**My talk at Faculty Day**

**March 23 2013**

**10 minutes**

**What have I done with my Diploma?**

**(Tracking it all with the progressed lunar phase..)**

* Presented to me by Charles Harvey in 1992. A friend bought me a purple Faculty T-shirt to celebrate. I still have it, falling apart and used as a night shirt.
* My transits were not promising , though I had passed my Diploma: NE sq MO, SA opp PL, UR sq MO. I was in 3rd quarter p lunar phase – reaping the results of my hard work I guess, but I was obviously not destined to be instantly recognized as a professional astrologer!
* Contacted those in charge of teaching. Pauline Hayward, Fiona Griffiths. Asked to be a correspondence tutor, but was told there were no vacancies. I was put on a waiting list but never heard anything else! But I held on to the idea of becoming an astrology teacher.
* Saw a few clients for a low price, but didn’t build up a practise as I then went to live in Holland for 4 years in 1994. (P lunar phase entered Balsamic early 1995!)
* I tried to do some astrology there while I was learning the language, but I never got good enough to do a chart in Dutch. Met an astrologer there who lived in the Hague, but didn’t really get anywhere. Helped as a FAS rep at an astrology conference in Amsterdam with Charles Harvey.
* It wasn’t til I returned to live in England that I started to really do things with my Diploma. Slowly began to see clients – this was still more or less pre-internet, and nobody I knew had a website! Sue Tompkins asked me to help out with a few Local Ed astrology classes, and I then taught several classes at a couple of Local Ed colleges evening classes. (p lunar phase New Moon)
* Taught my first Beginners Astrology for FAS in 1999 – there was then no real course material. I followed the old material, and made up the rest myself. That was held in the LSE – a great warren of unfriendly corridors, very unpopulated at night.
* In November 2000, I joined FAS Council (another option once you have the Diploma!) with an idealistic view of wanting to contribute to the world of astrology and promote it to the wider world. It was just before the Faculty went into meltdown and we had to close down for about 9 months. We decided all the course material needed rewriting, which many of us did – but we re-opened with a new structure and new course material, and rebuilt the Faculty from the base up. PL was in SAG approaching the Faculty’s SU. (p lunar phase Crescent.)
* Was on Council for the maximum term under the constitution – 6 years when Clare Martin was President. Edited Stellium for 3 years ,which I enjoyed doing. In 2006 I left Council, but had become a tutor and an examiner both at Foundation and Diploma level, for London classes and for DL.
* Was there life after being a council member?? Well, I didn’t join another Council or committee til 2010, but continued to build up a practise, teach and write articles and course material. I took a City & Guilds teacher training, which taught me a lot! (p lunar phase 1st quarter)
* In 2010 I joined the Lodge committee and then a year later became a Council member of the AA, both of which I still do. (p lunar phase Gibbous) (If you would like to be considered for a lecture or teaching at the Lodge in London on a Monday evening, let me know, as I organise the speakers there!) Come to a lecture if you live within travelling distance of London – there are some excellent speakers. [www.astrolodge.co.uk](http://www.astrolodge.co.uk)
* In 2011, I began writing my first book, *Astrology Decoded* – a step by step guide for beginners. I had the same ideals – to spread knowledge of astrology to the wider world, who simply don’t yet know what they are missing! My book was published in January 2013 by Rider Books, a branch of Random House.
* Now where? I have plans for all kinds of things! Gaining your Diploma opens doors that are not so easily opened without it. Let me congratulate those of you who have just got your Diploma and who have it already, to continue to build your astrological knowledge – read, go to lectures, try your hand at speaking or setting up local groups or classes, see clients.
* Let me also encourage those of you who are studying at Certificate level or in between to go on and get your Diploma. If there are people here who are thinking about studying astrology seriously, it is a rewarding and for many of us a lifelong study. After all, it is about gaining an understanding of ourselves through its magical symbolism, and gaining a deeper understanding about life in all its forms.
* My transits and progs now: UR sq ME and VE, SA trine ME and VE, and my p lunar phase is now Full Moon until 2017. One of the things I would really like to do is expand my teaching abroad, and there are some good possibilities for me doing this.