

Club President JULIA BRADBURY on getting back to work, being back on our TV screens and when we'll next see her out and about

# First lady



**WELL**, it certainly seems a long time ago that I was last on the road but after an eventful ten months, I'm now getting straight back into the filming way of life!

After giving birth to my girls in March, I've been enjoying some essential family time before the inevitable return to work, though some of you will have seen me back on your screens this summer.

The remainder of my series, *The Wonder of Britain* was shown on ITV throughout August, which was filmed before I fell pregnant last year. It's always special to see a programme go out – waiting for the transmission date is a bit like waiting for a baby – although of course my children are my most important production to date!

The response to the series has been fabulous and I've had some lovely letters from people. The Twittersphere was alive with compliments, and I think it engaged the public again and is stimulating people to get outdoors. My dad featured in the last episode and he is now overly regarded as a 'top bloke', so he's very happy.

It was one of those days, walking near Winnats Pass in Derbyshire, that brought back wonderful childhood memories.

For those who watched, you'll know as part of the series I travelled the length and breadth of the country. Skye and the Outer Hebrides were highlights, in particular landing at Barra airport, which was voted as having the best airport approach in the world a few years ago. You feel as though you're landing in the Caribbean, if you're on one of the two scheduled daily arrivals that is.

I spent a day working there,

handling bags, driving the luggage trolley and taking part in a fire drill. It's one of the most relaxed and friendly airports I've been to – Heathrow it is not.

After that you might have seen me attacked by Arctic terns on the Farne Islands (hard-hat essential) and dressing up as Queen Elizabeth I at Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire (though I think I looked more like a scary Mrs Doubtfire than royalty). It was all very memorable.

Happily for me, viewers in the USA are now going to be able to watch *Wonders* for themselves. It has been described there as "very cool for any Anglophile" so naturally I'm delighted to be selling the Great British outdoors brand overseas.

I'm sorry I was unable to join you for the National Feast of Lanterns in Norfolk at the end of August, which has the theme 'Celebrate your county'.

After being on maternity leave for several months, I've gone straight back into filming for my new walking series (to be shown next year on ITV) with no respite from the busy schedule.

Had I been there I would've been celebrating in big style by flying the flag for the smallest county in Britain, Rutland, where I grew up.

However, absence makes the heart grow fonder and I'm sure I will see many of you on Friendly Friday (October 16) at the Motorhome and Caravan Show at Birmingham's NEC, my first time catching up with members since Zena and Xanthe were born.

It will be lovely to see everybody who attends, and I want to say thank you again for all your well wishes and kindness.

Happy camping everyone.



Julia dressed up as Queen Elizabeth I during a visit to Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire for her TV series