

December 20014

Hi everyone, near and far.

We send our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year to you and yours. The THREE dogs definitely send best wishes again – all are flourishing.



The big news of our year has been visiting Japan. We went together in April on what is best described as a 'get to know Japan through its gardens' tour. Then Sue went back in November – on her own for a while - then joined a 'get to know Japanese gardening' tour. The pictures will tell a small fraction of the story – mostly from the April trip. However the first picture is of the complete group from November.

The second picture shows Sue returning from visiting one of the smaller Shinto shrines

The small picture below shows the Japanese mind at work. It is just steps leading up from the subway, but if you look carefully (there is an expanded view in the corner) you can see each step is marked with the number of calories used in climbing that many steps – in English and in Japanese



And here is Peter proving it was April and the cherry blossom was out! There were so many things the pictures we took reminded us of :

- The uniformed girls that bowed to the passengers before boarding the Bullet Train at a terminus to clean it before the passengers boarded.
- Our tour guide counting down the time to arrival at the next





station – with a warning that we had 90 seconds to leave the train, or the train would leave with us.

- The Statue of Liberty that France gave Tokyo – yes just like that other one.
- The Golden Pavilion and Mount Fuji – well you must have seen pictures of them – but here are ours, with the added bonus of us!



And so home again – and our back garden in late April:



Meanwhile in other news;- Peter gave up working with the local Volunteer Coast Guard, largely because the his work as a consultant on aviation software was just taking up so much time.

Sue continues with singing lessons and Community Choir concerts and is doing well. The grandchildren are well and flourishing. Wendy and family came to see us in August, Jacob has grown very tall. Naomi and Gillian are both learning the piano, and their new dog

“Eleven” is settling in well.

Looking back over 2014 we are very grateful for good health, many interests and wonderful family and friends. We send all our best wishes

(Did we mention the **three** (3) dogs?)

Susan & Peter

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