



## PEOPLE



**Toby** has had a year of editing every sailor's favourite magazine - Yachts and Yachting. He was deputy editor already, but maternity leave meant he stepped into the hot seat and all the sailors we know said "wow, what a difference" and he kept the whole thing under budget - in print these days that is rare. After Toby's Olympic work in 2016 this has been again a pretty special year for sailing - America's Cup et al., so he hasn't been awash with free time, hence having not had much time on the water themselves in their RS 200. Southern Trains continue to make Toby's commute to Chelsea "from hell". Roll on renationalisation!

**Cali's** Llama in the Room" business is up and thriving ([www.llamaintheroom.com](http://www.llamaintheroom.com) and also on Facebook), driving to work in their little all-electric Nissan Leaf - now replaced with an über cool and classic Nissan Figaro. Their garden is a big part of their food supply.

They are both steeped in the cool, foodie, cultural, warm lifestyle that is Brighton these days. Their cats thrive - cats can be foodies too!

Meanwhile, to Brightlingsea, where we find Carole, Stephen, Juliette, little Josie with her tiny sister Elodie, and Bryony the new cat, all living together. Last year's newsletter was a little economical with the London family's details: their planned move from London to Brightlingsea had happened a little early (October 2016), and unexpectedly without Juliette's husband of four years (and partner for 18 years).

However, something over one year later and baby **Elodie** has now lived most of her short (20 month) life here by the sea; with her sister **Josephine** who has just turned 4 (September). Mercifully, they're entirely settled and enjoying the social stability of pre-school pals, wonderful visits from NCT London pals, ballet, music, forest school, swimming, sailing, birthday parties, beach parties, boating lakes, learning Spanish, their weekly fish and chip Fridays and a calm home. Es una vida dichosa.

**Stephen** and **Carole** are busier than ever. In last year's newsletter Stephen had rather eased up on work a little, but not now! Work for Stephen is all round the world with projects everywhere from Peru to Doha, with India, Jordan, Taiwan, Australia and goodness knows where in between. He is still a professor at UCJC in Madrid of course. Carole is still drafted in for key projects, navigating the oyster smack and of course, helping to sort out life by the sea for the "new arrivals".



**Juliette** is busy with her two tiny ones - even with Carole's help - but also finding time to help set up a school furniture company, write some geeky policy for the Victorian State government, bidding to set up a virtual free school (with Carole) and more. Heroic stuff in the circumstances.

On Portland, **Melissa** is enjoying work in the new Atlantic Academy - having been promoted to Head of Primary there. Her results have been fab. After completing her middle leadership course, she is now following a principals' training programme. What with this senior new role, towing the children's Optimists round the country and transforming the house (see below) there hasn't been much "spare" time!

**Simon** too, with his business looking comfortably solid, with his Moth sailing and Olympic work too, is also towing Oppies round the country and restoring an offshore racing trimaran. Simon finds time for mountain biking (a new bike!) and for some squash games with Amelie. But Simon's spare moments beyond that have been doing the jobs the builders should have done - and the list is epic...

**Christmas Newsletter 2017 from all of us in Brightlingsea, Portland and Brighton, to all of you, everywhere, with a very happy and festive season's greeting.**  
**The Anchorage, George Avenue, Brightlingsea, Essex. CO7 0NE [www.heppell.net/christmas](http://www.heppell.net/christmas)**  
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## HOUSES

For 2017 we will stay on the **South Coast** where Melissa, and Simon with children Amelie & Louis' wonderful tall house has seen a LOT of redevelopment on most of its multiple floors (Portland Towers!). About the only thing that hasn't changed is the sea view from 3 sides of the place. including stunning vistas along Chesil Beach.

It's been a tough year with the main access to the basement kitchen being by ladder; and the only water being from a bathroom on the fourth floor. The basement floor has been laid (and then relaid a few times), but as you see below, Simon has been very busy and a showroom kitchen (with spiral staircase!) has emerged, butterfly like, from chaos and dust.



Meanwhile, the **Brightlingsea** family house The Anchorage, which was already a goodish size, has seen much building work (with a new generation now living here too) and the entire roof space is now a vast Swallows & Amazons themed playroom, bedroom, bathroom and Bluetooth Brio railway (!).



Meanwhile the back garden has sprouted a gymnasium - rowing machine, cross trainer, traditional pinball machine (for finger fitness obviously), with a climbing wall and slide outside - and Stephen has sneaked a desk and much geeky stuff in so he can work and Skype around the world in a pretence of tranquility. And yes, it has a heated floor too.

Back along the South Coast another major building project is underway. Toby and Cali live in **Brighton** (which is also where great grandad Don Heppell grew up). Of course their house needed some love when they moved in.

They have done wonders with it and it is already fab - they've laid reclaimed parquet flooring, built a fireplace, re-loved pre-loved charismatic furniture, and bravely begun an investigation of the "creative" wiring. Toby seems to have his dad (and grandad)'s fixing genes and Cali is professionally creative so they simply both tackle everything with a "how hard can it be" attitude - and already have the best pizza oven in the family (possibly in Brighton!) and beyond.

So another busy year - and this newsletter is being typed amongst the wine, cheese and... well more cheese of our annual skiing trip. Which means that back at base Lys - who runs the whole [heppell.net](http://heppell.net) ltd organisation, is once again (thanks Lys) stuffing the eveopes and dashing to the post on the last posting day. Enjoy your festivities, everyone.



