

Roll: **20020716-2766**

Camera: **FujiFilm FinePix MX-1700Z:**

Film: **1/2 inch Digital**

**Subject:**

Joseph a walk by the river and Bradgate Park.

**Notes:**

I love the pictures of Yoyo at 10 months old the bed. He was such a happy chappy then. I had taken six months out of contracting when Joseph was born as I thought Rahel would need the support as she had no friends or family in Nottingham. When I started to look for work again I found that unbeknownst to me the IT contractor market had totally collapsed in what came to be called the bursting of the dot com bubble. For the first year of his life I was very much there for him, talking to him constantly and going for walks every day. In retrospect I think this was probably more damaging to Rahel's Psyche than if she'd be cast on her own resources. Doing the shopping, cooking, taking Joseph out it was I think all denying her the role which she believed should be exclusively hers and fed anger into the mix. I think in her eyes it also made me less of a man.

Thinking about it now Yoyo must have spent a great deal of time feeding the swans and watching aquatic birds yet I don't think he has developed any love for them at all.

We tried Jessop's and Mother Care for pushchairs before Joseph was born but for some reason they wouldn't do. I know I wanted very much to have a rear facing push chair but at the time they were as rare as hens teeth although they seem to have come back into favour now. We ended up driving all the way to Sutton in Ashfield to visit Bristol's which is apparently, the UK's oldest baby wear shop. We found a brilliant super lightweight all terrain buggy bearing the Landrover badge. It was very expensive, I seem to remember it was somewhere over three hundred quid but I had visions of myself getting back to running using the push chair. Before I left London in 2000 I was running alternate days and ten or twelve miles on a Sunday. I stumped up the readies and we took the thing home.

When we got home Rahel had a major meltdown. I wasn't aware then of why this kind of problem should occur. Shouting, screaming, abuse, totally nonsensical tirades, it was very scary and seemed totally inexplicable. I think the small details I could extract was that she wanted a German pushchair we had seen that included a pram, a car seat and multiple configurations as a pushchair. It was staggeringly expensive. Again I think perhaps I was playing too big a part in what Rahel thought should be her domain.

In the end I agreed to take the Landrover back and buy this damn thing which I thought was obviously going to be too large and too heavy to transport by bus or for Rahel to carry upstairs and so it later proved. It cost I think a little short of £600, more than the Renault 5 car that I had bought for her, about Â£1000 at today's prices.

In retrospect, knowing as I now do, how brief the pushchair phase is, how often in that brief period you need to be able to fold it up and carry it along with other stuff and how small the spaces for push chairs would be in shops, cafes, restaurants, churches, church halls and peoples homes that you would need to be able to cram the thing into when visiting anywhere, I would never have gone looking for the best but would have put a budget on it of not much over twenty quid and let Rahel sort it out.

That high chair was pretty high end too. I think it came mail order and it wasn't long before something went wrong. The manufacturers sent be a substantial bag of bits to modify and rebuild the thing, I think I still have some of that equipment stored away somewhere. I can't think what we were feeding him in the high chair then as Rahel breast fed him for a year. Maybe he had additional "oo hoo" as he called bottled milk. Could he talk then? Probably, I think he started saying "Dada" at nine months.

Yoyo was about a year old I think when I got a short contract with "Lord Beaver" at Wiltshire County Council in Trowbridge. I rented a flat in Bradford upon Avon above a stable I think so that Joseph and Rahel could stay with me. It was a beautiful spot and it was there that I took on the task of weaning Joseph. By the time we left he was eating sausages and mushrooms on toast for breakfast I had little time for the pureed bottled baby food. In later years however he regressed massively. The landlady was really kind and tried to take Rahel under wing but twenty years later it has become apparent that Rahel has developed all sorts of myths and has added the landlady to the pantheon of those engaged in plots against her.

It was difficult being in a rural location as Rahel still didn't drive so often I would take her and Joseph into Swindon in the morning and she would spend the day there while I was at work.

**People:**

Joseph, Rahel and Clifford

**Dates:**

Dates and times are taken from exif create date but the times at least are wrong. We could not have taken a walk by the river gone home to eat, gone to Bradgate Park and then got back home again in a few minutes. On closer inspection the times go backward and forward. I will manually change the times to make them more reasonable.

**Frames:**

cnv00001 20020716 07:53:17 Smiler.  
cnv00002 20020716 07:54:14 What are you doing.  
cnv00003 20020716 07:54:16 That's a good un.  
cnv00004 20020716 07:54:30 Pick me up.  
cnv00005 20020716 12:30:48 Boat on the river.  
cnv00006 20020716 12:31:47 Swan.  
cnv00007 20020716 12:32:46 Swans.  
cnv00008 20020716 12:32:47 Swans.  
cnv00009 20020716 12:33:29 Swan.  
cnv00010 20020716 12:33:28 Swan.  
cnv00011 20020716 12:33:40 Swan.  
cnv00012 20020716 13:05:09 Boy and bear.  
cnv00013 20020716 13:05:08 Doting father and son.  
cnv00014 20020716 13:05:47 Doting father and son.  
cnv00015 20020716 13:05:56 The bear makes an exit.  
cnv00016 20020716 13:30:45 Boy in high chair.  
cnv00017 20020716 13:51:28 Boy in high chair.  
cnv00018 20020716 13:51:29 Boy in high chair.  
cnv00019 20020716 13:51:30 Boy in high chair.  
cnv00020 20020716 13:51:34 Boy in high chair.  
cnv00033 20020716 15:52:44 Boy in high chair.  
cnv00034 20020716 15:53:23 Boy in high chair.



cnv00001 - Smiler.



cnv00001.jpg



cnv00002.jpg



cnv00003.jpg



cnv00004.jpg



cnv00005.jpg



cnv00006.jpg



cnv00007.jpg



cnv00008.jpg



cnv00009.jpg



cnv00010.jpg



cnv00011.jpg



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cnv00003 - That's a good un.

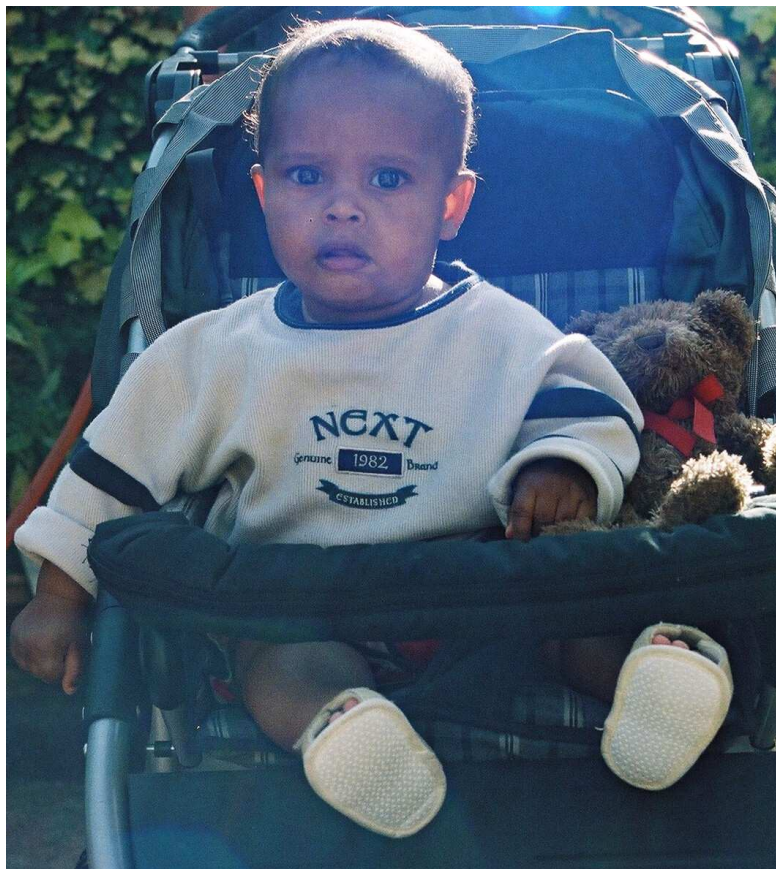


cnv00005 - Boat on the river.





cnv00010 - Swan.



cnv00012 - Boy and bear.



cnv00014 - Doting father and son.



cnv00034 - Boy in high chair.