



SOIREE

The biggest and best Soiree of all was held this year for Theo's 50th and the ten

Brummelaar clan turned out in style. There was a festival atmosphere because (nearly) all the family was here, to wit: Theo Sr., Helga, Ingrid, Henk, Alannah, Joan, Danielle, Chris and April. People came from out of town and we even had a surprise visit from North of the Border! There were about 20 acts including a puppet show, 2 dance shows, and a full-scale Powerpoint presentation. And to add to the wonder we had two Zappa Alumni guest players, Arthur and Bob. They were, as you can maybe imagine, extraordinary and Arthur was not fazed in the least when called upon to back up for another number accompanying Mike, our surprise guest from Canada. When Mike found out who he had casually hauled onstage to help him out, was fazed just a little bit. Ah folks, you should have seen it and, quite frankly, if you ever want to come visit when a Soiree is on, all that is required is either an act of any sort or the talent to be a great audient and we encourage you to think about adding it to your agenda some day!



CONQUERING THE CONTINENTS

Europe was stormed twice by our conquering heroes this year. Our niece Danielle joined us in Amsterdam and then we visited Eric & Joke, Ivo & Anna and Jur, Ken & Gypsy as we travelled to Den Hague, Delft, Ooderkerk, Alkmaar and Nord Holland. Paris was enlivened by Nic, Steve & Alisa, Eveline & Faustine, and Ivo & Anna. Punctuated by our frequents to L'Imprevu and our favourite markets & shops. Later Theo & Gerard and Peter T and Brian & Barbara and the rest of the IAU annexed Beijing and the Great Wall. Oh yes, and we popped down to Bonn and Koln.



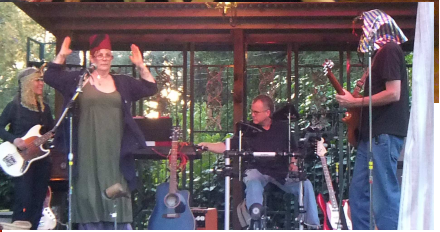
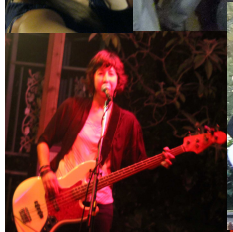
LIVING ROOM BAND

A band full of very lovely people, TLRB has a residency at the Unurban Café. Led by dynamic singer/song writer Andy, (right on mic) we managed to get through a surprising number of very original tunes.



TRAVEL CONTINUED

The International Astronomical Union (no, not that kind of Union unfortunately) get together in Beijing did not have the excitement of removing a planet from its orbit, or even anything more controversial than a change in the internal structure of the organization, but it was well attended and had its moments. One particularly exciting moment was when it was finally admitted that the past president had been putting his hand in the till for some time. The food was strangely like Chinese food in the west, apart from the occasional fried sparrow and insect on a stick.





OH, IT'S NICE TO HAVE A MAN AROUND THE HOUSE...

Theo, as you all probably know, is what they once called a Renaissance Man. He has a range of talents and I'd like to take this opportunity to brag about them a bit. He made chair covers, and a speaker cabinet, he remade the webbing under the couch, he cooks, he sews

and can hear the harmony line in any song you throw at him. Besides, he's strong and will move the entire record collection to the high shelf for you without a - oh wait, I did that. Look at all that vinyl...



SAILING

With only the occasional reference to the Master and Commander series, the crew of the intrepid Orion continue to venture forth on the not too briny sea. It's very gentlemanly sailing as we don't like to spill our G&Ts. Peter is particularly good at invoking the good Dr. Marturin by continually ignoring the position of the boom and wind, while pointing out sea life, including a frolicking whale. Seena's training up the new c a b i n b o y , Ramzi, and Don charts the best sails on the high seas.



PARIS & L'IMPREVU

The good people of the 14th in Paris looked after us very well, indeed, they let us play to our hearts content. Mous and his crew of reprobates always put on a good show, and are welcoming and tolerant of visiting foreigners who have a taste for live music and good food. François runs an excellent little place, takes a nice photo and keeps a good stock of wine and food. We were joined by the Ridgways, Ivo, Anna and Nic at various times, and I believe a good time was had by all. If you find yourself in Paris and want to find a warm place full of good music and people we thoroughly recommend L'Imprevu 35 Rue Didot, 75014 Paris.



AUF WIEDERSEIN

With Kaspar going back to Germany, we have finally announced the end of the Dangerous Aliens—with no bass player or drummer it's pretty hard to have a rock band after all. One last gig was had at Kaspar and Jess' farewell party, with support act 'Cruise Control'



Phish heads Phish Heads
Roly Poly Phish Heads
Phish Heads Phish Heads
Eat Them Up - Yum

and special guest bass player Arthur Barrow. Even Amy agreed to play one more show, but we suspect that was only so she could quit the band a fourth time.

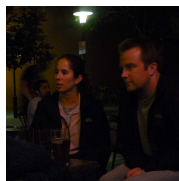


With Tabbie



STARS

Arthur's love of astronomy and physics crossed paths with our love of music. Coincidentally we loved meeting Randi as well.



THANKS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS