



MCCLOUGHLIN'S MISSIVE

December 2002

2002 flies by... .. By Mike

Another year has gone by and whilst we have been to places and managed to meet up with some friends old and new we have not quite managed to see all we would wish. For those that we did not meet this year—Graham and Diane in Tasmania, Brian in California or at Pete's in S Wales perhaps next year....

If 2001 was John's year then 2002 has to be Ruth's—she turned 21 in August and we were all in the UK for a family party to celebrate. She has now entered her final year at University so next year is also a big one for her.



John on the other hand took some time off having financed himself on a research project in Tanzania he managed to keep his promise and be back for Ruth's birthday. After a bit of soul-searching he has found

himself a good job taking an apprenticeship in Certified Public Accounting.

On the work front Nassau still has its challenges, but gradually progress is being made. At the same time I have been

America but who knows what the next few months will bring.

Travel-wise we have also been quite lucky, with Hazel and I meeting up with Ruth in Miami at Easter for a few days in the Everglades and then a couple of nights on South Beach (you don't really count the days there) —though Ruth was a little miffed that she was barred from many of the entertainment spots as she had not yet reached 21!

In June Hazel and I had a few days in Cuba—and we were both well smitten. We spend the 5 days in Havana, having planned to go further afield we were somewhat thwarted by an afternoon tropical storm which made driving a less-than pleasant experience. Havana, a World Heritage Site, is an interesting mixture (contd. on page 4)

involved in the closing of our Cayman office though as one door closes another opens and I am currently involved in the opening of an office in Brazil. Thus far I've not managed to get down into South

Two down one to go... .. By Hazel

Have we really been in Nassau two years? They've gone so fast! Mike's contract has one more year to run, so if you haven't been yet and would like to visit us, please make your booking soon!

This last year has been so much easier now that we know the ropes. I've found

my niche with the Women's Corona Society, a friendship organisation specifically for expat women. I've been their newsletter editor this year - a job I enjoy as I get to know everything that's going on! I'm also involved with their Help for Children Group, working with the local children's

homes. We take their kids on an excursion once a month, visit them at the homes, supervise playtime and homework etc. They're lovely kids and seem to appreciate what we do for them.

I've been doing a bit of language teaching too and, with (contd. On page 2)



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

- Special points of interest:
- ?? March—Florida—The Everglades and Miami
 - ?? April—John to Tanzania
 - ?? June—Havana
 - ?? August—Ruth's 21st
 - ?? September—John gains employment
 - ?? September—New York



Two down one to go... .

my little MG, am a member of the Antique Auto Club, which has a show every year and does occasional 'fun runs.' Some of the members have lovely old cars, which only get out for the above-mentioned events, while mine is my everyday run-about .

As Mike has said, we've managed a fair bit of travel this year. The Everglades were fascinating, Miami buzzing and Havana captivating. I also made my first trip to New York in September . I was very taken with the city, which I didn't find as overwhelming as I'd feared. I got a stiff neck from constantly gazing up at the skyscrapers – in some parts the sunlight doesn't seem to reach ground-level! Together Mike and I saw a Broadway show, marvelled at the huge neon screens in

Times Square; and took the Statton Island ferry for a good view of the Statue of Liberty. On the last evening, while Mike was at a conference, I went up the Empire State Building and was mesmerised by the fairyland of lights below. Of course I did a bit of shopping too – Fifth Avenue is mind-boggling! We ventured down to Ground Zero, but there's little to see as it's all screened off, though a steel cross, fashioned from two girders rescued from the ruins, is a stark reminder of the terrible tragedy of September 11 last year.

I'm writing this in early October, in preparation for a trip back to the UK, where I plan to leave our Christmas cards to be posted at the right time. When we get back here we'll be well into the run-up to Christmas, with lots of things going on. To

my delight, John and Ruth will both be spending the holiday with us again – each year they come, I wonder if it might be the last, as they set out on their own lives, which doubtless they will tell you about themselves. It just remains for me to wish you all the joy of the season and a happy and rewarding year in 2003.



Another hectic year *By John*

So another hectic year has come to an end, and this year there seems more to write about than ever before. The two main events though were my trip to Tanzania and then the start of hopefully a successful career in accountancy.

After a lot of planning and through working on the Foot and Mouth Crisis I was able to raise the funds to participate in what has got to be one of my best experiences so far, a marine conservation project in Tanzania! The 13 weeks that I had in the 3rd world were very memorable, and really cannot be summed up in a few

words for a Christmas letter. My first experience of Tanzania was getting crammed into a jeep, stopping at traffic lights and some guy trying to sell me 3 machetes through the window!!!! Took me aback just a little! The hustle and bustle on the streets, there is no unemployment, if you don't have a job sell something on the streets! Everyone is your best friend, especially if you wear a T-shirt with Liverpool FC written on it – "my friend, Liverpool good team" and the constant shaking of your hand!

So that was my first impression of Africa,

but camp was a lot different, though just as amazing, and once again took a lot of acclimatisation! The actual project itself unfortunately was not the best run, but the experiences and friendships that I made more than made up for the lack of *(contd. On page 3)*

Is it really that time of year? *By Ruth*

I'm sure it's been asked a million times over, but is it really that time of year again? As always the year seems to have disappeared in the blink of an eye and I really don't know where to begin to tell you all about it. University is still the biggest part of my life at the moment, I am currently in the final year of my E-Commerce degree at Bradford University. All I can say about that is: so far so good. I am still working in the Union bars whilst

at university which I enjoy very much.

Easter was the first big event of my year. I had a lovely weeks holiday in Florida with Mum and Dad, travelling around the Everglades and finally ending up in South Beach, Miami. Although the whole holiday was great, I particularly enjoyed South Beach. The place is just buzzing with life and activity and the weather is just my cup of tea. Whilst in Miami I enjoyed a spot of shopping, what else is a girl to do

when stuck in a huge American shopping mall with money to spend? I then had a couple of weeks in the Bahamas before heading back to university.

In May I met my current boyfriend, James, who currently works as a Core Systems Developer for a publishing company in Leicester. As an ex Bradford University student he is largely involved with the union's Technical Services Association *(contd. On page 3)*



Is it really that time of year?

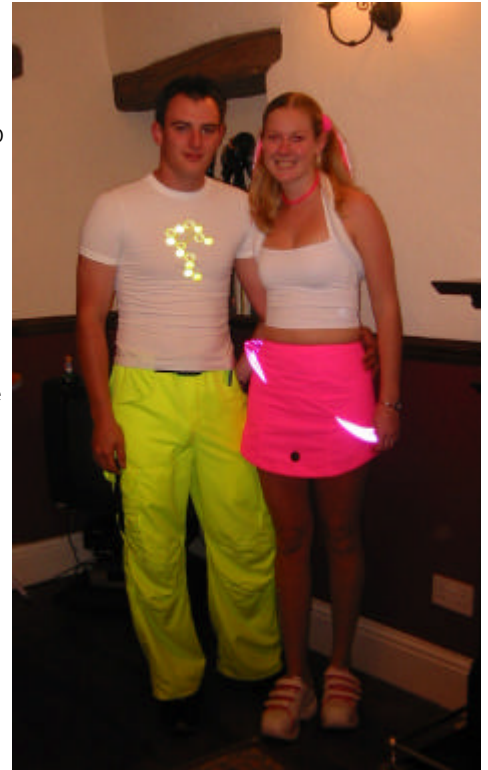
who manage the lighting and sound for union events. We met through my work and a mutual friend.

I went over the Bahamas for a couple of weeks in June where I topped up my tan, but returned to England for most of my summer. I kept my job at the union bar over the summer working a few shifts as and when they arose, but spent most of the time just 'chilling' - a much needed break. I also celebrated my 21st Birthday, I had a party with friends which is just about memorable and thanks to John, James and my friend Vicky I actually got home! Mum and Dad also threw me a family party where it was nice to see my relatives. Thank you very much to all those who came and thank you once again for all the lovely gifts, I am a lucky girl! The other highlight of the summer was my trip to Gatecrasher, a trance super-club in Sheffield. James (who is a dedicated 'Crasher' goer) introduced me to

the "cyber" culture of clubbing and we both got into our cyber gear (bright fluorescent clothing) for a very enjoyable (and eye opening) night. A couple of old friends of mine from Wales also came up to share in the fun. Somewhere along the line James and I also managed to fit in two trips to Alton Towers (England's largest theme park), celebrate James', his mum's, sister's and my dad's birthday and even decorate my room at Mum and Dad's house here in England.

Well that pretty much brings you up to date. I am off over to the Bahamas once again for Christmas, this time with James, although he returns to England for Christmas at home where I will join him for New Year.

I think that all there is left for me to say is, I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Another hectic year

diving - a total of 13! Couple that with living in huts made of dried palm fronds, living by a beach with only a small walk to a local village, where numerous football games were played against the locals (and do they take their football seriously!!), the way we travelled when we had to leave camp! Just look at the photo,

what fun! I haven't done camp life enough justice in this short paragraph, there are many other things that should be said, but I will just have to tell you all in person next time I see you!

After the camp I had a few relaxing days on Zanzibar recovering from infected cuts

and lack of decent food, swam with Dolphins, then went back to the mainland. There I climbed Mt Meru and did a 5 day safari, again an experience that I would recommend to anyone! All in all I had a superb time, and would definitely go back or do it all again!

On my return I had to decide what I was to do career wise and soon found myself in a second interview to become a trainee public sector accountant. Although I was sent to London by mistake (and not Leeds) for this interview I was offered the job and am now currently undergoing a three year training course to become a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Financial Accounting (CIPFA). I have been working for over a month now, and am starting to enjoy it. As part of the training course I have to attend university once a week which is a bit of a shock to have to do that again, but am managing at the moment very nicely.

So that's me, and what I have been up to. All that is left now is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and good luck for the New Year. I hope I will see you soon!



Hazel & Mike

PO Box N-757

Nassau

Bahamas

Tel: 1 242 327 7950

Fax: 44 870 161 4586

E-mail: mike@mcloughlin.uk.com

hazel@mcloughlin.uk.com

John

2 Vicarage Ave

Leeds LS5 3HH

Tel: 44 791 902 4473

E-mail: john@mcloughlin.uk.com

Ruth

B22A Arkwright Hall

Tumbling Hill Street

Bradford BD7 1DB

W Yorks

Tel: 44 870 839 2223

E-mail: ruth@mcloughlin.uk.com

Photos

Page 1: Family photo

Page 2: Empire States Building, again
the tallest building in NY

Page 3: Ruth & James "cyber" gear
John in Tanzania

Page 4: Capitol, Havana
South Beach, Miami

**See more photos on our web-
site:**

www.mcloughlin.uk.com



2002– flies by... ..

of rundown and renovated, and whilst poverty is evident the people are exceedingly friendly and one felt very safe strolling from one bar to the next to listen to good jazz.

Work has taken me to Cayman, Toronto, New York and Switzerland which tied in with a couple of trips to the UK.

In Nassau we spent less time than we wished on the water as Bonnie Lass needed some major tlc, nevertheless the freezer seldom ran out of a goodly stock of mahi mahi.

That leaves me just enough space to wish you a very Merry Christmas and send my best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2003.

