



BELANGENVERENIGING (Lobby Group) WILLEMSPARK II

Established 22 April 2008 for the protection of the interests of the residents of the block comprised by Frederikstraat, Prinses Mariestraat, Schelpkade, Kerkstraat and including Cantaloupenburg and Christinahofje.

To Lobby Group members and other residents of Willemspark II:

The response to the door-to-door campaign carried out in January 2008 was so positive that an executive board has been formed and the Willemspark II Lobby Group (WII-LG) was officially founded by notarial

deed on 22 April and registered with the Chamber of Commerce, making the WII-LG an legal entity. There are currently 60 members and a bank account has been opened. The board has been forced to take action before it could even call its first general meeting.

A council resolution taken on 17 March 2008 concerning the area to the rear of 14 Frederikstraat, which granted exemption from Phase 1 of the building regulations, means that the zoning plan has been changed and construction of an apartment block with underground parking for 16 vehicles can in principle go ahead. Any objection (bezwaarschrift) to this decision had to be submitted before 28 April; the board duly did this on 23 April 2008.

We would like to involve all residents in any further developments and issues in our part of the neighbourhood, requiring short- or long-term monitoring such as:

- Plans for repaving streets or renovation of sewers;
- The traffic situation
- Air pollution on Javastraat
- New building plans for the school on Frederikstraat

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E. de Groot - secretary*

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Dissatisfaction

Many residents gave vent to their dissatisfaction during the information evening on 15 May. We have been asking for the implementation of measures to reduce traffic for more than ten years. However in the meantime traffic has increased so much it has become almost impossible to cross the Laan during rush hours. Why does the central milieuzone only extend to Mauritskade and not to Laan Copes? Why is the council yet again investigating all sorts of measures instead of actually testing them? And the fact that the council, as cool as you please, announced yet again that it is going to carry out a survey into whether the Centrumring can be moved to the Telderstracé, had the residents gasping with disbelief. This had – would you believe – been decided back in 2001 by the council! There was also much criticism when the Alderman announced that “dynamic traffic management” is to be introduced on the Centrumring; that is if Laan Copes and Patijnlaan do remain part of the Centrumring. This would mean large matrix signs suspended above the street; unacceptable violation of this conservation area.

Eventually the Alderman made just two promises:

- the crossing points for pedestrians/cyclists on Laan Copes will be reconsidered
 - the intended surveys will be completed and presented to residents before the summer recess.
- We'll keep our ears to the ground!

Eveline Blitz



COMMUNITY FAIR IN ARCHIPEL - Read all about it on page 7

Council is to look for a solution to polluted air over Laan Copes

When smoke gets in your eyes

Last year the pollution readings taken by the council on Laan Copes van Cattenburch appeared to be markedly higher than the acceptable norm. The council had its doubts about the accuracy of the readings so new laboratories were engaged and additional metering points installed. The results were made public at an information evening on 15 May 2008 and indeed the pollution on Laan Copes exceeds the 2007 norm of 46 mg/m³: the average reading was 48.7 mg/m³. According to the

council, air pollution will reduce throughout The Hague because of, on the one hand, national regulations (requirements regarding emissions from cars for example) and, on the other hand, because of council action taken in accordance with the Actieplan Luchtkwaliteit. Considering the council is of the opinion – as we are – that this will probably not have the desired effect in relation to Laan Copes, it intends to investigate the implementation of additional measures. What would be the effect of reducing the left-turn, two-lane exit from Raamweg to one lane? What would happen if the traffic lights at Nassauplein are adjusted to encourage a freer flow of traffic? And what happens if the Centrumring is rerouted to the Telderstracé?

New LEI - a sight for sore eyes?

The new Landbouw Economisch Instituut - LEI (Agricultural Economic Institute) at Alexanderveld 5 will be officially opened by the Minister for Agriculture, Gerda Verburg on 11 June. The LEI was until recently housed in the NIBC building opposite the Vredespaleis. Its new premises will be the final piece in the Bofill urban redevelopment project.

Splendid new building

After all the drama surrounding the initial plans for the project, the

realization of this shiny new building has been achieved with the minimum of fuss. Alexanderplein and Burg. Marijnenlaan, have benefited too and are now easier on the eye and have a finished air and proper pavements and parking bays. Hopefully, all will be softened with the planting of some greenery, which should not pose a problem for an agricultural institute.

It only remains to congratulate the employees of the LEI on their new accommodation and to hope that the edifice will indeed add allure to the



inner and outer 'plein' for years to come. According to reports, the neighbours will shortly be invited to an Open Dag, and will then be able to reassure us on this score.

AK



Shortage of burial space

In response to a local shortage of burial space, the cemetery of St Petrus Banden on the Kerkhoflaan is building 90 'wall graves', in which the graves are stacked on top of one another.

This is common in countries like Italy and Spain. Some local residents are against the plan, however, and are taking the matter to court.

Book on the "Grote kerkhof bij de Bosjes"

Our district boasts three impressive cemeteries: the 300-year-old Jewish graveyard bordering Timorstraat and the Roman Catholic cemetery and municipal cemetery (Algemene Begraafplaats) on Kerkhoflaan. A book has recently been published about the last of these, entitled "Het grote kerkhof bij de bosjes" (the large cemetery next to the woods).

The municipal cemetery was established in 1830. It is the resting place of scores of famous Netherlanders including Cornelis Lely, the greatest Dutch hydraulic engineer and governor of Suriname for many years. "Ordinary"

people from The Hague and Scheveningen too are buried here among the centuries-old trees. A number of the graves have listed monument status.

The book describes the rich history of the cemetery as well as the lives of the extraordinary people buried here.

Alderman Baldewsingh presented the first copies of the book to representatives

of the Historical Society Die Haghe and Vrienden van Den Haag, two associations that, in the words of the Alderman, play an instrumental role in the preservation of the cultural heritage of The Hague.

Highly recommended for those interested in the city's history!

EVELINE BLITZ

IN MEMORIAM

On Monday evening 9 June 2008, one of our most striking local residents passed away: Leo van Heijningen LLM died at the age of 89. He was a lawyer of 57 years standing – something quite unique not only for The Hague but the whole of the Netherlands. His work as a lawyer was regularly reported over the years in the press, often in important and controversial cases.

He was highly esteemed by his professional colleagues as a wary but extremely honourable brother counsel. Master of Law van Heijningen served our community a number of times in his capacity as legal counsellor.

We will, however, remember him above all as a concerned local resident and writer with a great interest in and historical knowledge of The Hague in general and the Archipel in particular. He enriched us all with his many interesting publications, lectures and guided tours. In 2006, on the recommendation of the Residents Association Archipel&Willemspark, the municipal council awarded him the Haagse Stadspenning.

Many of us will be paying our respects to Leo van Heijningen on Saturday 14 June at his interment in the family tomb in the Algemene Begraafplaats on Kerkhoflaan, directly behind his house. We will remember him with gratitude for all he has meant to us and our community.

Wybe Taekema, chairman A&W

We've come full circle

In 1988 we moved into our house in Malakkastraat. The first two years were spent doing up our new home. The 'zandvlakte', Archipelschool, 'veldje' had no meaning for us then. There was a little chap in the street playing ice hockey in roller skates with an ice hockey stick, a tennis ball and a homemade goal. Back then the zandvlakte had too few swings, no skating pit or castle. Instead just two log cabins, a slide and some felled tree trunks on which the kids could practise their balancing skills.

When 1990 Coen was born in 1990, what children got up to and the facilities on offer locally became more important. We soon found our way to the zandvlakte but what was more of a challenge was finding a babysitter if we wanted to go out of an evening. Where to start? The splendid www.archipelbuurt.nl with its local directory containing a list of babysitters had not yet been launched and the column in the community paper keeping an eye on babysitters still had to be invented.

Babysitting exchange

In the pre-digital era you quickly resorted to the Gouden Gids (yellow pages) and hoped for the best. We thumbed to the babysitters section and the only one that seemed to be in the neighbourhood was an address Scheveningen for De oppascentrale. We got an elderly lady with a wheezy voice on the line (Mrs Kars was it?), the brain behind this initiative. She asked us where she lived and promised to find us a babysitter. Once we'd hung up, we, as brand new parents, began to have our doubts. Allow a complete stranger to look after our little prince? What kind of people did this lady have on her books? We calmed

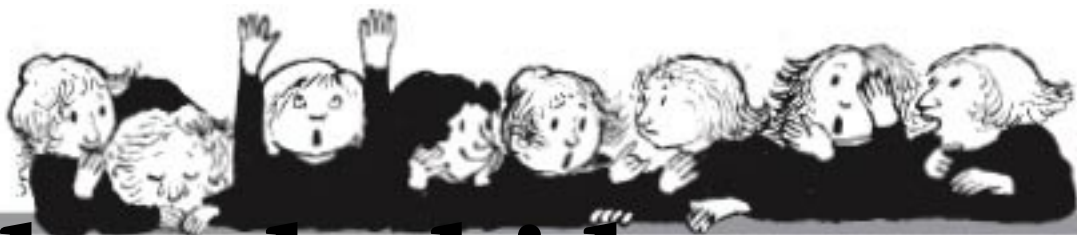
down a bit when we realized we weren't obliged to use the babysitter she came up with. Just as we were wondering if the babysitting exchange was such a good idea after all, the phone went. With a sinking feeling in my stomach I picked up the phone. Wheezingly she said, "Get in touch with Frans, this is his telephone number." We looked at one another in surprise; could she mean the boy across the road?! It made me think of a song sung by Liza Minelli, "Ring them bells" about two neighbours who bumped into one another on the other side of the world.

Frans came over that evening and luckily many more evenings after that. He babysat for us for many years; even when Mees and Floris joined the family. If Frans should ever move out of the street maybe the lady in Scheveningen will be long gone. But as it happened we didn't need her anymore, although we will always be grateful to her. We had in the meantime learned to keep tabs on all the older kids in the street and district. Kids who turned up with or without bags full of homework to read to our children, lark around with them, talk to them about all everything and nothing, share a treat with them or watch TV and at the same time earn an extra bit of pocket money. We'll always be grateful to Tanja, Anna, Pieter, Jurjen, Tijn, Fedde, Bram, Jesse, Fransje, James, Rosa, Merel and Gideon. One of them is now a parent themselves!

When Coen became 14, he started babysitting. Some of his clients came via Vincent who couldn't keep up with the demand since his name appeared in the newspaper and on the website. Mees and Floris are following in Coen's footsteps and clearly enjoy it. They are regular visitors at the homes of Philine, Jeroen, Wouter, Damian, Folkert, Quirine, Daan, Bob, Steyn, Mees, Storm, Sjoerd, Douwe, Ole and Djoeke.

We've come full circle.

CR



What the kids are up to

Wijkfeest

zaterdag 28 juni 2008

Kijk-op-de-wijk

Every three years something amazing happens in our neighbourhood! A group of people get the jitters and get together to organize a "happening" in Bankastraat! All sorts of ideas bubble to the surface, some more practicable than others, and each time this communal burst of energy results in a cracking event. Many local residents participate, help as volunteers on the day itself (we could still do with a few more by the way!), prepare food for the Banka Dinner, sing with their choir or take part in the bric à brac market selling the contents of their attics and basements, etc., etc! You will find the entire day's programme on this page. The programme and information about how to register for the various activities appears on the www.archipelbuurt.nl website and will soon be available in a programme booklet to be circulated throughout the neighbourhood.

Official opening

We begin with a musical procession through the streets starting at 11.00. The official opening follows at 11.30 in the wide section of Bankastraat (brede Banka) with a lift-off of

balloons accompanied by music from the Haagse street orchestra Eigen Hulp. At every Fair there are always old familiar events as well as brand new attractions: the kinderstraat (kids street in Billitonstraat), the bric-à-brac market, the football and train rides for the kids (brede Banka). And on Bankaplein you can enjoy the ballet performed by Else Vreken's 'children' and a sports demonstration by Sportschool Rudolf Peters, lots of music from the rostrum and of course the splendid finale to the Fair, the Banka Dinner prepared by and for fellow residents!

Curious about the new attractions?

There will be a carroussel in the wide section of Bankastraat (for the kids of course) and a wine-tasting close by with the ladies and gentlemen of Gransjean, De Kruidentuin, Wijnshopper and Schutterwijnservice in attendance. They will be happy to let you sample the various white, red and rosé wines for a modest fee. At 14.00 local historian, Mr. Bob Feenstra, will give a talk about our neighbourhood with the help of lots of interesting photos in the Gallery Eva van Voorst van Beest. The entries for the photo

competition "Kijk-op-de-wijk" (neighbourhood insight) will also be on show in the gallery.

Will you join us on a guided tour?

A walk through the neighbourhood will be one of the attractions during the Community Fair on 28 June. Choose from a hofjes tour (the local alms houses and mews), one taking in the Monchyplein with its modern architecture and salvaged sculptures or another covering 'varia' (architecture, sculpture AND local stories) in Dutch or for our fellow residents who are still getting to grips with Dutch, a special tour in English: 'Getting to know your neighbourhood'. The walks will begin at 12.00 and 14.00 and you can sign up on the day at the "wijkfeest" stand (located in the 'wide' section of Bankastraat) or e-mail ellen@archipelbuurt.nl or ring (after 19.00) 070 350 37 84 beforehand.

If you prefer to be independent, then pick up a 'Ramble through the neighbourhood' itinerary from the wijkfeest stand instead.

For the kids

This year there will be a Talent Contest in Kinderstraat between

15.00 and 16.00. Kids get 90 seconds to demonstrate their stage presence with an act of their choice. Budding artists can register by e-mailing wijkfeest@archipelbuurt.nl (stating name, address, age and type of act). At 17.00 a special Kids Dinner is served: tickets can be bought at Exotenhof and on the 28th till 12.00.

Music!

There will be music playing throughout the day and from 15.00 the rostrum will be in full swing on the Bankaplein. You'll certainly recognize some of the performers because it will be your fellow neighbours (young and old) entertaining you! Check out the programme opposite. The Banka Dinner starts at 18.00. Purchase meal vouchers beforehand from Babs&Lizeth at 107a Bankastraat (available from 18 -25 June at €10 each!). Musical accompaniment during the dinner from 17.30 onwards will be provided by De Ongelofelijke Grote Klapband, a big party orchestra, a rock 'n roll band with lots of brass. Once dinner is over the dancing can begin and you can carry on chatting and drinking till 23.00.

The Wijkfeestcomité hopes everyone has a wonderful Saturday - with beautiful weather - and that young and old alike enjoy this year's programme.

Kijk op de Wijk



A foretaste of photo competition "Kijk op de wijk"

To give you an idea of how beautiful our neighbourhood actually is, Auke van der Kooi, member of the community paper's editorial team and in-house photographer, set to work. Have a look at his Kijk op de Wijk.

Programme COMMUNITY FAIR 2008:

- 11.00 Start of musical procession on Bankaplein
11.30 Official opening with launching of balloons
11.30 -17.00 Street-football tournament
11.30 -16.00 Bric-à-brac market
12.00 and 14.00 Neighbourhood tours ("Wijkfeest" stand)
13.00 -16.00 Wine-tasting (wide section Bankastraart)
13.00 Performance by Balletschool Elsa Vreken
14.00 Demo by Sportschool Rudolf Peters
13.30 -16.30 Children's activities in Billitonstraat
14.00 Illustrated talk: Archipelbuurt 1850-1950
(Gallery Galery Eva van Voorst van Beest)
15.00 -16.00 Talent Contest "Kinderstraat"
16.00 Prize-giving Photo Competition
16.15 Prize-giving Talent Contest Kinderstraat
17.00 Kids Dinner in Billitonstraat
18.00 -19.00 Community Dinner on Bankaplein
19.30 De Ongelofelijke Grote Klapband

Adieu Rieu

(André Rieu the Dutch orchestra leader famous for his renditions of the Strauss waltzes)

Who doesn't remember the pop song "The House of the Rising Sun", or the wonderful Gilbert O'Sullivan number "Nothing Rhymed" or that other classic by Bob Dylan "The times they are a changin'". Instead of being played in the usual two-four or four-four time, these numbers will be performed in three-four time, making them ideal for the

English or Viennese waltz. An impromptu ballroom dancing group, going by the name of "Adieu Rieu", will attempt to get the Archipelbuurt party-goers waltzing round the fountain. So practise the waltz at home and don't worry about making a fool of yourself, there will someone to explain the basic steps to you. Turn up at around five o'clock with all your friends, the more the merrier, for this once-in-lifetime opportunity! We're "banking" on you!

Programme PODUIM

- 15.00 Archicapella choir
15.20 Es Groot choir
15.40 Saxnoot
16.00 Blazers from the Residentie Orkest
16.20 Stephanie Heckman
16.40 Wim Akkerman
17.00 Als je van Res band
17.30 Adieu Rieu (waltz music)
18.00 B.O.K. (pronounced: be okay)
18.00 Folk Jazz : Les Tziganes des Indes
19.30 De Ongelofelijke Grote Klapband

Wijkfeest

zaterdag 28 juni 2008

It's great to see that so many wanted to sponsor our COMMUNITY FAIR!

The Archipelbuurt party 'KIJK-OP-DE-WIJK' was made possible by:

Albert Heijn, Annahome, Annette Polderman Lijstenmakerij, Apotheek Nauta, Archipel Reisbureau Holland International, Ark's Cleaning Service, Atelier PRO, Babs & Lizeth, Bakkerij Bornhijm, Baguetterie, Café Banka, Dave Sinteur Groente en Fruit, Drogisterij Kühn & van Oort, Eva van Voorst van Beest Gallery, de Exotenhof, Fonds 1818, Gransjean Wijnen & Delicatessen, Haegheborgh Capital Consultants BV,

Heemskerk Bloemisten, Hekking NVM Makelaardij, de Kruidentuin, Martin Willems Hair Art, Matla Boucherie, MAX Health Club, Nassauhuis Makelaardij, Nebo, Otantik, Primera, Restaurant De Tapperij, Schutter Wijnservice, Shell Nederland BV, Stomerij Pols, Studio 'tBrandt Weer, TimmermansVan Eijk Makelaardij BV, Toko Banka, Verhandel van Laar, Winkelman & van Hessen, Wijnshopper, Zeldenrust, Zuivelland



'Sorrow of Sumatrastraat' architect is resigned to demolition

Residents wait for judge's verdict

There are two legal proceedings underway concerning the 'Het Verdriet van de Sumatrastraat' (sorrow of Sumatrastraat), also called 'Het Staal-skelet' (steel/iron skeleton). De Vlaamse Vertegenwoordiging, located at the corner of Koninginnegracht/Sumatrastraat, is waiting for a decision from a civil suit judge on the complaint that the roof line of the 'skeleton' projects out over their courtyard.

While the immediate neighbours have, in consultation with lawyer Rupert van Heyningen, submitted a objection to an administrative law judge. Their complaints cover various aspects. For example: the design is out of character with the Archipelbuurt, which is a conservation area; alterations to the original plans were not made public, making the building taller than the planning permission allowed and creating a danger because fumes from

the chimney of the adjoining property exit too close to the 'skeleton' and could cause carbon-monoxide poisoning. In the meantime the project developer De Zoete has sold the plot to Vellinga Vastgoed. Vellinga said in the AD newspaper (12-4-2008) that he did not yet know what he was going to do with property, "Demolition is a possibility. It is not very attractive." According to the same newspaper article, architect Bullhorst is sick and tired of Sumatrastraat, "If they demolish it, I accept it".

ES



A closer look at the 'blauwe bocht'

Of course optimum functioning of our website would be if every local resident visited it at set times (perhaps even every day!). The website team does its best to upload the latest news as quickly as possible and succeeds pretty well. But it's not clear to everyone how much there is to find on the site so we're going to take a closer look at the items in the main menu.

Main menu or 'blauwe bocht'

When you arrive on the website you'll see on the left an area with a blue background in which the Bankplein fountain is depicted: fondly known as the 'blauwe bocht'! It also contains the items of the main menu of the site, which when clicked display sub-menus. In this way you navigate to the subject you are interested in.

Lets take the item at the top: 'Residents Association'. By clicking and moving the mouse across to the new sub-list on the right we see three items: organisation, working parties and local newspaper. When you click on 'organisation' (again sliding the mouse to the right) you can choose from: introduction, diary, annual strategy, annual report, community council, news and archive. Not in themselves the most gripping sections of our website but you'll be surprised how much interesting information there is to find. Certainly worth a look! Give it a go!

ED

Narrowest house in Bankastraat

Just a few finishing touches and the transformation of the premises that used to be Tante Sjaan's flower stall will be complete. Compares well with blueprint.



Tante Sjaan and her flower kiosk.

Summer recess 't Klokhuis

This summer the Community Centre 't Klokhuis will be closed from 26 July unthrough Sunday 10 August.

Because of work on the floors to be carried out during the first week of the recess, those running activities wishing to continue throughout the summer should contact the manager as soon as possible.

All those running activities are requested to let the manager know the dates of their last session before the summer recess and their first session after the summer break by emailing:

stichtinghetklokhuis@live.nl

or ringing:

070 50 35 11.

A/W Community Newspaper, April 2008

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