



BUURTKRANT 'KIJK OP DE WIJK'

AUGUSTUS 2026

English version online: www.maredijkbuurt.nl

VERENIGING MAREDIJKBUURT

AND... LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES!

You've just read all about the neighbourhood festival on Sept. 5. We're looking forward to making it a fantastic day—but first, we need your help to make it happen!

On 5 September, we're looking for volunteers to help with setting up and clearing away after the festival. Tasks include putting up and taking down the marquee, setting the tables for the street dinner, supervising the hut-building and traditional games, serving coffee, and much more.

If you'd like to help, please sign up by emailing maredijkbuurt@gmail.com

When you get in touch, please let us know if you have a preference for certain tasks and what times you'll be available.



VERENIGING MAREDIJKBUURT

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DE BLIJVERS, OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD BAND

The members met when they joined the neighbourhood band that debuted at last year's Maredijkday, and they kept it up with weekly rehearsals. They earned the Gouden Pet prize for their third performance, and their fourth one is happening soon. This is the dazzling start of De Blijvers' musical adventure:

"We formed organically from within the neighbourhood band," says Marije (violin, resident of the Maredijk), who would've drummed up her entire band for this interview if she could. Last year, everyone in the Maredijkbuurt who plays an instrument was called on to join. It resulted in a motley group of musicians. For instance, there were three saxophones, but no drums; a few had come expecting to play classical music. "It was about taking part," says Sanne (vocals and guitar, Schutterstraat).



This first project led to a successful performance, but weekly rehearsals proved to be too time-consuming for many participants. So, while most members dropped out of the next project, four of them kept on making music together, and it emerged that they loved playing the same type of music. Initially, they called themselves 'de overblijvers' (the remainers), and it was ultimately shortened to De Blijvers. "I googled it," says Gerard (guitar, banjo and vocals, Maredijk). "Turns out that there already is a band with that name, but we are the first ones on Instagram."

They debuted in February during the Gluren bij de Buren festival, in Marije and Gerard's kitchen. The living room was packed, Marije recalls. "There were even people on the stairs," Sanne adds. De Blijvers took the plunge with three half-hour performances. Audience-response was enthusiastic, and the four members were enjoying themselves too. Greetje (Aloëlaan) is the fourth member of the Blijvers, and plays accordion and Italian harmonica. One person was still missing, a bassist. A call in the newsletter and a short search followed, which only came to an end outside of the Maredijkbuurt. Ed lives all the way in Hoogmade, but he is an excellent bassist. So much so that the nervous bandmembers nearly didn't contact him at all. But Marije eventually got in touch with Ed, and he agreed to join the band!

The band is complete now, and they are busy getting better and growing their repertoire. "Our plan is not to become very professional," Gerard says. Still, they do take it seriously. When she was twelve, Marije quit the violin, but now she's taking lessons again. Sanne brought her guitar on holiday. "It feels like a second childhood," she says. "Singing was a childhood hobby, but then life happened," she says dramatically. "It's been a lot of fun taking it up again!"

The fact that De Blijvers won the jury prize at the Gouden Pet (Street Music Festival) in June came as quite a surprise. "I was pretty confident," Marije says firmly. Pointing at Sanne, she adds, "she has such a good voice!" In turn, Sanne only got nervous when other bands told them how good they were.

While they are well on their way to win the hearts of everyone in both neighbourhood and city, the songs in their growing repertoire aren't too well-known. They play a mix of folk, americana and the occasional Irish song; precisely the songs they like, and that match their voices and instruments. Some of their favourites are Angel from Montgomery by Bonnie Raitt, Landslide by the Chicks, and Jeremiah by Sierra Ferrell. The audience responds to it positively, which may also be because the songs are so recognisable. A few times, someone, elderly people especially, came up to them gratefully to say that they had just played their favourite song. The Swimming Song by Loudon Wainwright III is part of the new repertoire. "Very Blijvers-like," according to Sanne. "Cheerful," says Marije. "And with a great contribution for the accordion," adds Gerard. And thus they're developing their own style. It has brought them an opportunity to perform in Lisse, and they've also received a request to play during Leiden Museum Night – though summer plans unfortunately got in the way for that.

The final question of the interview is whether isn't about time for a neighbourhood anthem. De Blijvers exchange some glances; who will answer this question. Perhaps it's a little too soon, considering that it would be the first original song. "But who knows," says Marije in the end. Gerard adds: "Count on it that it'll be in the style of De Blijvers."

De Blijvers, Saturday 5 September, from 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. at the annual Maredijkdag

BOOKCLUB

The bookclub is reading the award-winning bestseller about the eventful lives of two women against the violent background of Italian fascism, partisan resistance and betrayal. *I Giorni di Vetro* (as yet no English translation published) is the compelling story of two eventful lives and three fateful days during the Second World War.

Nicoletta Verna wrote a breathtaking novel about vulnerability and the gift of hope, even in the darkest of days. We meet on Saturday 19 September at 2 p.m., at Dik Toet's address, Prins Clausweg 349.

Interested in joining us? Email p.cambier@planet.nl



Sta stevig, voorkom vallen!
Doe mee aan onze gratis 13-weekse valpreventie cursus in Leiden.

FALLS PREVENTION COURSE

More strength, balance and mobility? Take part in the falls prevention course at your own level. It is a free, 13-week course, taught by professional trainers. The first meeting is on September 11 from 10-11 a.m. in the Maredijkhuis. Signing up is compulsory.

Would you like to participate? Please sign up by emailing maredijkbuurt@gmail.com

AED (Automated External Defibrillator)



Since May 29th, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has been installed in our neighborhood. Using an AED combined with chest compressions significantly increases the chances of survival after cardiac arrest.

The AED cabinet is mounted on the wall of Schutterstraat 26, near the entrance of the playground. In case of a cardiac arrest, the 112 emergency center activates the HartslagNu (Heartbeat Now) alert system. Citizen responders then receive an SMS or app notification to start CPR immediately or to retrieve the nearest AED. If you cannot call 112 in an emergency, you can open the AED cabinet directly using the code 2316.

Through the Voorzorgcirkel (Prevention Circle) of our neighborhood, the first residents have already completed a CPR/AED training course. On July 29th, a new group of 14 neighbors will take the course, provided by the Taskforce QRS at the LUMC. Participation costs €30; sometimes, health insurance covers this (fully or partially).

Would you also like to take the CPR/AED course? If so, sign up via Taskforce QRS Leiden (<https://taskforceqrs.nl/leiden/>). If you'd prefer to join with other neighbours, send an email to Sanne van der Geest at psvandergeest@gmail.com. With at least 8 participants, we can start our own group training.

ATTENTION! GOOD NEWS!

The long sold-out book about the more than 400-year history of the
Maredijkbuurt

GELEGEN BUYTEN DE MAREN-POORT – HISTORY OF THE MAREDIJK NEIGHBOURHOOD IN LEIDEN

will be available again soon!



The book, written by local resident Jan Hengstmengel, contains 144 pages and many illustrations. Jan tells the story of how the neighbourhood began in 1613 as a complex of gardens with “pleasure gardens” (ornamental gardens) and “playhouses” (garden houses), and only became a residential neighbourhood from 1850 onwards. He also describes how the neighbourhood became part of the development of the wider city and country, for example through the construction of the railway and the Willem de Zwijgerlaan, and how it was actually only fully built up during the last 40 years.

From 1 September onwards, the reprinted edition will be available through the neighbourhood association for €17.50.

BUT... UNTIL 31 AUGUST, THE BOOK CAN BE ORDERED FOR ONLY €15.00!

If you would like to order one or more copies of the book at the discounted price, please transfer the required amount (including any shipping costs*) no later than 31 August to bank account NL42 INGB 0676 9954 38, in the name of Vereniging Maredijkbuurt. Please state the number of books and your home address (for possible delivery within Leiden/Oegstgeest).

**For shipping outside of Leiden or Oegstgeest, we charge €6.00 in shipping costs.*

Books that have been paid for in advance can be collected in the afternoon at the Maredijk neighbourhood festival on 5 September, from the book stall in front of the playground at Maredijk 100.

The book will also be available there without advance payment, but then at the regular price of €17.50 (cash or via QR code).

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THE BOOK (THIS TIME)!
WHILE STOCKS LAST!**

SHORT NEWS



DECOUPAGE VASE WORKSHOP

On Sunday afternoon, 11 October, we will decorate a vase with images of your choice. We will cut these out and glue them to the inside of the vase. The glue will then need to dry, and on Monday evening, 12 October, we will paint the vase in a fun colour, which you can of course choose yourself. Sign up via ledenmaredijk@gmail.com and you will receive more information. The instructor is Janneke Koers and the cost is € 5.00.



MEETING OF THE VOORZORGCIRKEL (PREVENTION CIRCLE)

Residents of the Maredijk neighbourhood look out for one another. In the Voorzorgcirkel, we have agreed to be “willing to return the favour”, and that is how it works in practice. In the meantime, quite a few small favours and practical services have already been exchanged between residents. There are also groups who eat together, send each other a quick message in the morning, take part in cultural activities together, etc.

To get to know one another, we meet once every six weeks. The next meeting is on 28 August at 6:30 p.m. at the Maredijkhuis.



DINNER AT THE MAREDIJK

After the summer break, we will have our communal meal on the Maredijk again on 16 October. The theme is: “Your tastiest holiday meal.” We’re curious to see what our cooks come up with!

Everyone is welcome from 17:30 o’clock onwards, with dinner being served at 18:00 o’clock. 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

ACTIVITIES AGENDA

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN OR AROUND THE MAREDIJKHUIS

SUNDAY		Basketball in the cage	Dik Toet, 06 23348489
MONDAY	11:00	Sing-In’ (neighbourhood choir)	Joke Spanenburg, 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
SATURDAY	10:00	Speel-O-Theek Klapstuk	06 24211018, www.sot-klapstuk.nl
	11:00	Cleaning the neighborhood	Verzamelen hoek Aloëlaan - Maredijk

PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

28 aug.	18.30	Meeting Voorzorgcirkel	christadeboer@gmail.com
5 sept.	12:00	MAREDIJKDAG - BUURTFEEST	maredijkbuurt@gmail.com
11 sept.	10:00	Fall prevention course	maredijkbuurt@gmail.com
13 sept.	11:00	Theater classes (8-12 jr)	theateropdemaredijk@gmail.com
19 sept.	14:00	Reading club	p.cambier@planet.nl
11 okt.	14:00	Workshop Decoupage vase	ledenmaredijk@gmail.com
16 okt.	18:00	Dinner at the Maredijk	etenopdemaredijk@gmail.com
25 okt.	11:00	Theater classes (8-12 jr)	theateropdemaredijk@gmail.com
8 nov.	14:00	Painting for adults	driekskebakker@gmail.com
22 nov.	11:00	theater classes (8-12 jr)	theateropdemaredijk@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACT PERSONS

Neighbourhood 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
Prevention circle	Christa de Boer, christadeboer@gmail.com, 06 52649828
Final editing Buurtkrant	Willy Loomans, willyloomans01@gmail.com
Local police officer	Lakhdar ben Taieb, 0900 8844, Langegracht 11, 071 5258865
	Meldingen woonomgeving 14071

EVERY AUTUMN HAS ITS SPRING

It might seem counterintuitive with these summer temperatures, but to get a colorful spring, you need to plant flower bulbs in the autumn. The municipality of Leiden has made 100 bags of organic crocus bulbs available for the Maredijk neighborhood. They will deliver these to the green group in mid-October. At a later date to be announced, neighbors can pick up a bag of flower bulbs to plant in tree pits, (façade) gardens, and balconies. Keep an eye on the Maredijk neighborhood’s website, member emails, and Facebook page for more details.

For more information, visit Groenestad071.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. 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!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HEDGEHOG CARE

Margaret Michalowska, who lives on Schutterstraat, has been supplementing the diet of 3 hedgehogs in her garden —animals that would otherwise not survive in our neighborhood. Due to personal circumstances, she has to stop doing this.

Are there people who would like to take over this task? There is already a volunteer, Yolanda Hakemulder, but she doesn't want to do it on her own.

You will be trained by Michaela. Sign up via maredijkbuurt@gmail.com.

SAVE THE HEDGEHOGS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!

