



Another year has passed amazingly quickly and yet again we're going to bore you with another update on what we've all been up to this year, starting with the kids.

Stephanie (25) is now in her 4th year of looking after a Reception Class at Summerhill Infant School in Bristol. She thoroughly enjoys it and still gets a huge buzz from seeing the children develop



significantly during their first year at school with "Miss Essex". She's now been going out with "Tux" for over 7 years and in January they took advantage of the housing slump to buy a house in the same road as us!! We then spent nearly 7 months completing renovating the place, before they moved in at the end of July.



Samantha (23) has now graduated from Southampton Solent University with a degree in Interior Design with Decoration. Unfortunately it's not the best of times for getting a job in Interior Design, but she's got a couple of leads that will hopefully come to something. In the meantime she continues to work at Saltford Golf Club. She's been going out with Neil for the last couple of months.

Lastly there's Michael (20) who is in his 2nd year at UWIC (Cardiff) studying Marketing. When he's not in the local bars he is enjoying the course and seems to come home most weekends to continue playing football for Saltford (and to get his washing done!!).



Eryl continues to enjoy her role as an Avon lady. In the last couple of months she's also started looking after a baby on a Wednesday, for one of the neighbours, which caused some local people to think she'd become a granny! On her birthday we went to see "*We Will Rock You*" in Bristol". It was a fantastic show, but probably more for Chris who's a great Queen fan. Earlier in the year we'd seen Russell Watson (also in Bristol) and the musical *Oliver* in London, while staying with Chris's father.

Chris continues to thoroughly enjoy his early retirement. He fills his time with watercolour painting, walking, fishing and organising reunions for ex London Life staff. During this year he ceased to be a non-exec director of London Life, but instead has a wider role on what's called the With Profits Committee across the whole Pearl Group. He also continues to play a very active part as a Trustee, Vice President and a number of other roles for his old school former pupils society. He's also spent quite a bit of time continuing to research his family tree. The picture is with the legendary Gordon Banks at a football club dinner – what a charming chap.



Chris's father celebrated his 1st wedding anniversary to Jean in October and Eryl's father celebrated yet another degree, in his late 70's, from the University of Wales. He tells us he's not going to do another one!

Although Stephanie and Tux visited Dubai in October, the rest of the family have not been away this year, other than visiting Essex and Wales. However, next year is Chris and Eryl's 30th wedding anniversary (doesn't time fly when you're having fun!), so another trip/cruise involving the USA is in the planning!

That's about it except to wish you a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you whatever you are looking for.

Chris, Eryl, Stephanie, Samantha and Michael Essex

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