

A trip to remember

# 2011 - ENGLAND

9 April 2011

We continue to follow up on family history- this time its the Frampton family (Rhys - son in law)

## HEATHER'S RAMBLINGS

In the first couple of days I was frustrated with the traffic we were constantly caught up in. Then we got in the groove and realized that we could not let the GPS have its head. To get on the back roads (the B roads and lesser local roads), is the answer (if one can fit of course!). I tend to program the GPS for short distances ahead. This way I can control it and make it (and Siggy) go where I want to go. Today we had some interesting experiences in the Dorset hills with roads rather narrower than we really wanted.

Today also, with the advice of a local, we bought a membership to the National Trust. This was not cheap - about \$120 for the both of us - but it allows us free entry to many, many houses, castles and parks around the UK. It also can be used at home! This may now see us doing a little bit of fancy house & garden exploration.

We have had exceptionally nice weather the last 4 days. This means that spring has really sprung and the country side looks delightful with masses of daffodils, jonquils and poppies.

### BIKE RIDING

I'm surprised at the lack of facilities for bike riding. Walking and horse riding are catered for very well. Local paths over the paddocks (with stiles for negotiating fences and hedges) abound. Bridle paths for horses are also very common. However the humble biker needs to risk the very skinny roads or the even skinner footpaths that "sometimes" run alongside the roads. They don't give me much margin for error. If I get the wobbles up I am in trouble.



Will you fit through here Sig?



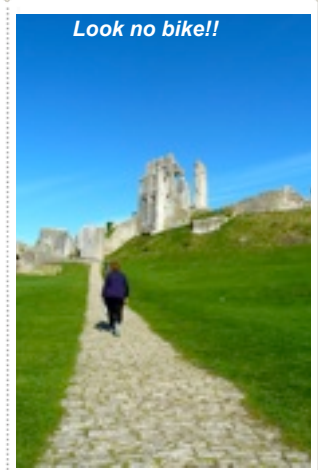
THE RAGGED CAT



Jump on/up and bump your head



Checking out Corfe Castle Village



Look no bike!!

However, we have persisted, generally tending to go out earlier which means we miss the worst of any local traffic.

The supermarkets are pretty much as they are at home, but I have noticed some interesting things in relation to the fresh fruit and vegies. The source of oranges I bought yesterday was Morocco and the tomatoes and melon came from Spain. The cost of living does definitely appear to be lower than at home and we have enjoyed the pork pies and cornish pasties that abound in the deli section. Tonight we had some delicious Dorset pork sausages. I expected to find lots of local bakeries, but today was the first one I came across.



Wonderful old buildings but freezing cold hands biking in the morning

ROYAL WEDDING

The royal wedding mania is of course in full swing. Today, with our newspaper, we received a CD of Royal Wedding music to help us along our way! We will be in Scotland on the big day and I hope (I don't know about Sig), to spend it with the locals and experience some of the atmosphere. We (read that as I) intend to go to a local pub and just melt into the celebration -- that's if the Scots actually celebrate! Maybe they won't.



Beautiful but notice the buttresses holding the house up



**CORFE CASTLE**

Despite being in ruin, Corfe Castle is very impressive. Many nasty things have happened here during the 1000 years of its existence. Today, the only invaders are the hundred's of thousands of tourists who come to climb all over and around it. We visited very early in the morning, before the crowds arrived, and hung around for most of the morning climbing its ramparts. Very impressive in size but very tranquil in its setting. We also rode around the local village that once serviced the castle. We saw some very old residences and an even older cemetery.



*The ruins of Corfe Castle*

**FRAMPTON**

Frampton is the ancestral home of Rhys, our son in law. The Frampton dynasty has been recorded here for many centuries. The current family now resides in the nearby Moreton Estate which we did not visit. We had lunch in this little village and rode our bikes around the lovely back



streets and visited the church. We then hurried off to the coast towards Devon. We hope to be in Cornwall, in the toe of England, very soon. Its already been 9 days since we arrived in London!!

