

The Schofields
Bridge House
Red Shute Hill
Hermitage, Newbury
RG18 9QW

Xmas 2000

Well, the time has come again to set pen to paper and reflect on the bygone year.

Eve, Tim and Jon all saw in the new millennium as university students, and Janice and I doing our normal under-paid and over-worked chores, respectively as, head teacher at Parsons Down Infant School and support manager for a start-up computer company based in Zürich, Switzerland. All of us looking forward to the day when we are over-paid and under-worked!

Talking of the new millennium – what a spectacular fireworks show we all had on the banks of the Thames by the “London Eye” – all of us, that is, except Eve who had seen in the new Millennium half a day earlier in New Zealand!

During the year, Tim has graduated having obtained a degree in Archaeology at Bournemouth University and moved up a step in life’s progression by taking a job with a geo-physical survey company in Worcester. He and his girl friend, Claire, (also an Archaeology post-graduate from Bournemouth Uni.) are currently house hunting in Worcester. I suppose we should feel sad that the brood are flying from the nest, but actually it is rather nice to tidy the nest and have it stay tidy! Actually, we seem to have one or other of the fledglings dropping in most weekends – which is also nice.

Jon is coming to the end of his final year at Winchester College – where he has been studying for a degree in fine arts. He is currently preparing for a display of his, and some of his colleagues work at an exhibition he is organising in London. The New Tate has nothing in comparison!

Eve has taken a part-time voluntary job working with young offenders in Chester as part of her University course in Psychology, while at the same time working part-time nursing and helping to look after an entire family who are suffering from the effects of M.E. How she has time to study as well, I don’t know.

Janice and I joined a health club this time last year, with the aim of me regaining my slender figure. It’s good fun, but I am not sure my figure is any more sylphlike! I spend too much of my time travelling the world and eating in restaurants for that to happen. This year has seen me in Australia (Sydney – but alas not during the games), Finland (twice), Germany (several times), Denmark (twice), Switzerland (many times), Holland (twice), USA, and France.

The work on our holiday home in France is progressing at its normal snail-pace – it is a good project, and if the funds we could spend on it matched our enthusiasm for it, it would be finished by now. The reality is that it is a project we will continue to enjoy for many years to come - before we have the facilities to be able to invite you to stay with us in our holiday retreat in the Alps!

The final word goes to Grandma - Janice’s mother continues in good health, she is actually quite marvellous the way she travels the length of the country to visit us – completely under her own steam. She thinks it is time she gave up driving, but I am persuading her not to give up her little car just yet.

Well, I have done my one page... until next year....

We hope you have a good Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Mike, Janice, Eve, Tim and Jon.