκλ ν ρ ψυ>>  
to you!

## Contact Us

Write us at:

1 Aynsley Gardens  
Church Langley  
Harlow, Essex  
CM17 9PB  
U.K.

Email:

jasmine@dircon.co.uk (lisa)  
nightwol@dircon.co.uk (steve)

Web:

[www.geocities.com/Paris/Metro/1311](http://www.geocities.com/Paris/Metro/1311)

# *Sport and Lifestyle*

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