



THE BILBAOS

CHRISTMAS 2024



Hello all.

We wish everyone has had a happy and healthy 2024 and we hope you are enjoying the holiday season.

We know we are, mostly because Lucas is still with us! Let us explain. He had a very serious episode of pancreatitis at the end of the summer. For those not in the know, that means a lot of vomiting, a lot of diarrhea and not a whole lot of eating. Pleasant Christmas conversation, to be sure! He spent nearly two weeks in the ICU getting fluids through an IV and had not one, but two feeding tubes inserted... which, in proper Lucas style, he ripped out much to the dismay of the vets. And he was about to get a third one when, finally, finally, he started to get his appetite back. He was down over four kilograms at that point!

Meanwhile, Eric wishes HE would lose four kilograms, and a few more beyond that... but that is for 2025. For now, every time Lucas runs around like an idiot, or is his mischievous self, we can't help but feel very lucky we get to spend as much time as we've had with him. He is truly forever young!

It was also an intense year for Sam's family, as her dad (Javi) had not one but four strokes last Xmas and early 2024. He is doing better and better every day thanks to the continuous physical therapy. Also in February, Sam's sister (Claris) premiered her first full length film as Director. The title is "We treat women too well" and it is fantastic... so you will need to see it. It is available on Amazon in many countries.

Eric's family celebrated the most excellent wedding of his niece Paige and Jeff. It was very nice to get the entire family together again. We even got his mom down to Chicago from Green Bay and tore up the dance floor in her wheelchair!

The other big news... drum roll... we have moved again! We are still in London, but in Clapham Junction (instead of Clapham North!), just off the very happening Northcote Road, the central artery of what London calls "Nappy Valley" due to the number of very industrious young families. Don't believe us? Come for a visit! All phone numbers and emails remain the same.

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Around town, we continue enjoying the exciting London theatre scene with its A-list talent. This year included productions starring Brian Cox, Ian McKellen (before he fell off the stage), Jonny Lee Miller, Lily Collins, Mark Strong, Matthew Broderick, Patricia Clarkson and Sarah Jessica Parker. Our favorite this year probably was "The Picture of Dorian Gray" with Sarah Snook, which had her portraying ALL of the characters in the show. Very colorful and very creative!

Career wise, Sam is still Director General of World Nuclear Association, diligently getting nuclear energy on the playing field for net-zero. This year's travels have brought her to new parts of the world including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Singapore and Uzbekistan. Eric did manage to join her on some work trips to Marco Island, South Korea and Warsaw. Working remotely has its benefits!

For next year, Eric has already got the spreadsheet going for a trip to India, specifically New Delhi and Agra (Taj Mahal). Assuming that goes to plan, that leaves Chichén Itzá as the only "new" wonder of the world we haven't yet visited. So don't be surprised if we also see that soon and next year's card is "wonder" themed!

Until then, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sam, Eric and Lucas