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Merry Christmas to all our friends and families. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season and a great 2014.

We launched 2013 from under the Eiffel Tower in Paris where we heralded in the year with Champagne under umbrellas ! This year we will be seeing in the New Year in Budapest, Hungary no doubt in minus temperatures so we have already invested in our Russian style hats.

We celebrated the first anniversary of our Civil Partnership in Somerset and enjoyed a lovely summer evening in front of Wells Cathedral. The next day we flew out of Bristol to Nice and spent a warm week touring the French Riviera and Monaco.

In July, Peter’s dad had his 90th birthday in Weymouth where we gathered with the rest of the family to celebrate. Lily-Iris, his great granddaughter was born in April and in November we travelled up to Wakefield for her christening.

Ben’s grandma who had spent most of her life in Zimbabwe until returning to UK in 2009 died in July and was the sad family event of the year.

We continued to enjoy our biking together but now enter a ‘bikeless interlude’ as Ben had minor accident in November en route to the Remembrance Day Service at the National Arboretum . He’s now well on the mend from broken collar bone though the same cannot be said for the bike. Earlier in the year we had planned a full day out on a lovely hot day but only got as far as Tamworth when his radiator was hit by a stone and he and bike ended up being carted back by the RAC.

We have enjoyed visiting and entertaining friends, visiting National Trust properties and getting out and about when possible but generally we will not be sad to see 2013 pass by. We look forward to 2014 and welcoming our friends and Ben’s godsons who will be visiting from Australia in August.

Love and Best Wishes to you all,