



"Les Aulnettes"

Longeville sur Mer - La Vendee - France



Newsletter Spring 2011

“Run, stop, run” !

In our last newsletter, we nearly hadn't enough space to write everything we wanted to tell about the summer season, passed winter we didn't do a lot !

Why ?

Read all about it and you now it !

After the summer we took a brief rest from the increasingly longer and busier summer season. Not only because of all the sportive events that took place and not in the least the performance of the “Orange Eleven” !



As usual the tempo gets a bit slower when autumn comes up, but even then never a dull moment :-). We had lots of plans ready to be executed. Late september we wanted to start the “pimping” of the “Stabulation” because the executing company who made the bad flooring would come back to solve the problems due to the bad execution of their work. Ourselves, we wanted to putt in window-frames, to get more light, but the company didn't keep there promise and again we should wait. In the meantime we started with the facade of the reception-building. We got

out all the joints, but before getting the new joints in, we decided to start the window-frames anyhow, because we had some reinforcements troops; Hans Ketelaar - his motorbike finds its way nowadays without GPS -, and Roos and Jan van Teylingen. The frame were assembled on the spot and filled with the double-glassing, offered by John Hofman, last time he was at Les Aulnettes.



Strangely enough John isn't on a picture this time. The facade and the frame were handled nice and swiftly. We also cleaned up a bit, and even saw gorilla's in the mist ! So nevertheless a lot was done when Roos and Jan went home. Despite the good intentions of Hans, we didn't succeed to redo the facade before he also left to get up North.



Half October we had again contact with the floor-company, but although in the first instance they promised to repair the floor, this time it was clear they didn't want to do nothing more than repay



our down-payment and go, leaving us with the dusty and down crumbling floor. Change for reparation was zero !! We wanted to accept if they “took with them” their degraded floor. We will spare you the details, but after a long en “cosy” discussion and a lot of letters we came to a settlement. Early March they took out the floor and we came back into our starting position.

Late October John, Evenlien and kids came again to Les Aulnettes. John came to help with the cladding of a part of the roof of the Stabul, the part opposite the swimming-pool. After winter-storm Xynthia, February 2010, some of the roof-plates were blown-off and there was insecurity about the fixing of the rest of the plates. With the assurance-



company we arranged that they repay us the removal of the plates and after that we-selves would do the covering with tiles.



Before we'd checked the weather-forecast to be sure of dry weather and yes, all week should stay dry they said !?

The second night John woke up and called me to ask if we shouldn't get some canvas up the roof ?, because it was wide open !

People that might have ever looked in the Stable, know that there are except for my tools and storage of materials are at least 75 packed transfer boxes We took from Holland when we left, eight years ago.

We hear people say; than you don't need that rubbish anymore, but thats not true. The only thing is, that we haven't



took the time to unpack nor the place to putt it our house. When the "Grange" is done, we will have all the place we need and more.

Whatever canvas we could find we nailed on the roof, and we went back to



roof, and obviously I forced my shoulder a bit. I even woke up at night from the pain in the shoulder, so a visit at the doctors became really invertible. With some muscle relaxants and some painkillers and a referral for a röntgenography in the hospital I was send away.

It seems to be a calcification of the shoulder tendon, a long and difficult injury. Conflicting meanings, a "not even a bit curing" cortisone injection and many discouraging advises from almost everybody, concerning surgery - the real chances of a positive outcome is smaller than winning the lottery -, led to almost four months of disablement.

The only thing that is really working slowly but certainly is physiotherapy !

I started working again and with some sessions of therapy left, iI think is will be better in a few weeks even-though for the moment the arm doesn't go up 100% yet.

So thats the reason the facade isn't finished yet, but with this tempo it will be done before summer.

bed. With John, we made half the roof, but then we were alone again, with still "some" tiles to putt up. With the threat of more rain, I somewhat hurried to finnish the



Friday the 18th of March we putted in to place the new concrete floor of the Stable. Just plain simple and hard concrete ! We can even brume the floor now, a unknown luxury, without disappearing in the mist :-).

This time our locale hero's Pascal and most of all Alexis were in on it. Last one had a really marvelous tool to

finnish the surface of the concrete. Just great ! What a difference with the (*excusez le mot*) crap we had before, and what a joy.

This winter, for the first time in eight years we went on a short holidays. A week of skiing in the Auvergne, highly recommandable !!

The three of us easy-going with the train to Clermont

Ferrant, where we were picked up by Peter who, with his wife Lya - also Dutchies - are the owners of a superb Chambre d'hôte. For some years the completely renovated their 700 years old Diligence hotel, in the center of the former chief town of the department,

Besse en

Chandesse, to the marvelous place it is today. And that is not only because of the very un-french and therefor copious breakfast, with every second day an egg !

Plenty snow at the about 85 kilometers pistes equipped with 110 snow canons. All that with a summer-like



temperature of about 14 C°.
Take a look at www.aaisa.eu.



we waited so long ? What an improvement. On the internet, she “pinched” some terrace-chairs,

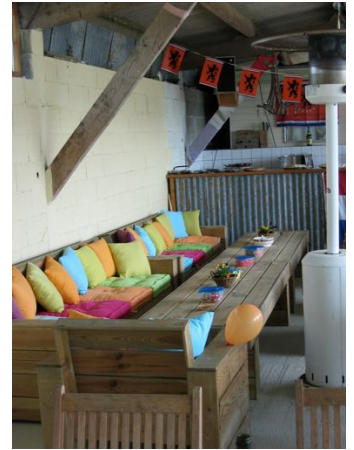
some terrace-tables and some terrace-heaters, all second-hand, but very useful. De new-

bought chairs are on the terraces of the 2-bedroom houses and the old-one’s are now in the Stabul with the small tables.



They needed a bit of dusting , but with the Kärcher that was not a problem.

We think that with the new furniture and set-up, the happy hours will be better again, or isn’t that possible anymore ?



With the Stabul-floor in this great shape Irene could not longer resist. Finely she made her long longed wish come through.

With a brush, roller and compressor,



she attacked the wall. The work is almost done and already the result is stunning? why have



WELL, AT LEAST WE STILL HAVE THE PHOTO’S !!

