

Paul and Margaret Hardy,  
15 Kentings, Comberton, CAMBRIDGE CB23 7DT  
Email paul @ paulhardy.net; Margaret @ paulhardy.net,  
Web: <http://www.pghardy.net>, Tel 01223 263232

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Dear All,

- 2014 has been another interesting and eventful year. We have continued to travel, both singly and together. We both had rather special birthday celebrations (although the birthdays were not special numbers) and we have met up with lots of family members.
- Our main trip together was a Ramblers holiday in Western Canada, which started in Vancouver, where we met a cousin (whose grandmother emigrated in 1913, missing the Titanic only because of illness!) and continued through the Rockies to Jasper and Banff. Canada is very picturesque - lakes, forests and mountains. A highlight was the snow in Jasper (much to the chagrin of the Albertans as it was officially still summer). A lowlight was when a foot infection put Margaret in a wheelchair in Banff, but we enjoyed the trip nevertheless.
- We celebrated Paul's birthday in August with a trip to the Suffolk coast, staying in Aldeburgh. We went to a concert at Snape Maltings by The Carolina Chocolate Drops, who played a wide range of music on a variety of instruments - very different and memorable.
- For Margaret's birthday we went to London to see 'War Horse', preceded by a champagne breakfast at Searcys at St Pancras, visits to various churches and a concert, and afternoon tea at the Savoy - a present from Dom and Sam, - another memorable experience.
- Birthdays also provided opportunities for family reunions. We helped Paul's brother celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> and joined one of our oldest family friends for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.
- Paul continues to work for the US company Esri while based in Cambridge, but with a remit across Europe. He is involved in a big European Union project called ELF, but talk of Elves is not allowed, as it has to be pronounced E.L.F.! He's also supporting a tender to Ordnance Survey Ireland so has had/will have trips to Dublin (and Belfast).
- He enjoys working 'only' 4 days a week. He is now the proud owner of a 'Man Shed', a brick extension workshop behind the garage, where he renovates concertinas. The shed also houses his Sci-Fi collection and some of our 130 photo albums.
- Paul's office is moving to central Cambridge in the New Year so he will be travelling by bus for the first time! Buses run from the village once an hour except when they don't. Traffic in Cambridge gets progressively worse as more houses are built with no improvement in public transport. We expect everything to grind to a halt one day soon.
- Margaret continues to enjoy retirement. As well as walking, playing bridge and badminton and learning languages she volunteers at two National Trust properties where she has helped in a variety of child-centred events including butter-making attired as a Victorian dairy maid.
- We are planning a rather special trip at Christmas to Vietnam, again with Ramblers.

Enjoy your Christmas wherever you are, and have a happy and successful year in 2015.

*Paul & Margaret*