

## Adult news

- One sad loss this year was one of our cats. Cleo died, aged 15, in August while we were away and is still sadly missed by all—especially her twin brother Tolly.
- Phil's job changed so that he now spends more time at King's than before. He celebrated by slipping a disc in his neck over the summer so that he has been off peal ringing for four months!
- Lizzie keeps us all on the rails (although her patience is sometimes tested). She produced a marvellous tapestry picture of St Paul's as a gift for the retiring Guild of ringer's secretary. It was much admired by all and even featured in the Ringing World!



*Alex (right) with cousin Samuel—first up Snowdon*

### *Kid's stuff* (continued from page 1)

but when asked if he was going next year the answer was a less tentative "NO!" Oh well! Alex has just become too old for Beavers and will be joining the cubs next term. He is petrified he will be in Ben's six and get bossed about. At school, Ben has something of a blind spot for long multiplication (goes down well with the mathematician mother!) and both are a little on the reserved side. In the family setting both come out of themselves and have a delightful sense of humour, taking no prisoners (especially showing no respect for their father!) and they get on very well together.

As we write, Ben is due to have a long awaited operation for his prominent ears and will (we hope) be spending Xmas with his head in bandages. He is looking forward to it (really!). More news on this next time....



*Introducing the famous Ben Barnes*



*Ever hopeful!*

# Piltdown Post

<http://www.piltdown.org.uk>

## QUIET MAN MEMORIAL COPY

A rather quiet year on the whole with no intercontinental travel or big birthdays. Still, the old team trog on.....

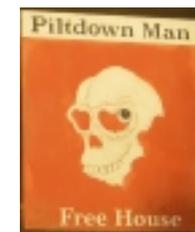
## "The Peltdown (sic) House BBQ"

Well, it seemed like a great idea to have another summer party just as we had done two years ago. We planned a similar theme—a Kentish Summer Event with beer, bells and some cricket—and invited a load of ringers and medical friends. So far, so good. A reasonable acceptance rate. So far, so good. The weather over the summer was brilliant, but the weather forecast was looking dodgy a week ahead. However, the percentage chance of rain on July 26th fell day by day on the five day forecast. So all was looking well - again "so far, so good"! Even the day before the forecast was not too bad.

So, you know what's coming, even if you were not there. It's 3.45 pm. The tents are up, the tables ready and there are even some glimpses of blue sky. Now it's 3.50 pm, and the guests will start arriving in 10 minutes. The first to

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*Piltdown House, Maidstone Road, St Mary's Platt, Sevenoaks TN15 8JE*



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## Kids stuff

Our little man-cubs are growing fast. Apart from school, where Ben remains well known as "rather eccentric" and bright while Alex is deemed "very serious" with a good sense of humour and capacity for lateral thought, they are film buffs (anything on a fantasy theme) and are obsessed with computer games. Ben has been made sixer in his cub group, and went off to camp in July. When asked if he enjoyed it there was a tentative "yes",



*Boys go wine tasting in Malta!*

## Not a bad party after all!

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arrive is Mr Raindrop with several million of his



*A rather shady Professor sheltering from the weather*

friends. The sky darkens and even more of Mr Raindrop's family join us. The barbeques are rapidly moved under the trees, the umbrellas Phil bought in a superstitious effort to keep the rain away get



*"You promised us cricket!"  
Alford kids caught watching Top Gun*

plenty of use and the party takes a more indoor flavour than w a s



*Tidying up after the deluge*



*Right! The sun is out so YOU can do the rest.....*



*Boys (any size) will always climb anything!*

planned. It was really only the cricket (and some branches of the trees) that suffered and most people seemed to enjoy the party which went on into the early hours. One guest who stayed over had mysteriously disappeared by the morning. We never did find out where to!

## Travel News

This years holidays have been a little less adventurous than before, but no less fun (and even more welcome!). The summer half term saw us in N Wales with Lizzie's brother and his family. The highlight (for some!) was the climb up Snowdon. Alex was first to the summit (and the last to stop moaning about sore feet). Then for our summer holiday we went once again to Malta. It took a few days to settle back into the pace of Maltese life but we got there in the end! It was a little warmer than normal since we went a month later, but still cooler than the UK on some days. Phillip did some more adventurous diving than before, Lizzie concentrated on sun worship and the boys ..... well the usual - Gameboys, swimming and too much TV. We spent some time with Lizzie's uncle and aunt who now live on Malta and went to a fantastic birthday party on an uninhabited island. The sound of a saxophone and didgeridoo with a fire juggler in the pitch dark at 1 am will take some forgetting!

Finally, we had the now traditional weekend with ex - Oxford ringing friends in October. We went to Sussex and had a great time, even visiting Piltdown.

## Gruesome holiday snaps



*(Beach) party animals  
Ben and Alex at cousin Wendy's party*



*Yes, of course I'm happy we climbed Snowdon. Now, where's the train?*



*Davy Jones Locker, Maltese style?  
The wreck of Um-el-Faroud*