There's a few people who I only know because of the internet, and I consider them personal friends now after meeting them on numerous occasions (hell, one attended my wedding).
I've had one person stay at my house for a month while they was looking for a place to rent, I really do know these people now. But I only got to know them because of the impact they made on me was so large in a positive way that I was happy to see them.

If this is possible, then surely it's also possible to form a strong negative impression of someone, and want to meet them for entirely opposite reasons?