



Hi there

We are often asked about our move to South Africa - hence the short synopsis below:

December 2000 we emigrated from Wales to the Cape with our then, teenage children... Alan continued to fly with Nippon Cargo and was based in Amsterdam – quite a commute!!! Whilst I became very involved at the girls' school and integrated into the community. Thomas our eldest went straight to Stellenbosch University – speaking not a word of Afrikaans but still maintains that the 3 years he spent there were his best ever.. He's now Senior Marketing Manager for Fitness First in Dubai but misses the Cape. Our eldest daughter, Hannah, went from Somerset College to Edinburgh University where she studied pharmacology and is now busy with her PHD – however, she returns to SA at every opportunity. Keri – the youngest is still with us and is currently studying in Cape Town and loves it.

We purchased Celtic Manor in 2002 - it was sold at auction and was in great need of modernization. It had been a private house so lots needed to be changed before we could even consider opening our doors as a guesthouse. The renovations took a year to complete and finally we opened Celtic Manor in November 2003. Many changes have taken place over the past 5 years – the business has steadily grown - the spa has played a key role in that growth. The spa opened 2 years ago with only 1 therapist - we now have 3 full time and 4 freelance therapists. Each year we've tried to update something and now as I write we have the workmen arriving in the morning to start renovating one of the treatment rooms – all very exciting for the new season.

Recently the status quo changed at Celtic – I shall no longer assume total responsibility which is fantastic – after 37 years of flying around the globe Alan finally retired in March 2008. Guess what? He now has a new position – Head of Maintenance! We are both very proud of our product - its taken lots of hard work, lots of money and lots of heartache but we've done it and now we would like to share our beautiful 'home' with you....

Jane Otton