

recovered from "Go Ape" which Gra had obviously been desperate to try but needed some kids of the correct age to give it a go!! We had a blast and the girls are still giggling about the exploits of their mother and uncle and their rather bizarre landings off zip wires!!! Mind you Hannah was beginning to tire towards the end when my body had just about given out but she didn't want to bottle out so I had no excuse!!

With Julie down these last few days, we tootled off to Bath to the Christmas market. Although it was very cold and drizzling, it was still lovely with some beautiful stalls adjacent to some of Bath's greatest sights and some amazing little shops. We thoroughly enjoyed our day!

Keith went on an two day oil colour mixing course, but has started water colours and is doing well - although he is often exceptionally critical of his work. (That's cos of the weekly review by the wife who expects exceeding high standards)

We're up to Mum's early this year as Ruth and Chris are getting married on the 20th Dec which will be super. We'll stay up for Christmas with Boxing Day over at Keith's Mum's and then we'll wend our way home before the New Year!!

Hope you all have a lovely Christmas & hope that 2009 is kind to you.

Love from **Jenny, Keith, Kate & Hannah** and a woof from Tess!!

xxx ••• xxx xxx





SLOAN 2008 CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



Please slow the world down - things are going too fast!!

Last year, we spent Christmas here with Mum and Julie staying over - off out for the carol singing around the village and getting VERY merry on the supplies of mulled wine to aid the vocal qualities! Both girls seem to enjoy it and even the dog comes now although she hasn't started singing ... YET!!!

My life revolves around the Village Hall and my gardening jobs (which help keep the wolf from the door) and of course the statutory taxi services.

At the beginning of the year, we met up with some friends from hockey days and it was lovely to catch up and see them looking so well and relaxed. A recent funeral brought some old faces together again and when we're up at Mum's for Christmas this year we hope to catch up with others.

I managed to wreck my shoulder my overdoing a massive shrub

clearance job and it took quite a lot of physio to bring it back to rights. It's still a little weak but at least I'm back to playing boules and badminton with my right hand rather than using my left out of frustration!

It did recover enough to enable Keith & I to lift the pairs trophy at boules (tho he did have to be carried a lot poor lad!!!) and by some freakish judgement by the powers that be, I was runner up in the ladies!

In September, Mum & I went off to Somerset where we encountered some peculiar weather but saw some interesting places and had a lovely time. I also took her Christmas shopping in November and again we thoroughly enjoyed our time together regardless of the weather.

Mum has made huge strides during the course of the year and has begun to regain some confidence especially in her

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culinary skills. I think a new hob and oven has probably helped with this!

Julie is still struggling to regain fitness as one thing leads to another. I hope that the consultant can resolve the latest problem with her knee to enable her to move more freely. She seems to be combating the Chronic Fatigue syndrome and hopefully will be able to enjoy life a little more!!

We had a lovely holiday in Spain although we were appalled at the number of cranes of the metal variety that adorned every view! I don't really feel the kids met the real Spain - just a very cosmopolitan mishmash.

At football Hannah was named Player of the Year again for her age group and is now being recognised at school as being a useful asset!

Hannah did very well in her SATS getting 5s in English and Science but was gutted at being just 1 point of a Level 5 in Maths! I'm sure it won't be held against her!! She started at Perin's in September so we now have one at the top &

one at the bottom!! With the first term coming to a close, she appears to have settled well and is forgetting less and remembering more of the equipment she has to lug everywhere!!

Kate is now a Sports prefect and loving her final year - if it wasn't for all the work!! She seems to have that cracked however and if she can continue to pull in the As and A*s she's getting in her mocks she won't have much to worry about! I think the incentive of Sports Tour to South Africa is certainly a great pull and the fund raising is well underway!!

We are so fortunate that one of the best 6th Form Colleges in the country happens to be in Winchester about 5 miles away so with the golden ticket and from what we've seen, Kate really looking forward to starting in September - as long as she remembers to send in her application forms!! (Just kidding!!)

We spent a few days with Graham & Sally and the kids in August and my body has JUST about