

Family News 2009~10



In June, Campbell (17) finished school and we had great fun watching him and his friends arrive at their end of term ball in various modes of transport. He is now doing A levels at 6th form college. Ella (15) is studying for her GCSE's. Daniel & Tanya and the family moved into a larger house during the summer which is a great blessing.



Later in June, Ben, Anne and family returned from Chad for their home assignment and we had a great summer with them. It started with a Family Day at Gubbins Hole Farm. A couple of weeks later Jo Taylor (Anne's Dad) celebrated his 70th Birthday. The family went to New Wine Family Camp and then stayed with us for a couple of weeks. Charles and Ben managed a Track Day in the Kit Car before the family returned to Africa.

In October, Gillian celebrated her 18th Birthday, we had a party with all the UK based family here at Firbank. By this time Gilly had secured a job with an IT company and is enjoying her work as Receptionist, Administrator and budding IT specialist. She is also learning to drive and expects to pass her test very soon.

We had already decided to spend Christmas in Germany knowing that a new arrival was due at New Year. We managed to escape the shores of England as the snow and ice closed in and had a miraculous car journey to Frankfurt. A great family Christmas with Coralie & Jens, Julian (12), Finola (11) Eliana (8), Jowan (5) and Judson (2 ½) and



then on 3rd January, Jaden Sam Mankel was born. It was a very quick birth, Coralie left for the hospital in the middle of the night and was back home before the children awoke. We were able to be with the family for another couple of weeks, helping with the school runs etc. and having some fun in the snow.

We had a great day celebrating the wedding of Don and Emily in March. Don is the only son of my cousin Tim who died of cancer several years ago. His mother Anita travelled from California as many friends and family gathered for what was a wonderful occasion.

Then just before we went to Italy, we heard the news that Jo, Iain and family were moving, Iain is transferring to the Crown Prosecution Service in Truro where he has been recruited to concentrate on Court work. They need their home to sell here and to find the right house in Cornwall.

On the day before the ash cloud descended on the UK, Ben, Anne and the family returned from Chad to complete their medicals etc. and await their visas so that they could embark on the next phase of their lives working with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Australia. They will leave in early June for Mareeba in Northern Queensland. Anne is expecting a baby in September – their 5th and our 18th grandchild.

So that about brings things up to date.

