

2011 for David & Cathy

We'll start with **Christmas Day 2010**, which was extraordinary – Wales was plastered with snow and the hills were skiable! The photos show Cathy, cruising down to Nant Gwynant into the sunset, and myself near Snowdon with the Glyder range as a backdrop. Truly a day to remember!



At **New Year** we were delighted when David's daughters, Cathy's daughter & grandchildren, plus partners & dog came to visit. Here are Joanne [David's daughter], Sean [Sarah's dog], with Elsa and Morva [two of Cathy's granddaughters] on Borth-y-Gest beach.



In **January** we were in France, for a combined skiing/ski mountaineering holiday. We're on the Col de la Fenêtre, near Chamonix, with Mont Blanc behind us.



February saw us mostly in Wales, doing work on our Local Nature Reserves and clearing wind swept rubbish from Black Rock Sands – a never ending task! Here's a small sample:



In **April**, with summer weather, we had family visits again, doing some hill walking with Joanne, Jason, Sarah & Sean, and introducing Agnes, Cathy's youngest granddaughter, to the beach.



In **May** we renewed our acquaintance with the Isle of Skye – it is almost 40 years since I last climbed there! We had perfect weather and enjoyed some of the classic routes. Here's Cathy leading off on Cioch West route – 500ft of wonderful rock.



June was a busy month [aren't they all!] and included a brilliant trip sailing a small boat from Exmouth to the Channel Isles to do some rock climbing. Here is the good ship Erin, with Cathy amidships, at low tide on Les Ecréhous:



Soon after this trip we were in Wasdale in the Lake District, with friends from Lancashire Mountaineering Club. It was unseasonably cold, but we climbed one of the great Lakeland classic routes – Tophet Wall. This is David on the first section – stretched!



We had to be back in Wales later in June, as we had helped to resurrect the village BBQ, last held some years ago. David's daughters & partners came to help – here's Joanne cooking some local lamb [raised on one of our Nature Reserves] that Sarah then served to the crowds. A very successful event – we have to do it again next year!



July was a fun month, spent in Wales and making the most of our wonderful outdoors. David treated himself to a new mountain bike – they have rather improved in the 30 years since he got my last one – and explored lots of new areas. We also enjoyed sailing our lovely Enterprise dinghy. For the first time we dared to venture out to sea – the photo shows Cathy at the helm, far out in Tremadog Bay.



We had another successful event in **August** - a Pilot Boat Race, re-enacting the Victorian origins of the sport – in costume! As one of the organisers, it was an opportunity for David to dress as a shipowner [and to boss people about!]. He thinks a top hat rather suits him!



Also in August David's brother Mike, recently retired, sailed his rather bigger boat across from Dublin and David enjoyed a couple of days on the Menai Straits with him. Here's his boat Taurus in Port Dinorwic sealock – David admidships and Mike stood at the bow.



September has tended to be a sea cliff climbing month for us, and this year was the same, with visits to Lundy Island, Cornwall and Anglesey. The photos show Cathy abseiling down the Devil's Slide on Lundy and leading the aptly named Lighthouse Arête at Craig Gogarth, Anglesey.



September also saw the completion of the long awaited [40 years!] Porthmadog Bypass and the Rotary Club organised a public walk along it, before the traffic was allowed on. It was another chance to dress up and the Club raised several £000s for Rotary's 'good causes'.



In **October** we had a superb trip to Nepal, visiting the basecamp of Kangchenjunga, the 3rd highest mountain in the world. A great experience, though David would rather climb than just look! He says it was like going to a restaurant and just reading the menu. Here he is, pointing out the summit [the pointy bit on the left!]. Unfortunately after this he developed pneumonia, which was unpleasant, and lost two stones in weight and all his energy.



We've just come back from a **December** climbing trip to the south of Spain which was, in part, a recuperation for David. Successful, thankfully – he's now back to good health. The climbing on lovely steep limestone in warm sunshine was the best tonic! Here's Cathy, posing!



So, that's it for 2011. As you will gather, we're enjoying life and fairly fit. We will be very happy to see any of you who venture into Wales in the next year. If we're at home, that is! Do keep in touch, by email or letter if you can't get to Wales, and have a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Love to all
David & Cathy