



2012 – A Golden Year

# Maiden Road News

**2012:**  
Girl Guides' Year of the Girl  
UN Year of Co-operatives  
European Year for Active Aging  
The Mayan Calendar ends, 21 December. The World doesn't.

## Annus Mirabilis

So much has happened this year that it is probably easier to show the year in pictures. Obviously, the Olympics have been a major feature of life in Stratford this year, and we both volunteered for the event. Philip was a Gamesmaker team leader on the Olympic Park itself, and he was part of the event from start to finish. He met Michelle Obama, and various other dignitaries and World leaders. I was a London Ambassador mentor on the South Bank, first for the Jubilee and later between the Olympics and Paralympics. We were a little sad when we put on our uniforms for a last time on *Wear Your Uniform with Pride* day (10 September, see picture above). Actually, I've worn it since: the Ambassadors is an ongoing project, and we were involved in Poppy day. Both of us went through extensive training programmes to prepare us for our roles, but the best session took place at the top of City Hall – lots of excellent pictures of the City!



Ambassadors Training in City Hall, 13 January

## Philip Receives Freedom of the Pinkies



At the Pinkies 29<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, 14 April

To celebrate his 25 years in the choir, Philip was presented with a certificate at the Pinkies' 29<sup>th</sup> Birthday party – he now has lifetime membership of the choir! He also received a statuette, which sits proudly on our mantleshelf.



London Eye, 27 April

A quick turn on the wheel with Tony, who was an Eye virgin!



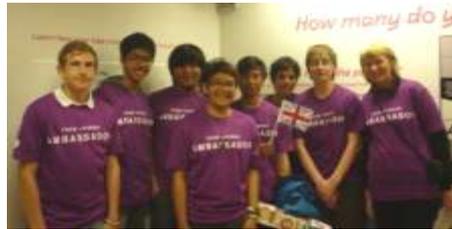
Sugar Dandies on X Factor, 9 May

The Sugar Dandies (Sören & Bradley) performed on X Factor and got through to the final 15. They have been fully booked since then, and have raised same-sex ballroom dancing to a new level.

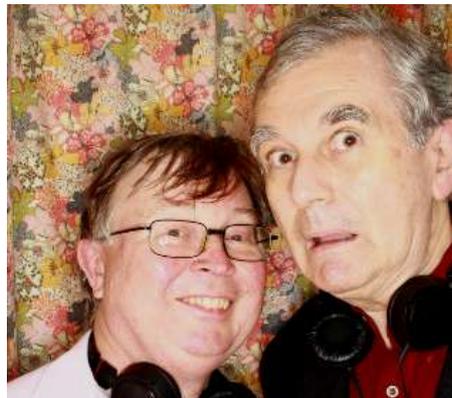


John & Geoffrey's 40th Anniversary, 23 June

Friends in Diss, Norfolk, celebrated 40 years together.



Martin's Young Ambassador team, 1-3 June



Stratford Theatre Experience, 20 July

This was an amazing birthday present, which took us to bits of Stratford we had never seen before. We were guided around by I-pod and phone calls, and it was great fun!



Olympic Torch in Romford Road, 21 July

The Olympic torch passed by the top of our alley. All the neighbours turned out to watch.



Sam & Kevin in Stratford, 24 July

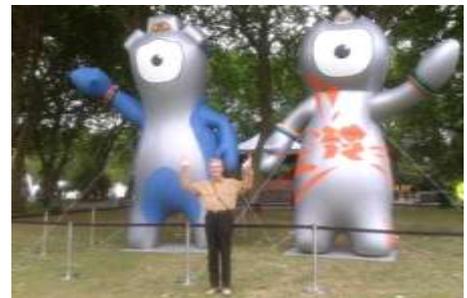
Kevin brought his second son, Sam, to see Europe and to sample some of the Olympic fun. They are posing here with one of the Liberty's guardsmen in Westfield, Stratford.



Philip on Beatbox with an Olympic torch, August



Martin with his Young Ambassadors, 13-17 August



Philip & Friends in Stratford Park, 1 September



The Olympic Park from the Orbit, 4 September

A chance for us to enjoy the Olympic experience together; and I was visiting with an expert!

## That Techie Stuff

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