

27/11/15

Hello my Australian family,

And so ends a very difficult year for me, made a lot easier by your support from down under. Thank you so much.

Just a few points if I may.

When Maureen became ill I had the step to the front door lengthened so that the four wheels of the wheelchair would fit. Before there was only room for the back wheels. The work was done and it looked good.

I never locked that door because if I went out the nurse or Doctor would need to get in.

That first night on my own coming home in the dark after a trip to the hospice I could not find the keyhole. Pitch back and the keyhole is now 30mm lower because the step has an extra slab.

Silly things like that but I coped.

As you know I have been travelling a bit this year. I enjoy it but it is a lonely life with nothing but the Sat Nav to talk to, she is very patient. The new hybrid car helps, motorway travel with cruise control and all mod cons is very nice.

I hope you enjoyed my videos of the Somerset Carnival

<https://sites.google.com/site/rawkinsft/home/carnival-2015>

In June I replied to an ad in the local paper. The UK organisation for the blind RNIB wanted help.

In for penny in for a pound I applied and now help the blind on the Island who need help with new tech such as Phones, iPad and computers.

My first customer wanted to play chess, should he buy an iPhone or an iPad? Can you imagine, he is 69 years old totally blind since he was 13 playing chess on a plain piece of glass!

The next time we met he had a new iPad and was doing fine. "Look", he said. "This is the BBC web site but .....". I look but can't see a thing. Unbeknown to him he has turned the screen OFF.

The iPad is speaking to him and he is happy. It took me an hour to sort it out.

Great fun and I am learning all the time.

End of November and the first snow is near, dark and cold days mean that I can't do much in the garden. I do enjoy the companionship I get helping the Island scouts every Monday. Draining down all the water tanks and toilets because of the frost is not that much fun.

<https://sites.google.com/site/rawkinsft/>

Christmas oh no Christmas. My three Daughters / step Daughters are all in a split family I had thought that I would see them Boxing day or something. But no it's all too difficult. There is only one boat on Christmas day

A Neighbour has invited me for Christmas lunch here which is good as it will be a sad day for me.

I will walk to the Bay and talk to Maureen, have lunch and then watch Dr Who on my own.

Sorry this has become a bit of sob story.

Can I make it to Australia in 2016? Part of me says go for it YES you can.

The other part says it's all too much.

I have an old school friend in Perth WA who will be visiting me this summer. He lost his wife in September and we talk a lot, it helps.

May be I can visit him and you?

First I have to get a Passport

Enough !!

Thank you so much for your help this year

Have a great Christmas (on the beach) and a good New Year

Love to you all