

GroomNews CHRISTMAS 2017

*The Light shines
in the darkness
and the darkness
has never put it out*



WELCOME to GroomNews Christmas 2017 as another remarkable year draws to an end. Thank you, first of all, to everyone who has been in touch—or even visited—during the year. We apologise where we haven't kept in touch as well as we should.

Cruising the Norwegian Fjords

The year's highlight came early on, a cruise around the Norwegian Fjords on Hurtigruten's MS Finnmarken at the end of March. It's a holiday we promised ourselves many years ago and this year, with Sue's doctorate completed, we finally managed it. Some of the trip's highlights were meeting the husky puppies after going on a husky sleigh ride; crossing the Arctic Circle; a midnight concert at the Arctic Cathedral; and a visit to Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim, pictured on the front.



Beyond Caen Hill...

For this year's summer holiday we took *Almost* down the world-famous flight of Caen Hill Locks, through Bradford-on-Avon and Bath, to Hanham on the River Avon—then back again, of course. If you've never visited Caen Hill, you should: it's one of the Wonders of the Waterways. Look out for Phil and his colleagues fundraising for Canal & River Trust at the Welcome Station outside the café. Please don't just walk on by: stop and say hi—we don't bite!

Swimming the Channel—again!

A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored Sue in this year's Aspire Channel Swim Challenge: in the 12 weeks Sue swam over 50 miles—more than double the distance—and raised more than £724 (plus Gift Aid) to support people with spinal injuries.

Celebrating 30 Years

Yes, that's right: it's hard to believe that three decades have passed since that day in 1987 when we said, "I will!" We celebrated with a day out in Bath (and bought each other presents, of course!).

Being an Archdeacon

Sue is as busy as ever in her work as Archdeacon of Wilts and—perhaps most importantly—still enjoying the role and the various challenges it brings.

DLT Advocate

Phil is still working freelance for DLT Books (Darton, Longman & Todd), looking after several twitter accounts and helping with publicity & promotions.

Learning...

Both of us are on a steep learning curve at the moment: for Phil, the L-plates are out as he—at long last!—learns to drive; and for Sue, it's getting to grips with Canon (aka Ecclesiastical) Law. Ooo-er...

With our love, prayers and very best wishes for Christmas and the coming year,

Phil & Sue

