

Dear friends and family,

Middelburg, 12 December 2019

This is **volume 20** of the **Rijkers-Lievendag newsletter** in which you can read how we managed in 2019. We use the same format as last year: a photo newsletter with an incomplete overview of the highlights.

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€ 400.000-k.k.



We again started the year in Antwerp, and it promised to be an exciting time. On almost the last day of 2018 we received the very first offer for our house in Mill. Mid-January (after 10 years, 10 months and 6 days for sale) we finally had a deal and only mid-February the provisional purchase contract was signed by both parties. On 31 May it became official at the notary's office in Boxmeer. Finally...

At the beginning of January, we were in Paris for a few days, where we experienced the yellow vests protests up close. Nevertheless, we had some very nice days with, among other things, a visit to Cité de Sciences et de l'Industrie.



In February we went to Brigitte Kaandorp's show Eh.... She is a Dutch comedian and really very nice. In fact, we didn't see that many theaters or music halls on the inside this year, but this show was great fun and can still be seen in The Netherlands - for fans.

Again in 2019 Ger worked at UCR the year round, but despite his retirement he still got a new job. In the ETZ Elisabeth (hospital in Tilburg) he is temporarily head of immunology. Throughout 2019, Riky enjoyed being a volunteer at the Zeeuws Museum and occasionally worked as a city guide. In the meantime, she has guided many Americans through Middelburg. Speaking English or Spanish (for the Latin Americans). Leisure time is filled with drawing, Spanish lessons and knitting (Riky) and with listening and making music (Ger: guitar and ukelele).

To keep fit, we both run, do some hikes, eat healthily and drink less alcohol ;-)

We made short trips that sometimes took us far away, celebrated extensive holidays, still live in full satisfaction in Middelburg - but now also own an apartment in Rotterdam. We enjoy living in both cities, the quiet Middelburg and the more vibrant Rotterdam.



The Eagle of Toledo: Frederico Bahamontes

Also, this year Riky went on a language trip to improve her Spanish, this time to Toledo! A beautiful city by train distance from Madrid. Ger made several trips to London, Copenhagen and Brussel for the benefit of science.

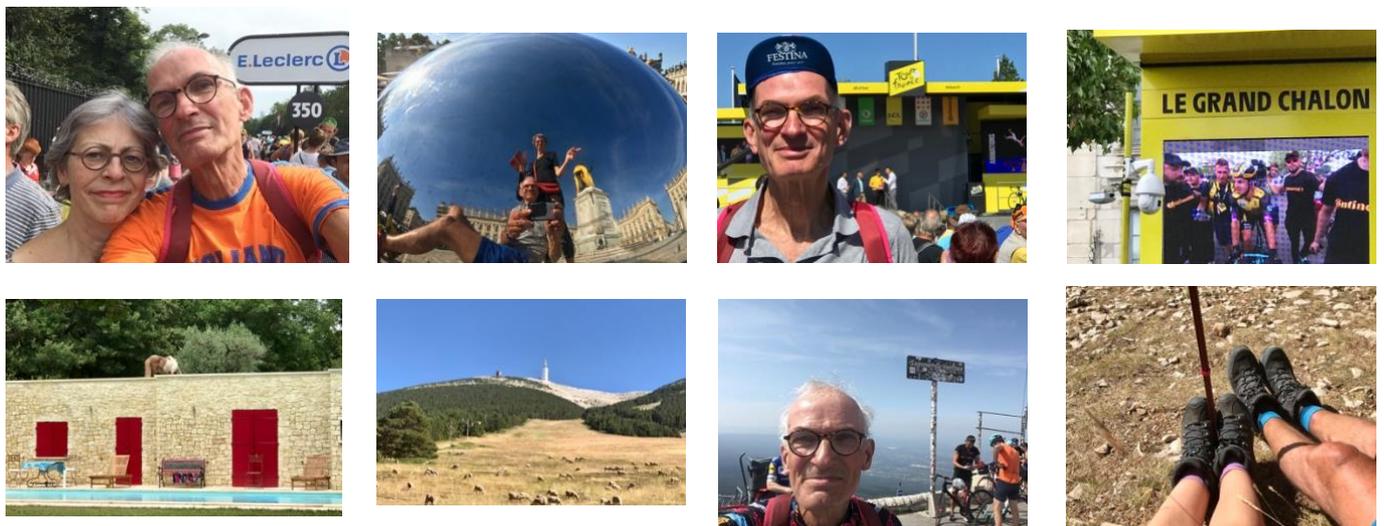
In April we stayed for a few days in Valencia with friends. Beautiful city! We enjoyed the old city, all the Calatrava buildings and not to mention the beautiful weather.



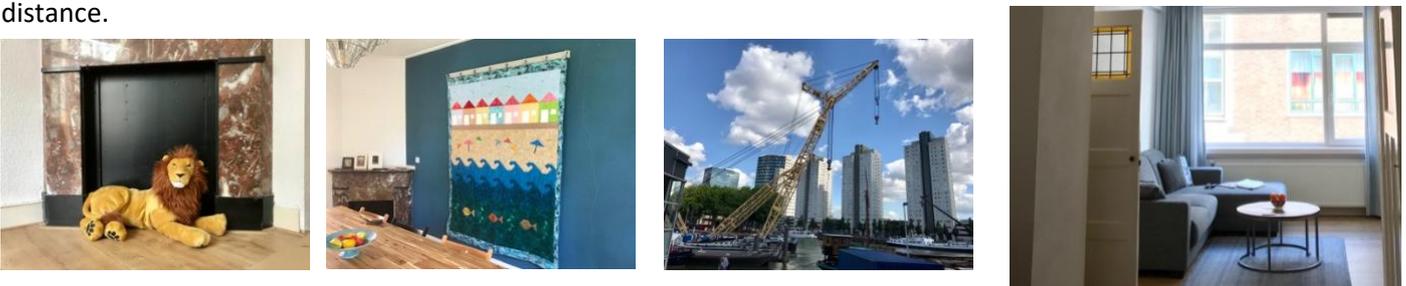
On the 21st of May two grandchildren were born at the same time with Lennart and Eva: the twins Anna and Vera, Philip's little sisters. Initially all seemed to be going well, but the twins did not grow. After a month (and a hospital admission) it became clear from the result of the heel prick that the girls both suffer from cystic fibrosis. A giant shock, but luckily, they are very well supervised at the WKZ (Ger's old hospital, he himself did some research on CF 30 years ago) and they are still doing very well so far. They develop well, growing fast and are becoming beautiful girls.



Like every year, we spent our holiday in the South of France and started with a week Tour de France. Because 'le grand départ' was in Brussels this year, this was also our first stop. Via Nancy, Gerardmer and Chalon-sur-Saône - with accompanying Tour stages - we finally arrived at our site in Malaucene. At the foot of Mont Ventoux. That was on purpose, because Ger's goal for this year was to reach the top by bicycle. And it worked! Almost the entire month of July we weren't at home, because we also did the way back home in stages via Beaune and Luxembourg.



On August 1st we again went to the notary's office, this time to make the purchase of our Rotterdam apartment official. We were busy organizing it all month and were there as much as possible on the weekends. We use it intensively, very handy as a pied à terre if you have to be 'somewhere' in the country until late in the evening and also very nice to 'live' closer to the (grand)children. Additional advantage is that Thomas and Stephanie also live in Rotterdam, within walking distance.



Later that month we received you (almost) all again in Middelburg for the 20th potluck, the weather was beautiful and there was again a lot of good food. Thanks to all guests ;-)



In September we had another weekend with (almost) the entire Rijkers family in Slenaken. And one weekend after that we went to the Ardennes (Durbuy) for some pleasant days with good friends.



In October we again 'did' Singapore for 4 days. It turned out to become 3 days, because we missed our stopover and got stuck in Dubai (delayed), so we spent a day in a hotel there at the expense of the airline (Emirates). In Singapore it was warm and sometimes wet!



Dubai



Singapore



Finally some pictures of us all:



We started and end the year again in **Antwerp**, we will toast to you at 31-12 at 12 o'clock while watching the fireworks on the Kaai.

Through photos and regular updates, you can almost follow us from day to day on www.facebook.com/rijkers and on www.facebook.com/lievendag. And during our summer holiday you can join here our summer quiz: Ger's VrolijkeVakantiequiz (#GVVQ)!

Finally, we wish you all Happy Holidays and all the best for the New Year 2020.
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