



DaFNews



Issue Number 13

December 2010

Welcome the 2010 edition of DaFNews.

With the drift towards teenage years the humorous kiddy quotes have passed and taken us into the realms of argumentative and 'picked on' children. Still, this newsletter hopefully acts as a diary of some family events with the occasional interesting anecdote.

A Welcome to the New Year

The New Year was welcomed by Geoff, Sheila, Nicola, Mike, Jonny & Andrew when the 'Pope' family and Monty came to stay until the start of the new school term. The 'celebrations' included a muddy river walk at Sturminster Newton and a scary time for Henry when crossing a bridge over the River Stour.

Heavy rainfall later in the month also resulted in high water levels in the River Stour, which tends to offer interesting photo opportunities.



Mistaken Identity

First instance:

A neighbour from the days when Melanie was living in Farnborough North went into the shop where Melanie worked and thought it was Nicola.

Second Instance

A lady, who knows the family, saw Melanie and thought it was Sheila saying "Hello Sheila. I didn't know you had moved back into the area.". Melanie played along with it for a while before admitting that she wasn't Sheila.

Well, what do we read into these encounters? Firstly, that the family resemblance is strong and secondly that either Melanie looks 60 or Sheila looks 40. I think we'll go for the latter!

Mum's Day at Nicola's

A trio of Mums celebrated their special day in March at Nicola's this year. Lot's of



fun and grub, as usual, and cuddles from sons and daughters.

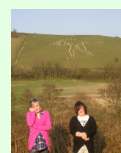
This was also the month of Jay's 7th birthday when members of the family called at his home to congratulate him on joining the local police force.



Visitors Galore!

Nicola & family stayed for a few days during half term in April. Good fun was had with games, model making and walks with Monty and Henry in the local area..

This visit was followed a few days later when, Janice & Graham came to stay for a couple of nights. Then, believe it or not, Melanie, Beth & Hayley came to stay. Outings included Sherborne Castle and Weymouth, where



Hayley, Melanie and Geoff built sandcastles whilst Beth and Sheila went shopping (boring!). The day ended with a detour to see the

Cern Giant, which prompted lots of giggles for some reason.

Sheila also celebrated her birthday with the family, first at Melanie's and then with an evening meal at a local restaurant.



Family Visit

In May, Geoff & Sheila spent a couple of days in Kent to visit Geoff's Aunt Mabel and family and see some local attractions, including Leeds Castle where talking birds in the aviary had a group of German tourists in fits of laughter. B&B on the outward journey was provided by Nicola (on Jonny's birthday) and Janice & Graham., who also supplied B&B on the homeward journey.



In the same month Hayley celebrated her birthday with a family & friends gathering and Geoff & Sheila attended a very enjoyable open air band concert with fireworks at Bovington Tank Museum. In spite of some spectators moaning about other people sitting in front of them, most enjoyed a picnic during the interval.



90 Years Old!

The major event in May was, of course, Sheila's Mum's ninetieth birthday. This was celebrated in the communal area of the sheltered accommodation where she lives. In addition to her neighbours many members of the family joined her in the celebrations. Geoff prepared a short 'life

story' for her and Grandson Colin sent her a congratulatory video from him and his family in Australia. Plenty of food and drinks were supplied by members of the family.



The Last Time

Nicola, Jonny & Andrew paid, as it happened, their final visit to Gillingham at the beginning of June and during their stay visited Cheddar Gorge with Geoff & Sheila.



Boat trip in Poole

Sheila & Geoff enjoyed fireworks and a fish & chip supper when they joined the Lions Club in a boat trip around Poole Harbour. This was Geoff's final contact with the Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury Lions prior to the move back to Hampshire.

Relocation (again)

After three years in North Dorset Geoff & Sheila moved back to Hampshire, mainly for family reasons, on 30th June. After much house searching in Hampshire and Surrey they finally found a property in the Southwood area of Farnborough. Sheila was pleased, as Morrisons Supermarket was only two minutes walk away. They made the most of their last days in Dorset by visiting a number of local Gardens and Geoff took some photographs of the local area as reminder of the rural setting.



Land of Our Fathers

Three days after moving to Farnborough Sheila, Geoff & Henry drove to West Wales staying in Aberaeron. On the return journey they called in to see Lee's Auntie Heather in Carmarthen and were treated to sandwiches and cake.



Back to the West Country

At the beginning of August Geoff &

Sheila took Melanie, Beth & Hayley for week in Devon at a Dawlish cavavan site. Apart from the late night drinking by noisy neighbours they had a good time which included pony watching and river boulder climbing on Dartmoor. They also rated local restaurants with McDonald's achieving the highest score.



Near the Top of the Hill?

Well, it is for Melanie who celebrated her 40th birthday this year with a party for family and friends.



Egg Head!

That's Beth, when she saw a fox burying eggs on a TV wildlife program and said "I didn't know foxes laid eggs". Durrrr!

Melanie's New Job

Melanie left her job at the Card Department in August and started her new employment in the finance department at Yateley School (to keep an eye on Beth & Hayley).

Guernsey

Geoff & Sheila paid their first visit to the Channel Islands in September. Apart from a car breakdown (battery), and a very helpful hotel proprietor, they had a good time soaking up the history, which included the WWII occupation.



September Birthdays

This year it was dog walking and lunch with Nicola and a family gathering for Andrew with cousins, grandparents



Hayley's Concert

In October Hayley performed in a 'rock' concert, as a member of Clive's Music School, at Newlands Primary School, Yateley. She was the only girl member and sang a solo accompanied by others in the group.

Sean & Jay's Day Out

Following a long period of little contact Sean and Jay enjoyed a session of bowling with their Grandma & Grandpa, followed by a walk around Virginia Waters with their cousins and finished the day at a carvery. An enjoyable time had by all.



Wartime Memories

Geoff joined Nicola, Jonny & Andrew when they paid a visit to the Imperial War Museum in South London.

Dad & Grandpa's Day

Great fun was had, particularly by Grandpa Geoff, when Jay's school held a Dad & Grandpa's Day. The task involved making a photoframe which was assembled by Grandpa, with Jay's help, and decorated by Jay.



Not "oven" a good time

Not good news for Nicola, and later Melanie, when their ovens packed up.

Nicola's New Job

Welcome news for Nicola who, from the new year, will be working two days a week in the Wokingham branch of the Newbury Building Society.

.... And more birthdays

Sean's joined the 'guitar gang' with Hayley & Andrew when he received a guitar for this birthday. Beth had a camera, among other things.



Christmas

Christmas this year was spent with Melanie & girls (25th), Nicola & family (26th) and Darren & family (27th).

Finally

HAPPY NEW YEAR