



DafNews



Issue Number 11

July 2009

A Fairy Story

Hayley: "Tell us the truth about the tooth fairy mummy, because I can't believe how a small fairy could carry all that money around; and if the fairy isn't true then neither is Father Christmas." [Editor: "Boo Hoo!"]

Shop-a-Horrid

Jonny wouldn't help pack the shopping but preferred to browse the magazine rack. Andrew, for helping, was rewarded with a magazine of his choice. Jonny objected and said that he would have helped if asked. Nicola said the difference was that Andrew didn't need to be asked. In the car on returning home Jonny said "I would have helped to unpack but I am not going to now." (Editor "Ooooh!")

Christmas Cheer

I don't know whether Murphy and Twinkle thought so as they spent the festive season in a cattery. Still, all others had a good time when Geoff & Sheila spent Christmas Day with Melanie, Lee, Beth & Hayley and Boxing Day with Nicola, Mike, Jonny & Andrew. Grandpa refused to sleep in the same room as the boys - I wonder why!

To welcome in the New Year, Nicola, Mike, Jonny, Andrew & Monty came to stay with Geoff & Sheila. Henry & Monty enjoyed a stroll in Sturminster Newton and along the River Stour

It's Music Time!

Geoff fulfilled a long outstanding ambition to learn to play a musical instrument when he popped down to Sherborne to buy a clarinet. Too old? Not according to the dealer who had sold one recently to a 90 year old! Still, good progress is being made with several short pieces in his repertoire. Keep at it Geoff!

Invasion of the Snowmen!

It seemed a bit like that when rarely seen snow fell heavily resulting in a plethora of snowmen throughout the region. They even invaded peoples gardens!



Bath Time, Girls.

Not in the literal sense though, when Grandma & Grandpa took Beth & Hayley to the City of Bath when they stayed for a few days during half term in February. They visited the Roman Baths and Fashion Museum. Nicola, Jonny, Andrew & Monty also came down for a day.



Birthjay Celebrations

Six years old and six guests (in the form of Grandma, Grandpa, Aunties Nicola & Melanie and cousins Jonny



& Andrew) who presented Jay with Lego, Lego and more Lego.

After the birthday party Grandma, Grandpa & Auntie Melanie went to Basingstoke to see Hayley participate in the Hampshire Youth Music Concert. The Westfields school choir sang in "The Mary Rose", a new composition by Birmingham born composer Martin Read.

At the end of the month the same choir took part in an excellent performance of Carl Orf's Carmina Burana at Yateley Manor School.

Grandma's Day!

Lots of fuss and gifts for a much loved Mum and Grandma on a day spent with loving daughters & their families.



Poor Monty

Monty was missing Henry so much that he had to travel to Gillingham to see his brother during the Easter break. Nicola, Jonny & Andrew came too.

Another Birthday Bash

Yet more fuss for Sheila when she celebrated her 64th with Nicola, Melanie & families and an overnight stay at Nicola's. **Happy Birthday Sheila!**

Pick of the Poets

Along with other school colleagues Hayley had one of her poems published. Hopefully, she will sign our copy of the book when delivered.

Operation

Following visits to consultants in Surrey and London Sheila was required to spend the final days of April in hospital in Sutton for an operation. Geoff and Henry stayed half board with Nicola during her stay and the lucky cats had another holiday in Motcombe. Henry disgraced himself by rolling in something smelly!

Treasure that Job

In early May Geoff was elected Treasurer of the Gillingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry. This is a voluntary job to help understand the needs of local businesses. He also volunteered to maintain the Chamber's web site.

A Weekend Away

When Beth stayed with Grandma and Grandpa for three nights cooking cakes for her sister's birthday a little secret was revealed.

Most children (and many adults) like to scrape cake mixture bowls. During this process, Beth related to Grandma that Mummy (Melanie) had told her that when she, Nicola & Darren were young they used to make up bowls of cake mixture and eat it when Mum and Dad went out.

"Did they now!" was Grandma's response. "I shall have word with Mummy about that."

Hip, Hip, Hay ley

Eleven years on and it's Hayley's birthday once again. Presents included a portable DVD player from Grandma

& Grandpa.

Jonny's Birthday

More birthday fun and football when Jonny had family around to celebrate his 11th birthday. Presents included a mobile phone, Mario Kart, Professor Leighton and books.

He also went on a school trip for a few days to Paris departing at 7.30am. A coach took them to Paris on Eurostar and places visited included The Palace of Versailles, the Eiffel Tower and Napoleon's Tomb. They also had a night boat trip down the Seine. They returned to the school at 5.30pm where Mum was waiting.

Bison

Grandma, Grandpa and Hayley visited a Bison farm when she came to stay for a few days during the Spring Bank Holiday. The rest of the time was spent relaxing and reading until Auntie Nicola took her home after a visit with Jonny, Andrew and, of course, Monty.

Whereabouts?

Wherewell, to be exact, which is where Geoff, Sheila, Nicola & family met up for a 7 mile 'easy' walk. It should have been 6 miles but SOMEBODY took us the wrong way. Still, food & refreshments were enjoyed at Sheila's regular to finish off a very pleasant day.

Busy Time

It seemed that way with a busy May & June for Sheila & Geoff attending events in support of the local Lions group. They also visited local attractions and spent Father's Day with Nicola, Melanie & families. Visitors to Gillingham included friends and family. There were also a



number of grandchildren events to attend.

Grandparents Day

A fun half day was spent with Hayley, friends and other Grandparents playing games both old & new. Hayley's group consisted of her friends Christine, Sarah and Aleka.



Mulan

For the end of year concert, Westfields School put on a production of Mulan, based on the story of a Chinese girl warrior, at the Camberley Civic Hall. Hayley was cast as a Chinese soldier. In the new school year she joins her sister, Beth, at Yateley Comprehensive School.

Sports Days

June concluded with Andrew's School Sports Day, which Jonny also attended during his recuperation from an operation. Hayley's Sports Day followed early July.

Rolls

It was after she noticed a particularly horrible and persistent smell in Jonny's bedroom that Nicola decided to investigate. She found several weeks worth of uneaten bread rolls, of varying colour and consistency, stuffed in a corner. A 'too busy' Jonny hadn't found time to eat them at school. Somehow, I don't think Jonny is ever going to get fat!

Cats' Summer Break

Lucky Murphy & Twinkle had a pleasant long weekend in the Turnpike Cattery in July when Geoff & Sheila spent a few days with Janice & Graham, calling in on Zoe & Roman, Justin & Maria and Valerie & John.