

Christmas 2009

BULLWER NEWS



China!



Lingering Garden, Suzhou.

Suzhou: water towns of Zhujiajiao and Tongli, silk factory, silk embroidery institute, Lingering Garden, Humble Administrator's Garden, Master of Fishing Nets Garden

Hangzhou: Tea plantation, West Lake, Six Harmonies Pagoda, Lingyin Temple

It was a fantastic 10 days and we'd love to go again.

We took over 1000 photos between us! A few are on Lez's facebook page, we've also had some printed for an album and are going to produce a photobook (when Lez has time!). But, if you want to see them all, you'll have to come visit us!

This year was our 20th Wedding Anniversary. Since this is the china wedding anniversary we decided to take it literally and go to China! We went on an organised tour to see Chinese gardens. This was the first time Andrew had flown—it was a 10-hour flight!

We went to Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou. We had a lot of rain, but then we were there at the end of the typhoon season. We saw lots of pagodas, temples, high-rise buildings and ate lots of Chinese food with chopsticks (forks were not an option!).

Just a taster of what we saw—

Shanghai: Jade Buddha Temple, Yu Yuan Gardens, Huang Pu River, Nanjing Road



Pu Dong, Shanghai.

Home

Lots of jobs have been done around the house this year. Much of it is 'hidden' work, so there's nothing much to see:

- _ Network cables hidden away (no more trailing cables through the house)
- _ Fascia and soffits done (roof trim)
- _ Shed base (new shed arriving soon!)
- _ Emergency roof repair (tiles blown off in a gale)
- _ Main phone point moved and extra phone sockets fitted
- _ Timer switch for immersion heater
- _ Fix burst outside water pipe
- _ Fit a cowl on chimney
- _ Paint hall, stairs & landing
- _ Light & power fitted in loft
- _ Fit a new siphon in toilet



Andrew looking worried up on the roof with the new cowl.

AWAY FROM HOME (SHORT BREAKS/DAY TRIPS)

Besides China we've also had a short break at Alnwick, where we managed to get to see inside Lindisfarne Castle this time. Lez has been to Norwich and Andrew to Lincoln. We've also been to Rufford Abbey, Barnsdale Gardens, Woolsthorpe Manor (Newton's birthplace), Barnsdale Gardens, Launde Abbey, Oakham Castle, Foxton Locks and Barnsdale Gardens. We're now Friends of Barnsdale Gardens since we go so much!



Japanese Garden at Barnsdale Gardens



Andrew – is wondering where the year went! The bookshop is about to move another shop. He spent a day with a friend tuning church organs and cycled Rutland Water again (in the rain) with the boys from the family.

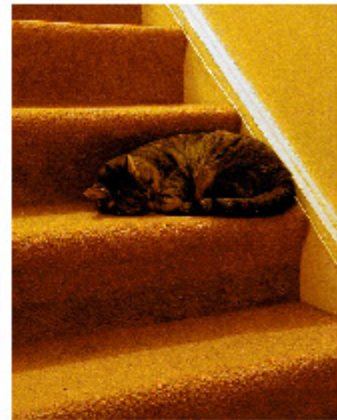
The cats continue to be cute and annoying in equal measure. Jack really likes to sit in front of the wood-burning stove and Jill likes the wall behind the chimney, on the stairs.



The weather in February meant we were snowed in. Finally a lifelong wish fulfilled! It wasn't as glamorous as he'd hoped. The Skoda is no more. We've been given a 2 litre Volvo.

Andrew has spent much time at home supervising workmen and cutting wood.

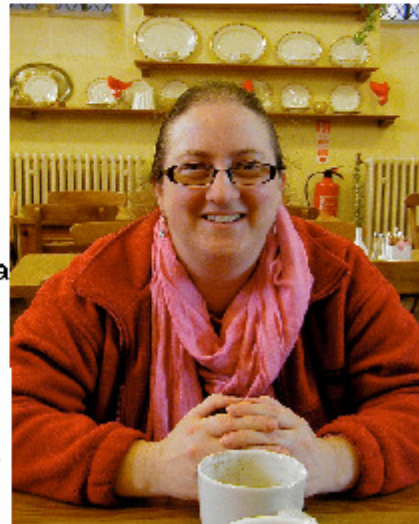
Plans for 2009 were to have a drop kerb fitted (not started yet), to finish boarding the loft (oh dear), build a filing system (dear, oh dear) and have a shed in the rear garden to reclaim the conservatory (well, the base is in place and the shed should be there by Christmas!).



Andrew

Lez – won a project management course and did the APM Introductory Certificate (and passed) in August. She is now on another OU course, this time on management. She has now been a manager for a year and (mostly) enjoys it. Next year she plans to decorate the bedroom and organise/decorate the conservatory—to then be able to use it as a dining room.

Lez



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!