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Dear

- 2010 has again been a good year for work and travels. Paul has done lots of both. Margaret spent January and February doing voluntary work in India, and in doing so missed all the bad weather in the UK. She very much enjoyed her stay in Tamil Nadu - see her blog and pictures online at <http://www.pghardy.net/margaret/india2010/>.
- Paul is now employed by Esri Global, though his remit remains the same, business development for Esri with the national mapping and cadastral agencies across Europe (and beyond).
- One of his business trips was a three day visit to Kenya and Ethiopia, taking longer to get the requisite visas than he spent in the two countries (even taking into account the 13 hour flight delay coming back!). For visas he had to get his passport from one embassy to the next in a short time frame. This was achieved by cycling across London using one of 'Boris's bikes'!
- Other business travels were to California (twice), Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Germany,
- Margaret went with him to California in March. We both planted trees in the San Bernardino National Forest. Paul played with his music group at Green Valley Lake and Margaret caught up with friends. We had a few days vacation afterwards, and went to the Getty Villa, which was free and fantastic (like many American museums). We then made a trip up picturesque Highway 1, visiting Santa Barbara (wondering why we'd missed it before). The trip ended with an earthquake experienced while at the top of the tower at Los Angeles airport.
- Soon afterwards we had a visit from Nancy, one of Margaret's best American friends. She loved the English countryside, the walking and the food but was less keen on the weather.
- We walked parts of the Lycian Way in Turkey in May, which we found 'vertically challenging', but with lots of history. Other travels included a weekend in our twin village of Le Vaudreuil in Normandy and long weekends in Krakow (also visiting Auschwitz) and the Isle of Man.
- Margaret did her last school trip to France in June, without incident except when the coach driver demolished a brick structure on the quayside at Etaples, which necessitated a trip to the Gendarmerie with Margaret as translator. Margaret had no trouble with the French of the gendarme but had considerable difficulty with the English of the Glaswegian driver.
- Paul continues to play concertina and went to Kilve in Somerset for a tutorial weekend.
- Margaret enjoys the varied life of a retiree, though she does occasional supply teaching, and taught English to mature students in the summer. She is now a volunteer for the education team at Wimpole Hall, a nearby National Trust property. She has a new identity as Phoebe: a Victorian 'below stairs' maid attired in long dress, 'pinny' and mob cap.
- Paul's mother is now 97 and living in a care home in Ashby de la Zouch near to Paul's brother. Our foster son, Dom, and his girlfriend Sam are living - and working - in Haverhill.

We expect to be in Cuba for Christmas, on a Ramblers holiday, so Christmas dinner is more likely to be black beans, rice and chicken than turkey with trimmings, but probably more memorable!

We hope that 2011 is a happy and successful year for you.

With our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year