

2012 In Terrible Verse Jenny O'Grady Giddy



Our darling Eleanor shared her first year
With loving family far and near
With her huge dark eyes and arms outstretched
Gran Jen couldn't wait to hug her to her chest.



Travel there was - as usual, aplenty
Air plane trips - seemed like at least twenty



To Cloudbridge and Wildcliff
To Vancouver and Bend
Then home to Rhinecliff
And hearth and family to tend.



Charles came too - most of the time
Except for a hiatus - we were both out of line
A reunion took place
In June of this year
And together we are, for he is really a dear
The only thing missing is an aid for his ear.
He is helpful and kind
And gave me the pond in the picture above
Is it me or fishing that is his first love?



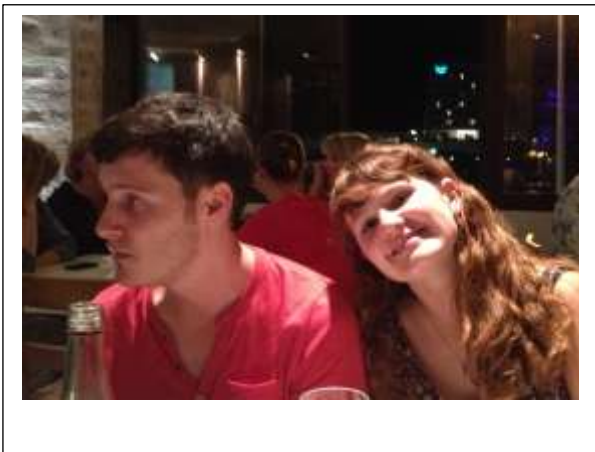
Richard has left BC for a sunnier clime
Google's YouTube office in San Bruno is where he will spend his time
Stephanie still studies at BCIT
But California is where she would rather be.



James and Jovy are crossing The Pond
"I'd prefer London!"
And Swiss Re waved its magic wand.
His Tube will take him to The Gherkin in The City



While Jovy and Ellie stay home in their new village
so pretty
Or Jovy will work as a librarian
Bringing information to the masses, cultured or
barbarians.



Julia continues to study in SA
Enjoying both work and play
Driving friends from the Cape to Gauteng
And ziplining and rafting to her heart's content.
Now she has Ruan
I don't worry so much
He's a delightful young man
And she's quite a catch.

Laura is now nearly 23
And like her big sister, has their Dad's bravery.
She teaches in a school in Detroit
Every day, her life is quite fraught

With little kids challenging what they are taught
But the rewards are fulfilling
As many of the children are really quite willing.

We are delighted to see both girls here at year's end



Accompanied by Alex, Laura's charming boyfriend
They drove from Michigan for days through the snow
For a warm welcome from all, including little Ringo!

Family and friends are a joy to see
Whether in SA, Bend, UK or BC.
My Book Group is brilliant, they spur me to read
And give me advice when that's what I need.



Book Group and friends



The Bridge group convenes when Jenny's in town
We catch up on news of friends far and near
And share our delights and also our fears
This while hardly a card is laid down

In October to New York came the trio
Of Wendy and Ai Lee and wee Mairi Sparrow
We dined and we shopped, we drove and we gawked
Through Manhattan's Central Park we walked and we talked.
Thanks to Charles as tour guide
They saw waterfalls and glorious fall colors on their long drive
Through the Columbia County countryside.



South Africa and Wildcliff

Cousin Jill, you are like a sister to me
And now we share more than a family memory.
Thank you and Rudi for your city hospitality
I'm glad that Wildcliff provides reciprocity.



Rudi, thanks for all your help with Kafkaesque bureaucracy
But oh well, I was never intended to join the plutocracy.
What I remember most of SA this past May
Was our endless slog through the wilderness of wattles and rocks
With Jill bouncing ahead like a little Springbok.



At Wildcliff in May.

With Aileen, my cousin I hadn't seen for forty years, and Jill, my cousin from Cape Town.



Julia in Port Elizabeth, with my nephew Andrew. (Andrew, glad you are feeling better after your scary bout with heat stroke. I had never realized how serious it could be.)

To South Africa Charles and I flew in November this year
How cool, but so strange to see Tom and Linda there
They had a great trip, Kruger, the Cape and Wildcliff at last
After hearing about it these many years past.
Now they are back in the cloud forest today
Having enjoyed their experience of watching the baboons at play.



Tom and Linda at Wildcliff with a yellow pincushion protea



To All my friends and family far and near
You know you are in my thoughts
As I write to wish you A Happy New Year
But I have no time to rhyme
So many names with no sound the same
There's Didee and Sally
And Patrick and Rick
There's Louise and Pat and there's Donn and there's Sue
But what about Bogumila? No rhyme to make do.
So before I exhaust you
This missive I'll close
And hope to go hiking
Or dining or biking
With each of you soon.
Love from Jenny



It was a year of cousins! Here I am in Letchworth, the Garden City with baby Grace, and my Cousin Jeanine with daughter Jenny

Below is Cousin Joe O'Grady visiting from Wales





A visit to the San Diego Zoo – Serious stuff! And light-hearted too, with Cheryl and Jovy in an iceberg with a seal





Todd and Cindy with us in Rhinecliff for Christmas.

Charles with Klaus and Sophia.

Jenny with Beth at Smith Rock, near Bend, OR.



Had to include this photo of Richard and Steph at Christmas
And on the left, one of the best views in the world - Maureen's
Home in Gibsons. And here's Maureen, with Hely.



In London in May with Sally – my oldest friend! “All the same in a hundred years” we would chant when faced with any difficulty at school.
And Diana, back in the UK, with her adorable Postman Pat van.