

# Merry Christmas

## from Mikki and Andrew Young

Well, it has been another interesting year and here are just some of the highlights for us. For more, go to the web site and look under, "Activities".

The wedding of Andrew's cousin Don with Linda was a highlight of the year for the whole family. We were also pleased when Elizabeth caught this photo of us.



At home, the first part of the year was one of improvements to the house - from almost complete interior decoration to new cooking spoons. The new television wasn't planned: the old one broke down once too often - but we are very pleased with it.

Andrew's mother, Joan, came for a visit in February and saw some of the improvements - as well as visiting some of the sights.



**We like the new look dining room**



**Tate Modern**



**It was more fun when it wobbled**

We were again lucky enough to visit Florida for holidays twice. Both times, we had special visits to the "Space Coast". In May, we took advantage of the "Astronaut Training Experience", meeting an astronaut, trying moon walking in 1/6<sup>th</sup> gravity and even flying a space shuttle mission. Fortunately, in the simulator you can re-enter the atmosphere with the cargo bay doors open and land with the nose 2 feet deep in the runway and still walk away unharmed. Next time, we will do the piloting! In November, we saw the historic side of Cape Canaveral: from the control panel that launched America's first satellite to the pad where Apollo 1 caught fire (an emotional moment).



**Yes, it's Andrew in there:  
But is he spinning that fast?**



**This is what a shuttle  
flight deck looks like**



**The very spot from which an  
American first went into Space**

September and October were times of celebration and reflection as we both marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of important events. For Mikki, it was 25 years with Barclays Bank.

For Andrew, it was 25 years since his successful kidney transplant. We had a lovely family gathering in Harrogate and a meal at Hob Green. Only John was absent – in Canada for a year of study. And if you don't know which family member Flora is holding, go to the web site and look for Figaro.

This year, for the first time, Andrew's doctors adjusted his ongoing treatment for his kidney to try to rectify side-effects on bones. Combined with exercise and other things, we think there are improvements already.



Figaro has enjoyed writing his reports of our holidays and now thinks he has quite a "fan club" on "Intercot" – the bulletin board Mikki helps moderate. However, he was not the only one to enjoy our times in Disney. Did we hear anyone say the fun was "Incredible"? While in Florida, we have also been looking at a property

business with our attorney friend, Mary. We hope to be able to help any Brits who are thinking of buying avoid the sharks who are not in tanks at Sea World!

Barclays had more news for Mikki in December – the latest "reorganisation" resulted in her being made redundant. This was not entirely unexpected and is well within our plans for possibilities – although the final timing was a bit faster than expected. At least Mikki does not need to worry about whether to renew her season ticket after Christmas!

From January 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have plenty of free time to pursue our own interests – to say nothing of enjoying each other's company (and visiting family and friends!) for a lot more of the time.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy,  
Healthy and Prosperous New  
Year**

*Andrew and Mikki Young*

