

Bridge House
Red Shute Hill
Hermitage
RG18 9QW

December 2018

Dear All,

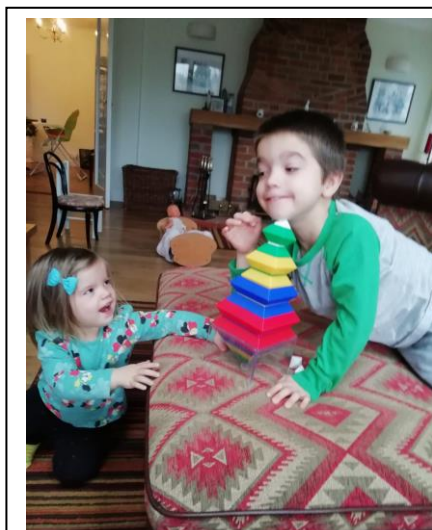
Well, it had to come I suppose; the big “Seven-O” arrived at Mike’s doorstep in May. To celebrate we spent the weekend in a London hotel with the entire family relaxing by the swimming pool and doing other energetic exercises such as eating in the restaurant. The family bought Mike a new type of beehive (Honey Flow) as a birthday present so that next year extracting honey will just be a matter of turning a tap!

A few years ago Jon bought his Dad a homebrew beer making kit which languished in a cupboard until competition came from Tim. Tim and Mike now vie for who can make the best beer. Mike has some wheat beer lined up for Christmas, while Tim is enjoying cider made from apples grown in his own garden in Brettenham. A cider apple press is now a ‘must-have’ for Mike.

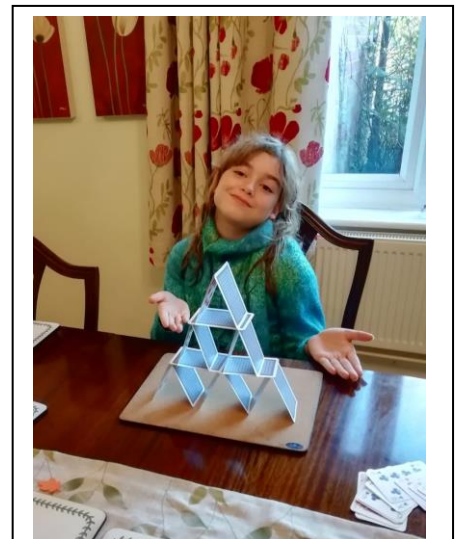


Wilfred, serenading the family

The half-term holidays in February were spent by some of the Schofield clan in France. Oscar, who was previously a bit young to fully enjoy skiing, is now catching up rapidly with his older cousins Amelia and Lucy. Jon has abandoned his snowboard and joined Oscar and Blanca on skis, while Eve continues to master the art of snowboarding. We have a nice relationship with the manager of the Ski-school in our village and we are looking forward to strengthening that relationship in February next year.



Olivia and Oscar tower building



“That was difficult” said Isobelle... “Phew!” (and accidentally blew them all down!)



The daughter, Claire, of our French friends (who introduced us to holidaying in the Alps) was married to her Canadian fiancée in the summer and celebrated with a repeat performance of their marriage ceremony held high in the mountains in Le Reposoir. We played host to the relatives of Claire's husband and had an enjoyable week with a house-full of Canadian visitors. Even the Tour-de-France came through our village to add to the entertainment!



We have continued with our (two-year) house-renovation project in Hermitage (Bridge House) and are on-course for completing the indoor work by the target date of Christmas this year. Next year is to improve the outside of the house and concentrate on the patio, decking, wood store and garden.



Lucy and a homemade unicorn

Eve has decided that holding down two teaching jobs as well as being a mother and home maker aren't enough for her and is now studying for a Masters degree in Psychology! Jon has started to manage a children's football team in which Oscar is a star member. The team finished as runners up in a local tournament.

Tim had a set-back with his epileptic seizures in February but thankfully the increased dose of medication is now keeping the symptoms at bay. Unfortunately the side effects of the medication are difficult for him, but all being well he will be able to resume driving himself to work in May.

Poor Jo has had to do all the driving for the family as well as holding down her own demanding job as an advisor on refugee immigration.



Amelia & homemade penguins
- from fir cones

Until next year, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous 2019.

Mike and Janice