



We took our bikes to the Loire region again this summer. Same cottage as last year, but we cycled to new places.

The gardens at Villadry were spectacular. Rides to Béhaud and Fontevraud l'Abbaye were challenging but worth the effort.

The "get away from it all" feeling was great. Next year we're going to the USA - without our bikes!

✕ Early retirement? ✕

Barrie left the BBC at the end of April, accepting voluntary redundancy and early retirement. His new business is called "digistories". Head office is located in Top Room and he has definitely not stopped working.

DIGISTORIES

I have been to San Francisco and New York since starting my new business, working with other digital storytellers to run storytelling workshops.

Without doubt I really enjoyed the trips across the pond, making some good contacts and broadening my understanding of the digital storytelling business.

Back in the UK I am developing proposals with a

range of organisations and delivering some training events for my old employer, the BBC.

The opportunity to follow my own agenda, to develop my art and my skills is a privilege. I have enjoyed a gentler lifestyle as a result. I don't imagine that things will stay this way. As business opportunities

develop the workload will inevitably increase too. So I'm making the most of this present time. Look at my website if you want to know more.



Greenbelt

Cheltenham Racecourse, August Bank Holiday Weekend. Barrie worked on Greenbelt FM and Joan helped look after the BBC stand.

We stayed in university halls and cycled to the racecourse each day. Wes and Matt camped on site. They even cooked us a meal. It was fine weekend - and very enjoyable. No horror stories of mud, toilets or leaking tents.

Matthew and Wesley cooking dinner outside their tent at Greenbelt 2005



Weddings

Not close family but we have been to three couplings this year. David and Nicci in May (Ann and Derek's son), Donna and Bob in July (Janet and Charlie's daughter) and Elly and Andy in August (our acting daughter from Riding Lights Roughshod a few years ago)

BENIDORM

Warwick spent a week on hoiliday in Spain in September. Not an altogether satisfactory event. Despite meticulous planning by his carers the holiday company failed to provide suitable rooms at the hotel or the equipment that had been booked. We are still awaiting a response from the company.



Warwick came home from Spain in a brilliant hat!

Building work

Warwick's area of the house has been transformed. He has a new shower room and toilet, a vanity unit in his bedroom and a new motorised bed. Looking after him at home is now a lot simpler.

We made the utility room smaller to make way for all of this and while the builder was here we had the back yard paved in stone too.

SKELWITH BRIDGE

We took a couple of days in the Lakes this autumn, staying at the Skelwith Bridge Hotel. Good walking to the top of the



Langdale Pikes on a clear day.

Earlier in the year we spent a weekend in Barcelona.

HISTORIC SUCCESS

Joan was pleased with the results of her GCSE students this year. Re-grading of teaching posts is causing some concern amongst her colleagues. Ofsted visited in September.

Home

Wesley and Deborah returned from their world tour in May. In Peru they spent a few weeks as volunteers working in a charity school in Huaraz. The children their won their hearts



and their Spanish improved too.

They have recently sold their house in Chelmsford pending a move to London. They are buying a house in Leyton to be nearer friends and Wesley's job.

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