

I mentioned in the past how busy retirement is, and I'm pleased to say it continues to be that way. Just at the moment, Chris is in Mexico touring the Mayan temples with my son, and my daughter is in Australia with her husband and two sons. Apart from taxiing to and from Heathrow, I'm at home dog sitting two dogs! ... and loving it.

When Chris gets back we are off to Torquay for the weekend for the Area Band Contest (Chris plays in one of the local brass bands). I spend most of the weekend in the bar at the Riviera centre catching with friends from other local bands.

In May we are going to Gorleston to visit my sister – Chris spotted a voucher offer for two nights B&B at the Cliff Hotel for £99. The Cliff Hotel happens to be just along from my sister's house.

In early May we are going for a four night break in York – on my bucket list to go to the Railway museum (I'm sure there's plenty for Chris to see).

At the end of May we are going to Cornwall to meet up with friends from Canada for a few days before they start a walking tour they have booked in for.

At the end of June, the highlight of the year – The Killerton Cricket Weekend.

July and August are busy time here with birthdays but in September we have cruise booked. This time leaving from Southampton going via the Shetlands, Iceland, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and docking in New York.

In between time we have the boys a couple of times a week after school, including keeping them over night on a Friday. This includes taking them to football practice or match each Saturday morning.

Well that's about it on a personal note. I have a few other updates I've received recently:

Roger Dickson is still an avid Palace supporter – in between his travelling and golfing exploits.

Dave Robins can't stop working. Although he retired a while back, he still involved at the College of West Anglia.

Haden Donovan had been in regular contact (both via email and on Facebook) after finding the website last May.

Vijay has finished the conversion of his guest house in Keswick to holiday apartments. Managing to fit managing this work, as well as his other interests around his holidays.

Derek Wyatt has highlighted the fact that it is 40 years in 2018 since St. Luke's merged with the University. He met up with the Exeter Uni fund raising team in

London and asked them to celebrate the merger. As I mentioned in previous letters, Denise is planning a fairly major celebration of this union at Killerton next year.

Jem Edwards, happily married and living (and teaching!) in Turkey, but planning to move back to Devon later this year (hopefully in time for the cricket).

Charles Fear is enjoying life in Suffolk in spite of surgical treatment last year (that he attributes to his rowing exploits for a Cambridge club).

An apology to Dai Griffiths who sent me some stories last year that are still sitting in my inbox waiting for me to load to the website – soon, honest.

Obviously a reminder for the Cricket weekend. Bob Ford is dusting off his pads and is warming up ready for the match.

I will contact the Fisherman's Cot and circulate a menu so that we can sort that ready for the Saturday evening.

News from Killerton. I have heard from several directions that Denise has been appearing on TV even more than Phil Jackson (at the Minack). Some of you noticed during our time at Killerton last year that there is an appeal for help with the roof. Since then I received the following:

You may know this already, Killerton's roof is leaking and next month we're starting a big conservation project to make the roof watertight and also carry out much needed repairs to the exterior and interior. I've attached the press release below to give you some more info about the project and you can also read more on www.nationaltrust.org.uk/care-for-killerton<<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/care-for-killerton>>

As Killerton is special to your group and they may like to know more about the project, I wondered if you had any form of newsletter that we could possibly highlight the project in? I was also wondering if there was any possibility of linking to your St Luke's website in case any of your followers might like to donate or find out more about the project?

Also find image attached of Killerton that we had taken to promote the £100k funding gap for the project. *(I've included the image on the website)*

I really appreciate any support you might be able to offer.
Thanks Alan,

Bryony
Bryony Wilde
Project Officer
National Trust, Killerton Regional Office

01392 88 3143

One final request. Each year Denise reminds me that they are eager to receive some "audio stories" to include in their displays. If any of you have a few minutes to record an anecdote of your time at Killerton, especially if it could include Sir Richard, it would be very much appreciated. Most mobile phones now include an option to record brief messages. They need not be long, just a few minutes.

Just forward them to me and I'll compile them and pass them on to Denise.

In the meantime, for the retirees enjoy your retirement. For those still in harness, sorry, but I hope you are enjoying your work.

Very best wishes.

Steve