

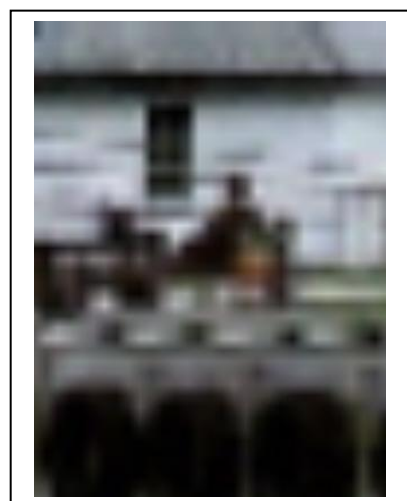
## The McKnight's Newsletter 2012

What do you do in times of financial difficulty? Yes! You have a party! At least that has been the idea in the United Kingdom, with our Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics and the Paralympics. Three parties one after another! And the weather was bad all the time. Now that's what British parties are about. Never mind, it was all good fun.

This year has resulted in a few changes in our personal lifestyles. Jim's cancer operation means that his mobility is somewhat restricted, and Kate's blood pressure causes some problems. As a result we cannot walk far, and certainly not cycle at all. And so we have relinquished our holiday home in Derbyshire. This ends thirty years of caravanning. Unfortunately Jim can't fly either (for an ex pilot this is rather annoying!). This year, however, we have taken our holidays by cruising from English ports. And so we show our favourite photo: the "Ocean Countess" in a Norwegian Fiord. We got to rather like this elderly cruise liner. It was originally built for MGM, who abandoned it during construction when they realised they were a movie business and not a travel agent! The ship served well in the Mediterranean and Caribbean as well as British waters, until it became the first liner to use the new Cruise Liner Terminal at Liverpool. It proudly left the Mersey – and promptly broke down! Now it has become a floating hotel in Africa. *Sic transit gloria.*



In the centre are a couple of orange pixels. That is Kate!



We enjoyed our cruise so much that before the old ship retired we went on a second cruise around Ireland and the Channel Isles, only a force 8 gale limited the number of ports we could reach. However, we did renew our acquaintance with the Scilly Isles, where for many years we had holidayed.

The photo shows Kate in the tropical gardens of Tresco – a few more pixels than before!

This year we have made an effort to renew old friendships. Quite interesting was a meeting of former colleagues from the nuclear industries. So our government is now interested in investing in more Nuclear Power stations? – about time, we told them that twenty years ago. On a different note, Kate and I have met former friends from the Chester Rambling club (that is where Kate and I met in 1958). We had not seen them in over fifty years, yet within minutes we were back on the same friendly terms. Our friendships mean a great deal to us. Kate is linking up with old school friends; and we meet her numerous cousins frequently. I hope to set up meetings with my own cousins during the coming year.. And of course our daughters and granddaughter are a great support. Son-in-law Rick works with the homeless in Manchester, whilst managing a part-time photography business. If you are interested in his highly artistic work, visit <http://www.rikjundi.co.uk/>

Kate and I continue with our church work, it keeps us busy. Jim still takes services and gives the occasional talk, whilst Kate seems eternally busy with Guild and property matters. And of course we look forward to the usual round of Christmas events.



That is all we have to say, this time. It has not been such a dramatic year for us, after all.

We wish you all the very best of the season, and for the coming year,

Warmest regards,

Jim & Kate  
McKnight

*Our website is in need of an overhaul, coming soon. Sometime!*      [www.mcknights.org.uk](http://www.mcknights.org.uk)