

XMAS LETTER
1985 #1
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1986

12, Meisner Drive,
Salem NH 03079
NOV. 8th 1985

Typically, I'm running around like a maniac, trying to sort out Christmas presents/cards etc. before the last posting date (Nov. 2nd, of course). And I can't send all these cards to people I haven't written to in a whole year, that just say "love from Mums, Mick & the kids"! It has been a hectic year, but that's no excuse really for my appalling lack of communication with friends! I've even had to resort to duplicate letters to my family! So, you're in good company.

We've had a jolly year - this time '84, I was as fat as a house and on the verge - Ellie was a year on the 14th - and the first 3 months were very hard work. But now everything has settled down - the kids play real well together (except when Ellie gets in his ridiculous cars! Yes, he's still car-mad!!). I could even contemplate more, but not just now. I'm really back to pre-Andrew size, which is highly gratifying, & feeling pretty good. Mick is totally besotted by both the children - he didn't think he could get as enamoured of Ellie as he was of Andrew, but it took no time at all!

Ellie just walked 2 days ago - she looks so bonny, like a mini-Frankensteen. And Andrew loves it when she wacks to him. He looks like a proper little boy & now - no diapers and a lot taller. Still something of a heart-throb, with the brown eyes & very blonde hair,

especially in the summer. Blue's hair is finally growing in, after about 8 months of baldness - looks very like Andrew's. Where did all this blondeness come from? My mailman??

Mick's started a new job - a start-up run by an English guy. 14 people - plenty of hard work, but he's loving it. Makes a change from the big companies he's been used to. Does quite a bit in the evenings, after the kids have gone to bed (in the same room - fun & games, but they love it!). If the thing's a success, it could be pretty good for him, but it's early days yet.

We went to San Francisco in the summer - hard work with the burns, but worth it. What a smashing place! I'd go live there any day. So, if you're planning a trip to see us, don't go west, instead!! Joking aside, you know we'd be delighted to see anyone from home! This hotel has developed quite a good reputation over the years; you'll be well-looked after & very welcome.

Anyway, I do promise to do better next year (I know, I said this last November), but my empty mailbox gives me plenty of incentive. We look like we won't be back in England until spring of 1987, again for a flying visit, no doubt. So I'll be writing at much greater length before that. We'll be thinking of you all - Christmas does that a bit. Hope everything's good with you - don't follow my example. Write soon.

All our love Chris, Mick,

Andrew - Eleanore