

Prettig Kerstdagen en een gelukkig nieuwe jaar van Hugh en Becky

On one of our adventures – overlooking Bergen, Norway



Wishing you happiness and health now and in the New Year

May peace reign in our hearts, our homes, our lands, and our world. We are grateful for our time here in this *Peaceable Kingdom*, The Kingdom of The Netherlands.

Hugh's full time employment at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) ended, as expected, on July 21. Tenure for the professional staff is limited to seven years and, my, did the time fly by. Luckily for us, OPCW asked Hugh to have a limited time contract, hence our continued residency in our adopted homeland. But this too will end. We will fly home to California on January 18 to start our next adventure – REPATRIATION.

In California we will be busy redecorating and moving back into our home in Dublin, CA. Then Hugh will go back to work at Lawrence Livermore National Lab while Becky figures out retirement in the Bay Area. We both are looking forward to reconnecting with Bay Area friends and the things we love about this beautiful part of the USA. Not so much looking forward to driving everywhere, traffic, the hustle/bustle, the politics.

Hugh's last year at OPCW was as busy as ever. His team were key in providing the data to the UN report that confirmed that the Syrian government was to blame for chemical weapon use against their own people. You may have seen him on a BBC documentary about the murder of the half brother of the leader of North Korea.

Becky's last year as President of The American Women's Club of The Hague went smoothly. We organized many different activities for the members of the club. The club's charity gala raised €30,000 for three charities. The AWC comradeship is just one of the many things we will miss when we leave.



Is it the beginning of dementia or just selective memory? Recently we were talking about past Christmases and Becky asked "where did we go last year?" How could she forget last December she fell from her bike, broke her leg, had surgery, slept on the hide-a-bed on the ground floor for 4 weeks, spent 8 weeks in a cast, had 4 months of physical therapy, and cancelled 2 trips? Hugh will never forget it! Becky's friends from the AWC and our neighbors were so wonderful in bringing meals and providing moral support as her broken leg healed. Only residual now is a fancy titanium plate in her ankle. She is back to her old self (oops, should say former self, hee hee). If you want a testimonial to great Dutch health care, just ask us.

WARNING! If you get tired of our travel stories and pictures, stop now. We get it if your reaction is "OMG, they need to get a life."

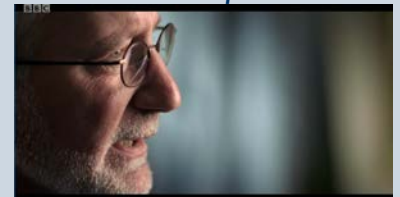
RUSH READ

- Becky's broken leg healed fully
- Hugh ended full time work at OPCW in July
- Doing lots of traveling now he only works part time
- Heading back to California on Jan. 18

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

Hugh Gregg
&
Becky Failor

Hugh is a "talking head"
in a BBC special



They also included some
lab "action" shots



We love our neighborhood
and the summer street
parties; we threw an end of
summer party for neighbors
and friends, with a jazz band.



Road Trip!

About 3000 km in our trusty Jazz



Strasbourg, France



Black Forest, Germany



Heidelberg, Germany



Neuschwanstein castle, Germany



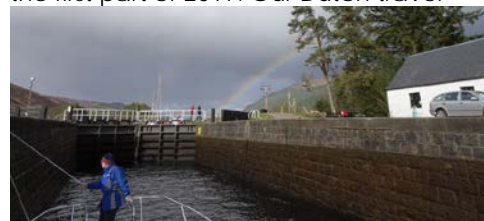
Snow in Austria

Becky's niece Sarah, husband, Andrew, and 7-year old daughter, Mackenzie (Mack), were traveling Europe (Berlin, London, Paris, Belgium, including Bastogne) from our home base from mid-June to mid-July. It was so fun to be their hosts and let them experience this life. They enjoyed our quiet neighborhood. Mack and Becky enjoyed walks in the woods, feeding the ducks and coots, and going to the animal park. Mack was

brave in using the Dutch she learned, charming flight attendants and wait staff with her "Dank u wel".



Becky's broken leg did limit our travel in the first part of 2017. Our Dutch travel



insurance proved invaluable. We did not lose any money on the two trips we cancelled. Once Becky was mobile, we have been travelling fools!

Our first trip was to Scotland and the Caledonian Canal for several days on the water with friends; the less than ideal weather did provide us with rainbows!



Herculaneum, etc.

In May, we rebooked our cancelled trip to Italy, to include Sicily, the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii,

In September, we were back to Italy, this time for a week in Tuscan villa, and

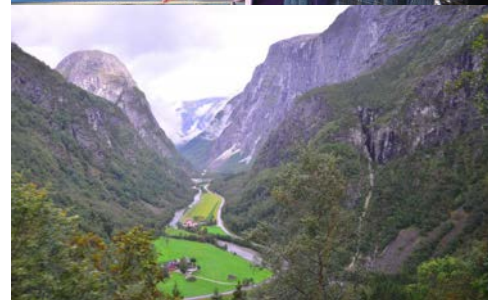


touring nearby sites, including a marble mine in Carrara. A week in Lyon, France, was next.

August had two very different trips – one a city trip to Krakow, Poland, with a tour of Auschwitz (never forget) and a salt mine – amazing underground chapel carved in the salt.



The second trip was to Norway, where we enjoyed a 3 day "Norway in a Nutshell" (train, boat, and bus), as well as a number of days on the coastal Hurtigruten ferry.



In October, we spent several weeks in Wales and England (Liverpool, Lake District and Yorkshire Dales) Beautiful scenery and (Hugh says)



excellent ales. While late in the season for this travel, we were relatively lucky with good weather.

December will bring a trip to Lapland in northern Finland where we will, hopefully, get to view the northern lights.

Our last trip from The Netherlands will be traveling to the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area. It sounds pretty nice. We plan to stay a while and explore that area. And after that, who knows. We just aren't sure what we want to be when we grow up. Stay tuned.

We can no longer offer to be your hosts in The Netherlands. Our house in California is plenty big for guests. So make some plans to see us there!

Hugh & Becky