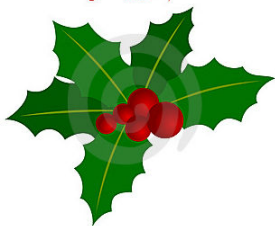


Merry Christmas



The Schofield's
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December 2009

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

This year has seen our grand-daughters mature from horizontal babies to vertical toddlers! The speed that they are both developing is staggering. Perhaps it is because we are not with them every day, as we were with our own children, and instead get fortnightly updates. It was only three or four weeks ago that Tim and Jo sent us a movie clip of Isobelle concentrating intently as she took her first steps on her own, but this week the movie clip shows her standing on one leg while frantically rocking on her rocking horse and holding on with just one hand like a cowboy riding in a rodeo, not to mention the singing at the top of her voice! (Must be a girl's ability to multi-task!)



Manic rockinhorsing by Isobelle, and how much chocolate cake can you get on your christening robe by Amelia!





Mike's brother Paul married Claire in April when we also had the opportunity to see our great nephew Daniel who was born shortly after Isobelle and Amelia and who came over from the Canary Islands with his parents: Christopher (Paul's son) and Alicia for Paul & Claire's wedding.

Paul and Claire spent a week with us in the summer in the French Alps when we enjoyed the weather, the scenery and the company. Paul was having difficulty with his hip during that holiday and in November had a hip replacement

operation which has made him a new man!

Jon and Blanca returned from South America after their one year gap-year touring and volunteer teaching street children and since have settled down to work in Oxford, Blanca as a translator in Oxford University Press and Jon designing and building web sites. In November Jon "popped the question" and gave Blanca a beautiful ring. They are planning their wedding to take place in July next year in Blanca's home town of Salamanca (near Madrid), so a trip to Spain will be a nice interlude next year for Janice, Mike and the rest of the family.



Jon and Blanca at Blanca's Birthday party in the summer

Other breaking news: Janice's mother is recovering from a fall

earlier in the year in her home town of Filey. She is now planning for her 90th birthday party in February. Janice has announced her retirement at the end of the school year in 2010! 2009 has been a year of re-uniting with old friends - first Mike met up with two school friends in Blackburn - the three of us had not been together since a trip to watch the opening game of football at Wembley in the World Cup of 1966! And then we discovered that a couple of old and close friends from Reading in the 1970's and who had moved to Liverpool were now back in the South and living just a few miles from our home!

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mike, Janice and Family.