

GREETINGS FROM NICK CHAUNDY

CHRISTMAS 2008



Another very busy and eventful year....

2008 was a pretty eventful year...

The highlight was my National Trust of Scotland Tour in September. I had a wonderful time and you can read more on page two. A full itinerary can be found on my website:

www.nickessex.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

The past year has seen me carrying on with my voluntary charitable work, especially for the North Essex Wheelchair Users Forum.

Having designed and built a website, www.newuf.org.uk for them, I continue to maintain it for them. I also continue in my role as "Quiz Night" host. These Quiz Nights do take quite a lot of organization and planning but I enjoy doing it.

I joined a Bridge (card game) group this year and now play regularly every week. I really enjoy it, but know I have much to learn!

The 'lowlight' of the year was the sad fact that my home was burgled in early October.

It was not so much the things that were stolen that was so distressing; rather the fact that strangers had rifled through all my personal things. The overwhelming feeling that I experienced, was a truly sickening sense of personal violation and desecration. It is not an experience that I would wish on anyone.

It has taught me some very valuable lessons regarding both personal and home security issues. I have now invested considerable time and effort in addressing these.

On a more positive note it has made me realize just how many truly good friends and neighbours I have.

I can only describe as absolutely fantastic, the way that so many people rallied round to help me through a very difficult and traumatic period.

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Our celebration Venue...



Photo by kind courtesy
of Lochs and Glens Holidays

Having been so impressed by this firm last year I went on another holiday with them in September of this year.

Excursions included a visit to a different National Trust property or garden each day as well as exploring some of the architectural delights of both Edinburgh and Glasgow.

It gives me great pleasure to report that I will be, along with everyone who responded with a 'yes' to my invitation (in last year's Newsletter), going to Scotland for five days to celebrate my 60th.

The hotel is already booked and I am so looking forward to it. I can think of no better way of marking my 60th, than a holiday shared with friends in a superb hotel in a truly

majestic setting in the Trossachs.

I am especially delighted that Karen will be able to join us too. I know that she is looking forward to joining in the fun already!



Family Forum ebbs peacefully away....

Unfortunately the 'Family Forum' area on my website is no more. Only one person responded to my invitation to participate and I do very much appreciate the contribution from Joy. It was, nevertheless, an idea worth trying which just wasn't right at the present time.

People seem to prefer just to visit my [website](#) and provide feedback and family news via e-mail, rather than via an 'open' forum. Thank you to everyone who got in touch. You should all have had a reply or acknowledgement. If anyone has 'slipped through the net' – do please let me know right away.

Karen, now 29, is doing very well and is eagerly anticipating the hectic schedule that is in place for the week of her Christmas holiday here with me. We'll be either visiting, or hosting visitors from, our large circle of family and friends.

As this is the full downloadable version of my Christmas Newsletter, as announced last year, I will be putting a reminder note, with all my contact details, in with this year's Christmas cards. I am more than happy to post you a printed copy if you would like one. All you have to do is contact me just to let me know.

Do take the opportunity to explore the rest of my website. I am adding new features and facilities in accordance with suggestions that people have made. Constructive feedback is always welcome. Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to get in touch with their ideas and suggestions.

The 'Links' section (to websites that I have found useful, amusing or enlightening) has been especially popular, and I will be expanding this further.

I have been asked if I could do a 'blog', a bit like a diary of what I get up to – perhaps in combination with some thoughts and ideas on a variety of topical issues. I am not quite sure of the precise format this would take, so I'll probably try out a few different approaches to this idea and see what feedback I get.

The site works well in both the 'Internet Explorer' and 'Opera' web browsers. I am aware that there are issues with the links not working in the 'Firefox' web browser. I am working to address this particular issue.

Hopefully, you will have enjoyed reading this. It only remains for me to wish you all the very best for 2009, and of course, for you all to have a truly wonderful Christmas!

Nick C.

• *Wishing you all a truly wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year in 2009* •