

2009 MERRY CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Here we are again! It seems like yesterday, but another year has run down the Lot river. Once more we have had a full year both by ourselves, but also with the presence of our family. The 2008 year X-mas and New Year celebrations went very quite in comparison to last years crowding – as we celebrated alone or together with good friends here. The contrast was in the summer when both Darcy and Timm and Tine and the girls arrived even with an extra girl Callie, a friend of Chantal's. They came at the right time in June when the garden needs extra care ☺



As the years before we have mostly spend our time in our lovely garden and house – and it has been worthwhile as the harvest is well in house – potatoes, sweet corn, onions, pumpkins, garlic not to mention our bumper crop of walnuts. In February we had the hurricane passing by and we barely escaped having one of our big fir trees falling into our neighbours house – it has now been felled! Later in April the river suddenly rose by 4 meters in the night and our little boat was drawn under by its moorings – luckily they held and the boat was recovered.

Our travel plans were completely changed and instead of going to Denmark and USA our family came here which we greatly appreciated. The financial crisis has also hit here, but luckily our investments have rebounded, but it was a nasty surprise when the Danish government unilaterally cancelled the Danish-French double taxation agreement – thanks to the French and their kind attitude towards pensioners it did not turn into hardship.

Whatever travelling we have done has been restricted to beautiful France, a few visits to Toulouse and Bordeaux in connection with meeting members of the Danish colony at lunches. Ole has become representative of “Danes Worldwide” in the Cahors area and this we celebrated with a “grundlovsdag” (constitution day) lunch with 30 other Danes. We are also still active members of the French-British Association and as such held our yearly barbeque with 36 attending – here our barbeque house and our large covered pavilion comes in handy. Ole also held a well attended talk about the “North-eastern Greenland national park”. Puk is still busy with her bead working activity helping a friend with her business and doing repair work for friends.

Our interest in French antiques has once more added to our collection of funny contraptions and traditional appliances to such a degree that we probably could hold our own antique fair. For those of you who might be interested Ole's collection of Cahors AOC wines is now up to 244 different producers! Ole also had the pleasure of having 2 very large articles about Danish aviation published in the German magazine “Fliegerrevue” and was even paid for it!

We are also proud of our grand-daughter Chantal who graduated from High-school this year with excellent results and who has now started at the “Carleton College” a very prestigious school with a full scholarship.

This Christmas will once again be a two-some affair family wise, but with good friends here and of course our little darling Chanel who is just an unbelievable friend.

Next year? We hope to organise ourselves to make a visit to Denmark in spring, to see Timm and Darcy's home, to visit Ole's brother and Puk's family. Otherwise we prefer to stay here in what we believe is Paradise.

Finally as usual: “remember to come in if you pass by (we have space for visitors) as our new lifestyle includes visitors”.

if you want to see pictures from Les Tuileries click in on www.ole-nikolajsen.com (our website with all the news) or directly on to <http://www.ole-nikolajsen.com/france/france.htm>

With the best wishes and the hope of a happy decade 2010 PUK & OLE



Ole with Chanel, César, Pink Paw and mom Anita



Puk in our sweet corn and sunflower field



Ole on his way to work



Puk with Chanel and little brother César



A quite morning at Les Tuileries