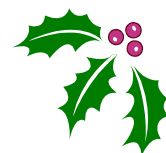




A warm welcome to our 2018 newsletter. The years seem to speed past ever quicker and busier and particularly when it has been a very memorable year for a number of reasons.



We started off the year building up to Samantha & Neil's wedding on 17 March 2018. They were married in our local church with the reception at Coombe Lodge, by which time it was starting to snow! Below left to right in our finest are Sophie, Michael, Chris, Samantha, Neil, Eryl, Stephanie & Tux.



At the end of March Chris & Eryl had few days at Bucklers Hard in the New Forest to recover. During early June we had a break away at one of our favourite hotels at Thurlestone in Devon, followed later in the month by our first trip to Alnwick Northumberland to meet up with 6 cruise friends.



Then at the beginning of August we became grandparents for the first time with the birth of gorgeous Toby to Stephanie and Tux. Living in the same road as us it has been an absolute joy to see him most days. He was born on 7 August and as you can see is looking forward to his first Christmas!

In late September for a month we went to Canada and Hawaii celebrating Eryl's 60th birthday. We flew to Calgary and then over 10 days drove to Vancouver, including 2 nights at the fabulous Chateau Lake Louise and an abandoned overnight stop in Whistler due to heavy snow blocking the main roads. Then a 15 day cruise to the warmth of Hawaii and back, followed by 4 night in Vancouver. At the end of the trip Eryl was glad to get home for a rest.

Chris has continued to be active with his old school Framlingham College throughout the year, but with fewer long trip to Suffolk and dinners around the country. However, there was no fear of him getting bored as he has continued to spend every spare moment of every

day supporting the local charity, Saltford Community Association (SCA), for which he is Treasurer and chair of fundraising. At the end of 2017 the local post office closed and the library came under threat of closure. Chris came up with the idea of setting up a trading subsidiary of the SCA and taking over the running of the library and reopening a community Post Office in the same building. What followed was 9 months of hard but ultimately rewarding work which saw the community library open on 21 July, followed by the Post Office on 24 September (one day before going away for Eryl 60th – you can imagine what Eryl was saying!).



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.

Stephanie (34) was in her 13th year of teaching as head of Reception at Summerhill Infant School in Bristol, but is currently taking a year off to look after Toby. She intends to go back part time next July. She's now been with Tux for over 16 years.



Samantha (32) 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 5th anniversary of being in their house in Midsomer Norton and their year has obviously been dominated by their wedding and a honeymoon in St Lucia.



Michael (29) and Sophie have also had a significant year. After selling up their online business they quickly found new roles at Admiral and Principality respectively in Cardiff and are thoroughly enjoying their much more rewarding roles. They are pictured recently at the Christmas lights at Longleat.

That's about it for an amazing last year. Who knows what next year will bring!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Peaceful New Year. We will once again be spending Christmas with Chris's sister Wendy and her girls in the Cotswolds and then all the family are getting some sun in Fuerteventura over New Year.

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