

# Happy Christmas From John

## My 2009

### Gadgets & Things

As you may know, I do love my gadgets – physical and online. Recently I have switched to an Apple laptop and discovered how boringly easy it is to use. My iTouch keeps me company on the train listening to music or podcasts. Through work & play I have learnt new website skills using “Drupal” software. My interest in social networking and new media (Facebook, Twitter, etc) has benefited the charities that I have been helping this year.

### Photography

Other than for my personal pleasure, I have also been providing my photography skills to others, both event photography and post-production Photoshop services. I also enjoyed covering my first Hindu wedding, despite my broken ankle.

### One Water

Most of my working year has seen me using my new media marketing and online skills for this fantastic award winning charity, One Water, and making excellent new friends. Over the last few years they have simply sold bottled water in the UK and made over £3m profit. Every penny of this profit has been donated to water and health projects in southern Africa, helping change lives of thousands of people.



### My Travels

#### *New York:*

Staying in Manhattan for an Easter week, seeing the sites and enjoying the culture. Lunch in Kats Diner and a few evenings in live music bars were my highlights. I'm not much of a city person, but I am glad I took the opportunity.

#### *Alicante:*

A summer break near Alicante (La Marina) allowed time for visiting friends, relaxing and swimming in the sea. Midnight swimming with friends after a lazy night BBQ helped sleep in the heat.

#### *Sri Lanka:*



Colombo is one of my new favourite locations. A summer break was well deserved. Helping friends with some projects, visiting various places and generally switching off was great. Two highlights were spending some time in a recording studio watching the composing and mixing of a charity record; the other highlight was going fishing on a traditional wooden catamaran and then eating the freshly cooked fish a few hours later.

#### *Fuengirola:*

A late November break in Spain gave time to relax in warmer weather before the UK Christmas rush. Not doing much, just lazing around, a few touristy things and watching live music. A day trip to Mijas and Gibraltar to spend time with the monkeys was worthwhile.

### What's On My Mind

You may recall, I spent 4 weeks on a Kenya charity project in 1990 with Hertfordshire Scouts. Now, 19 years later, I still have charity in my blood – helping out at a few charities, thinking of others before myself and now planning a Kenya reunion. So, whatever and wherever you are, do a little bit to conserve our planets resources and keep in mind those that are less fortunate than yourself. If you can spare some hours to help others, please do so.



Wishing you Seasonal Greetings, a Happy New Year and good health to you, your family and friends.