

YATES CHRISTMAS NEWS

A Happy and Healthy Holiday Season to everyone.

We seem to be living in 'interesting times', a pandemic followed by a war all combining into economic uncertainty. And in the UK's case, a Government that seems to be redefining revolving doors and incompetence. Of course we aren't supposed to mention Brexit - but the effects of that are hitting home, too. So, with all that context, Ingrid and I are very happy to have been able to spend lots of time with good friends and family in 2022. We hope that you have, too.

The family are still spread across the world, and are all thriving. In Australia, sadly, Michala and Rhys have separated. Michala is pictured here with the lovely Zoe and Kaylee, and it is good to see them all happy together. Michala is successfully juggling a young family life, working and studying for a degree in paramedicine.

We visited Luxembourg this year, and it was great to spend time with Pete, Colleen, Pippa, Vivi and Felicity. Pete is still at the EIB. Dave, Eugene, Hannah and Will were also visiting from Manhattan, as were Vicky and Matt who are in the UK. Right hand photo, below. A semi-family reunion which was a lot of fun. And aren't the grand kids growing up (or are we just growing old?). Dave also visited us on a UK business trip.

Mandy, Dave and Sophia still live close by and are busy with their network business - the left hand photo below is on Mandy's birthday in Bath. Dan and Mehrnaz decided to stay in the UK after all, and are working hard on next-round funding for greenerio, their green tech startup. The photo on the left is a celebration of Mehrnaz' getting British citizenship - something which Ingrid has also decided to pursue. We never thought that would be necessary, but it seems a good step in uncertain times. Ingrid is also brushing up her French with an online program. She speaks four languages, though wants to get back to where she used to be when we lived in Paris. Amazingly we left there in 1985 for Germany and then wandered the world.

Ingrid and Mick feel very settled at Havenwood, in the middle of the countryside yet blessed with lots of tech. Here's a datapoint you might not have seen before. As we always have music in the background whatever we are doing, Spotify places Ingrid in the top 0.5% (yes, that's right), with the Esbjörn Svensson Trio as clear #1 :-)



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Ingrid's mother, Franka, passed away in January, a few months before her 92nd birthday. She had been living alone until Christmas 2021, and finally moved into a care home. Sadly, that occupancy only lasted two weeks. We were in Holland for the funeral, and were very grateful for friends who had helped look after Mams and then dealt with many follow-up arrangements. A Summer road trip took us back to Den Bosch, still not flying, and we were able to say 'thank you' properly. If there is anywhere in the world to relax, and we are lucky to know over 70 countries, our favourite is in a Dutch café.



Photo|Frome, the new festival of photography which Mick co-founded and curated was a gratifying success. There were 6,000+ visitors, 75 photographers represented in 7 venues, talks workshops, portfolio reviews and more. The team is hoping to get this onto a more financially sustainable basis in 2023. Mick is still visiting professor at the University of Leeds, now tending to focus on photography issues.



As mentioned overleaf, it has been a great year to see old friends. Ingrid's best friend Gwen was here from New York. We were neighbours in Kobe from 1992 and then in Singapore. Mick and Ingrid also spent some time with Max and Michelle from Australia who were in Wells. We worked together in the 1990s. And Mick was able to go to the Change Leaders meeting at Oxford, seeing alumni from the Masters he did in 2003/4 for the first time post pandemic.



Age brings advantages of lasting friendships. It just remains to wish everyone the very best for 2023 - peace and prosperity for all - and most of all good health.

e-mail: ingrid@yatesweb.com
e-mail: mick@yatesweb.com

Ingrid +44 7899 912 984
Mick +44 7920 090 972



Festival: photofrome.org
Blog: www.yatesweb.com
Web: mickyatesphotography.com
Twitter, Instagram: [mickyates](https://www.instagram.com/mickyates)