

# Happy Christmas From John

## My 2011

This year has been a busy one again. As I flick through my photo library and diary I am amazed how much I squeezed in. Both happy and sad events have happened this year. I continue to enjoy a productive life at home and at work. Using online productivity tools and focusing on the task at hand. This helps me play and work within the time available. I enjoy internet gadgets and have managed again to avoid getting an iPhone or iPad.

## Farewell but not forgotten

In 2011 I said goodbye to more people than I wanted to. My Uncle Roy, my father's last sibling, learned of cancer just before his 89th birthday, and left us shortly afterwards. A few of our village friends also passed, notably my father's best friend George, aged 90. We also said farewell to our close friend Elleni who, for several years, fought against cancer which took her away aged 40.



## My Work

My career at BT continues, taking a greater responsibility in stakeholder management for the global portfolio part of their corporate website. My attention to detail and broad range of skills stimulates my enjoyment and ongoing success.

## My Photography



Never far away from one of my cameras, I use my photography to capture my life as well as creating memories for others. I also offer photography services to help save for my equipment thirst. Through my SWPP membership I learned some good techniques on a course run by a well-known wedding photography Doug Gordon. This stimulated my investment in a Nikon D700 and then a Nikon training course. Camping out for the Royal Wedding in April I captured some great photos both at the rehearsal and on the day, including some close ups of the two princes' and Camilla. A wonderful experience and I even got a few of my photos on Wikipedia.

## My Travels

**Brussels** in February for valentine's weekend - time to relax with the local beers and day in Bruges to taste the chocolates.

**Paris** in April to visit friends, play tourist and look around.

**Spain** to our holiday home in March to supervise a new patio, and again in June to celebrate our neighbours silver wedding.

**Folkestone** in August to reminisce my childhood camping days, although we took the easy option of B&B. The town is run down compared to the busy day's pre-channel tunnel. It still has some original character and the sea-food stalls continue to feed the tourists.

**Italy** in October was the highlight of the year with our first cruise and also with my mother. NCL took us to the western Mediterranean and exceeded our expectations with service and quality. After a night in Barcelona we had day visits to Piza, Rome, Naples and Palma before returning to Barcelona. Nimmi made good use of her Italian skills to ensure trouble free day trips. Out of the 4500 passengers we managed to have dinner with the ships Chief Security Officer leaning some interesting facts about his security work.

**Sri Lanka** in December for a 2-week holiday visiting family and friends. A chance to relax, have fun and get back in time for Christmas.



## What's on my mind



Looking after Snoopy the poodle at random weekends gives me exercise and fresh air on the way to The Old Fox. I also enjoy Bricket Wood Common where I spent a lot of my childhood playing.

So enjoy an active life with family and friends, near and far, as you don't know what is around the corner. Treasure your memories. Reflect on the past. Learn for the present, and plan for the future.



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