

Dear friends and family,

This is **volume 21** of the **Rijkers-Lievendag newsletter** in which you can read and see how we managed in 2020. It's been a weird year, but nevertheless we experienced enough (COVID proof) to fill a photo newsletter with an overview of the highlights.



We started the year as usual in Antwerp, not realizing how 'normal' that was. In the first week of this year Philip came to stay with us in Rotterdam. We made a cruise through the Rotterdam ports under terrible grey weather conditions, but we all had a lot of fun with it.

The second week of January we were a few days in Paris to visit the great Leonardo Da Vinci exhibition at the Louvre. In Paris there is always something happening, this year no yellow vests but an all-over public transport strike and we saw also some riots from nearby. We walked an enormous lot of kilometers but enjoyed our stay very much.



In February we went to Raymond van het Groenewoud's birthday party (70) in the Roma in Antwerp. In retrospective this concert turned out to be the last and only show for us of the whole year of 2020. Fortunately, we didn't know that at the time. We originally had a lot of theatre shows and concerts on the calendar this year, with the specials Waardenberg en de Jong (now scheduled for April 2021) and The Analogues (completely cancelled).



Ger still worked in 2020 the year round at UCR and the ETZ Elisabeth (in hospitals in Tilburg and Goes) but has worked a lot from home via Zoom. For Ger, COVID-19 means a very interesting period that gives him a lot of extra work, but also offers a new challenge in the last months of his scientific career. The observant viewer could have seen him couple of times in the Dutch media this year.

Riky still works as a volunteer at the Zeeuws Museum the first months of 2020, but due to the COVID-19 measures the museum atelier has been closed since mid-March and there were no tours for her as well as a city guide. Her drawing group has temporarily stopped too, but luckily Spanish lessons could be followed via Skype (with teacher Rocío from Malaga).

Ger now has an electric guitar on which he sometimes practices, and he still likes to listen to music a lot. He writes articles about song titles by Bob Dylan and the Beatles in scientific research and he is very busy writing articles about immunology items based on paintings by Jheronimus Bosch.

To keep fit we both run, we hike a lot, we eat healthy and drink less alcohol ;-) And after repeatedly seeing and hearing about the bad conditions in slaughterhouses we decided to go back to a vegetarian way of life after many years.



This year we stayed regularly in our Rotterdam apartment from where it was much easier to visit the (grand)children in Huis ter Heide (and after their moving in June in Zwolle). Philip and the twins Anna and Vera are doing very well. Philip is having a good time in Zwolle and at his new school and the baby twins are now toddlers and started walking and talking a lot





Joris and Ula went to Morocco at the beginning of January and thought they would be back at the end of April. Due to COVID-19 they could not leave the country with their camper/truck because there went no more boats to Europe. Eventually, with the help of the Polish Embassy, they managed to gain access to one of the boats to Spain and were able to leave at the beginning of July. The puppy they would bring for Ula's mother was an adult dog at that time!

In September, Thomas and Stephanie bought a house in Rotterdam Hillegersberg that needed to be totally renovated. They lived temporarily in our apartment until mid-December.



This year we did not go on holiday to France, not on a language trip to Cádiz, not to Slenaken for the Rijkers family weekend, not to the Ardennes with the Peelland friends and except to Paris in January and Antwerp in February we have not been abroad at all. However, we, Ger and Riky, celebrated holidays together in the Netherlands: in Leeuwarden and the south of Limburg (Slenaken) in the month of July and in September we spent a few days on Texel.

On that island we walked a lot of kilometers and visited friends who have lived there for years.



Also, in July we went with friends for a weekend to Maastricht instead of Berlin. We enjoyed the Burgundian capital of Limburg and walked lots of kilometers in the area.



In May we had our 45-year wedding anniversary which we would actually celebrate a long weekend with our whole family, but Joris and Ula were still in Morocco at that time. We've postponed it until the end of August. In the weekend of Riky's birthday there was no pot luck this year, but we rented 4 cottages in Hoenderloo and had a nice time together with the whole family.



Thomas and Ger participated in the Max Pubquiz in October, the episode will be broadcast on January 1st on NPO1. Stephanie and Riky could join them and were sitting in the audience. It was quite an experience in Hilversum.

And then we have very special news at the end of the year.

Hot off the press: We bought a house in **Nieuwegein** and are going to sell our apartment in Rotterdam! Because our connection to Middelburg will end when Ger stops at UCR (as of 01-08-2021), we are going to say goodbye to this beautiful city. It's really lovely living here, but we are increasingly bothered by the distance to our children and grandchildren. We haven't been able to persuade them to come to live in Zeeland, so we decided to move back into the middle of the country. Nieuwegein then is obvious, for our family it is the home base where we have lived for over 25 years.

We found a spacious and bright house in a nice neighborhood between the park and the river. From February/March our new address will be **Zonnebloemstraat 32, 3434VB Nieuwegein**. On December 3rd we had the house viewing and on December 7th our offer was accepted. That's how fast things go in an overstrained housing market. We hope that selling our Rotterdam apartment will work out for us in the same way.



Finally, some pictures of all of us:



We started the year in **Antwerp**, but where we will toast to you at midnight on 31-12 this year, we don't know yet.

Through photos and regular updates on Facebook allow you to follow us all year round www.facebook.com/rijkers and on www.facebook.nl/lievendag

And during our summer holidays you can join here our summer quiz: Ger's Vrolijke Vakantiequiz (#GVVQ)!

Finally, we wish you all Happy Holidays and a very healthy 2021.

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