

Dear all,

The year seems to have gone by very quickly. We continue to travel backwards and forwards between Berne and Norwich. We are getting the claiming of compensation from the *Deutsche Bahn* down to a fine art. It is strange that the journey **to** England always seems to go smoothly, but the one back **never** goes as planned!



We did do something unusual in May – a once-in-a-lifetime cruise. We chose the Eastern Mediterranean, as only three of the stops were places we'd been to before. It majored on Greek islands, with Ephesus, Cyprus and Naples thrown in. As it departed and returned to Rome, we were able to get there by train – we are currently trying to avoid flying anywhere. And we had enjoyable stays in seaside places in Italy on the way there and back.

In the summer we visited some “old” friends of Hector in the Wirral and followed this up with a few days in Llandudno - including a morning visit to Llanfairfechan where we identified the house Hector lived in while studying in Bangor in 1966. We did go on to Bangor. We travelled from and back to Norwich by train – via London 😊



Hector adds: Senile decay has not spread far enough for me to give up on Christmas cards entirely, so this comes with best wishes for Christmas and for great things in 2025.

I am impressed by how much harder I find it to move around, talk intelligibly, read small print and such things. I try to avoid such signs of senility as spectacles, but I find a walking stick very useful – it gets people to give seats up for you on the tram, though it doesn't prevent the pain of meeting the occasional trip hazard!

The family thrive – Antonia and Owen are still in Brisbane, she still processing statistics for Queensland Health, he still doing electrical things for large firms. Tamsin and Erik are nearby, up the hill in Köniz, she managing to cope with illness and with the demands of managing care provision in an institution near Burgdorf, he working at home providing financial advice to local businesses. Sebastian and Kadle are on the other side of Berne, he looking after large computer networks, and she combining digital business management with further study. And I should also mention the grandchildren, Patrick and Sarah (22 and 19), and Matthew and Oliver (8 and almost 6).

From both of us: We wish you an enjoyable festive season and all the best in 2025.

Love, Tricia and Hector