

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S
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the BOOT FAMILY

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO YOU ALL



The New Order!!!

Watching the footie with Dad is soon to be the order of the day, when Vincent returns in March for just over a year, to finish up his studies before returning to Aberdeen as a Science Teacher!

Will I be able to manage the "wall-to-wall" sport on TV, or must I develop a new hobby now, while there's still time?

We are very much looking forward to spending some more time with Vincent, after he has been away all of these years. It is giving us a good excuse to have a bit of a clear out, as we have sort of spread ourselves out over the years. This is simply a huge house, and it is already almost full, and Vincent hasn't even entered the portals yet!

Let that be a lesson to us to clear out junk as we go along!

✧ A busy year ✧

2017 has been a watershed year. We have lost some family members, on both sides, which was very sad. Our house is in need of a lot of attention, as lots of things have gone wrong, or broken down, and need replacing. The kitchen first!!

OUR NEW FAMILY MEMBER

After the sad death of Jochem last year, we really felt so sad, and were not yet up to getting another cat.

However, by February this year, I had already started looking for a beautiful black cat, and found, "Tan" (we call him Tan Tan)

online and residing at the Dordrecht asiel (animal shelter). He is only around 3 years old, and took to us immediately. Frans is his favourite person, because it is

Frans who is always there to feed him at the right time! He brings joy to our lives, and

loves to go out in the garden to chase birds and frogs. Not much success there, and he also has a running



battle with a magpie, about whose garden this really is!! Fortunately, he gets scared enough to get out of the way, so that there have been no injuries sustained!

Recipe for renewed Kitchen

Move 17 years ago; get a brand new kitchen; use it extensively, wait for it to drop apart, & voilà! All at once, just two burners left

to cook on, a slow cooker, and an ancient microwave, at our disposal!! It has been a 4 month camping trip!! See our happy faces at the thought of getting new equipment at the weekend, just in time for Christmas

Ingredients:
1 dishwasher
1 oven
1 extractor fan
1 hob
1 American fridge
JUST IN TIME





Lots of exciting visits and blasts from the past!

We had lots of wonderful visits and meetings. Sad to say goodbye to Randhir and Tara, leaving for Australia, but it would be lovely to see them on a future visit. Other old colleagues and friends, Ken and Rosanna, were in Rotterdam in February; we helped to celebrate two 40th wedding anniversaries with the Tomlinsons, and then the Hulsmans, and then we saw other old colleagues, Yvonne Bouma and husband Tjeerd, and Nora Flood, with whom I worked in the late 80's. Former students visited as well....Sandeep from the 80's, Tiffany from the 90's, and Sara from the, early 90's. Then, came Dong Hyeok Yang (90's) with his new wife, and more recent (90's and Noughties) students, Denise, Musty and Chris. In addition, our old pal, Kathy (from Trans Siberian days) came to stay, in May, and we had a blast! A former student from Parramatta, NSW, and husband, Joseph, also came to stay, in August, and we had yet another fun-filled week!! More recently, we were thrilled to attend the 25th wedding anniversary of our Brazilian friends, the da Silvas! A spectacular evening at Eau Lounge, overlooking the scenic Maas River by night!

Nice Trip to France

It was great to be able to spend time with Sheila and Bryan, at long last, in France. We had fairly good weather, and managed to get into the pool quite a lot. We had good food, rest and relaxation, in the wake of Bryan's 80th birthday celebrations, earlier in the year, and Sheila's 80th birthday celebrations a little while after we left. We had only one meal out, and Sheila made a really good job of getting in and preparing food that I can eat on my low carb diet. I was very happy about that, and actually lost weight while I was there!



Some Sad Bits to the Year

This year, we lost Fran's cousin, Petra, and Frans's Tante Cisca, pictured right, (the last remaining aunt from his mum's side, and sadly, mother of his cousin, Petra) That side of the family has had a very difficult year, and we feel deeply for them. In addition our beloved piano tuner, Mr. Kanselaar, also died and we had to find a new piano tuner after more than 35 years! We shall miss our chats, and his great artistry with the piano. Former student, Denise, sadly also lost her Mum. One gets to know some of the parents as old friends, and it was sad to have to say goodbye to her as well. Only recently, my cousin, Veronica, died, which was very sad, as we have been planning a trip to the UK in spring, ostensibly to meet up with as many cousins as possible. So sad that she will not be among their number. Glad to have such fond memories of all those lost, and it makes one realize how important it is to be happy, and enjoying life to the full at every moment!

