

We heard from Dave that you have been in hospital but are now back home, imprisoned by the extreme cold. We're experiencing our own version of extreme cold at the moment – a rather pathetic -2 Celsius. Of course, the entire country has ground to a halt, as it does every year when there's the slightest hint of snow or ice

I hear tell of Devon Connor. Clearly, the most important congratulations should go to his parents; no doubt his grandparents will expect a pat on the back but I don't see why his great-grandparent should be left out; so, well done!

Talking of children, our elder daughter, Sam, has graduated with a good degree in Ancient History and gone to Val d'Isère in France to be a chalet girl for the winter ski season. Val d'Isère is known here as Val de Sloane Square as it is the favourite ski destination for the English. She's met an Australian who has charmed her; I only hope that he doesn't charm her all the way to Australia which is really far too far away

Younger daughter, Emily, is still at University; in theory, she's studying hard but, in practice, she's devoting a great deal of energy trying to pass her driving test, helped by the "magic drummer", my name for her delightful, drum-playing boyfriend. I hope she passes soon because all this practising is costing me a fortune

Otherwise we are well, still living in Chelsea and despairing of politicians and wars

Keep well and God bless