

# Feliz Año Nuevo 2009

Firstly I must apologise for sending no Christmas cards this year. Also our Christmas Letter for 2008 has ended up being a New Year letter for 2009. This was all due to the fact that we had a very busy end to 2008...

I started last years letter with this paragraph.

*"2007 has certainly been a busy year. My only hope for 2008 is that things go just as well, but we can take a bit more time out to relax and enjoy living in such a great place."*

I still hold that hope for 2009!!

## Aqua Adicta

We had another good year with our business. Despite the economic situation we managed to exceed last years takings (just).

We relocated our business to Mar de Cristal (where we live) and now work from home. This has proved to be a great success and gives us more time as we don't have to travel back and

forward to work. We also have more space as we have a huge double garage under the house to store all the equipment (before we just had a shipping container)

The first few months of the year were rather a nail biting experience as we applied for a beach licence to operate from the beach at the end of our road. The application went in during January and we heard that it had been approved at the end of June. We didn't receive the paperwork until the middle of July and we had already been operating since the middle of March!!



Due to the move we had to buy a rather chunky quad bike, to tow the boats to and from the beach. Julian's

back had started to suffer from all the pushing and pulling of equipment which is needed so this was an essential purchase, and of course quite a fun one as well!



We had a very good early and late season March-May and November. June, September and October went rather quiet but this meant we actually took a couple of trips to the beach ourselves! July and August were absolutely crazy, we were virtually fully booked for 2 weeks in advance and so couldn't take any last minute bookings at all. All in all we had a good year and just hope things hold up for 2009. The weak pound is really going to be a problem if the exchange rate with the euro doesn't

go back to where it was.



## Learning Spanish

We are giving this a higher priority in 2009...well at least Julian is.

We can make ourselves understood and can carry out all our negotiations with the local council (for our beach licence) in Spanish but would really like to take the next step so that we can have a proper conversation without searching for words or correct tenses all the time. We are hoping to take private lessons from Jan - March and Julian is also hoping to sign up for a group lesson each week.



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Aqua Adicta

Water Activities La Manga  
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## Music

I have mentioned before the Ladies Barbershop Chorus for which I was Musical Director, well I decided this summer that I had to reluctantly resign. The Chorus is constantly growing, there are now over 30 (there were only 5 when I took over), this makes for more work and also more demands for us to sing in public. Our business is also getting busier and crunch time came this summer when I decided I could not return to the chorus in the autumn. They have a new Musical Director and are doing very well, but I shall miss them.

## My Church

My church in the local village of Los Nietos is also growing and demanding more of my time, I lead worship most Sundays and will be helping to lead an Alpha course which starts in a couple of weeks time, so I will still be very busy, hence why Julian has time to take extra Spanish classes and I do not!

## Our House

The reason for the lack of Christmas Cards was due to the project taking place in our garden. We have been building a huge deck (actually 2 decks!). We didn't finish work on the

water until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in November and then immediately started a major project in the garden (crazy I know). Since we do have some B&B guests during the year we thought it was important to smarten up the garden. We have been looking at dead grass with patches of bare earth since we moved in.



## Hola Cacahuete

We ended up adopting a stray kitten in September, he is still very timid but getting braver day by day. He decided to move in so we didn't really have much choice - but he is rather cute!



## California

We had a great holiday in California visiting Julian's dad during January. Due to the distance we don't get there very often but it is a beautiful location and we had a lovely relaxing time. See photos below...



*Life Guards in LA*



*Point Loma, San Diego*



*Anza Borrego National Park*



*Skating and Biking at Pacific Beach, San Diego*

## Until Next Year

Well I think that is just about it. If you want to keep up with our activities throughout the year take a look at the Blog. And do email us with your news.

*Felices Fiestas  
Julian & Lesley*

