

2001 - New Discoveries



2001 has been a year which centred around many new discoveries and experiences. At the start of the year, it appeared that it would be of greatest significance to Tony and the children in terms of the number of flights planned. In early January, we had already started planning for a summer trip to Jersey to attend the wedding of one of Tony's

cousins. Daria was starting to organise a trip for her wine students and Italian students to the Chianti region, planned for late October.

Following yet another memorable Ukrainian Christmas, plans had also started for a visit to Ukraine in May. From never having flown in their lives, it now appeared that Tony, Robert and Natalie would accomplish significant flying hours this year.

Unfortunately, the Ukrainian trip had to be postponed to another year. The Italian holiday in Chianti never did get off the ground, leaving only the wedding in Jersey. But sadly, this too was cancelled. However, our "luxury accommodation" on the island was already booked.

These disappointments were soon put to one side as Daria once again became involved in organising a Comic Relief evening, this time on a much larger scale. This was held on 16th March. The event required us to decorate a Scout Hall in Alverstoke in one afternoon with red bunting, noses and bloomers, which the whole family, including Daria's Mum, brother and sister-in-law, became involved. About 100 people took part in various competitions, obviously dominated by a wine tasting theme. Despite a few disasters, the evening was an enormous success and £500.00 was raised for the charity.

With the Ukrainian trip off, we decided to trace family roots in a different direction. Whilst surfing on the Internet at New Year, Tony discovered a link to a place with the name of Ballykenefick in County Cork, Ireland. With no other plans for half term, we decided to trace the Kenefeck line back to this place to see if there was a connection.

Although the trip was highly enjoyable, no significant knowledge was gained, although it became clear that the Kenefecks did have links to this

place. On his return to England, Tony continued research and found potential relations in America and London, who it is hoped will fill in some of the gaps. He has also produced his own version of the history of the Kenefecks/Keneficks and has supplied details of the family history all round the world. Well and truly bitten by the bug, continued research has enabled him to find details of his previously unknown great-great-grandfather and the link back to Ireland.

Rob, too, has had a busy year. Now 15½, he did his work experience in the spring, working for a small computer resale company in Portsmouth. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience and has learned to strip down and rebuild computers. He found that not only did he gain useful knowledge but he was also rewarded for his hard work with computer spares and cash. He has kept in touch and works for them whenever time allows. We now possess several laptops as a result, and Rob has now built his own computer.



His scouting career continues to be his other main passion. Various camps have been attended and Rob now acts as a Senior Patrol Leader / Helper. He has worked hard this year for his Chief Scout Award, which will be presented to him early in 2002.

Natalie is still keen on Guides and has also made Sixer earlier this year. She has now introduced several of her school friends to the pack.



On the school front, Natalie spent a week on the Isle of Wight at an adventure camp, Little Canada, and managed to return in one piece.

Rob is studying for his GCSE's in May/June next year.

Daria has also had a successful year continuing her studies and is now left with only one module to complete for her BSc in Maths. In the meantime she keeps herself busy by teaching 2 Italian classes and 2 Wine classes each week, which continue to go from strength to strength. Her 3rd year students were her first students through GCSE, and the entire group of 8 passed with flying colours, all A's and one A*. Her wine students seem to be less successful, as some have now been coming for over 10 years and still, apparently, need to learn more!



Tony at work as "The Laughing Musketeer" on Children in Need day in November!

Apart from family history, Tony continues to spend his time working for the Halifax in Andover and still manages to play 5-a-side football each week!!! At home, he is still working on a project which seems to have involved rebuilding the en-suite entirely in order to solve a leaking shower tray.

To return to holidays, because our plans looked so busy earlier in the year, we decided to miss out on Italy. Apart from our holiday in Ireland, where we spent much time cycling, we also put these skills to good use in Jersey. The luxury accommodation turned out to be a campsite where the mattress bed was a 1" thick roll of foam. The idea of using bikes as the only form of transport on an island 9 miles long seemed sound in the planning, until we saw the size of some of the hills. Still, we all came back relaxed and fitter, although significantly stiffer. And for some of us, it was our first flying experience.

Contact with Maria has improved this year. After our traumas last Christmas, Maria has since been housed by the Local Authority but we do have more contact with her now. She has returned to college where she is making great progress on her Maths A Level and is studying a couple of other subjects too. She is currently working part time at MVC and appears to be over her worst problems. We can only hope that our relationships improve further in 2002.



Maria, Natalie & Rob at Jim's birthday party in October

For those of you who are interested, our web site will hopefully be updated very soon, and the address is as follows, and, yes, it is a bit of a mouthful:-

<http://members.tripod.co.uk/kenefeck/homepage.htm>

Hope you find the website interesting. Let us know what you think of it.



Merry Christmas to all of you and a very happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.