

The Brag-Rag 2012 (what we have been upto....)



Selected boasts from the Murnaghan family of Camberley .

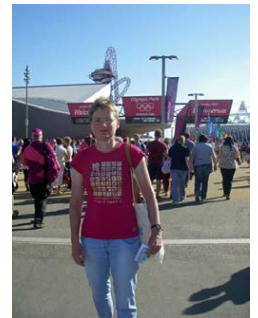
In which Sarah tells of sparkling exam results and glamorous holidays, Matthew of a new school, Liz of the Olympics, there is not much from Peter (his usual taciturn nature extends to writing as well) whilst Adrian quietly gets on with working hard to fund it all.

Liz has a group of friends called the "Ladies who launch" who meet up once a week to kayak on a local canal, river or coast. Promoting Women and girls in Paddlesport is a target for the top brass at Canoe England Towers and they had heard of this housework avoidance scheme, so when they needed a group of paddlers during office hours in February to help out with "Something to do with the Olympics" Liz got an invite to round up her paddling buddies to meet up at Dorney Lake. The original plan was for a parade of historic boats showing paddlesport through the ages to entertain spectators before the Olympic programme started. We did some timed paddles along bits of the course to show what was possible. The wind was gale force. It took Liz 10 mins to cover the 1000m course in her slalom boat. (at the Olympics Eirik Veras Larsen took 3mins 26.462") The conclusions were 1)not to race if the weather was grotty; 2) only showcase long fast boats; 3). to get GB junior development team hopefuls to paddle the boats rather than some middle aged housewives and retired folk.

Sarah and Matthew both got their slice of Olympic build-up in April, being part of the giant human "Inspired by London 2012" logo formed of 2012 students on the Collingwood College playing field. You will have seen it as a backdrop at times on BBC TV. Matthew is in the "L" of London whilst Sarah is in the front of the first "2" in 2012 (honest!)

Liz took the Guides camping at Foxlease for a Jubilee themed event, we even had our own flotilla, well, raft building on the lake. The weather was somewhat damp and a £3 novelty union flag broly hat from Primark turned out to be a fantastic purchase. Sarah went camping with the Rangers to Tolmers in Essex in July. You will have to read on a bit to get to her glamorous trip!

Liz got a job as an Olympic Gamesmaker, she was based at the Olympic Rowing Village, Royal Holloway College, just up the A30 in Egham, working as part of the Transport Team. The perk of being in the transport team was a ride on the athlete transport bus, along the Olympic bus lane, to see Eton Dorney in full Olympic splendour. She also joined other Gamesmakers for the technical rehearsal of the opening ceremony and in the Mall for the athlete parade.



Our holiday was to a villa just south of Larnaca in Cyprus. There was a lot of swimming, it was warm enough even for Adrian to spend hours in the pool. We had a trip into the Troodos mountains and a ride on a camel. We ticked the culture box by visiting a castle and a mosque. The wonders of the internet meant Sarah could download her GCSE results in a café sipping lemonade. She did very well and is now studying Biology, Chemistry and Geography to A level and AS Photography for fun (although this may bankrupt Bank of Mum and Dad as the list of things she really , really needs seems to grow by the week). We flew in over the Olympic stadium as it was all lit up for the Paralympic opening ceremony.

We went to the Paralympic archery event at the Royal Artillery Barracks. Liz and Matthew "Had a Go" afterwards whilst Sarah and Adrian chatted to one of the Gamesmakers providing the activity who is a coach at Lintman AC where they shoot. He gave Sarah one of the used Paralympic target faces which she then got archer Sharon Vennard to sign. We used our one day travelcards to the full, going up to Stratford to view the stadium from the 2nd floor of John Lewis, Westfield and then have a ride on the new Javelin train.

Matthew started at Collingwood College in September and has settled in well.

During the October half term Sarah went with the school on a whirlwind tour of China. She visited Beijing, Xian and Shanghai , the famous sites including the terracotta army and the Great Wall. She ate a wide variety of food, including lambs testicles but balked at deep fried spider. With Sarah in China and Peter at Reading University , Matthew had a free rein to choose a short break destination for himself, Liz and Adrian. He chose Manchester! The specific attraction was the Legoland Discovery Centre , we also managed to fit in Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and indoor mini golf with Kennilworth Castle on the way up and Peak Rail on the way home.

Adrian hoped that if he ignored his 50th birthday it would go away. It didn't of course, but with him being away on business and

Sarah away on a Geography field trip the celebrations were muted. He did managed his first 6 gold end in archery with his new arrows, sadly the distance was only 10m and not 50!

The fireworks at Whitebourne were an adrenalin rush , the garden there really isn't big enough for display fireworks and we did have to dodge a few sparks.