

# Vreugdeschakel

de nieuwsbrief van de familiestichting

## Introduction

### Dear family!

Yet another edition of the Vreugdeschakel, an all new and extra large periodical issue filled with lots of information about our extensive family.

### Board of directors

Piet Vreugdenhil has left the board of directors. Piet had put himself forward as candidate at the local elections of the Westland and wanted to put extra time and energy into it. Although very understandable, it is a sad loss for the family foundation.

In the meantime he has been chosen for the CDA and of course we all wish him the best of luck in his new position.

### Annual donations

Like in earlier years, we ask you to donate through the enclosed giro form! This way you will get the possibility of giving a financial contribution to our family foundation once every year. With your aid we are able to publish the Vreugdeschakel, manage the website and keep the genealogy up to date. That's why we kindly ask you to donate at least € 15,- by sending the giro form to us. Of course, any amount higher than € 15,- won't be turned down!

### Translator Vreugdeschakel

The board of directors is urgently looking for one or more people who would like to translate the Vreugdeschakel into English.

We have many, many family members living in the USA, Canada, etc. Many of these emigrated Vreugdenhil's (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation) don't master the Dutch language any longer. To be able to sustain contact with them (which is very important in order to keep the genealogy up to date), an English Vreugdeschakel would be very much appreciated.

### Editorial staff Vreugdeschakel

Searching for a needle in a haystack: that is what our search for an editor for the Vreugdeschakel is starting to look like!

Hundred's of Vreugdenhil's stuffed to the bone with talents in all kinds of directions – and not one willing or able to write?!

The interim editorial staff simply cannot believe this, you can do it, but you are too modest to step up. Be brave and do it! Start with a one time only piece of writing for the Vreugdeschakel about a Vreugdenhil of your family with an interesting job or hobby. Or pick up your pencil like a true columnist, who knows whether your writing has a serious touch or comes with a big wink? We're anxious to see what you can come up with! Please send all comments, no matter how many, to the secretariat.

## Architecture or building with bricks

### Interview with Wessel Vreugdenhil on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in Barendrecht.

Back home in Barendrecht I had a pleasant and inspiring chat with Wessel Vreugdenhil (N XI g.2). He's the son of Arie Vreugdenhil, a first cousin on my father's side of the family. Arie has been married with Irene Beekman. Arie and Irene have three children: Wessel, Caroline and Annemarie. Wessel is married with Justa and they have two children, Bodil (11) and Floris (8).



What immediately sparks my attention is the fact that the children of Arie and Irene all have more than one given name.

Wessel's given names are: Dirk Jan Wessel. It wasn't so much of a tradition with the children of my first cousins. Three given names may sound interesting, but it can also lead to various misunderstandings.

Everyone of the family members and friends know him as Wessel, but when visiting an official authority, which has his passport in front, the problem of asking mister Dirk (his first given name) Vreugdenhil to come forward arises. Depending on whether it suits him, Wessel either looks around with a dazed look in the eyes or he checks in with the correct window.

**Continuation on pages 4 and 5**

## Chronicles

*The information refers to mutations of the registry office made known to us between November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014.*

### BORN

February 13<sup>th</sup>, Delft:  
Charlotte Maria Hendrina (Charlotte), daughter of Cornelis Marinus (Marc) Vreugdenhil (N X ar.1) and Sandra Bernadette Kroes.

### MARRIED/PARTNERSCHIP

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1995, Haarlem:  
Saskia Corine Vreugdenhil (O XI h.1) with Jeroen Teunisse, born February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1972, Haarlem, son of Johannes Willem Teunisse and Anna Cornelia Margaretha Sweijen.

### DECEASED

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1998, The Hague:  
Theodora Johanna Breimer-Vreugdenhil (K X y.5).

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Burlington (Ontario, Canada):  
Cornelia Wilhelmina Vreugdenhil (K X y.6).

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014, De Lie:  
Arie Vreugdenhil (K XI aw).

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Wateringen:  
Geertruida Vreugdenhil (D X h.4).

*Thanks to everyone who contributed to the chronicles by sending us their messages. Please keep doing so.*  
Aat

### GENEALOGY

*Hereby two messages for those among us who'd like to have the correct information.*

Page 87 in the orange Genealogy notes:

*Anna Vreugdenhil (C IX f.1) married December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1933, with Arie van Bergen, born September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1906, son of Teunis van Bergen and Hendrika Wilhelmina Crooy.*

**However, Arie is a son of Teunis' first marriage to Catharina Geertruida Kool, who passed away on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1908.**

And on page 43:

*Maria Vreugdenhil (A VI 2), married in Naaldwijk on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1816, with Harmanus van der Eijk... etc.*

**The correct date of Maria's marriage is: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1816.**

*Now we are all up to date again!*

## Added to the chronicles



**Born February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Delft:**

**Charlotte Vreugdenhil**

## Bridal couple

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014:

**Gijsbertus Vreugdenhil (K XI ak)  
and  
Grietje Vreugdenhil-Hordijk**

from Rotterdam were married for 60 years no less!

The board of directors congratulates this diamond bridal couple and wishes them many years to come in good health.



## From the old box

*We received a copy of the card announcing the taking out the marriage license of Lenie van Beesten-Verhoeff's great-grandparents with added to it the following information.*

*"From the old box of my mother, Rens Bakker-Vreugdenhil, came a copy of the announcement of the taking out of the marriage license of my great-grandparents Jacob and Arendje (K IX f).*

The name Jacob is a very common one in our side of the family: my grandfather was called Jacob Pieter Christiaan Vreugdenhil (K X p), which brought forth the name Jaap.

A couple of my uncles are called Christ and Jaap and so does a whole bunch of cousins as well.

My mother was given de name Arendje (K X p.1), but was called Rens. Our eldest daughter is named Arendje, but is called Arenda.

My grandmother Vreugdenhil (K X p) was named Lena Klapwijk (and was called Leens), I am given that name and four nieces likewise (Lenie or Leny).

Yet another piece of family history."

*Great, this information!*

*This family can be found in the orange genealogy book on the pages 243 and 260.*



# B&B in Spain

Concerning the idea of 'Enterprising Vreugdenhils' it seemed nice to the editorial staff to introduce you to Aad and Coby Vreugdenhil (C X c.1). Together they run a Bed and Breakfast (B&B) in Spain and we asked them to sent us the following information.

Dear Vreugdenhil-family,

Hereby a story about Casa Oasis. About a short decade ago we quit our market gardening and the idea of beginning a B&B arose. We went looking around to see what the housing market could offer us.

During a certain moment crisis struck in Spain and the houses dropped in price. We started searching in an area south of Valencia, hoping to find a nice spot. In the end we found it in the little town of Ontinyent. A beautiful area with lots of nature's wonders; including vineyards for the production of wine, and only a ten minute drive from a very old village called Bocairent. The Mediterranean Sea isn't that far either, so spending the day on the beach is easily done.



The B&B we bought, used to be an old Finca (small farm) and is situated at a quiet spot, just outside the town.

The living room still has an old brick kiln, in which people used to bake their bread in the early days.

Our house has three guest rooms and we also have an apartment for rent. This apartment was built about ten years ago.



There's a beautiful garden with many olive trees, a lovely swimming pool with deck chairs and a lounging area to relax underneath the pergola.

Everything is walled in and around it is a wonderful driveway, a garden, olive trees, cactus plants, a fig tree, a view on the mountains and the town of Ontinyent.

You can probably understand that we enjoy it here and Coby loves it to please the guests. A lovely breakfast, and if asked a warm dinner: she serves it with love.

She creates the correct (holiday) atmosphere and shows the guests around in the area, all in all: her true passion is to indulge the guests.

We truly hope we were able to give you an impression of our B&B.

And for the people who would like to know more about it, they can take a look at our website [www.casa-oasis.nl](http://www.casa-oasis.nl), and get to know the real Spain.



Maybe we'll be seeing you in Spain, Hasta Luego!

*Aad and Coby Vreugdenhil*

## Financial report 2013

	Realized		Budget
	2012	2013	2014
<b>Receivings</b>			
Donations	5.742	5.966	5.500
Interest	542	615	500
Shop	35	142	100
	<b>6.319</b>	<b>6.723</b>	<b>6.100</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Vreugdeschake	3.686	2.788	3.000
Website	165	865	500
Genealogy research	1.650	2.044	2.000
Shop	74	75	75
Board of directors	330	113	150
General costs	121	288	300
	<b>6.026</b>	<b>6.173</b>	<b>6.025</b>
<b>Balance Receivings - Expenditure</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>75</b>

## Study in Delft

Wessel has a clear sense of musicality. He plays the saxophone, jazz and rock music and has played in a rockband for years.

At school Wessel was a math-genius and after high school he hesitated between playing the saxophone and studying at the Academy of Music, and Management Economy.

Only after two years of studying economy, a year of working as a temporary and a year of military service he found his vocation. He wanted to become an architect. He started his study at the Architecture faculty of the Technical University Delft in 1993.

During his study in Delft he worked for Neutelings Riedijk Architecten in Rotterdam for a period of six years from 1996 onward. He assisted among other things with the projects of:

- the Institute for Sound and Vision in the media district in Hilversum;
- the Shipping and Transport College alongside the river Maas in Rotterdam;
- and the Museum along the river Stroom in Antwerp.

The interior of Sound and Vision in Hilversum is particularly spectacular.

The archives are situated against and underground chasm, a landscape on the ground floor and crosswise above it a big empty space.

An observing spectator could easily see hell, earth and heaven in it.

*These striking buildings have contributed significantly to the success of Dutch architecture in foreign countries.*

## Final Project

*In 2005 Wessel presented his final thesis in Delft under the supervision of a British professor, Tony Fretton.*

Because of Tony Fretton's teaching, a wide interest in 5000 years of architectural history was roused and the study of this history of architecture has become an inexhaustible source of inspiration.

Wessel often uses classical examples like the Pantheon, the villas of Palladio, Italy, or the palace of Versailles near Paris as a reference.

It is unbelievable how these old principles, applied to modern architecture can lead to such surprising, simple and strong concepts. Wessel's designs are contemporary and on the same time radiate a timeless, classical grandeur.

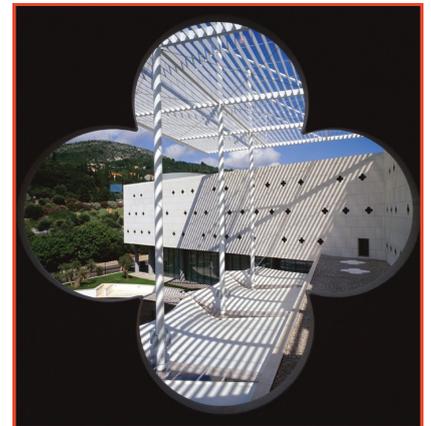
## Highlights

*After his study in Delft and the work experience in Rotterdam Wessel worked for the Architecten Cie. in Amsterdam from 2006 to 2009.*

As an architect Wessel has become stronger and more practical with respect to content during his employment with this large bureau, among others supervised by Pi de Bruin (known from the Dutch lower chamber building) and the current National Architect Frits van Dongen.

Wessel has successfully assisted in and taken up a management position with a large number of projects.

Various highlights of this period of time are winning the competition for an expansion of the presidential palace of the Romanian prime-minister in Bucharest and the realization of a five-star resort-hotel in Dubrovnik.



**Sungardens of Dubrovnik**

## Building with bricks

Wessel, however, is an architect looking for the essence of building. In his designs he paid more attention to the perception of the building, with regard to the visual effects and the materials and for the introduction of romantic elements. You could state that the creation of a building has been elevated to a form of art.

On the other hand Wessel simply sees architecture as building with bricks. And this thought keeps him far from following any hypes and makes sure that his ego doesn't get to big for his breeches.

Wessel remains close to himself to find the true being of a building, and all this has to do with the happiness of the user, the thrill and the perception of the building and the reintroduction of the classical elements which has been described above.

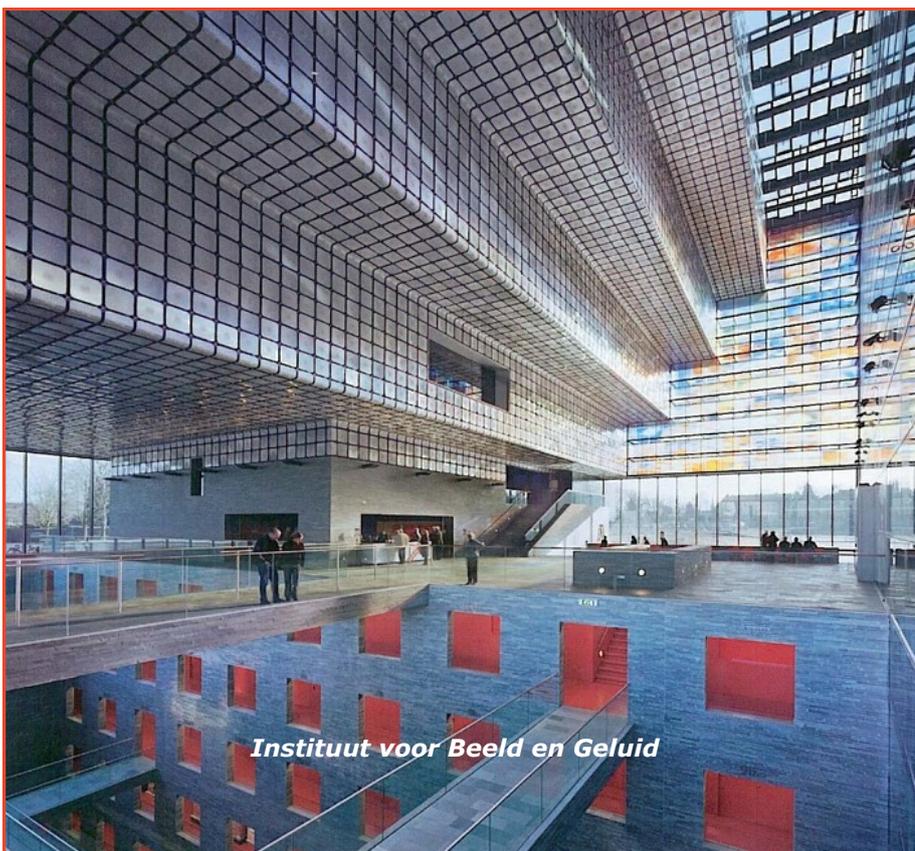
## Entries, contests and prizes

Wessel is a productive architect. He regularly enters various contests. Even though he wins first place, it doesn't mean that his design shall be realized. Only 10% of all designs actually gets carried out.

So this doesn't contain the most important motivation. Wessel derives his motivation from the creative development process.

And a creative process like that will take its own stature and form with each different artist and tells a complete story on its own with Wessel.

Creativity normally can't be pushed by time. It depends on the moment inspiration knocks on the door, and that can happen in the middle of the night! Wessel does need the pressure of a deadline to be able to deliver. Not that he post-



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pones his duties until the very last moment, not at all, but because during the entire process, he keeps searching for new ideas, keeps readjusting and waits for the ultimate idea.

Such a process can only work when finished with a strict deadline.

### **Amsterdam and Brussels**

In 2009 Wessel started working in Amsterdam as the owner of Wessel Vreugdenhil Architectuur.

Already since 2002 he is joined by his partner in Brussels, Dimitri Meessen. This company is called Bunkerhotel Plus.

Also he often works together with other architects, managers and design bureaus and he is involved in various initiatives on matters of design, among other things the re-use of industrial inheritance.

This flexible way of working within a bigger network fits in perfectly with the present-day dynamics and challenges and for every job he can put together the best team in Amsterdam and/or Brussels, whether it's for drawing the first draft or the construction supervision of large and small projects.

### **Villa Mucha**

As subdivision of the architect's firm, Wessel has several beautiful products on display:

- Wessel delivers handmade, heavy wooden door with panels for inside the house, architraves, baseboards, floors and parts for stair flights under the brandname Wood&Craft.



**Villa Mucha interieur**

### **- 'Villa Mucha'**

This villa is build industrially. Thanks to this method the client can get a bigger house with the same amount of money as for a smaller house, they can get more value for money.

The design combines modern and classical elements, which is exactly Wessel's style of design.

Complete custom-made goods can be added within the design. 'Villa Mucha' offers the ideal combination of the space and views of a modern loft with the classic, homely atmosphere of a country estate.

*Because of the many different possibilities, it is impossible to give price-indications, but for more information please ask for a brochure by mail ([wessel.vreugdenhil@gmail.com](mailto:wessel.vreugdenhil@gmail.com)).*

For more information please contact Wessel: +31 6 24 22 04 12

More information can also be found at the website:

[www.woodandcraft.nl](http://www.woodandcraft.nl)

Wood&Craft is a joint venture of Wessel with TFF in Amsterdam.

*Dirk (ed.)*



**Wessel Vreugdenhil**



**Villa Mucha exterieur**

## Appeal for information

Because of his long interest in Judaism, Willem Ype Vreugdenhil (B X g.1) from Vienna has requested the following:

"Are there any ancestors with a jewish heritage in the Vreugdenhil's genealogies and/or in the related branches of the family?"

Please mail any comments ([willemypevreugdenhil@yahoo.com](mailto:willemypevreugdenhil@yahoo.com)) or through the secretariat.

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## Personal Particulars

\* The book week (March 8<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014) is behind us again. And of course the question is: has your love for reading books expanded, because that is what the foundation Collectieve Propaganda voor het Nederlandse Boek (CPNB) would love to see and they do everything to try to get more people to read, among other things by adding a specially for the occasion written book as a gift when one buys a book.

This year it was all about traveling and it was written by 2013's most popular writer, Tommy Wieringa.

Once, in 1988, Maarten Biesheuvel who's mother was a **Vreugdenhil (K IX b.2)**, wrote such a book week gift with the title: "Een overtollig mens" (A redundant human being).

The earlier mentioned foundation CPNB also initiated the campaign 'the Netherlands read'. During this campaign readers could pick up 'Erik of the klein insectenboek' (Eric or the small insects book) at the Dutch libraries.

This book was written by Godfried Bomans who's story of another book jumps to mind, in which he introduces his readers to two elderly men. One is nearly 100 years old and climbs several flights of stairs, whilst heavily panting because of the effort, to congratulate another man who just turned 100 and now is on the attic, hanging on rings attached to the ceiling, to make a bird's nest (some sort of move to stay flexible). After their greeting, the birthday man says to his guest, who caught his breath in the meantime: "I thank you for visiting and I wish you all the best as well. But you should realize that you never in all my life will be able to catch up with me. And if you ever ask for the secret of becoming this old, I only can say: 'Breath and keep breathing no matter what happens.'"

Rightly so we wish that it's that simple. But we still think of Bomans quote when someone has reached the age of 100 years.

Likewise the Hoofddorpse Courant mentioned last year that **Mrs. Sophia Strijbis-Vreugdenhil (O IX c.2)** had become 100 and that the local mayor had visited the elderly home where she lived to congratulate her.

The news coverage told us that Sophia Vreugdenhil had been the housekeeper of the Strijbis-family for a long time and married in 1938 with Mr. Strijbis who was a widower for the second time and passes away in 1987.

She also appeared to be the grandmother of 87 grandchildren and of no less than 92 great-grandchildren. "The woman's health is vulnerable", as mentioned by the newspaper.

"She has bad sight and bad hearing, she sits a lot, mostly praying all the while." In the meantime we're nearly a year further on and we hope that Mrs. Strijbis looks back on her centenary with satisfaction and we wish her all the best.

\* Spotlights on the bakery-family **Vreugdenhil (J XII a)** from Maasdijk! Every loyal reader of the Vreugdeschakel shall agree with us when we say that this case involves special namesakes.

We quote 'Het Hele Westland':

"Last week the team of three-star-bakery Vreugdenhil was able to again carry off several awards. During the national bakery-trade competitions in Drachten the bakery was awarded with two trophies and various first, second and third prizes for individual products, which were tested on taste, looks, tenderness and structure by a very experienced and professional jury."

When you are wondering what kind of products that possibly can be, this is it: about everything you can find in a good baker's shop: wheat bread, sponge, brioche and ciabatta bread and also doughnut bolls, christmas stollen, almond bars etc. And it didn't stay with that!

Already in 2012 - and maybe much earlier - they got the idea that a baker should and could do more than just baking bread. Producing the raw produce themselves for example.. You could call that innovation in the world of bakers and bakeries.

And what would be more Westlandic than a Westlandic bread baked from spelt which is sown and harvested in the Westland? And what can spelt possibly be?

"Spelt has been grown since roundabout 7000 years before Christ," confirmed Christ Vreugdenhil once in a conversation with 'Het Hele Westland'. "The difference with wheat flour is that spelt has a skin and thus a better protection."

They suited the action to the word. Second cousin Ben van Vliet - a known farmers family of the Westland - assisted with the growing on a plot of land of 1,5 hectares in Maasdijk. "That spelt is harvest and husked and we are spending weeks with that to see how far we have to grind it up and what the ideal recipe is," says Gerard Vreugdenhil.

It was a surprise that the entered loaves of spelt bread were awarded third place and that the jury praised the taste, the texture and the tenderness. Now we question ourselves about what this inventive and competent Vreugdenhil-family has in store for us in the coming years.

Oh, and after all the awards and prizes they changed the logo and remodeled the baker's shop.

\* But also in various branches of sport namesakes are reputed to be brilliant persons.

How else can you characterize **Frank Vreugdenhil's (C XI aj.2)** achievements after victory after victory on the ice with the KPN Marathon Cup and the carrying off of the bronze medal for the Dutch Championship marathon on an ice rink? Whether he's a top skater we can derive from the fact that he stepped in for Sven Kramer, nation's best skater, at the recent Worldcupraces in Inzell.

And what about **Stefan Vreugdenhil** who recently won the 15<sup>th</sup> Farm Frites Beach race (40 km) in Rockanje.

Don't forget **Jennifer Vreugdenhil (D XI al.1)** either, who plays for ADO The Hague Women as keeper and was selected to play in the Dutch team for women under 19 years.

The Culemborgse Courant gave us notice of **Thijs Vreugdenhil's** victories in playing checkers by announcing his wins of both the last checkers tournament of 2013 and the first of 2014. Good luck, lady and gents!

\* The pagesize article in the Omme-lander Courant in which joyful moving was portrayed and the services of Kantoort Vreugdenhil from uithuizermeeden, which celebrated its tenth anniversary lately, were set out, was striking.

**Yvonne de Vries-Vreugdenhil (C XI af.4)**, founder of the company, gave thanks to the employees and customers. A lot of trust forms the base of orders that harvest appreciation. "And often that's because of the small details."



**Gerrit Vreugdenhil**

\* **Rev. Gerrit Vreugdenhil (O XI j.1)** recently took his PhD after a long stay and a research in Chile on the subject of 'demons'.

Of course we haven't read the PhD thesis, but we did read the response on it which was printed in the Friesch Dagblad.

The remark on the fact that the vision on humanity in the Western world mainly is being defined by materialistic thinking, is conspicuous. Therein is no space for something vague or intangible like a spirit or ghost.

This can be said, but we remember from our youth in Zeeland that the children were warned for - the correct spelling was never told to us - 'oci pik'. "Mind you, or else 'oci pik' will take you away." But like always in life, the exception proves the rule.

Jaap

# Living with the mill(er)

*This story is about Linda van Zijll-Vreugdenhil (N X ah.1), about the miller, about the mills and about the baker. I thought: "I'll write a piece about Linda for the Vreugdeschakel. She lives in such a nice spot next to the mill and is always such a loyal help with the shipping of the Vreugdeschakel, that should be mentioned at least once!"*

Thus I went to Linda in early spring. Luckily she had explained how to drive. ("... just drive on the cycling lane and turn left to the country lane and eventually you'll be at the Groeneveld mill.")

Completely true! The mill proudly stood in the meadow and next to it was the home I was looking for. Here Linda lives with her husband Rob van Zijll and their daughter Maaïke. I was welcomed with coffee and cake and it didn't take long for me to find out that the mill was everything.



## Maasland

But first about Linda.

Born and raised in Maasland with both sides' family-roots deeply fixed in that village, of which an old rhyme says: "*Maasland, kaasland, boerenland, boterland, pareltje aan Westland's rand*" ('*Maasland, cheeseland, farmland, butterland, pearl on the edge of the Westland*').

This praise is from before Maasland joined the local district of the Midden-Delfland and belonged to the Westland-district.

Linda started her working life in Maasland as a dentist's assistant. She still has this profession, but now she works in the Hagahospital in The Hague on the department of 'Special dentistry'. Here she, and other dentists and assistants, helps people who because of a variety of causes, can't be helped at a standard dentist's practice.

She mentions people with a huge fear for dentists or people with a physical or mental disability. Because of this, it is of great importance that the assistant has lots of patience and empathy and this job gives Linda a big sense of satisfaction.

Next to work and family she also sings in the Gospelchoir Spirit: of course in Maasland!

## Schipluiden

Maasland stays a beautiful village, but since 1989 Linda lives in Schipluiden.

Which is also a beautiful village in rural setting with many old farms.

And how did she, as a true born Maaslandic woman, end up in such a magnificent place as Schipluiden? Here the miller comes in, because when you fall in love with Rob van Zijll, there's simply no escape: you'll get the mill with it for free and for nothing!

## Groeneveld mill

First a couple of facts about that Groeneveld mill.

Already in 1450 they decided to build a poldermill for the Groeneveldpolder in Schipluiden, but round August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1719, this mill was burned down to the ground after lightning struck the building. The current, round stone mill was built in 1719 to replace the burned-down one. This polder mill, equipped with a waterwheel, lies roundabout 800 meters south-west of the hamlet of 't Woudt. Until 1960 the mill only drained the Groeneveldpolder (about 270 hectares) powered by the wind.

Hereafter a pumping station was built for the polder and they switched to mechanical drainage.

During the eighties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it became clear that the draining capacity had to be enlarged, resulting in the fact that the wind powered waterwheel had to be put back into action. Ever since that moment the waterwheel can be powered both by wind and by electricity.

Now the mill functions as reserve pump-

ing device: when with extreme rainfall the station can't handle the volume of water, the mill will be powered up by electricity.

Until the seventies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the home in the Groeneveld mill was still inhabited. In this miller's residence are among other things box beds and a round iron stove still to be found nowadays. The tiled wall is build-up from replicas of the original Delft-blue tiles. This way, the visitors will receive a general impression of how the miller's families used to live. During the forties and fifties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the miller lived in the mill with his wife and ten children!

The summerhouse, which was used during summer when the mill would be repaired, has been demolished because of the ruinous state of the building.

The house next to the mill, where family Van Zijll lives, has been built on the same place as the summerhouse.

Since 1977 the Delfland body of surveyors of the water levels and dykes owns this mill and, thanks to allowances from the National Monument Care, the mill was successfully restored to its former glory. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1987, the restoration was complete and ever since you can see the mill turning regularly.

## Having a loose screw (or literally translated from Dutch: 'Getting hit by the mill')

The known expression 'He got hit by the mill' (I use the literal translation for word-play purposes) isn't that nice. Then again, I wouldn't dare to say this about Rob van Zijll, but he does start his story with the statement that his is born with a congenial defect: mills!

Born in Alphen aan de Rijn, with grandparents living in Aarlanderveen, surrounded by many, many mills (take a look on the internet on a search for Molenviersgang Aarlanderveen) it wasn't so very strange that he quickly picked up a huge interest in mills in general.

His mother had to draw him little mills when he was still in his highchair. His father was involved and he wasn't 'good enough' and had to start building model-sized mills for Rob, which the youngster immediately started "renovating", and not always with the best of results.

Grandfather and grandmother lived near the mills and that proved to be a huge attraction: his entire youth was spend around and about mills and without effort he learned the miller's profession.

Age 13, he already regularly visited a mill near his home, the miller like it that Rob displayed such an interest for mills. Sadly enough this miller passed away when Rob was 14 and Rob barefacedly went to the polder counsel and asked whether he could mill with it. After some discussion he got permission, with the notion that it had to be done under supervision.

*Continuation on page 8*

## Living with the mill(er) (sequel)

During the seventies the Association of Voluntary Millers was founded. In those years there were only a few professional millers, but more and more the voluntary millers were pressed into obtaining their miller's license because of demands from the government.

So, because Rob really wanted to do something in the 'world of mills', he too had to start his training, an education of at least three years with a minimum of 150 hours of practical experience.

In October 1981 he received his official license and nowadays he himself is an instructor for the official training: theory lessons on tuesdays and practice-training on Saturdays. The theory lessons are given in the living room and the actual training – well, what do you think?

In 1987 the opportunity to become a miller in Schipluiden arose and of course he seized it with both hands. In April 1988 the construction of the new house next to the mill started and after two years of traveling to and fro between Alphen and Schipluiden, he could live at the mill from January 1989 onward.

### Grinding for the Vreugdenhil-bakery

In the column 'Personal Particulars' in this Vreugdeschakel, you were able to read about the Vreugdenhil-bakery in Maasdijk. This baker has grown and harvested his own spelt (a healthy variety of grain). Baker Chris Vreugdenhil intended it to be a completely Westlandic product and to be able to bake delicious products of it, the spelt grained had to be grinded in a Westlandic mill. Rob van Zijll, together with his miller's student Luc Ruijgt, was planning on doing the job with the corn-mill of 's-Gravenzande: sadly enough, with the testing of the mill, the structure gave up and all four of the wings broke off and fell down. Luckily Rob was able to divert to the corn-mill of Maasland 'The Three Lilies' where he mills as well.

Thus the true Westlandic spelt produce (with a bit a fantasy, though) baker Vreugdenhil uses!

I asked whether Linda has been infected with the 'mill virus' as well.

"Infected is a large expression," she said. "In the very beginning all I knew was that a mill has four wings, but in those 25 years I learned a lot. Rob is all mill, that's the way it is, and if you can't adjust to it, you're not going to survive it. When Rob has visitors, all they talk about is mills and if you don't like that, you're done for, because then it isn't likable. On Tuesday evenings and on Saturdays he trains his students here. On Saturdays there are always students present, big and small."

Close to the mill there's the 'model-mill park' with three working 'model-mills', where those model-sized mills grind, filter and mix grain and flour. One of the three model-mills generates electricity for the lights in the other two.

At our farewell I received two boxes with self-raising flour and I can assure you, the cake was simply perfect! I still have to try the gingerbread!



If you're interested in visiting the mill: during the National Mill-days (in 2014 on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>) the mill is open for visitors.

The possibility is that you weren't able to visit that day, no problem, you can make an appointment and when the mill turns, Rob is at home and you can always drop by for a visit.

Leni



[www.westlandsemolens.nl](http://www.westlandsemolens.nl)  
[www.speelmolenpark-schipluiden.nl](http://www.speelmolenpark-schipluiden.nl)

Linda, Rob and the mill ....

## Colophon



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The website is mostly written in Dutch. On top of the website you can find several buttons. The last one says 'English'. When you click this one, you find a link to a translation program of Google.