

2173 Tryon Rd, North Saanich, B.C. V8L5H6 Canada, December 2015

<http://web.uvic.ca/~mackie>

Dear Friends,

Our year started off well with a visit from Rachel who flew over from France for a week. This coincided with the arrival of Seville oranges in the supermarkets and a flurry of marmalade making by Gillian.



Neither of us is working any more but when Bob Meech was at the Friday Harbor Laboratories in May and September we went over for a few days. Bob took this picture of us on the beach. We have been going there since 1960! The rabbits have made a comeback and with them the foxes, so life is back to normal on San Juan Island.

George's music group met regularly throughout the year. Here they are in our music room, Carol (flute) Michael (violin), Larry (viola) and George (cello). Not much music has been written for these instruments since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century but we have had a lot of fun trying



out string quartets and it turns out that a lot of the classical repertoire works quite well with flute replacing first violin. George has also downloaded many arrangements of classical and traditional music to add variety to the time-honoured string quartet repertoire. (Photo by Rachel, like several others here.)



Tina and Chris arrived for a long visit in mid-June, a total change of scene for them both after their hectic life in London. Tina's terrific show at Tate Britain was left to run by itself. They have bought a house on Mayne Island, architecturally interesting as an example of West Coast Modern, but even more remarkable for its spectacular location on a steep rocky slope above the beach looking out across the Salish Sea. They have had to do a lot of work on it but the result is brilliant. Below- Tina in new home.



Always happy to have a good excuse to make some pots for people like T and C who really need them, George churned out a good many jugs, casseroles, bowls and plates. Here is a breakfast set with milk jug, cereal bowls and plates for toast and marmalade.



Rachel and Olivier also came for a visit in July and went with Gillian to our friends' house on Chesterman Beach (left) as well as seeing Rachel's sibs here and in Vancouver and on Mayne Island. Their visit was a great pleasure for us all and not just because of Rachel's skills in the kitchen!



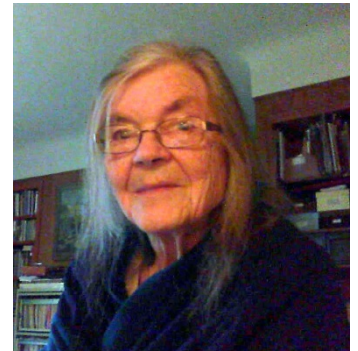
Rachel's recent raku beads, necklaces and earrings reach new levels of artistry. Here is a pic of some pendants lifted from her facebook page.



Tina, Chris, Rachel and Olivier were all here in August when Alexander and Tina had birthdays. To celebrate Al's 60<sup>th</sup> we had a big party out at Tryon Rd with Thai food organized by Tina. All our children, their partners and several grandchildren came. Our great granddaughter Frida is there, front row, second from left with her mum Bran and next to Claire, her aunt, aged 6. Seated far right is Tim Panton, Chris's brother.



Gillian has completed two quilts, one of which (Left) has gone to Charlotte in Montreal and the other to Tina and Chris for their house on Mayne. G is now taking pills for her memory and these seem to help. Physically we are both in good shape for our ages and wish good health and happiness to our friends here and overseas.



Happy New Year from us both!

*Gillian and George*