

Bridge House  
Red Shute Hill  
Hermitage  
RG18 9QW

December 2015

Dear All,

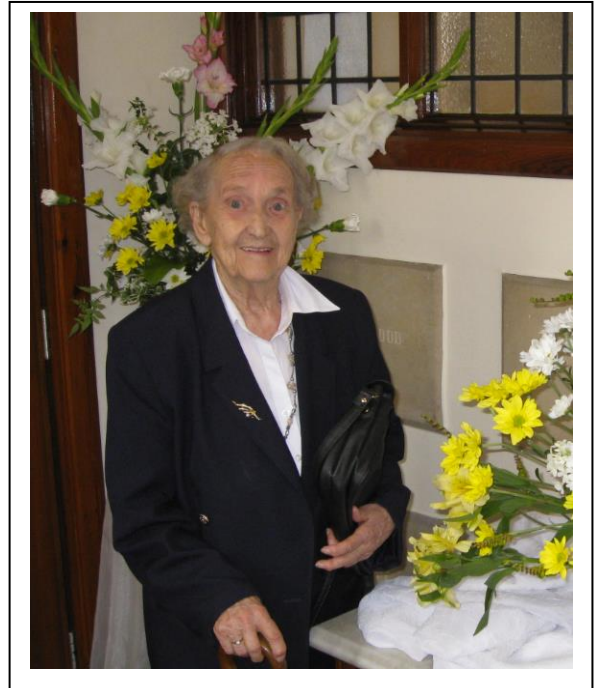
Sadly, Janice's mother, Mary, had a heart attack in December last year which was followed immediately by a stroke and she died in hospital a couple of weeks later on 23 December, two months short of her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

She achieved her wish of being able to look after herself in her own home until the very end; latterly with the support of her family, her many friends and neighbours, and social services.

Mary's grand-children and great grand-children attended her funeral service, along with Janice, Mike and Janice's cousin David. The Methodist church in Filey was packed with Mary's friends from Yorkshire. In typical Mary style, she had left explicit instructions for the order of service, together with who should conduct it, and with a reminder not to forget to pay the organist!

She has played a big part in our lives and she is missed by us all.

On a happier note, the whole family regrouped at Easter in our holiday home in France and by climbing to a higher ski-resort we were able to enjoy the last week of the skiing season in Flaine (Haut Savoie).



Blanca and Jo



Amelia and Isobelle

All four of Mike & Janice's grand-children having a ski lesson in Flaine, including Oscar aged just 3 years.

In February next year Janice and Mike are expecting their 5th grandchild courtesy of Tim and Jo and we are all looking forward to that event.

All three of our children have had a change of jobs during the year ... Jon being enticed back into Oxford University Press, where he met Blanca many years ago, Tim taking a new position in Suffolk Archaeology and Eve is studying to be a teacher.



Jon and Oscar



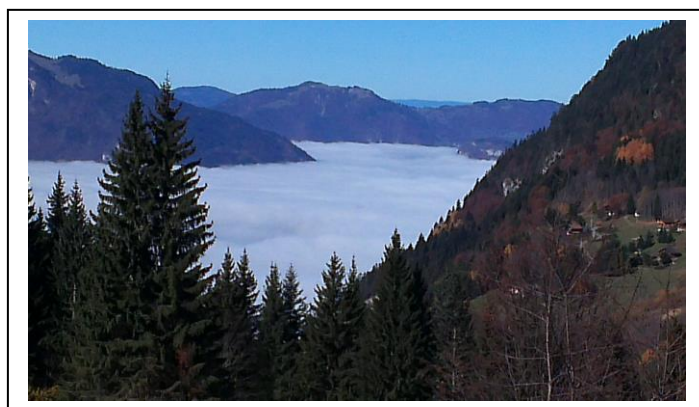
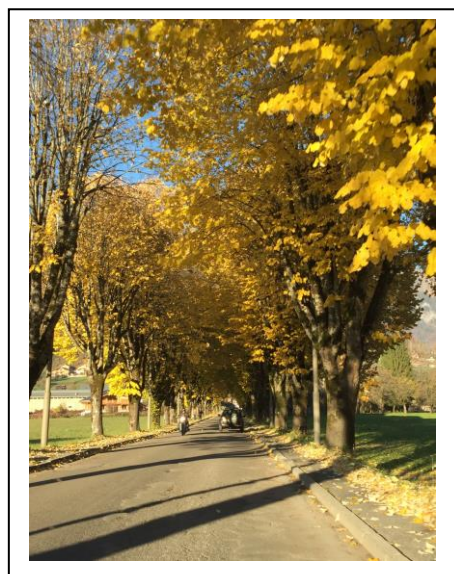
Eve



Tim and Isobelle

Mike has kept to his word of reducing his working week from 5 days to 4 days during 2015 and assures everyone that he will finally retire in one year's time (well, almost retire). Meanwhile, Janice continues to work at her usual crazy rate, but all voluntarily and for charities.

In the autumn this year the leaves in France were spectacular as they changed to red, yellow and gold. Mike's brother Paul and Paul's wife Claire and later Paul's son Chris and his family all enjoyed the autumn scenery. A strange phenomenon at this time of year is when the clouds drop down into the ...



... valleys after a warm day when the air just above the ground is hotter and lighter than the cold air above it. The locals call this "sea cloud" as the cloud-filled valleys take on the form of Norwegian fjords, when you view them from high in the mountains.

This year the family car (a Land Rover Freelander) clocked up 200,000 miles so we decided it was time to retire it and leave it in France for holidays only. Mike parked it under a balcony with only millimetres to spare on each side and climbed out through the back door. After leaving it in gear with the hand brake on and disconnecting the battery so that it wouldn't go flat, we realised that on closing the back door, it needed the battery to be connected before it would open. The bonnet release catch is inside the car with no means of getting inside to open the bonnet to reconnect the battery. Anyone got any ideas / suggestions?



We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2016.

Mike and Janice