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Happy Christmas 2016 & a Prosperous New Year

We would very much like to hear your news – this does not have to be in this form just a Hi in an email will suffice

This year we have visited 4 continents (Africa, South America, North America and Europe) – albeit one only briefly (3-hour stopover in Miami)! Also three oceans (Indian, South Atlantic and North Atlantic), two major waterfalls and one sea (Caribbean) and maybe a partridge in a pear tree!

As always we feel humbled and really privileged to be able to continue to travel experiencing countries as we do. There is further detail on our blogs; the link is at the top of this page.

Contrary winds prevented us from getting Sea Bunny from Richards Bay to Cape Town by Christmas. As we were scheduled to join Phil and Norma of *Minnie B* and Mike and Nikki of *Zen Again* on a wine tasting tour to Stellenbosch we drove 1100 km from Durban to Cape Town via Nelson Mandela's homeland in the Transkei, Addo Elephant Park and the Garden Route.



Victoria Falls

Having succeeded in sailing Sea Bunny round the Cape and into the Atlantic in January, with 50 knot winds off Cape Point, we were able to use Cape Town as a base. In February we were off again, this time by air to



Namib Desert campsite

Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, Chobe Game Park in Botswana and probably our last camping trip - three-weeks around Namibia in a 4WD vehicle with tents on the roof.



Roadside lion - Etosha NP

Simultaneously with our travels and some sightseeing around the Western Cape the boat was re-rigged and a new mainsail acquired as well as a mass of other maintenance activities.

The South Atlantic beckoned in mid-March. The 12 day passage to St Helena and the 14 days to Jacaré in north east Brazil provided us with calmer weather. The 10 yacht strong SSB net was poignant as most of the yachtsmen who had become our friends over the last two years – we will never sail with again



The "girls" 50 years on



Iguazu Falls

The tiny fishing village of Jacaré was Sea Bunny's base for our first UK trip of the year, taking in Susan's 50-year reunion with the friends she started nursing with in Cambridge and the christening of her great-niece Emily.

Back in Brazil we had decided on three tourist "must-do's". We flew to Rio, then down to the Iguazu Falls on the border with Argentina where Richard's 70th birthday was celebrated and up to Manaus, where we boarded the MV Tucano for a 4-day trip on the Rio Negro, which joins the Amazon some 750 miles as the crow flies from the mouth. Here we saw much small wildlife.



Tarantula - Amazon rainforest

At the end of July Sea Bunny crossed the equator into the Northern Hemisphere for the second time and as the weather was holding, continued non-stop to Charlotteville in Tobago. We briefly considered continuing to cross our 2002 outbound track near Union Island but this idea was abandoned when we were hit by a nasty 45-knot squall. So the completion of a circumnavigation will be all the sweeter after Sea Bunny is repaired.

After 10 days in laid back Tobago chilling out with *Ceilidh* and *Crystal Blues* it was time to move to Chaguaramas in Trinidad for Sea Bunny to be lifted out at Powerboats yard for the damage sustained in Richards Bay, South Africa to be repaired.



Botanic Lights - Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh

Having sold our house in Surrey in 2015 we are in the UK and have just bought a house in South Somerset in preparation for becoming land lubbers again. While it may not look like it from the agent's wide-angle lens photo, we have downsized!



Our new house

We will move in fully when Sea Bunny returns to home waters in the UK via the Windward Isles, Bermuda and the Azores in 2017, arriving probably in June/July.

New address will be provided once we settle.

We wish you and yours a very happy festive season.

Susan & Richard x

Nik & Lou's hideaway, UK