

HALLIDAY FAMILY NEWS

2012 - there's the year that has just finished. Matthew was 21, Christopher was 18 and Ian and Viv celebrated their silver wedding. That's just a bit of what happened. As well as his 21st birthday, Matthew also graduated from Lancaster University.



Later in the year Christopher set off to Manchester University to study Middle Eastern Studies, which we find most intriguing as a subject. He is now in good shape: his hospital check-ups have all been uneventful, which is how we want it to be.

At the beginning of August, we went on a family holiday to Athens, the first trip to Greece for any of us. Our hotel looked across to the Acropolis, while we also went on a marvellous day trip round the

coast and also saw the Temple of Poseidon. We also visited Mars Hill, where St Paul addressed the men of Athens, which wasn't a bit like I had imagined.

The highspot of the year was surely our trip to Canada to celebrate our silver wedding. In 1987 we visited the Victoria Falls for our honeymoon, so naturally it was to the Niagara Falls that we turned for our anniversary. We flew to Toronto, where David met us for a few days looking round that fine city before taking the train to Niagara Falls. The Falls (two distinct drops) are beautiful and fascinating.



The US/Canada border is there, so on our anniversary we walked over the bridge into the United States and walked back in

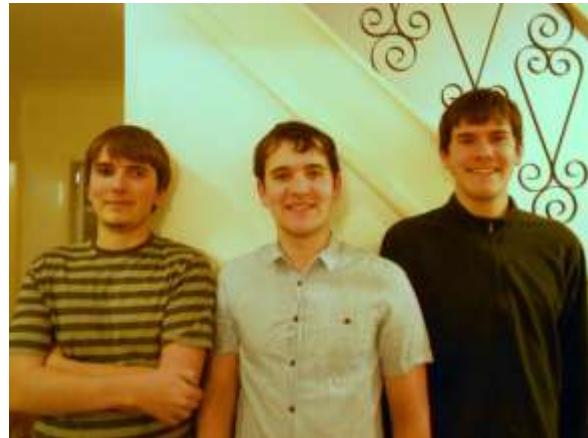
the evening. We could easily fill the whole of this letter and more besides with our description of it all - walking close to the Falls, behind the Falls, on a boat to the foot of the Falls and more besides.

Ian's new-found interest in football trips resulted in numerous trips to Wembley Stadium, including one for the Olympics, as well as one to Oslo, though this ridiculous travel was curtailed by him not working for about six months after finishing at Santander in Milton Keynes at the end of April, though the pay is now coming in again, this time from London. Matthew and Ian went to see the FA Cup Final, one of the world's great events, though the result was very disappointing to us.

A cheap weekend in Prague at the beginning of the year started it all off, though there were other trips. Christopher flew from Manchester to Los Angeles while David took time off from his job in casino surveillance and flew from Edmonton to Los Angeles for a week at Disneyland, while at the same time Matthew went off to Tenerife. Ian and Viv weren't Disney-free, having won a trip to Paris which they took in April. Viv also went to Florence and London with her friend Lis, as well as spending a week in Sheffield watching the world snooker championships.

Viv and Lis went to see the Strictly live

show at the start of the year, while the year ends with Ian and Viv at the final of the X-Factor in Manchester, to which Ian had accidentally won a pair of tickets. Other things we have done included trips to Hayward's Heath, Oxford and Blackpool, and probably other places too. What will 2013 hold for us? At the time of writing, David and Matthew are looking for full time work, but I am sure that they will find something very soon.



With much love to you for Christmas and the New Year, as we celebrate again the birth of God's son in Bethlehem.

Ian, Viv, David, Matthew and
Christopher xxx