

Merry Christmas from the McMillans!

As the holidays approach and another year is nearly at an end, our thoughts turn to family members and friends, many in distant places. We hope you all have had a happy and eventful 2014. Here are a few brief comments on ours.

We are, of course, enjoying our lively grandson, Caleb, who will be two in the spring. He keeps his parents, Stephen and Jennifer, busy and Michael is pleased to be an uncle. Gillian and I keep active in retirement. Gill is still producing pots, particularly her “jugbirds,” in both bright colours and salt glaze. You can keep track of her activities on her blog (www.gillianmcmillan.com). I am still writing up past research and doing a bit of consulting.



Travel still features largely in our lives, with a focus this year on Latin America. In January we went to Mexico (Puerto Vallarta) for 10 relaxing days. In March we took a tour around Guatemala. That was a fabulous trip, with Mayan ruins (Tikal, in the two photos below, is perhaps the largest of them all and was a “bucket list” destination for me), Spanish colonial cities (Antigua was wonderful), and dramatic volcanoes over a deep lake (Lake Atitlan). A trip to Texas (Austin) in April may also qualify as Latin America. I was attending a conference and Gill was delighted to come along to visit her niece Tasha and her family, who very kindly had us to stay. Most recently, in late

November, we went on a tour of Cuba put on by the UBC Museum of Archaeological and historic sites and natural attractions but has a very vibrant culture and interesting recent history. It is changing rapidly as restrictions on private enterprise are being relaxed, but is still a poor country with a crumbling infrastructure. Our next trip will be to Mexico’s Yucatan in Feb., to see more Maya sites and relax on a Caribbean beach.



Aside from all that Latin America travel, Gill flew back to England in September. She was delighted to catch up with her brother Bill (and Lottie) and sister Mary (and John). Nephew Mike and his family were also very kind in helping out. While there, she took a package of her “jugbirds” to the gallery in Cambridge that shows her work.

Gill and I send our warm best wishes for the holiday season and our hopes that you all have a great 2015.

Alan and Gillian

