

Back in the UK

Dear Friends,

After 4 months of living with our siblings we are now, finally, in our house. It seemed like a long wait for the house. One of the things that surprised us most was that we had to prove who we are. I suppose it was a bit naïve to think that because we are British we would be accepted as that. First of all we had no credit rating so solicitors and banks needed proof of an address etc. We finally managed it but getting documents in Paraguay seemed a cinch next to here!

Trip to the beach.



Grey skies



The weather was so cold and we found it hard to cope with. On a number of days we had 4 or 5 layers on. Easter warmed up only for it to go cold again soon after. Even though it's warmed up a little now we still feel the cold even when others are roasting.

Spring

Spring was beautiful to see. We've only seen the bare winter trees for so long and we were amazed at how quickly they changed to stunning colours on trees and in gardens. We never cease to marvel at the array of colours and flowers.



We had a trip to Ireland in May and enjoyed meeting up with old friends that we had worked with in Paraguay. It was good to share in the SAMS council meeting and the SAMS people were very kind to us. Everyone was so friendly and we had a great time catching up. We were able to go down to Dublin to visit Mags' niece Jane and family including her new baby Jonah



Moving in - Thornton Cleveleys

Visit from San Andres

In June a party of 21 pupils with 3 staff came to England from Paraguay to look at universities. They came to Manchester on the 19th to the 20th. Mags had been asked to stay the night in the hotel with them so that another member of staff could go to visit her parents. We both went into Manchester to meet them and enjoyed seeing them all again. Two ex pupils who are studying Sound engineering and Media in Salford showed the group round Media City.



It was whilst we were there that we received a call to say we were completing on the house the next day. We had to rush to the bank to deposit the money for the house leaving the pupils behind! BY the time Mags got back to them she'd missed the tour of Man Utd. Gwen went back to her sister's and Mags collected her the next afternoon to go to the house. And so we moved in!



We started to look for furniture before moving. We ordered a suite but were told it would take a few months. So, we still don't have it but we bought some garden chairs to use in the house for now. Fortunately the beds arrived the second day we were in the house. We went to Ikea to buy furniture and it arrived 2 days later. We started to put some of it together but found we couldn't quite manage to screw parts together very easily. In the end we had to get help and the man who came made it all look very easy.





Smudge

Animals

Having left all our animals in Paraguay we really felt their loss. We know they are all settled there and we often get photos and videos of them. We couldn't be without a pet or two now we have our home. So, we now have a grey kitten who is starting to settle. She can be very amusing and was watching Wimbledon the other day, trying to catch the ball. We also have a puppy, another cocker spaniel. Her name is Izzy and she is very lively. She and the kitten (Smudge) get on well and play fight. We need to calm them down!



Izzy



We started visiting our link churches a few weeks ago and have had 5 lovely visits so far and more to go in September



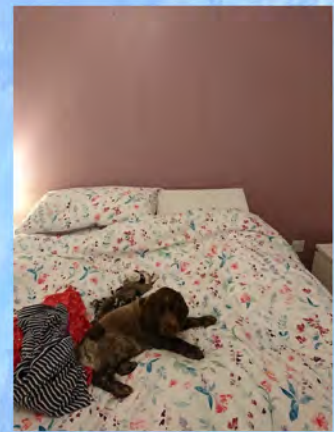
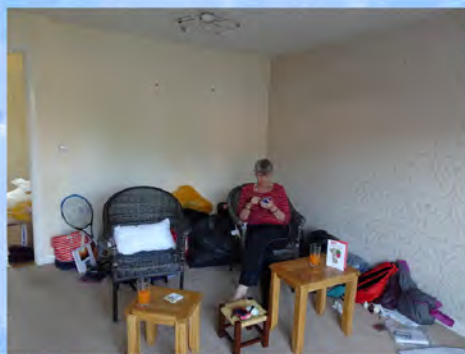
We've been busy sorting out the house and the garden but are still waiting for a few things to arrive. Our boxes are still in Paraguay as we suddenly found out we needed an import licence! Noone has needed one before so it was all new to us and we think the company sending the boxes didn't know about it either. We have now sent in all the papers and have finally got the licence in order to get our stuff sent. We have been painting the walls. Everywhere was cream and we wanted white and colour.



Izzy helped with the painting



Mags had a great time going to Wimbledon with her sister-in-law.



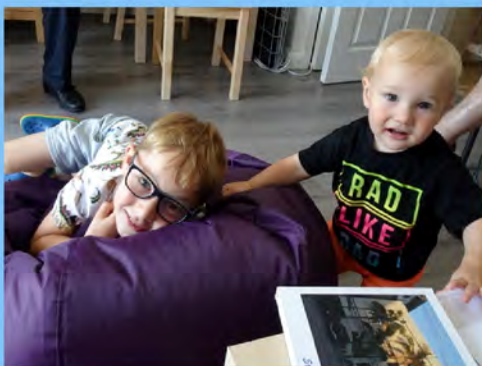
Birthdays



Gwen's family came over on her birthday.



The Southern's got together for Mags' 65th



Visitors

We had a great trip down South on deputation and also visited Linn Tedman who we taught with. We had two beautiful days visiting Bath and Wells with her. We managed to meet up with one of the pupils, Angeles who was also in Bath for a Maths competition. We brought two boys from San Andres back to stay with us for a couple of nights before they went to football camp at Manchester City!!! Mags took them to Man Utd first though. It was great having them and hope they will be the first of many.



Many thanks for all the years of support. You all made it possible. We have had a great adventure. Do call on us if you are in the area.



God Bless and lots of love,
Gwen and Mags xx

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