

NEW NEIGHBORS @ SCHIPHOLWEG

During the summer of this year new residents started to move into the new apartment building at Schipholweg, as did the Leiden Fire Brigade. Last week the building was officially opened by the mayors of Leiden, Oegstgeest and Leiderdorp.



Through this newspaper we would like to inform our new neighbors about the activities we organize in the Maredijk neighborhood.

Become a member of Vereniging Maredijkbuurt (Maredijk Neighborhood Association) and join our activities! Page 4 explains how to do this. Everyone is welcome!

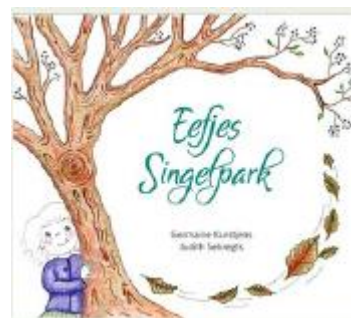
EEFJES SINGELPARK

In September a very special children's book was presented to the city of Leiden: Eefjes Singelpark (Eefje's City Moat Park). The book is situated in Singelpark. The stories offer walking routes to (and through) 15 of the parks that are part of the larger Singelpark surrounding Leiden's Old Town. And what makes the book extra special is that the circular walk starts and ends in our very own Maredijkbuurt.

Eefje, a Dutch girl of 6 years old, is very curious. From her father she wants to know everything about the trees in the park, and this is how the reader learns the names of the beautiful, large, old trees in Singelpark, and what makes them so interesting.

However, the book is more than just an inspiration for a number of city walks. It also expresses wonder about the ingenious way of life of trees in general. The book was written for families with children aged 5 to 9, but is just as interesting for grandmothers and grandfathers. In fact, it is interesting for everyone who likes to wander through parks and observe the surroundings with the openness and curiosity of a child.

Authors Germaine Kurstjens (text; she's a resident of our neighborhood) and Judith Sebregts (illustrations) hope that everyone reading the book will enjoy Singelpark as much as Eefje does!



The book is available at the following bookstores:

- De Kler (Leiden, Oegstgeest)
- Silvester (Leiden)
- Kooyker (Leiden)

As well as from:

- VVV Leiden (Tourist Office)
- Shop of the Botanical Gardens (Leiden)
- Shop of Naturalis (Leiden's natural history museum)

Price: €16,50; ISBN: 978-90-832189-3-9

"IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DIK TOET

Just outside the Maredijk neighbourhood, in Leiden North, Dik Toet lives with his wife Janneke Koers, in a beautiful bright apartment with wide views and a splashing fountain in front of the door. They have never regretted their move, not for a moment. The apartment is new and requires no maintenance, like their old house on Maredijk where there was always something to fix. And they don't have to miss the neighbourhood, because they are still members, Janneke is



secretary of the playground association, and Dik still active in the choir and the walking group. So the reason for this interview is not at all that he has left the neighbourhood (what your journalist thought), but the fact that the sound barrier on Willem de Zwijgerlaan for which he has worked for years is finally there. Bit cynical that he no longer benefits from it himself, but that's how these things go. And it really makes a difference in the noise, Dik notices as he walks past. Dik is from The Hague, studied in Leiden, and came to live in the Maredijk neighbourhood in 2004 with his current wife Janneke at the end of Maredijk. He has been retired since 2014 and has devoted much of his time to the neighbourhood's activities committee. He worked for the municipality of Leiden and, among other things, stood at the cradle of the regional municipal cooperation body, in which municipalities act together on traffic, spatial planning and the like. It was also considered important in municipal politics that citizens take initiatives themselves, help each other and together ensure a liveable and pleasant neighbourhood. Dik also wanted to experience this from the other side, so he resolved to give the neighbourhood a bit of a nice shake-up. He never served on the association board, precisely because he enjoyed doing things and organizing activities more. Boards he has already done enough. Together with Christa he founded the activities committee, and soon there was an active group of loyal residents who organized all sorts of things. By now many more people are active in the neighbourhood, so you could say that they have succeeded well: the choir, diner on the Maredijk, the community garden, Saturday pickings, the façade gardens, the playground, the creation of the neighbourhood bench, Ruud on Sunday (unfortunately not yet followed up), the neighbourhood newspaper and the website: imagine that in other neighbourhoods! That's actually the main difference with where he lives now: he has no idea who his neighbours are (except for Mart Hoogkamer, the next-door neighbour, so there you have it!), despite some attempts on his part to get better acquainted. It didn't get any further than that. Dik co-wrote the Neighbourhood Vision and says his enthusiasm was totally sparked by Fonds 1818's Autumn Grant, in which - as a surprise - the grand prize of 10,000€ went to the Maredijk Neighbourhood Association. Dik is not only active in the neighbourhood association, but also on all sorts of other fronts: behind the bar at the Lumen drop-in centre (for and by people with psychiatric backgrounds), employee of Eigenkracht (organizing family conferences in case of problems),

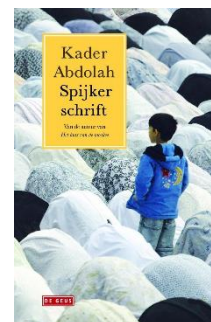


volunteer at the Voice of Leiden (writing down the life stories of ordinary Leiden residents), one of the initiators of the Citizens' Consultation on Climate (advice from citizens to politicians). The red line that he himself sees in all these activities is that he is a social person (now we call that a "connector"), but especially

that he is committed to letting people use their own strengths, whether they are people with psychiatric problems or citizens who want a say in their neighbourhood. The fact that he is politically active in the Green Left therefore comes as no surprise. One more advice he wants to give the current board. It is good that the Maredijkbuurt itself also actively organizes participation (such as about The Schipholweg). It helps that a neighbourhood association does not just grumble and whine, but takes a constructively critical stance. The municipal sometimes likes that too, and it can help keep relations good (for example, Dik once appeared at a council committee meeting to compliment them: they fell off their chairs and didn't believe that was the only thing he came for). More housing is needed, of course, and more in the city is ultimately better than building in the polder, but that can be done in many ways, and then it is nice when residents, as experts by experience, can contribute their objections or, on the contrary, compliments. On behalf of the neighbourhood, I congratulate Dik on his sound barrier and encourage him to walk past it often on his way to the Maredijk neighbourhood.

Reading Club

On Saturday, February 18, 2023, the Maredijk Neighbourhood Reading Club will meet again. This time we will meet at Sigrid Jansen's house, Marislaan 59. We start at 2 p.m. There is one book on the program this time. We have chosen *Spijkerschrift* by Kader Abdolah. *Spijkerschrift* was published in 2011 and almost immediately became a great success. Kader Abdolah is no stranger to Dutch literature. Born in Iran in 1954, this writer fled to the Netherlands in the late 1980s. In a short time he managed to master Dutch. His command of Dutch is now as good as his mother tongue Farsi. He was able to realize his dream of becoming a writer in the Netherlands. In *Spijkerschrift* Kader Abdolah tells the story of a deaf-mute father and his son. Aga Akhbar, the father, wrote a book in his self-developed cuneiform during his lifetime. After his death, his son Ismaiel, who fled to Holland, receives the book. The son tries to make the book readable, just as he tried to make his father intelligible during his childhood in Iran. All interested parties are welcome. Please notify Peter Cambier in advance via email p.cambier@planet.nl.



MAREDIJKHUIS: WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday

11:00 Sing-In (Joke Spanenburg, 071-5222509)
14:00 Neighborhood walk (departure from playground entrance)

Tuesday

10:30 Coffee time (walk-in) / Neighborhood library / Needlework / Get more out of your iPad (Christa de Boer, 06-52649828)

Wednesday

10:00 Speel-o-Theek (Toy library) Klapstuk (06-24211018, www.sot-klapstuk.nl) / Books in our neighborhood

Thursday

10:30 Fit with Kit - move your body! (Sigrid Jansen, 06-11524565)

Saturday

10:00 Speel-o-Theek (Toy library) Klapstuk / Neighborhood library
11:00 Cleaning up our neighborhood (departure from playground entrance)

AUTUMN



INFORMATION SCHIPHOLWEG

After the recent information and participation evenings concerning the plans for Schipholweg 66 -128, information evenings will also soon be organized for the redevelopment of Schipholweg 101 (Divorce Housing). Announcements will be sent via the member mail. Presentation material and reports of the participation evenings will be posted on our website as soon as they are available.

NEIGHBORHOOD VISION

The various themes of the neighborhood vision are currently being further developed in vision groups. This is how the new ideas and plans will take shape. We will invite these groups for a joint meeting to exchange thoughts and ideas, to test them and to achieve creative concepts.

BRIEF NEWS

MAKING BIRDHOUSES

On Sunday afternoon, January 8th, you are welcome in the Maredijkhuis to build a nesting box for birds, to ensure better biodiversity in our neighbourhood. The afternoon starts at 2 pm and ends at 4 pm. This is an activity for both parents and children from 8 years old (and



accompanied by a parent). The material is sponsored, there are no further costs involved. It is important that you bring your own hammer and pincers. Afterwards you can paint the nesting box beautifully at home and hang it in your garden, or on a tree in your street. Please register in advance via email; sigridmcjansen@gmail.com

FOOD AT THE MAREDIJK – JANUARY 20

This time the theme will be 'Winter food'. Our chefs will come up with all kinds of tasty winter dishes. Wendy Logeman and Florence Zaalberg will be coordinating this event. However, they are still looking for reinforcements for 2023. Who will come to help the chefs? Sign up at Etenopdemaredijk@gmail.com. Walk-in is from a quarter to six. We will have dinner at six o'clock in the Maredijkhuis, Maredijk 100 near the playground. Register - please be on time! - via Etenopdemaredijk@gmail.com. Adults € 5, children € 2.50



PAINTING WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

On Sunday afternoon, February 12th, Driekske Bakker is organizing a painting workshop for children of 8 years and up. The afternoon will be held in the Maredijkhuis from 2 pm to 4 pm. The material costs are 10 euros. You can pay Driekske upon entry. Last year Driekske gave a workshop with the theme 'Paint your own stuffed animal'. What the theme will be this year remains a surprise. You can register for the workshop via email: sigridmcjansen@gmakiiil.com

++++

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Dec 21

19:00 Singing Christmas songs

Jan 8

14:00 Create a bird box (Sigrid Jansen, sigridmcjansen@gmail.com)

Jan 20

18:00 Maredijk Dinner (etenopdemaredijk@gmail.com)

Jan 27

New Year's drinks (maredijkbuurt@gmail.com)

Feb 12

14:00 Painting for children (Driekske Bakker, driekskebakker@dorbak-artstudio.nl)

Feb 18

14:00 Reading Club (Peter Cambier, p.cambier@planet.nl)

Mar 12
Open stage (more information will follow)

Apr 16
Plant market

+++++

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Neighborhood garden Tamboerpad: Bert van Sprundel, 06-13681169
Facade gardens: Marian Smit, mariansmit@casema.nl
Maredijk Dinner: etenopdemaredijk@gmail.com
Playground (open Mon-Fri 10:00-17:00, often Sat-Sun too): www.svmaredijk.nl
Ringweg Noord: Dik Toet, 06-23348489
Neighborhood police officer Lakhdar ben Taieb: 0900-8844
Police Station Langegracht 11: 071-5258865
In case of neighborhood disturbances: 14071

+++++

BECOME A MEMBER

We need your support!

The neighborhood association now has 220 members, people who feel connected with each other and with the neighborhood.

Aren't you a member yet? Please fill out the registration form on our website www.maredijkbuurt.nl It only costs € 7.50 per year. You can also pick up the form at Christa de Boer, Aloëlaan 41A.

+++++

PLANT MARKET



On April 16, 2023, during the afternoon, Vereniging Maredijkbuurt will organize a plant market where residents can sell or trade plants. The aim is to let those plants flourish in the various types of local sidewalk gardens - a nice way to brighten up our neighborhood!

Of course we will return to this subject later on, but if you want to participate you can already start your preparations now!

+++++

CHRISTMAS SONGS @ MAREDIJKHUIS

On Wednesday December 21st, at 19:00 hours, we will sing Christmas songs at Maredijkhuis (Maredijk 100) to get in the mood for Christmas. The two choirs that practice in the building will perform, but there will be community singing as well. Everyone is welcome. Fix the date!

+++++

12 TO 16, WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN?

We received the suggestion to organize more activities for youngsters from 12 to 16 years old. For this reason we would like to get into contact with some boys or girls from this age group to discuss the possibilities. Do you have ideas? Let us know! - Sigrid Jansen, sigridmcjansen@gmail.com

