



Harry and Dylan, Northumberland.



Our Garden, the Pod and the Paddock here at Loweswater on a fine summer's day.



Dougla, newly arrived 26th Sept

Greetings from Loweswater . . . Christmas 2018

This has been a bit of a roller coaster of a year with some ups and downs for us, our family and close friends too. Everyone has hopefully moved forward now and we can look ahead to a happier and more settled 2019.



Dylan and Harry, beach bums in Northumberland.

As we expected but dreaded this year, we lost our beloved Harry who died peacefully on June 1st. He left us on a beautiful sunny Loweswater Day, cradled in our arms in the garden. He was 14½ years old and left us with so many lovely memories of his life. Dylan, now 4½ years old has had a nasty health scare recently after discovering a cancerous lump under his chin, but hopefully with the best treatment we could find he is making a full recovery. In September we welcomed a new puppy, good company for both Dylan and ourselves. Dougla is such a sweet pup and is actually Dylan's nephew from his sister's first litter. He is a real joy and is showing the same lovely traits as his 'Uncle Dylan'.



Dougla seen here with Jonathan, our new neighbour.

Family news now; Cathy and her four boys now have the Suffolk Pin Mill home as their full time family address. Jack is working in Birmingham in his second year as a Junior Hospital Doctor, Matt is in Durham doing his final year Classics course and Sam is in his second year of Dentistry at Cardiff. Alexander is third year secondary at Royal Hospital School near Pin Mill, where Cathy continues to work as a Matron. He has now changed from a full-time to a weekly border, staying at home with his Mum for weekends. Sadly he managed to break his collar bone recently during a rugby game but is recovering okay and hopefully will return as soon as practicable to the many sporting activities that he so enjoys and in which he excels.



Cathy with Jude and Alexander



Jack and Catherine on Haystacks



Matt climbing Low Fell



Sam relaxing over mad-patience



Alexander with Jude

Paula and Al juggle their family life with all Al's frequent trips to Asia for work. Paula continues to do exam marking and also took a part-time teaching post until Christmas this year. During summer 2018 she walked the Coast to Coast across Britain with her friend Sue, a twelve day, 192 mile walk and a fine achievement. Tom has done well in his 'A' levels and has started a course at Hull University studying Geology. Abi, in her second year secondary, is an enthusiastic and very successful swimmer. She also enjoys being an Explorer Scout in her Tickhill group.



Al, Sue, Paula, Mark, Tom and Abi



Family meal 1st night of the Coast to Coast



Last Day at Robin Hood's Bay



Abi and Tom on their visit here.

Gareth and Rhian have sold their Tal-y-Coed house near Swansea and are in the process of buying another, a process that has been fraught with difficulties. Rhian's parents are really helping out by providing accommodation while they find a new property. Their lovely son Luke is now eighteen months old, a bundle of joy and growing up fast. Rhian enjoyed great acclaim as lead actress in 'Sister Act' with a large Amateur Dramatics group locally, a role made famous on screen by Whoopi Goldberg.



Luke and Ann here at home. Rhian and Gareth's Selfie, Buttermere. "What's for tea?" How many family can you get in one photo? "Found this hat Mummy"

Jenna has settled well into her Sheffield home and we've been over to help with a few DIY jobs. Recent ups and downs for her include faulty electrics in the house which kept plunging her into darkness, but that is all being put right with the total refurbishment of her bathroom. It is sorted now and she can shower again! Last time she was over here she painted our spare bedroom and earned herself three bags of Loweswater logs to burn on her fire! Her year has also been punctuated with holidays away with friends, often for weddings, including one in Italy when she was a bridesmaid to her friend Helen.



Jenna with Ann in the Kirkstille beer garden.

Ruth, Ann, Jen (and myself) out for a Teppanyaki meal.

And finally us ... we continue to enjoy the highs and cope with those lows, walk the dogs every day and have lots of delightful family and friends to visit. I've been busy in the garden, a task made more difficult by this year's unseasonal weather, a long cold winter, a short two weeks of spring, followed by a really long hot and dry early summer, so nothing would grow according



to plan. We returned to our more normal, mild Lakes weather since the end of July and we had our first snowfall on the hill this late November week. The new paddock and pond are looking good and hopefully we'll get first fruit from the new trees and many more wild flowers next year.



Jo and Ann on Knock Murton.

John, Ann and Dee in Northumberland.

Bill and Peter Burgess, helping me plant trees in the paddock.

Dylan qualified as a 'Pets as Therapy' dog so he and Ann spend a day a week visiting nursing homes locally where the people can benefit from regular contact with pets, even though they are not able to look after one of their own. It has been very enjoyable for the clients and very rewarding for Ann and Dylan too. We've not had too many holidays but then living up here we seem continually on holiday, such is our location! We did manage a trip to Northumberland in May, Harry's last holiday away, and another to the Mull of Kintyre in September where we were able to catch up on some of the places that we hadn't seen since the days we toured Scotland with the caravan. We've booked a fortnight on the Outer Hebrides next year when we plan to visit our friends Anne and Andrew who have moved out there.

Our Camping Pod in the garden has seen good use by friends and family, though we don't seem to have tried it ourselves, something to do with the cold, wet morning grass of recent months. Still, with a good supply of fire wood from local farmers we're set up for a cosy Christmas here at home. No other plans at present as we are being 'flexible' as they say, in order to be ready for whatever the next year may bring our way.

Lastly a few photos of some of our lovely friends, with whom we have enjoyed so many good times this year.



Sophie, Chris and Dougal. Ann, Gill, Trevor and Finlay. Nigel, Gill, Roger, Neil, Ann, Jill, Sherran & Bill. Pat and Mike. Ilan and Ann. Vanessa and Hilton.

Hope you are all well. Cheers and best wishes for 2019. Roger and Ann, Dylan and Dougal.

To see how Ann and I are doing, or if you want more news, feel free to check out our photo website at www.loweswatercam.co.uk