



Dan News



Issue Number 15

December 2012

2012 was an eventful year in more ways than one, not least with the sad loss of Sheila's Mum on 20th October at the grand old age of 92.

Geoff & Sheila 'teamed up' with friends Godfrey & Jenny and formed the Wednesday Walkers, which entails an average 5 mile ramble with a pub en route for a coffee break and a pub at the end for a meal. Terrain includes horrible hills and mucky mud; but it's all good fun, especially when they get lost due to vague directions or 'out-of-date' guide books.

Melanie now has a routine in which she visits the supermarket on Sunday and pops in to see Mum & Dad and scrounge dinner!

Welcome to the New Year

The New Year was welcomed in by Geoff, Sheila, Nicola, Mike, Jonny and Andrew. Melanie joined them for dinner whilst Henry & Monty watched and the cats slept.



Reaching the Wrong Conclusion

Andrew upset Grandpa early in the year when, during conversation, he said to Grandpa 'Now that you are approaching the conclusion of your life' Certainly not the right thing to say to a sensitive seventy year old.

Geoff Comes out of Retirement

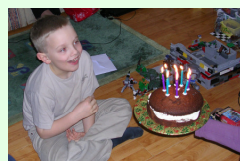
Once again, Geoff decided that he was enjoying retirement too much, so took the opportunity in February to go back to work for an old colleague (Dan) who used to work for Datanet. Geoff was able to rejoin old colleagues from his time at

Datanet. (The real reason though was that he wanted another retirement party.)

So while Geoff works, Sheila goes out wining and dining with friends. (Alright for some!)

Jay Reaches Nine!

As usual, the year starts off with Jay's birthday; and this year it's his ninth! Of course, no one will EVER guess what he had for his birthday, apart from the yummy birthday cake. (No prizes I'm afraid.)



Petrified in Petersfield



That's what happened to Grandpa when Jonny, Andrew, Geoff & Sheila visited Petersfield with Henry & Monty. One must admit that the boys look a bit sheepish.

The Bare Facts

Certainly Jonny was not aware of them when, after putting rubbish in recycling bins outside in bare feet, Nicola asked him why he didn't have any socks or shoes on; to which his reply was 'I didn't know I was outside.'

Sheila Gets a 3 for 1 Birthday Treat

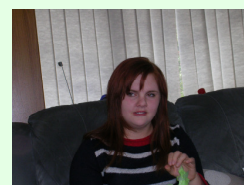


Not only was Sheila treated to a pre-birthday family gathering at Melanie's house (complete with the mandatory birthday

cake) but, on her birthday, she enjoyed a walk around Godalming followed by a meal at the Ely.

Back in Time

Grandpa nearly committed a faux par when he booked a few days to visit Cardiff with Sheila and only just made it back in time for



Hayley's birthday. The fourteen year old forgave the imprudence.

Oh no, not another birthday!



Yes Jonny. We realise that it's not that exciting but in addition to the can of Coke you have to have the family around to share the cake and give you presents.

You Rock

The You Rock concert held this spring featured Hayley on guitar and vocals. It was attended as usual by many members of the family.

The Power of the (Lego) Force!



Jay's dream came true when he visited Legoland with Geoff and Sheila. Although he found Legocity and other attractions interesting, his main focus was on the special Star Wars exhibition.

However, he was lucky to escape the clutches of Darth Vader, thanks to his use

of the force.

All the Fun of the Fair



It's that time of year again when the Hollycombe magnet becomes too strong to resist. The favourite must be the 'Razzle Dazzle' for

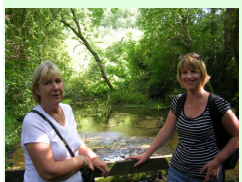
a rollicking ride.

Water Music

For Geoff's 70th birthday Nicola & Melanie treated him and Sheila to a cruise on the River Thames complete with dinner, wine & jazz band.



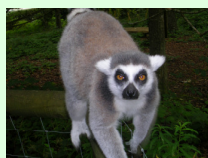
Bishops Waltham



Geoff, Sheila, Nicola, Jonny & Andrew joined Henry & Monty for an enjoyable stroll around Bishops Waltham to view the bishop's palace ruins and the source of the River Hamble bubbling up through the sand.

Sean & Jay Monkey Around

Well they certainly were a couple of monkeys when they paid a visit to Monkeyworld in August. So much so that one lemur thought he recognised Jay.



Alice Holt



Back to Alice Holt woodland when Geoff & Sheila got lumbered with all the boys. The picnic was preceded by the compulsory walk and followed by ball games. One can glean from the photograph that they had an exciting day.

All Play No Work?

With Beth having joined the 6th Form this year and Jonny next year, both took

part in work experience during the summer.

Beth spent one week at a local hairdresser followed by a second week waitressing at the Sandhurst Military Academy.

Jonny spent a week working for a design agency which is part of the Company where his dad (Mike) works.

Hayley, having an interest in animal welfare, also took the opportunity to help out at an open day held by a local farm.

Dave & Jenny's Visit



Family friends Dave & Jenny dropped in for a couple of days whilst on their way to a Baltic Cruise. Following a few local trips, family members joined them for dinner.

Melanie's Birthday

This year's 'guests' at Melanie's birthday were her Auntie Janice & Uncle Graham. Her most exciting present was a set of telephones from Mum & Dad!!!



Andrew's Awesome Birthday



Could it be anything else when he enjoyed a meal with his family and favourite Grandma & Grandpa.

Another Milestone

At 44, Nicola celebrated this milestone with her family, Mum, Dad, sister and two nieces. Her cake had eight candles?.....Of course, 4 + 4.



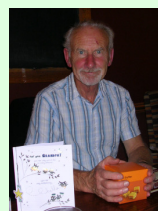
Mum Passes Away



On the 20th October Sheila's Mum passed away peacefully aged 92, the last close family member of that generation. Possibly the last photograph of her was with her two great grandsons Jonny and Andrew at the residential home where she was living.

Scarface's Birthday

Once again to attract attention on his birthday Grandpa had to bash himself on the head. (The fudge cured that!) It was really Henry's & Monty's fault for pushing the car door open.



Triple Treat



Following the death of Sheila's Mum, the family held a party to celebrate Geoff's & Mike's birthdays and Mum's(Nell) life.

You Can't Have Your Cake and Eat It.

It was certainly a bit like that when everyone was too full after Martz's birthday dinner for Darren to eat any cake. Not to worry, more for you Darren (or Duncan).



Sophia



Geoff & Sheila became great great uncle and aunt when their nephew's daughter gave birth to Sophia, shown in the photo with her grandfather Steve.

Sean's Birthday

Sean managed to haul himself away from his laptop to celebrate his 16th birthday and (share) the chocolate cake.



Bethany's Birthday



Beth enjoyed her 17th birthday out for meals with family & friends (and being chucked out of Frankie & Bennys).

You Rock Concert

Hayley's second appearance this year on guitar and as a great vocalist. Well done Hayley!

Happy New Year to everyone