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December 2011

Dear

Christmas Greetings for 2011!

Beth's "6-8 weeks" full time work while my office moved to our parent company's Head Office in Manchester stretched to three months, then six, after which the company realised the admin work load was still growing and gave me a permanent full-time job. After 10 months in central Manchester I'm getting used to being a commuter, and to the very different feel of being part of a large company. In spite of moving into full-time work I managed to complete the A-level Spanish course and am inordinately proud of my A* grade. Gardening takes up most of my spare time, and any spare space (the windowsills have been taken over by things too delicate to survive the winter outside...)

Robert spent much of the year trying to retrieve the money which was owed me for work last year but looks like giving the lawyers a miss. From August I've been working again with some ex-colleagues from Bechtel days (pre-2001!) writing software for smart meters. A challenge and I'm gradually getting used to working from home.

Clare is still analysing soil in Manchester and somewhat of a flying visitor

Chris is now working for 1.5 days a week at a local garden project <http://www.maccgardencentre.co.uk/> which he has settled into and enjoys (except when spooked by deafeningly heavy rain on the polytunnel roof).

We managed a holiday last month in the Canaries exploring the steep slopes of La Palma. Wonderful views from the terrace of our rented cottage (including planes flying past below us as they took off from the island's airport!), and an amazing variety of landscape packed into such a small island.



With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year!