

Robbeburg

Chair Report

Hello! And a happy 2007, although you're probably all well into it by now – in fact it's practically half-term. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are refreshed and keen for at least a while. Robbeburg is all up and running again and I think we're doing pretty well.

The good news is that we broke even last quarter, which means that we're no longer eating into the remains of our savings. We also did really well at the Christmas Fair – many, many thanks to everybody who got involved in that, in particular to Sigrid, Emma and Danny Tucker, who really shouldered the weight of it all and did an incredible job by the sound of things. I'm just sorry that I couldn't be there! Thanks of course to everyone who came along and took part – in the end we raised more than Euro 900. I hope you all enjoyed it and that it put you in the right frame of mind for Christmas! All in all then, we're making progress financially and you should see some little (cheap!) changes creeping in at Robbeburg – Sigrid and I had a spell at Ikea!

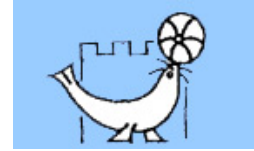
The groups are also doing well, with most of the morning groups full or nearly full.

We've also started our Friday morning group, which is still in the early stages. If you know anyone who would like to come along on a Friday, please let them know – they can just turn up!

There have been a few changes in the committee. Hen has finally taken a break and has her baby very soon! Jo Hetherington has taken over her role as Membership Secretary and we can also welcome Ruth Paans as our new Purchaser. Jenny Bridle has kindly offered to take over the publication of the newsletter for this edition as well – hope we can persuade her to do the next! Anyway, thanks Jenny for doing this one. We're now looking for someone to do Publicity, basically sorting out our brochures and flyers – please let me know if you're interested in this at chair@robbeburg.com.

And last but not least – a well-earned get-together is being organised. It'll be at Diva's again (Waalstraat 48, 1078 BV AMSTERDAM – just along the road from Robbeburg) on Thursday 15th March from 8pm. Hope to see you there!! All the best for now, Meriel

Thanks to The British School,
who are now sponsoring our
newsletter.



Winter

Volume 2, Issue 1

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**ROBBEBURG DRINKS NIGHT OUT
AT DIVA'S, Waalstraat 48 1078BV
8pm Thursday 15th March 2007
All Welcome**

Tram Trouble

Recently GVB's prams policy has frequently been a point for discussion in our Robbeburg get togethers. If any of you had problems or been compelled to act then we would like to hear about it, e-mail me at jennifer_bridle@yahoo.co.uk. It seems a shame that this is becoming a problem for many parents when part of the "Amsterdam experience" is often a car-free one.



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Birthdays & hellos!

Happy Birthday to the following for January, February and March and apologies if anyone has been missed. Welcome to the new members.

BIRTHDAYS				NEW MEMBERS				
Aadi	Patwardhan	11/01/2005	Joline	Clevesj	14/02/2006	Child	Parent	Group
Sarah	Doyle	18/01/2004	Kia	Rutten	15/02/2005	Mali	Debbie	Thurs am
Oliver	Lensink	18/01/2004	Luka	Misumi	17/02/2003	Oliver	Margareta	Wed pm
Ana	Erdozain	19/01/2004	Mauro	Timmer	18/02/2005	Layla	Genni	Tues am
Advait	Sudeep	23/01/2004	Leo	Gordon	18/02/2004	Marnie	Alex	Mon am
Ethan	Avery	24/01/2004	Crossan			Maisie	Jil	Mon am
Kody	Dirks	24/01/2004	Tara	Gillick	24/02/2003	Isobel	Jil	Mon am
Rhea	Fletcher	25/01/2004	Annabelle	Ruiz	01/03/2004	Timothy	Rachel	Thurs am
Hannah	Ten Wolde	26/01/2006	Julia	Aladel	04/03/2006	Teo	Leyla	Mon pm
Brooke	Mackay	28/01/2006	Sam	Fennell	09/03/2006	Blake	Maybelle	Thurs am
Rucha	Kulkarni	28/01/2005	Andrew	Ford	10/03/2005	Kai	Seija Beth	Thurs am
Lucas	Belpaire	29/01/2004	Kaya	Tozcu	13/03/2005	Max	Anneloes	Thurs am
Ava Grace	Cooper	30/01/2004	James	Punter	17/03/2005	William	Jen	Thurs am
Rie	Kobayakawa	30/01/2004	Lila-Rose	Vilderom-	22/03/2004	Anneke	Nikki	Thurs am
Scarlett	Gulliver	02/02/2005		Hetherington		Cecilia	Sabela	Wed pm
Samuel	White	03/02/2003	Korben	Lyall-Wilson	22/03/2003	Lukas	Lisa	Wed pm
Martin	Santiago Castro	03/02/2004	Ian	De Jeu	23/03/2005			
Gwen	Geukema	06/02/2002	George	Hargreaves	24/03/2005			
Kanta	Okada	07/02/2004	Greta	Lewin	25/03/2002			
Alan-	McConias	12/02/2004	Teo	Ogea Harsma	26/03/2005			
Thierry			Jan	Veerman	28/03/2004			
Kye	Stevenson-	12/02/2004	Benjamin	Anuta	28/03/2006			
	Hatayama							

The origins of Koninginnedag - QUEEN'S DAY

Koninginnedag or Queen's Day on 30th April (or celebrated on April 29th if the 30th is a Sunday) is a national holiday in the Netherlands. It started as a celebration of the Dutch monarchy. The holiday is celebrated on this date because it was the birthday of Queen Juliana (1909-2004). When Queen Beatrix succeeded Juliana on 30th April 1980, she decided to keep the holiday on April 30th, as the weather on her own birthday, 31st January, tends to prohibit the traditional outdoor festivities. Prior to 1949 the holiday was celebrated on 31st August the birthday of Queen Wilhelmina. On Queen's Day the monarch, Queen Beatrix, visits one or two towns where she is received with celebrations in her honour. These celebrations often involve traditional Dutch dances and demonstrations of old crafts. The previous monarch, Queen Juliana, would welcome people who came to the Soestdijk Palace.. She and her family would stand on a dais, and a long line of citizens would walk past, congratulating the Queen and presenting her with gifts.

The colour orange is a common sight on Queen's Day, as it represents the House of Orange, which is the name of the current Dutch dynasty. There are orange banners and flags, orange coloured foods and drinks. Even the water in some fountains is dyed orange. The holiday is also a "free market" day where people set up stalls at the roadside to sell household goods they no longer need. So definitely a day to pick up a bargain or two. In recent years, Queen's Day has become more and more of an open air party, particularly in Amsterdam, which attracts anywhere from 500,000 to two million visitors each year.

Since Queen's Day is a national holiday and thus a day off, many people also go out and party on the evening before Queen's Day. This evening is called Queen's Night or Koninginnenach in Dutch. The T is left out because the habit of turning the eve of Koninginnedag into a special event with free open air concerts originated in The Hague, where nacht is pronounced as nach. This tradition started in the early nineties when pre-Koninginnedag riots were an increasing problem in The Hague. The idea of convincing the rioters that a celebration is a much better way to spend Koninginnenach, proved successful. The event draws tens of thousands of visitors every year. So wherever you are; have a great Koninginnedag!!



ROBBEBURG QUEEN'S DAY STALL

Volunteers needed to man and
organise the stall!
Monday 30th April 2007

This is a great fundraiser for
Robbeburg so please help!

RESTAURANT AND CAFE REVIEWS

When you come to live in a new city, or change your perspective due to a new arrival, it can be hard to find suitable places to eat out. With this in mind I thought a regular feature on child and baby friendly restaurants and cafes may be useful. So here is a summary of a some restaurants and cafes plus a review for "restaurant of the month". Thanks to Georgia and Sasha for doing the hard work and to many others for their input. This table represents some of your suggestions, more next time! If anyone has any favourites that they want to tell us about, then please let me know in time for the next issue, jennifer_bridle@yahoo.co.uk.

Name	Address	Food	Café	Restaurant	High Chairs	Change table	Kids menu	Space for Prams	Play area	Outdoor area
Bazar	Albert Cuypstraat 182, 1073 BL, 0206750544 www.bazaramsterdam.nl	Middle Eastern	☐		☐			☐		
Café Poef	Tweede van der Helststraat 7, 1012AE, 020 6249376 www.cafepoef.nl	Sandwiches	☐			☐	☐	☐	☐	
Café de Jaren	Nieuw Doelenstraat 20-22, 1012 CP, 020 6255771, www.diningcity.com	Sandwiches, soups, dinner menu	☐	☐	☐	☐		☐		
De Bijenkorf	Dam 1, 1012 JS, 020 6218080, www.bijenkorf.nl	Sandwiches, salads, pizza's and steaks plus more	☐		☐	☐		☐		
Groot Melkhuys	Vondelpark 2, 1071 AA, 020 6129674	Sandwiches, soup, snacks	☐		☐	☐		☐	☐	☐
Hard Rock Cafe	Max Euweplein 57, 1017, 020 5237625, www.hardrock.com	American style	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Hotel de Goudfazant	Aambeeldstraat 10H, 1021 KB, 020 6365170, ww.hoteldegoudfazant.nl	Bistro, no lunch	☐	☐	☐			☐	☐	☐

RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH

Sea Palace, Oosterdokskade 8, 1011 AE Amsterdam, Tel 020 62 64 777

The Chinese floating sea palace is situated just to the east of Central Station on the pontoon to Nemo. From the outside it looks like a tourist trap but once inside, it is a wonderful experience. We had a huge round table for just four adults and Oscar so there was plenty of room for the high chair and we had views on three sides of the IJ and the city. The staff were extremely attentive and friendly. The service was slick which is helpful with a restless child. The food is exceptionally good. I highly recommend the roasted duck and pancakes. On a Sunday afternoon the restaurant was pleasantly busy with families and large groups, Chinese and non. There was even a childrens' birthday party on a table near us. We saw plates piled high with chips and sausages so there is a menu to cater for younger tastes.

High chairs provided, Baby changing facilities.

Need a bouncy Castle?



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risk)**

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FRIDAY MORNING GROUP

Friday morning group now running at Robbeburg.
Please let anyone you think might be interested know
about this new session. E-mail
robbeburg@robbeburg.com

Positions Vacant

Calling all mothers!!

As you know, Robbeburg is run by mothers for mothers. This means that we really all have to get involved now and again, even if it means just cutting up the fruit or vacuuming! However, of course there is much more involved in running Robbeburg than that and we are ALWAYS IN NEED OF NEW VOLUNTEERS! Please, please consider volunteering for the committee, either for one of the positions on the back page or just to come along to the occasional meeting and see what needs doing.

It's also worth saying that the committee is constantly changing as mothers leave and children go to school. There will probably be a big changeover in the summer, for example. Without the committee and, in particular without key positions filled, there will be no Robbeburg. So please think about doing your bit!! Many thanks, Meriel.

Temporary Membership Secretary

We're not sure whether Hen is coming back yet and until she does, we really need someone to take over or help Jo run the membership list. This job involves keeping an up-to-date list of members, invoicing and checking the membership e-mail inbox for queries.

Party Bookings

As you know, weekend parties are a big fundraiser for Robbeburg. At the moment, Emma (Treasurer) is doing a sterling job running it all, but it would be great if we could have someone else co-ordinating it to give her a break! The job involves taking bookings (via e-mail), co-ordinating contracts, arranging someone to open and close Robbeburg and invoicing (I think!).

Queen's Day Co-ordinator

Last year we raised loads and loads of money at Queen's Day, selling second-hand clothes and toys on the Apollolaan. It would be great to do even better this year! Is there anyone willing to take on organising this for us? It would mean co-ordinating a committee, probably and arranging all the logistics for the day.

Toy Cleaning Organiser

We're looking for someone to co-ordinate our toy cleaning rota. This can be done however you think it should be. At the moment, we have no legal obligation to keep the toys clean (although this might change), but obviously we all want the standards to be as high as possible and we just don't have the time on the committee to take on the running of this. Please let us know if you're interested!!

Publicity

If you're creative, artistic and full of energy and enthusiasm then this is the job for you! We desperately need someone to help us publicise Robbeburg on a regular basis. It's completely up to you how you do the job - all that's required is that as many people as possible in Amsterdam get to hear about us!

E-mail Meriel or Sigrid if you are interested on chair@ or co-chair@robbeburg.com

Cleaning and Tidying

Just a quick reminder to everyone about cleaning and tidying. Please make sure that you leave the Robbeburg in the cleanest and tidiest state possible at the end of each session. This makes the area much more pleasant for the next group and avoids things building up. It is important from a health & safety point of view as well.

THANKS EVERYONE!!