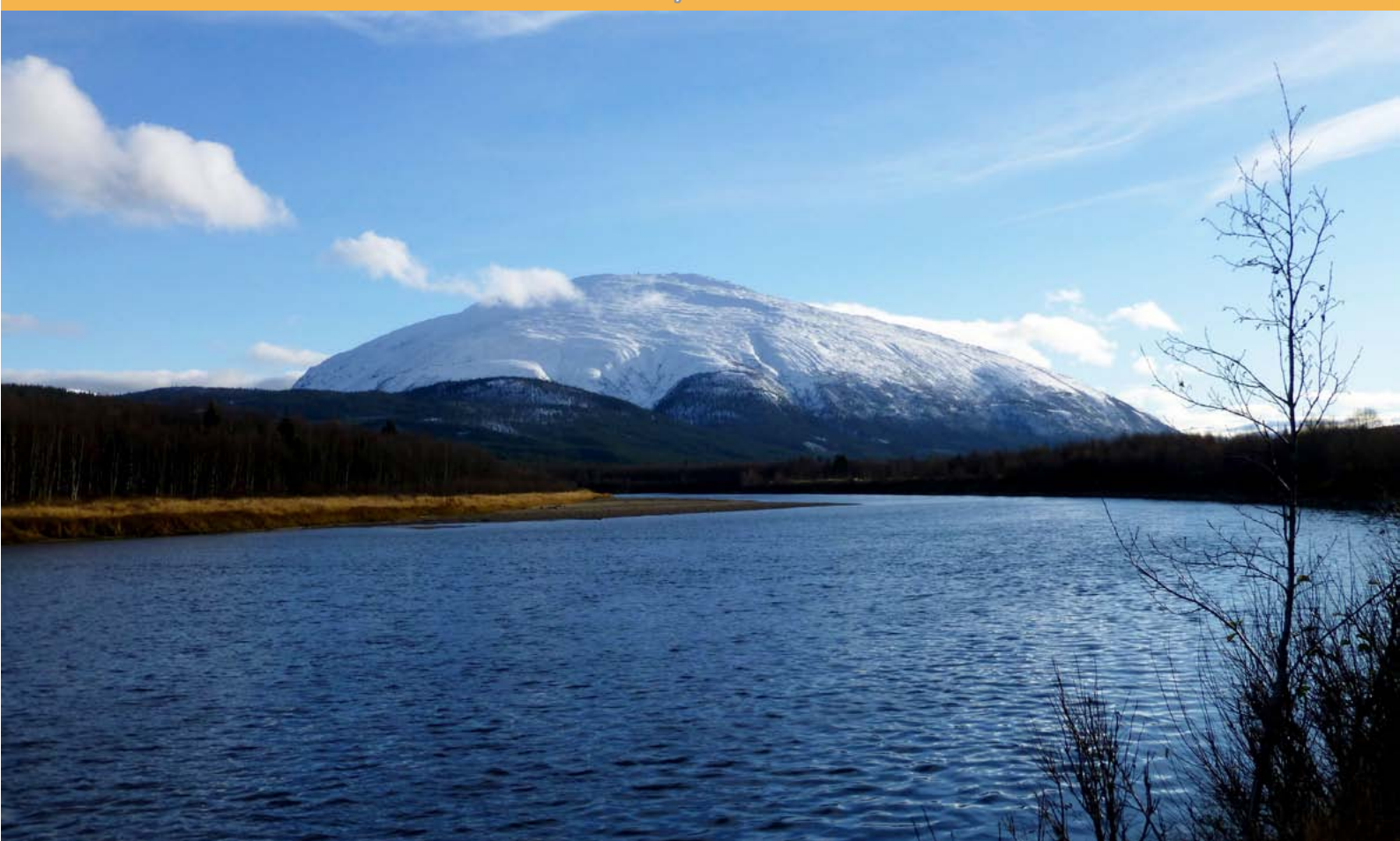




The Mt. Tron Mail

December 2015 * Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation * No. 3-4 Vol. 18



Mt. Tron seen from Tynset, with the river Glomma in front, 16.10.2012. Photo: BP.

What has happened at Tronsvangen Seter since the takeover this summer?

There has been lots of activity at Tronsvangen Seter during the last half year since the takeover at the end of June following the previous issue of The Mt. Tron Mail.

In this special double issue we look at the renovations, upgrades and investments carried out after the property had suffered from standing empty for four years and from many years of general neglect. We also look at visits and other activities during late summer, autumn and early winter, together with plans and possibilities for operation in 2016. Turn the page for our photo reportage and more!



Washing and cleanup!



The very first thing that was needed after taking over at the turn of June/July was a thoroughgoing washing of all the rooms in the whole building, especially the kitchen, together with an extensive cleanup and throwing out of lots of old and useless rubbish. There are no store rooms at "Setra" (which we call it now instead of "the hotel") so everything old and useless had been stored away in various corners and nooks all over the building. A huge 20m³ industrial container for large garbage was hired from the regional waste disposal company, FIAS, for ten days, and this became filled to the brim.

To help us with all the toil and labour many friends from the Sri Lankan Tamil circle in Oslo came every weekend during the whole of July. From the very start also two especially competent and efficient ladies from Sweden worked with us for about a week. Outside the building Kent was handling grass cutting and other odd jobs. Kent has been living at Shantibu since last summer and since August this year he has been moving into Setra where he is functioning as caretaker and handyman.



Opposite page:
A pause in the labour outside in the grass in the splendid summer weather, 05.07.2015. In the wheelbarrow sits Preeti with her daughter Ira. Photo: BP.



Above:
Panorama of Tronsvangen Seter with good helpers outside in the yard, 05.07.2015. Photo: BP.

To the left:
From the left are seen Satheesh, Thamba and Srielang in front of the industrial container, 12.07.2015. These guys did a huge amount of work toiling hard! Photo: BP.

Below:
A well earned rest in the grand living room after work well done! From left: Emelie with little Ira on her lap, Malin, Murthi, Satheesh, Thamba, Preeti, Shiva, Srielang and Kent. Photo: BP.



Office of the University of Peace

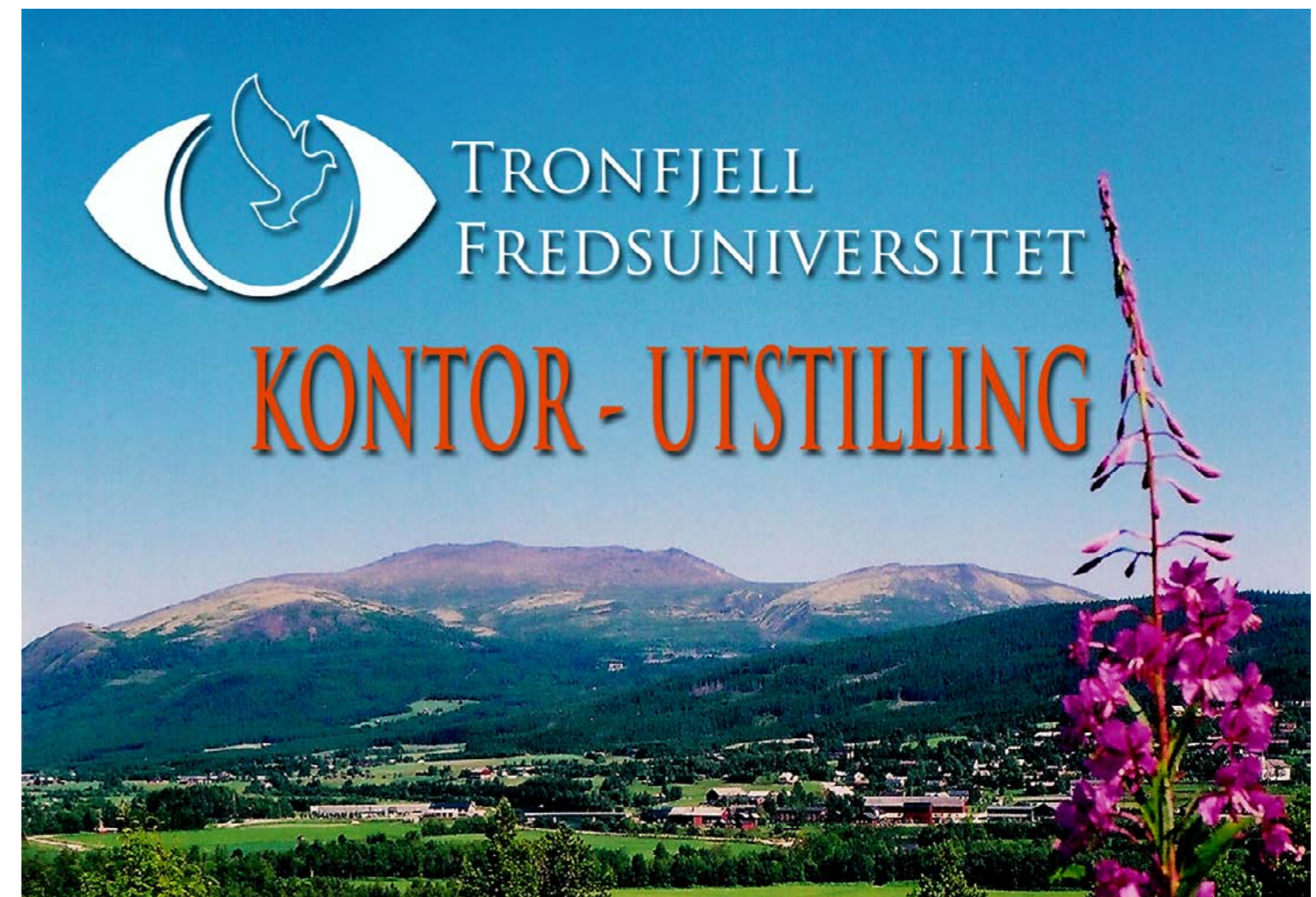
Above: The view from the office window is fantastic! Here one overview of Alvodal, the Western Mountains and Rondane in the early morning of 12.08.2015. Foto: BP.

Below: A poster at the entrance. Photo: BP.

Opposite page: The second floor office, which contains an exhibition. Photo: 06.08.2015. BP.



The Office of the University of Peace was established on the second floor at Tronsvangen Seter during July, and the exhibition of Knud Larsen's impressive drawings was attached to the walls at the beginning of August. The drawings show the sketch project of the Mt. Tron University of Peace, 13 sketches in all, together with a big poster showing where a model fits into the landscape at the Peace Plateau (Flattron). The model itself is also exhibited, together with the sanctioned Regulation Plan.



Visit by Sri Lankan Tamils from Oslo and London



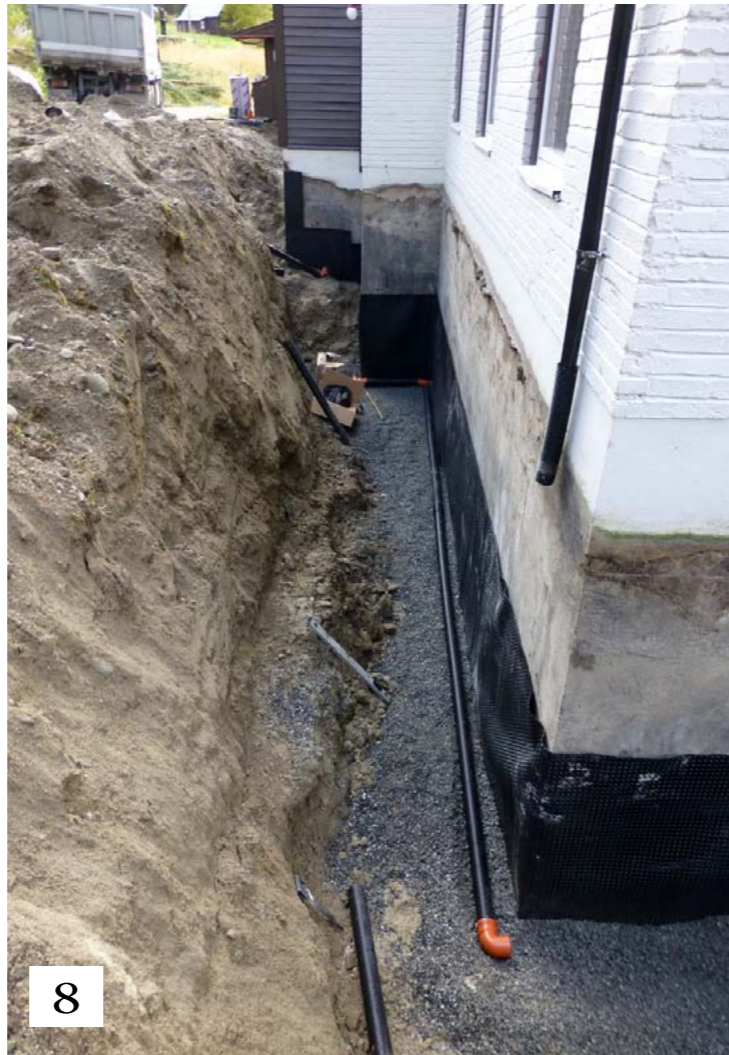
From 7th to 9th August Setra was nearly full with almost 40 paying guests from the Tamil Sri Lankan milieu in Oslo and in London. This was the first big test of the functionality and capacity of the building. Everything was fine, and except for a few complaints about ice cold shower water, everybody expressed great satisfaction. The weather was also most favourable.

The kitchen functioned well and the visitors organized themselves nicely with taking kitchen duty in turns. They made and served all the food themselves. There were yoga, yajña, tai-chi, kirtan and satsanga activities, as well as mountain and forest hikes. In front to the right in the picture above: Yogi Ram Sunthar. Both photos: 09.08.2015.



Digging with drainage and insulation





The digging started on September 15th and lasted for ten days, just as the digger, Juul Arne Sinnerud, had calculated beforehand. First the South-West side of the building was dug, exactly where the new part of the building (bricks) starts, just near the entrance, and down about 2.5 metres to the footing of the foundation wall, and forward to the end of the building (picture 1).

It was also dug on the other side of the building, from the kitchen entrance and all the way down to the end of the building (picture 7). And lastly the North-West end of the building was dug (picture 12).

A layer of crushed stone with a perforated drainage pipe on top, itself covered with a new layer of crushed stone was laid at the bottom of the ditch. After brushing the wall, a special kind of foundation wall millboard was nailed to the wall. First one breadth from the bottom (picture 2), and then another breadth above (picture 4). But before the second breadth of millboard was put in place, compact drainage pipes connected to the down-pipes were laid down in the ditch (picture 3 and 8). These compact drainage pipes were also covered by a layer of crushed stone, and then the ditch was partly filled up with soil, after the second breadth of millboard had been nailed to the wall (picture 4).

After that insulation plates were put in place, first vertical into the wall, and then horizontal (perpendicular) to hinder frost from entering into the ground (picture 5 and 13).

A ditch for the outflow was dug from a bowl in the North-West corner of the building across the slopes to the neighbouring land (picture 9). A bigger bowl now replaces the old one which was considerably smaller

(picture 4 and 6).

While the digging was going on at the front, the vacuum toilet system inside the building became blocked. Ivar Lien from Nord-Østerdal Mijøservice AS had to be called and plumber Terje Dalsegg and Juul Arne and we all had a hard time getting it clear again (picture 10).

At the rear of the building, near the kitchen entrance, it became necessary to dig up an old oil tank before the digging of the ditch could start. Again Ivar Lien had to be called, this time for the emptying and degassing of the tank before digging it up (picture 11). The tank was already entirely empty of oil.

Also at the rear the main water pipe comes into the building together with the electrical earth cable. The local power company had already marked the position of the earth cable but we had no clue as to where the water pipe entered the building. Therefore the first day of digging outside at the back became rather tense but it all turned out fine. On this side of the building the ground was more clayey and very wet. At certain places we even found water in the ditch (picture 7)! This left us with no doubt about the necessity of doing this digging, something which had been clear to us before from looking at the condition of the basement walls inside.

When the digging of the ditches was finished, they were filled up and closed, then levelled at the surface and lastly a few truck loads of very finely grained crushed stone were laid out on top all around the building where the digging work had been going on. An overgrown ditch towards the forest before the open space into the building, was dug up and restored (pictures 14 and 15).



All 15 photos are taken between September 15th and September 25th: BP.



15

Other craftsman's work and installations



Above: Plumber Terje Dalsegg has virtually been living at Setra since we took it over this summer: He started with the installation of a 200 litre water heater, as we didn't dare to start up the existing old ones. Then he changed six old vacuum toilets which were broken, perhaps by frost, and thereafter washbasin fittings in almost all the rooms, together with the kitchen. Otherwise he has changed and replaced all horizontal outlet pipes belonging to the vacuum system in the basement, relating to the old part of the building, which were all about 30-50 % blocked by petrified sedimentation. In one place there was a plug which covered about 75 % of the pipe's opening, and which had caused problems during most of autumn. This plug may have been several years old.

To the left: The newest (01.12.) plumbing work; the installation of three 400 litre water heaters with an economical mixing valve, which will be serving all the rooms with hot water. From now on the first 200 litres will serve the kitchen only.

Below: Alvdal Blikkenslagerverksted AS (tinsmith) by Ivar Oddlien and assistant, changed the most pressing of broken gutters and downpipes, during some days at the end of September.



Above: The nice oak parquet floor in the conference hall in the basement had expanded hugely after four successive years of cold and had a great bulge in the middle. The able carpenters Steinar Haug and Dag Ole Lien put on heater fans on 24.09, and got it all good again on the 7th and 8th of October.

To the left: Nord-Østerdal Elektroservice AS installed a completely new fire alarm system throughout the building over several weeks from 22nd September and the whole of October. Here is seen the control panel at the reception, together with drawings of all units in the system.

Below: Mathias and Roy from Tynset Varmeservice AS installed three air-to-air heat exchangers during the turn of November-December: a Mitsubishi in the stairway between the floors, and one Fujitsu at each end of the building.



Other news

New Company

Tronsvangen Seter Drift AS (T S Operation Inc.) was founded this year in Alvdal on November 18th and registered at Brønnøysundregistrene on December 7th with organization no. 916 334 427. The address is: Tronsvanglia 238, 2560 Alvdal, Norway, and the e-mail address is: kontakt@tronsvangenseter.no. Knud Larsen is the chair person and Bjørn Pettersen is board member. The objective is operation of Tronsvangen Seter, “including rent out, courses and retreat, and other products/services naturally belonging to this...”

Classical music festival

On Monday November 16th we had a visit from Lars Christian Olaussen from Moss, together with a professor of violin and two classical musicians from Indonesia. They had arranged an international music festival on Java last year under the title “Mozart in the rain forest”, which was a success. And now they are thinking of putting on something similar in Norway in the coming summer if they receive the necessary cultural means as support. They came to see whether Tronsvangen Seter would be suitable for their purposes and they left having become positively surprised about the qualities and possibilities here.



Emergency reception for refugees

A theme that has been frequently discussed during all of autumn and pre winter has been whether or not Tronsvangen Seter could be functioning as an emergency reception for refugees. After internal discussion we agreed on receiving a small number of refugees for a short period until spring/summer and we were in dialogue with the municipality about this for a while. Eventually they insisted that we made a direct connection with the UDI (government) ourselves. The UDI made it clear that for them any reception with less than a hundred beds was out of the question because of problems with logistics and administration.

We then contacted the Hektoen brothers at Savalen Fjellhotell and had meetings with them, one at Savalen and one at Tronsvangen. We thought of the possibility that Savalen, who already hosted 180 refugees and recently had bought two minor hotels in the district for the sole purpose of having refugees there, could hire Tronsvangen Seter with its maximum of 60 beds, as a part of their total number of beds. However, in a meeting with the UDI and Savalen shortly after that, the UDI made it clear that they didn't want to establish any more emergency receptions. Instead they want to have more permanent receptions with three year contracts. Consequently this project was no longer of current interest to us.

Atmasukha (stage name) is a young man from Trondheim who is a trained and performing classical pianist with lots of engagements and who teaches music at an upper secondary school. He rents a room at Tronsvangen Seter for the long term, and comes here during weekend when he is not playing concerts or is busy with other engagements.

Atmasukha also knows how to use his reflex camera, and in the following – on the next page and on the last page – we reproduce some of the pictures he has taken during late summer and autumn from the window of his room at Tronsvangen Seter.

Photo of Atmasukha: 29.05.2014. BP.





© Atmasukha



© Atmasukha

The Mt.Trøn Mail - the newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt.Trøn University of Peace

Publisher: Mt.Trøn University of Peace Foundation
Editor: Bjørn Pettersen
(Chairman of the Foundation)
Issues: Quarterly (4 times a year)
Languages: Norwegian and English
Prices: Subscription of support NOK 350,-/year
US\$ 50,-/year € 44,-/year

Address: "Shantibu", 2560 Alvdal, Norway
Telephone: +47 62 11 36 91
E-mail: shanti@tronuni.org
Internet: www.tronuni.org
Organization No: 990 106 118
IBAN: NO94 1895 2650 935
BIC-address: SHEDNO22
Bank name: Sparebanken Hedmark

© Mt.Trøn University of Peace Foundation, 2560 Alvdal, Norway