

Hilda,

didn't hear from you, and hoped things were OK, and saw an article about you in the Times with some photos of you all. So its good to see you are OK. I hope your stuff arrives OK - my email address is tclairmiller@btinternet.com ». I'm v. happy its copied in to general news bulletins. I can't remember my last write - The first part of this year was just awful, as my sister had a recurrence of cancer and died April. I am still sorting things out, and we haven't sold her house in Hay yet. Henry and Dominique are getting married in September, and that seems to be under control, although the French side of Dani's family are throwing tantrums about various things. I hope your lot are all behaving. I haven't done a lot of work, and I'm trying to catch up with people, as the whole time of looking after Anne was, as well as being ghastly, very isolating. Dot is very well, and I enjoy the cycle ride from my home to hers, enjoying the countryside. I haven't any major plans, more than finishing the set of 12 prints of each of the months in Moccas park, which, with one thing and another seem to be taking forever, getting the wedding sorted out, and then perhaps I'll take stock, and be able to embark on a project, with the little bit of money I've been left. Anne left her home to Henry, so that will really set them up for their life together. Also I hope they will, for a bit at least, have a slightly bigger flat in London, so its easier to stay. Mike + Rosemary are coming to the wedding - which is nice, Rosemary has been

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17:26 pm

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Airletter

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M02/03

Name and address of sender

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An airletter should not contain any enclosure

busy with her gardening and getting Hamish through his  
A-levels. Uncle Reg has a lot of Polish teenagers coming this  
August, and Penny is organising a flotilla of canoes down  
the Wye.

With lots of love and hoping you are getting  
on OK and enjoying South Africa -

I look forward to hearing from you sometime

Love from Tally



Dear Hilda - Feb. 2nd 2004.

It was great to get your letter, and know that you have successfully decamped to S.A. BRAVA! It sounds a good compromise and its no fun being isolated. I'm sure there will be lots you miss but I think you made the right decision, and Keith's great, and his boy - I enjoyed meeting them again at your book launch. I've been having a really bad time recently because my sister is really ill - Secondary cancer with no real hope. It seems unbelievable, and after a lot of hospitalising and looking at various treatments she's now in a palliative care unit at Bronllys hospital which is just past Tray on the way to Brecon. She is really feeble, and can hardly walk, but we have been taking her out in the wheelchair to various pubs, and actually she seems much better now than when she was at home, I suppose with everything laid on, and food, drink and drugs being supplied by the good natured people running the place. It makes me want to get on with things, but I am so tied up with visiting etc, and the odd times I get its hard to get on with work - and my inbox is overflowing. S. Africa sounds v. tempting as a trip - Alison Neville is planning another Africa trip next year - she is v. intrepid like the English missionaries whose stories were on the back pages of the comics I read as a kid - That sounds old-fashioned! Rosemary phoned this morning - I haven't seen them for a bit, but we had a jolly evening at Dick Beer's private view and then to the Russian Restaurant in Regents Park Road with Henry and Dominique as well. Henry is v. upset about Anne, she has always been a terrific auntie, and they have had a v. good relationship; he comes to see her nearly every weekend. He has got a wonderful engagement ring, though friends also impart jewellery from Thailand, and is now planning the weekend of the actual proposal - I'm not sure its not a bit of ~~one~~ up-manship to his men friends, but in any event, I'm delighted, but will be glad when all the cloak and dagger stuff is over. I've just sold some old Spanish etchings to a dealer I'd forgotten about, which has at least helped the cash flow, since I've done nothing the last



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Aerogramme

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M09/97

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month or so. I want to do some photographic etching, and I would work primarily at the print studio in Harrow Road which has some pretty high tech. stuff + then finish off at home. But that's on the back burner for a bit.

my e-mail is f.stclairmiller@btinternet.com - I'm a really lousy typist, so I find it a bit slow, but I'm getting them, so I persevere. Dot sends her love - she has just recovered from a hernia operation, which was successful, + she should be in good form for the spring. Snowdrops coming out everywhere now. Dear Hilda, all the best, and I hope it all works out well. With lots of love from Tact.

54 Croxford Gardens

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Oxford.

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16-2-04

Dear Hilda

Hello. I hope you are well and are now settled in your new home. It was lovely to receive your letter.

Francis telephoned a few weeks back. She said you were well. She also suggested that we might like to pop round your old home and help ourselves to any items which you no longer want. Ofcourse Carl and Ebony were really excited about the idea but once we'd let ourselves in we felt quite sad that you weren't there. Ebony chose to keep one of your African, wooden figures, Carl chose a magnifying glass and I chose one of your 'not wanted' water colours. It was the African lady which hung over the black computer desk. Thank you very much and please thank Francis for thinking of us.

All is well at this end. It's half-term at the moment so I've been enjoying my children and a well earned break from work. Work has been very stressful. I've been working longer hours and bringing work home to try and catch up on ~~the~~ back-log of work the last Bursar left behind. ~~#~~ Realising the stress was affecting my family, I've recently had ~~#~~ a long, long chat with the head teacher and things have got a bit better. I will keep negotiating until we can get the right balance.



Carl and Ebony are both well. Ebony has her boyfriend Michael round to play at this moment but has still managed to interrupt this letter writing at least 8 times just to chat about "anything and nothing". Carl's still continuing with his training at Southampton FC. They have been pleased with him so far but last week he let his head go down because he felt sick (nervous I think). I've been told that this has gone against him in a big way so we've just got to wait and see.

Reading FC have also shown an interest so all is not lost. The main thing is he's ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> enjoying the experience. Trevor is still around. He's very keen and is already talking of marriage. He is a nice man and has done loads to help me around the house but everything comes with a price. About 10 months ago he re-mortgaged his house and invested a large sum of money in a business which so far has not given him ~~for~~ a penny. He has debts of £30k, no fixed abode, is about to lose his licence for speeding over 100 mph on a motorcycle and has 3 young children. PHW! A lot to take on don't you agree? The good thing about the relationship however is that it's honest. We talk and talk and talk and have no secrets, (obviously).

How are things going with <sup>latest</sup> the book? I expect you are already thinking of starting a new one?? You should be very proud of all your achievements Hilda. I think you are amazing.

Anyway I'll close for now, the kids are pestering me to go swimming. Take Care, <sup>Hilda</sup> We'll keep in touch! Neil, Carl and Ebony

Melanie (?)

unanswered

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