

JOHN RIMMER 1921-2012

It was with great sadness that we announce that Janice's Dad, John, passed away on July 7. John was a quiet man whose main passion in life was his garden.

PROPERTY EMPIRE

Janice became an Accredited Landlady in May, after undertaking the National Landlords Association course and assessment. David continued in his role of Janice's handyman (plumber, electrician, joiner, decorator, etc) fitting a new bathroom in one of the properties, yet another built-in wardrobe in another and undertaking the usual run of the mill maintenance and minor updating. David's top-tip: when installing cheap B&Q baths throw the supplied water-trap away and buy one that is capable of a watertight seal with the waste fitting. The story about the hammer and removal of the unflushed toilet will remain untold in deference to readers who may be reading this whilst eating!

2012 has seen a turning point for the property empire. Some long term tenants left during the year and after some considerable refurbishment works, the property is now up for sale. The plan for the proceeds involves something somewhere nice and warm in the Canaries – Spinkies rule OK!

Meanwhile the work continues. The empire currently has a couple of flats in the process of refurbishment and awaiting the installation of new kitchens and bathrooms.

RACHAEL AND ALISON

Alison is still living back with the old folks at home and still looking for her dream job. She had a spell at the local Marriott Hotel in the middle of the year shadowing the HR manager and found it valuable experience. She has been successful in gaining a few interviews but so far no job offers. Alison has also spent time volunteering with Latitude Global Volunteering, the organisation that placed her in India during her gap-year.

Much of Alison's time has been spent developing So Outrageous, described as Durham's only Gay Night. Interested readers can find out more on FaceBook (whatever that is) at /sooutrageousdurham.



Alison's involvement with swimming and water polo also continues. As well as playing for Sunderland in the national league, she has coached water polo back at her old Durham club and is currently taking a course in swimming coaching.

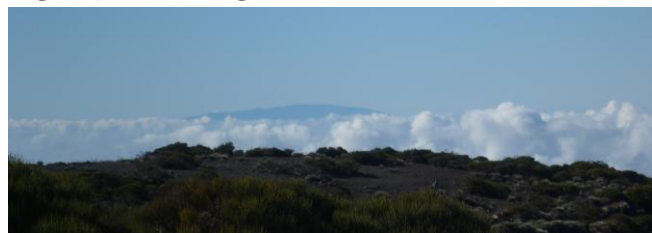
Rachael is still living and working in Cologne, Germany and has had a few brief visits back to see us. The road to Yeadon (Leeds-Bradford airport to

uninitiates) and back is starting to become a well worn route. May saw Rachael take back a large cardboard box complete with new bicycle inside. There were a few misgivings and tears as she struggled across the LBA car park but she said people helped her at the other end on and off train and tram and arrived safely back with it at her flat in Köln. The bike has since seen a fair amount of commuting action.

THE WORLD OF WORK

David packed in his role at the pharmaceutical company shortly after last year's Mello! went to press, having eventually got fed up with the cramped office accommodation. The wolf was kept from the door with further commissions from the two local authorities during the year with more work from this source likely in 2013. A lucrative (but failed) bid was made for work projecting population numbers for a different North East authority via a flaky internet connection from Tenerife in November. The slow coast to retirement continues.

HOLIDAY REPORT



Looking down on the clouds from the Caldera las Cañadas (with the island of La Palma in the distance)

David and Janice's exploration of the Canaries continues, this year in Tenerife. The climate and character of each of the islands is greatly shaped by the height of its mountains. Mt Teide, Tenerife's high point is over 12,000 feet and driving to it took us through the clouds and then above them in much the same way as on an aeroplane, with temperatures as low as 2°C whilst in the high 20's not more than a few miles away on the coast. Question for readers – what connection does Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl (of Kon-Tiki and Ra expedition fame) have with Tenerife?



AND FINALLY...

We hope this edition of Mello! finds you and yours in good health and we wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. With love from David, Janice, Rachael and Alison.

