



Luke Michael Hiley 01/04/17.

Ann, Cathy and Alexander enjoying the purple heather of August on Ling Fell.

Pamela - enjoying 'her dash between'.

Greetings from Loweswater . . . at Christmas 2017

It's nearly Christmas and as the rolls of wrapping paper get smaller and the gift wrapped piles of presents get higher, it is time to write an accompanying note to let those of you whom we don't see so often know what the Hiley family has been up to in your absence. For those we have seen, it's chance to see a photo of yourselves (if you're lucky) or to see how Ann and I have aged compared to the photos on last year's letter. I hope the difference isn't too great.

It has been a mixed year of emotional highs and lows, of additions to and losses from the family. Some were expected but one sadly not. At the end of last year my sister Pamela was complaining of unexplained back pain but managed an African Safari holiday about this time last year. She was taken into hospital this April and diagnosed with cancer so advanced that she passed away within weeks. The funeral was in Bath in early May. It goes without saying that it was not the happiest of times.



Our good family news was that Gareth and Rhian were married at the King Arthur Hotel, near Swansea, in August. They had already started their family with the arrival of Master Luke Michael Hiley in April. He was old enough at their wedding to be page boy, although at 4 months he didn't have a walk on part! That's Rhian's mum, Viv Owen holding Luke during the ceremony.

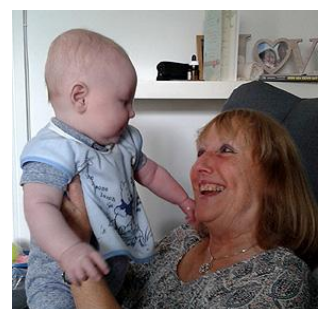


Gareth and Rhian with their nephews and niece, only Jack couldn't be there.

People watching ... myself, Sandra, Ann, Jackie, Gill and Pat.



Starting then with Gareth and Rhian ... They have settled nicely into their home in Hendy near Swansea though with all of Luke's bits and pieces they find the house a lot smaller than expected. Children's play equipment is so much larger now than in our day so it's either got to be a bigger house or less "stuff". Gareth and Rhian are currently sharing child care by splitting paternity and maternity leave between them. Gareth is doing the Autumn stint, future plans for the next school term are in hand.





It's all change for Cathy too. She's just about to change jobs to work as a house matron at Royal Hospital School where Richard and all the boys were educated. This will mean moving their main home to Pin Mill as Richard has only a short time before he has to retire from the Royal Army Medical Corp. Jack graduated in medicine and is now a junior hospital doctor in Birmingham, Matthew continues at Durham University after a year out in Italy, Sam has been accepted for Dentistry at Cardiff and Alexander ... he's got a few more years at RHS yet.



Paula, Al and Family are as busy as ever, Al often away in China with his work. Paula keeps herself busy too, including helping with the Scout D of E groups. She was up for a few days in the summer as Tom was doing his Gold expedition in the Lake District. As Tom enters his A level year, Abi joins him at the other end of the school system, in her first year at the same school. We'll see them here in Loweswater again before the end of the month.



Our youngest daughter Jenna has had a whirlwind of a year too with the purchase of a house in Sheffield and all that entails. Her sisters and Alexander all helped to decorate the home in her first week and I travelled over to do the more technical odd-jobs, the ones no-one else wanted to do. We had a great weekend and with a friend now sharing the house, she's enjoying the experience. Work is keeping her busy with Geography field trips and regular changes in curriculum making her have to constantly re-write lesson plans.



Jen's new home in Sheffield

Jenna with Richard

With the success of our 2015 Scottish holiday at Durness, we repeated the experience by renting a "grand designs" house at Achiltibuie which had a turf covered roof and superb views of the Summer Isles. We revisited many of the places we first saw on our caravan holidays with the children. We also had a short break in Swansea to see our new grandson in April when we stayed with Sandra and Jackie. We hired a cottage on Gower in October and were able to see more of Luke as he grew up and of course reciprocate favours by entertaining Gareth and Rhian, Sandra, Jackie and Gill at the holiday house in Rhosilli.



Jo, Ian and Mike at Hopegill Valley.

Neil, Sherran, Bill and Jo, Bowness Knott.

Trevor and Gill, High Rigg.

Jill and Nigel on Muncaster Fell.

The rest of our busy life has been filled with our lovely friends that we have met over the years and people we meet as a result of the website. Our walks have been a bit more restrained as Harry, our four legged partner, slows down in his old age. He'll be 14 in January which would make him a real veteran. Dylan on the other hand, at nearly four, is in the prime of life. We've bought an extra bit of garden for me to play with and also built a Pod as a summer house / extra bedroom. To see how we're doing now or if you want any more news, you'll have to check out the website at www.loweswatercam.co.uk



Pat and Mike at Cogra Moss

Dee and John over from Durham. Hilton with Jo and myself.

Helen from Oz. Our latest addition, a family "Pod" in the garden.

Hope you are all well. Cheers and best wishes for 2017. Roger and Ann, Harry and Dylan.