Season's Greetings from Owlsbury Oast December 2019

The Christmas season is upon us again, but we have been reminded of it often during the year due to the presence of the deer who gather in our field. There seem to be a lot of them around at present.

It has been a busy year on the farm at Mark Cross, but we are both trying to ease off some of our commitments. So, Philip has just semi-retired, meaning he will give up full time work but still keep busy with many small jobs, such as mowing paddocks, and cutting field hedges etc. his last job at Mark Cross was doing all the metal work for another barn using second hand metal.

I am still involved with the heritage cabinet at the Community Centre. Some of our themes this year were Crowborough Almshouses**,** Crowborough Observatories and Starfield and The Ancient Order of Foresters.





The second photo shows Haven Homes almshouses, of which we are still trustees, and Philip is still trustee/chairman of the Fermor Smith Charity. I also visit at the Milward Care Home, and am a link governor for Jarvis Brook School, where I sometime see Michael and Emily.





Several members of the family came for a 'Fermor' gathering on August Bank Holiday Saturday. It was a very hot day, James is here taking a cart load of the children for a ride in Philip's mower and trailer.

We also had good weather in May when we took our usual holiday to Pevensey Bay. Strange jelly-creatures were found when shrimping – which were identified as sea gooseberries.







I was also able to have a weekend visiting Joy and family in May. Leonard is now 18 and driving a car and flying gliders! He would like to learn to be an airline pilot.

The photo below shows the wedding of Clifford and Rachel, daughter of our friends Ray and Alison. The service was at Forest Fold Baptist Chapel, Crowborough and I helped at the reception at Rotherfield.



During the year we also attended the usual NFU dinner and the Ploughing Match, with which Philip is still very involved, as grassland steward, safety officer and gate steward. We also went to the annual East Sussex High Sheriff's Prayer Breakfast event, at the National Golf Resort near Uckfield. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.