

Merry Christmas from Andrew and Mikki Young

2008

It was the best of times: it was the worst of times. Andrew's father died but we were able to celebrate and give thanks for his life. It was a time of transition but also a time when our life in the village and our friendships around the world continued to grow and develop.

Kenneth died in March, in his 92nd year. He had been ill for some time. We treasure our memories of the past and the example and values he left us.



Our pictures recall Kenneth's 90th birthday in 2006 and his visit to our "Home from Home" in Walt Disney World in 1994.

At home, we continue our life in the village. This year, Andrew has started to chair the local Police Neighbourhood Panel, which helps set objectives for the Home Beat Team. He also chaired one of the meetings of the "Cluster" of parishes that includes Beckingham. Mikki has continued to produce the village Newsletter, the "Beckingham Bugle" and to chair the fund raising committee organising village activities to help the restoration of the church. We have updated the church website at www.saintsalivebeckingham.org.uk

In her spare time, Mikki now plays tennis at 3 different clubs and exercises up to 3 times a week at a new "ladies only" gym in Newark. Her latest tennis club has courts in a delightful setting in the local village of Leadenham. Mikki won their doubles tournament on her first visit!



Mikki has also added tennis to her activities in Florida (see picture). She arranged to keep a racket in storage there and has had several coaching sessions. Other highlights of our trip in April and May included listening to,



and meeting, Joe Rohde, the “imagineer” behind the design of Animal Kingdom; being appointed an “Intercot” press representative to the launch of the “Toy Story Mania” ride; and stroking a live penguin at “Sea World”.

We continue to enjoy the activities of our Livery Company, the World Traders, and of the Senate of British Junior Chamber. This year we organised one of the Senate weekend events. It was great to be able to welcome people to Lincolnshire and to show them interesting local attractions: from Belton House to the Bubble Car Museum. Checking out Belton House’s wine cellar was just part of the research.



In October, the family got together in the Lake District to remember and celebrate Kenneth. It was a bit wet for fell walking (yes, it was the weekend a race was abandoned) but we didn’t intend that sort of activity. We enjoyed a wonderful hotel, superb autumn colours and the chance to relax and chat; to reminisce and to plan.



Once again, the full re-vamp of our web site has been delayed but www.andrewandmikki.co.uk has had a temporary update. Our toy cat, Figaro, is also adding a Blog to his writing activities. See <http://figarosdiary.blogspot.com>.

We are again pleased to have been able both to visit friends around the country and to welcome visitors to our home. Last Christmas, we told you about our visit to Mikki’s cousin Alison. Her death last December was a sad blow but it was comforting to reflect that we had seen her quite recently.

We are off to Florida again so we started writing this on 5th November: what a great day to look to 2009 with renewed hope for our family, our world and ourselves.

Happy Christmas.