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Dear Michael,

As you can imagine the oncoming prospect of moving out of our home has been rather filling our horizons this Christmastide, and it is only this morning that we realize rather belatedly that we have not written to express our appreciation of the way you, with Peter Hunt, and together with Roger Hutton, have managed everything. (We are writing also to Roger).

Mary and I would like to say how very much we appreciate the way you have handled everything, not least the way in which you shared the problems with us, and kept us so well informed. During the whole process we felt a real rapport with you all, -- and there is no doubt that close neighbours as we all were, this major effort drew us closer still! It has been good to cooperate with you, -- your stamina and patience through some pretty tense periods deserved the success with which you were rewarded.

You will be glad to hear that after some very searching thinking ourselves out, not least whether to return to the North, we have finally settled to remain nearer to our grandchildren---- so we are only moving over the border a few miles into Sussex! The property is a bit older.....!

We both greatly appreciate the material difference this has made to us, not least in connection with our disabled son---- you have been the instrument of real Good in that direction

We were very interested in your connection with Christ's Hospital, and hope your links will develop; it is a very great and wonderful school, an institution worth getting to know.

Our very best wishes to you and yours for Christmas and the New Year--- perhaps our ways will cross again.

Yours sincerely

William & Mary

William J. & Mary M. Alcock.