

Well, here's some news again from our side...



The general message is quite clear: we are doing fine! The transition to working and living in The Netherlands went very well. We really have the feeling our return to Holland has been taken care of. Unexpectedly we were blessed with jobs and housing and a nice holiday. It doesn't mean that still sometimes, in some ways, it feels 'strange' to be here and not in Bosnia.

The business

After our departure, we have had some contacts with people involved in Plantarium and we are more and more surprised, or better astonished by the strange behaviour of the Bosnian partner. The total absence of proper communication with clients etc is sometimes unbelievable. The main reason for the failure of Plantarium were the technical problems in the laboratory, but the single-mindedness of the Bosnian partner towards self interest only, is a factor which makes it a sad story in the end. So we are both relieved and sad: happy that we are no longer part of this and sad because we still believe it could have been successful, had all partners really worked together and given their best. Well this chapter is now closed for us and the best part of it is that we have no hard feelings whatsoever. That is good to notice.

Holidays & aesthetics

We spent our holidays this summer in the south-west part of the UK. What beautiful parks and gardens there were!! Our eyes were like dried-out sponges, absorbing all this beauty, the aesthetics, balance in form and colour. These beautiful really old trees, not one, but ten, twenty, hundreds! We realised how much we had actually missed beauty when we were in Eastern European countries. Please, understand us correctly, there are really very beautiful parts there. But the effect of socialist architecture, the absence of care for the surroundings of buildings and parks (due to lack of finances and/or war) just shows.

So you can imagine how we (as lovers of nature) just loved wandering around in these magnificent parks and forests in England! And of course we enjoyed so much visiting our Bosnian/English friends, it was great! We put some pictures in as you might have noticed!



Lawn before Kings College, Cambridge





Kendra enjoying Heinz' Baked Beans



Brigitta & Gordana

Jobs

We now both work for the same Agricultural Professional University in Dronten, Brigitta as co-ordinator for a new studies in Business Administration, focusing especially on professionals working in the 'green sector' (park and landscape companies, municipalites etc) who want to develop themselves into project leaders / managers. A very interesting job given the experience in Bosnia combined with earlier working experience.

Ron works in the Department for International Studies and Consultancy. In September he travelled to Canada for negotiations about co-operation with a Canadian University for a program where students of both Canada and Holland study together and end up with two degrees. The Professional University has about 150 international students on a yearly base who come to Holland to study (a one year course). They come from many different countries and maybe in the future also come from Bosnia? Who can tell? We are open for initiatives in this direction.



Graham & Brigitta at Bath

Next time we can share some more about the school's speciality: competence based practical learning.

House hunting

We have bought a house in Dronten and our own house is for sale. We expect to be able to sell it soon. So, around the end of the year/beginning of new year we will pack our things again and move. This time no international transports.... We will not miss the traffic jams we meet every day during rush hour on the Dutch highways. The positive side of it is: lots of cars and trucks on the road mean lots of economic activity going on.

Our new house has a big garden: about 300 m2 to fill with all the inspiration we have from England! This should keep us busy for a while!! Could be a good therapy as well ;-)



The present garden of our new house

Stay in touch!!!

Greetings, Ron en Brigitta

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