

Help away from home

Moving to a new country is always a challenge, but when you move to one for love, it's more than a new language you are taking on. Luckily, there are groups out there with members who are in the same boat. This month, we spoke to the group, [Living With A Dutchie Rotterdam](#).



Living With A Dutchie Rotterdam fills the much needed gap of helping the “other halves” of Dutch counterparts to get their social life started once they move to The Netherlands. Helping people to find friends, empathising about culture shock and helping others to get over the initial isolation period is a lot of what this group is about. Not forgetting, of course, sharing important information on things like where to get this and how to apply for that, finding babysitters, cleaners, job opportunities, good family doctors, beauticians and so on.

Who are the members?

Originally, the group was intended for women and men, but currently it is made up of an all-female membership. The youngest member is in her early 20s, the oldest around 40. Some have careers, some stay home, some have kids, some study. But overall, there is a nice mix of nationalities from a variation of backgrounds, with all continents represented.

How often do they meet?

As often as they wish! There

are no regular set-date meetings as it proved not to work very well - people tend to be less interested in attending those gatherings, perhaps because they think “next time” every time. Instead, the group goes to the movies whenever there is an interesting flick to see, that is often matched with a dinner before and drinks afterwards. There is one movie event coming up in February and two in March.

Living with a Dutchie Rotterdam also has a book club – an idea that has proven very popular. They meet once

a month. They also go out for dinner once in a while, perhaps once in every three months or so.

Socialising together in other ways is also quite common. Members frequently invite each other over for house warmings and graduation parties, etc. Recently, the group went out to eat cakes at a bakery before the New Year's diet resolutions kicked in!

Interested in joining?

Visit the Living With A Dutchie Rotterdam group on Facebook.