

Dear friends and family,

Nieuwegein, 10 December 2021

This is **volume 22** of the **Rijkers-Lievendag newsletter** in which you can read and see how we managed in 2021. A whole year with and about COVID-19. Fortunately, we have not been infected ourselves, partly and hopefully because we follow the restrictions and of course because we have been vaccinated. At the moment Ger has already had his booster shot and Riky hopes to receive it one of these days. And despite all the restrictions, we (COVID proof) have experienced enough to fill a photo newsletter with an overview of the highlights of 2021.

We started the year just at home, but hopefully this will not be the new 'normal' because for the final days of 2021 we have booked a penthouse in Antwerp and we are still hoping that we can go. In the first week of the year there was a lot of interest in our apartment in Rotterdam and on January 8th it was sold! At least that was a good start. In mid-February we therefore visited the notary's office twice: on 15-02 in Nieuwegein to buy and on 16-02 in Rotterdam to sell a house. Actually, that was the wrong order because for that one-day difference we officially had to make an extra arrangement with the bank.



January was mainly dominated by tidying up and packing, both in Middelburg and in Rotterdam. From February 15 we could get started in our house in Nieuwegein and despite COVID and very busy construction companies and handymen, we renovated our entire house in a month's time and we departed from Middelburg permanently on March 19. Thanks to our great moving company, all the stuff from Middelburg and Rotterdam arrived in Nieuwegein on the same day. The rest of March we were mainly busy unpacking, but we also walked a lot to rediscover Nieuwegein.



During spring we greatly enjoyed our new garden, we took out tiles and planted our olive trees and figs. When possible, we sat outside and that was actually quite often.

We got our vaccinations (whoop, whoop!) and the grandchildren came to stay for the first time in grandpa's and grandma's new house.



At the beginning of June there was an official farewell party for Ger at UCR, partly live with just 5 guests and rotating extra guests who stayed shortly to say some kind words. There were also a lot of online guests who wanted to say something. Ger will continue to work at the Elisabeth Tweesteden Hospital in Tilburg for only 2 Mondays a month for the time being. COVID gave Ger a lot of extra work this year, the times we had a camera crew in our house were numerous and the number of interviews in newspapers and on the radio sometimes rose as fast as the infection figures...



Riky walks (almost) daily in the area while listening to various, often Spanish, podcasts. Before demolishing the famous (in The Netherlands) arch bridge over the river Rhine (Lek), Ger and Riky often walked to Vianen together: they went over the dikes and the cycle path along the highway (while they took many photos of the demolition process) and came back with the ferry.

This year Ger published his booklet about all the art works of Hieronymus Bosch in relation to the immune system. For both scientist and outsiders, a nice explanation about his working field ('Visie op het Immuunsysteem – Geïnspireerd door Jeroen Bosch', can still be ordered via [www.24bookprint.com](http://www.24bookprint.com)).

The third, revised, edition of the Textbook Immunologie (Rijkers & Kroese) is also due to be completed this year. Both books are in Dutch.



This year again no vacation for us in the South of France, but we made several short trips. For example, we stayed on the isle of Ameland for a few days, did a weekend Deventer with friends, we went to Maastricht together for a few days, had a short weekend in Antwerp and we went to Paris by train at the end of October.



We were also in several museums: 2 times for an exhibition about Frida Kahlo ('Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera: A Love Revolution' in the Cobra museum in Amstelveen and 'Viva la Frida!' in the Drents Museum in Assen), in the Brabants Museum (a.o. Salvador Dali) in Den Bosch, in the Centraal Museum (Joost Bleiswijk) and the Catharijneconvent (Maria Magdalena) in Utrecht, in the Kunsthal (a.o. We are Animals) in Rotterdam and in Museum MORE in Gorsel.

And completely COVID proof we went to the movies in the Louis Hartlooper complex in Utrecht (Summer of Soul) and to a concert of the Metropole Orchestra in Breda. Very nice to sit at a safe distance from each other and no people in front of you who obstruct your view. But for the atmosphere, a full theater is better: with QR code we were in the Nieuwe Luxor in Rotterdam to enjoy Waardenberg and De Jong, in Woerden we saw 'De Pannenkoekencaravan' by Gijs Groenteman and Marcel van Roosmalen and in Nieuwegein we were in De Kom at The Jimi Hendrix Re-Experience with Hans Dulfer.



In terms of health issues, we were shaken up this year. At the beginning of July, Ger was diagnosed with melanoma, but fortunately he was able to go to the hospital the same day to have it removed immediately. After a positive result of the pathological examination and just to be sure a re-excision, he received the final result at the end of August that everything had been removed without metastases.

Riky experienced eye problems which were discovered when she was referred to the ophthalmologist by the optician because the sight in her left eye was only 33%. Fortunately, that was also not too bad: a small ripple in the retina of the left eye and starting cataracts. Good to correct and nothing to be worried about, next control after a year and a half.



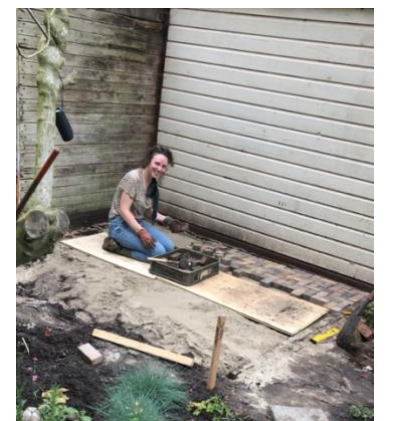
Now that we live in the middle of the country again, we see the children and grandchildren with much more regularity. Joris and Ula live the closest and frequently come to drink coffee. For them this year no long trip to Morocco, but they have been to Eastern Europe with Albania as the final destination.



Lennart and Eva are very busy with both work and their 3 children. Since September we therefore go once every 2 weeks on Wednesday babysitting in Zwolle and enjoy the twins and their big brother to the fullest. Philip is in group 3 and now reads to us and Anna and Vera tell us whole stories and are doing fantastically. Despite their CF (they are very closely monitored in the WKZ and receive daily medication) they grow like cabbage and suffer less from childhood diseases than Philip had at that age.



Just like us, Thomas and Stephanie also live in a Zonnebloemstraat, in their case the Rotterdam version. Their house renovation has been very successful, and they like it very much there. For Thomas we now live within cycling distance, he regularly came to Nieuwegein by bike 'just' to drink coffee. (For Ger Rotterdam is not within cycling distance so his bicycle trips are a bit shorter.)



Finally, some extra pictures from 2021:



**Finally, we wish you happy holidays and a healthy 2022!**

We hope to raise the glass to you this New Year's Eve in **Antwerp** and we would love to hear from you about your year!

Through photos and regular updates, you can follow us throughout the year on [www.facebook.com/rijkers](https://www.facebook.com/rijkers) and on [www.facebook.com/lievendag](https://www.facebook.com/lievendag).

And in our summer holiday you will find here the annual quiz questions of Ger's Vrolijke Vakantiequiz(#GVVQ)!  
(In 2021 won in 2021 by Linda Termaten!)

**Ger Rijkers (grijkers@gmail.com) and Riky Lievendag (lievendag@gmail.com)**