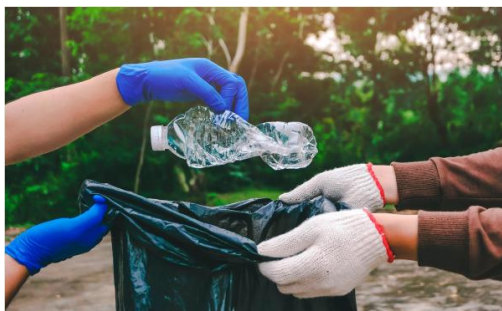




### **COLLECTING LITTER IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

During the past years we used to go around the neighborhood with a small group of people to collect litter. Just a few times a year, and not on a regular basis. At the same time, an increasing number of residents started cleaning up the streets on their own.



One of them is Yolanda Hakemulder. She was interviewed in the previous edition of this paper, and she suggested to return to collecting litter in groups. And that's what we are going to do!

The proposal is to go for it for one hour on Saturdays: from 11 to 12 AM. We think this coordinated manner is the best way to keep the neighborhood clean. Just a few people per week will be fine. And it doesn't have to be the same group every week; participants are free to rotate.

We will start on Saturday, January 15. Point of departure is the Maredijkhuis, at 11 AM. No need to sign up, just come! After the 15th the cleanup will continue on a weekly basis on Saturdays. Litter grabbers, gloves and garbage bags will be provided.

More information: [yolandahakemulder@hotmail.com](mailto:yolandahakemulder@hotmail.com) or [bertvansprundel@xs4all.nl](mailto:bertvansprundel@xs4all.nl)

### **GIVE THE BIRDS A HOME**

Already during winter time birds start looking for breeding grounds. By creating and placing nest boxes we will create more possibilities for them to breed in our neighbourhood. DIY sets, the construction drawings and building instructions are waiting for you. The wood has been supplied for free by timber company Barnwoodweb, and the pieces are sawn and ready for use.



Originally it was our intention to construct the nest boxes at the Maredijkhuis on January 9, at 2 PM. But now we assume that this will be impossible due to the new Corona measures. So we made a new plan: the DIY sets can be collected starting December 30, after which you can build your nest box at home.

Sign up with Sigrid Jansen, tel. 06-11524565, or Christa de Boer, tel. 06-52649828. There's only a limited number of nest boxes, so if you're interested, don't wait too long!

If you are curious how to build a nest box, visit Natuurmonumenten at <https://www.natuurmonumenten.nl/kinderen/kinderen/zo-maak-je-een-vogelhuisje>.

### **NEW YEAR'S DRINKS ON JANUARY 28, 2022**



We would love to raise glasses with everyone in our neighborhood, to celebrate the start of the new year. And ... the more people the better, so take your neighbors with you! It's always good to talk to local residents and meet new people. We will take care of drinks and snacks.

During the celebration we'll adhere to the Corona guidelines, so have a look on our website in the course of January for the most up-to-date instructi

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SOFIE VAN KOPPEN

This time the spotlight is on a young resident of the Maredijk neighbourhood. Her name is Sofie van Koppen, she is 25 and she has been living with her partner on Schoolmeesterpad for more than a year. Sofie grew up in Prinsenbeek, a small village near Breda. To further continue her education she moved to Leiden, where she studied biology and medical laboratory research at the Hogeschool, the University of Applied Sciences Leiden. She subsequently did a premaster's and will go on to do a master's in biomedical science.



Leiden has been proclaimed European City of Science in 2022 and Sofie would like to participate in whatever way possible. Sofie: "At the moment I am not part of the organization, but they know me because I've already shown my face everywhere. I'm especially interested in the medical topics because that's where my expertise lies. But I will also happily take part in any other interesting topic." Through her study Sofie came into contact with Lucien Geelhoed, who gave a talk about City of Science at the university. "I immediately stepped up to him and told him that I was really interested and wanted to become actively involved. I have also approached the Leiden 2022 contact person in charge of medical topics emanating from the LUMC, Leiden University Medical Center, and have been in touch with the board of the neighbourhood association to ask if they would like to take part in this project. The idea is that in the course of 2022 people become aware that underlying everything in daily life, there is science."

There are plenty of ideas that can be carried out in the neighbourhood.

Through the neighbourhood newsletter Sofie wants to recruit people for a working group, which will further develop and implement these ideas. Regarding the neighbourhood, Sofie comments: "The first time I got the newsletter it gave me a real kick. I've also noticed that this neighbourhood is very different from other neighbourhoods in Leiden. People greet you in the street and everything is very easy-going. At the same time I'm also glad there are a lot of students in my block of flats so I don't feel like an outsider." Sofie and the other residents of Schoolmeesterpad are busy setting up a WhatsApp group to strengthen the contacts between them and this has generated quite a bit of interest.

When asked what she likes in the neighbourhood, Sofie answers: "I like the fact that in quite a few places in the neighbourhood nature is pretty wild and that nature is allowed to run free. I also think it would be fun to go to a neighbourhood party and meal. My life motto is: "Jump into the deep and swim. You'll always surface and if you don't succeed you will at least have tried."

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEIDEN 2022



Leiden has been chosen as European City of Science, a great honour! The organization Kennisstad Leiden, Leiden Science City, has come up with the idea of organizing an event every day of the year. They want to involve all the residents of Leiden and the surrounding region, young and old. Each day the focus will be on a specific topic; the topics have already been determined, but not yet the way in which they will be presented. The topics can be found on the pages of the free tear-off calendar (see photo), which you can fetch at libraries and the market. By scanning the QR code on each page of the tear-off calendar you can see what is happening on that day. There is also a special radio station, Radio Weetlust, and Sleutelstad also provides a great deal of extra information. More information is available at [www.leiden2022.nl](http://www.leiden2022.nl).

As neighbourhood we want to participate. To begin with we will choose a topic and date and then together work out what to do. The Merenwijk, for example, is planning to organize a bat hunt. Perhaps we can do something with our sparrows, or study the tiny creatures in the ditches, or ... . Everything is possible, as long as it stirs the imagination.

If you would like to take part, send an email to: [maredijkbuurt@gmail.com](mailto:maredijkbuurt@gmail.com)

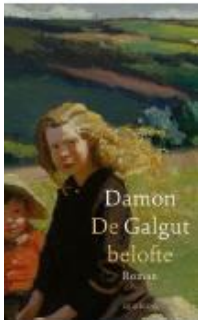
## Reading club



The reading club of the Maredijk will come together this Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> of February. This time, we will meet each other at Sigrid Jansen, Marislaan 59. We will start at 14:00.

There are two books on the agenda. 'Ik lach om niet te huilen' ('I laugh so as not to cry') from Lex Kroon, is a novel that appeared as early as 1984. But the book recently got new attention due to the writer Özcan Akyol ('Eus'), since the novel inspired him to become a writer himself. 'Ik lach om niet te huilen', is a raw story, brutal and openhearted, in which the main character ends up as a cocaine sniffing subcontractor.

The second book is 'De Belofte', a Dutch translation of 'The Promise', the newest book by the South-African author Damon Galgut which brought him the British Booker Prize this year. 'The Promise' tells the history of a white farmers family. This family makes a promise to their black housekeeper. After years of loyal service, she is promised a house and a piece of land in the future. But does the family stick to their promise?



All those interested are welcome. Please announce your interest in visiting beforehand at Peter Cambier by sending an email to [p.cambier@planet.nl](mailto:p.cambier@planet.nl)

## Adapt the vision of our neighborhood to the current challenges.

BUURTVISIE 2022 - 2026

With the neighborhood association, we want to realize an optimal living climate in the Maredijk community. The neighborhood vision, drawn up together in 2018, carries a lot of weight: it gives direction to our neighborhood activities and our meetings with various organizations.

This vision also heightens our trustworthiness in the participation plans of the municipality. Our current vision is now due for an update: to see where we stand, what our current challenges are, and how to respond to these.

We are currently thinking about planning a few evenings in the upcoming months to prepare, followed by a neighborhood meeting and discussion in the community center. The input and feedback will be used to make a definitive version that will be sent to the community. Subjects such as living climate, sustainability, 'greening', safety, social activities and attentiveness will be on the agenda.

We are looking for interested participants to form a workgroup together. We would love to see a representative mix. The only requirement is: to care for the neighborhood!

So apply by sending an email to [maredijkbuurt@gmail.com](mailto:maredijkbuurt@gmail.com) and participate!

## Short news:



The last neighborhood paper contained a call for translators. Fantastic that three people applied to for this task. From this newspaper onwards, the English translation will be made available on our website: [www.maredijkbuurt.nl](http://www.maredijkbuurt.nl). The English translation is available under the button: 'click here for the short English version'.

## The puzzle-library is open again



Now that the children's holidays have started, we are staying at home again, and the shops, restaurants, gyms, and theaters have closed, it was time to re-open the puzzle-library. For those that are bored and feel like making a puzzle, you are welcome to drop by at Aloëlaan 41a. We have a bunch of 'Jan-van-Haasteren' puzzles, from 500 to 2000 pieces.