



The Community Newspaper International Readers' Service Oct 2006

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Traffic Circulation Plan (VCP)
**Detrimental consequences for
Archipel/Willemspark too**



Is our neighbourhood soon to be criss-crossed by traffic taking short cuts?

The Residents Association calls for a protest.

For many it wouldn't have gone unnoticed that the majority of the newly elected council members has agreed to the plans for closing The Hague city centre to cars. The decision was prompted by the high level of air pollution residents of Amsterdamse Veerkade and Stille Veerkade were having to contend with. However what hasn't been mentioned is that the City Council and *Stadsgewest Haaglanden* each received €2.5 million from Provincie Zuid-Holland for measures to combat this problem. Mid-2006, we were able to get our hands on a copy of the TNO report on which the decision making was based. To our surprise, according to the report, it appeared that air quality had been measured at 29 different locations in the city. However they were all to the east of Laan van Meerdervoort; residents living to the west don't matter, it seems.

Bad for people and the environment

On behalf of the residents of the districts most at risk, Mr. R.B. van Heijningen of the A/W residents Association sent a letter to the *College van Burgemeester en Wethouders* (City Council). The council's priority is to make city centre a car-free zone and spend tens of thousands of euros on closing off streets such as the two Veerkades and Mauritskade, forcing motorists to get to their destinations via the CentrumRing. By doing this the council will put the health of thousands of inhabitants at risk, sacrificing them to even heavier traffic, more accidents and sound and air pollution. The value of properties along the CentrumRing will fall dramatically and the residents on Laan Copes van Cattenburch, Burgemeester Patijnlaan and Javastraat will be among the first victims, while Bankastraat, Nassauplein, Parkstraat and Zeestraat will be used as shorts cuts.

Comité VCP-Nee established

On 19 June 2006 the *Dienst Stedelijke Ontwikkeling* (City Development Dept.) informed us in writing that the period during which the public would be able to comment on the plans ended on 28 April 2006; at which time the TNO report wasn't even available! After talks with various councillors it appears that the decision-making period was so short it was impossible for the public to be given the opportunity to comment.

In the meantime the inhabitants of at least ten districts in The Hague, including the Archipel/Willemspark Residents Association, and the same number of employers' organisations have united to form the Comité VCP-Nee ("No to the TCP Committee"), which plans to mount an intensive campaign against the disastrous and prohibitive measures proposed by the City Council. We won't shrink from instituting long-term legal proceedings against these plans if needs be.

In our estimation/opinion, the goal of the council can also be reached by building a number parking garages under the Malieveld and providing (free) public transport to the city centre. All traffic from the A4, A12 and A44 converges at this point after all and should be intercepted here.

Archipel victim twice over

During the periode 1997-2004 lengthy discussions between the Municipal Council of The Hague and our Residents Association, an agreement was reached whereby Burgemeester Patijnlaan and Laan Copes van Cattenburch (then both carrying three-lanes of traffic) was reduced to two lanes. This cost the council a great deal of money and it would be a sign of poor administration should all the good work be undone so soon after completion; again at great expense. These streets also serve as the arterial roads for the police headquarters and the fire service located in our neighbourhood. Relief measures by these two services could be hindered by future traffic jams on these roads, with life-threatening consequences for victims in traffic accidents or other calamities. Who would be answerable then? In short ...

Take action now!

Sign the petition (Archipel/Willemspark Residents Association has made sure that one is available at the Community Centre 't Klokhuis, Celebesstraat 4). If you're against the council's plans, let your voice be heard by contacting the www.vcp-nee.nl website. We thank you in advance for your support.

Joop Vos

Chairman Archipel/Willemspark Residents Association



Residents Association

Archipel & Willemspark 35 years-old!

Celebrations on the horizon!

In December 2006 our residents association will have been in business 35 years and of course we plan to celebrate the occasion. The Archipelbuurt & Willemspark district has long been a favourite haunt of artists. Not only do many live in the neighbourhood but many have their studios here. An anniversary is an ideal opportunity to make their acquaintance if you have not done so already. The art of getting to know one another, in fact!

Creating a good social climate within the community and the creative artist ...

Here's a sneak preview:

- Paul Combrink, chairman of the *Haagsche Kunstkring* will open an exhibition of work by artists who live in our neighbourhood at 13:00 in Galerie Frederik at Frederikstraat 467 on Saturday 16 December: exhibition continues until 23 December.

- On Sunday 17 December many artists, those living in Archipel and Willemspark too, will open their studios to the public.

Our website will keep you informed about all the jubilee celebrations and you will also find more information in a special supplement in the December issue of the community newspaper.

Festivities working party

A working party has been busy planning and organising festivities for the period between 16 and 23 December for months. Those responsible for the artistic side of things Els van der Kleij, Karen Kommer and Michiel van der Mast have already contacted 60 artists and almost all of them have agreed to give their support. However it's always possible that we may have overlooked someone. If this should be the case please get in touch as soon as possible with Michiel van der Mast:

T 345 81 97 , M 06-508 480 32

E m.vandermast@tiscali.nl



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Community in a state of flux



ATM in Frederikstraat

There had been a need for an ATM facility in our Frederikstraat for quite a while. After doing the rounds by a number of banks, SNS was interested in installing a cash point and thanks to the cooperation of CITRONICS (corner of Kerkstraat/Frederikstraat) we can now withdraw our cash in Frederikstraat. Not only a boon for the shopping public and those enjoying the delights of the many restaurants in the street but also our own Willemspark residents!

Makover for the baker and the greengrocer

Both Banketbakkerij Bornheim and Greengrocer Exotenhof in Bankastraat have undergone a metamorphosis this year. The scaffolding and portacabins are gone and it's back to normal in the new improved premises.

From makeshift shelter for fruit & veg to art gallery-cum-studio

After the return of Exotenhof to its newly converted premises, Galerie Terra Cotta on the corner of Bankastraat and Billitonstraat has now been transformed into a combined gallery and studio.

Djava in Mallemolen celebrates 20 years

This restaurant with pavement terrace in the quiet pedestrian side street off Javastraat, known as the "Monmartre" of The Hague, has proved throughout its 20 years in business that stylish and delicious Indonesian cuisine really is possible in Willemspark. The great advantage for locals is that after "a few glasses" they can walk home safely. Takeaway is also an option.

Kids Afternoon Art Club

Kids between 4 and 15 years-old can draw, paint and do all sorts of other creative things to their heart's content at no. 229 Billitonstraat on the corner with Borneostraat (where the bric-a-brac shop used to be). Irene Vonck, artist and teacher with 25 years of experience, steers them in the right direction and she runs course for adults too. Want to know more? Telephone 070 374 25 45, email: hivonck@hotmail.com or just go along and have a look!

Bancadeau closed

Unfortunately this versatile gift shop on Bankastraat closed down during the summer. The premises is empty at the moment - but a shop dealing in something new like household articles wouldn't go amiss; or what about

the return of that permanent fishmonger mentioned so often?

The haringkar was just the thing...

Dining alfresco from the fish stand at the corner of Bankastraal/Laan Copes on those hot summer Saturdays. Tasty herring and being an oily fish, extremely good for you. How long it will it last, is the question?



Make A Difference Day:

days when together volunteers make a day something special

The MADD days in The Hague take place on Saturday 4 November and Sunday 5 November and will be marked by doing something for the community and/or fellow residents with the emphasis on voluntary work. We have plans to celebrate in Archipel & Willemspark too.

Bazar

On Saturday 4 November between 14:00 and 17:00 a Bazar will be held in Het Schakelpunt on Burgemeester Patijnlaan. The proceeds will go to families in Poland under the auspices of *Vrienden van het Leven* (Friends for Life Foundation) originally set up by the Vredeskapel on Malakkastraat. There will also be an information stand about the charity as well as a 'win a prize everytime' tombola.

You can contribute with supplementary items such as scarves and gloves or by coming along and purchasing what's on offer.

See on how well the Bazar did in the next issue.

Contributions for the Bazar can be delivered to Het Schakelpunt, Burg.Patijnlaan 1900 or given to Marianne van Drunen: 070 3504092 or Lore Olgers: 070 3244118 or email: olgers_vanschic@casema.nl

High-Tea Concert

A high tea will be served to our more mature residents during a concert to be held on Sunday 5 November between 14:00 and 16:00 in Het Schakelpunt. Fellow resident Stineke Poot, her daughters and other advanced students will provide the musical entertainment and you can contribute by baking something for the high tea or by offering your help on the afternoon itself.

Contact Else Ponsen to let her know whether you will be providing cakes or help, on Mondays or Wednesdays at 't Klokhuis Tel: 3543927, at home Tel: 3505738 or by Email else.ponsen@florence-zorg.nl



Our new Local Directory directs you to the right address!

There is new information on the Archipelbuurt /Willemspark Residents Association website which you should find particularly useful. Looking for a hairdresser, catering service or someone to look after your cat operating in the immediate neighbourhood, then visit our community website www.archipelbuurt.nl

We have compiled a local directory of the businesses and services in our neighbourhood; more than fifty categories where you can find the name and address of the business you are looking for. The Directory is by no means complete and

you'll undoubtedly have ideas for new categories; all suggestions (if serious and respectable) gratefully received.

Can't find it?

If you want to add a category or particular business get in touch by email at website@archipelbuurt.nl
Businesses too can get in touch if they would like to appear in the Directory.

At the moment the Directory is only in Dutch but the English version will be ready soon. In the meantime continue searching under [Getting Help](#) or [Finding your Way](#).

The website team hopes that ALL residents will make regular use of our new service. Take a look and judge for yourself. Our aim is to provide our fellow residents of Archipel and Willemspark with a useful and attractive community website in both Dutch and English.

WWW.ARCHIPELBUURT.NL



'Methadone bus' to leave Monchyplein

In recent years, together with the municipal council of The Hague, the Parnassia Psycho-Medical Centre has been implementing a policy to supply patients who have a drug problem with methadone at specially designated local addresses in The Hague.

This means that with the expansion of such locations and the improvement in services the bus supplying methadone at Monchyplein will no longer be necessary.

Parnassia is of course extremely pleased. Going on early results, it is unlikely that the bus dispensing methadone on Monchyplein will have to be used again in the future; although it is the council who makes the decisions on such matters.



What's going on in the neighbourhood?

Are you interested in what happens in the neighbourhood? Would you like to share your thoughts and ideas? As always you are most welcome to attend the Archipel/Willemspark Residents Association's community committee meetings. These meetings involve discussions between the executive board, the various working parties and the community police officers as well as individual residents about matters concerning the neighbourhood. Come along and hear what goes on. It's not all business: during a glass of something at the conclusion of the meeting there is the chance to get to know people and have a more informal chat.

The next community committee meeting is on Thursday 16 November at 20.00 in 't Klokhuis Community Centre, Celebesstraat 4. [More...](#)



New bike bridge across to Raamweg in 2007

On 31 August the council made known to the Working Party Traffic that it is doing everything in its power to improve the connection to Raamweg by the Hubertus Viaduct for cyclists and pedestrians.

The solution chosen is the construction of a second bridge next to the Riouwstraat tram stop. The existing crossing will be renovated and remain in use for pedestrians. Cyclists will cross via the new bridge and make use of the already widened cycle path along Raamweg.

However cyclists, pedestrians and residents will have to be patient for a little longer. The council anticipates that it will need until the summer of 2007 to work out the plans, present them to the public and install the new bridge.

In a *burgerinitiatief* 531 last year, local residents and others asked for a better and safer bridge/path for cyclists and pedestrians. The Council decided on 23 February to comply with their request.

Working Party - Traffic



Feast of Saint Martin for young and old: "THE ONE WHO SHARES, GAINS"

Again this year, volunteers will be at the ready in Clubhuis Cantaloup between 14:30 and 16:30 on Sunday 5 November to help the children to make lanterns in preparation for the [Feast of Saint Martin](#) procession. Materials and refreshments will be available and extra help and parents will be very welcome!

Procession by lantern light!

It's almost 11 November again and time for the procession of children to make their way through Archipel and Willemspark on this special Saturday, knocking on doors of houses where candles burn in the window. The children will sing Saint Martin carols and residents will reward them with fruit and candy.

Young and old share in Saint Martin

Later on the same evening, the youngsters will be welcome in the *Zorg op Maatcentrum Het Schakelpunt* at Burg.Patijnlaan 1900, where their more mature fellow residents will be waiting for them (and their parents of course) in the festively lit reception room with fruit and other tasty treats between 17:00 and 18:30.



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Rest of Riouw has it's say

Riouwstraat is the longest street in the Archipel. It cuts right through the top of the neighbourhood at right-angles to Bankastraat and has no fewer than 13 traffic humps. However, it is divided into two halves by the Bankaplein fountain and roundabout. The section between the roundabout and the Haringkade canal has many interesting features and residents, including Peter van der Linden and his Theatertje Thuis which he is now winding down, giving only the occasional performance.

Wereldkinderen

No 191 is home to Wereldkinderen, an association involved in projects aimed at providing families for homeless children in the third world.

‘... the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding’,

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989

Almost opposite the KinderCare crèche, is the office of Wereldkinderen, an association dedicated to helping children in far more difficult situations. It works in Africa, Asia and Latin America, supporting projects and mediating in adoptions. Wereldkinderen sponsors group projects rather than individual children. For example, its current campaign “Hurray, it’s not a girl!” is directed at recruiting families in China to foster local children, often girls, who are disabled or abandoned. The association gives the foster families money to cover the extra cost of medical and other care. Martien Miedema, spokeswoman for the organisation, explains its approach in campaigns like this: “For deprived children like these, we try first of all to improve the situation in the child’s own family; if that’s impossible, we look for local alternatives, like helping to support a small children’s home, a crèche or a school, and as a last resort we look at the possibility of intercountry adoption”. “Intercountry adoption has had quite a lot of negative publicity”, she says, “but recent research at the University of Leiden has shown that the vast majority of such adoptions have good outcomes. Adoption is an effective way of improving the situation of children who have no other future”.

475 children came to the Netherlands via Wereldkinderen in 2005. In every case, the adoption was preceded by complex, time-consuming procedures demanding great motivation and considerable patience on the part of the prospective adopters. More information can be found on the organisation’s website at <http://www.wereldkinderen.nl>.

MO

Kindercare

For the last 4 years, the Kindercare daycare centre has been in operation in the house on the corner of Riouwstraat and Koninginnegracht. Carers Lucienne and Nadège are keen to tell us about ‘their’ crèche. Kindercare is a private organisation providing professional daycare for children up to the age of 4.

It has places for 55 children and aims to provide a safe, secure environment in which they can develop at their own pace. The three fully-qualified carers – one man and two women – enjoy working in a crèche in such a pleasant area, with large companies close by (often the “source” of the children!) and with shops and public transport conveniently on hand. That means continuity of staffing, something that they see as very important for the sake both of the children and of the care team.

Opening hours

The crèche is open twelve hours a day, from 7 to 7. In the morning, the children start the day with a period of play before sitting down to fruit and juice at 9.30. After that, there are different activities for each age group (baby massage, dance, music, drama, handicrafts etc.), followed by a sandwich lunch at 11.30 – 12.30 and a nap or period of quiet play until about 14.30, when they have a yoghurt or other healthy snack. Then it’s time to play in the garden or go for a walk. Around 16.30, the first parents arrive to pick up their kids and normally all the children go home for their hot evening meal (although in exceptional circumstances

parents occasionally supply something to be warmed up at the crèche).

Safety

Safety is taken extremely seriously. All the food supplied is healthy and organic. Children are never allowed to leave the premises unless accompanied by an adult they know or whose arrival has been notified to staff in advance. Each child has a notebook through which the staff can communicate with parents and vice versa. And there's a fire drill three times a year. The children think this is great fun! The older ones exit the building via the doors and a slide, while the babies are quickly wheeled out in special emergency cots.

Charges

So what does all this cost? Under Dutch law, the charges are often split three ways: between the parent, the employer and the tax authorities.

The price is slightly above-average, but then "you're paying for good quality professional care and safety".

At the time of writing, there are still vacancies. Visit www.kindercare.nl and/or phone 070 – 404 94 75.

E.D.

The story of no. 131

Some of the houses in the street have an interesting history and bear the marks of past residents. Take Riouwstraat 131. Now the home of lawyer Gerda Later, until around 1990 it was the Pleysierschool. That was a school for around 100 children with behavioural problems. After the school moved to other premises, the building needed considerable repair. The new owner employed a kind of Bagwan community to do it up. They certainly repaired and redecorated the house (painting each floor entirely in a different colour!) but meanwhile they also lived and practised their own very special rituals there. These included growing cannabis in the cellar and smoking it in a special 'smoke hut' at the bottom of the garden (still there, but now used as a bike shed and occasional barbecue place).

Kurds, Iran, Iraq

In 1995 lawyer Gerda Later moved into the house, living on the ground floor and running her legal practice upstairs. She started by dealing with ordinary family law cases but gradually came to specialise in the legal affairs of Kurds from Turkey and people from the Middle East generally. She now specialises mainly in the criminal law and in psychiatric and immigration cases.

Gerda has a keen sense of social justice and great sympathy with the plight in which her clients have found themselves. Trying to sort out the position of these damaged people is a time-consuming task, but one that gives her enormous satisfaction when the outcome is successful. In some cases, it takes literally years to obtain a legal decision or solution, and that is extremely frustrating. So, when that happens, she refuses to sit and wait, but where necessary holds press conferences and uses her extensive parliamentary and media network to gain publicity for her clients and their problems.

Multi-faceted legal aid

More recently, her clients have included a member of the 'Hofstad group' [a group of young Muslims accused of plotting acts of Islamic terrorism in the Netherlands], but her more routine cases involve things like the dilemma of refugee mothers with children to look after and no social assistance or any other source of income. Clients often come to her via a legal aid call centre in Rotterdam; once a week she is "on call"

and people are referred to her from there. Fortunately, she has the help of a secretary and two law students on work experience placements, as well as expert support from a charity that exists to support refugees and illegal immigrants. Even so, Gerda is clearly fully occupied dealing with the constant stream of requests for legal help from her unusual clients.

E.D.

Parliamentary candidate Wilbert Stolte: “Wonderfully quiet in Riouwstraat”

I first met Wilbert Stolte at the official opening of the Burg. De Monchyplein. It was pouring with rain and he invited me to shelter under his umbrella – a more than welcome gesture from the man who was then still the City’s alderman with responsibility for City Management, Scheveningen, ICT Policy and Sport. Now we are sitting high and dry in Zeldenrust and talking about Riouwstraat, the Archipel and life after his many years as a member of the City executive.

Apparently, things could be worse: Stolte (56) is now working for national government in the field of constitutional relations between the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles. Ever since 1986, Aruba has had separate status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and is no longer counted as part of the Netherlands Antilles. Now, the islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten are going the same way, a situation on which the Dutch government needs to keep a close eye. Consequently, the former alderman now spends most of his time in the Caribbean. A blissful situation – at any rate until the next general election. As fiftieth on the list of CDA candidates, Stolte could well end up with a seat in parliament. Two full terms (eight years) in the municipal executive was enough but does he look back on his time there with satisfaction? Stolte: “A lot has been done as regards traffic, schools, parks and gardens, and so on. A great deal of necessary maintenance has been done. The city is spick and span again.” The former alderman is particularly proud of the tram tunnel and the new football stadium. “Now let’s just try to win a match again.”

Enough dry cleaners

He grew up in Utrecht and Nijmegen, but The Hague has stolen his heart. And more especially the neighbourhood where he’s spent the last 25 years: the Archipel. Wilbert Stolte: “If I’m elsewhere in the country and say to people who know anything about The Hague that I live in Riouwstraat, they are pretty impressed. I’m still constantly amazed myself that I’m so lucky. Take last Sunday morning. I was sitting out in my garden and it was so quiet all around, nothing but the sound of the birds. Wonderful.” Is there anything in his (our!) neighbourhood that he feels especially strongly about? His answer is one you hear all the time, but no less true for all that: “We need to take good care that Bankastraart survives as a shopping street. We don’t need any more estate agents and dry cleaners.”

HB

The Riouwstraat trees

If you always thought the trees lining the Riouwstraat had been planted by the City authorities, you were quite wrong! The possibility of planting trees in the street was first mooted in 1997, by Els v.d. Kleij, who was then a member of the neighbourhood Amenities (*Leefbaarheid*) working group.

Together with Godelieve van Alkemade and Annemie van Berckel, she

contacted the City's Parks and Gardens (*Groenvoorziening*) department and persuaded officials that the trees would be an asset to the neighbourhood. After much nudging, the department eventually told them that they would have to meet the cost of the project themselves, because the City couldn't afford it! The pavement was too narrow for trees and would have to be widened out in places to accommodate them. They eventually negotiated an agreement that the City would meet two-thirds of the cost if they could get one-third of it together.

Action!!

They immediately launched a campaign to collect the money from the residents in the street. First of all they held a meeting to explain the plan and asked the residents to pay 435 guilders (about 195 euros) p.p. A legal Foundation (*Stichting*) was established and they fostered enthusiasm for the plan by distributing flyers door-to-door. In the end, around 130 people contributed and a couple of larger sponsors were found to make up the rest of the money.

Landscape designer Joanne Doornewaard was asked to advise on the best species of tree to plant and came up with the Robinia Pseudoaccacia, because of its beautiful, feathery leaves and splendid white blossom.

Success!

By 16 May 1998 the job was complete: the pavement had been widened where necessary and 28 trees had been planted. It was time to celebrate with a party in the garden of what was then Studio Dumbar in the Bankplein.

Would Els do it again?

<tekst>Eight years on, Els thinks it was worth the effort: "It looks good. Some of the 19th-century grandeur of the street has been restored. To our delight, the 1960s lampposts were replaced at the same time by replicas of 19th-century ones. But the City was supposed to look after the trees and I'm rather disappointed that it doesn't do more in that direction. For instance, the trees don't flower. When they were planted, they were pruned back so hard that some of them have never really recovered. And we tried to do something with the little 'gardens' around the base of the trees, but now they are often just used to park bikes or waste sacks!" Els would be glad if residents and the City authorities cared about the trees a bit more.

E.D.

Riouwstraat 172:

Lli lernas instru-i! *)

The International Esperanto Institute (IEI)

If I had any doubts about the usefulness of Esperanto, my first telephone call to the Institute immediately relieved them. I'm supposed to interview Atilio Orellana Roja, but he comes from Argentina and says his Dutch isn't very good – and I speak no Spanish at all. When we eventually meet, however, it turns out that his Dutch is fine and we have no problem communicating, only occasionally resorting to English.

What does the International Esperanto Institute do?

The task of the institute is to train Esperanto teachers all over the world. It develops teaching materials, publishes a magazine, runs a library for teachers and networks at all sorts of levels to promote the teaching of Esperanto in places as far apart as Armenia, China and Brazil. These days, Internet plays a major role in its work, enabling distance-learning of Esperanto from no fewer than 30 other languages.

In addition, the institute provides support for the Esperanto section at

the University of Amsterdam, where students can study the theoretical/linguistic background of the language, and it has developed a course enabling students to learn Esperanto in six months.

Babel and world peace

The link between language and international understanding has been recognised since ancient times. The best known Bible story on the subject is the one about the tower of Babel, the top of which was to reach right up to heaven. To punish the builders of the tower for their insolence in seeking to build such a tall tower, God spread a confusion of tongues among the peoples of the earth. Up to then, they had all spoken the same language; now, each people would speak its own and never again would they be able to work together on such a massive project.

Over the centuries, there have been many attempts to escape from the Babylonian confusion of tongues by inventing a single universal world language. Esperanto is one such artificial language. It was invented in 1887 by a Polish eye specialist called Zamenhof. Growing up in Poland, he had heard many different languages in his local community: Polish, Yiddish, German, Russian, Hebrew and Lithuanian. From all of them, he distilled a new language: Esperanto. The teaching method was developed by a Hungarian called Cseh. It was he who set up the IEI in the Riouwstraat and the Institute is named after him.

Following the horrors of World War I, there was a great desire for world peace and Esperanto seemed to have a major role to play in achieving this. During World War II, however, the institute in The Hague was confiscated by the Nazi German occupation authorities and all its material was destroyed. The post-war years once again saw a revival in interest in Esperanto.

Current developments

Nevertheless, it has proved impossible to persuade government to promote Esperanto at the international level. The three largest core member states of the EU – Germany, French and England – have managed to impose their own tongues as the main languages of the Union. In the Netherlands, the Ministry of Education says that it supports the teaching of Esperanto, but does nothing to encourage it in practice; that is left to the institute itself. By contrast, China and Brazil show great interest in the teaching of Esperanto and Atilio is himself a member of a working group trying to introduce Esperanto teaching into the Arabic-speaking world. Internet plays a major role in these efforts.

From Cordoba to the Riouwstraat

Like most Argentines, Atilio has two surnames: Orellana – the name of his father – and Roja – that of his mother. Until 1992 he taught Classics and Russian in the Argentinean city of Cordoba. “I taught myself Esperanto when I was a child, with the help of my grandfather. I thought that somewhere there was a country where everyone spoke Esperanto”. Atilio was only nine when his grandfather died but he went on learning Esperanto by himself. Much later, he came across the address of the institute in The Hague and asked it to send him learning materials. Then, attending an Esperanto conference in Cuba, he bumped into a member of the institute’s staff. This led to an invitation to come to The Hague, initially for 3 months and then for a year. That was 13 years ago, and he’s still here working for the IEI.

When I interviewed him, the building was being renovated. The room on the ground floor can be hired for meetings and the 2nd-floor apartment is also let. “The attic floor is big enough for me,” laughs Orellana Roja. He is more than happy to base himself in the Archipel. “Cordoba has a population of two million. We lived right in the city centre. It was noisy and polluted. Here it is quiet and peaceful and Riouwstraat is such a nice street!”

e.s.

*) *Esperanto: they learn to teach!*



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Major renovation of Community Centre 't Klokhuis

In August, the Council began renovation work on the Community Centre on Celebesstraat. The toilets were first on the list and then the ceilings on the first floor. Although the rest of the schedule is not entirely clear, it is expected that work on the kitchen will start at the end of October. The centre will remain open throughout and we will endeavour to keep any inconvenience to users and visitors to a minimum. Should any activities be affected (this will probably be the case until the end of the year), those involved will be notified beforehand.



For hire

Diverse facilities and rooms in the community centre 't Klokhuis can be hired for meetings, courses, readings, choir rehearsals, exercise clubs, chat groups, etc.



*For information and conditions contact Peter Jautze,
Telephone 070 350 35 11 or pop along on a week day to
4 Celebesstraat. Closed on Fridays after 13.00.*



A/W Community Newspaper, October 2006

Translation JT & LFN

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