

Northern

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS

AUGUST 2008



Editorial Ramblings

No doubt this edition will be the smallest newsletter for a very long time - if not ever! The truth is, that I really don't have time to go to work! There are far more interesting and valuable things to do with my time, my life, than spend 11+ hours a day earning a crust - and yet, that is life for me now (after having had a nice break) as it is for the vast majority of us. By the time I arrive home, another day is over and I'm far too

tired to do the things that I enjoy doing. All this was brought home to me just the other day when driving to work. It was one of the few mornings where the sun

was shining, very low in the sky in the early morning, and there was a ghostly ground mist that, with the golden sunshine, would have given me the chance to take some beautiful photographs. I almost turned off the motorway and said *to hell with going to work*, but duty called me

louder and I continued on my way to the office instead of spending an hour or two enjoying myself with my camera. Thinking back, it is difficult to know what I really should have done; having been a slave to duty for so many years - but if another magical early morning beckons me as strongly, maybe I'll be unable to resist a second time. I'd like to thank so many of you for your e-mails and apologise for not replying. As I write this on 29 August, I haven't written an e-mail to anyone for several weeks. The fact is, that it is as much as I can do to get to work and back every day and anything extra is just too much after my 11-12 hour day. This illness I've had, has really knocked me out, far more than I realised. In fact, I've taken a day off today just so that I will be able to cope with the drive to and from Paul and Julie's wedding in Bruton, in Somerset tomorrow. Most Saturdays are completely wiped out as far as I'm concerned, as I'm too tired to enjoy them. Isn't that sad? I'm sure we'll enjoy tomorrow though. Another problem with having to go to work is that Little Lad really misses me. He really hates me going to work! Just the other day he said to me "*Daddy don't go work - Daddy stay here (with) JP.*" The welcome he gives me on my return is something very special and very touching. He would much rather I stay at home to play football and take him to the park and play other games with him. His first time to see me every day is when I walk through the door in the evening, worn out and frazzled after yet another day in the office and drive on the heavily congested M6 motorway. He now gets to see me for less than 3 hours/day, and those hours are at a time that I'm far from my best. Like most families these days, we have very little good quality time together. Retirement beckons quite strongly at times.



Photograph above: Alan talking with a colleague in the office.

Cover photograph: Paul and Julie on 30 August 2008 - Gant's Mill, Brunton, Somerset.

Back cover photograph: Trent and Mersey Canal at Wombourne.

On 16 August, we were delighted to receive a visit from David and Lyrma, whom we first met while we were living in Qatar.





RUFFORD