

# BUURTKRANT 'KIJK OP DE WIJK'

APRIL 2026

English version online: [www.maredijkbuurt.nl](http://www.maredijkbuurt.nl)

## VERENIGING MAREDIJKBUURT

### PLANT MARKET



It is spring, and the urge to work in the garden or on your balcony is back! On Sunday afternoon, April 12, the neighborhood association is organizing the Maredijk Plant Market, for and by Maredijk residents.

If you have cuttings of outdoor plants or houseplants, you can share them with your neighbors.

You can bring the plants or cuttings to the Maredijkhuis on April 12 starting at 1:00 PM.

You can come and pick up your plants between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM.



### HOW THEN?

#### WHO IS SO STRONG?

#### CURIOUS?

Photography workshop for children aged 9 to 12 on June 14 from 14:00 - 16:30. What should you bring?

1. An old phone that can still take photos;
2. A charging cable for the phone with a USB port on one end;
3. A tall stepladder;
4. A parent (or someone) who can help with the stepladder;
5. Wear old clothes!

Max. 6 participants (not including the parent)

Sign up at [cootjedestoppelaar@gmail.com](mailto:cootjedestoppelaar@gmail.com)

### PAINTING WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN ON MARCH 8

#### BEAUTIFUL RESULTS!



#### PAINTING WORKSHOP: INSTRUCTIONS IN ADVANCE

## VERENIGING MAREDIJKBUURT

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT: JOB DE KRUIFF

On April 20, Job de Kruiff is leaving the Playground Committee of the Maredijk Playground Association after 12 years as a volunteer: "I'm pleased with how well the playground is running." This calls for an interview! Together with his wife Nienke and their daughters Fien and Cato, Job lives on the Marislaan; we're practically neighbours. He grins at me upon arrival: "A psychologist interviewing a journalist, that should be interesting!" Indeed, it was impossible for me to forget that I was interviewing a journalist...

We soon begin the interview with the first open question: why did he decide to quit? Job has thought it over carefully and tells me that there are three stages with this type of volunteer work: in the beginning everything is new and exciting, then it all becomes a matter of course while still being enjoyable, until you eventually get into a rut - despite the fact that the current four-person committee (Wilte, Janneke, Dick (and Job)) works well together.



Being the journalist that he is, Job goes on to illustrate his point with an example: he produces a crate of plastic eggs. This Easter will be the tenth - and probably final - time that he has the task of hiding them in the playground. Job had a lot of fun doing this at first, and his daughters were wild about the idea that their dad knew the location of every egg. Now, at 15 and 17, their interests far exceed eggs in the playground. "As a parent, you realise at that moment that you've also outgrown it," Job thinks.

"I am someone who loves organising things, and I feel very involved in the community." It all began soon after he and Nienke moved to the Marislaan in 2010. At the time, the municipality had conceived a plan to construct a route from the Marislaan to the entrance of a (then yet to be built) underground car park below the Lammermarkt. This delusional plan was abandoned after an intensive lobby by residents of the Marislaan, including Job. With that, Job had put himself on the map as an active resident; soon after, the association's then chairman Jeroen Jansz asked Job if he would be interested in joining the playground committee. At the time, the management of the playground fell almost entirely one person (Elly, for those who knew her), who was always present, organised everything and managed finances besides. While everyone was very grateful for her dedication, it was not very sustainable.

Job said 'yes' and became the committee's secretary in 2014. By the way, this did not mean that he wrote a lot of letters or was in charge of membership records. Rather, it meant that he opened the gate every morning and organised events such as the yearly playground day. He was also involved in a number of big projects such as the renovation of the building 10 years ago, as well as the renovation of the playground itself and the construction of the water playground more recently. Job recounts that the Daan Bekooybad was closing down because managing it had become too much of a hassle, "as if it was the water park Tikibad," with too many regulations, like the daily measurement of the pH value. Job: "A little overblown perhaps. In our opinion the only real problem was the number of bathing parents on sunny days."

How does Job look back on those 12 years in the playground committee? "I am pleased that we succeeded in turning it into a beautifully renovated and modern playground. It is nearly always open, even when there is no supervisor present. In contrast, other playgrounds in Leiden are hesitant about opening without supervision. There are lots of activities, and we're doing well financially, among other reasons because we rent out the premises for children's parties, out-of-school care (BSO) and meetings. And it is always possible to organise a new activity, if anyone feels something is still lacking. You would be responsible for organising it yourself though; we don't have an army of volunteers at the ready."

#### WANTED: NEW SECRETARY

The Playground Association Rndom de Maredijk is looking for a new secretary! Are you interested in fulfilling this role? For questions and information, please email [ledenmaredijk@gmail.com](mailto:ledenmaredijk@gmail.com).

#### FAREWELL PARTY

On April 20, the playground association is hosting a reception following the general meeting (from 09.00 pm). You are very welcome to join us as we raise our glasses to Job!



### THE SALT BIN ON THE HEEN-EN-WERBRUG

Aaf Verkade (whom you might remember from her performance in her water theatre on the Avontureneiland during the Maredijkbuurt party in 2024) has been working on another water-related project in Leiden: she designed the lids of the many salt bins located on Leiden's bridges.

Together, the Maredijkbuurt's Neighbourhood Association and Playground Association have sponsored the lid of the salt bin on the Heen-en-Weerbrug.

The municipality put the new bin in place in March of this year, and Aaf designed the lid and oversaw its installation afterwards. Granted, the process took its time, but it's all worth it in the end. Go and have a look at this fun sight, on which you can read all sorts of fun facts about the critters living underwater in the canals. 'Our' lid has facts about the canal's migratory fish. You can also spot the logos from the Neighbourhood- and Playground Associations on there. The salt bin is on the cityside of the bridge.

## Maredijks' KidsKorner

*From the running reporter*

Maredijkbuurt Leiden – the children in de Maredijkbuurt have their very own reporter. For this edition we'll again be going through the neighbourhood, looking for the best spots. This week we're meeting with Erik.

Erik looks just as surprised at me as I at him, when I don't sit down at the kitchen table with him. "We're going outside, Erik." I tell him. "I'll interview you while we walk to your favourite spot." Erik likes the sound of that. He already knows where he wants to go: to the bamboo grove near the Orangerie. It's clear that bamboo makes Erik happy – he looks absolutely delighted. "It's just growing here, in the neighbourhood, this bamboo. And it's a great hiding place. I once stayed safe in there from my brother's snowballs."

Erik has more favourite spots. "There are all kinds of huts around the neighbourhood." He tells me. "At least three." Huts? In the neighbourhood? Now that makes me curious. "They're a bit hidden. My friends built them. I can show you." And off we go – on a hut hunting adventure. Before we reach the huts, Erik tells me all about his family. I had already noticed that he speaks English with his parents. "My dad is from Norway. Erik is also a Norwegian name. There was Norwegian king with that name a long time ago. He's already dead. And my mum is from Australia. That's where I was born, when my parents lived and worked there for two years. My brother was born in the Netherlands though."

Then we arrive: the three huts! At the back of the playground, we climb over a fence, and Erik shows them to me. One had unfortunately been destroyed by a storm. Another, no longer has its ladder. But the third one is still completely intact. There are ropes hanging down, I see makeshift steps in the trunk and sticks are laid between the branches – together this forms a wonderful climbing hut. Erik scrambles up into it with ease.

Suddenly, he remembers three more dens. One is also near the playground, behind the playhouse. "That one is a bit lower." He shows me. "And we can walk up into it." And there's another one on the little island (ed. Dog Island or Pirate Island), his friends had told him. But he's not entirely sure if he would call it a hut himself. "And that's hut number six."

Next to one of the red apartment blocks behind the island stands a huge pine tree. When we reach it, Erik shows me how you can climb up into it. "I did that once, but sticky sap comes out of it. So I don't climb it anymore."

On the way back to Erik's house, he suddenly remembers that there are even more huts in the neighbourhood. Unfortunately, I don't know exactly where – they're beyond where we walked today. Tip: I saw Erik looking toward the end of the Maredijk. So, if you're curious about those other huts, you might want to explore there!

For now, Erik, thank you so much for taking us on a tour past the hidden huts tucked away in the bushes and trees of our neighbourhood. It was a lovely adventure!

*Are you attending primary school and would you also like to show me the best spots in the neighbourhood? Send an email to the running reporter: gemkurstjens@gmail.com. Your mum and dad are more than welcome to join us on our walk through the neighbourhood.*

## SHARE YOUR STORY!

Dear neighbours! We are from the block party committee and once again we're busy organising the block party on Saturday 5 September 2026! So mark it down in your calendars! This year's theme is: "Stories from the neighbourhood /the history of the Maredijk neighbourhood."

In 2013, local resident Jan Hengstmengel published a book titled "Geschiedenis van de Maredijkbuurt in Leiden." (History of the Maredijk neighbourhood in Leiden). This was a celebration of the neighbourhood's 400th anniversary. A total of 500 copies were printed, and they sold quickly. There is still demand for the book, and there are plans for a new edition if there is enough interest.

We have spoken with Jan Hengstmengel and learned a great deal about the history of the neighbourhood. However, there are undoubtedly many more stories and facts out there. Do you have an interesting story or anecdote about the (history of the) Maredijk neighbourhood? We would love to hear from you and hopefully share it on the day itself. Please contact us at maredijkbuurt@gmail.com.



## KORT NIEUWS



### DINNER AT THE MAREDIJK

On Friday April 17 we will be enjoying dinner together once again. The theme is 'it doesn't have to cost a lot: a tasty meal can be cheap'. Our chefs will get creative and prepare a delicious meal! Everyone is welcome from 17:30 o'clock onwards, with dinner being served at 18:00. For adults it will cost €5 and for children €2,50. Please let us know you'll be coming to dinner by sending an e-mail to: etenopdemaredijk@gmail.com We are also looking for a few more chefs to help us prepare the meals. So, if you enjoy cooking and you think you'd like to help once a month, let us know! You can send us an email.

And note down next month's date for dinner at the Maredijk: **May 15!**

### WHERE IS OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD BEE?

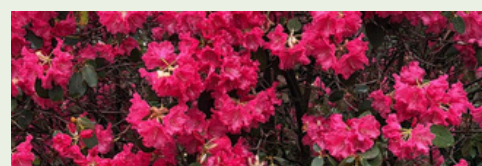


Since the last block party, we have a bee totem on the corner of the Marislaan and the Aloëlaan.

In autumn, however, a few of its legs have been vandalised. As a result, the statue stood quite bare.

The bee has now been taken to be repaired.

Soon it'll be back on top of the totem pole!



## ACTIVITIES AGENDA

### Weekly activities in or around the Maredijkhuis

SUNDAY		Basketball in the cage	Dik Toet, 06 23348489
MONDAY	11:00	Sing-In' (neighborhood choir)	Joke Spannenburg, 071 5222509
	14:00	Walking with neighbors	Verzamelen voor de speeltuin
TUESDAY	10:30	Coffee or tea (free entry)	Christa de Boer, 06 52649828
WEDNESDAY	10:00	Speel-O-Theek Klapstuk	06 24211018, www.sot-klapstuk.nl
THURSDAY	10:30	Fit met Kit, nice exercising	Sigrid Jansen, 06 11524565
	20:00	Playing cards (Klaverjas)	Gé van Vliet, 06 22258969
FRIDAY	10:00	Speel-O-Theek Klapstuk	06 24211018, www.sot-klapstuk.nl
SATURDAY	11:00	Cleaning the neighborhood	Verzamelen hoek Aloëlaan - Maredijk

### Ingeplande activiteiten in de buurt

12 apr.	14:00	Plant market	sigridmcjansen@gmail.com
17 apr.	18:00	Dinner at the Maredijk	etenopdemaredijk@gmail.com
19 apr.	11:00	Theater classes	theateropdemaredijk@gmail.com
20 apr.	20:00	AGM play garden / farewell Job	ledenmaredijk@gmail.com
24 apr.	18:30	Meeting Voorzorgcirkel	christadeboer@gmail.com
26 apr.	14:00	Reading club	p.cambier@planet.nl
1 mei	19:00	Workshop Writing for the web	maredijkbuurt@gmail.com
6 mei	14:00	Mother's Day Technika 10	ledenmaredijk@gmail.com
9 mei	14:00	Afternoon for volunteers	maredijkbuurt@gmail.com
15 mei	18:00	Dinner at the Maredijk	etenopdemaredijk@gmail.com
17 mei	11:00	heater classes	theateropdemaredijk@gmail.com
14 juni	14:00	Workshop Photography kids	cootjedestoppelaar@gmail.com
27 juni	10:00	Playground Day and eating pancakes	ledenmaredijk@gmail.nl

### Other contact persons

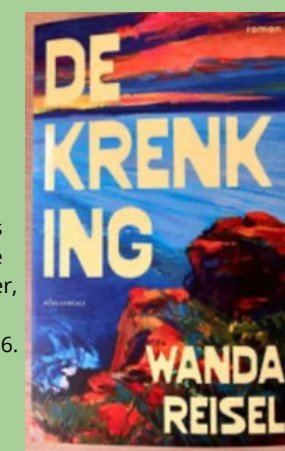
Neighborhood garden	maredijkbuurt@gmail.com
Workshops on Sunday	Sigrid Jansen, sigridmcjansen@gmail.com
Facade gardens	Yolanda Hakemulder, yolandahakemulder@hotmail.com
Neighbourhood clean-up	Yolanda Hakemulder, yolandahakemulder@hotmail.com
Playground	Open ma-vrij 10 -17 uur, meestal ook za en zo, www.svmaredijk.nl
Local police officer	Lakhdar ben Taieb, 0900 8844, Langegracht 11, 071 5258865 Meldingen woonomgeving 14071

### READING CLUB

On Sunday afternoon, April 26 at 2:00 PM, the reading club will meet at Cootje de Stoppelaar's home. We will discuss the book "De Krenking" by Wanda Reisel.

This novel is her 14th. The story is loosely based on the experiences of general practitioner Tromp in Tuitjenhorn (North Holland), who in 2023 was accused of murder after performing palliative sedation on a patient suffering from an incurable illness and severe pain. He was unable to cope with the situation and decided to end his own life. Posthumously, however, the Council of State ruled in his favor. The book was reviewed, among other places, in De Groene on February 26. An interview with the author about this book was broadcast on March 17 in the program VPRO Boeken.

For more information about the reading club, you can contact Peter Cambier at: [p.cambier@planet.nl](mailto:p.cambier@planet.nl).



## BECOME A MEMBER

We need your support! The neighborhood association has around 225 members—people who feel connected to one another and to the neighborhood. We are an active association that organises many activities for and by local residents. Not yet a member of the neighborhood association? Then fill in the registration form on our website:

[www.maredijkbuurt.nl](http://www.maredijkbuurt.nl). Membership costs only €7.50 per year.

You can also collect a registration form from Sigrid Jansen, Marislaan 59.

### JOIN US AND BECOME A MEMBER!

## BORROW IT FROM THE NEIGHBORS

Leiden has a website where you can offer all kinds of items for others to borrow or rent: [leidenleent.nl](http://leidenleent.nl). It is a very practical, appealing, social, and sustainable initiative.



For example, you can offer — and also borrow or rent — tools, kitchen items, and toys. So far, the number of items offered on the website from our neighborhood is still quite limited.

Therefore, here's a tip: take a look at the website if you need something! This way you may not have to buy it yourself. How great is it that you can share and use items with your neighbors, and at the same time perhaps encourage more contact with each other.

[LeidenLeent.nl](http://LeidenLeent.nl) – See all available items in Leiden | Tools, kitchen items, toys and more