

MOVE TO MUSPELHEIM

By: Peter Keijsers

Three years ago, we found a location in Blerick at the Vijfsprong community center. A few enthusiastic teachers, along with Antoinette, took the lead and lay the foundation for classes on location for people in Blerick.

At the Vijfsprong, not only we give language classes, but we have activities as well. Once or twice per month a few volunteers cook for the people in the neighbourhood, there is a sowing club and a craft club and we have a pleasant contact with the other groups in the community center, among which the elderly. Through the Participatiewet we have been able to activate a number of people, and meanwhile several people have been able to get a steady job.

The owner of the building, however, wants a different setting, which means that they have to rebuild. For that reason, we had to find another location. We have found that in the Muspelheim at the Vastenavondkampstraat. Starting March 5th, classes will be held at that location. Hopefully we will be able to sustain the tight bond we have built with the neighbours in the Vijfsprong at the Muspelheim as well. On Mondays, from 9 am until 4 pm there will be language classes, as well as on Wednesday mornings. On Wednesday afternoons we will continue the activities we had in the Vijfsprong – the sowing club and crafts club – in the Muspelheim as well. However, we will face a few challenges there. The elders in the Vastenavondkam district are not yet coming to the Muspelheim community center, and we want to encourage them to join our activities.

Another challenge that awaits us is the relatively high illiteracy in the district. We want to reach especially that group and encourage them to come and take a look (and join), so that we can inspire them to develop themselves.

Muspelheim refers to the Nordic mythology, and means Land of Flames, one of the nine worlds in that mythology. In that sense, it is the Fire World, the counterpart of Niflheim, the Ice World. The reference to Norse mythology is striking, for our teachers work with such a fire and warmth that their students enjoy coming to class. And who knows, maybe the spark will jump over and the students will tell what a terrific teachers they have.

