

The Kenefick Family in 2002

The biggest story on our front this year has been the return home of Maria, after living away from home for over two years.

In August we went to Italy - staying in Orvieto for one week, and then switching coasts to spend another week near Ancona on the Adriatic. Originally, we had suggested to both Rob and Natalie that they could each bring a friend along for the trip. Natalie eventually settled on her friend (another Natalie), but Rob could not find a male friend to accompany him. He felt it best not to choose from the many female friends he had made over the previous few months, especially as his then girlfriend, Sue, was unable to come. It looked as if he would end up with just his boring old parents for company, and two giggling teenagers. Maria heard of his dilemma and asked if she could come out, if we could arrange cheap flights.



We were delighted and all had a great time, with a real sense of loss when she had to fly home a few days before we returned home via Switzerland. I think she also felt she was missing out and asked to return home. Over the last few months we have gradually adjusted back to having a fuller house - that is when everyone is in! Suddenly having two teenagers with their own transport means comings and goings at all hours - but more of that later.

The year had not got off to a great start, with Daria flying out to Italy in February with her Mum - her uncle Vincenzo died hours after their arrival. It was to his farm that we traditionally went for our Italian holidays, and his wine that we brought back for friends to try. He is sadly missed by us all.

For Daria, the year should have seen her complete her Maths degree. Unfortunately, this year's subject was tough and she never really got off the ground with it, so it was not really a surprise when the result was received that she had not passed this one. So, it is on to a different topic for her in 2003, one that we hope will complete her degree.

In the meantime, she continues to teach wines and Italian (not in the same class!). Both subjects continue to be highly popular and she has students re-enrolling virtually as soon as one course finishes for the next. The wine courses continue to offer mid-summer social opportunities and we now have many good friends who all started out as students but now mean much more. Apart from weekly open air "workshops", we also found ourselves at black tie dinners, open air Shakespeare and music concerts with these friends.



Apart from her return home, Maria has also had a busy year. In April, she too was less successful than she had hoped with her A level results. She had attempted her Maths A Level in just one year and was disappointed that this did not come off. She returned to college in September to continue with A levels in Sociology and Computing, with a retake on Maths due later next year. She is also studying Accountancy at night school, while working most evenings for a parcel delivery company and

most weekends in the MVC shop in Fareham. She also took on the running of an Aquafit exercise class at the last moment in September.



This allowed her to take driving lessons and she passed her test first time in October. She is now the proud owner of a grey/silver Cinquecento Sporting and can zip around whenever she likes, mostly following her favourite band, Purple Monkey, from pub to pub.

Rob, too, is now mobile. 16 in May, and maturing fast, he negotiated a deal that required his attendance on holiday (a last-minute walkout had been threatened when he first failed to find a suitable companion) in return for parental funding for a scooter. Further compromises followed on style and condition of the bike, resulting in him returning from Italy to his reward of a brand new Piaggio Typhoon scooter (stylishly black). A major year for him, with a very successful set of GCSE results. He is now at 6th Form College in Gosport and able to dash off whenever he wants on his scooter. Already moved on from Sue (they ended up at different colleges and started moving in different circles), he is now dating Michelle. A job as a waiter in a Greek restaurant was short-lived, but he has now been successfully welcomed into the MacDonald's family - so Big Macs are his staple diet at weekends.

Earlier in the year, he received his Chief Scout Award and after a summer break, is now in an Explorer's unit. Still our whiz on the computer, he now runs his own business (fairly low key) buying, selling, fixing, downloading - an activity that seems to intensify when his personal funds run low. Definitely growing up fast, we have seen him grow from a "Harry Potter" to a "Gareth Gates" - on two wheels!



Natalie has had a lower profile. Never over-energetic (so no major hobbies or achievements), she continues as a Guide. 13 in April, so technically a teenager, she remains our only school-age child now. Still at Cams, her main interests seem to be films - either at the cinema or on DVD. In July, she was confirmed with a great party at home.



Changes, too, for Tony this year. A run of changes at his branch in Andover led to poor sales results, so a management re-shuffle has seen him move back to Salisbury as Senior Assistant Manager until he finds a suitable role. An odd feeling, returning 23 years later - but it is nice when old colleagues drop by. On a positive note, it is closer for his 5-a-side games, so he gets to make more of this. He continues to trace the history of the family and has added many new names to the tree this year, with contacts now around the world.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Remember to check our website, www.kenefek.net for more up-to-date info on us.