

Happy Christmas From John

My 2012

Another very busy year with so many special events, for the UK and for me personally. Less traveling than previous years, but still time to enjoy my photography and relax. With a busy life, I make good use of my iPad – keeping up to date on email, Facebook and iPlayer whilst on the move.

Diamond Jubilee



Being a fan of royal events, I enjoyed watching London prepare - flags flying and tourists arriving. I attended a few celebrations over the weekend as part of the run up. Like many other royal events I set off the day before and slept overnight in The Mall in order to get a good spot. As sunrise it did not seem as busy as others events, but by mid-morning the crowds were 10-15 deep and I had an excellent location to watch and photograph the parade.

London 2012

Not being a sports fanatic the Olympics did not bother me too much. But it was great for Great Britain – tourism and economy. I did get some tickets to the Olympic Park and after being amazed by the facilities and organization I watched an evening of Paralympic athletics.

At Work

My online marketing work at BT was very demanding this year with a big project to relaunch our website in 10 languages for 40 countries. Not much time to rest between April and August, but work slowed down to normal in the latter part of the year.

Our wedding

Highlight of the year was the wedding of Nimmi and myself, ten years after we first met. A small affair that saw 23 guests on 23rd August which would have been the 65th wedding anniversary of my parents. The reception was held at The Grove on Thursday. On Saturday after a short church blessing a garden party was held in my child-hood garden in Bricket Wood. The live music and good company made a most memorable day. My mother, as always, ensured the garden was immaculate for the day.



Walking around

Our dog Snoopy gives me my twice daily walk. At the weekend and some of the lighter evenings this is often around Bricket Wood Common and Munden estate. Sometimes stopping off at The Old Fox for refreshments.

Travels

With all the local events plus a few friends' weddings, we did not get a chance to travel outside Europe this year. We went to our second home in Spain a few times, once with some of Nimmi's family and another time with my mother. A lovely place to relax away from our busy work-life of London.

What's On My Mind

As countries in the Middle East and parts of Europe had hardship through the year I feel thankful that I have a stable job that provides food, shelter and happiness. I'm also thankful for good health of family and friends, especially for my mother who had a short illness that almost postponed our wedding.



I recall a talk I attended some years ago where we were coached to write down or think of at least one thing to be grateful or appreciate every day. So don't grumble or moan. Be grateful for something every day.

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