

TRAVELS WITH MY DAUGHTER

July to September 2019

July 2019 - BREITHORN

The glistening white summit of Mont Blanc stood proudly above the skyline, growing larger all the time as we drove towards Chamonix.

I'd returned to the Alpes in July, along with my daughter, hopeful of joining her and my pal Sandy on an easy ascent or two. At 18 this was Frankie's third foray to the Alpes and by now she was far more capable than my ageing years. For the most part Frankie climbed with Sandy, whilst I wandered the lower slopes accompanied by whistling marmots, both of us enjoying the sunshine and me the alpine hut cuisine. I did accomplish a couple of easy Alpine routes with Sandy while Frankie did what most teenagers do, slept.

Determined to reach the summit of at least one 4000m peak with Frankie we journeyed round to Zermatt for an attempt on the Breithorn. The early morning rain bouncing off the bathroom rooflight meant a hurriedly arranged second night's stay in the hope that tomorrow would dawn bright and clear. Dutifully the weather obliged and we made a successful, if uneventful, ascent before returning to the valley on a warm afternoon.

It was a Super Sunday of sport that accompanied us on our stifling hot drive back to Chamonix. I'd never heard of a Super Over before. The Cricket World Cup was won by England and apparently, there was some pretty good tennis and F1 as well. To be able to summit an Alpine Peak with my daughter, before I was too old, was a wonderful experience that I shall cherish forever. And as the Rolling Stones sang ... "*Maybe the last time, I don't know*".

August 2019 - Net vir Pret SOUTH AFRICA

The last time I was in Barrydale I was let loose on the free juke box and was DJ for the evening until four black lads and their older mentor set up instruments and began to play in the hotel bar. Soon I discovered they were from a local after school organisation, Net vir Pret (just for fun), that taught black kids numeracy and literacy skills, along with music, pottery and textiles. Ever since I have been providing funds in support of their efforts and in August 2019 we travelled to South Africa to visit them.

Read more overleaf...



"Maybe the last time, I don't know"



Contact Gordon

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Net vir Pret (cont.)

As well as the after school activities they hold a giant puppet show once a year, based on a local theme. This year it was the Environment and the loss of the redfin fish in the local river. Over the years they have been taught puppet making skills by the creators of War Horse who happen to live locally.

One initiative that I was particularly impressed with was Project Hope.

Net vir Pret takes on lads that have been expelled from school and continues with their numeracy and literacy education, as well as teaching them basic wood working and gardening skills. It was privilege to spend some time with them.



Redfin Puppet Show



Project Hope



Monza Winners Podium



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