

# Happy Xmas



With all our love and best wishes for 2009

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At the top of the year we were blessed by the birth of Alexander John Mulvany. On 1<sup>st</sup> July at 08:17, Rebecca (and William) delivered our first grandson, a strapping little boy weighing in at 9lbs 3oz. Needless to say he is beautiful, cuddly, gorgeous... He sleeps in a lovely Beatrix Potter nursery painted by his talented Mum (see over). Lots more photos on

<http://picasaweb.google.com/RebeccaMulvany/AlexanderJohnMulvany#>

We see him in person most months and on Skype in between. We will join William, Rebecca and Alex for Xmas in Gildersome, just outside Leeds, with Rebecca's family.



Patrick's been busier than ever this year what with food crises, the renewed GM onslaught and all that but has moderated his travel. Carbon-capped since July, he's been enjoying the delights of trains and ferries across Europe including to Barra in the Outer Hebrides for the annual Crofters' Gathering.

We've met up with most of the family in Denmark and Pewsey (above) whence we await joyous news from Sanne.



Maria has spent the second half of the year as Alex's Tia Maria. She is very busy with courses, Shelter, the gym, and, of course, Sapphie...

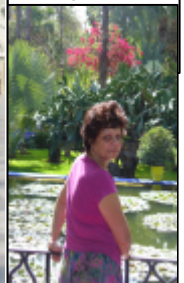
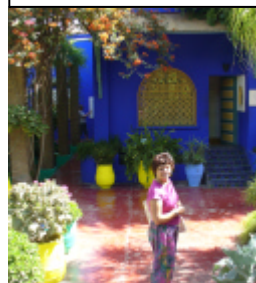


Tom and Kate are well. They moved to Gloucester as Kate got a new job to mind the roadside trees in the Cotswolds and Severn valley for the highways authority. It's a beautiful part of the country.

We squeezed in a few other things during the year including Anna's first visit to Africa – just across the Straits of Gibraltar to Marrakech. Mosques, architecture, souks and belly dancers aside, the history of the trans Saharan and coastal slave trade is fascinating as well as horrific.



And the work in the 1990s of the 10,000 craftsmen who built the world's second largest Mosque in just 7 years on the Atlantic Ocean in Casablanca, is wondrous to behold.



Anna was also the surprise guest at her sisters' 65<sup>th</sup> birthday party in Toronto. Smuggled in by her brother, she appeared on the doorstep unexpectedly to the delight of all the family. Her work at Central Surgery is peppered by courses around the country and delightful visits with colleagues past and present... and with Maria to Paris and all of us to Andalucia.