

Wow – another year gone. We have done many of the usual things this year. Sailing continues to be a theme although mostly short trips and not even many rallies with others from the Royal Air Force

Yacht Club. Beaulieu River, Lymington, Portsmouth, Chichester feature in the log book this year. We also were keen spectators for the first competitive round of the next America's Cup in Portsmouth. Fabulous boats sailing REALLY fast, and we managed to find a great spot for the one day of brilliant racing. Sunday was cancelled due to bad weather but we still had to moter home in the rain and the wind! No long sailing trip this year, since we spent a good chunk of August in France painting endless coats of limewash onto our northern wall. Both of us did a one day wattle and



America's Cup Portsmouth



Peter Daubing

daub course in the UK so we now know a little more about how our house is put together. We did some daub repairs on the back and side wall that seem to have worked! The neighbours approved of our work which is good! They have to look at it, after all. No progress on the inside of the French property this year with the exception of the addition of a small wood burning stove in the kitchen. We drove all over Normandy and ended up back at the shop we started shopping for the eventual purchase. Getting them to agree to put it in our car for the journey home was interesting but successful. Health and Safety has come to France. Shelagh has

been “enjoying” gardening. The little lawn tractor has come in for lots of use, but we did persuade a local to strim the “paddock” late in the autumn to try and make some progress on the ground there. We also got walnuts and apples harvested courtesy of our neighbours who kindly picked a number of boxes for us. Next year Shelagh hopes to time one visit for plum season so that the birds have some competition for the ripe plums.

At work Peter spent most of the year working on getting the new Pole Star Platform finished and out into the market. He has now handed off responsibilities for technology and will spend next year focused on product marketing and marketing to try and build some of the growth enablers that the company needs. He wasn't travelling much in the early part of the year, but made up for it at the end with flying visits to Singapore, Rome, and Oslo. Athens is already planned for early January and he is likely to accumulate more air miles next year. Shelagh has continued to add clients and work steadily throughout the year. We need them to be more productive so there is more editing!



New Stove



Strawberries (just because!)



Weeded Garden

2015 has also been a long and still unresolved saga of trying to sell our flat in London. Despite all the hype about the London market, it has been traumatic. We think we now have a way to extend our lease to open up the market for more buyers. All of the potential buyers have been from overseas so they don't really understand the rather weird leasehold system that is common in London. Our goal was to move further West and into a new flat, but it hasn't worked out so far.

A musical highlight amongst many this year was Simon Rattle's concert at the Barbican with the Berlin Philharmonic in February. It was just brilliant with both the orchestra and conductor in superb form. At the other end of the year, we discovered a lovely little orchestra, the Aurora at Kings Place near Kings Cross where they did a fabulous concert of contemporary pieces in the key of C and finished with Beethoven Symphony 1 which did sound radical when placed right after pieces by Steve Reich, Terry Riley and Arvo Part.



Wei Wei exhibition

Too many art exhibitions to count this year, but a special exhibition was the Wei Wei exhibition at the Royal Academy. But the Tate (Barbara Hepworth), Tate Modern (Agnes Martin), Courtauld and Whitechapel gallery all had fun stuff.

Claire and Dan along with Uwe and Melanie were part of the regular theatre crowd. This is Claire and Dan's last year in London (so they say) so we did manage to catch many productions, often accompanied by some fine food. Working backwards this year... Peter Pan Goes Wrong was hilarious. Stephen Sondheim's 85th birthday was celebrated with an evening of songs from his musicals, Mr Foote's Other Leg at the Hampstead for most and Peter and Shelagh (again) in the west end,

Sweeney Todd (two productions), Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Orson's Shadow, The Beaux' Stratagem, Peter Pan at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, The Eighth Wonder of the World which took place in a shaft dug by Brunel and recreating the evening where they held a dinner to raise funds for a new venture, Gypsy, Matchbox Theatre by Michael Frayn, (shelagh to add more here)