

12. Wisner Drive.
Salem NH 03072.

Nov. 10th 1987.

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Dear

You can always tell when I've had another baby - I have to revert to duplicating letters to go in the Christmas cards (that are already one week late). Ah well, some things never change. Yes, for those I never got in touch with during the summer, Stephen Michael is the latest addition to the family, born May 24th, weighing 7lbs. something and looking very like the other two (i.e. bald, round and images of their father!). And, finally, we have this baby - making all sorted out, because this one is "faultless". He smiles, giggles, hardly cries, slept through the night at 8 weeks, sits patiently in his car-seat while we Nail the others to school & back, and generally behaves perfectly! Hard to believe, when you look at the parents - the wonders of genetics. So, we were all ready for absolute chaos in this house this summer, but, instead, we sat on the local beach, with Stephen asleep in the shade, Andrew & Ellie splashing in the water and my friend & I sipping cocktails & getting brown! And who said

life with 3 kids would be dreadful!?

Andrew and Ellie have taken to Stephen no problem - they seem to like having their round (but wait until he moves!), and Stephen just adores them both. Andrew is growing up fast, 4½ yrs. old now, very loud, very enthusiastic, a little cheeky, but interested in everything. He's just started being able to read simple words and drives us crazy, trying to read road signs, sides of trucks, anything. A great age. Ellie is 3 yrs. old at the weekend, although I'm sure she thinks she's at least 8! She's much more like Mick, both in looks & the way she acts. She's in the middle of the "want-it - don't-want-it - want it" stage, and moves from totally adorable to totally ~~fool~~ foul in seconds, but that will pass. She & Andrew still get on well, which is lovely both for them and me!

Mick's still at Octocom, which makes just over 2 yrs. The company seems to be doing well, & he's fairly settled at the moment. He's having problems finding time to fit a wife, 3 kids, soccer, swimming and various household repairs into his limited free time, but I think he enjoys it all. And I'm late for everything, but still find time to do a little reading, a little quilting & a little exercising! I do enjoy it though, which constantly surprises me!!

Anyway, I'll finish as I always do, with great plans to write more often, which I never do! Good intentions, though. Don't follow my example - write soon. All our love & Merry Christmas. Chris, Mick, Andrew, Ellie & Stephen