

# The Cayzer Chronicles (2018)



This was a big year for both Charlie and Alice - turning 18 and 16 respectively. Next year sees landmark birthdays for Julie and I so we are planning '50 dates for 50' and have made a start...



Charlie is now at the University of York studying History and Politics, having obtained AAB at A level (History, English, Philosophy). He bought his first pub pint in July, started University in September and we visited in November. Where has the time gone!



Meanwhile Alice bagged a fabulous set of GCSEs including a grade 9 (A\*\*) in Food & Nutrition. She is now studying four (!) A levels: Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Psychology.



Alice also did her Duke of Edinburgh Silver this year involving some very cold hill walking! By contrast, her end of year Prom and Charlie's Leavers' Ball were in the heatwave. Alice celebrated at Reading Festival with her friends.



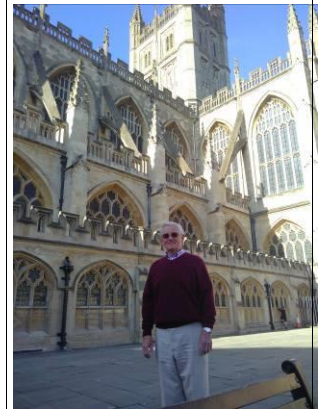
To celebrate, we took our biggest holiday ever, a safari to Kenya. This was a wonderful experience with memories that will last a lifetime.



We saw lots of friends this year, including Emily and Chris' wedding in lovely Cornwall.



Music is again an important part of our lives, with Alice proving to be an avid music fan, including Finsbury Park and the Bristol Downs Festival. Music this year include Slaves, the Vaccines, Bad Manners and for Steve, Eddi Reader (with Grandpa). Charlie joined Swing Dance Society at York and is loving it!



Julie is continuing to love being the Vet Development Manager for the Independent Vetcare group of practices across Europe (!). I have expanded my Director of Studies role at the University to a new MSc programme Engineering Business Management.

For the very first time I was involved in strike action this year to defend University Pensions (as I write this, a 'Joint Expert Panel' has delivered a verdict more or less in line with the Union analysis, so we shall see...)

My local Big Issue seller, Istvan Kakas, passed away this year. He was very much loved by the local community. I attended his very moving memorial service in November, with about 200 other attendees.



I am currently not running (problems with my sciatic nerve but earlier this year I ran in all weathers from snow to baking heat.

I also did a 2 mile (!) sea swim around Clevedon Pier, this was tiring but great fun.





In eco activity corner, I am still on the Board of Directors for Low Carbon Gordano. I also reprised my role as the 'Green Man' for Nailsea Wassail which is the January preparation for October's Apple Day and took part in the 'trial of Daisy the Cow' at Bath.



Julie and I are both on the PTA for Nailsea School and took part in a number of events this year, including the ever popular "Pour my bluff" and the new Musical Bingo, for which I was the dancing compere.



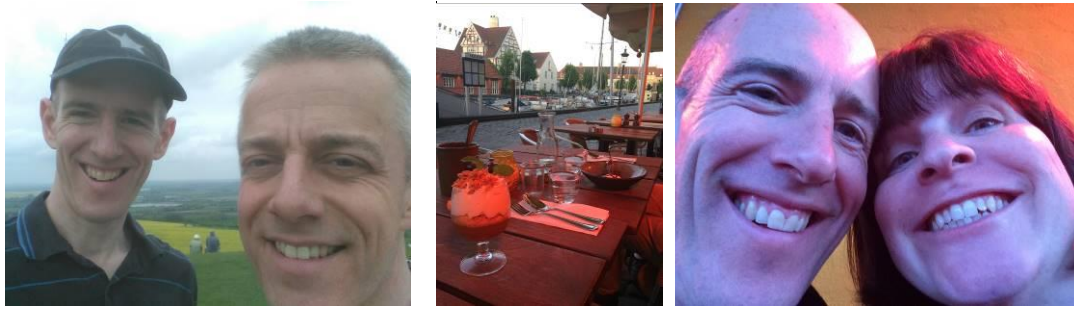
Family events included Easter with Granny, a visit from Rosie, Grandmas' birthday, a trip up North to see Sue and the gang, a sojourn over to Yorkshire (before dropping Charlie off!) to see Dave and Louise, and a lovely meal in Somerset with Ray, Kath, Lara and Tom.



We don't have expensive hobbies (just as well after the safari!). We like walks around our beautiful county enjoying the bluebells, the woods and the hills. Sometimes these end in a nice meal out!



Continuing tradition, I went camping with my brother in May (too cold in April!). Later that month I went to Copenhagen with Julie (we had an anniversary meal in 'little Venice')



## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

