

# The Fourth Estate 2018

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Happy Christmas from the two of us

## Nope, No Cards!



Every day we realise how lucky we are compared with the millions of refugees and asylum seekers around the world. That's why we're donating our Christmas card money to a charity that helps them in their new home town. BRASS (Befriending Refugees and Asylum Seekers) here in Bolton, helps them to learn English, to be able to have a life without barriers and integrate in the community; visit the doctor, find a

job, support their children and socialise with other people. Please also help people such as them this Christmas.

## Going Back

On a (ever so slightly nostalgic) trip to the Chilterns in September we stopped by the church in White Waltham, nr. Maidenhead where John and his brother Rob were choir boys a very long time ago. And the urge to climb the yew tree that he last scaled almost 60 years back was, as you might expect, just irresistible!



## Made It!

The 1st of May, our wedding day, 12:20 is the time; So come along and hear us say, "I'm yours and yours is mine" - so went our wedding invitation 25 years ago. And in May this year we celebrated our silver wedded bliss by taking family and friends to the beautiful Northumberland coast for three days of celebrating, eating, drinking, walking, visiting the Farne Isles and looking forward to the next 25 years. Book for the trip now to avoid disappointment!



## The Lad



Porthcawl.

Young Mr. Jack, at eight, is almost as tall as Noelene now and, of course, is a real "wisenheimer"! But he's still a very loving and sweet young fellow, doing well at school and with everything connected with science and engineering as his favourite subjects (that's my boy)! We had a wonderful holiday in Wales again this summer and, even if there was no holiday romance this time, he loved the beautiful sandy beaches of

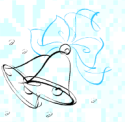
## The Wedding of the Year....



As a great excuse for us to spend an unplanned six weeks in wonderful South Africa during October and November — just when it was getting chilly here in good old Blighty.

Our gorgeous niece, Christma, married Maverick at a lovely farm venue near Bronkhorstspuit on the Gauteng/Mpumalanga border. And a great time was had by the whole fandamily!

Our love to them both for the years ahead.



## Places and Faces

**I**t seems that 2018 has been the year when we just didn't stop and, as much as we love seeing people and places, it's great to be home for Christmas and New Year.



Early on in the year we visited bro Rob and his gang in Cornwall and then we made a nostalgic visit to the Isle of Wight — John's holiday destination during his "tender years". It's hardly changed since the 1960s. We had a short break in the Cotswolds in February and then travelled to Seville in March — what a lovely city; go there if you can.

Some of the other places we've been lucky enough to visit: Cordoba — another wonderful Spanish city, the Limosin Region of France (we can understand why "les gilets jaune" are protesting, though!), Hyde Hall RHS garden at Colchester, Whitstable to see brother



Peter and sister-in-law Janet, Harlow Carr RHS garden near Harrogate (twice, for Noelene to do gardening courses and John to go walking!), Llandudno for the jazz festival, Stirling - for Runrig's last ever concert + a visit to nearby Falkirk, Porthcawl for a week by the sea with young Jack, the Chilterns to visit a vineyard and brewery (yes, two in one—WONDERFUL!), oh, and six weeks in South Africa — well, there didn't seem to be much point in just going for the wedding!



## In The Red?

**D**espite being determined to "spend more time with the family" John was prevailed on to stand "just one more time" in the Bolton local elections — the 14th occasion! Despite the help of his youngest supporter he still came a "good second". Well, there's always next year! Disastrously, Brexit looms in 2019 and we really fear for the future of youngsters like Jack.



## Madame Chair

**I**n April Noelene was elected Chair of the African Community Association of Bolton (ACAB) — a position not without its challenges!



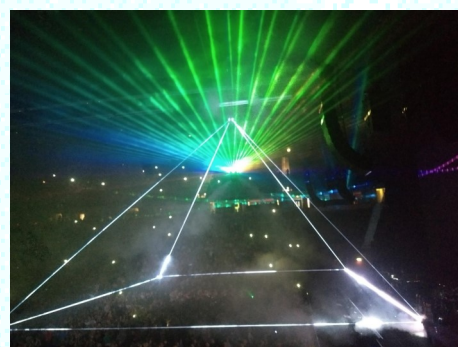
But, together with a small hard working team, she organised and delivered an innovative and very successful Black History Month programme, mostly at Bolton Library and the University. It'll be even more exciting in 2019.

## The Sounds of 2018

**W**ith all the travelling we've done there's not been time to see all the music we'd like. But we did manage to catch Jethro Tull's 50th anniversary tour (yes, Ian Anderson still plays the flute standing on one leg!).

We travelled to Stirling for Runrig's last ever performance on a damp and chilly but wonderful night beneath the castle. There wasn't a dry eye in the hoose! In the summer we had a great weekend at the Llandudno Jazz Festival — definitely one to re-visit. And later in the year we saw the Hallé Orchestra playing the music of Star Wars—excellent music and good fun too!

October saw the incredible and hard hitting Roger Waters' "Us and Them" concert with the message to be good to everyone regardless of gender, colour, nationality or religion and stop killing the children! Possibly one of the best performances we've ever seen by anyone.



Finally, we caught the talented African jazz of Zimbabwean Max Vidima at a virtuoso performance in Bramfontein, Johannesburg during our South African visit.

## Want to Read More?

**Y**es, we've run out of space again but there is much, much more on this year's Fourth Estate website - [www.23fourth.org/2018](http://www.23fourth.org/2018). Our love, best wishes, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our loyal readers.

