

“Samlingskraft – Enggaarden / Sulelængen I Magtenbølle” (script (28 p. in Danish)

– published in Danish in April 2024; presented in English here...

- A free printed edition of the script can be handed out on our premises, [or you can read it here](#)

We (Ingrid Henriksen & Jørgen Bjerring, owners of the old “Enggaarden” (“The Farm On The Meadow”) in Magtenbølle (DK) tell the story of our farm, especially the story from after we bought the farm in 1993 and started restoring it... Nowadays the farm is better known as “Sulelængen I Magtenbølle” – below find out more about a “Sulelænge”.

The farm (four winged with thatched roof and half-timbered buildings) used to be the typical farm especially in our region (the Western part of the Island of Funen (Danish: Fyn)), see photo p. 7 with our farm to the right and our nearest neighbor, today with only two wings, and no thatched roof our half-timbered walls. (The photo was taken in 1939).

From being the typical farm in our region from about 1780 to 1930 there are very few left today. Some have burnt down, many others have been demolished – they grew out-of-date especially after 1950 when Danish farming evolved into farming *industry*.

Why then, is our farm so well preserved? There are two-three reasons:

1. Since 1941 there have only been two owners of this place. (Often with new landlords big changes take place. The new owners want to put their fingermarks on their new premises). Owners from 1941 to 1993 were Ove Jensen and his wife Marie. Ove got sick in 1970 and died in 1977. From then on “time stood still”; the widow Marie lived here, the cows and pigs were set out and the land rented out to a local farmer until we (Ingrid & Jørgen) took over in 1993
2. Immediately in 1993 we fell in love with this place. Fortunately, in 1993 we had 20 years of experience restoring another idyllic house 8 km. from here. And we brought some money from there when we sold the house and relocated to Magtenbølle. So we had the money necessary to start a process restoring our farm instead of demolishing half of it due to the costs of preserving it. Since 1993 we have continuously worked on restoration and conservation of the old buildings – acknowledging the cultural history of the farm and the ‘spirit’.
3. It is important for this place, and especially the total complexity of the farm, to have some ‘content’. In the old days the ‘content’ were animals (cows, sheep, pigs, hens...) and storage of food during the Wintertime. Today the ‘content’ is “events” (live music, tourism, apartment(s)).
With no “content” most of the buildings would be demolished because they’re in no way ‘cost-effective’.

Now, let’s take a look at the pictures in the script to give you an idea of what we tell the Danish readers...

Page 5: A special thing about these old farms are the “Suler” (German: “die Säulen”) in the middle of the room. Basically it is a viking-age construction, the suler taking most of the pressure from the roof.

Page 8: You see the original wall of our apartment from the garden side (East). The wall was demolished by the new owners (Ove Jensen and Marie) in 1941 when they bought the farm. In fact, at that time the apartment was three meters longer with two small, not heated living rooms. However, this part of the house in a very bad condition, Ove & Marie decided to shorten the apartment and to build a brand new wall (very ‘modern’ and attractive in 1941, but absolutely not in 1993. So we decided to reconstruct the wall in 1993 to make it look ‘acceptable’, though with no half timber in it (photo p. 9).

Photos p. 10 and 11 show so called “farm house windows” – we chose right in choosing the windows p. 11 when we had to get new windows. They cost three times more than the “farm house windows” shown at p. 10 – but we never regretted to pay that more for windows belonging to the time of 1780 when our farm was constructed.

P. 12: Take a look at the corner where our front door is. You may notice that we ‘violated’ something there... There used to be an open port leading directly into our fields to the West. (Our farm is not heritage, so we could do that in order to get a bit more space in our apartment. So “En port bliver lukket” / “A port has been closed”. Now, take a look again at the old photo p. 7. Please notice the open port in the corner of the courtyard which we closed in 1995.

P. 13 and 15: A brand new half-timbered wall was build in 2008. We learned an elderly carpenter (p. 25 and 26) in Jutland to know. This was the start of the Sulelænge-restauration in 2008, lasting until 2012 when we could open up our 'cultural house'/venue with live music, art exhibitions, meetings and more, the present 'content' of the building.

Please notice the six old windows (which we found in an old farm house which was being destructed in 2009). We needed to get some light into the building which was, in fact, not due to the old days with stables and food storage for the animals. So also here we 'violated' the original look of the outer wall with all these windows. Instead we deliberately preserved the original look in the courtyard which most people see by arrival here. In the courtyard you get an idea of 'stables and storage' in three buildings and 'apartment' in the fourth. (Photo p. 16).

Page 14: Another half-timber restauration project (to the South) in 2010.

Page 18: Our good thatcher Kim Hansen. Very keen on his profession which he has practiced since he was young. His step father thatched the first house which we owned 1973-93. A roof made by a professional thatcher can last about 50 years. Only the layer on the top of the roof must have a new top layer about every 7th year. But the thatcher only needs one day to add a new top layer on a normal house (at least if you can help bringing the material up to him).

P. 19: In 2015 we had the glass house built. It took us 20 years to decide upon that... You may think we spoiled the farm history by building this 'monster'. However, we love it, and it really brings 'content' to our venue with an audience of 50 people inside...

P. 20: Restauration (in 2011) of the Sulelænge-wall in the courtyard. Half timber is "Lego" or "Techno"...

P. 22: We tell a bit about the cultural history of not only the building complex, but also the 9 hectares which is still in our farm's belongings.

P. 24-27 is an article written in 2011 about one of the Suler – a brand new one, cut out from an 80 years old oak tree near Fredericia (Jutland) and set up here in 2010. If you enter the building, you will see it.

Sulelængen in Magtenbølle is a culture house which is situated in one of the four wings of an old farm from about 1780. The owners Ingrid Henriksen and Jørgen Bjerring owns the old farm, and they live in one of the four wings.

In the wing to the west, you have the "Sulelænge". A Sulelænge is an old construction, as old as from the Viking age where you have some big beams in the middle of the room taking the pressure from the roof.

Cultural events in the Sulelænge. Now the Sulelænge which was originally used as a stable for pigs, sheep and hens is being used for Music & Brunch or for Music & Coffee- or Music and Dinner events. (Find dates for events in the menu: "ARRANGEMENTER" and "Kommende Arrangementer" (upcoming events). You find dates of events and maybe also a bit of what is going on: "Brunch", "Sunday matinees" (with coffee and cake), and events in the evening (mostly with a sandwich or something like that and a cold beer or a glass of wine 😊).

We would like to welcome you, and we think you are going to enjoy the atmosphere in the old farm, even if the entertainment is in Danish. Normally we have good entertainment here with professional musicians.

Who are "we"? We are an association: "Sulelængens Venner" (Friends of the Sulelænge) with almost 200 members. It was founded in 2014 after the Sulelænge had been nicely restored. Ingrid and Jørgen generously lend out the Sulelænge for activities decided upon and run by the board and other volunteers (Ingrid is chairman of the board).

People sign up for our events (e-mail: magtenboelle@gmail.com) – so that we know how much to buy and arrange (tables and chairs etc.), and you can pay by cash (€ or DKK) at the entrance. Any question will normally be responded to within 24 hours, or phone +45 2961 5859 (Jørgen Bjerring)

You can find **more information** about the old farm in Magtenbølle on www.magtenboelle.dk



Brunch buffet - delicious



From a Music & Brunch event



Calum Stewart (Scottish Band) in Sulelængen



Outdoor concert (evening event)



Brunch in the glass house



Glass house connected to the Sulelænge



Summer in Magtenbølle :-:) The courtyard of our 4-winged farm, built about 1780

Do you play music yourself? Bring your instrument if possible; maybe we can set up some event...

Are you interested in music? Look at [our calender](#) – new events are going to be added throughout the season. NB! You must sign up for our events. Please send an e-mail to Jørgen: magtenboelle@gmail.com

Also find info of our venue at www.magtenboelle.dk