



An early Christmas greeting, - but if I don't send it now it is unlikely I'll find time to send it later , So here's wishing you a very

**Merry Christmas**



You may recall that I forwarded news from Za, Jeremy Edward's wife, that Jem has developed Alzheimer's disease and is now staying permanently in the Croft House in Wiliton. John Davies has prepared a hard covered book to take along to Jem. You can see the book by following [this link](#):

[Jem's Book](#)

**Paul Goodwin** recently returned from his latest jaunt taking a school party abroad . One day at home and he broke his shoulder. He was trussed up un a brace for a couple of weeks hoping that the break would heal naturally without the need for "manipulation". The incapacity meant that he is not allowed to drive for several weeks. Good to report that he is now motoring again - so, beware Stoke!



For your diary, the annual cricket match will be held on  
**Sunday 29th June 2025 at the Killerton cricket ground.**  
First ball - **2:00pm**

Following his email earlier this year, I heard from **Charles Todd**. *"My wife and I made it back to Killerton House in September for the sentimental visit I mentioned to you last month. The day was generally bright with a few scattered showers and we wandered around the magnificent grounds, including the Bear and Ice Houses, before having a bite to eat in the canteen and afterwards touring the house.*

*I told the volunteer at the front door I had emailed the house team in advance of my visit, hoping I might be given a behind-the-scenes tour as I was a former resident of the house. The house manager was summoned and he did take Lin and I around the building to the unseen places, excluding the cellars. I have to admit I was rather disappointed (as often is the case for those who try to prise something out of the past) with what I saw. The house has been shamefully reconfigured (or should I say disfigured) by the National Trust in its drive towards creating as many offices, storage areas and nondescript spaces as it can from the original, well proportioned layout. I suspect you know this from your own tours of the house over the years. However, the show rooms still evoke the feelings and memories*

*of the past. The reception hall, which the babyfoot table once graced, still felt the same, as did the music room -even now with a piano in it- the "tv room" and the library. I remember one Saturday night being almost alone in the house watching some Hammer Horror film on the tv in the tv room (naturally) with a wild storm raging outside; it was very atmospheric and it all came back to me as I walked through the house. The grand sweep of the staircase, with certain oil paintings which appear to be in the same places they occupied during my time there, remains a signature feature. The understairs cupboard, where once the telephone resided, conjured up memories of waiting in a queue to use the apparatus to make the weekly call home reassuring my parents I was alive and kicking. The bedroom I slept in has now been swallowed up in the exhibition spaces and it is difficult to pinpoint the exact dimensions of the room. We also visited the chapel. It is a strange space. Gothic in style, cold in mood and remarkably unspiritual in nature considering its purpose. I never liked the building and I still don't."*

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**John Brand** contacted me to point out a posting on Facebook of the St Luke's rugby 7s team after winning the famous Middlesex 7's and being presented with the trophy by Sir Douglas Bader - it says in 1973.



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I received an email from **Keith Davies**. He was a PE student who moved to Killerton in 1963 when it first opened. Other PE students he remembers include John Nash, David Ratcliffe, Chris Brenton and Ray Peate(still alive and very active).

He recalls helping to clean the cellars and set up a resident Bar. John Nash was an ex-parachuter and took on the responsibility for the running of the bar and social activities.

He is still in contact with. Ray Peate, David Ratcliffe and possibly Chris Brenton but also with Roger Jones who was the lead singer in the musical group who started the musical entertainment in the cellars of Killerton House. The group was called "Trio Less Dead Loss".

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## Killerton Memories website



After many years of use, the software on which the Killerton website is built, Joomla, has received a major upgrade (well 2 actually It has been running on Joomla 3 that was replaced with Joomla 4 last year, and more recently Joomla 5).

Upgrading the website software is something I don't trust myself to do so I've enlisted the help of one of my ex-students to perform the upgrades. It is taking some time as a) he works full time as IT manager in a college, and b) he has a life. I'm hoping the new website will go live early in the New Year.

However, as with all major upgrades, there will be a number of issues. One we have identified is that some of the applets that the website currently uses are not supported. I will try to address these issues but please be patient as the site settles into the new formats.

As I have been given photos over the years and tried different methods of displaying them on the website, I have to confess that I failed to include any information about each photo (unless they were included with a specific story). I anticipate that the new website will necessitate me using a different template to display the galleries. I will endeavour to add names, etc as I rebuild the site so if you have details about any of the photos, the who, why or where, then it would help me immensely when updating to be able to add those details. Also of interest is the names of the proctors for each year I have a few, as shown on the ["year lists"](#), on the website, but not all.

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### [A call from Simon Whitehead](#) [Reminder for the Big Reunion](#)

The time is drawing nearer to our big Reunion 50 years!! Hard to believe. Over 130 Lukies registered their interest to join this event and now we have the actual link to register and pay for the Saturday night Gala Dinner and surrounding events. Please go to this link and secure a spot for yourself and your partner if they are attending too.

[73-77 Reunion](#)

Good news is that the University is hosting a campus tour and an informal drink and get-together on the Saint Lukes' Campus on Friday evening and on Saturday they will be providing a coach from the main hotels to the Gala Dinner and back again at no extra cost. All these things you have to sign up for through the Registration link above, as well as indicating who you want to sit with at the Gala Dinner. Please pass this link on to any Lukies that you are in contact with and help make this once in a lifetime event a stupendous success.

Send any pictures from your college days to [siwhi001@gmail.com](mailto:siwhi001@gmail.com) be included in a PowerPoint that will loop during the Celebration Dinner.

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*Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year, and if you have time to write a few words about events or experiences at Killerton or your life since then I am always happy to receive them - and with your permission share them on the website.*

**[killerton-memories.co.uk](http://killerton-memories.co.uk)**

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