

0(1049)8821 73981

Ehrwalder Strasse 9
D8100 Garmisch-Partenkirchen
West Germany

December 10th, 1988

A very happy Christmas to you and a prosperous New Year.

Yes! the address is ours. Or will be from the first of January when we leave Keele, after 27 years, to take up a post at the Fraunhofer Institute for Atmospheric Environmental Research. It was as much of a surprise for us as it seems to be to our acquaintances at Keele; perhaps we all believe that academics are unemployable! The job is quite different: I shall be an administrator in EUROTRAC, which is a European environmental research project having its secretariat in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GAP for short), and also a research scientist at the Institute. Pat has the possibility of a part-time job there too, as well as an offer of some technical translation work for Richard Law in Konstanz.

You can imagine how excited, and apprehensive, we are; we have found a nice flat to go to which, although much smaller than our house, is spacious enough for us and a guest or two; we also, through the kindness of the owner, have the possibility of using a neighbouring flatlet for guests. As GAP is a beautiful ski and summer holiday resort situated in the alps, we hope (indeed expect!) to see a lot of you as welcome visitors. The map shows GAP to be about 15 miles from Austria and 60 from Italy, with the nearest sea 250 miles away at Venice! The local airport is Munich (daily flights from all parts!)

Changing jobs is the family occupation this year: Stephen, our middle son now works as a European sales executive for Electrosonics, a firm which supplies multiple projection equipment and 'video walls' for exhibitions, presentations etc. He flits from capital to capital but still has had time to move with Jo, his girlfriend, into a new house into which he has fitted the central heating himself. Jo has consolidated her position as manager of the Bodyshop in Milton Keynes where she works enormously hard.

Michael's wife, Nicola, has moved too and now clerks the stipendiary magistrates at Marylebone; Michael commutes back and forth to Alwyn North, 250 miles off Aberdeen in the North Sea.

Our grand-daughter, Fiona, grows apace and has developed a charming disposition, much to the joy of her proud parents, Paul and Rosalind. They are happy in their new house in Peterborough despite the blandishments of head-hunters who seek to lure Paul to other companies elsewhere.

While the year has been dominated by the forthcoming move, we skied at Tignes and visited Paris, Glasgow (highly recommended) and GAP (three times). Our interests in opera and bridge have been rekindled by our new friends Kath and Bert Adams for whom we provide a regular income with our losses while basking in their warm hospitality. We had two "Glyndbourne" type picnics with them at the Buxton Opera festival, we had to flee the rain on one afternoon and drink the champagne in the car.

Work has gone apace with contracts for Pat (the last finishes on the day we move house), lasers on loan and a long visit from Nathan Rich with whom we worked for five weeks at Daresbury. We recommend the breakfasts at the hostel there as well as the scientific facilities.

The University and Department are thriving despite attempts by the press and official reports to suggest otherwise. However, everything is changing with lots of people taking early retirement (us too). The changes, I believe, will be for the better but we necessarily are pleased to be experiencing our own changes in a new expanding place which seems to offer all sorts of challenges and opportunities.

I do hope that you are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year as much as we are: actually we shall be homeless ourselves as much of our furniture departs on the 21st while we go on the 29th.

It is not unalloyed joy at going. We shall miss the easy access to our family and friends most of all, but we pray that we shall not be deserted and that many will visit us or have us when we come home.

With lots of love,

[Christmas Newsletters](#)

[Biographical Items](#)

[Home Page](#)