

Happy Christmas From John

My 2013

Time flies by again and another year gone. Busy at work, busy at play. Maybe the work-life balance is a little too much work. But my twice-a-day walk with Snoopy gives me fresh air and exercise – even if it's to the Old Fox and back on a Friday evening!

At work

Fortunate or mad? - I passed my 35 year anniversary with BT this year. Luckily I still enjoy my work although it can be demanding at times. I'm now in my 3rd year in the global online marketing team, at the moment learning more about how search engines work (SEO) and importance of digital analytics to measure success. No travels like some years ago, as webcams and audio meetings are the expected.

With my camera

To the latter part of the year I am taking more of a shine to 'street photography' - capturing people and places naturally - no posing. I took a course to get the basics and then joined a street photography club who meet regularly at weekends in London. Selling my Royal Mail shares bought me a FujiFilm X100 camera.

Photography walks have taken me to unusual parts of the City, along the South Bank and Brick Lane. I was lucky to get in to see the inside of [Battersea Power Station](#) during a rare, and probably their last open day. My camera also took me to [Margaret Thatcher's funeral](#) and [HRH Princess Anne](#) opening Blackfriars Settlement.



My travels

Phuket, Thailand in March was a relaxing break and a chance to meet some of Nimmi's Australian family for a friend's exotic beach wedding.

La Marina a few times to our villa. Some of nearby friends have now returned to the UK, and some of the bars/shops are struggling for customers. Even so, it's a relaxing bolt-hole to switch off from the busy London/work life.



Amalfi and nearby in August to plan Melissa's wedding next year, then a few days to relax.

As I write this we're getting ready to spend New Year's Eve with my mother just outside **Malaga**, Spain.

What's On My Mind

Christmas is always a time for reflection - for loved ones you are with, those far away and to those who have passed on. Admire them or not - also for political leaders such as Thatcher and Mandela that were legacies in their own way.



Find time to enjoy the world, get some external fresh air and take a little exercise. Travel if you can - around your town, enjoy your countryside or the world of others. Photos help with memory, but memories themselves are more powerful.

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