



Left to right: Rod (Lyn's partner), Ray (Linda's husband), Doreen, Lyn, Max, the Godfather, Linda (Walter's niece). The photographer overleaf.

**Merry Christmas! Happy NewYear & the Best of British Luck!**

Dear Friends. As we write this the late autumn sunshine is still with us and the multi-coloured leaves continue to hang on to the trees. Summer was long and warm and we've had a chance to charge our batteries. Not so for many others around the globe for whom this has been a difficult year. From our comfortable zones we respond as best we can but we must find ways to do more as a world community.

On a personal level we continue to function quite well. We can still drive, shop, travel and remain active in our local community. Our health is bucked up by regular hospital and doctors' visits and for this we are grateful to our marvellous National Health Service.

The highlight of 2013 was the celebration in August of our 60th "Diamond" Wedding Anniversary. We returned to Hassop Hall (place of the 50th) for our family gathering and while there, staying with Lyn and Rod, we met up with six of our old friends from Sunderland and enjoyed a second re-union meal together. Our "personal" treat was four days at a luxury hotel in Yorkshire where as Walter said, "We could get used to this!"

The other celebration was Max's 18th birthday in January. We managed a family gathering in Hertford where he lives and he emerged a fully-fledged adult! He is still at College and has done well in his courses.

Paul works for a Green Energy company and enjoys the more relaxed approach to business there. Lyn's work with Local Authorities, organising and running various courses has largely dried up due to increasingly financially strapped Councils so she is at present enjoying the challenge of working for the Co-p in one of their large

stores in Sheffield. She has recently added the tenor-saxophone to her musical interests.

Rod still works as a University Librarian but his love of jazz is ongoing and he enjoys playing in many local gigs.

There is much joy and expectation as we approach Advent but for those who have to rely on Food Banks, Refugee Support Services, unemployment benefits and Charity donations life is pretty grim.

We also pray that our governments will keep on trying to maintain our aid programmes to less well endowed nations in spite of the financial problems they still face at home. Our Good Wishes to you all! Walter and Doreen.

This is Paul who took the photo

