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Dear Friends

Steve

Another very full and enjoyable year.

The constant support and fun from family, colleagues at work and our growing 'Fringe' faith community are the staple of life on which the events below have been built.

January - After eight months of very hard work we said goodbye to Phoenix Private Equity and hello to Ontario Teachers Pension Plan of Canada as backers of Acorn Care and Education. The latter has \$100billion under management on behalf of 285,000 current and retired teachers from Ontario.

February - Went with a friend (Mark Harvey) to try out off-road motorcycling for the first time - in the snow!

April - Went to Istanbul with Marie to visit our very good friends the MacDonalDs. A very relaxing weekend with old friends and some shopping in the bazaar.

May - First ever track day with California Superbike School at Silverstone. Bit pricey, but highly recommended. I will never be a racer, but the training has made me feel safer on the road and allows me to rid myself of 'speed demons' on the safety of the track. To further address my motorcycling habit and celebrate the hard work of the last year I bought myself a big boys toy - a Ducati Streetfighter. It sounds LOUD!



June - Went to Germany to ride the Nurburgring - Terrifying. It is not pleasant riding a track with anyone allowed on. You come round a bend and find a slow family saloon enjoying the view or alternatively come slow through a bend to hear and feel a local in a Porsche GT3 very, very close. The only record I will have broken was for slowest lap. However, the whole weekend trip was great and I made a number of new friends.

July - Rode to see my brother (Colin) in his new home Switzerland for the weekend. Memorable ride and great to see him.



Aug - It was brilliant for all four of the family to go on holiday to India. We toured the country seeing Cities and remote villages. I enjoyed it all - see the photo of me with Ghandi. At the end of the month went with Marie and friends to the Spa Grand Prix and short holiday in the Ardennes. End of the tennis season and to my relief my men's team stayed in the third division of our league after a very tight season and the mixed team I play for was promoted to division two. I was again in the men's singles final at the club, but with so many great juniors lost to 17 year old who is a terrific player.

Sept - A fantastic family weekend in the Lake District for my parents 50th Wedding Anniversary. All of the siblings together, their partners and the six grandchildren.

Second track day of year to Cadwell Park in Lincolnshire and final weekend tour to Wales with motorcycling friends.

Oct - visited Canada for the first time for work, flying home on my birthday.

Nov - writing the Christmas newsletter and looking forward to seeing most of the family at our house this year.

In all this busyness others less fortunate must not be forgotten and I have started supporting and advocating KIVA www.kiva.org. Loans that change lives. Have a look. Marie and I have also started supporting a local women's refuge for asylum seekers - proximity to the poor is essential for the rich, lest we forget.



Marie

I've had a good year in many ways. The Musicademy business has continued to grow. We've released a number of additional products, launched a new web store and have some very exciting new developments in the pipeline for 2011 which we are hoping will herald fairly rapid expansion.

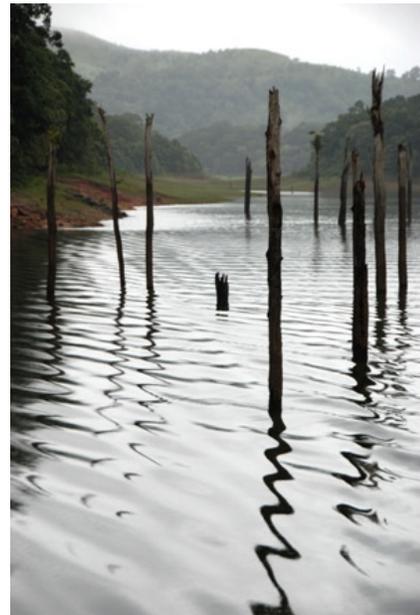
I embarked on an MSc in Digital Marketing Communications which I am thoroughly enjoying. The teaching is split between Manchester, London and online. I'm learning a lot from the peer group of students, all of whom are relatively senior digital marketers. I'm also liking the challenge of the academic rigour of a qualification at this level. It's given me some time to reflect both on our marketing communications as a company (all

our assignments are case studies based on our workplaces) as well as more strategic aspects of the business. The time commitment is fairly extensive but manageable if suitably disciplined.

The MSc has also newly inspired my teaching. I've developed quite a specialism in digital marketing teaching now and am advising on and examining for the Communications & Marketing Foundation (owned by CIM) in two subjects. This is quite a prestigious role as it is just me and the senior examiners for each subject. There are also some mutterings about me getting a Tutor of the Year award as a result of one of my classes all getting A grades.

Whilst this 3 dimensional - Musicademy, teaching, studying - approach to my working week might seem like madness to some, it actually brings a fair degree of balance and one informs the other in a helpful and inspiring way.

Up until the autumn I was teaching most weekends but have reduced that a little now in order to enjoy the odd weekend off and avoid the freezing motorbike trip into London at the crack of dawn every Saturday. I published an e-book during the year called "The Art of Conversation". It's about using social media tools in business (www.usingconversationalmedia.com if you are interested).



I had my usual few days at Glastonbury which was one of the best years ever with scorching sun and some great acts. This year we came back covered in dust rather than mud. Some of my favourite performances included Phoenix, Paloma Faith, Mumford & Sons, Ellie Goulding, Muse and Stevie Wonder. No tickets yet for 2011 so we may well be watching it on TV instead.

We enjoyed a family holiday to Kerala in Southern India during the summer. The kids did well to put up with us and few other distractions on a tour that was supposed to include a number of other families but ended up with being just the four of us, a guide and a driver. We did all the usual temples, markets, boat trips, wildlife walking and a night camping (not really sleeping) in the jungle. As it was the rainy season the weather was actually very mild and we all really enjoyed the local dishes. I particularly enjoyed curry rather than slices of white bread and cornflakes for breakfast.



On the transport front I'm now riding a BMW 800 ST which comfortably took me to Belgium this summer without mishap and I've recently changed the Z4M for a BMW130i which looks a lot more sensible but still has a crazy wheelspin inducing engine. Feel I really need to buy something other than a BMW next time though.



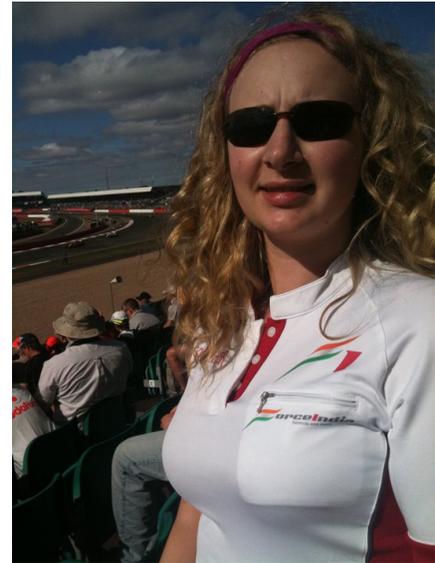
Emily

Emily is now in her final year of Financial Maths at Canterbury. She seems to be more focussed by the year and whilst under continual work pressure from choosing such a demanding degree, she is getting good grades and plans to apply for a place training to be an accountant with one of the big five London accountancy firms this summer. It does feel very strange that she is about to embark on a proper job having spent the last couple of summers working for Musicademy. I don't quite know how we will manage without her.

Emily had her first major car accident this summer when she wrote off her Micra whilst swerving to avoid a squirrel. Apart from the

shock she was fine. We weren't much help as we were in Belgium at the time but she coped brilliantly. She now has a slightly more footsure Ford Focus.

Emily (supporting Force India in the photo) and Marie had a great day out at the Silverstone Grand Prix. We had tickets with a view of the start line and really enjoyed the pro-British, anti-Alonso sentiment of the crowd. The atmosphere was amazing. Meanwhile Steve, Andy and I had cheapseat tickets in Spa which meant climbing through the trees to sit just above the chicane in the rain and mud that is typical of the Belgium circuit. We had the best views of the track though as the Chicane ended up being where all the big crashes happened. Emily back in the UK kept us informed of the BBC commentary by way of about 50 text messages which we then spread like Chinese whispers through the crowd. Spa was one of Hamilton's wins of the season so good on many fronts.



Alfie



Alfie is in his first year of A levels and plans to go to university to study engineering, computer science or something similar. Having a moped has given him loads of freedom and we now barely see him at the weekends unless accompanied by a bunch of other teenagers, typically sleeping over on whatever bed happens to be free. At least they have made good use of the pool this year. As many of them are friends he's met online they aren't exactly local but they are a very pleasant bunch of young people. Alfie is still regularly found offloading the stress of the day plugged into an Ipad and bouncing on a trampoline though and occasionally he remembers to walk the dog. We're soon to be upgrading him to a 125cc bike and he plans to take his full bike test in February.

Over the long summer holiday Alfie did some work experience with Xerox. This was a great opportunity for him to see what engineers do in the real world and gave him a lot of confidence. One of his favourite aspects was having tokens to spend in the canteen everyday. By day two these were

spent down to the last penny. His descriptions of one of the offices he was seconded to sounded more like the IT Crowd than the cut and thrust of a tech company in the midst of a recession. When he came home and paid more attention than usual to our HP laser printer I asked if he could repair the broken one. His reply: "I only do Xerox printers".

Alfie was a lot of fun, if permanently hot, on holiday, ever willing to sit in the cramped back seat of the car. He got bitten by leeches in the jungle and made his mark on the mosquito population of Southern India with a battery operated fly swat.

Love to all

Steve, Marie, Emily and Alfie

