



A warm welcome to our 2015 newsletter. We spent Christmas 2014 once again at a barn in the Cotswolds with our family and with Chris's sister Wendy and her girls. Stephanie and Tux as usual, flew off for some sun on Boxing Day – alright for some!



In April on exact 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first boys went to his old school, Chris was honoured to be voted President of the Society of Old Framlinghamians. This is in addition to his continuing roles of trustee, contact for all former pupils who live overseas and member of the website admin team. Just 2 days after his appointment, we left for 3 nights in Dubai, where we met up with some former pupils, before then flying on to Sydney, Australia for 2 weeks. The highlight of this trip was a meeting of over 50 in the Hunter Valley to celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was a wonderful time, despite a record breaking storm and also allowed us some time to stay with our best man Simon Narroway and his wife Yoko in Sydney. Chris and Simon were at Framlingham together. On the return trip we stopped for 3 night in hot and sticky Kuala Lumpur.



While on the theme of Chris's old school, we also spent 4 very enjoyable nights in Hamburg meeting up with over 40 former pupils there, plus attended dinners in Essex, Newmarket, Framlingham, Norfolk, Sussex, Devon and Chris's own dinner he hosts in Hindon, Wiltshire.

There have been other long trips to and from Framlingham throughout the year, which have allowed us to regularly see Wendy in Essex and visit Beryl, Chris's step aunt, in Surrey who sadly has been seriously ill for some months now.

Chris has continued to spend many hours every day supporting the local charity, Saltford Community Association, for which he is Treasurer and chair of fundraising – he's continued cooking beef curry for 160 or 300 rashers of bacon for a cafe! They also hosted their first big wedding in the summer. He also organises reunions for his former company and provides lifts for the elderly in the village to a Day Centre. And he still finds time for a few days per month of paid work with the Phoenix Group, although this is due to come to an end in the new year.



Eryl continues her busy and enjoyable role as an Avon lady as well as doing a wonderful job of running the home. As well as the trips mentioned above, we also went down to Wales in August to stay with Eryl's dad and Janice. We also really enjoyed a meet up in Much Wenlock in September with the friends we met on our cruise in 2012.

Stephanie (31) is now in her 10<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and is head of Year 1 at Summerhill Infant School in Bristol. She continues to thoroughly enjoy it and still gets a huge buzz from seeing the children develop significantly during their year with "Miss Essex".

She's now been with Tux for over 13 years and we continue to see a lot of them as they have owned a house in the same road as us since 2009. Before you ask there is sadly still no wedding date!!!

Samantha (29) started a new job in Bath earlier this year and despite that still enjoys working at Saltford Golf Club in the evenings/weekend. She and Neil moved into their new build property in Midsomer Norton the day after Boxing Day 2013 and have spent the year continuing to add design features to their first home, including an island in their kitchen.

Michael (26) is currently still living at home with Sophie, but their big news is that they have bought a house in the lovely village of Marshfield between Cardiff and Newport. Although only 20 years old it has been rented out for years and needs complete refurbishment, plus they are having the garage converted into an office. Their upmarket online business called Lullabuy ([www.lullabuy.co.uk](http://www.lullabuy.co.uk)) has continued growing with sales doubling over the last year. Fingers crossed this continues in future years.

So the new year will see us become "empty nesters", involve lots of trips around the UK connected with Chris's old school and see Chris hit the milestone of 60 - in August we are planning to take the whole family away on a cruise out of Florida.

That's about it except to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Peaceful New Year. We are sadly spending Christmas this year without Wendy and her girls and are renting a place near Street.

Chris, Eryl, Stephanie, Samantha and Michael Essex  
3 Kingston Avenue, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3LF    [essexes@aol.com](mailto:essexes@aol.com)