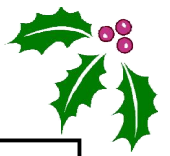


Malcolm, Bridget, James & Matthew's Christmas 2015 Newsletter



At home



Having finished the house extension last year the garden was, well, something of a building site, with flimsy boards to cross to reach the back door.



Malcolm planned and managed the landscaping, but stopped short of actually doing the work. The crazy paving, slimy decking and children's swing have gone, with stone slabs providing new patio areas and paths. Now comes the planting!



Summer

Our main summer holiday was spent in the Jura mountains, France, on the shores of a mountain lake, where we walked and rowed. James found a dinosaur park to visit, and some excavated dinosaur footprints.



Being close to the Swiss border, we drove over the mountains to Geneva, and took a tour around the CERN particle physics research site. We also stopped off at Disneyland Paris for a couple of days on the way home.

James' update

James has been visiting universities this year, trying to decide what and where to study next. Still keen on palaeontology, he's now looking at a route via conservation and ecology courses.



James had Biology and Geography field trips this year and he spent another week at the Natural History Museum (NHM) in October, sorting and cataloguing fossilised fish teeth!

Now it's head down to A levels in June 2016

Bridget & Malcolm



Bridget has been away from home more this year, including trips to Grantham, Leeds and Exeter. In September, she had the opportunity of a trip to Galway to visit the offices of one of her clients. As well as some work, she enjoyed the music, oysters and dancing in Galway. A few weeks later she flew to France for a school reunion, which included a 40km cycle ride along the Italian Riviera coast. Matthew and Malcolm had been helping her prepare for this all year, culminating in a couple of long trips on the Phoenix Trail to Thame and back.



Matthew's update



Matthew enjoyed success in a public speaking competition, winning two rounds and a best speaker trophy. In the summer he played lead guitar for the local 'Lighthouse' Christian children's holiday week, bouncing around on the stage with joy. He's now balancing GCSE studies with DoE activities including off-road biking and helping with Beavers.



Happy Christmas to friends and family

