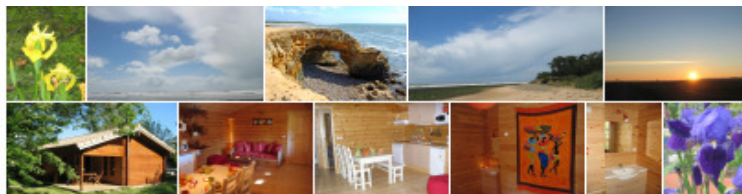




"Les Aulnettes"



111 rue de la Mare (85560) Longeville sur Mer www.les-aulnettes.com

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STORMY WEATHER !

The night of the 11th of February, a storm ran over Les Aulnettes, with raffles from over 140 km/h

Winter was a rather quiet period in regard of outdoor activities, at Les Aulnettes. With rather chilly mornings and little daylight, we do not hibernate, but most of the work was done indoors.

Therefore, when we thought of a relatively quiet moment, a storm forecast was given out. We like to think that French forecasters exaggerate a lot especially when a storm is announced.

Mostly things are not as bad as they are



expected,
so ...

This time
they were
maybe
more
anxious
because
not long

before a great storm had ravaged the south of France and in some parts electricity was not restored yet.

Nevertheless, it was Thursday and the storm was not yet there. However, the forecast did not change, therefore we awaited the worst.

The storm came as a calm breeze, but at nine, it became serious. As foreseen, the top of the storm was between midnight and 32 o'clock, with raffles of 140 km/h. Everything was rattling and banging and we expected the worse. An

iron-plated roof was making a great racket, but it was too dangerous to get out in the dark. Roof tiles were doing the wave on the roof and were to fly away any second. Apparently, everything held, more or less. At about half past one we went to bed, still listening to any sound that could indicate a real problem that could make you go outside anyhow. At 2 o'clock, the storm got "relatively" calm !! Eventually we fell asleep.

The next morning we learned that the electricity was cut off. That lasted almost 2 days. The problem is that we had only electrical heating, and so it went rather cold in our house.

In the park not much damage was done. The worst were the wooden doors that could not stand the wind power, and the 2 Les Aulnettes panels on either side of Les Rabouillères. Then the tree, in front of the nr 5 House has lost 5 branches. That was about it.



Thanks to the storm, we now have a wood heated stove. Very nice and very appropriate. Most pitiful was the loss of our Krokotten and Frikadellen. Dutch specialties, precious kept in our "freezer", to enjoy at special occasions. Well, not this time !

Sander had again some – we do not know the name - holiday. It was somewhere between Christmas and Eastern.

Anyway, he loves his - bought with his own savings -, Wii, but than again, he drops everything when his weekly “Donald Duck” (Mickey in French) falls in the mailbox.

He practically devours it !

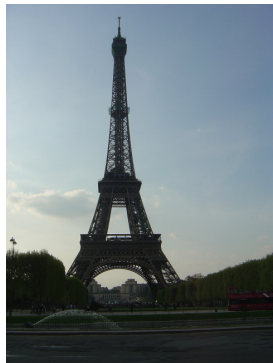
Some weeks ago, he asked Irene to send a card



to the Mickey to participate a price winning something. The result is clear, as you can see on the photo.

Irene en Frans have not to much personal business to tell although the last has almost cut off his thumb with the buzz saw. He is doing rather well and walks around without his sticking plaster.

The Vendée Globe, had a new record, with for the second time Micheal Desjoyeaux as winner, in 84 days, 3 hours, 9 minutes and 8 seconds. Only 11 of the 30 ships crossed the finish line, among them the British pride, Samantha Davies.



Virtually the “les-aulnettes.com” and the “Porrel” came in at the places 32.415 and 34.526. Maybe not the podium, or a record, but knowing there were over 3267.000 ships, a rather good achievement. Even if you consider that, we had no electricity



for 2 days about a week before the finish. Anyhow, it was fun.

End of April we were in Holland for the wedding of Arthur, Irenes brother, with his wife Judith. Although a memorable moment, we were happy to return to Les Aulnettes.

On the way there, we stopped at Paris to show Sander some of the classics. He now lives longer in France than he lived in Holland.



We have had the First Sabulation BBQ of the year,



next to the new bar.

We worked with several people on this bar, like Jeroen and his father-in-law Henk and my sisters husband Han. The bar is made of almost only old materials and stands before/behind the Mobil home.

Furthermore, we made a buffet with its appropriate summer place for our 52 inch LCD screen. Again, it will be a sportive summer. We have to watch “Le Tour” and other events. At the same time we can check if everything is in order for the world championship next year in South Africa. There is o,ly one hour time difference between them and us in france, so we can watch at “normal” times.

The photo gallery is a big success. The day of the announcement, we had a record number of visitors on the website. So keep sending your photos. This year the tourist office (Office de Tourisme) Longeville organise a (free of charge) Photo Contest for this summers best photo. The motto is “*chacun bouge à son rythme*”, meaning; everybody has his own tempo.

You can send your photo to us and we will transfer it for you, or you can send it to otlongeville@wanadoo.fr with the mention Concours Photo 2009.

To be continued