

#4

12. Meisner Dr.  
Salem NH 03079

Mon. NOV. 13<sup>th</sup> '89

Dear

O.K. last year, I sat down with egg-nog, but that was in December. So, a cup of good English typhoo tea (even forgotten how to spell it) will have to do instead. Yes I do import it - anyone that comes over has strict instructions: tea and M'Vities Digestives. All else I can live without. Well, it has been 8½ years!

The annual festive greeting from the U.S. of A is yes, life is a fraction more civilised under Mr. & Mrs. Bush, as long as you have no overwhelming urge to burn their beloved flag. It still suits us, anyhow, especially while the kids are young. Mind you, Mick's more frequent business trips over there have given him a hankering for the land of pubs, fish & chips, and fast driving on motorways (in between the roadworks). For those of you that I haven't actually spoken to in a few years, you'll be pleased to know that I sound just as I did when I lived in England - the children, on the other hand... ygh! Not my favourite accent, but maybe better than broad Brummie.

And did I tell you last year there were going to be no more Browns? And how many didn't believe me? But I was right. Mick took what he calls "the buck treatment", so we're all set, and I can see the light at the end of the diaper tunnel. There is life after 4 children. This time last year, life was a little hectic, but we survived, and Gregory turned 1 last week. I reckon the worst is behind us - until they all become teenagers, of course. I might leave home, then. I must confess to ~~not~~ doing too much besides being the mother, and poor Mick has spent 14 months trying to refinish the basement, in his "spare" time. But it's really not as awful as

it sounds, 4 kids. I do sometimes feel that I'm a 5-person unit, though. Even in the bathroom!

Anyway, I'm not going to spend ages telling you how old everyone is, & how school goes, etc, because I hope to see most people in summer. Yes, another trip, this time July & August. My sister, Liz, is getting married July 7th, & we can't miss that, so we'll be coming ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> that. We're very excited already - only 7 months or so. Mick will probably only be over for a few days, but the children & I will be there 6 wks., I hope. The problem is that we are now a large number of people to just drop in so maybe it'll just be a phone-call. But I'm determined to say "hi" to as many as we can. If you really don't want to see us, you have until July to move.

Right, child #4 is ready to get up, so I shall finish here. I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas, and it feels so good to be able to say see you next year.

All our love,  
Chris, Mick,

Andrew, Ellie, Stephen & Gregory  
