

I wrote this to send to Bill's good friends in Leyland - as Jane had unfortunately made a mistake, saying the bread maker was Bill's leaving present, when it was actually his 60th birthday present:

In fact, the bread machine was Bill's extraordinarily thoughtful and generous 60th birthday present (22 June, 2005) from his colleagues and friends in Leyland. He didn't unwrap the parcel at the time - which he later regretted - he imagined it probably contained a 'joke' present, so when he opened it at home and found a Panasonic bread maker, he was absolutely flabbergasted! The fact that his colleagues, aware he needed a gluten free diet, had thought to give him such a considerate and exceptionally generous gift, completely overwhelmed him. He was mortified that he must have disappointed them by not giving them the pleasure of seeing his astonishment at their thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity.

Oh, why didn't I take a photo?...