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# DondersNieuws

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## Subscriptions:

The subscription fee for 2005 is € 10.35.

But any extra voluntary contributions are very much appreciated.

On 24 October we organised for the second time the Donders Day. Although the interest was not overwhelming, we still considered it a successful day.

Read more on page 2

Dear Donders family,

If, after many years, you meet a large number of cousins and their family, you sometimes see similarities again. There are some you can call "real" Donders persons (whatever that may be). Within such a family there have been quite a number of modifications over the years; it is important to receive all these modifications including the right information and to process these in our archive system. For those who are in possession of a Donders book it is easy to know what we would like to know, but also here applies: better too much information than too little. If it could include a picture, we would be most happy. We count on your cooperation and try also to convince your family members that they send us everything that has to do with the Donders family. We will be grateful.



Corrie Donders (GS 965)



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Translations: **Yvonne Donders** (GS 771)  
**Bart Donders** (GS1085)

## Donders Day 24 October 2004



A "home match" in Tilburg, it could be rushing. That was rather disappointing. Whether it was the publicity, the weather, the time of year or our high expectations, we still do not know. The turnout was reasonable and in any case we had the opportunity to meet (again) family members who even came to Tilburg from Arnhem and Alkmaar. The visit to the Textile Museum was largely made use of. The movie made by the broadcasting company Brabant about the visit to Surinam of Loet and son Max Donders to see what was available about Peerke Donders and their visit to the wooden Cathedral (protected UNESCO monument) was also worth it.

When are we going to organise the next Donders Day?  
We will keep you informed.

*Henk Weijters*

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## A spontaneous Donders Day response



Just a not following the Donders Day. The reception was very friendly and we were happy to have been able to have a personal talk to the board. We have enjoyed what we have seen in the textile museum and it was really worth it. Afterwards we have passed by Peerke (GS 97/4), because my family members had never been there and for myself it was 48 years ago. What we found there was more than expected. Everything was well maintained and it looked perfect. The kruisweg was full of autumn leaves, very nice to see. We have had a wonderful day with our children and grandchildren and we would therefore like to thank the board for their excellent dedication in the organisation of the Donders Day 2004.

*Carla en Ton Donders (GS 531)*

## Thank you Jacques! (GS 261)

As you could have read in our edition of October 2004, Jacques had announced to stop his activities as board member of our foundation starting from 2005. We respect his decision, although it is hard for us to take over his activities. We would like to thank Jacques, also on your behalf, very much for the trouble he went through to keep our foundation alive, also in the difficult periods, and for the many hours he put into the Donders Family Archive Foundation. He started as member of the board on 15 April 1996 and was the treasurer since August 1996. He was even the chairman for a period of time and for a short period even the **only** board member. Jacques, thank you very much, all the best to you and we hope to see you regularly, in any case at our next Donders Days. We would also like to thank his wife Jeanne. Jacques must have spent a lot of time with his "family" and without her support that would have been impossible.



*Henk Weijters*



The posts of treasurer and secretary have been taken over

by Henk Weijters per 1 January (son of GS 193/3)

### **Our new secretariat address:**

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## Frans (GS 340) and Charles

It has not been written in any editions of the Donders Newsletter, but it has been announced in the red book 'The Tilburg Donders Family' of 1996. Because this special contact has not been described in the green book of 1982 and many people do not have the 1996 book, it is worth mentioning here. Only those who have spitted through the 1996 book could have found this fact. It concerns the intensive contacts that Frans Donders (GS 340), the eye specialist, had with Charles Darwin, the English natural scientist who developed the famous evolution theory. It reads as follows:

### Professor

In 1847, Frans Cornelis was appointed by the King as professor at the Hogeschool of Utrecht. He asks and is permitted discharge of military service. On 28 January 1848 Frans Donders accepts his appointment with an inaugural lecture, which caused some row. The subject 'The harmony of animal life, the discovery of the laws', was far beyond its time. He was the first to pay attention to the theory of descent. Only in 1859 Charles Darwin would develop the theory further that all animals and plants had developed from former species. While Professor Donders' ideas were more limited and could not be totally compared to the evolution theory of Darwin, Darwin considered him an important predecessor. "It is clear that you have been as close as possible to predecease me concerning the natural selection", Darwin wrote him later.

### In addition:

Darwin wrote this to Frans in 1871. Frans had met Darwin for the first time in 1869 in his house in Down. Darwin asked Frans in 1870 to conduct research after 'the support of the eyes in the blood pressure through breathing pressure'. This research was necessary for Darwin's studies of the face, because he considered 'expression' of great importance to the theory of descent. In 1882 Frans Donders was part of the Dutch Committee which collected the 'Darwin Memorial Fund'.

*Hein Donders (GS 809)*



# Gifts

During one of the searches for information about Professor F.C. Donders (GS 340), I came into contact with Brigit Willems at the University Medical Centre (UMC). She could not directly help me further but directed me further. However, she found it nice that there was still interest for this great Donders. All information had moved since the inclusion of the Royal Dutch Gasthuis for Eye Sufferers' in the Academic Hospital of Utrecht.

Brigit Willems did send us the book '125 years Eye Sufferers Hospital 1858-1983 (which contains among others a famous lecture of F.C. Donders of 1888) and she gave us from her private possession and envelop which is provided with two special memory stamps. Only on the birth date of F.C. Donders were these stamps used until 1989.



\* 27. V. 1818

Prof. Dr. F. C. Donders



Hein Donders (GS 809)

picture of the stamp

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## Prof. F.C. Donders (GS 340)

(Visit to the University Museum in Utrecht)

Following several text parts found concerning the correspondence between Professor Donders and Charles Darwin, the Foundation wished to learn more. And where could we better do that than in the best-equipped library concerning Professor Donders, which is the one of the University Museum in Utrecht. When the Eye Sufferers Hospital (Ooglijdersgasthuis) was closed, all the instruments, books and letters went to this museum. We also wanted to take the opportunity to see whether Donders used a special stamp to seal his letters.

Before our visit, I had corresponded with the conservator, Joke Schuller, and she invited us to search for material there. Two-third of the board of the foundation (Henk Weijters



and myself) went to Utrecht. Ms Shuller knew in detail about the life of Donders and she help us a lot with the search for and the providing of archives material, although she doubted whether there was anything concerning the searched subjects. Unfortunately, we have not found anything about these issues. However, we did find several interesting things to know, which we will publish here and in next Donders Newsletters. You may also expect the foundation not to give up its search, because there must be more sources.

picture: Reading room University Museum Utrecht  
(room not open to the public)



Ms Schuller moreover surprised us with the book 'Franciscus Cornelis Donders' that was published on the occasion of the century anniversary of the "Dutch Hospital for the needy and less fortunate eye sufferers' on 6 November 1958. It describes in detail Donders' entire life. A wonderful acquisition for our archives and an excellent source of information about Donders.

Ms Schuller also put our attention to a mistake in the information brought by us (data and names) about Donders. It appears that the text in the red book 'The Tilburg Donders Family' of 1996 at the family state of Professor Donders (GS 340) is not totally correct and clear. In this text, the name Ernestine is used where it should be Paula. Ernestine was the wife and Paula one of the two grandchildren of Donders. The text, which starts at the last section on page 221, should be as follows:

"On 28 February 1870, before the officer of the civil administration, the midwife gave a declaration of birth of twins, to which Maria Donders had given labour on 26 February. At 4 pm Frans was born and half an hour later his sister Paula. Father Theodor Engelmann himself was not able to declare the birth. The delivery, however, had disastrous consequences, because on 3 March 1870 Maria Donders, the mother, died. This was a

major loss for Prof. Donders and his wife Ernestine. Theodor Engelmann – the son in law of Frans Donders – remarried with Emma Brandes and had two more children in his second marriage. The two children – the twins Paula and Frans – which Theodor had with Maria Donders, were raised in this family. In 1897 dr. Theodor Engelmann left for Berlin, together with his daughter Paula. Her brother Frans had already moved to Zeist in 1894. What happened after with the twins is not known. Paula was married to a person named Kraiss, and she was the one responsible for the sending of a piece of furniture, offered to Donders on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, as well as many of his papers, to America. Frans was also married and had children: his daughter Maria Louise Engelmann (great-grand daughter of F.C. Donders) disclosed on 22 June 1922 the monument for Prof. Donders at the Janskerkhof in Utrecht. The inscription on the monument is now hardly readable.”

NB: During our visit to Utrecht we had a look at the memorial bench of Professor Donders. Possibly the monument has deteriorated further over the last 10 years. We concluded that the inscription can hardly be read anymore, except for some separate letters and that the stripes of green algae on the monument do not do it any good either. Only if you know who the sitting person is, you can imagine what the inscription would say. Not to forget that tourists (among others Japanese) come specifically to this place, because they consider this scientist so important.

picture:  
F.C. Donders monument



*Hein Donders (GS 809)*

## Did Frans (GS 340) have 'royal blood'?

In the Donders Newsletter of October 2003 (page 7) something general was said in general terms: illegal children. This happened (and still happens) in all levels of society. Nobel persons often did not marry out of love; marriages were arranged. The love life often took place outside the marriage. Especially in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century, illegitimate children, children born out of wedlock, were more the rule than the exception. Later it was more tried to hide these love affairs outside the marriage. Someone pointed me to an article in the Dutch Newspaper Volkskrant of 18 December 2004 entitled "True love was made somewhere else". This article of Peter Brusse concerned the illegitimate children of the Royal Dutch family. This subject has renewed attention since the death of Prince Bernhard. I quote the following from this article:

"Love affairs outside marriage were more and more disapproved of in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It became a shame to have illegitimate children as a member of the royal family. They were put away, hidden. These poor children had to pay for the sins of their parents. Proof was destroyed, but it was generally acknowledged that Willem II had two children with a woman from Rotterdam of good social class. The children Willem and Marianne were placed in a turf colony of the Society of benevolence by his brother Frederik. They ended up badly and were caught as beggars. Better off was Franciscus Cornelis Donders (GS 340) who made it to become a famous eye specialist."

It is quite something that was said here. For the non-historians among our readers: Willem II was born in The Hague on 6 December 1792, died in Tilburg on 17 March 1849, and buried in Delft. Willem II Frederik George Lodewijk, Prince of Orange; he was the King of the Netherlands from 1840 to 1849. Through the Volkskrant I contacted Peter Brusse. He told me that many publications exist about the bastards of the royal family. He pointed me specifically to the magazine 'In the name of Orange'. Of this magazine, number 44 "Five centuries Orange royals and their bastards (1995) we copy the texts of pages 1055 and 1058. The author is W. Coster, and the magazine was published by Waanders Publishers, Zwolle.



'The secret of the King's Meadow' and prof. dr. F.C. Donders.

"Of King Willem I it has been said that he had been unfaithful to his wife 'Mimi' once or twice, but that concerning love he was much like his father. A brave husband in other words. That goes much less for his son, the later King Willem II. Two places especially are closely related to the rumours concerning his bastards: Frederiksoord en Tilburg. It is not sure that King Willem II had some children out of wedlock, but it is very likely, bearing in mind the information that is now available. In Frederiksoord in Drenthe two children were raised in 1820 in the colonial family of Teunis Berkenkamp and his wife Magteltje ten Heuvel. They already had three orphans when they received two more (on contract). The children were born on 1818 and 1820 and were given the names of Willem en Marianne of the Netherlands. Their origin was covered in a haze of secrecy. The fatherhood was however assigned to Willem II, who was supposed to have given rise to them with a woman of a well-to-do family of Rotterdam. Willem's brother Frederik, known as the troubleshooter of the family, supposedly took care of the children. Because of him, they grew up in the colony of the Society of Benevolence, to which he took the initiative. The two did not have an easy childhood, because there was a lot of poverty in Frederiksoord. Their later life was also not easy. After their marriages they returned to the colony as beggars. It went better with another bastard who has been assigned to Willem II: Franciscus Cornelis Donders. He was born on 27 May 1818 in Tilburg, became Professor in Utrecht and enjoyed international fame as eye surgeon and physiologist. Tilburg, the beloved place of Willem II, was well-known as the city with many children out of wedlock of this King. It was said that in the neighbourhood of Tilburg called Koningswei (King's meadow), just behind the palace of Willem II, many of the King's children out of wedlock lived. That is not very likely: Willem did not live to see the finishing of the palace and the King's meadow was constructed even later."

Donders Newsletter: From the 'Memorial Book of the Palace Town Hall' I noted the following. The King Willem II had constructed gardens with several little bridges, which

was popularly named the meadow of the King. In 1864 this was given to the municipality of Tilburg. In 1966, the palace was reconstructed to a State High School. In 1935 this building was adapted and in 1936 it became the town hall.



The story remains. In the Donders Newsletter of November 1995 (page 19) it is noted that Professor Donders, according to the same publication, was supposed to be a bastard son of Willem II. The conclusion was that this was highly unlikely, because of the following statement:

“It seems highly unlikely to us that Professor Donders would not be a real Donders. After all, he was the ninth and last child of his mother, Agnes Elisabeth Hegh. Would such a faithful wife and mother, after eight children, have become unfaithful to her husband and been fallen for the Prince of Orange? It is clear, also in the named article, that it has never been proven that Professor Donders had royal blood and we remain to that.”

The book that was recently given to our Foundation by the University Museum, “Franciscus Cornelis Donders” (1958), also briefly pays attention to this (page 8). The text is as follows (with references to the Englishman Bowman):

“A picture of her (red.: Theresia Francisca, a sister of Franciscus) shows that she has the same face characteristics as Donders. This is important because of the following: it was said that Franciscus Cornelis Donders, as well as of many of his famous fellow countrymen, that he had royal blood. This statement was often based on physical characteristics. When we read that brother and sister concerning their looks were “very like”, and when we bear in mind that Theresia was already born in 1812, this assertion becomes highly unlikely.”

We have to live with these statements and opinions for the time being. No doubt the media will pay attention to this subject somewhere in the future. The only possibility to obtain the final answer is to have a DNA test. However, I doubt that the royal family would cooperate on that...

*Hein Donders (GS 809)*

## Who was that ?

In the October 2004 edition of our family newsletter several newspaper articles were reproduced concerning Donders family members. We always try, preferably in cooperation with the family members, to find out where these persons belong in the genealogical register. It could be that they should have been included in the branch of Limburg, which we also find quite nice. However, we concern ourselves with the one of Tilburg, is it not?

- On page 17 there is an article on the four day march of Berlicum, in which Gerald Donders participated. This Gerald is the one at GS 1122.
- Page 18 notes that Carol and Toos Donders are honoured as member of the Order of Orange. This couple should be found at GS 965. Carol is the father of our board member Corrie Donders.
- On page 19 it is stated that Stijn Donders together with three young ladies has won the Goudsche Courant Music Award show. This Stijn is the one at GS 133.

*Hein Donders (GS 809)*

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## Proud parents of Damian

*(announcement found on the Internet)*



Hello, I am Rianne, since 13 May 2004 my fiancé and myself are the proud parents of a healthy son named Damian. Damian was born at home at 23.56 hrs; he was 54 cm and weighed 3840 grams. Damian is growing very fast and is a very happy child that only cries when there is really something wrong. The delivery was rather difficult, but I have managed thanks to the support and love of my partner, my mother and my mother in law. When I had Damian lying on my stomach, I quickly forgot the pain and we could enjoy this handsome little man and now we are a very happy family!

P.S.: Rianne Donders is mentioned as child in GS 837. Since she has a family state with Patrick Trommelen GS V.332.

*Photo: Damian en Patrick.*



# The stamp of Professor Donders



Several editions back Hein Donders wrote that he had found by accident a stamp of the professor. Is he a collector? A question to our Newsletter and I could have given him some samples. It is a normal stamp. However, in daily life unfortunately nothing is normal, including this stamp. It is one out of the first summer stamp series and that means quite something. It linked nicely with the life of the professor, told by Annie and Jan Romijn in their book:

“Erflaters van onze beschaving” [inheritors of our civilisation], in which all real great persons found their place (Huygens, Stevin, Boerhave, etc.).

With stamps it is as such that several artists are asked to send a design, drawing or something else to a commission that chooses the best one. In this case it was the design of Mr H. SEEGER. The face was turned to the right. The commission found that the face had to turn to the left, because already two faces looked to the right. It happened as such. It became a stamp of...two cents. This was very peculiar, because that was no regular value. I have a large picture of it (see picture)



It became finally the regular value of six cents; the foreign tariff for letters.

*Rob Donders (GS 568)*



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Photos sent by Rob Donders

- 1½ ct: H.D. Guyot, deaf education
- 5 ct: A. Diepenbrock, sound artist
- 6 ct: F.C. Donders, eye specialist
- 12ct: J. Pzn. Sweelinck, sound artist

## John Donders (GS 844)



In the Donders Newsletter Volume 22 of May 2004 I read the announcement that I had received a royal decoration. At the request of Hein Donders I explain below why it had pleased Her Majesty to decorate me.

Originally I was born and raised in Tilburg. Because of my career in the Royal Navy I went via Vlissingen to Leiderdorp. I have lived there since 1971 and I have thrown myself into the association life. Somewhat later I became a member of the drama society "Tot Ieders Genoegen" [The Pleasure of All] in Leiden and have played their repertoire in the theatre of Leiden.

In Tilburg I had already played and in Middelburg I had also been in stage. When I was sent to Curacao in 1976, I also encountered theatre there and I have played three performances there. Back in the Netherlands I was soon chosen as stage manager of the above-mentioned association. Through this position I became the president as well as the director. I do this for this association for already more than 25 years.

In Leiderdorp they also needed a director and I was asked to start directing at the local association Zijlkaartier. That I also did and there I am now in function for many years.

The local association had however more vacancies and via the secretariat, which I did for about four years, I am now the president. This association now counts about 1100 members. We are very busy organising card evenings, trips for children, plays etc. At Queen's Day we always organise a festivity programme including games for the children. For the organisation of these things, one counts heavily on me. Of course I also need my relaxation and that is why I became a member of the local Pétanque club "De Boulende Stier". At the member meeting of 24 March 1997 I became the secretary there and I am also burdened with game issues. The organisation of tournaments and the representation of teams to the national competition are my responsibility.

Furthermore, after I was sent to pension from the Royal Navy, I started as a simulation patient at the University of Leiden. I play the role of patient for co-assistants at the study of

medicine, but also at the study of clinical and medical psychology and child medicine they have found me to introduce students every year to “real” patients. In order for doctors and nurses to practice the bringing of bad news, they have appealed on me. All this is voluntary work and for that I was called to the city hall in Leiderdorp on 26 April 2002, where I entered not suspecting anything when I heard that I was proposed for a decoration in the order of Orange Nassau and the Mayor decorated me with the decorations.

Another interesting, additional story is that in the same year I was selected for a play in the USA and Canada. Together with the family theatre group from Almelo I have played about 26 performances in the USA. We drove more than 26,000 kilometres in seven weeks and we have brought some nostalgia to many former Dutch people. Well, this is my story about the allotment of the royal decoration.

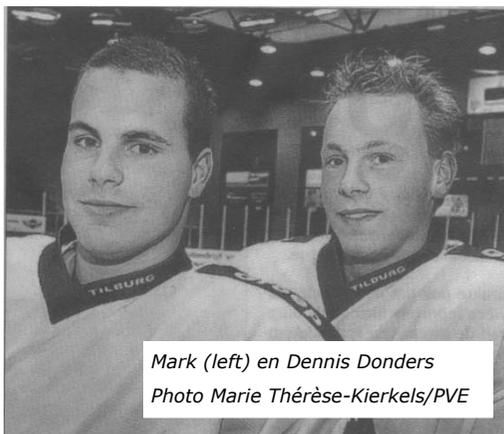
*John Donders (GS 844)*



## Brothers Donders (GS 292) : no competitors Tilburg, Ice hockey by Max van der Put

At the time that the Trappers-internationals are in a training camp with the Dutch national team, The brothers Mark (19) and Dennis (18) Donders both play in the first team of the Tilburg ice hockey club. Tonight, (20.30hrs) they play with Trappers a home game against Geleen. They are both tilers, they both live with their mother and both now play in the first team of Tilburg Trappers. Mark and Dennis could easily be twins. Or perhaps

not? Mark: "If you put it together like that, you could say so. However, it is not the case. First of all, we do not look like each other and we also have a different character. I am quieter; Dennis is more active and more easily agitated. And I do more in the household." On the ice, they are no competitors. Mark plays offence, Dennis defence. "It is as such since we were juniors. I actually don't know why", says Dennis.



Mark (left) en Dennis Donders  
Photo Marie Thérèse-Kierkels/PVE

### The evening of St. Nicolas

The two brothers started playing ice hockey when they were seven and eight years old, encouraged by their uncle Marco Donders, who then played himself in the first team of Trappers. Mark: "I remember how that went. Our parents were actually not very supportive of us playing ice hockey. Because it is not very cheap. But on an evening of St, Nicolas, when we were together with the whole family, my uncle Marco succeeded in convincing them that we could in any case follow some try-out training. That happened and we have never left Trappers." Dennis, the youngest of the two, received compliments af-

ter the two games last weekend of the coach concerning his play. "I also thought it went pretty well. The transfer to the first team turned out to be not so difficult."

## Too little defenders

That is not surprising, because even before the internationals left to play the Challenge Cup, Dennis practiced with the first team. "There are not so many defenders in the selection, so I am always asked to practice with them. This is great, because I get more experience". Mark already plays for the second season in the first team. The games for the Challenge Cup also offer him a good opportunity to present himself. "If all internationals are present and everybody is in shape, I normally do not get many playing minutes. SO I use these games to show what I can". This weekend Trappers play two times against Geleen. Tonight the team from Limburg come to Stappegoor (20.30 hrs); Sunday the return is in Glanerbrook.

Both brothers think that Trappers stand a chance. "We have zero points in the Challenge Cup so far, but that can be explained", Dennis thinks, "Of all the teams playing we are missing most internationals". Mark found that the home game against Heerenveen last Sunday went particularly well for Trappers. "I was truly afraid for a huge loss, but we limited the score to 0-3. For outsiders that may not be a special result, but we were quite proud of it."

## Explanation

Against The Hague Trappers were long lead, but in the end it went wrong (5-3). This can also be explained, says Mark. "Nazarov, Van Schagen and Trembecky, the foreigners in our team, now really had to take the lead and spent very much time on the ice. In the third period they were exhausted and could not catch the victory."



## Doctor Peter Donders (GS 507)

Following a Donders wedding advertisement that was sent to us, I started searching who these people actually were. A Peter Donders is not easy to trace without any additional information; we have more than fifty. Peter reacted to my letter and then I knew that it was Peter of GS 507 who married Karin Swart in August 2004.

Together with his response I received a large volume entitled "narrative reconstruction in case of people with cancer". It was the thesis of Peter to receive his Doctors title at the University of Leiden in 2004. It concerns a research on the psychological influence that cancer has on persons. Cancer is such a thorough issue, which has a very strong deregulating and disorientating effect on one's life. The "narrative reconstruction" is the acceptance of the situation in order to adapt the plans for the future. One, or perhaps the best means is to talk about it oneself.



Peter now works at the Dutch Hart Foundation and programme specialist for the programme of 'coping and dealing with heart diseases'. In this programme, the results of the research are further elaborated and developed into trainings for patients and professionals.

*Hein Donders (GS 809)*

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## Financial news

Fortunately, you massively responded to our call to pay the subscriptions in advance. We thank you for that and especially for the extra contributions! The direct financial problems are thereby, for the time being, solved. If you have not yet paid your contribution for this year, we kindly ask you to do so via Postbank number 3582, Foundation Family Archive Donders in Tilburg.

*Henk Weijters (treasurer)*



## „I said: Piet, you hammer, I will carry“

By Patrick Wiercx

'Retired to Asia' are waiting for jobs

It is a colourful group of (almost all) retired from Southeast Brabant. They were – sometimes still are – electricians, welders, bricklayers, nurses, police officers, estate agents or family doctors. They wish to help in the area affected by the tsunami. The team of 'retired for Asia' is ready for action.

When I start it, I will end it as well, Frans Donders (GS 696) had told his wife. Four weeks, ago he, retired, could be found in the newspaper. He wanted to do something for the victims in the disaster area in Asia. Because he did not succeed with one of the organisations, he took the initiative himself. Retired, as long as they were healthy and handy, could announce themselves to him. He wished to start working with them in Asia. An enormous

stream of reactions followed. The first who called was Kees Jansen of Valkenswaard. Saturday morning half past eight. He had just read the article. A handy plumber, who knew about central heating, could lay bricks, 64 years old. I immediately said "ok". In that weekend and the days after the list grew fast. Arend Otten of Eindhoven is forty years old and used to be a police officer. Donders, smiling, "he used to arrange traffic for many years. I told him to come along. You can do that there as well. But he is also a very good handyman" Wil Henselmans, Heeze, estate agent and appraiser. He is too young to retire, but he wishes to act. He wants to do all kinds of klusjes. Cor de Vaan, Eindhoven. "A real plumber. 67 years old. Perfect isn't it?" Bert de Leeuw. Bert, and his wife Marijke, excellent handymen. Piet Steenbakkers, 67 years old. Geldrop. He always had a hammer company. I said: "Piet, you hammer, I will carry." Trees Bauwens (69) from Eindhoven used to be a nurse in the tropics. She brought another candidate, a retired family doctor. I could add that person. He has two left hands, I was told. "Well, there is something to do for everybody there. It is good that someone knows something about diseases."

### **Left immediately**

The list is even longer: Adrie Groenen from Gerwen owns a construction company; Arie Smits from Nuenen is plumber-carpenter. Peter Scheepers, construction worker from Lieshout, Jan Schoenmakers from Best, and so on. Donders' list contains 28 retired and almost retired. Twelve of them can leave almost immediately. Travel and accommodation they will pay themselves. They are waiting for the sign of Donders, says former social services reporter and former sergeant instructor (we do everything in good communication). Through others Donders heard of two orphan projects in Sri Lanka. He wishes to well adjust the arrival of the 'retired for Asia', as the group has been named. A choice has not been made yet.

### **Air beds**

Dutch organisations are now investigating the situation there. They will let Donders know whether he is welcome with his retired, how many and when. "We understand that there will be no hotel next to the place we will be working. We have to choose in advance: to take a hotel and rent a car, or to

bring air beds and sleeping bags." The retired are not planned to clean the rubble. "They have enough people to do that. It concerns the construction, for which we are bringing specialised people." The story about the initiative with the retired spreads very fast, Donders has noticed. Someone called who was sent to "that Donders in Eindhoven" by a foundation in Rotterdam. And I am only working on this for four weeks, he says, surprised by the attention. He is astonished how easy people wish to help. He expects to make several trips to Asia with small groups of six to eight persons. The first shift should bring some toolboxes. "I have to kindly ask some people to do that", Donders says, "Because they have to be good tools. I do not need fifty saws, we keep it small sized. A little bit of everything would be helpful. Perhaps I should start looking at the Hubo (DIY), I come there often."

It has been proposed to bring toys for children, but he is careful with that. "Before I know it, I have a container full of toys in front of my door."



Frans Donders  
Photo: Ton de

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## Gold KNVB-pin for Tiny Donders (GS 305)

Tiny Donders of Tilburg has received the golden pin of appreciation of the Dutch Football Association KNVB on Wednesday. Donders (56) has been active as a volunteer for more than 23 years for football associations in Tilburg WSJ and Broekhoven. Normally, 25 years have to be passed, but Donders had to stop the activities because of health reasons. "I find it therefore very nice that I have received it after all", the former secretary of WSJ stated, a function that he fulfilled for the last twelve years. Before Donders was involved for eleven years in youth affairs of the football club Broekhoven.



## Justified silver for Donders (GS 1101)

The commander of NSU Seedorf, lieutenant colonel Robert Boer, has decorated sergeant major Gerard Donders on 13 January 2005 with the silver medal (see photo). Because Donders only works at the Bureau Integral Security of NSU Seedorf since 1 August, a large group of his former unit are present on this occasion as well as his family and children.

Lieutenant-colonel Boer shortly presented the career of Donders, starting with his arrival in Seedorf. In 1995 he successfully followed the higher officers formation. Afterwards he was placed at the 41 supplies company of the then 41 Light Brigade as ammunition expert.

The mission with the European Committee Monitor Mission is a period about which Donders likes to speak and often recalls: he gained much international experience, therefore life experience, which served the tasks he took upon him afterwards. The sergeant major has been on mission several times to the Former Yugoslavia (SFOR-4 and 5, SFOR-8 and SFOR-15). Later he became sergeant-major education at the supplies company and deputy head internal service. The crown at the work of a non-commissioned officer is a job as the company sergeant major. This function Donders had for three years.

We could justifiably speak of a very experienced non-commissioned officer. If you are having pleasure in your work, 24 years may not be so long, but to do your duty with honesty and faith are norms and values, which translate the content of the functioning of Donders. Consequently, lieutenant-colonel Boer proudly pinned on the decoration.



In conclusion of the ceremony the commander of the 41 supplies company, major Johan van Hulst, spoke several personal words, because he has been the commander of Donders over the last years and they have been through a lot together.

# Move boundaries with the Scouts of Gestels.

## 'As long as you are creative'

By *Trudy van de Westelaken*.

Article in 'Weekblad de Meierij' dd 23 June 2004



Sent in by **Piet Donders** (GS 533)



SINT-MICHIELSGESTEL (NL)

'At Scouting we do not focus on your problems, but on your possibilities.' This can be read in the brochure concerning the new to be established group within Scouting Petrus Donders (named after **Petrus Donders GS 97**). The Scouting of Gestels will start after the summer holiday with a new group especially for physically handicapped children.

Four members of Scouting Petrus Donders took the initiative to set up a group especially for physically handicapped children. "We consciously chose for children with a physical handicap", tells Judith van Zandbeek. "Different Scouting clubs in the area have a special group for mentally handicapped. Physically handicapped could, however, only go to Breda, Tilburg or Eindhoven. The initiators from Gestel participated several times in the Scouting of Breda. "We realized that there are many opportunities, as long as you are creative. With little means we can already do a lot for a target group for whom there are little activities", says an enthusiastic **Stance Donders** (GS 533).

The purpose of Scouting Petrus Donders is to do the same activities with the new group, called the "Dondervogels" (thunderbirds) as they provide to the other groups. "We adjust the activities to the possibilities of the children. However, we try to provide a variety of plays, including sports, outside plays, tinkering, drama and cooking activities", explains Van Zandbeek. Bas Koning adds: "And of course we will go away for a weekend twice a year". Before a child is admitted to the Dondervogels, the team leaders first have a conversation with the parents. "It is important to know everything of the child. Together with the parents we consider whether the child will fit into the group."

The initiators do not know how many applications they will receive, but the reactions are very positive. A school in Den Bosch for mentally and physically handicapped children responded with enthusiasm to the initiative. The municipality of Sint-Michielsgestel and various other institutions promised to cooperate to make the Dondervogels a success.

"Why children should become members? Because they will do activities, which they can normally not do and because they will get into contact with other children", the leaders argue. "They can discover and move their boundaries and do the maximum possible." For more information and applications, Judith van Zandbeek, 073-6890188.

Photo:  
Judith van Zandbeek, (left)  
Stance Donders  
Bas Koning



More "Peerke Donders" scouting :



**SCOUTING PEERKE DONDEERS  
TILBURG NOORD**

## It has pleased Her Majesty...

The May edition of the "Dondersnieuws" comes a bit too quickly after "Koninginnedag" to comment on the royal decorations. Still the Foundation tries to react quickly. This year **Alexa Peynenborgh-Donders** (GS 596) was decorated as "Lid in de Orde van Oranje Nassau" (Member of the Order of Oranje Nassau). The foundation congratulates her with this decoration. On the website of her city of residence Veldhoven the following is stated:



- In 1980 she became secretary of the parents committee of the elementary school "Sint Jan Baptist". Among her tasks were the organisation of the traffic brigades and the treatment of the children staying over in the afternoons.
- In 1987 she joined the management team of the Documentation Centre, and starting in 1990 she functioned as its coordinator for 14 years.
- She was en is active within the parish "Sint Jan de Doper" (now called "Drie-eenheid"): coordinator of the group of lectors from 1983 onwards.
- In 1995 she became secretary of the church management team (finding volunteers).
- She joined the parish management team after it was joined by the parishes "Heilige Geest" and "Heilige Caecilia".
- She is a player and organiser of the Monday morning club at the tennis club "De Korrel".

Occasionally members of the Donders family are decorated for their special contributions to the Dutch society. It is only brought to the attention of the Foundation if the name Donders can be read and associated with this. Therefore we call upon all to report all decorated family members to us. Also those joined by marriage, because family is family.

*Hein Donders (GS 809)*



## Donders artists (a continuation of 'Donders Artists May 2004')

### *Farewell of two Donders Artists*

In the Donders Newsletter of May 2004 a list was included with artists named Donders. We certainly try to find out of each of them who they really are, because only then it becomes interesting for the family. During our search we could not find out of two of them where they belonged in the genealogical register. Now it appears that unfortunately we had to say farewell to two of them: Josine Donders (Wageningen) and Peter Donders (Opitter, Belgium). It appears namely that these two are named Donders, but they do not belong to the Tilburg Donders family. They are "unfortunately" members of the Donders/Donners family of Limburg, with which we have not been able to establish a connection. These 'illegal expropriation' we could find out with the help of the well-accessible information of the Limburg dynasty which are managed by Kasper Donners and which were provided to us.

### *A welcome for two Donders Artists*

The first is Bramine Donders-Hubrecht, the second wife of prof. F. C. Donders (GS 340). She was a famous art painter. The picture on the right shows her famous work portraying the professor.



Self-portrait painted by  
Bramine Donders-Hubrecht

Portrait of Prof. F.C. Donders  
(GS 340)  
Painted by Bramine Donders-  
Hubrecht.



The second is Herman Donders (GS 231). Via Internet I saw an article in which it was announced that sculpture Herman Donders had made a monument at the cemetery for the children who were buried nameless in the past.

## Frank Donders (GS 1204)

A unique event. 'Kièk nog eine kièr um' (look once more behind) received the maximum amount of points Saturday night during the Leedjesaovend (song contest) of Jocus.

Half way through the evening, at the bar of the artist cafe De Maaspoort Hay Cromptvoets (66) is standing, "éminence grise" of the vastelaovend (shrove Tuesday) of Venlo. No less than eight times he sung the winning song, often together with Wiel Vestjens.

Asked for his favorite song, he shows a visionary mind. "Kièk nog eine kièr um. The beginning stands immediately. It has been a long time ago that we had such a great song. Good text and good music and a very great singer. Frank Donders even has something of Frank Sinatra. Mind you: this will become an evergreen."

It is not as far yet.

In the artists cafe the singers are talking to one another. About how it went when they were performing. How the crowd reacted. And about the fact that the first songs were of bad sound quality at home on tv ('not fair').

The three bolding winners of last year, with a big belly, tried to put the chances of their Hoem(papa) into perspective. "We will in any case perform together with 'Weej kinne neet zinge' (we cannot sing) on the eleventh of the eleventh at the Onze Lieve Vrouweplein. In Maastricht, of all places!", says Gijs Wolters. The trio ends third place. Their song writer, Frans Pollux, is for the third year in a row part of the best four. Eefke den Dekker, making her debut, has sought in vain for her mother in the crowd. Peter Jansen was afraid that he would not remember the text of his won written song.

Then the jury results arrive. The artists follow it in tension on a large tv screen. After the results of the four municipal juries and the public jury, Frank Donders is clearly and untouchable number one. Striking is that different from the municipal and public juries, the professional jury catapults 'n Suupke mit... and Hoem(papa) to the second and third place. Very calm, from the outside at

least, Donders leaves to the toilet half way the reading of the results of the professional jury. Somewhat later he sings, with six tv cameras around him, with a great performance the winning song one more time for a very enthusiastic audience: Kièk nog eine kièr um, on music of Jan Bax.

Hannelore Winter and her son Laurens wrote the text. The now 62 years old Hannelore is praised by the Jocus-Kingt Harry Pouwels as 'De ôngekroënde keunigin van het Venlose leedje' (the uncrowned queen of the song of Venlo). She sung herself six winning songs (the first in 1968: De Zoebelaer), and wrote no less than eight (the last, Nog efkes same, also together with Jan Bax, in 1996). Now she sews here ninth thread on the rich Jocus-oeuvre, and with Jeske van 't joar (at place number 4) even the tenth.

Jan Bax composed the winning song of 2004 three onths ago behind the piano. Hannelore: "The title phrase also belongs to him. I told him, no, I will change that, because I wish to start with a text from scratch. But that phrase kept on coming back to my head. Simply beautiful: Kièk nog eine kièr um."

The song fits perfectly with Frank Donders. The 32 years old inhabitant of Blerick, whose father used to play in the accompanying band of the Jocus song contest together with Giel Aerts, sings for already ten years. It started in 1994 with a talent show in Tegelen, which he won. Then he took singing lessons with John van Laren and Gé Titulaer. The last years he already became famous among connaisseurs. As winner of the song contest of Blerick in 1999 (Wandele langs de Majjem), and the Summer Park and Little Park festivals. Hannelore: "Frank is a supertalent. And indeed, this number is a bit Sinatra-like. Frank is totally crazy about Sinatra. He knows everything of him, sleeps wit hit and gets up with it."



The singer himself smiles prudently when he hears this. But Sunday afternoon, when the band Altiëd Naat is playing at the Parade, one of the trompettists says: "This will become a great, great hit."

## Kiék nog eine kiër um

Season : 2004-2005  
Ranking : 1  
Lyrics : Hannelore en Laurence Winter  
Music : Jan Bax  
Singer : Frank Donders

### stanza

Bliéf effe staon . .  
nog éin kömuulke van dich  
gén dreuvige traon . . d niks veur mich  
gén wazig verhaol . . meine kael is schraol  
maar allein dae kreet: ik vergaet dich neet!

### refrain

Kiék nog éine kiër um  
hald dich leef in gedachte  
kiék nog eine kiër um  
roop nog ens . . `daag schat`  
Vastelaovond mit dich  
wáánzinnig veur mich  
waat hebbe weei ôs leefgehad  
det duuzelt mich vannach  
zeg astebleef: `wies morge schat`  
de wets wie gaer ik wach!

### stanza

Ik zeen dich gaon . . .  
dien muulke gleujt op mien wang  
de zilvere maon . . schient bleik en bang  
kiék um as ik zwei . . op de letsten drei  
huurse meine kreet: ik vergaet dich neet!

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(Foundation Family archive Donders)

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