

Bridge House
Red Shute Hill
Hermitage
RG18 9QW
December 2007

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year...

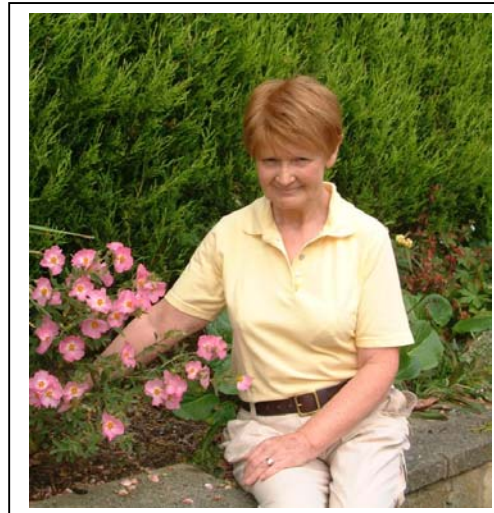
The time has come again to set finger to keyboard and reflect on the passing year.

Sadly, our sister-in-law, Stella, lost her fight against cancer in January. We celebrate her life, that she lived to the full, and admire the contribution she made teaching in missionary and church-funded schools throughout the world and in local preaching in her home town of Blackburn.

This photograph of Stella was taken at home during the summer of 2006 when she was undergoing chemo-therapy.

On a brighter note, Tim's heart operation in March was a resounding success. We can't thank enough or give enough praise for the skills of the surgeons in Papworth Hospital (Cambridge). Tim's operation in 2005 to replace a heart valve (after he had

contracted Rheumatic Fever) had failed to relieve his problems, and this in turn had complicated a 2nd operation. His case was referred to Mr Wells, a senior heart-valve surgeon in Papworth (the hospital that is probably at the forefront of heart surgery in Britain!). Reconstructive surgery on the original problem valve and a repair to a second valve have returned Tim to 100% health. Tim has restarted his archaeological job and is living his life to the full again.



Tim and Jo took their belated honeymoon in Fuerte Ventura, Canary Islands, in late summer this year after being married in July last year, and as we write are taking a winter holiday in Lapland. It is the first time in five years that Tim has been able to use his snow board.

Eve took a new job in September this year and is now working as an extended schools co-ordinator in Birmingham (which means she supports parents and helps children-in-need). She and her partner Richard will be joining her Grandma and her siblings at our house on Christmas day.

Jon has had a successful 1st year in his freelance work creating web-sites (see the one he wrote for Mike's business at www.sysgem.com!) and no sooner had he left his old position at the Oxford University Press than he was asked to return on contract for a few days each week to help fill the post he vacated (producing OUP web pages!). Jon and his partner Blanca are planning a "gap year" in South America, first visiting Argentina and then doing voluntary work in Chile. This adventure starts in February next year.

Janice continues to run her school in Thatcham and has had some of the pressures of headship eased after a recent successful Ofsted inspection!

Mike had a business trip to Sacramento, California in April and took the opportunity to have a holiday, touring in the States with Janice. We also joined up with Mike's brother Paul and together visited: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Death Valley, Las Vegas, Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Denver and Colorado Springs.



Paul & Janice in Death Valley

A number of years ago we bought an old alpine

cottage (that was in need of much renovation) in the French Alps. Last year we noticed that the rate at which it was deteriorating was increasing, and so decided that we must either do some serious renovation work or sell it before it fell down. We have now started what is probably the biggest project we have ever undertaken... Hopefully by next summer we will have renovated the ground floor to a state that is habitable:



... more on this next year - or follow our progress in <http://mikeschofield.sysgem.com>

Mike & Janice