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# David Nash 2006 News

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I'm trying desperately to stay awake to write this year's newsletter, having been up all night packing all my worldly belongings into boxes, so please excuse any lapses in typing. As the sharp-eyed among you may have noticed, this is because I now have a new home address in Copenhagen, although this address will only be valid until the end of March 2007, after which I hope to have another more permanent address. I had been at Jens Juels Gade 33 for 5½ years, which is my longest occupancy since leaving home, but in late October Michael and Rikke, my landlords, announced that they were separating, and I had to look for a new place to live. Nansensgade 30, 3 th (that's "til højre" – to the right – in case you were worried about my spelling) is a nice, large flat, so if you're visiting Copenhagen in early 2007, you're welcome to drop in.

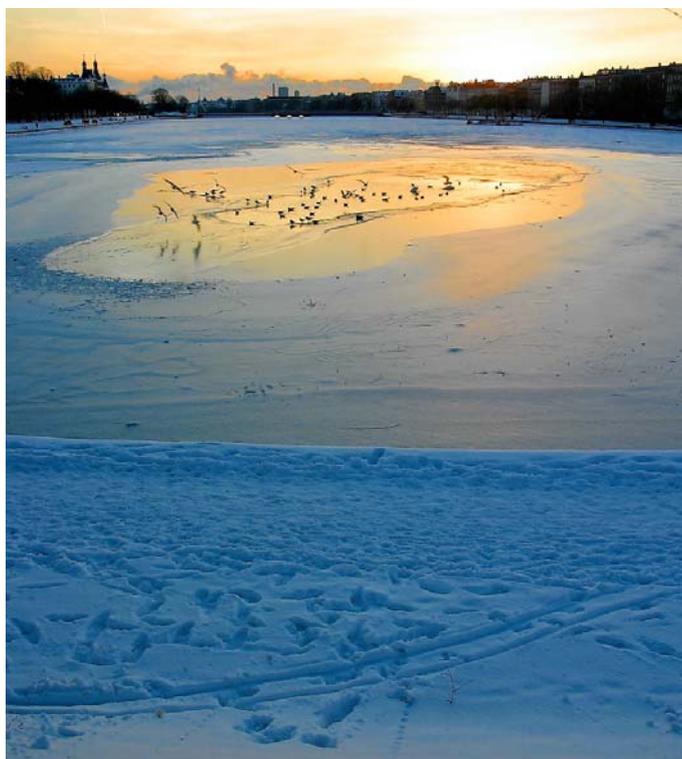
Moving flat is not the only major upheaval in my life at the moment, however, and the other is a much more positive one – I will be sharing the new flat with a new partner in crime – Jane Møller Hansen, an entirely wonderful IT expert who I met back in September, and who I hope will also become a more permanent fixture. I'm hoping that the next few months of stability will turn into years of stability.



Jane and me in "Bankerått" in November – the doll's heads are part of the rather unusual décor of the bar.

2006 has, as usual, been my busiest year yet, although it started off quite calmly, with time to enjoy a real old-fashioned snowy winter in

Copenhagen. This was marred somewhat by having to have a wisdom tooth extracted and root canal work in February, but this was compensated somewhat by a visit from Andy Green in March, who I'd not seen for, I think, 18 years. March also saw the departure of Mischa Dijkstra for Canada, which was a sad occasion, as he had become one of my best friends during his time in Copenhagen. The first conference of the year was a meeting about *Symbiosis* in Edinburgh in April – a city that I had not managed to visit before – and where I also managed to catch up with Graham Stone and Alex, and finally meet their daughter Rosie. It was also in April that Seirian Sumner and Nick Isaac visited Copenhagen and stayed with me for a couple of nights – Seirian was heavily pregnant at the time, and little Reuben was delivered safely in July – I hope to meet him in a couple of days when I come over to the UK for Christmas.



Last winter in Copenhagen – the frozen defensive lakes

At the end of May Steve Mott and Julie and Alexia Beale came over to Denmark, and we met up and rented a cottage on the West coast of Jutland, from which we made day-trips out to various attractions, so I have finally managed to see Denmark's biggest

attraction – LEGoland! Our departmental field trip this year was to Rosnæs, in early June, where we had a memorable evening barbecue and watched the sunset from the place from which one can see furthest in Denmark.

After this things became madly hectic for the rest of the year. As usual, fieldwork started in late June, and I gave a talk (in Danish, of sorts) to the public about my work on the island of Læsø in early July. Then in late July it was off to the USA for the second conference of the year, the IUSSI (International Union for the Study of Social Insects) meeting in Washington DC. I took the opportunity while in North America to nip across the border and visit Mischa in Montreal before the conference. The conference itself coincided with a serious heat-wave in Washington, so we were largely confined to the air-conditioned hotel, with outside temperatures topping 42°C.



The Washington memorial and Capitol on a blistering hot day in Washington.

In August I went over to the UK for 12 days, most of which were spent in the Peak district with my whole family, celebrating my mum's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. I can't remember the last time we had a family holiday.

September brought more fieldwork, and the third conference, the Royal Entomological Society meeting in Bath. As always it was nice to return to one of my old haunts, and to catch up with Glenda Orledge and Joanna Byrd while there. I also had my

first ever PhD student, Matthias Fürst, starting in September – makes me feel quite grown-up.

October brought a visit to the Copenhagen international school, where Sylvia Matthiasen and I talked to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade kids about social insects, and showed them some ant colonies. November was stuffed full of teaching on the conservation course, and a brief weekend visit to London, to see Jane (she is working there two weeks out of three at the moment), while December brought the last conference of the year (the USSI UK section meeting in London – so I could see Jane yet again), and then all the moving hassles.



Tigger, still prowling in the garden back in April

The saddest event of the year was the death of our family cat *Tigger* at the grand old age of 18, but I am pleased to say that my mum and dad have recently adopted two new cats (*Sam* and *Chi*), who I also look forward to meeting over Christmas.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas, and for 2007 – if we didn't see each other in 2006, then maybe it will happen in 2007?

*David*