

Ritorno in Italia

After last year's school leaving trip to Italy, Henry was delighted to find that this year's trip at his new school, was, naturalmente, to Italy. This time with more classics and volcanoes. Pompeii showed how a Plinian eruption can really ruin your day.



Perse school enjoys the Vesuvius fumerole



Only a couple of class-mates didn't make it back

Gowned in Paris

Helen graduates in style at the European School of Business

This year's hot Parisian fashion is the blue-sashed gown and mortar board of the MBA graduate from the ESCP-EAP European School of Business.



Dr. Mulligan the MBA graduate, with groupies

Dr. Helen Mulligan wore hers in style along the graduation ceremony catwalk on the avenue de la République. This was the culmination of the two year MBA programme, with project work in her specialised field of low-energy building design for carbon credit trading.



Alice passes through the gates of academia

Alice Comes to Jesus

Alice got a place at Cambridge University and embraced the red and black of Jesus College. She is reading Natural Sciences and although now living only 1 1/2 miles away, she hasn't phoned home since she went up.



Occupants of (wild) West Staircase 3 Chapel Court

Back Down the Pub

Reunion of the bar staff from the summer job 35 years ago. Andrew and his two school friends Andy and Martin, ("the Brians") relived their pint-pulling days in the Victoria Arms, Llanbedr, in darkest Wales.



Brians at the Vic 1974



Brians at the Vic 2009

Coburn of the Fourth Form

Now he's for the High Jump

Henry, now 15 and 5' 10", embarked on his first year of GCSEs at Perse School. His long legs won him the school sports day high jump award. This term he's enjoyed (if that's the right word) the Versailles Treaty, irregular verbs and differential equations on his run in to next summer's exams. Less of a sprint and more of a marathon, really.



Henry gets debugged for winning at Diplomacy



3D TV with Derren Brown's magic tricks

Browned Off

2009 was the year of the three dull Browns: Gordon tried to save the financial world as UK Prime Minister, Dan produced the disappointing *Lost Symbol* novel, and Derren had us all psychologically glued to our sofas with his illusionist tricks and 3D television. Entertaining though these Browns were, we could do with a bit more colour in our lives in 2010.



Henry decodes Dan Brown at the Louvre

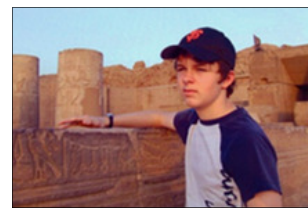


Andrew, Alice and Henry with the Mummy

Our Pyramid Scheme

Escaping the financial crisis, Ponzi swindles, and the swine flu pandemic, we sought refuge in the monuments of ancient Egypt. Nothing like a 5,000 year old civilization to put today's problems into perspective. Incredible temples, glimpses of lives long gone, and those pyramids – bonkers or what?

'Oh Nile!' intoned the pretentious narration of the son-et-lumière show at the pyramids, but this catch phrase summed up the mighty river and the sites along its banks. We travelled from Cairo to Aswan, visiting Luxor and key temples from the Old & New Egyptian Kingdoms.



Henry contemplates hieroglyphs in Karnak temple



Hieroglyph cartouche of the noble Pharaoh 'Coburn'

Henry helpfully put together a quick guide to Egyptology to differentiate the Ramses from the Tutankhamens and in decoding hieroglyphics, help us tell our Horus from our Ebo.

It's murder on the Nile

We used the cool of the mornings to explore the Valley of the Kings, but like many before us, failed to find the last lost tomb of Ramses VIII, before retreating from the mid-day heat. The spectacular temples have been reclaimed from under metres of desert sand and in some cases, rebuilt to save them from the Aswan lake.

The Pyramids of Giza put everything in perspective: For 4,000 years they remained the largest constructions made by man. We admired the scale of everything. In Egypt, it is all a matter of degrees: 52° pyramids along the 30° longitude at 40°C temperatures.



Girls enjoy the upper deck of the Nile Cruise ship



Churchill men's first crew steals foliage from Ditton Corner to mark their successful bump

### Bank Crisis During Liquidity Shortage

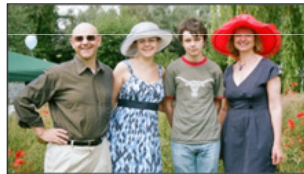
*A higher than expected attendance at this year's Bumps Party meant that the Pimms ran out quite quickly*

Mister Asbo, a mad swan that attacks boats, made the national headlines. But they locked him away to give us a great rowing spectacle unhindered by aggressive cygnian intervention. We missed him. We'd have toasted his health, if we'd had any booze left.

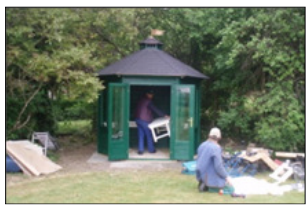
**DRINKS COUPON**  
*Bumps & Carnage Party*  
**Saturday 12 June 2010**  
 Cut out and keep, for next year, just in case...



Mr Asbo the lunatic swan, attacks a rowing crew



Family formal: Ladies wearing anti-swan headgear



The new summer house on the croquet lawn



Coburns, Ruffles and Withers on the rooftop of Gaudi's La Pedrera building in Barcelona



At Uncle Nick's Sci-Fi 50th birthday party, Helen the Zarbee dances with a Triffid and an Ood

### Barcelona Nights

A February weekend pilgrimage took the Class of '78 to see the architecture of Antoni Gaudi, the art museums and other sights of the Mediterranean city. Not to mention the Catalan cuisine and the memorable Spanish wines. There's something about sitting in the Mediterranean harbour eating black rice that's unbeatable.



Edna gets the sparkler

### Birthday Girls

If it's good enough for Wayne and Colleen, it's good enough for Edna. Helen's Mum feted her birthday in style at Slattery's of Whitefield, the very finest cake shop in the whole Northwest. Not to be outdone, the next day her baby sister Joan celebrated her own 80th with a limousine ride to Haslingden.



Aunty Joan gets the stretch limo

### Unwelcome House Guest

The police caught him cycling Andrew's bike and wearing Andrew's ski jacket, but by then he'd fenced the laptops stolen from Ditton Corner in a midnight burglary. Poor chap is probably just mis-understood.

### Our Babies All Been Done Grown Up

We met at the National Childbirth Trust parent-to-be classes of '91. This summer our progeny achieved adulthood so we celebrated the 18th birthdays of Alfred, Sarah and Alice on holiday at the Biarritz home of the Joly family. There are now 14 of us...



Surfing dudes and other grown up children



Flying the flag in Chnagsha

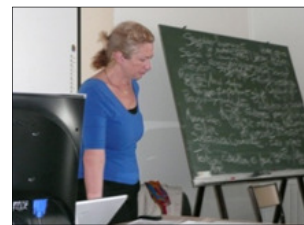
### CAR Saleswoman

*South China see*

In November, Helen took part in an official UK Trade Mission to China. After ten hectic days of diplomatic receptions, presentations and networking banquets in six different cities she ran out of luggage space for all the business cards she'd received. Now the real work begins...

### Getting Retrofit

A great year for Cambridge Architectural Research: we expanded our capacity and won a string of high-profile contracts. Helen is advising two competition-winning teams who aim to cut carbon emissions from social housing projects by 70-80% in the Retrofit for the Future demonstration scheme.



Wish upon a Eurostar

### Living COST

The European-funded COST network on *Cities Regrowing Smaller* kicked off in Brussels and immediately trebled in participant numbers - perhaps the attraction was the September workshop held at the Sorbonne in Paris. Helen co-ordinates the workpackage on *Solutions to Shrinkage*, and is attempting to keep it to a manageable size.

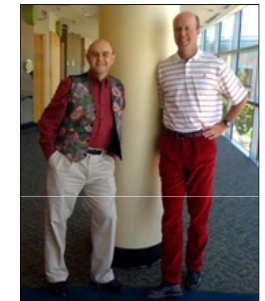


By an amazing coincidence, all of the new ERS team are exactly the same height

### Emerging Leadership

*RMS launches a new business unit to explore emerging risks*

Several of the new risk areas that Andrew has been exploring over the past few years at Risk Management Solutions were consolidated in a formal business unit of Emerging Risk Solutions. Andrew now co-leads this with his partner-in-crime, Peter Ulrich. ERS now pursues potential 'breakout' opportunities of life & health risks, liability mass tort, and terrorism risk. It is back to the entrepreneur days. At the height of the swine flu pandemic, ERS helped launch an innovative \$75m excess mortality bond. In liability, new technologies are being developed to detect risks years in advance.



Style leadership: Andrew and Peter Ulrich instil a strict dress code for the new group



Holy Tow-Truck! Batman's secret identity is revealed when parking wardens nab the Batmobile.



Chilly reception in Munich, visiting Munich Re, a major client in several areas of emerging risk

### Cambridge University Risk Studies Initiative

Centre for Risk Studies



This autumn saw the launch of a new initiative at University of Cambridge, to create a Centre for Risk Studies. Andrew has been an advisor to the initiative and has helped arrange a seminar series and a one-day international workshop on *Catastrophic Collapse of Complex Systems*. Each have attracted eminent speakers and strong attendance. The Centre is now developing a research agenda and a funding plan.