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

December 2008

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

This year has been the year of the grand children!

First off the blocks were Tim and Jo with Isobelle Evelyn - what a beauty - perfect in every way. 7lb 13oz on 12 Oct 2008. Our first grandchild...



-- Isobelle Evelyn - just one day old!

Tim, Jo and Isobelle came to stay with us one week-end when Isobelle was just a month old (and not yet



sleeping through the nights). I am now not sure who suggested this, but it was thought a good idea that Grandma and Grandpa should look after Isobelle in their bedroom one

night to give her parents their first unbroken night's sleep in a month. Wow... that took us back thirty years... one of us nappy changing, the other preparing a bottle for one hungry and anxious infant. I had forgotten that babies like to cling hold of the hair on your chest as they feed on a bottle of milk, sitting up in bed at four in the morning!

Next it was the turn of Eve and Richard with Amelia May at 6lb 9oz on the 21 Nov 2008. Another perfect beauty... this grand-parenting is easy! In characteristic form Eve kept us waiting for a week, but Amelia wasn't for being rushed.



-- Amelia May - also just one day old!

Both new Mums took it all in their stride. It was just another day for Eve as she and Rich went to show off their new born to their friends after just a couple of days!

More baby photos available at:

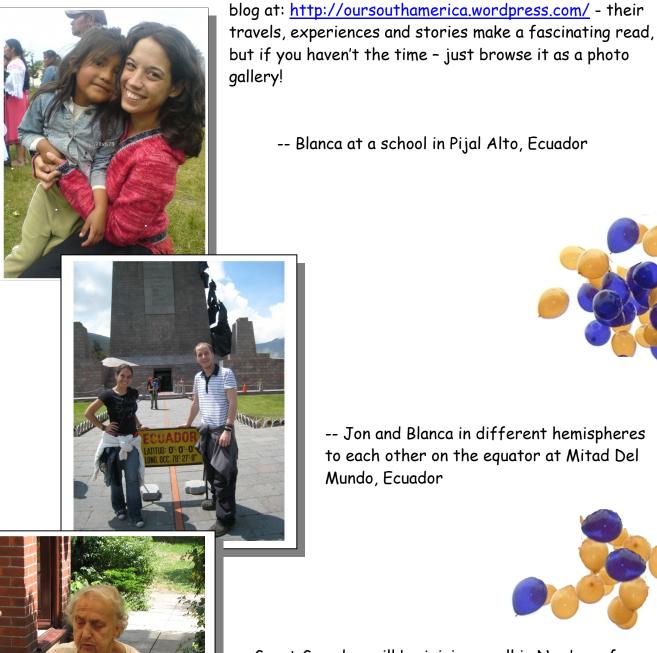
http://mikeschofield.sysgem.com

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Jon and Blanca have just returned for Christmas having spent a year in South America, touring: Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Peru, and finally working in a voluntary organisation teaching street children in Ecuador. You can read Jon and Blanca's



-- Jon and Blanca in different hemispheres to each other on the equator at Mitad Del Mundo, Ecuador

-- Blanca at a school in Pijal Alto, Ecuador



-- Great Grandma will be joining us all in Newbury for Christmas, and is looking forward to seeing Isobelle for the second time, and Amelia for the first time...

While we are on the subject of babies, our nephew Chris and his wife Ali are due to give birth to their first child (and Mike's brother Paul's first Grand child) any day now. They say things always come in threes. Paul has gone to be with them in Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands where they live.



Chris and Alicia were married earlier in the year in Gibraltar and Mike, Janice, Tim and Jo had a very pleasant weekend break in Gibraltar to celebrate their wedding.

-- Chris and Ali's wedding in Gibratlar.

In November, Mike's brother Paul and Mike spent a week together making the last fittings to the kitchen in our

holiday home in the French Alps. This was the first time that Paul and Mike had been on an expedition together since they were little boys - it was good brotherly bonding!



The ground floor of our holiday home is now complete – it only took us 12 years!

Now for the upper floor...



Until next year...

Mike and Janice