



"Who Killed Cock Robin?"

--nursery rhyme

ISSUE #1 FOLLOWS THIS

IT WAS ALMOST FINISHED IN OCTOBER-- BUT THEN...

The last issue of Empty Nest was mid-June 1993, on the brink of **Andy's birth**. Here it is March 9, and Andy's almost 9 months old and hasn't YET been announced in these pages. Have I given up caring? Given up publication? No, no, no--I think about all of you regularly, and there continues to be all sorts of news--and the editor has never paid much attention to how old an item might be. What's happened is this, if you don't know--the school kept me working almost a month into the summer while I despaired at the erosion of my sabbatical. I managed to get out an ENNL before I left for Vermont--and since then, things have been happening so thick and fast while I've tried to keep writing, that I've not kept up. I almost got out an issue in October, and that is what the bulk of this one will be. But whenever I've had a choice of writing or doing something else, I've resolutely stuck with the writing. My sabbatical ended with the book not done, but lots done on it. I managed to do some in January, less in February, and even less so far in March, as schoolwork encroaches. Also a lot of us have been living through the dying of one of our closest friends, Rosie Richmond--she was everyone's closest friend--of a very fast, aggressive cancer. She died last week at 49, and we had a fantastic "Celebration of Rosie's Life" on Sunday, which she had orchestrated, along with her whole dying. An amazing time, and I may write about it later, and give some samples of Rosie's writing. She was the glue of our long-standing women's writing group, Brainchild (though everyone in that group is precious). Some of you have our recent Brainchild anthology, At the Edges of Our Comfort. Now comes Spring Break; I have a week to work on the book --maybe in Wisconsin. What luxury! But first I'll patch together an issue, and putting first things first, repeat the most important news:

ANDY'S NINE MONTHS!

Megan, if you'll send me a black-and-white I'll run it. The color snaps don't reproduce. He's a honey, as is big brother curly-headed Mark. "Two Peaches Make a Pair," as the Dougan baby ads in the Beloit Daily News used to say.

S.O.S! S.O.S! S.O.S!

What's taken--as always--an inordinate amount of time has

been the upcoming England trip, all summer, all fall, and now this semester. It's a fantastic trip, cheap, exciting, and we should have people standing in line. We did, in spite of earlier drops, up till last week when 2 of our students had to renig. We now have 3 openings; we really need to fill two, and have one of those fly from O'Hare with us. We have till March 30 to get names to the airline. **Look over our itinerary on the reverse of this page, consider all we're doing for \$2025 for 20 days that ordinary tourists don't get to do, and see if you can find a friend who wants to go, or come yourself.** At this point you don't need to sign up for the class, we have enough enrollment to satisfy SSU. (If you're over 62 we'll enroll you as a \$10 Senior Learner, though.) Think of dancing with Joe Marns' Morris dancers at the Ridgeway hostel, and meeting our authors, and picnics at Tintagel, and tea at the Perkinses and Crosfields in Dorset, and Pam bringing us Cornish pasties from Perranporth, and maybe we can persuade Maggie to come down from Hull to introduce this group to White Horse Hill. To say nothing of all the real-life crime you'll be hearing about first-hand. Steve has connections--our New Scotland Yard tour includes the off-limits Black Museum!

Please pass the word!

Call me at 217-544-2916, or before March 18th at Beloit, 608-362-2167. (I'm sorta desperate.)



BRITISH CRIME: FACT AND FICTION TOUR 1994

SANGAMON STATE UNIVERSITY MAY 16 (MON) - JUNE 4 (SAT) 1994

GROUP LEADERS: JACKIE JACKSON AND STEVE EGGER

May 16, Mon and May 17, Tues: Depart O'Hare 8:30 p.m. May 16.

--Arrive at Heathrow 10:30 May 17, coach to Holland House hostel, lunch at the adjacent cafeteria-style restaurant in Holland Park.

--Purchase travel passes at S. Kensington Tube stop near our hostel (Jackie will have British pounds and can be paid back for this and lunch), then travel to Trafalgar Square, change money at American Express, view the **portrait of Richard III at the National Portrait Gallery** (you'll have read Tey's Daughter of Time), orient ourselves to this famous square where is also the National Gallery, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, other spots. --(possible around 4:30: **Westminster Abbey**, Stone of Scone, Poet's Corner, brass rubbings, for those who want to stay longer, a sung service.) --Dinner/evening on our own, early (we recommend!) bedtime at hostel.

May 18, Wednesday

--A.M. **Walking Tour of "Legal London"** with Old Bailey (aka Rumpole!)
--P.M. **Clerkenwell Detention Center** with guided tour of 17th century underground cells--a historical record of England's criminal justice system. Dinner on own.
--7:30 **Theater:** Agatha Christie's "Mousetrap" for those who haven't seen it, something else for those who have. We'll check possible mysteries.

May 19, Thursday

--Today the group will be split into morning (10:30) and afternoon (2:30) sections for touring **New Scotland Yard and the Black Museum**: the latter a sanctum sanctorum tourists don't see. This means that the morning group will have the **afternoon for free time**; the afternoon group's **free time** will be in the **morning**. Our Yard host mentioned a "debriefing" for everyone afterwards; we have yet to hear what that means. **We will give you lists of possibilities for your free time.**
--Dinner on own, or pub supper at the Ten Bells (Jack the Ripper Pub); at this location at 6:30 or 7 **Donald Rumbelow** will talk to us on his researches and book on **Jack the Ripper**. We will invite our Yard host to come to supper at the pub, and give us our "debriefing" here, before Rumbelow talks.

May 20, Friday

--**Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour**, lunch at the **Sherlock Holmes pub**
--Afternoon free (possible theater matinee)
--Evening: **Buffet at "The Lamb"** pub with some members of British Crimewriters as our guests. **Stephen Leodbeatter**, a Welsh pathologist, will give a slide-lecture: "Pathologic Errors in Mystery Fiction" followed by one on pathology and its connections (or not) to murder. We will perhaps also have a talk at this event by **H.R.F. Keating**, well known mystery writer and president of the venerable **Detection Club**.

May 21, Saturday

--Depart 8:30 for a morning tour of **Marjorie Allingham** sites in Essex, led by **Pat Watt**, head of the **Allingham Society**.

--We will eat a **picnic lunch at the home of Ralph Clarke, President of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society**. Clarke will speak to us on Sayers, her other work in addition to mystery books.

--Depart at 1:30 for Cambridge and a **change ringing demonstration ala The Nine Tailors** with **Gareth Davies** and his group at 3 pm. followed by a

--Chat with **Barbara Reynolds**, Sayers' friend, biographer (Dorothy L. Sayers: Her Life and Soul) and the one who completed DLS's translation of Dante. She's also **Chair of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society**.

--5 p.m. One hour **walking tour of Cambridge** with Janet Jeacock

--We'll return back in London 7:30 or 8, dinner on our own. (Yes, it's a long day, but we'll have tea and biscuits available on the coach.)

May 22, Sunday

--Full day for independent visits and sightseeing.

--Evening: **Jack the Ripper** walk

May 23, Monday

--Leave London and off to the country, we hope with Cecil as our coach driver. **The Guildford Police**--Steve's friends--have a planned a day for us in Surrey, including information on "profiling" of serial murderers. On to **Winchester Cathedral** late afternoon, sung **Evensong** at 5:30, we'll sit with the choir. Dinner (7:30), bed and breakfast at Salisbury hostel.

May 24, Tuesday

--Visit **Salisbury Cathedral**. Then to **Miss Marple's village (Nether Wallop)**, where we'll have morning coffee at "The Five Bells" inn. We'll picnic in this village, then visit that Celtic mystery, **Stonehenge**.
--On to dairy farm friends, the Crosfields and Perkinses, in **Gillingham for sumptuous tea**, travel on via the **Cerne Giant** and the **smallest pub in England** to Litton Cheney hostel for dinner, bed and breakfast.

May 25, Wednesday

--Travel to Torquay, Devon--Agatha Christie country. Visit the **Christie exhibit**. Visit **Torre Abbey, the Agatha Christie rooms**.
--Stay at Maypool Hostel, which is right next to the **Agatha Christie estate** where lives Christie's daughter, Mrs. Hicks. We will tour the grounds and gardens there with the **head gardener, Roger Clark**.
--After dinner: **Two Christie movies** (if we're up to two) connected to the **hostel (one is actually set there)**.

May 26, Thursday

--Travel through Devon and Cornwall to meet **author Jessica Mann** at Truro; we'll have pasties for lunch there, made by the butcher's wife in Perranporth.

--Afternoon: A fantastic cream tea (if it's like the previous one) with **author Jean Stubbs** at her home in Helston.

--Eve: return to Foway for dinner and overnight at the Golant hostel. (Possible jaunt after dinner to view nearby site of du Maurier's Rebecca.)

May 27, Friday

--Visit to **Tintagel with its chief archaeologist, Charles Thomas** (Jessica Mann's husband) to probe the mysteries of King Arthur. Picnic lunch by the sea.

--Afternoon: There may be time to do some of what we did last time: hike the cliffs, lounge on the beach at Perranporth, or take an outing with Cecil to some of the interesting spots in Cornwall.

--Return to Golant for dinner, bed and breakfast

May 28, Saturday

--Drive to Exeter through Dartmoor, Hound of Baskervilles country. (Perhaps stop and howl a bit?) Visit Exeter Cathedral; perhaps picnic.

--On to **Glastonbury Abbey and Tor** (continuing mystery of King Arthur).

--Then across border into Wales for a **medieval banquet** at St Briavel's castle. It's our hostel, we'll bed and breakfast there.

May 29, Sunday

--A.M. **Hay on Wye--a village of bookshops**. We'll browse. (We have a film of a famous murder that happened here we hope to show you before we leave.) Also a literary festival will be going on--we're checking for mystery writers.

--P.M. Shrewsbury, **Brother Caedfel walking tour**; Dinner, bed and breakfast at Shrewsbury hostel.

May 30, Monday--Bank Holiday

--AM: On to **Chester**, possibly see our Tour arranger, Louise Selfe.

--PM, 3:30: Visit **Bronte parsonage and museum** at Haworth.

--Eve: dinner at the Haworth hostel with **author Robert Barnard**, followed by talk. Bed and breakfast.

May 31, Tuesday

--A.M. possibly 8:45 **walk across the moors to Bronte waterfall**

--Late AM and rest of day: Session with **Sheffield police** who apprehended the **Yorkshire Ripper**.

--Dinner, bed and breakfast in the Hartington Hall hostel in the Peak District National Park near Sheffield.

June 1, Wednesday

--Possible visit to **Warwick Castle**, or more police visits.

--on to **Oxford and Ridgeway** hostel for dinner, bed and breakfast.

June 2, Thursday

--**Inspector Morse Walking Tour of Oxford**. Morning coffee canal-side at pub **"The Boat"** in Thrupp, featured in Dexter's Riddle of the Third Mile. Back to Oxford for lunch at **The Turf** (a spot not to be missed.)

--Afternoon: Free. If by any chance we missed Evensong at Winchester, we'll try to arrange it at Christ Church here, around 5 p.m.

--Dinner and **dance at the Ridgeway**, with the entire hostel as our guests: the dance will be conducted by **Joe Marns and the Wyvern Morris Dancers**, our friends from nearby Wantage. They'll dance for us, and will also lead us in various dances. If you are a fiddler, let us know--Joe will get you an instrument and you can play with the band.

June 3, Friday

--Visit **White Horse Hill**, a prehistoric hill carving on the **Ridgeway footpath**, with possible walk to **Weyland's Smithy**, a prehistoric longbarrow (a burial barrow you can go into). On to **Oxford** and free time.

--Afternoon: Anyone who wishes can go on into the Cotswolds, Minster Lovell, Bourton-on-Water, etc. with Jackie and Cecil.

--Back to the Ridgeway for dinner, last night "No More Twist" celebration.

June 4, Saturday

--A.M. Leave for Heathrow. Pause at **Greenham Common** outside Newbury for a "crime finale" of a different sort--**civil disobedience**. This was the scene of 8 or more years of **women's encampments** by the gates of the U. S. cruise missile base. Jackie's written a children's book on it, Granny Lives at Greenham. We'll walk along the much-mutilated fence.
--Afternoon: Heathrow and home, arriving at O'Hare 5:30 P.M.