

kasbahdutoubkal

MOROCCO'S PREMIER MOUNTAIN RETREAT

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Merry...

It seems a bit incongruous, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas this year, given the recent restrictions that will remove much of the merriment traditionally associated with the season; office parties, family get-togethers, visits to loved ones in hospital and care homes, so instead we'd like to offer you our *warmest regards and hopes for the pleasantest, most convivial time* you can have over the next few weeks.

While happy holidays may be in abeyance for the foreseeable future, we can still take pleasure in what was, in the hope and expectations that they will come again. With this in mind, we invite you to take part in our new project, *Photographs and Memories*, reminding yourself that 'happy holiday' did exist, and sharing your memories of those good times with others. More on page two of this shortened newsletter, but we will be bring you more news from the Kasbah and Morocco in a fuller version in the New Year.

Meanwhile, here's news of how your Christmas gifts can go beyond simply bringing a smile to someone's face by helping others to create a better life when at the moment all seems to be doom and gloom.....



During these times of pandemic, raging forest fires, floods and drought, typhoons and hurricanes, erupting volcanoes, communities worldwide are struggling to survive. But for some, the simple act of daily life is a struggle for survival in itself, and has been for generations. Lack of drinkable water, education, decent sanitation, but for far too many the main lack is simply that of...hope.

While we in the west worry about whether we can spend Christmas with our family, will that promised

gift be delayed because of a world shortage of containers and breakdown of the distribution chains that bring it from the opposite side of the world, or will there even be enough food on our supermarket shelves to celebrate with an overflowing Christmas dinner, there are millions for whom the word 'gift' has little meaning because of crushing poverty or lack of basic amenities.

So, what if you could give a gift that goes beyond the momentary pleasure, but in some distant place we will probably never see, helps toward giving someone the greater gift of clean water, preserves the traditions of nomadic culture, brings light into homes of people living off-grid?

itmustbenow.com has created a list of fourteen gifts that *Do More and Do Better* by working with local communities in a wide range of projects to improve the lives of those for whom Christmas is just another date on a calendar. And remember, the gift of a future isn't just for Christmas.



Photographs and Memories

At the age of thirty, just before the release of his fifth album, American folk and rock singer, Jim Croce, died in an airplane crash, along with five others. One of his most lyrical songs was ***Photographs and Memories***, all he has left after the end of a love affair.

Attributed to Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen, the old saying 'a picture is worth a thousand words', started life with an entirely different meaning in his comment, "A thousand words leave not the same deep impression as does a single deed." After his death in 1906 the quote was plagiarized and para-phrased into what we know today. There may be a time when an image does tell a story, but what it can't do is tell a memory, that can only come from inside.

We'd like to hear from you with your ***Photographs and Memories*** for a special feature we will be creating soon – although if we receive enough they might well make an e-book, but that's a while off yet. It doesn't have to be specifically about the Kasbah itself – although it would be wonderful if it was – but a memory of Morocco that warms the cockles of your heart and brings a smile. For example, you wouldn't think picking up human excrement would be part of one of your fondest memories, and while it isn't the focal point in David Simon's memories of clearing rubbish from Mount Toubkal, it certainly adds to the overall picture. His will be one of the first stories we tell.

If you would like to be part of our ***Photographs and Memories*** feature, we'd like two or three photos and 150 words or less, although we won't be pedantic about the length if it is a really special memory. And don't feel uncomfortable if you don't think you can't write or take a decent photo; we'll work with you to get your memory right and do our best with the photos you supply.

So, we're in your hands. It's your photograph and your memory, and we'd very much like to see and hear them. Please send them to kasbahmagazine@gmail.com, the same address to use if you need any further information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

(Unfortunately, a glitch at the very last moment means that the email address link doesn't work. Please enter it manually in the usual way. Technology, what can you do!!!)

