

Christmas 2017

The Stephens' Christmas newsletter, 2017

It's that time of the year. Our American friends are giving thanks, and their turkeys are looking for a place to hide. So we turn to thoughts of Christmas: praising God for the gift of his son; mince pies; silly party games and loving family to share it all with.

This was a year of mixed emotions: two comings and one going. Following the two weddings last year, we have two new grand-daughters this year. After a month in hospital and progressive loss of quality of life, my father died at the end of October. We recently met for the funeral in Gloucester and a service of celebration of his life in Churchdown. Dad, being a minister had most of the service already planned for us. I wore my brightest Hawaiian shirt. My mother, Phyllis, survives him.



Mum and Dad (July 2017)



Lake Maggiore, Italy, June 2917

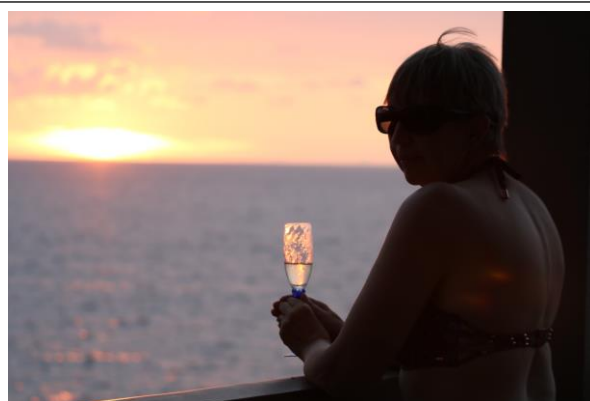


Tina "what do you want me to do with this lock-handle" Stephens

We also had a holiday in Italy (Milan and Lake Maggiore) and a canal holiday with Sarah, Derek and the grandchildren. At the time the holiday was booked, we did not expect her to be 'great with child' nor anticipate the need to man-haul her off and on the boat.

Compared to these life-changing events, Tina and I have nothing much to report. We carry on carrying on and are thankful for the ability to carry on.

Adrian retires from work and travels in March 2018, so in 2017 we had our last holiday in Hawai'i (collocated with an IEEE 802.11 meeting, as it has been for the last 12 years or so).



Tina with her sun-going-down glass of prosecco.





Tina, Ruth and John at Anglesey Abbey, 2016.

Sarah gave birth to Isabella in September. She is a lovely little girl who is just starting to fill out.



Eleanor and "Flo", July 2017.

God bless you and wishing you well this Christmas time. With hugs/kisses/handshakes etc... as (in-)appropriate to our relationship.



Tina and Adrian Stephens

Ruth got engaged to John Delacruz. John is a swell guy who works for the US air-force blu-tacking missiles to the bottom of airplanes. He's currently on a 1-year tour in South Korea. They plan on getting married on Easter Saturday 2018 in Chicago, and Tina is registered as the celebrant. That will be interesting. I wonder what she can get them to promise to do.



Sarah, Tina and baby "Iz", October 2017.

Eleanor gave birth to Florence in June. Florence (or "Flo") is a happy little girl who is a delight. David made the switch instantly from slightly blokish bloke to gooey in the middle doting father completely wrapped around Flo's little finger. It was funny to watch.



David and "Flo"