

20091112 - HMS Wallace Arnold

It's just too desperate to contemplate, three months here in this wet frozen wastelands surrounded by political correctness gone mad; apathy; more "do gooders" than are good for you; crap websites; poor service as the norm; foreign call centres that think they speak English but neither listen nor comprehend all topped by a total abandonment of anything resembling common sense. As the lesser of two evils we're escaping on a two week Caribbean cruise (Wallace Arnold ahoy) - it can't be any worse. At least it will prove once and for all that they're not for us! You have to try anything once, even black puddings, tripe, tete de veau and cruising.

We go 3rd December so I'll have to clear some space on my laptop to accommodate the copious cynical blogs that will be generated. This experience could make even France look reasonable.

Meanwhile the lunacy continues:

Joe Stalin rules OK - it seems that in the UK we still have the lunatics from the police state running the asylum. Some guy complains to a council official and describes it as a f.....ing mess. mardy official complains to boss about abuse, poor wee mite. 6 days later the police go round to the house of the complainer at 5:35 in the morning, invade his privacy and that of his wife. Arrest him and drag him off to the cells for 8 hours and serve him with a £80 pound fine. Of course the police say they attended at the earliest opportunity. Suffice to say that the police officers were probably ex KGB émigrés. Meanwhile "real" crime flourishes. Is this the first signs of a lunatic police state.

Wrap around children - I've just had a governors presentation on the latest government initiative / interference in schools. What is it? Well it's opening up the schools to the community and providing 07:00 to 18:00 hour care to the little darlings. Breakfast clubs where we provide them with breakfast and after school clubs, complete with a varied menu of activity and possibly tea. Heaven forbid that parents should bother looking after their children! Why don't we go the whole hog, before the politicians suggest it, and open a maternity unit. Then parents can come in; have their baby; get a colour Polaroid photo of it for the mantel piece; leave the baby with the school; collect it at 18 when the child becomes a well adjusted adult. It cuts out all that inconvenience of nappies; feeding them; holidays limited to school holidays; dirty finger marks; and dealing with puberty etc.

20091116 – Work A 4 Letter Word

Yes it's back to the rat race. A three day conference in London so it's early train to London; get the suit and ties out; clean shoes; no trainers and jeans. Traffic jams into

Preston; hang around a cold station; do a passable imitation of a sardine on the underground; and yet another industry standard plastic hotel bedroom for two nights. Complete with inbuilt sleep deprivation unit, they call it air conditioning, but I'm calling the Health and Safety executive as they haven't issued me with ear defenders.

Oh how I miss it!! It's a good reminder of the rat race I've foresaken and makes me appreciate the freedom of retirement.

Mind you it's not too bad as it's three of my ten days I work each year. Just a pity it has to be in London. Subject of the conference is "Telehealth and Telecare", can be quite depressing, it's a constant reminder of what's in store for us as we get older. But hopefully being involved in the industry might mean we stand a chance of at least getting a free zimmer frame and Wii installed.

I find it amazing how lazy people have become. Most of the things here are on the 2nd or -3rd floor (down in a bunker), but very few people walk to them, they even catch the lift down.

New Netbook is performing great. I easily get 8 hours out of the battery so I can use it to make notes as I sit there enthralled. Mind you I've still not fully configured it yet, no doubt by the time I've completed that they'll have bought out yet another new operating system release.

No one told me the 2nd Gala dinner was black tie, never mind, lounge suit is optional and it'll get me into a rebellious frame of mind ready for our cruise on HMS Wallace Arnold. Still hopefully there's plenty of free wine again.

Really looking forward to the best aspect of any trip to London, getting on the train at Euston and leaving it.