



A warm welcome to our 2017 newsletter. The years seem to speed past ever quicker and busier.



We started off the year with a first ever trip to Dublin, courtesy of a Christmas present from Stephanie and Tux. We had a great time and of course sampled the black stuff. Easter saw the two of us return to the Greenbank Hotel in Falmouth for the first time since having the children and we were greeted by excellent weather and a lovely stay.



Chris's role with his old school Framlingham College changed in April 2017 when he finished his 2 years as President and returned to being chair of the Trustees. This has meant far fewer long trips to Suffolk and dinners around the country. In May Chris, accompanied by Tux, attended a plaque laying ceremony in Ypres Belgium to mark all former pupils killed in WW1. Chris gave Tux a tour of some of the notable places like Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Menin Gate.

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! He also provides lifts for the elderly to a Day Centre. As we go to print Chris is trying to find a way for the local Post Office and Library to stay open, the former due to close before Christmas.



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 all 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 cruise in October in the Med, over Eryl's birthday, with 6 friends we met on a cruise in

2012. We had great weather and a great time together again for 17 nights. We are known as the Shuffleboard Gang!

Stephanie (33) is now in her 12<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and is head of Reception 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”. Whilst she is qualified as an assistant head she chooses to continue being a full time teacher. She’s now been with Tux (pictured on left below) for over 15 years and we continue to see a lot of them as they have owned a house in the same road as us since 2009. Stephanie is pictured being cuddled by an elephant during a holiday with Tux to Thailand in August 2017.



Samantha (31) continues to enjoy her job in Bath whilst continuing to work at least one night a week at Saltford Golf Club, where she is now the longest serving member of staff by some way. She and Neil are now coming up to the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being in their house in Midsomer Norton and their year has been obviously dominated by plans for the wedding on 17 March 2018. They will be married in our local church with a reception at Coombe Lodge.

Michael (28) has also had a significant year. He and Sophie (pictured middle and right) continued to enjoy living in their home in Marshfield between Cardiff and Newport, which doubled up as premises for their online business Lullabuy. However, despite trying everything to make the business really take off and provide a good income, they concluded a couple of months ago that this wasn’t going to happen. Fairly quickly they found a buyer for the business. They are both busy trying to find new jobs at the present time.



That’s about it for the last year. Next year will be memorable because of Samantha & Neil wedding and Eryl has a big birthday in October 2018 – we have booked a cruise from Vancouver to Hawaii and back with a week touring the Rockies beforehand.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Peaceful New Year. For only the second time in my life we will not be spending Christmas with my sister Wendy and her girls. We will be staying in a barn very near Chepstow this year while they are staying at home in Essex. While away we’ve booked to go to the Welsh Grand National at Chepstow the day after Boxing Day.

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