

The Father of the Bride Speech 2

*(or just an excuse to show pictures
of trains, ferries and Nathan)*

Starring:

Alison Stewart

and in a

supporting role:

Jonathan Taylor



OOPS!

The Father of the Bride Speech 2

Starring:

Alison ~~Stewart~~ Taylor

(not to be confused with Amanda Brown's mum)

and in a

**supporting role:
Jonathan Taylor**



With a very large cast including



With grateful thanks to:





and a big thanks to:



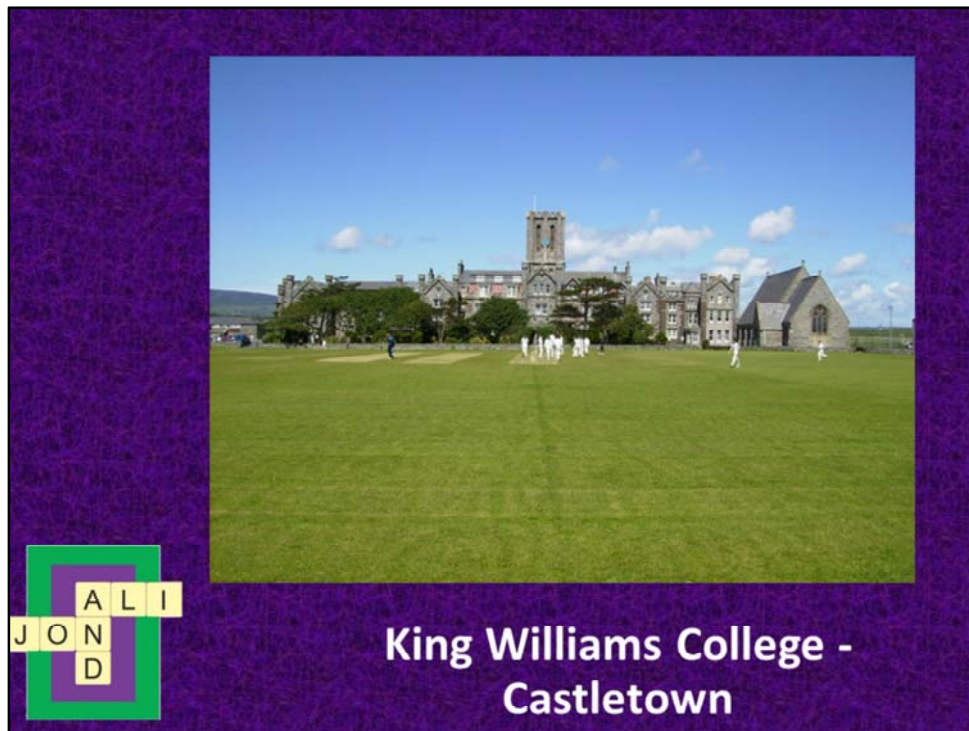
The Father of the Bride Speech 2

**This presentation may
contain scenes of
embarrassment for the Bride
but has been passed fit
for viewing by
her Mother**





Listening recently to Manx Radio, as I do thanks to the internet, one of the long serving presenters was being interviewed about his life. John Moss (or Johnny Moss during the TT) is not Manx.



He was sent to the private School, King Williams which is on the Isle of Man near Castletown because his parents reckoned that it was the best school in the British Isles.



John was surprised when going to his new School to be sent to Liverpool and then having a 4hr ferry journey to his destination.



John thought that the Isle of Man was near the South Coast of England - like so many he confused the Isle of Man with the Isle of Wight.



But of course, we all know that the Isle of Man is in the middle of the Irish Sea between England/Scotland/Wales/Northern Ireland and Eire. It's in the Anglican Diocese of Sodor and Mann. Where else to do we hear the name Sodor?



Yes - the island where the Thomas the Tank Engine stories are based. Thomas was written by an Anglian Clergyman, [Rev. W. Awdry](#),



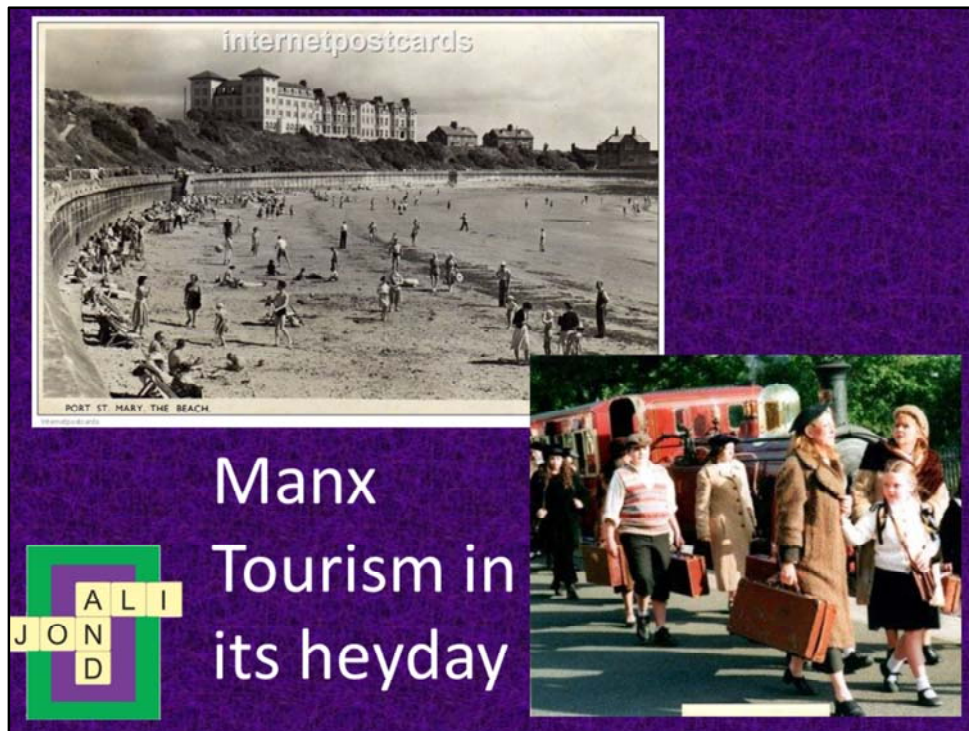
who put the island of Sodor between Barrow in Furness and the Isle of Man. How much easier travel would be if it really existed!



The Isle of Man is a Crown Dependency with its own parliament which is over 1,000 years old, and is the oldest continuously running parliament in the world, it's a record breaker.



So how did Alison from Aberdour in Scotland and Jon from Chester in England end up meeting and falling in love in the Isle of Man. Was it luck or was it, as we believe, God's guiding hand?



For the Stewart family the Manx connection goes back a few years. Many, many years ago the Isle of Man was a tourist destination for people from the North of England, Central Scotland and Ireland.



At the end of the 19th Century, a Christian organisation, now known as Scripture Union, began running children's activities on beaches around the British Isles, and so it was that a Children's Special Service Mission began in Port St Mary in 1901.

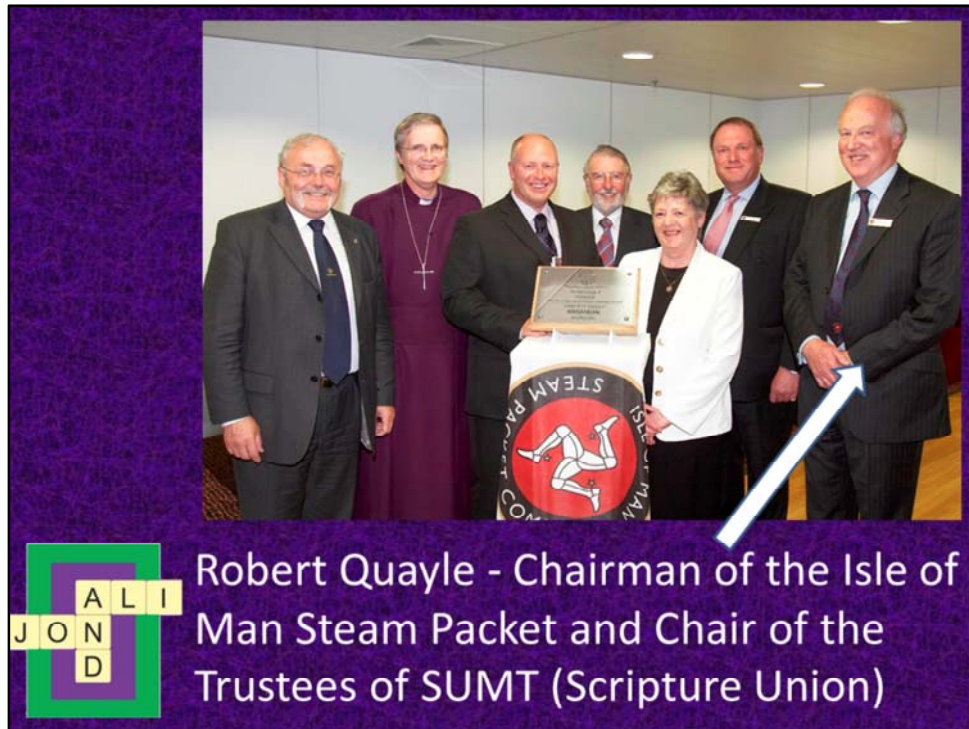


and has continued to the present day

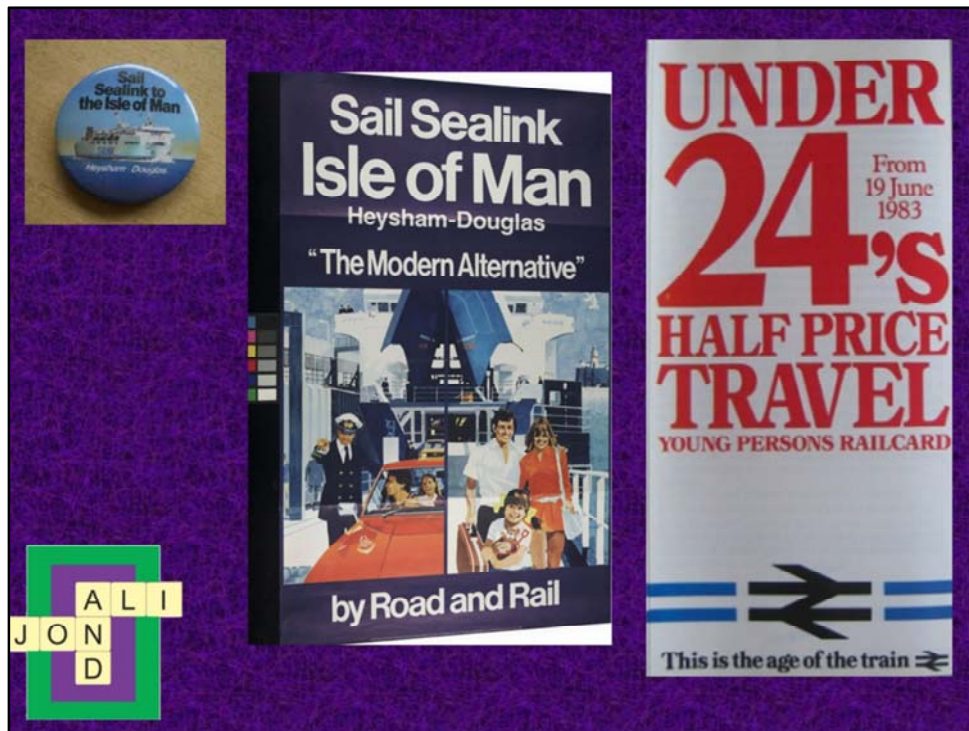


Lady of Mann (built in Troon) at
Ardrossan

In 1969 Evelyn's parents were told that Port St Mary was a good place to go on holiday especially with the Beach Mission having great children's activities. And so it was that for eight summers the family travelled to the Island mainly by ferry from Ardrossan on-board the Isle of Man Steam Packet vessels.



Incidentally the Steam Packet is the oldest continuously operating passenger shipping company in the world, it's a record breaker.



Then in 1982 Evelyn, reminded by the small print in her Young Persons Railcard that it would give discounts on travel to the Isle of Man, felt led to apply for the Port St Mary Beach Mission team.

Port St Mary SU
Beach Mission
Team 1987



The first year wasn't easy, but she felt it was where God wanted her to be and she took her sister with her the next year. Her fiancé (that's me) came to visit in 1985 and, as her husband, I was on the team in 1986 and we've been going ever since.



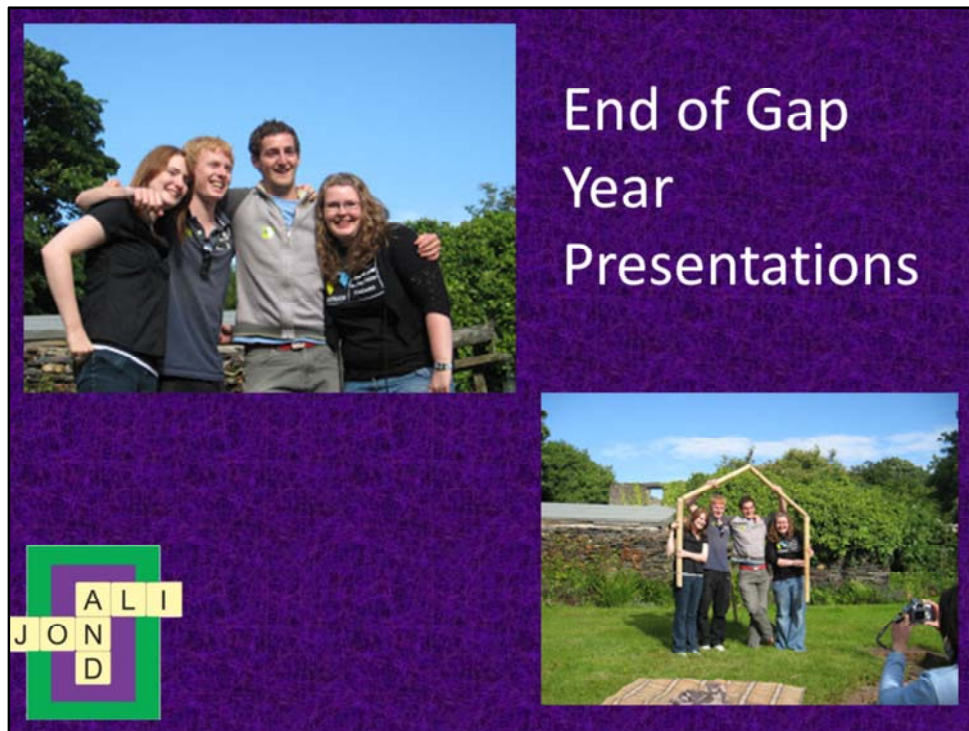
At a few months old in July 1989 Alison made her first trip to the Isle of Man travelling from Stranraer and back to Liverpool - those journeys are a whole other story!



As well as going to the island for the annual Beach Mission, Alison also visited on other occasions including, when she was older, trips by herself for weddings, to visit friends and to help out during TT at Mallmore, the Scripture Union base which also ran as a Guest House for a number of years



When Alison left school, she spent her Gap Year living in Mallmore. Incidentally The Great *Laxey Wheel* or Lady Isabella (as she is also known) is the largest working waterwheel in the world., it's a record breaker



and volunteering with Scripture Union (otherwise known as SUMT).



. At the end of her first year at University, she returned to Mallmore to run the Guest House for the summer.



In 2014 there was a reunion on the island for everyone involved with SUMT over the last 25 years and Alison went. At that point she had gained her Maths degree, her teaching qualification, was nearing the end of her “guaranteed” one year of teaching and was applying for jobs.



At some point in the weekend the conversation went something like this:

“Hi Alison, what are you doing at the moment?”

“I’m applying for Maths teacher jobs”



“Why don’t you come and teach on the island”
“I can’t do that because I would need a work permit”

THERE WAS A CHORUS OF “Secondary Teacher jobs are now exempt”



So it came to pass that Alison moved to the Island to work in September 2014 and stayed in Mallmore.



Ballakermeen High School
Isle of Man



. She taught three days a week in Douglas



and volunteered with SUMT for the other two



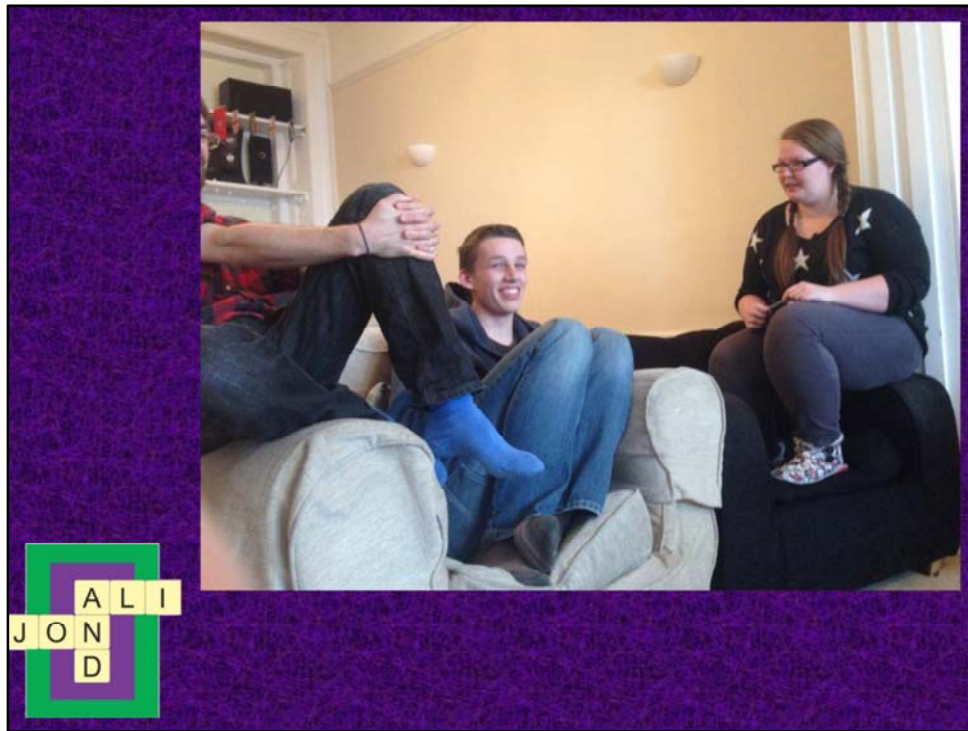
at a difficult time when they were short staffed



Prior to this, Jon had applied for a 1 year gap year – for 2013 to 2014 which was changed to a 2 year gap year for 2013 to 2015. In, fact I actually met Jon before Alison did!



Jon then applied to become SUMT's first 3 year degree student starting 2015, and so the scene was set.



They met, were friends and then it developed and here we are today. Luck or God's guidance, well we believe it was God in control.

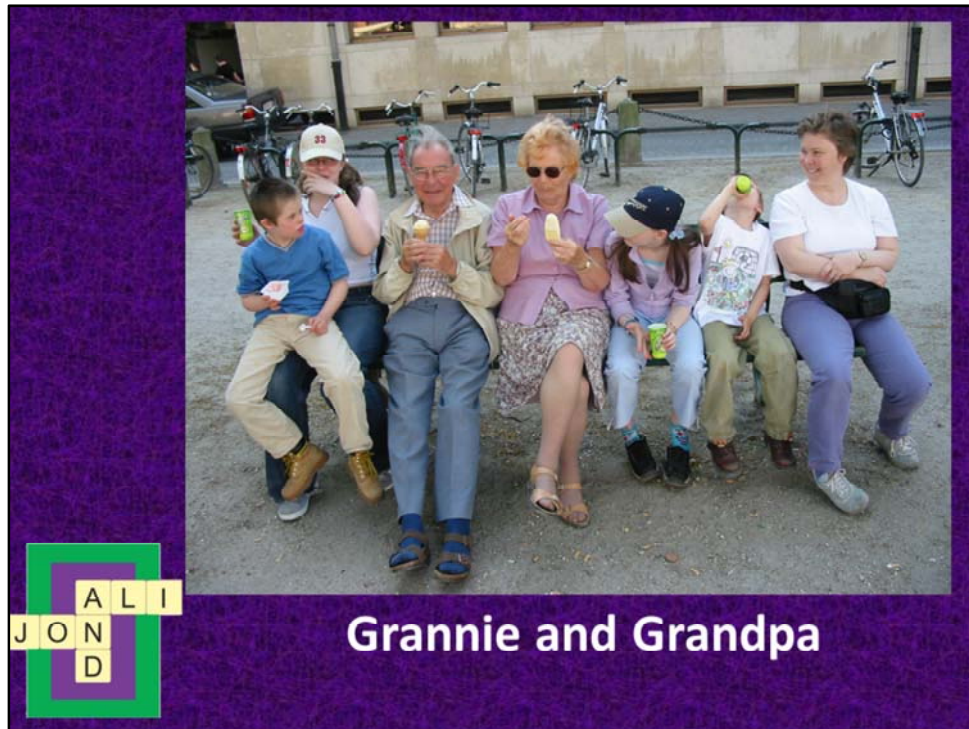


So what about Alison herself? What is Jon taking on.

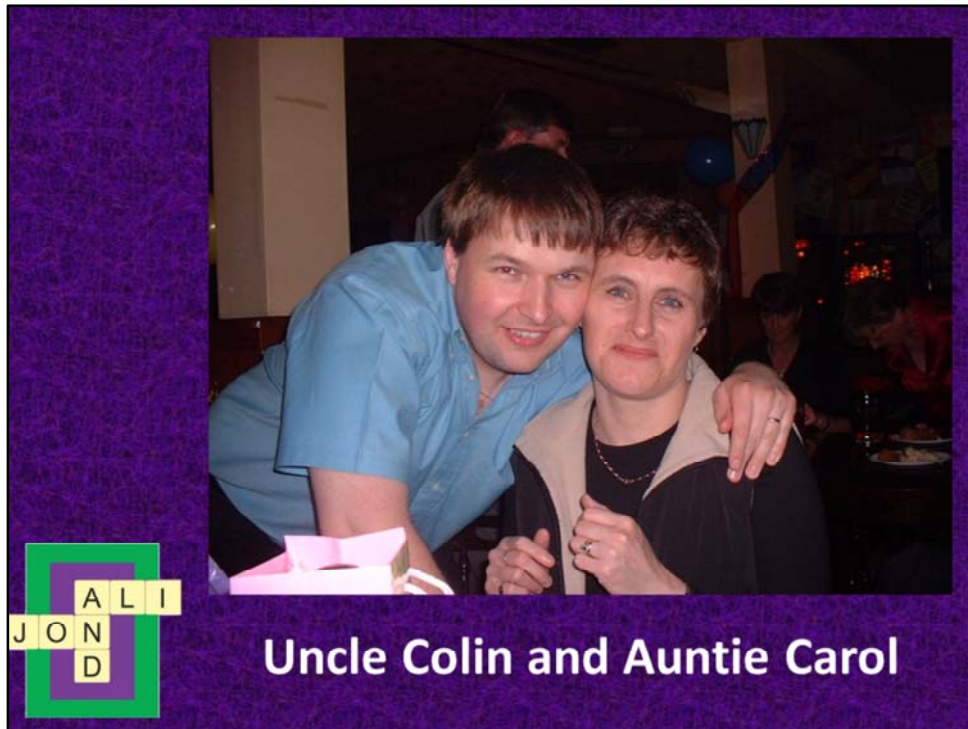
Alison's due date was 3rd March, and Evelyn was keen for her to be born in March rather than February so that she would be the oldest rather than the youngest in her school year. Evelyn went into labour on the 28th Feb but being the good and obedient girl Alison is, she waited till the 1st March before popping out – I'm not sure if it had been a leap year whether she could have held on for an extra day. She was a very big baby, 9lbs 10ozs - was that the milk or the irn bru her mum drank?



On the day she was born her Auntie Heather was in such a rush to find out more about her that she fell down the stairs at her school. (There is a rumour that her future husband had pushed her down the stairs but I'm sure that's not true).



Alison was the first grandchild/niece for the Stewart and Sked families.

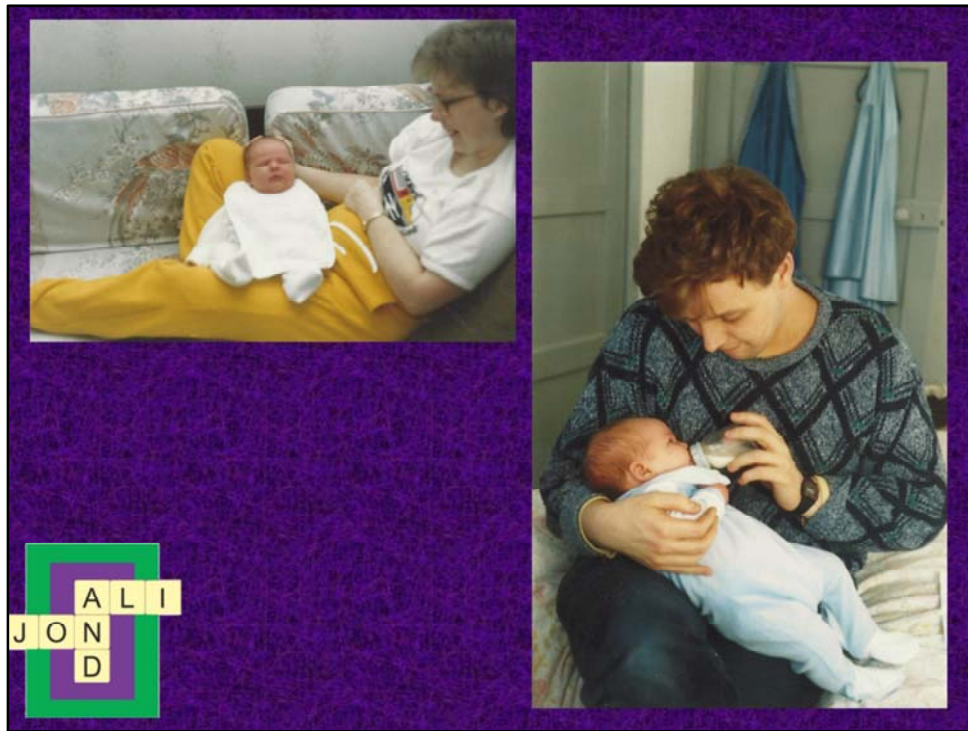




Can you guess who the baby is?



Auntie Sheila, Uncle Andy,
Ian and Paul



Alison was a very happy baby and a good sleeper.



The next few slides aer of Alison in her very early days.



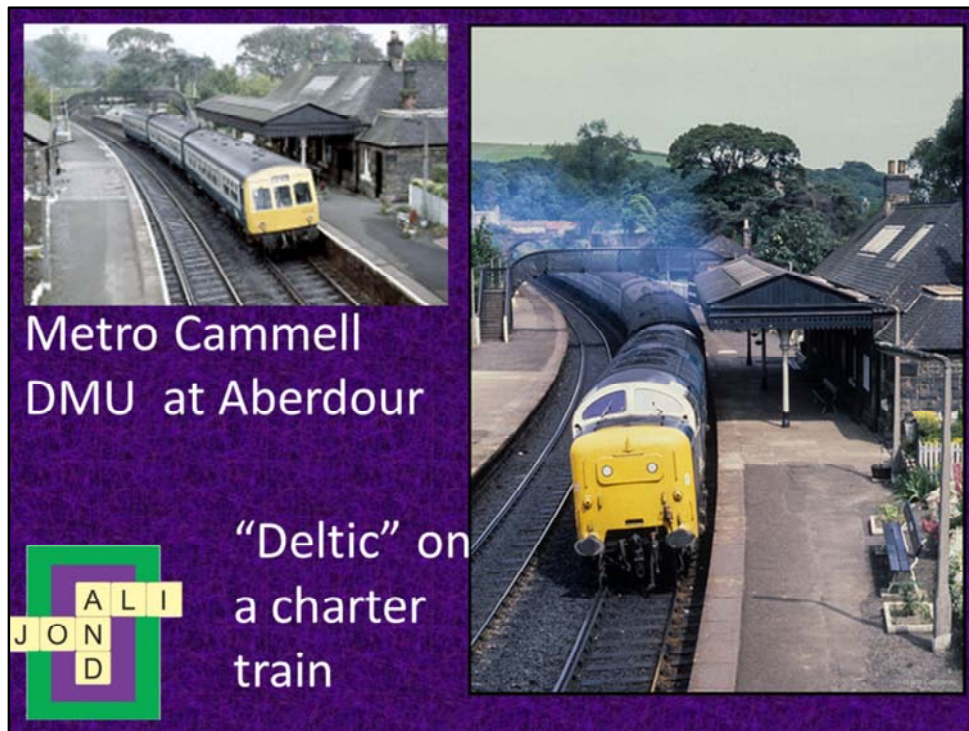
Long before facebook



And mobile phones



And here is her sister. Alison being the good big sister.

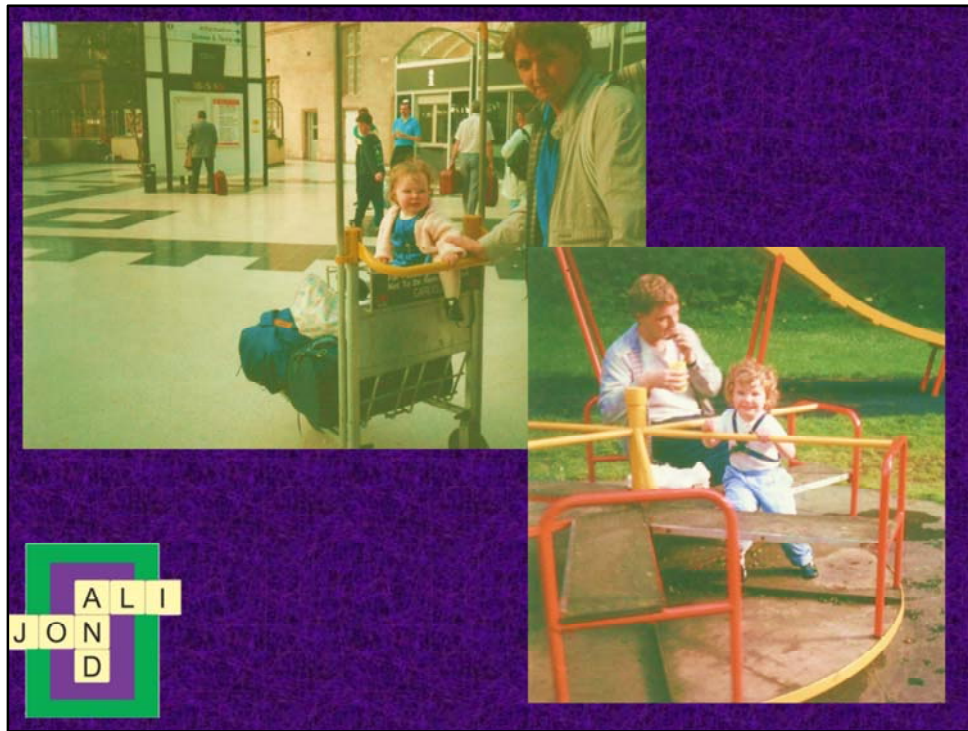


Early on she was introduced to the world of trains. On a Sunday afternoon I would park her pram on the platform at Aberdour station whilst she slept and I read my paper.



Fast asleep despite the
passing trains

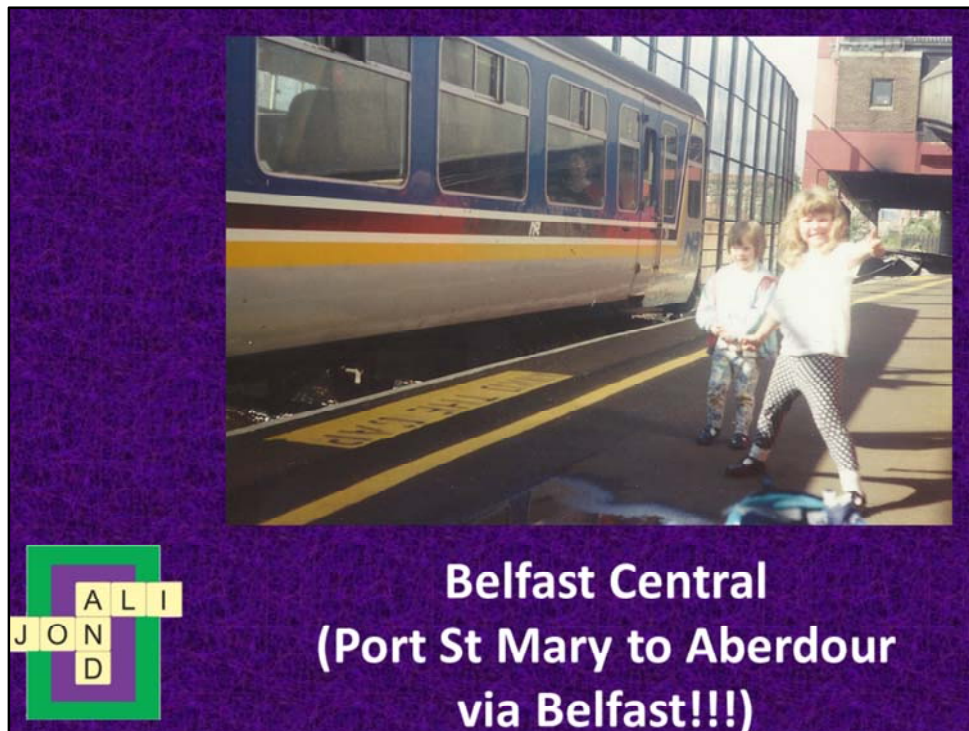
Here is someone following the example of his Auntie, having a nap while the trains pass.



Saturdays were days out with daddy.



A few longer trips



these continued once her sister, “baby yo-yo”, appeared



On the High Speed Ship (HSS) from Stranraer to Belfast (now scrapped)

Alison loved interacting with others and really enjoyed crèches, although her inability to say “e” meant that she called them “crashes”. One Saturday I booked her into the Sauchiehall centre crèche in Glasgow and nipped off to an SU prayer meeting!



In the late 80s there were very few low floor buses, buggy spaces or baby changing facilities, so when Alison was a few months old, I took her on the steam train and bus to the Jurby airshow at the North end of the Island, I had to get on the bus with Alison under one arm, her buggy under the other and a changing bag slung round my shoulder



On the way back, the Douglas Sea Terminal with its rows of seats came in handy for nappy changing.



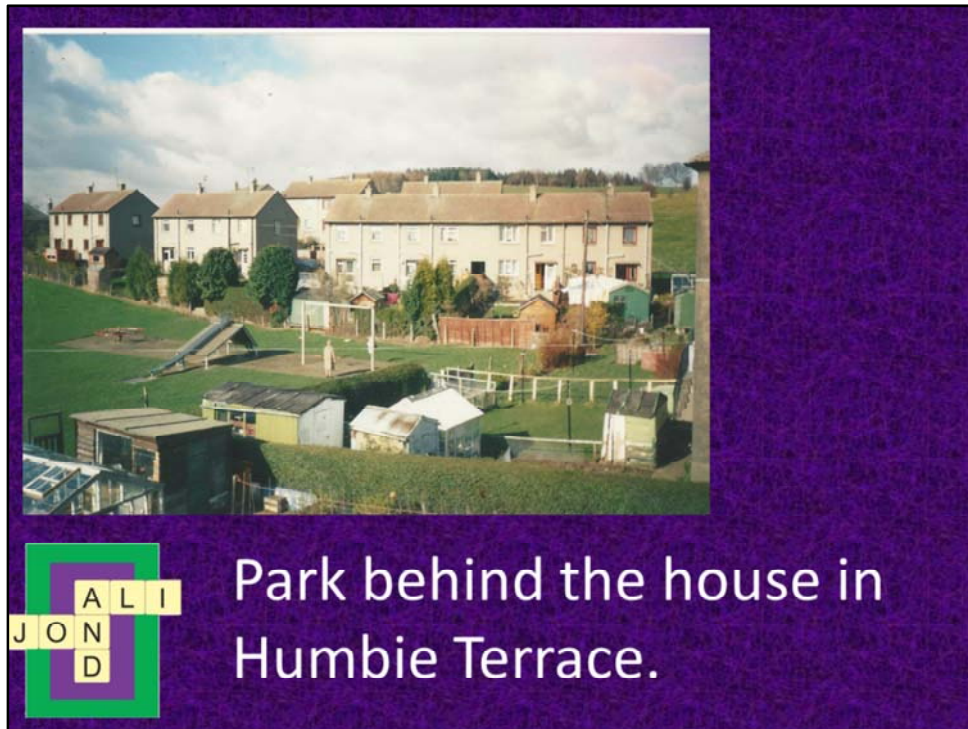
SU Scotland had decided to attract families back into leading its camps and holidays so the leaders' training events were made family friendly. Alison got to make plenty of friends and then when she was old enough she attended Easter and Summer camps,



ultimately leading on these events herself or being a travel leader (having had plenty of practice with dad).

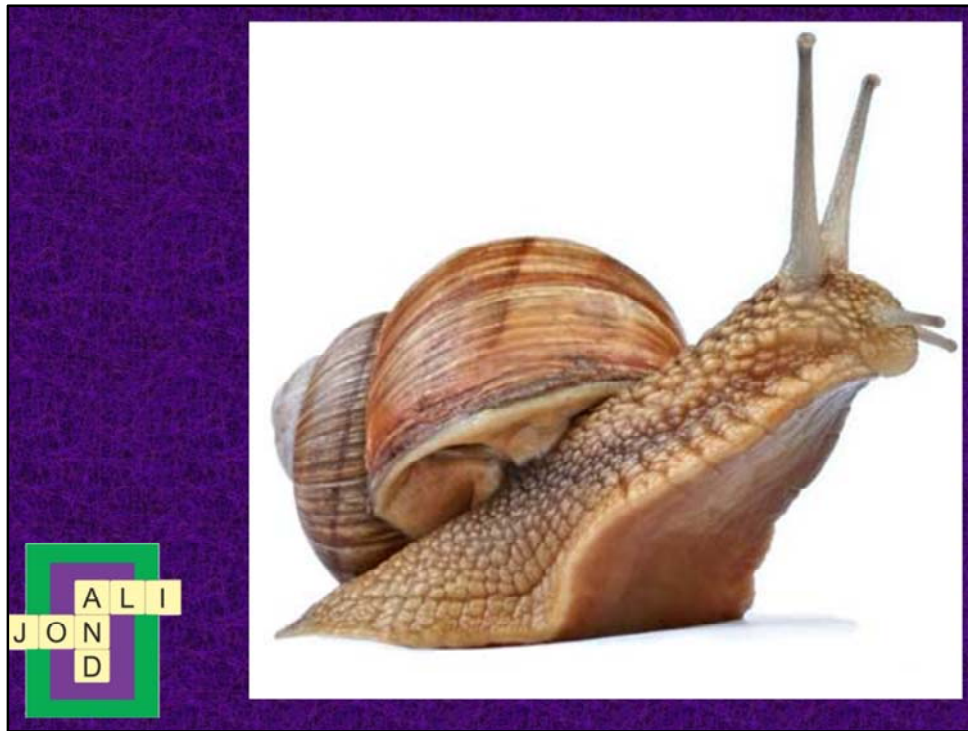


Her SU involvement has given her an understanding of people coming from different backgrounds. This coupled with a strong children and youth work at Viewfield strengthened her personal faith.

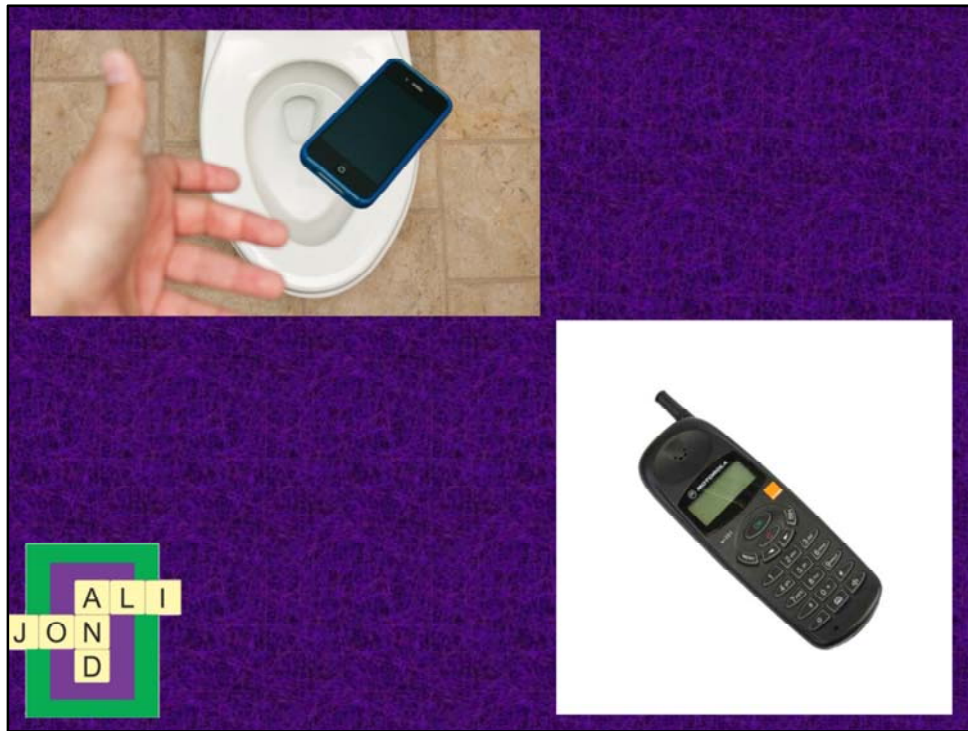


For her first seven years we lived in Humble Terrace, Aberdour, with Alison sharing a room with her sister when she was born. Then we moved along the road to the house Evelyn had been brought up in, which had been converted into a ground floor flat for Evelyn's parents and 2 floors above for us. Alison had a 1st floor room with a special very high bed all to herself while the rest of us were on the top floor. However, unbeknown to us Alison was having a difficult time at school and being on her own at night was the last straw. So she would go to bed, find she

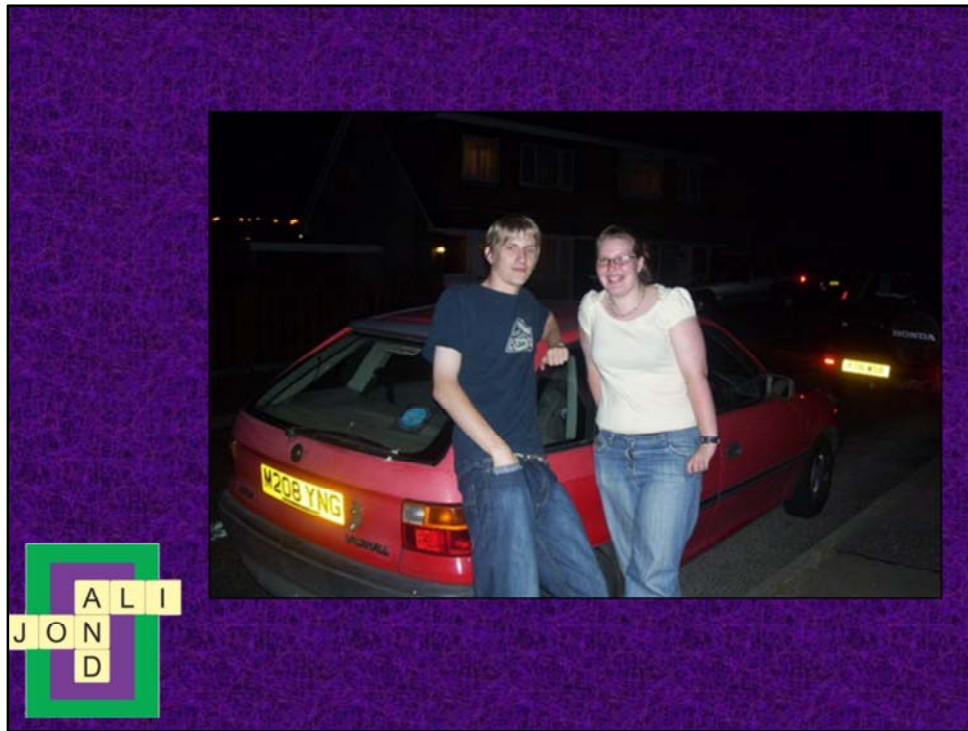
couldn't sleep then start howling. At first I would be angry because of the noise she was making but Alison being Alison, I couldn't stay angry with her for long.



Years later she told us that another reason she was upset was because she had brought some snails into her room in a box but they escaped and she didn't know where they were!



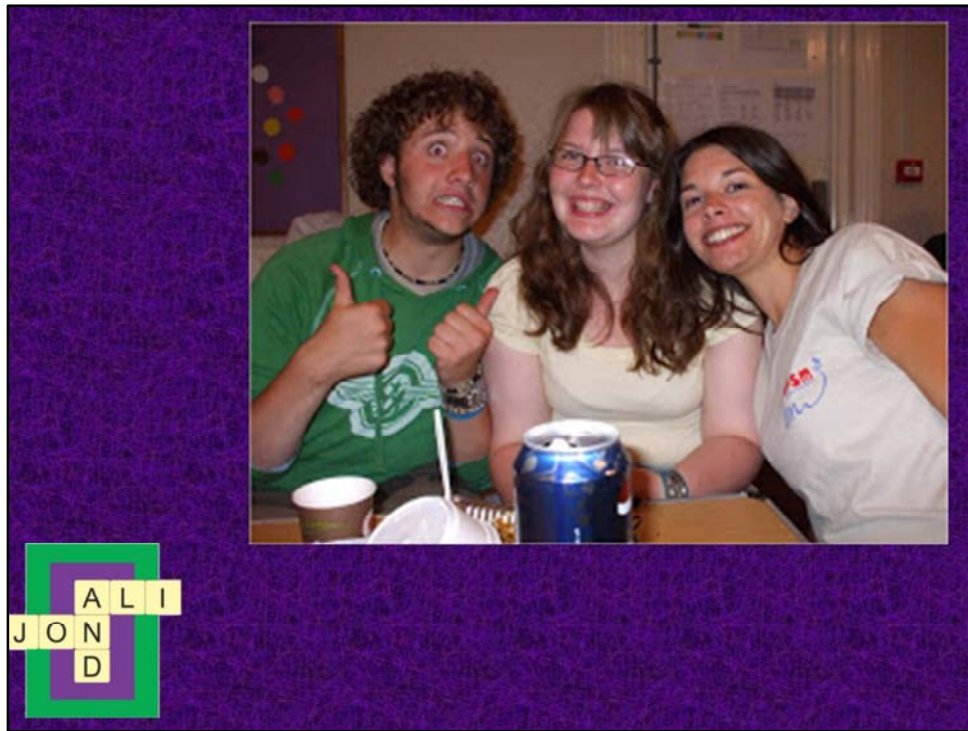
Soon the day dawned when she and her friend were allowed to travel to Edinburgh by themselves with Alison having a large mobile phone hanging round her neck. She had this phone because I had dropped it down the toilet, acquired another, only to find that the old one worked after it dried out!



Wanting further independence, she passed her driving test first time shortly before her 18th birthday and was soon borrowing the family car, fortunately an old one so the insurance wasn't too high.



After 6th year at School it was as I said before of to the Isle of Man for the year as one of the first “live in” gappers along with Amy, Chas and Magnus.



On her gap year in the Isle of Man she forged many lasting relationships but it wasn't all easy.



Returning to Edinburgh, Alison became very involved in Duncan Street Baptist Church



and worked in a coffee shop which she ended up running from time to time. Which was on my way home from work so I could stop at and buy my next days lunch.



Having loved maths at school, University maths was much more of a challenge and it was only in her final year that she was diagnosed with dyslexia which explained the difficulties that she was having. She graduated and moved to Moray House following in her mother's footsteps to get her teaching qualification.



Her placements, and her NQT year brought their share of challenging situations and people to deal with.



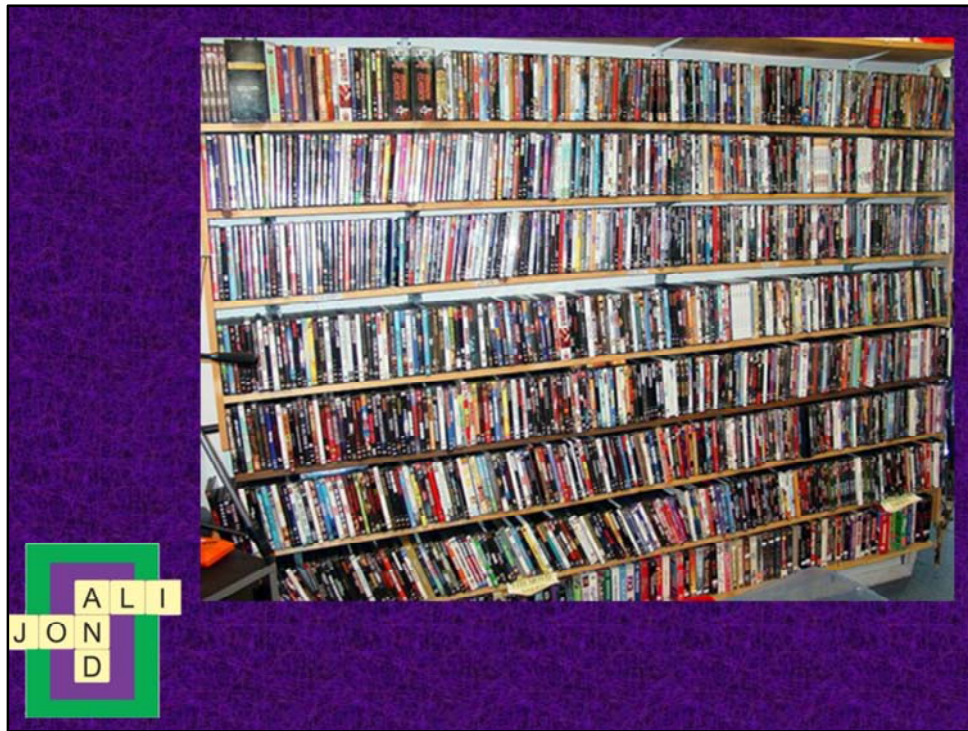
So Jon what sort of person are you marrying?



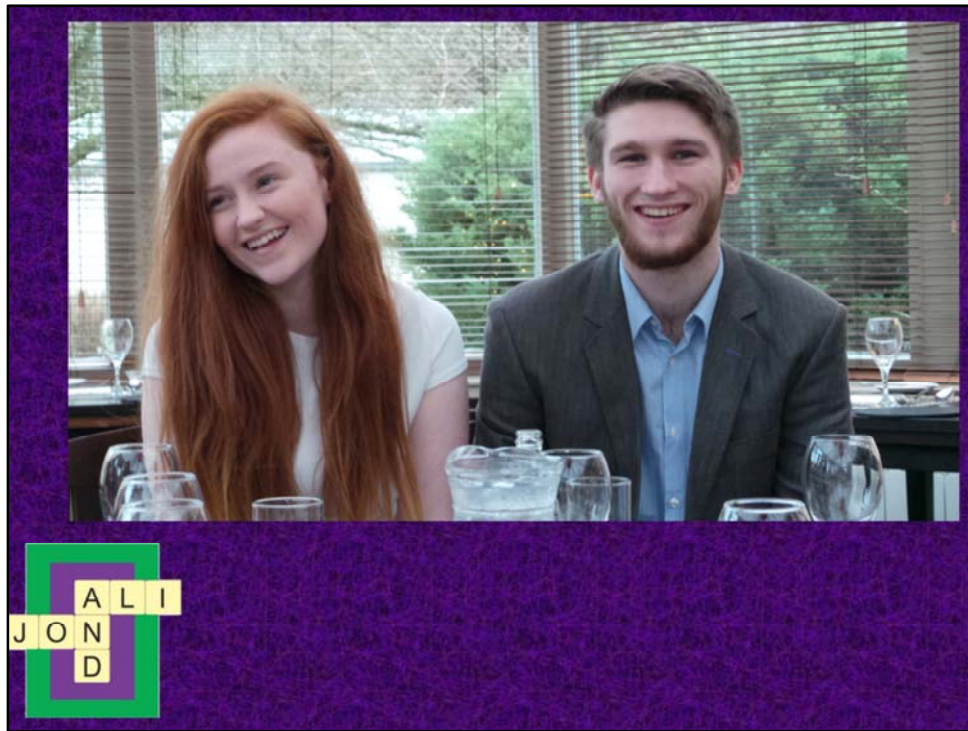
I've mentioned some of the “downs” in Alison's life because I think these have shaped her and given her an understanding of other people.



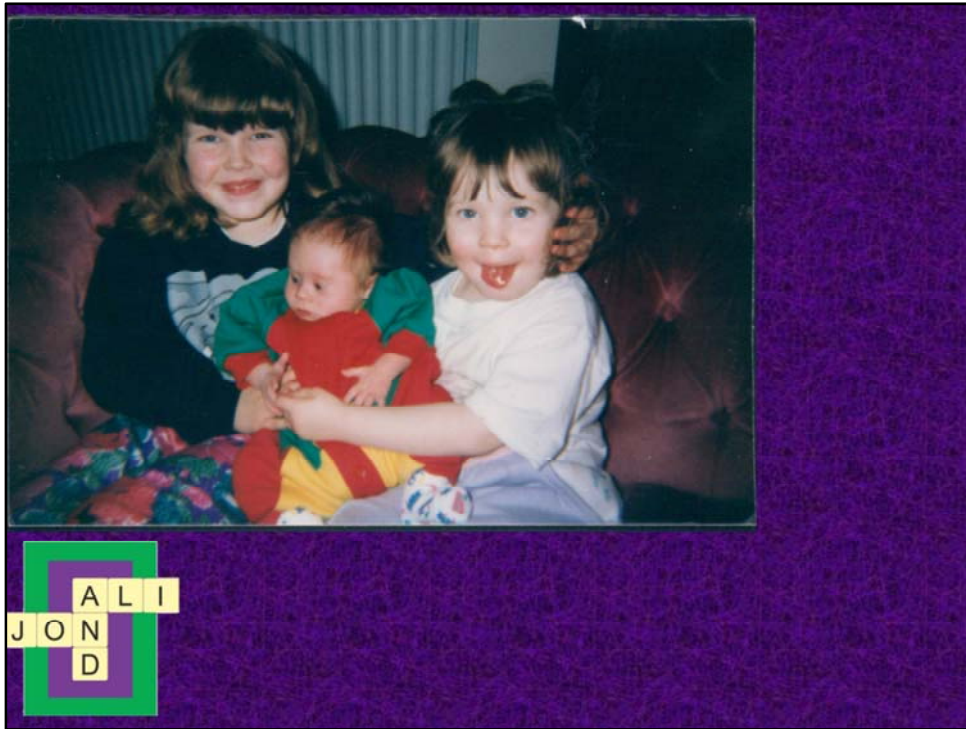
And through all this she has dealt with the death of her Grandpa, her mum having breast cancer and her granny suffering from Dementia and no longer knowing who Alison is.



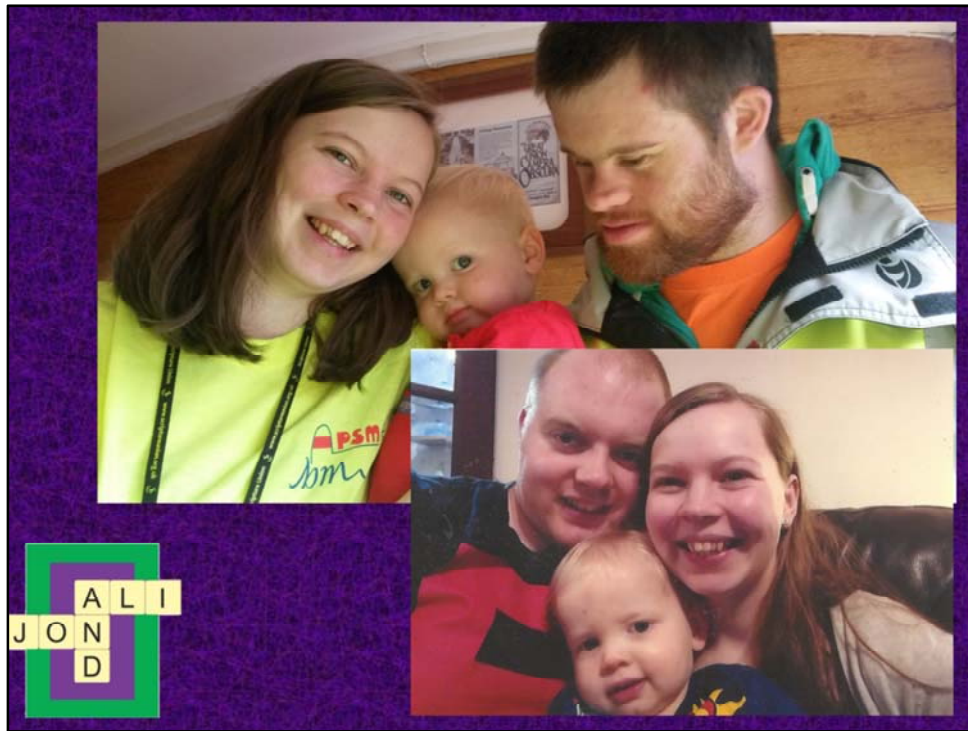
And I've mentioned she has successfully run a coffee shop, a guest house, can teach, has plenty of driving experience and has been involved with leadership of many activities. She also has a large DVD and game collection



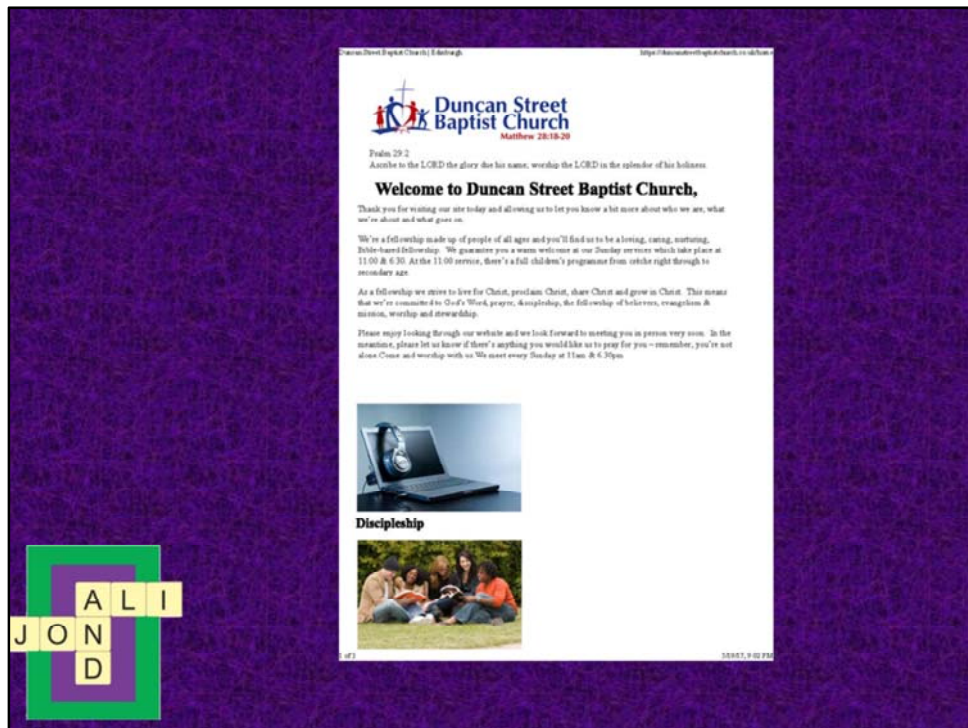
and she dotes on her 2 cousins. Paul



and Ian



And her nephew Nathan, so you'd better keep on the right side of them



I think two decisions Alison took sum her up:
When she went to Edinburgh, she could have gone to one of the big student churches, but instead she chose to go to a smaller church where she could use her gifts and abilities to serve other people and to get to know people.



When Alison began teaching, we gave her our old car but when she moved to the Isle of Man it was going to cost too much for it to pass the Isle of Man vehicle test, so I went over to help her choose a car (not that I know anything about cars). We ended up at the Michael Car Centre and she told me she would like one with 4 doors and lots of luggage space so that she could give other people lifts to SUMT events, and to the airport and sea terminal.



So Jon you are marrying a very thoughtful,



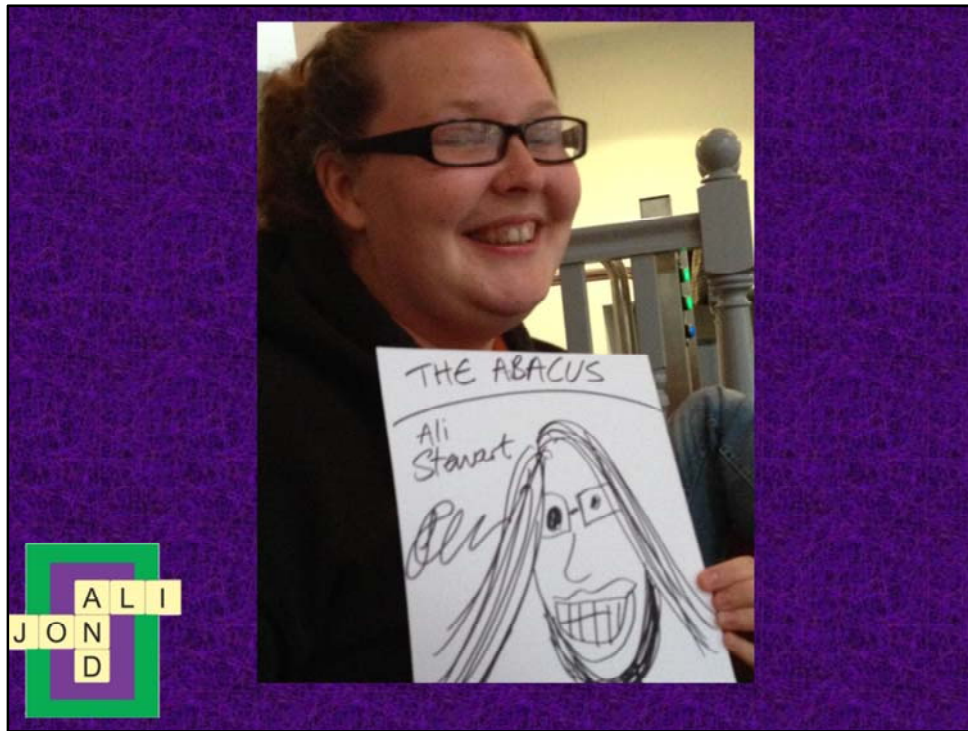
God centred



loving,



caring



gifted,



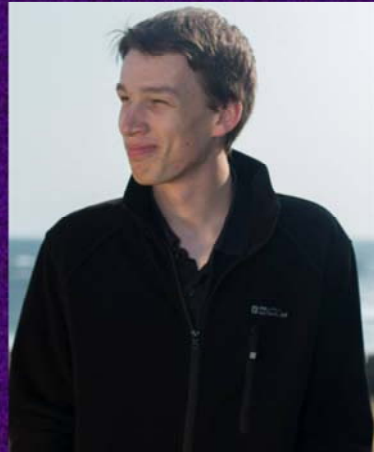
understanding young lady



who thinks of other people's needs.

Proverbs 18:22

²² The man who finds a wife finds treasure,
and he receives favour from the LORD.



We are very happy that she has found a soulmate and friend in you and I know that you love her and will look after her.

The end of the speech



but the beginning of a new
life together for



The end of the speech but the beginning of a new life together for Jon and Ali.