

Seasons' Greetings from Dave & Dee!

We hope that all is well with you and yours and that 2013 has been a good year to you. For us, it is has been a flurry of activity though and a very interesting time in Dave's life.

Life Changes...

Dee continues to work for Hay Group and greatly enjoys the consulting world; while it is busy, and demanding, it's lots of fun, too. Not much change, just more challenges!

Dave, after celebrating 10 years at RONA, decided it was time to change it up a bit. He is currently in school (writing many exams at the time of this letter!) and in training to begin working for himself as a Home Inspector! He is working reduced hours at RONA, and expects to be rolling out his new business in 2014. It has been a difficult year for him, since reading, writing assignments and writing tests and all other things academia have not been his favorite activity...ever!

Both Dee & Dave have made investments into personal health this year and are now frequenters of the gym..so we are both now a bit more fit...perhaps Dee more so while Dave studies this year though!



Hiking on Skye - can you spot the 2 sheep?



The Campervan - our home for a 6 day driving & camping tour in the highlands



Dave, Dee and our mountain guide Ollie at the top of Ben Vrackie (2759ft / 841m elevation)



Dee & Dave at the Old Course, St. Andrew's



Edinburgh Castle - at the Royal Military Tattoo

Scotland!

In August/September, Dee & Dave travelled to a very sunshine filled Scotland - really, it barely rained at all we are so lucky! We were fortunate to be able to visit wonderful family & friends who were kind enough to support us in our travels and show us around/offer us places to stay...and frequently (over?) fed us too! Many thanks to Ann & Ian Hay, Betty & Douglas Fergus, and Ian Wallace.

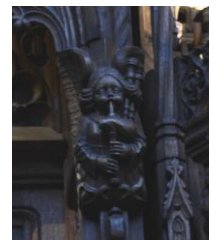
We stayed in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Pitlochry, St. Andrews and in various campsites all through the highlands in a 2.5 week whirlwind country tour. The beautiful sites, delicious whisky, shaggy highland cows and sheep were plentiful! Some highlights of our trip include: golfing at St. Andrew's, seeing the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, hiking the highlands...including climbing a Scottish Mountain (Ben Vrackie), one way (aka "single carriageway") roads, sheep traffic jams, a runaway pig on the road, random mountain springs/waterfalls, and of course, visiting distilleries, castles and cathedrals.

New Beginnings!

At the time of writing this letter, Dee has just met her nephew, baby Isaac, and is of course, in love with this brand new life in the world. Congratulations Ryan & May Chong...Auntie Dee and Uncle Dave look forward to spoiling another child in the world! Dee's parents are particularly happy as this is their first grandchild.

We hope that all is happy & healthy with you and yours, and hope that 2014 brings you many good things!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Mr. & Mrs. D. Smith



The bag piper angel in St. Giles Cathedral