

5 September 2019

Dear Stuart,

Thank you for the congratulations on my birthday

According Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834): 'The happiness of life is made up of minute fractions: the little, soon-forgotten charities of a kiss or smile, a kind look or heartfelt compliment.' And I add hereto receiving 'birthday greetings'.

How old are you? Jonathan Swift (1667-1743) was asked.

He replied: "As old as my tongue and a little older than my teeth."

A remarkable finding at a time when general dental care was not yet available to prevent dental deterioration.

You may recall when we returned from abroad we settled in the village Rhoon, a suburb of Rotterdam. We have lived there for 19 years. You cannot live for such a long period in one place and not making friends.

A couple invited us, to attend their 50 years wedding celebration on my birthday on the 18th of August (my birthday) with 100+ other guests in their garden in Rhoon. We accepted the invitation as Floris was in Sri Lanka and Reinoud preferred to stay at home with his two children of 4 and 2 years old.

Only four persons living in Amsterdam were invited. The three of us drove by car to Rhoon. You recognize two people in the photo and the third is the wife of a retired surgeon, who had to fulfil another obligation that day.



All guests were photographed to present the photo album to the host and the hostess.

The host was a contemporary from our student days. We got to know each other, despite the fact that we

have registered at universities in different cities: Leiden versus Utrecht. That turned out to be no obstacle to becoming friends. It had been enjoyable dejeuner.

I hope all is well with the family. We enjoy our Amsterdam life!
Love to Ursula and you from Vera & Adriaan.

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