

From the McLoughlin's

# 1999 and all that...

CHRISTMAS 1999  
NEWSLETTER

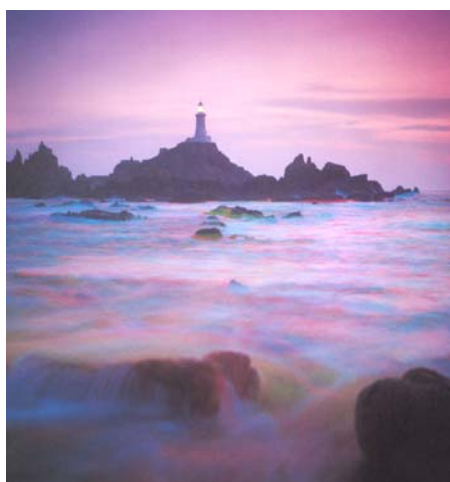
## Jersey Oil Strike!

So much has happened in the last 12 months, that the year has just flown by. We've lived in 4 or 5 different places and made a lot of adjustments!

We'd only just got over last year's festivities, when we discovered we'd an oil-leak under the lounge floor. The smell was horrendous so out we moved – first to the Lobster-pot Hotel just down the road, then into a holiday apartment on the beach when it became apparent that we wouldn't get back into the house very quickly. Mike was already working on a project in London pending his

transfer to Switzerland, so we decided quite quickly to pack up the property in Jersey, put everything in store and take a flat in London.

Luckily some friends of ours had one to let, so we spent an interesting 3 months living in Mayfair, a stone's throw away from Hyde Park, Harrods, Fortnum & Masons, Oxford St etc. Never having spent much time in London before, we found it quite a revelation. Honey



Corbiere lighthouse

enjoyed walks in Hyde Park and we enjoyed visiting places we'd only ever heard of before. Unfortunately our stay was over before we knew it.

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### Basle – points of interest:

- City founded in AD374
- Cathedral consecrated 1019
- First Swiss University founded by Pope Pius II in 1460
- 1501 joined the Swiss Confederation
- Major industrial city producing pharmaceuticals, chemicals, machinery and textiles
- Surrounded by rich agricultural area – fruit trees, vines and cattle

## Added calories

By early May, the London project was finished and it was time to move on – to Basle.

We found an apartment we liked quite quickly, but it wasn't available until the beginning of July, so we resigned

ourselves to hotel life for several weeks. It was a pleasant hotel, in a pretty village just outside Basle, and the staff were very friendly and helpful. Hazel found time very heavy on her hands, with no dog to

walk and no vacuum-cleaner to push! Eating out in one of the 13 hostelrys within 100m of the hotel was heavy on the waistline too!



## Next stop Basle...

But the time passed and at the end of June Hazel went to the UK for Ruth's Speech Day and together they brought Honey back. Once the furniture van arrived it was non-stop activity. Somehow each successive house-move seems harder than the last, but eventually we felt settled and ready to welcome visitors. Mike's mum came, then Hazel's folks, then John and his girlfriend.

Basle is an ideal place from which to tour,

within half-an-hour you're in the Alsace and historic Colmar, or the Black-forest. Zurich, Lucerne, the Alps are all

about an hour away. We even made Neuschwanstein and back in a day.



Basle - Münster

*The Bordeaux region of France is recognized as a premier producer of Bordeaux wines. Many famous vineyards are located here.*

## BordeauxMog 99

After that we needed a holiday, so we went off round France in the Morgan for a week or so – saw the replica prehistoric cave-paintings at Lascaux (fascinating), numerous mediaeval towns and villages before taking part in a Morgan rally around the vineyards of Bordeaux (hic!).

Following the rally we moved south, visited mediaeval Carcassonne, little changed today, where we stayed right in the old Cité. From there we went and revisited the places Hazel had known as a student (some 27 years previously). She was disappointed to find the quiet little towns and

villages she remembers, largely overrun by traffic.

Moving on through the Carmargue we were plagued by the *Mistral* as we drove up through Avignon before eventually returning to Switzerland over the French Alps and through the first snows of (an early?) winter.



Spot the old-timer!



Lascaux cave paintings

## As the year draws to an end.

Since we got back time has slipped by and we've settled into Swiss life quite well. Mike's been travelling a lot on business and Hazel's got involved with a centre for the international community in Basle. We've made some friends and got to know our way around a bit. We're living just outside Basle in lovely rural surroundings – lots of nice walks for Honey – but within 10 – 15 mins drive of the city, so very convenient really.

Hazel's hoping to start some language-teaching in the New Year (New Millennium even!)

John and Ruth are both coming here for Christmas, then we're all going back to the UK for the Millennium celebrations.

Hope you enjoy a very happy festive season and that 2000 holds lots of

good things in store for you.



**View from the apartment looking north-west towards France**



## Ruth's news

Well it's Christmas again and it doesn't seem 5 minutes from the last one. Although it's gone so quickly thinking about it a lot seems to have happened. Everything was going quite normally until we moved to London and since then things just haven't stopped.

London was great, mind you what teenage girl do you know that would hate to live just a 10 minute walk from Oxford Street. And being able to go home for an odd weekend here and there as well as half terms was a nice treat.



**Ruth's 18th**

Easter hit and a little family weekend break so dad could learn to drive a Ferrari gave me a chance to have a little ride in a Lotus Elise, and what an experience that was. Still hasn't changed my mind about the Mazda MX5, which one day I will own. At the end of the holidays I was also given the chance to experience a week in a London law firm, which I enjoyed and found quite helpful.

Back at school after the holidays and once again I was sitting exams, but I guess I'm quite used to them

these days. As the last lot of school prefects were taking the final A level exams that term, their duties were passed on to those who were taking over this year. With this I found out that I had been made head of my house 'Cantwara'. With this I was delighted, as it was the position I had wanted. Mind you there have been times I wished it was all up to some one else.

The summer and first the house move which I'm sure mum and dad have told you all about

*contd. overleaf*

**Ruth's news contd....**  
so I won't bore you again. Midsummer I came back to England for about 2 weeks,

*Ruth celebrates her  
18th birthday*



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giving me the chance for to see some of my friends and celebrate my 18th Birthday. It was a great two weeks with loads happening. I stayed with John who had his new house to himself for most of the summer. My birthday was a great day, two friends from school came over to Leeds to help me celebrate and hold my while I had my belly button pierced (much to dad's disapproval). We all went out for a pub dinner with John and a few of his friends and then John, my friends and I all went out in the

evening. It was a great night out and I have to say I can remember most of it. Other than those two weeks the summer was quite uneventful.

Back at school again and not much has happened so far this term. I've now got my own room and I do enjoy having my own space. Just before half term we had an inter house music competition that as head of house was up to me to organise. Quite an experience to say the least and a lot of sweat was shed, but things seemed to fall into place in the end and Cantwara

managed to regain 1st place after losing the previous 5 years.

I think that pretty much sums up my year - well what I can remember of it anyway so I will now leave you with the warmest wish to you all. I hope you all have a great Christmas and that the new year (or should I say new millennium) brings all that you hope for.

## John's news

Another good year has come to an end. I got through my first year at Uni without too much difficulty and have adapted to life in the second year. Moving out of student flats to a house has been good and as Uncle David was shocked to discover I am actually very house proud (no pond in the garden yet though).

Over the summer I worked in Leeds and got to meet more people and make new social and work relationships. I hope to work for Global Logistics again, if they will have me back. My football has continued to develop too.

Towards the end of the

first year I broke into the university teams, scoring a hat-trick on my debut. This season I am in the



**My head's falling off!**

fourth team and have scored nine goals in as many games. I have also made an appearance for the thirds.

The family has moved to

Switzerland and although I stayed in Leeds for most the holiday it was great to go to a new home. Switzerland is a lovely place to go, and Basle is in an ideal spot in that it is very easy to go into Germany and France. The new house is great! I highly recommend a holiday there, Laura [ed's note - girlfriend] certainly thought so. The only downside is that Mum and Dad are a little bit far away again and even though I am quite independent now, I miss them!

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

**A merry christmas and a happy new year  
With every good wish for the new millenium**