

Rupert Reports...

This has been a somewhat odd term and to explain the reasons for this I need to return to term 6.

I had spent that term in the Geography department and moved in semi-permanently with Mr Fennell and Ms Skeplorn following Mrs Bennett's back operation. My time was spent in A level and



GCSE lessons as well as popping out with Year 9 for some local fieldwork. The term finished with activities week and I spent a day in the Forest of Dean as part of Walking in Wiltshire.

Then, to celebrate the Fennell/Skeplorn 25th wedding anniversary and Mr Fennell's 50th birthday, we took off to Scotland for two weeks of stunning weather and long walks. We returned for GCSE and A level exam days where there were the usual squeals of excitement – not just from me - and also tears of joy.

We then, unfortunately, managed to grasp disaster from the jaws of what had been a very successful summer. Readers of this page and followers of @RupertReports know that we are regular visitors to Cornwall. As a last hurrah before the end of the holiday, luggage was thrown in the car on the Friday of the Bank Holiday. We took off down the M5 heading for the county of pasties, cream teas and, as it turned out, excellent A&E facilities.

We had been in Cornwall 24 hours and managed to fit in three walks, one at Landhydrock (busy), one around Mawnan Smith (nice and quiet) and then a final one at the Lizard (bonkers; thank goodness Poldark is coming to an end!).

On Saturday afternoon, it was decided that we should go for an afternoon stroll to Helford estuary, 200 metres down the gravel drive of the holiday cottage. Disaster then struck as Skeppers slipped and broke her leg in what turned out to be multiple places (see x-ray for those who are interested). Mr Fennell remained calm in the face of no mobile



phone signal and drove us to Treliske Hospital, Truro.

Here, we were met by an old university friend and I was whisked off to spend the rest of the day chasing a labradoodle around a garden.

Three days later, after several walks with just Mr Fennell and one emergency orthopaedic surgery to fit two titanium plates with 16 screws; we headed back up the motorway for home.

So, this term I have spent time getting Mrs Bennett back up to speed, working with various literacy groups and supervising Ms Skeplorn at home.

Half term will be spent avoiding gravel.