

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★
 ★ **Happy** ★
 ★ **Christmas** ★
 ★ **and a** ★
 ★ **Happy New** ★
 ★ **Year** ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Visit
www.avonteur.com
 for regular updates on the news of family, and Jerseys in Jersey and elsewhere...

Les Feuvres/Les Quesnes 2003

December, 2003



A family visit to Kenya

Camping in the bush, wildlife and re-visiting Steve's youth

- Highlights of 2003**
- We go to Kenya for 3 weeks
 - Suzanne marks her 50th with a trip to Florence
 - Steve gets selected for the Island's Agricultural Advisory Board
 - Vicki plays her sax in Italy with the JCG Big Band
 - Jo reaches adulthood (21 at last !) and celebrates
 - Steve meets the Duke of Gloucester (at a farm)
 - Suzanne and Steve go to South Africa (because of the Jersey cow) while Jo visits the SA Les Feuvres
 - Jo begins her final year at university
 - Steve's work for the Old Cambrians gathers plaudits from around the world
 - Suzanne and Steve take over the WJCB website
 - Vicki auditions successfully for the JCG Youth Theatre play 'Phaedre' performed in December
 - Steve plays a major role in Trinity Manor Jerseys 10-trophy-winning show



A sundowner near Porini Camp, near Amboseli National Park, Kenya

From 29th March to 20th April, the four of us gloried in the magic of Kenya - its land, its wildlife and its people.

The main aim of the trip was to show the girls where Steve did most of his growing up, including his primary and secondary school, and the farm at Thika where his family ran the Salvation Army farm. It was here where Steve's serious involvement with the Jersey cow began, which was later to play a vital part in meeting Suzanne (at the 1979 October Island Cattle Show in Jersey... where else?).

We started with a relaxing week at the Mnarani Club at Kilifi on the Indian Ocean coast, including a visit with Alison Jauss and her Avalon Jersey. Then it was back up to Nairobi and to 3 days at Porini Camp, next to Amboseli National Park. Run on high ecotourism principles by Old Cambrian Jake Grieves-Cook, this tented camp (which can be completely taken down in a day) is centred on the local Maasai community. As well as day and night drives, including sundowner drinks and a day in Amboseli with superb views of Mount Kilimanjaro (and so many relaxed, majestic elephant families), we learnt more about the Maasai on a guided walk along a dry river bed, guarded by four warriors. This was definitely Suzanne's favourite place of the trip.

Next it was back to Nairobi and on northwards to visit Nyeri Primary School where both Steve and his sister, Cathy, boarded as kids. We spent a night at the Outspan Hotel there, including dinner with Mr Ghadialy, father of Narendra and Prakash who live in England. A visit to the recently tidied up grave of Lord Baden-Powell and his wife showed both the neglect of the past decades since our last visit in 1981, and also the result of the optimism and hope in Kenya since the new government was elected in January.

The next night was spent at Treetops - the hotel where Princess Elizabeth learnt she was Queen in 1952. Unbelievable sights, just below us, of elephants coming to drink and use the salt lick. We continued our travels in minibus plus driver to Lake Nakuru National

(Continued on page 3)

Vicki in JCG theatre hit
 Vicki was again part of the annual JCG Youth Theatre production - this year as a member of the much-praised chorus in the Greek tragedy, "Phaedre". The cast was drawn from both JCG and the boys from Victoria College, including Vicki's boyfriend, Joe, as Theseus, a lead role .

Jo celebrates her 21st
 25th August, 2003 - Jo reached her 21st birthday and 100 people gathered at the Royal Jersey Showground (yeah - we had to get cows involved somehow) to mark the occasion on the Bank Holiday thoughtfully provided that day. Five of her King Alfred College friends came to Jersey and gave her several days of partying and beach-going memories for the future. Her present from us was a trip to South Africa to stay with Philip, Sandi and family in Jo'burg and a digital camera to collect more memories.

Suzanne makes her (first) half-century - art, history and hot chocolate
 Suzanne took herself to Florence, Italy for three sun-filled days round her 50th birthday on 6th March. Images remain of the art in the Uffizzi Gallery, the glorious space of the Duomo, the iconic Baptistery, a science museum, sculpture (including David), shops galore and *al fresco* meals (in March !).
 And some special memories of the strong, dark hot chocolate, *al fresco*, at the Rivoire Cafe in the Piazza delia Signoria.

Vicki learns, travels, acts and parties

The path to the 6th Form...

Vicki is now well into her final year of GCSEs with exams looming in January and next summer - top grades across all her subjects. The choice of subjects for 6th form is now a hot topic, with drama and English literature already definite, plus 2 out of chemistry, biology and psychology.



Have sax, will travel

In July, Vicki spent 10 days in Italy with her sax and the JCG Big Band, plus the school's Chamber Choir. The girls (and a few boys from Vic) first stayed at Montecantini in Tuscany, and then at a medieval monastery at Palazzola, near Rome. Concerts were held at various venues - the Choir even sang in the Duomo in Florence. Lots of sight-seeing and shopping at Pisa, Lucca, Florence (including the Uffizzi Gallery) and Rome itself before the lengthy coach trip back through France to St Malo and home.

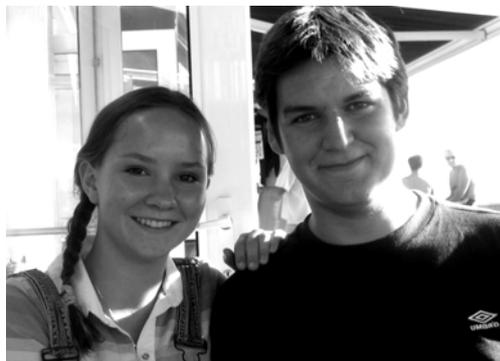


Dramatic moves

2003 was another 'dramatic' year, including performances at school going towards her drama GCSE. In September, Vicki was cast as one of the chorus for the JCG Youth Theatre production of the Greek tragedy "Phaedre". Written in the 17th century by Jean Racine, its based on a classical text by Euripides.

Full of passion, "Phaedre" attracted audiences of over 120 for each of three evenings in early December. Locally-famed director (and Vicki's drama teacher), Caroline Davies, drew out her usual high standard of work from all involved - in acting, set design, lighting and music. Vicki and the other chorus members had to learn a complex series of tightly choreographed moves.

Her boyfriend, Joe, gained most praise, (along with the two girls playing Phaedre) for his



Vicki and Joe

powerful performance as Phaedre's husband, King Theseus.

Parties and things

Vicki and Joe began going out in July, and the year has continued full of parties and other fun, both with friends from her year at school, and from the one above as Joe's friends at Vic and JCG became hers.

A new decade for Suzanne

50 years and (not) counting....

To mark her 50th, Suzanne began with a brief visit to Winchester with Jo and Vicki and then flew to Florence. She stayed in the Grand Hotel Villa Cora, south of the River Arno and within easy walking distance of the Palazzo Pitti. A bit more walking led to the Ponti Vecchio across to the centre of Florence.

Here she could wander freely along the narrow streets and open squares, large and small and lined with magnificent buildings. Then it was back to the UK and a weekend with Jo in Winchester.



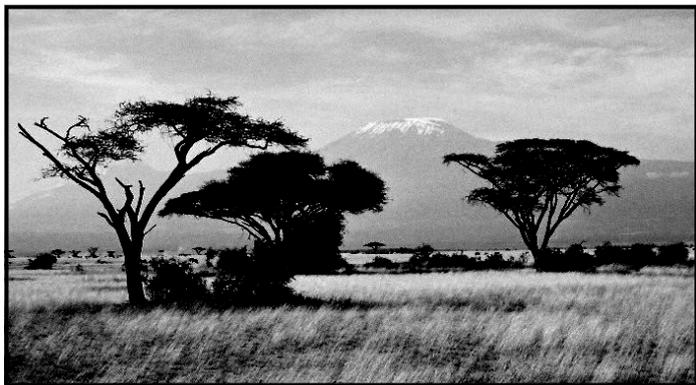
Other stuff....

At home, Suzanne goes on mixing things up - words, nature, farming, history, books, photography and people. At the Société Jersiaise she took more Executive minutes, organised two more local produce meetings, and

represented them at meetings like the November public consultation, "Imagine Jersey" about the Island's future. For the RJA&HS she is involved in plans for the future of its membership, and edited another (even larger) Research Newsletter for the World Jersey Cattle Bureau. And there are still the Jersey Zoo and National Trust libraries to look after.

Dramatics and travels

Plenty of drama for 2003 too. Shakespeare's "The Tempest" cropped up twice - once in March in London with Jo and Vicki, starring Derek Jacobi, and again in Jersey with a local outdoor production in August she saw with Vicki at Samares Manor. Another outdoor production, for all 3 of us this time, was a novel rendering by Oddsocks of "Romeo and Juliet" at the Zoo. Suzanne and the girls also went to local productions of "Evita" and "Grease".



Mt Kilimanjaro from Amboseli National Park

In October, back in London with both girls, there was "Of Mice and Men" with Mathew Kelly, and "Thoroughly Modern Millie" with Amanda Holden.

Suzanne's several trips to the UK were prompted to move Jo and her belongings around, visit a clinic to sort out her chronic fatigue, spend time with Vicki and Jo and, in July, visit John, her uncle, and Joyce in Denmead. She also saw more of the Hampshire countryside, roving around in her new Honda Jazz - highlights being Gilbert White's house and garden at Selborne and a visit to Marwell Zoo with Jo.

A week's visit in August to Dinan, France with Jo and Vicki had Jo camping with Manchester friend Sarah Howarth and family, and Suzanne, Vicki and two friends renting a tiny cottage in the town.

21 and (definitely) counting - as college goes on

Jo celebrates with friends

For her 21st, five of Jo's closest student friends came to Jersey to keep the celebrations going. David came over from France again to join in and though her friend, Ben, couldn't come to Jersey, he gave her a special weekend in London in November.

The birthday itself was followed by 2 weeks in South Africa staying at Phil and Sandi's in Jo'burg while Steve and Suzanne did 'cow things' further south. Jo had the time of her life, with plenty of fun with Sandi, Kim and Lexi, and evenings out with Shaun and his friends at the local 'in' places.

She enjoyed it so much she will be back for 2 weeks from 28 December, having worked hard as a bar supervisor at the Exchange pub to raise the cash.

The final year at King Alfred's

Through 2003, Jo has felt more at ease with the leisure management

part of her degree rather than the educational studies. Her 3rd year dissertation will be based on the former, a cross-cultural comparison of craft fair events. The two main events are one in November in Portsmouth, and her aunt, Sandi's own monthly market in Jo'burg. So the New Year visit will take in college work plus general fun.

Plans for the future are centred on working in Jersey through the summer and autumn and then world travels from January 2005.

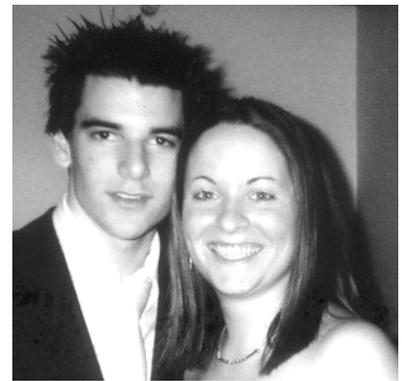
Friends - old and new

This was the final year for Jo's group of 6 performing arts girls she has been so close to over the past 3 years in Winchester. This autumn term she has made frequent trips to stay with one of them, Gez (who is at the Courtyard Theatre School in London) and her partner, Richard.

In September Jo moved to the final year student rooms at West Downs Student Village - near her first year



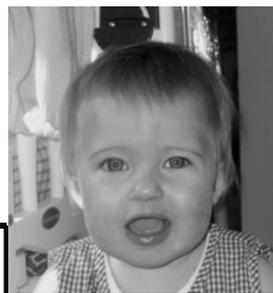
L-R Lexi, Jo, Kim and Shaun



Jo and Lee at the student ball

room. She is again Communications Officer for the Student Union (for the 3rd year) which has seen her representing students at a national level again in London and Southampton - in particular for the battle against government plans for top-up tuition fees. In November, Jo started going out with 2nd year performing arts student, Lee.

She still sees her friends from JCG regularly, and, of course, her god-daughter Kaytlyn, now 15 months old,



who was christened at St Luke's Church in Jersey on 16 February.

Kaytlyn aged 1 year

Work and play makes Steve a busy boy

Trademarks, old boys and farming

Its difficult to separate Steve's work from his 'play'. Both see him using computers and makes major decisions. Lysaght work has taken him to Amsterdam in May, and to Toronto and Montreal, Canada in October. In the latter case he took the chance to see cows in Ontario with Jersey Canada stalwart, Russell Gammon, and also met up with a gaggle (?) of Old Cambrians in Toronto.

In the evenings Steve's often back on the computer updating the 'avonteur' and Old Cambrian websites. For the Old Cambrians (the 'old' boys from the Prince of Wales School, Nairobi) Steve organized the London reunion for 9 May, with his friend Narendra Ghadialy. Suzanne joined him for the meal, as did New Yorker James Ilako. Steve was in London in December to



scout out a new venue for 2004. While there he met Kenyan friend, Frank Williams, who at 24 has just lost his mum, Penny, who Steve knew well in the 70s. Frank and Penny had moved to England a year or so ago.

And then there's the cows. Steve is still busy as treasurer of the RJA&HS, the Jersey breed society; one of only two officers at present after the resignation of the 2 Vice-Presidents following a firm 'no' from RJA members to the importation of Jersey semen.

Alongside this role he is a member of the Island's first Agricultural Advisory Board - working hard to direct the politicians and civil servants along the right path to let Jersey's farming recover. He was representing diary farmers when he met the Duke of Gloucester at Anne Perchard's La Ferme on 29 June.

(Continued from page 1)

Park. Here, at Lion Hill Lodge, Steve had an encounter with a large male baboon - in our room. Waking from an afternoon nap he found a large baboon (with very large teeth) sitting on his bed right next to his feet...!!!! He then proved he can move very fast, and has no problems with his heart as he and baboon rapidly left the building!

We had more game drives - watching a family group of white rhinos, a glimpse of a leopard, and plenty of birds and grazing animals.

Our next drive should have taken a few hours, but ended up taking 12 as our minibus began to fail more and more often with several forced roadside stops before we had to change vehicles to finally reach the Kichwa Tembo Camp at the Maasai Mara.

(Continued on page 4)

Family news....

Le Feuvre family

Steve's Mum and Cathy came to Jersey for Easter and for Jo's 21st, and both will be here for Xmas and New Year. While the rest of us were in South Africa, Mum stayed to look after Vicki (joined later by Steve's aunt Pearl). Cathy still works as head of media for the Evangelical Alliance Society. Meanwhile, Tim's company has a new name, Sports Bug, to help his expansion plans - still developing sports skills in children from 2 to 11 years old.

And in South Africa, Philip and Sandi celebrated his 50th in June with a trip to Buenos Aires with Shaun (17), Kimberley (9) and Alexandra (7).

Le Quesne family

Suzanne's Mum celebrated her 80th birthday on 12th December - her brother Peter's kids, Richard and Kathy came over from England, as did Jo. Sasha and Bill joined us all at The Atlantic Hotel for her birthday lunch. Bill has spent much of this year working in London, with weekends back in Jersey with Sasha. They are spending the hols in Singapore and the Maldives. Meanwhile, Suzanne's brother John left Jersey on 25th October. For a few months he will be in Rilla Mill, Cornwall - west of Dartmoor. Sasha's mother, Mary, Nigel and the girls, Stephanie (15) and Shelley (13) have had a tough autumn with Shelley diagnosed with epilepsy. Stephanie, like Vicki, is working to her GCSEs in summer including a part in her school's productions of "Calamity Jane".

(Continued from page 3)

Again we had luxurious tents to stay in - permanent ones this time, with a family of warthogs wandering around freely within Elephants in Amboseli



Jo's herd (5)

Avonteur Fair Lady died January, 2003 (pre-calving milk fever)
 Avonteur Daz Spice bull in September, 2003
 Avonteur Sunshine Spice bull in May 2003; due again in May 2004

her daughters

Avonteur Geri Spice died September, 2003 (stomach ulcer)
 Avonteur Sparkle Spice due July, 2004

Vicki's herd (3)

Avonteur Dazzling Tean bull in February 2003; due again April, 2004
 Show winnings—1st prize Heifer-in-milk Oct 2003, 2nd prize May 2003
 Coiffeur 10 heifer, Avonteur Coiffeur Kayx on 31 July, 2003

Suzanne's herd (1)

Camrose Silver Zussanah not in calf - problems!

Steve's herd (2)

Camrose Silver Flush due February/March, 2004
 Camrose Noblesse Finale bull, sold to Loseley Park (Surrey) in August, 2003



Cattle news...

Steve had his usual fun working with Rob Stevenson and his team at Trinity Manor Jerseys for the 4 Island shows in 2003. A full show and a separate Junior Section show was held in May alongside a craft fair at the RJA Showground. Then, for the first time, on 11th October (when Steve was in Canada) the youngstock classes were given their own show - , after the Junior Section Show. The in-milk classes were held on 22 November, with a new Supercow competition to follow. At this event Steve was commentating for the classes while the Trinity Manor team won 10 trophies, including the top female and Supercow champi-

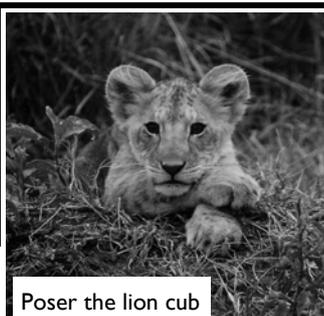
onships (details on www.avonteur.com).

August saw us helping again with the La Ferme Open Day to raise money for the WJCB on 16 August, with Steve and Vicki running the raffle while Suzanne minded the nature trail again.

WJCB meetings in South Africa

Steve and Suzanne spent 2 weeks in September with the Bureau traveling along the Garden Route from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town, including a visit to the original Avontuur. Finally there were a few days traveling up to Bloemfontein and back to Jo'burg.

At the end of it, they agreed to take over the admin and content of the WJCB website.



Poser the lion cub

the perimeter. As with the rest of our travels, tourist numbers were dramatically

down - 80% cancellations in places. As a result, with Kichwa Tembo about to close for the rains anyway, we were upgraded after one night to the adjacent Bateleur camp - our own personal butlers, top class tents, leather armchairs, old-fashioned splendour and comfort. The wildlife in the Maasai Mara was even more wonderful - plenty of lions,

wildebeest, water buffalo, hippos and elephants.

Finally, we returned to Nairobi for a few days in the Norfolk Hotel, meetings with Steve's school friend, Abid Malik (and Rubeena his wife, and daughters, Janan and Mariam) and Philip Ilako. We also visited Nairobi School (the Prince of Wales School when Phil was there in the 60s), and Thika where we were made very welcome at the farm which was Steve's family home for 10 years.

Giraffe in Maasai Mara

