



The Community Newspaper International Readers' Service June 2005

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Closure of 't Klokhuis unacceptable

From January 2006, funds for social work will be allocated differently. This could mean the closure of the community centre on Celebesstraat in December 2005. Due to a decision taken by the city council of The Hague in October 2004, the WOC (Welzijns Organisatie Centrum /Central Organization for Welfare) must economize by 13 %. In order to meet the required cuts, in a proposal to the city council the WOC had suggested among other things the closure of the community centre 't Klokhuis.

Both the community centre and the Residents Association Archipel/Willemspark are completely shocked by this proposal for closure. 't Klokhuis plays a central role in our neighbourhood and is absolutely indispensable to the services it provides, such as those to the elderly in the community. The two organizations are intending to do everything to avert the threatened closure.

Objections and lack of understanding

Letters of protest have been sent to the Councillor responsible for Welfare, Mrs Klijnsma, by both the community centre and the Residents Association Archipel/Willemspark, and copies to the City Council and the various political parties. Our community will be especially hard hit because there are no other proper community centres in the immediate/surrounding area.

Successful operation: shame the patient's dead

Mr Bovens of 't Klokhuis Association and chairman of the council of volunteers of the WOC has submitted a newsletter detailing the consequences of the closure, particularly how it will affect the commitment of present volunteers who are unable/unwilling to move to an unfamiliar area which is also further away. A particularly active network threatens to disintegrate. Councillor Klijnsma's reaction was that alternatives will first be sought in the neighbourhood before a decision is made. An alternative plan for 't Klokhuis has not (yet) been discussed.

Last-minute visit to 't Klokhuis

Unexpectedly, a message came in that on 26 May Councillor Klijnsma would be paying a visit between 9:00 and 9:15. Luckily she stayed for more than an hour and spoke for the first time about the community centre being run on a small subsidy by a community association with its own premises for example, and some extra support from the WOC.

The board of 't Klokhuis Association also discussed possible alternative solutions but will not be taking any rushed to decisions. Continuation of support to personnel and volunteers, realistic exploitation of 't Klokhuis and the necessary support from the WOC are crucial.

There were heated discussions in the crowded meeting room about inadequate management and support on the part of the WOC and many other shortcomings in general policy. In conclusion, the councillor was given a short tour of the community centre and was presented with a bouquet

of flowers and a small painting to mark her recent marriage and to show appreciation for her visit.

No quick decisions

In short, there will be no rash decisions taken behind closed door before the summer. The community has lobbied for a public debate in the council committee with local residents present – preferably after the summer recess.

A delegation from the community will also be approaching other various political contacts.



Latest news 't Klokhuis

With the support of the political parties VVD, CDA, D'66 and Politieke Partij Scheveningen, we have been able to convince the City Council to give 't Klokhuis one more chance and together with 't Klokhuis Association will be developing a proposal for the council.

Archipel/Willemspark Residents Association



The new set up Laan Copes Van Cattenburch is a success

Another example of successful lobbying with the City Council, is the fact that it has now been decided to retain the single-lane traffic arrangement in both directions along Laan Copes van Cattenburch, after a one-year trial. The results of the trial show that the 1+1 arrangement meets traffic requirements, has reduced the speed of traffic, increased safety and made crossing the road much easier. In addition it appears that the volume of traffic along the Laan Copes has decreased and other routes have been found by road users.

Thanks to the negotiations of the Chairman of the Archipel/Willemspark Residents Association, Joop Vos, the constructive approach of Councillor Bruno Bruins, and the many years of hard work put in by the chairman of the Lobby Group Laan Copes van Cattenburch, Willem v.d. Bosch and the support of board member Guus Nieuwenhuys the desired result has been achieved. Everyone is a winner.

Final work on Laan Copes van Cattenburch will be carried out in September.

Summary of article by Eric Sloodboom
on behalf of the
Lobby Group Laan Copes van Cattenburch
(May 2005)



Local Tsunami action campaigns –

Schools help schools through the sale of jumble and *sotoh ajam*

On 20 April, the primary school Willemspark (Frederiksstraat) organized a jumble sale. The proceeds (€819!) will go towards building a school in Trincomalee, in north-east Sri Lanka. Administrative officer Gerry Janssen told us that the school found sponsors for all the stalls, and that the event was a great success with a terrific atmosphere, a bouncy cushion, traditional Dutch games and a lottery. Willemspark school is one of 42 primary schools which comprise SCO Lucas in The Hague. The administration of this foundation wants to promote interdenominational, Catholic and Protestant education in the region of *Zuid-Holland West*. There has been a joint action campaign to collect for a school in Trincomalee, with which a link will be maintained in the future. The funds have already reached €34,000! (for more information visit www.scolucas.nl)

Eight days later, one kilometre away, you almost believed you were in Asia at the (state) Primary School Archipel in Atjehstraat. There was a theatre café in the gymnasium selling delicacies made by the children. Classrooms were transformed into a gallery or a theatre. All the artwork was made by the pupils and one little boy gave a dissertation about Indonesian musical instruments for 50 euro cents, while others told stories about the Tsunami. Everything cost money – and if you encountered a budding businessmen – lots of money! Not surprising then that this well-attended and extremely entertaining event managed to bring in €2425,57. The school is now looking for a school on the island of Atjeh to donate the money to and to twin with. Hopefully, this event will be repeated in the future and will not just be a one-off.

CR



Concert chamber choir esGROOT

You are cordially invited to our internationally flavoured concert on 17 June 2005, at 20:15. Under the leadership of Marcela Obermeister Shasha, the chamber choir esGROOT from Archipel will be performing a programme of European, Hebrew, [Ladino](#) and South American songs from composers such as Mendelssohn, Diepenbrock, Seter, Ben-Haim, Villa Lobos and Piazzolla just to name a few.

Het concert will take place in the Gothic Hall of the Raad van State, Paleisstraat 1 (entrance opposite Paleis Noordeinde, directly behind the statue of Queen Wilhelmina).

Tickets can either be purchased on the evening of the concert from 19.30 onwards at the ticket office or reserved beforehand by contacting Harry Fossen (tel: 070 – 3584606 or e-mail: harry@fossen.nl).





Community in a state of flux

The neighbourhood paper is alive and kicking. Our barometer is the growing stream of reactions about the content of the newspaper. More and more tips about upcoming events, festivals, etc. Are also flooding in. Keep them coming. Knowing we're being read does us good.

Vandals?

In the previous issue of the neighbourhood paper, we published the item 'Graffiti in de wijk' (Graffiti in our neighbourhood). It was about a mysterious message: 'If you don't know what you're talking about, don't talk about it', signed 'SBSC 2005', on the temporary fence erected along the perimeter of the Jewish cemetery. Our slightly bewildered reporter wondered whether the creators of the graffiti knew what they were talking about, and if they did, whether they'd be willing to talk about it ... Meanwhile the police took the line 'better safe than sorry' didn't hesitate in making an arrest. Ultimately, it appeared that the whole incident was absolutely innocent and full of good intentions: a stunt by students from the Haagse Kunstacademie to promote their *Stichting ter Bevordering van Sociale Contacten* (Foundation for Social Contact). Nothing to do with vandalism at all. Just nice young people, compassionate residents fortified with cups of tea.

Ailing trees

Can our horsechestnuts be saved from a deadly disease? We're keeping our fingers crossed. The results from the University of Wageningen are expected in early autumn!

Shove in the back

Mr Feenstra in Sumatrastraat brought to our attention that the new *Kliniek Haaglanden* (Haaglanden Clinic) is in fact situated at the corner of Koninginnegracht and Riouwstraat and not Atjehstraat. Normally he would not have bothered to write a letter but he wanted to take the opportunity to say that he feels that the fact that the working group for traffic in Archipel has lobbied for the legalization of bicycle traffic on the pedestrian bridge opposite Delistraat is ill advised. According to Mr Feenstra, "A number of times already, I've received a powerful shove in the back when I didn't make way for cyclists quickly enough, and those on scooters don't hesitate to manoeuvre you roughly against the fence ... Even if you don't say anything as a pedestrian using the bridge, you're often verbally abused and accused of being a nuisance ... PLEASE KEEP THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE FOR PEDESTRIANS". Does Mr Feenstra have a point? We're curious to know what the working party thinks.



Publication and Exhibition by Studio PRO

Architect Dirk Roosenburg (1887-1962) once had a studio at number 11 Kerkhoflaan. Atelier PRO is now located there. A book about Dirk Roosenburg was recently published, and was presented to Dirk Roosenburg junior and Rem Koolhaas, both architects and both grandsons of the architect. The title is *Kerkhoflaan 11 – Een reis in de tijd* and the book illustrates the address on Kerkhoflaan's links with architecture through the generations.

It was also the impulse for an exhibition to be held from 20 June through 3 July, that shows the 'passing of time through historical photographs'. On weekdays the premises and the garden can be viewed free between 17.00 and 18.00, and on Saturday 2 July and Sunday 3 July - Architecture Day - visitors are welcome from 10.00 to 17.00 and will be given a guided tour of the exhibition and garden by the architects themselves.

COMMUNITY SUMMER PARTY 25 JUNE 2005



Programme

From 9:00 onwards the following street will be closed to all traffic:
Bankastraat from Laan Copes to Kerkhoflaan,
Billitonstraat and all streets intersecting with Bankastraat

from 10:00 onwards
decorated cargobikes (bakfietsen) and ordinary bicycles will congregate on Bankaplein

10:30 - 11:00
parade of decorated cargobikes and bicycles through neighbourhood accompanied by music

11:00
distribution of balloons for official opening ceremony

11:30
official opening in 'broad' Bankastraat and the release of balloons

from 11:30 onwards
football tournament on 'broad' Bankastraat

from 20:00 onwards
free train rides along 'broad' Bankastraat

11:00 - 13:00
setting up of stalls for bric-à-brac fair in narrow section of Bankastraat

12:00 - 13:00
rickshaw competition on Bankaplein

12:00 - 16:00
demonstrations of *Indische* large-scale painting
on Bankaplein supervised by artist Marjan Bloem for enthusiastic adults
(experience not necessary)
materials will be supplied and registration beforehand is possible:
marjan.bloem@xs4all.nl

12:30 - 13:00
ballet demonstration by the Elsa Vreken Ballet School in 'broad' Bankastraat

13:00 - 17:30
bric-à-brac fair

14:00 - 14:30
Akido demonstration in 'broad' Bankastraat

14:00 - 17:00
activities for children in Billitonstraat

14:00 - 15:00
Indische story-telling by Herman Frank in 'theatre-for-a-day'
for local over-70s, Bankastraat 66 - Makelaar Hekking
(a maximum of 25 people)

15:30 - 16:15

tea for ladies and gentleman over 70
(hats have priority)
in the garden of Bankastraart 90: entrance in Billitonstraat
(a maximum of 25 people)

13:00
start of musical programme
including 'Kameleon' led by Stieneke Voorhoeve-Poot with Eric van Glabbeck on piano

14:00
performance by 'Graduates of Swing' of their newest CD
(jazz from the 30s and 40s)

15:00
'Open Podium' with Bas Voets - guitar & vocal

15:30
Choir Festival with
EsGroot, Archicapella, Celebessen & Jan and Alleman

16:30
Wim Akkerman - guitar & vocal

17:00
Wijk Salon Orchestra

18:00
Archipel Orchestra

18:00
Community Dinner starts
(Bankaplein)

18:30
'Kings of Bongo Bongo'
small big band

19:30
Paula Rodier!

20:00
'Collegio Latino Salsaband'

23:00
conclusion and end of party



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The beech of Batjan

You can't call Batjan a long street. Nevertheless there is a clear dichotomy/are clearly two sections to it: between Riouw and Deli live the 'stayers' – some since from before the war. Including my interlocutors, Mr and Mrs Kersbergen, who have lived here at least 50 years. Mr Kersbergen asks, "Do you know roughly how many children lived in those 10 houses in the fifties?". My guess was way off beam – the answer was 42. Not so long ago, they held a reunion. The schrubbery in Delistraat was a favourite place to play and all the children climbed in the magnificent copper beech there. Luckily, I's still there., but it's no longer full of scrambling children. The houses have been converted into apartments, too small for families. But you do see first-time buyers and transient (foreign) inhabitants.

From Grand(father) to son

The Kersbergens are a real plumber's family. Grandfather worked on the new housing development - yes, the Archipelbuurt at the end of the 19th century. Father was a plumber who, with his wife, ran a plumbing business on Bankastraart , and son Erik is yes, a plumber. Up until the war, there was a good living to be made from the well-to-do families of The Hague who lived in the 'broad' Archipel streets. Social differences have now disappeared: something they liked so much about the neighbourhood – the carpenter lived next door to the solicitor ... and they spoke to each another.

M.O.



Batjan and Lombok, a geography lesson

Lombokstraat is named after the island of Lombok, one of the Lesser Soendra islands of Indonesia between Bali and Soembawa.

Under dominion of Bali, four principalities were formed which constantly fought with each other. At the end of the 19th century, the Balinese requested the help of the Dutch. After a terrific struggle, the island was brought under Dutch rule in 1894. An episode from this struggle is described in a recently published biography on Colijn. Batjanstraat was built on a former exercise ground where artillery was tested. From 1888 - 1889 the street formed part of Delistraat but this short section extending through to Riouwstraat was given the name Lombokstraat.

Batjanstraat

This street was constructed in 1885 and named after an island in the Moluccan Sea. aangelegd en is genoemd naar een eiland in de Molukse Zee.

With the islands of Latolata, Mocari, Kasiroeta, Obit, Mandioli e.a., Batjan forms the smallest of the three sultanates falling under the authority of Ternate.

It is heavily forested and produces timber for both construction and furniture, and as is the case throughout the Moluccas spices such as nutmeg and cloves are found here.

Initially, it was the *Indiëgangsters* (members of wealthy families returning from the Dutch colony of Indonesia) who settled in Batjanstraat, Marie Christine van Zeggelen for example who returned in 1918. She became very well known not only for her stories and novels about the Indonesian way of life but also her historical novels. In addition she wrote theatrical pieces, including adaptations of her novels and children's books.

MvdH



Bowey, Reno and Cynthia

Except for one mild flirtation with another - in Amsterdam, Cynthia van der Linden remained faithful to her Archipel where she was born. As the daughter of actor Peter van der Linden (*Theatertje Thuis* in Riouwstraat), she grew up in Malakkastraat, moved to Riouwstraat and has now lived in Lombokstraat for 12 years. Cynthia works as a make-up artist at the RO Theater in Rotterdam. Her son, Reno, was born 11 years ago in Lombokstraat, the shortest street in the neighbourhood. The street has the advantage that a speed bump would be a waste of time, but what Cynthia and Reno do find a shame is that it has become a bit of a transient street. Many people stay only briefly. The houses are small and when couples want to start a family, they look for a bigger home. And round the corner in Delistraat there seems to be at least one removal van every week. Shell purchased a number of houses there and it appears that their personnel don't stay very long in The Hague ...

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Historical and cultural walk

Within the framework of the city's summer event 'Een Indische Zomer', 't Gilde Den Haag is organizing a walk through 19th-century Willemspark and the Indische Archipelbuurt (the streets whose names have connections with places in Indonesia) starting 16 June 2005.

This walk will take you through the park of King William II, which was sold to the municipal council of The Hague after his death. The council subsequently built impressive residential properties on the land. These grand establishments were inhabited by extremely well-to-do families, especially former residents of the Dutch East Indies. Many other colonists home on leave with their servants for a few months, lived in the pensions of the 's-Gravenhaagsche Pensionmaatschappij, some of which are still to be seen in and around the park.

The Willemspark still exudes the atmosphere of families once connected with Louis Couperus

and Multatuli. You will hear more about the history of the park and its residents of yesteryear on the walk. There will also a short excursion to the 19th-century Archipelbuurt, well-known as a real 'Indische' district, which after 1910 however lost a lot of its Indonesian character.

The walk will take place on Tuesdays at 14:00 and on Thursdays at 11:00 between 16 June - 30 September 2005.

Group walks for 6 people or more can also be arranged on request for different dates and/or alternative times.

Departure point: Het Indisch Huis, Javastraat 2B, The Hague (where there is an opportunity for a snack and something to drink - at your own expense - before or after the walk.

The walk will take around 90 minutes.

Tickets €2.50 per person (reservation in advance)

't Gilde Den Haag
Riviermarkt 2
2513 AM The Hague

Opened week days 9:30 - 12:30

Telephone: 070 356 12 81
e-mail: www.gildedenhaag.nl
website: www.gildedenhaag.nl

