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16th December 1987.

A very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours. Despite the demand to stop persecuting friends with an annual newsletter, we could not desist this year as we are desperate to tell you about the two new ladies in the family and the new house.

Fiona, our first grand-daughter was born on March 6th. to the great joy of her parents, Rosalind and Paul. They returned to Peterborough last Christmas from a year in the United States and Paul rapidly found a new job with his old firm as their Computer Quality Assurance Manager. Paul and Rosalind have rapidly taken on the role of happy doting parents to a bonny girl who seems to have a lot of character.

A new Mrs Borrell arrived when Nichola and Michael were married in October. They have been sweethearts since they were at school and we were so happy when they decided to take the plunge. The wedding was a marvellous affair with a lovely reception at Keele Hall, marvellously organised by Nicky's mother. Nichola continues as a Clerk to a Magistrates Court in Kent; Michael, having finished his period in Paris, is now an engineer at Alwyn North, two hundred miles out from Aberdeen in the North Sea. He spends alternate fortnightly periods there and in Kent.

Stephen appears to have found 'the' girl in Jo, whom he met skiing in February and together with whom he bought a house in March. Jo is now manager of the new 'Bodyshop' in Milton Keynes and, as it is one of the largest, spends most of her life working there. Stephen has had two trips to the Far East for his aluminium firm and at the moment is travelling in the Gulf states.

We too took the plunge after twenty five years on campus: we bought a house and moved into it in May. It is on the edge of Newcastle, backing on to the hill on which Keele stands, with fine views to the North and East. It is about two kilometres from the lab. so we can walk easily (27 min.), if necessary, and can manage with one car. Despite being only 13 years old, it was in poor condition so we have been totally occupied with it since May, moving a structural wall, fitting a new kitchen, replacing and painting all the inside doors (eleven) and re-decorating generally. We sincerely believe that it is nearly 'finished' now although we have wondered whether this is only an illusion, like painting the Forth bridge. We have done nothing to the garden yet!

Despite the pre-occupation with the house, we did manage to visit Michael in Paris, go skiing and have a lovely holiday helping Eric and Pat Whittle to take their boat through 96 locks on the Burgundy Canal. We also paid a working visit to Göttingen where we had a lovely welcome from our friends.

Pat achieved several distinctions in the Institute of Linguists examination in German; Peter has given up(!) in order to go to a practical class in Model Engineering.

Work continues apace despite the paucity of funds. Pat largely works for interest and love but she has a new short contract from Unilever to make some experiments, is currently operating a laser on loan from the Rutherford lab., and is thinking of doing some experiments at Daresbury. Peter has been extensively involved in organising a new course on the environment for Arts students; this has entailed new lectures, a new practical course, mainly on radioactivity, and outside visits. So many students wanted to enroll that the numbers had to be limited because of too little space in the laboratory. The department and university are both thriving and expanding; we are still beset by rumours and speculation; on rational and economic grounds we have nothing to fear but we could still be annihilated by government whim.

You can see that we are still lucky enough to be fit, well and to have plenty to do. We do most sincerely hope that you and your family are as happy and fortunate as we are.

With all good wishes.