By Jean-Yves

Meeting with Guus

During a journey in the Netherlands in May 2008 I met Guus in Amsterdam. We knew each other for approximately 3 years through Internet thanks to pop-pop boats.

Guus showed me some of his pop-pop constructions. He built many coil engines. Some made of glass. Most of the engines made of copper. For a given diameter he succeeded to optimize the dimensions, the number of loops of the coil and the shape of the tubes.

I couldn't resist to align a series of pop-pop clogs in his office to take a picture (here on the side).

Guus humor that I had already appreciated through our many exchanges by email has been confirmed. And we (Danièle and I) have discovered the conviviality of Guus and Eva. While we were talking technical matters our wives had other topics to discuss. This allowed us to spend good time about pop-pop and other constructions of Guus.

To jump from one extreme (the tiny pop-pop) to another one (a big steam engine) Guus drove me to the Cruquius museum: a water pumping station built to dry a polder. The reciprocating steam engine is supplied by 8 boilers using coal. This machine, built in 1849, drives simultaneously 8 reciprocating pumps. Each piston diameter is approximately 1m. The stroke is 4.5m. (If you type « Cruquius museum » on a search engine you could have an idea of the colossal size.)

I already knew that Guus is also an artist. He showed me some of his pieces of art. Some of his many sculptures are displayed in museums. For each piece of art Guus has a humorous explanation.

But let's come back to the pop-pop clogs! They as well have a humorous justification. According to Guus they are made to save human lives when -due to climate warming- the polders are flooded. Every Dutch citizen should own one pair with some fuel... On that topic, in 2007, Guus made a speech (I got the 4 page text printed in small letters) presented as very serious to introduce an internal conference about the planet warming.

And to end this meeting we appreciated an excellent meal. Thank you so much Guus.