

MY 2006 BY JOHN PANNELL

Time seems to have sped by quickly this year. I've been busy at work and play. For me - is work play or is play work or a mixture of everything. What ever the answer I have enjoyed 2006 and I look forward to a great 2007.

TRAVEL

The highlight of my travel in 2006 was a tour Tibet starting and finishing in Nepal. Seeing the Himalayas, Everest and the monasteries was very rewarding, along with making new friends. In June I was a guest at the opening ceremony to the football World Cup in Munich ~ a fabulous atmosphere and a fun weekend, even for a non-sporting person like me.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography income has allowed me to fill my camera bag a little more. This has helped with better photographs but sometimes the bag is a little too heavy to carry around on my travels. Attending photography shows and being active in a local photography club has fueled more ideas. All I need to do is find the time to act on them.

MY SPARE TIME

Not so much spare time this year. BT, my prime income, has kept me busy especially in the Autumn leading up to launching new broadband applications such as BT Digital Vault. Outside of BT I enjoy wandering around the Southbank and West End of London - people watching, taking photos and socialising. London events like the Sultan's Elephant and the Thames Whale brought enjoyment. I did find some time to decorate a couple of bedrooms but did not quite get around to spending too much time in the garden!!

WHAT'S ON MY MIND

As I travel across different lands and make new friends, I am always impressed that those with little material possessions and who live in harsher countries appear to be happier than we are in the modern world.

In Tibet this year, I watched happy young children in tatty clothes playing with old homemade toys. In the towns of Siberia and Mongolia, where I have traveled frequently, many street children have to find warm shelter in the drains or around stations to keep away from the sub-zero temperatures during the harsh winters.

As we enjoy the festive spending in our modern world, we should think more about the environment in which we live. What could you do differently to enhance the wellness of your family, your neighbours and others around the world?



And in our world of plenty ~ We can spread a smile of joy~ Say a prayer ~ pray for the other ones. At Christmastime it's hard ~ but when you're having fun ~ Thank God it's them instead of you.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be light. I wish you a Happy New Year and good health to you, your family and friends.

If you have access to the Internet, why not visit my website - www.HappyChristmasFromJohn.com.