



A warm welcome to our 2019 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 with a family trip to Fuerteventura. We flew out on New Year Eve and we based ourselves in a villa. Stephanie, Tux and Toby spent 2 weeks there and Michale & Sophie followed by Samantha & Neil joined us for a week each. It was lovely to get some winter warmth.



February saw Eryl and I have a few days relaxing at the Mount Somerset Hotel and then in April we spent a wonderfully sunny and warm 4 days over Easter staying at St Christopher's Hotel in Windsor. At the end of April Stephanie returned to work 3 days a week and we took up grandparent duties every Wednesday and Friday, with Tux's parents covering Thursday.

In May Chris organised his old firm annual pensioner reunion in Bristol and then at the end of the month we met up again with some cruise friends. This year we chose to meet in Anglesey which we had never been to before and found very relaxing. On the way up we had an overnight stay in Chester and Ludlow on the way home.

Back at home the first part of the year was dominated with planning for the bi annual Saltford Festival which took place in June. It raised a record amount and really brought our village together.

July had weekends in Bournemouth and with Stephanie, Tux and Toby at Brandon Hall near Coventry. Found a wonderful fish restaurant by the chain ferry coming over from Sandbanks that we can thoroughly recommend.



The highlight of August was an amazing first birthday for Toby where his other grandma made a wonderful cake that he and his friends could smash to pieces. Stephanie and Tux also completed a major garden makeover just in time for the party. At the end of the month we travelled with members of the family up to Hertfordshire to celebrate slightly early Chris's sister's 60th birthday at Down Hall which was an occasion.



At the start of September we popped up to London to see Les Mis again with Michael Ball and then a few days later we marked Michael's 30th birthday. At his request the family all went up to Chester for the weekend and a great day at the racecourse in lovely weather.

We went off on a cruise on Queen Elizabeth to the Canaries in October to recharge our batteries before a

busy period of fundraising events leading up to Christmas. However, much bigger news came from across the pond where Michael proposed to Sophie in front of the Bellagio fountains in Las Vegas and she said YES! So we have

another wedding to plan in 2021.

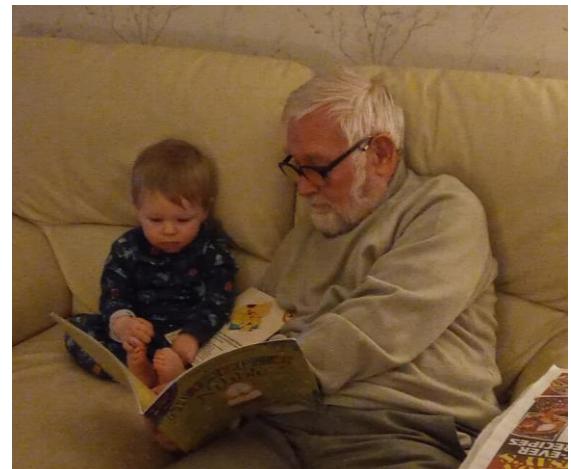


November and December were dominated by many events like the wonderful performance of Vicar of Dibley and the Christmas Market in the village. Also we had Eryl's dad and Janice over for dinner with the whole family.

That's about it for another year. Toby as you can see is about ready for Christmas. Who knows what next year will bring!



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Peaceful New Year. For the first time ever we will be spending Christmas in our own home and instead of Fuerteventura we will be spending a few nights in Barnstable just after new year.



Chris, Eryl, Stephanie, Samantha and Michael Essex
3 Kingston Avenue, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3LF
essexes@aol.com