

The Schofield's
Bridge House
Red Shute Hill
Hermitage, Newbury
RG18 9QW

Xmas 2002

Is it really that time of year again?

This year Janice reached the big 50. As if that was not bad enough the family had a birthday surprise which was both frightening and exciting for her! They had organised for her to have a day's driving lesson in a Formula Ford racing car. So in April off we went to Llanelli for the weekend and Janice pretended to be Michael Schumacher for a day. Tim was there with his camera to make sure that she did not chicken out! Actually she thoroughly enjoyed the experience and cannot wait to go again.

Earlier, Mike had his share of excitement on a trip to Switzerland, when he had a go at parascending. He told Janice he was working! In January Janice joined Mike on a business trip to Vienna. The city was covered in snow. We had a great time seeing the sights.

In the summer we had an amazing four weeks. Mike had to go to Korea and Japan so we made it part of our holiday. We spent one week in Seoul. The Koreans are such friendly, caring people. They were stopping us to practice their English! From Seoul we flew to Tokyo and spent five days there. Our hotel (The Palace Hotel) was literally next door to the Emperor's Palace. He did not invite us in but we were able to walk around the palace grounds – boy was it hot! We were soaking wet with perspiration after five minutes. On the way home we stopped off in Amsterdam and spent an interesting evening seeing the sights! Jon picked us up at the airport and we were at home just long enough to wash our clothes and repack before we went to Copenhagen. Whilst Mike worked Janice spent the time sightseeing. What a beautiful city it is! After Copenhagen Mike was able to start his holiday proper. We flew to Geneva and spent a restful two weeks in our house in France walking, visiting our French friends and organising the work to be done during the coming year.

Eve and Tim continue to live in Chester and Upton respectively. Jon is still at home, finding it difficult to get a job. Although he is applying for lots of interviews he is told either that he has not enough experience or that he is too highly qualified. Fortunately Mike's company has been able to give him some work, which is giving him experience and some cash. Eve is really enjoying her job at the 'Moving On Project' despite having to deal with suicide attempts and aggressive behaviour. She has recently started to go out with a new boyfriend (Richard) who shares her interests. He is one of Tim's friends in Upton. Eve, Richard, Tim and Tim's girlfriend Jo all go snowboarding together at Tamworth. They persuaded Mike and Janice to try skiing there too. Now we are also hooked! We had our second lesson yesterday. Janice finds it hard to get started but has no trouble balancing. Mike can get going but finds the balancing very difficult (it's his centre of gravity!) We'll get there in the end! Jon and his girlfriend Kerry have just joined the ski-club too. There's always a meal at Tim and Jo's to look forward to as an après-ski. Tim's new kittens also entertain us. They are two balls of fluff who are full of energy and will be spending Christmas with us. We don't know what our two 'stuck-in-mud' cats will think about that!

Janice's mother continues to keep her health and is still living in Filey. She had an enjoyable holiday in London and was even brave enough to go on the London Eye. She and all three children will be here for Christmas. We expect we will be entertaining the children's partners during the festive season too. We are looking forward to the hustle and bustle (and the peace when they have all gone home!).

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

Mike, Janice, Eve, Tim and Jon.

The brake is that peddle in the middle...

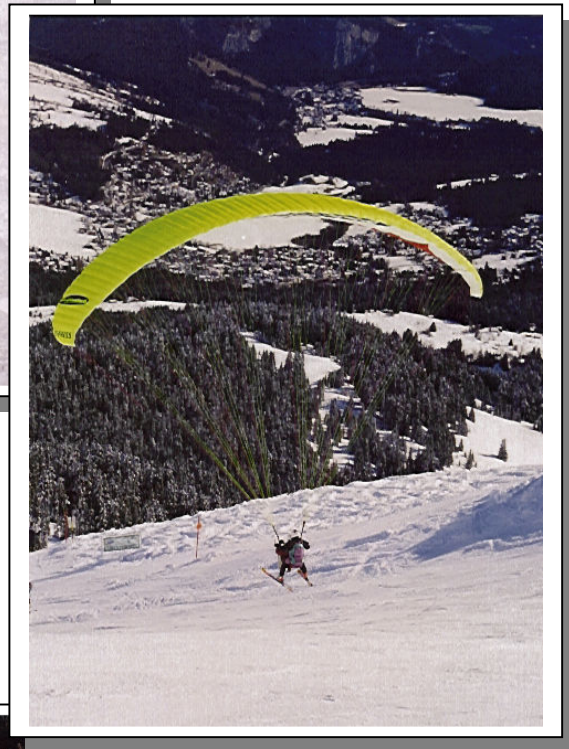


...and she's off!





This one doesn't have brakes...



... and that postage stamp sized playing field is where we'll land!



Jon, Eve,
Tim at
Uncle
Paul's in
Blackburn.

