

THE FAMILY

Barry married Pauline, also a parachutist, in 1984 and they carried on jumping until their first child, Christopher, arrived in 1986. He was followed by Hannah and Katherine.

Our daughter Lyn obtained her teacher's diploma from Crewe Training College in 1972 and married Ric Smolenska in 1973. She was an excellent junior teacher and then followed and supported Ric as he worked for ICL in Denmark and South Africa. When they returned Ric set up a consultancy company with three friends, but unfortunately the company had financial problems and he returned to ICL. He is now retired from ICL Fujitsu but continuing to work as a consultant based . Lyn has now earned a reputation for her skill in patchwork and quilting and runs several courses in the Alsager area.

They have three children. Nicola is at Sheffield Hallam University studying Science and media She lives with her boyfriend Tim in Sheffield and spent a very successful year with British Steel at Rotherham in 1999. Andrew joined Port Vale Football club when he left school at 16 and became captain of their Youth team. Unfortunately he was not offered a professional contract at the end of his two years YTS training and is now on a three year Sports Science course at Manchester University. He continues his football career by playing for Nantwich. Richie, the youngest, is also a sportsman and enjoys football and cricket. His other love is the guitar and he has formed a group at school which is beginning to gain a good reputation locally.

Winn and I fortunately have enjoyed good health although there have been some setbacks. Winn had two spells in hospital, one for food poisoning which nearly killed her and the other for the treatment of varicose veins in her leg. Since then she has had three heart attacks, a pacemaker fitted and three successful courses of radiotherapy for facial skin cancer I suffered from facial spasms from 1975 onwards and eventually in 1979 had an operation on my head to separate an artery from the nerves controlling the left hand side of my face. It was only partially successful and I now have regular injections of botulism to freeze the muscles around my eye. I have also had a prostate operation and treatment for a double hernia, both very successful. In 2006 I had a

stroke and was paralysed down my right side and confined to a wheel chair. Miraculously I recovered after three days.

In 1989 we invested in the Holiday Property Bond. This is not a time share. You buy points which can be used to rent accommodation at any of their sites in the UK, Europe and America. The service charge is fixed and the apartments of a very high standard. The bonds are inflation proof and held in the joint names of our family. As a result we have enjoyed delightful holidays in Scotland, the Lakes, Wales, Cornwall and Dorset, Brittany and Majorca and hope that our children will do the same after we have departed this Earth.

We also enjoyed caravan holidays from 1970 onwards. A Thompson Glendale two berth caravan was bought for £240 and eventually sold for £125 in 1990. In its later years it became a mobile office for the Lions and a playhouse for local children.

In June 1998 we decided it was time to sell our large house and find something smaller. Winn's birthday, 25th July, was a glorious summer's day and I returned home from shopping to find her in tears. A buyer had offered the full price and she was upset that we would be leaving. We sat with friends on the patio having a birthday drink and someone said "why don't you buy the bungalow next door". Then the telephone rang. It was our neighbour, Joan Plant, ringing from hospital to ask if we would like to buy her bungalow. This was to be the answer to our dreams and we arranged to move on the 30th October. On the 29th we were told that the chain had broken and we couldn't move. We had disposed of most of our furniture and arranged the 101 details that are involved in a move. Until the following February we sat on wooden armchairs in the lounge surrounded by packing cases and boxes. Fortunately we had the key to the bungalow and we were able to spend the waiting time decorating the bedrooms and lounge.

We are very happy there and of course we are still surrounded by our friends.

We hope to enjoy many more years of retirement living the final chapter of our Life Story.

