



Happy Christmas 2017 & a Prosperous New Year

From boat beautiful to home beautiful – a transition.

This year saw the final stages of our round-the world adventure as we made landfall in the UK at the end of June!

Bad weather prevented sailing so Christmas 2016 saw Sea Bunny berthed at Powerboats in Trinidad, having recently launched after having repairs following the South African debacle. Yet another Christmas barbeque was enjoyed in the company of other yachtspeople.



Dressed overall in Tobago Cays

Leaving Trinidad between Christmas and the New Year we made our way up the Windward Island chain. New Year was celebrated in Prickly Bay, Grenada. The outward track from 2002 was crossed just south of Union Island, in St Vincent and the Grenadines, thus officially completing our circumnavigation after 15 years and 364 days. In the charming but crowded Tobago Cays Sea Bunny was dressed overall in celebration. We progressed northwards, visiting some of the islands missed on our outward voyage and re-visiting some, such as Bequia, enjoyed before. Since our last visit in 2002, when the French islands were expensive and the ex-British islands cheap; the situation now seems to have been reversed!



Mocktails and cocktails

Catharine, Archie and Max joined us in St Lucia and Martinique for 3 weeks. Both boys became proficient snorkelers and Archie, being old enough, enjoyed his first SCUBA dive. Mocktails in the resort at Marigot Bay at happy hour by the pool were a success (as were the cocktails for the adults).



Wow – that mocktail was strong!

After they left we continued northwards towards Antigua, spending a short time in Jolly Harbour, which was our original arrival point in the Caribbean so many years ago. Priority now was to get Sea Bunny ready for her third trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

We finally set sail on 16 April, heading for St Georges, Bermuda. This is the area of the Bermuda Triangle and the Sargasso Sea, which has been the graveyard of many ships in the days of sail. We passed the area without incident, although we did see some vast mats of sargassum weed.



Dunking a scold - St Georges

Our stay in Bermuda was extended as Richard required minor surgery and associated recovery time. As we were at the hospital A&E, Catharine's partner Steve, who was to crew with us to the UK, was at Gatwick, ready to fly out the next morning. Fortunately, we were able to contact him and he could rearrange his flight.



Americas Cup training



Dolphin watching

A few weeks later Steve flew out and after a week or so of sightseeing and familiarisation we were able to leave for the Azores, arriving at the World Heritage town of Angra do Heroismo after 14 days. After a few days R&R and sightseeing it was time to continue towards the UK.



Bull(lock) running, Angra

Dunking a scold, St



Flags of countries visited

This trip took slightly longer than planned as we encountered 3 days of easterly winds, where there should have been favourable westerlies. Steve sighted Bishop Rock light at 2010 on 21 June and we berthed in Portland Marina at 0420 on 23 June.

Our overall trip, starting in Sparks Marina, Chichester and ending in Portland Marina (a distance of about 65 nautical miles) took 16 years, 83 days, 13 hours and 20 minutes during which time Sea Bunny travelled over 60,000 nautical miles (nearly 3 times the circumference of the Earth). This works out at an average speed of just over 0.4 knots (nautical miles per hour). A long time but what adventures we had and memories we have.

Since arriving back in the UK we have largely been land-lubbers (or “earth dwellers”). Not having lived in our house for 16 years there have been many items that we have had to obtain – many of which are the sort of thing you acquire as newly-weds! There has been a garden to tidy up and a house to decorate. The process has not been helped by a major plumbing failure resulting in flooding of part of the downstairs. The village has been very welcoming.

Catharine and the boys visited shortly after we moved in and the rest of the family have visited several times. We have been sailing on Sea Bunny twice – Portland – Lulworth with Catharine, Archie and Max – a fabulous 2 days. Nik, James, Josh and Jake joined us for a trip from Portland to Studland, Yarmouth and Poole – it was originally intended to go to France, but the weather failed to cooperate. We have also been out for day trips on Ampere, Nik’s newly refurbished Nicholson 30, originally built in the 1930s.



Max - Accomplished snorkeller

This Christmas Catharine, Steve, Archie and Max will be staying. The rest of the family will be with us on Boxing Day.



Ready for dive - Cath & Archie

Richard & Susan