



# DafNews



Issue Number 14

December 2011

## Welcome to the New Year

To welcome in the New Year Geoff, Sheila & Henry spent New Year's day with Nicola, Mike, Jonny, Andrew & Monty. Henry & Monty got inebriated.

## Grumpy Grandparents

Grandpa felt privileged when Beth said that will only visit Grandpa when he is old because he doesn't moan about aches and pains like her other Grandparents. Charming!

## Just Le' Go

Jay celebrated his birthday in the usual way with lots of ...? Yes, you've got it - Lego! Still, in years to come he could make a killing on *ebay*.



## Pecking Order

When Nicola offered to pick up Grandpa when his car went in for service she asked if anyone wanted to accompany her. No one did; but Jonny did say that he would have come if Grandma had been with him. Know your place Grandpa!

## Jets and Sharks

An excellent performance of West Side Story was staged by Yateley School in March and attended by Melanie, Beth, Hayley, Geoff & Sheila. Beth & Hayley went along with friends. Come on! They don't want to be seen with Mum and Grandparents.

## Rock Time

Clive's Music presented one of their regular rock concerts in April in which Hayley (guitar) sang a duet. Well done Hayley!

## Birthday Bash

Sheila's birthday was celebrated this year with a birthday bash at the Royal Victoria Country Park. She was accompanied by Geoff, Nicola, Melanie, all the grandchildren and, of course, Henry & Monty. All had a great time at the park followed by a meal in the evening (except for the dogs who had their usual boring old Bakers).



## Grandpa's Guilt

Grandpa nearly caused a family bust up when he booked a week break for himself and Grandma in York and was away for Hayley's birthday. Hopefully, he was forgiven when they took Hayley to Hampston Court the following month.



Jonny was luckier on his birthday; Grandpa didn't 'desert' him. However, someone forgot the camera (**not Grandpa**); so, no pics!!!!

## RIP Edith

A sad June when Sheila's aunt Edith, her mum's sister, passed away aged 89. Unfortunately, Sheila's mum had also been admitted into hospital following a problem

with eating and swallowing.

## Sea and Sand

The second family outing this year was when Melanie (sorry Nicola, you missed out on this one) and the grandchildren joined Grandma & Grandpa for a day at the sea - The Witterings. Jonny wasn't very popular with Jay for filling in the holes he dug in the sand and Grandpa built a car, which didn't get very far because its wheels were stuck in the sand!



## Family Gathering

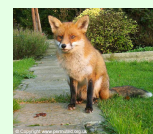
At the beginning of June Geoff met up with a cousin from Australia, whom he had not seen since just after World War II, along with a few other cousin relatives.

## Land of Our Fathers

Geoff, Sheila & Henry were joined by Sheila's sister Janice and brother-in-law Graham for a week in Pembrokeshire. Whilst there Geoff & Sheila visited Lee's Aunt Heather who showed them around Carmarthen, from where most of Geoff's Davies ancestors originate.

## Foxes Lay Eggs?

Foxes are very dexterous and can handle, bury and dig up eggs without breaking them. So, when Beth overheard Terry Pope saying that he was



fed up with foxes burying eggs in his garden, guess what she said?

*'I didn't know foxes laid eggs'*

[Time for revision before the exams I think.]

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### Nellie Moves Home

Realising that she struggles looking after herself, Sheila's mum moved into a care home in July. The home provides private rooms for occupants, communal rooms for social activities and, what appear to be, tasty meals. Staff are available 24 hours to look after and help the residents. Nellie also has her own television for those things she likes to watch.



### Another 40th Birthday

This year it was Martie's turn to reach the half-way (?) point. Geoff and Sheila treated her, Darren & Duncan to a meal at "The Hatch" to celebrate. Down the hatch!!!



### Andrew's & Nicola's Birthdays

Two more family birthday bashes took place in September for Andrew and Nicola. Darren (Mr Shorts) turned up at Nicola's party to give his sister a big cuddle.



### 30 Years On

At the end of September Geoff & Sheila visited Chester and Snowdonia, bringing back memories of 30 years ago. Re-visits were made to Bety's-Y-Coed, Conwy and Portmeirion, passing through the Snowdonia National Park where Geoff took a photograph of the rocks the children climbed on those many years ago. Geoff recognised the rocks as he sped along the winding mountain road. Surprisingly, the children didn't believe him!



### Deer Me!

When Andrew was writing a report on the advantages and disadvantages of living in different localities (city, urban & rural) he had to list the environmental concerns for each locality. One of the negatives he cited for the urban area was the presence of 'rutting deer'. His Mum, Nicola, agreed stating that she was indeed fed up with being woken up early in the morning by the sound of rutting deer on the estate.



### 70 Year Milestone

Geoff reached the 70 year milestone this year with a buffet prepared by Nicola & Melanie at Nicola's home. Geoff (and Sheila) were entertained by their two daughters and Mike (Melanie and Mike part time as football was on), Beth, Hayley, Jonny, Andrew and Sean. Lucky Geoff had two cakes - one fruit (favourite) and one chocolate (for those who don't eat the former).



### Sean & Jay Go Techie

Sean & Jay enjoyed (we hope) an outing to Intech Science Centre and Planetarium near Winchester. Fussy eater Jay said he didn't want anything to eat and then proceeded to eat a granary doorstep sandwich and a chocolate (sorry, clotchet) chip cookie.

### Jay Joins the Music Circle

What with Sean, Hayley and Andrew on guitars, Jonny on the keyboards, Jay now joins Grandpa on the clarinet.

### Beth's Work Study

This summer Beth had her first taste of work experience. For the first week she helped in a hairdressers in Yateley and for the second at the Sandhurst Military Academy in the catering department. Currently, her ambition is to work in catering.

### Wanted!

Nicola certainly was when she was offered employment for three days per week at the Newbury Building Society in Basingstoke following the termination of her maternity cover at the society's branch in Wokingham, where she will be sorely missed.

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### One Beer Beth

It was when Beth came home from a party because everyone was being sick from drinking too much. Hm. It was subsequently found out that she had been sick herself after drinking a pint of cider. Still, 'One Cider Beth' doesn't sound the same as 'One Beer Beth'.

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### Who "Invented" Electricity

That was Jonny when he asked his Mum, Nicola, was invented when she was born. That was electrifying!

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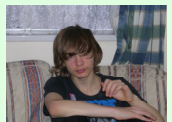
### The Frog Prince

*The horror was lurking in the garden rubbish bag waiting to leap out at the unsuspecting gardener. The gardener tried to ignore the bag hoping that by some miracle it would be taken away by some chivalrous person. If only Melanie knew that the frog lurking in the bag might actually change into a handsome prince then she might not have been so SCARED.*



### Sean's Birthday

Yummy cakes were demolished when Geoff, Sheila, Melanie, Beth & Hayley joined Sean to celebrate his birthday.



### Jay's Christmas Play

A humorous variation on 'The Nativity' was the subject of Jay's school play, attended by Grandma & Grandpa.

