

# Going Dutch 2012 Report

## *Impressions from a 'Going Dutch*

Scherpenzeel, 31st May-4th June 2012

Graham Anderson (Chairman), High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire



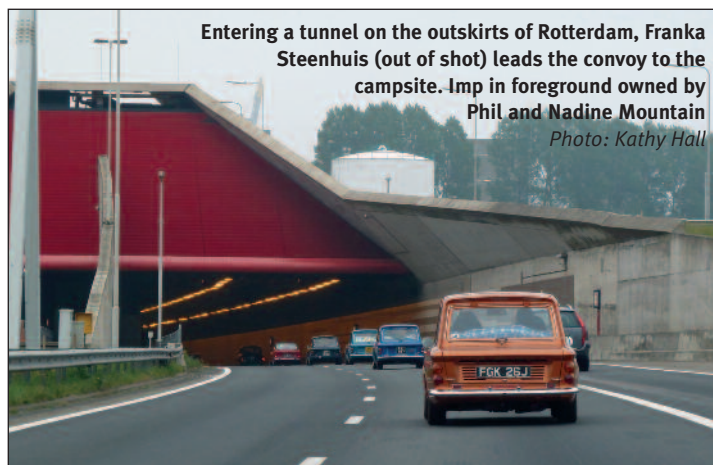
Going Dutch was to be our first camping foray on the continent and our first time towing the Imp abroad so it was with a little trepidation that we set off for Harwich a few days ahead of the UK members.

An unscripted diversion took us too far up the A12 as I somehow managed to miss the Harwich turnoff but we soon arrived at the port and parked up for a spot of wild

camping alongside the check-in queues. With the remains of a pint in hand before retiring for the night I was pleasantly surprised to see Ed and Jane Rhys pull up aboard their Caledonian. They had made the wise choice of an overnight sailing which, with the benefit of hindsight, is something we'll certainly do next time if I'm not to resemble a caged animal on the lengthy crossing.

Our motorway journey across Holland took us via Rotterdam and Utrecht to the lush green area of Veluwe and our campsite which was located near Renswoude. No sooner than we arrived at Reception than two of our hosts, Jaap and Annette ten Hoeve greeted us. Apparently they only live eight miles away and Jaap wanted to make sure we had arrived safe and sound – what excellent service! However, I found out later they had an ulterior motive as they wanted to make sure we didn't pitch where all the organisers had planned to camp!

Once settled in we enjoyed a couple of days relaxing and touring before the masses arrived with 55 Imps in most of the various guises including an unusual cabriolet conversion of non-member Cor van den Berg. According to Jaap, Cor did the conversion himself in the 'seventies



when he owned a Rootes dealership. He used an Imp Sport saloon with its slightly steeper windscreen rather than the coupé, which is usually favoured as a basis. Cor travels all over Europe with the car but unfortunately he refuses to be a member of any car club!

In the evening we

**"We must be in Holland!"**

*Photo: Graham Anderson*

**ch virgin'!**







**Vegetarians look away!**  
*Photo: Graham Anderson*



all gathered for a very warm welcome from Henk Hol and Jaap and a briefing about the event, followed by an evening of catching up with everyone. Friday morning dawned rather quickly and we had a choice of two runs. Jaap was taking the lead on the sophisticated one to the Kröller-Müller Museum – home of a large collection of Vincent van Gogh paintings in the ‘Hoge Veluwe’ National Park. Meanwhile Henk and his family were to take us to the Military Air Museum at Soesterberg to view its large collection of ‘planes and helicopters.

Despite the admission cost of the art museum and the need to cycle 4km to get to it, everyone who followed Jaap thoroughly enjoyed it and several said they could have spent a lot more time there. Those us who chose the air museum were equally pleased with our visit which was free and didn’t involve any cycling! While all this was happening Harm van Dijk had very kindly taken Colin Wells’ Imp Sport to Henk’s workshop where a replacement transaxle was fitted during the afternoon much to the amazement of all present when it returned under its own power later on!

Friday evening’s hospitality continued with an extensive buffet for the masses in the campsite



**Line-up at the Military Air Museum, Soesterberg.**  
**Ray Organ's Husky in front, Karen Benoy's Californian and**  
**Simon Benoy's Stiletto behind**  
*Photo: Graham Anderson*

restaurant before we reconvened back at base camp.

Saturday saw us take on what are reputed to be the only three hairpin bends that exist in the Netherlands – it was quite easy really as they’re all located in the stunning setting of Posbank! This was an exceptionally



Anette ten Hoeve, Tineke Hol and Anet Blanke enjoying Saturday night's barbecue. Anet is modelling a new colour hoodie to keep her warm (along with the beer!)  
Photo: Graham Anderson



Self-catering, Dutch style!  
Photo: Graham Anderson

twisty, scenic road on the north eastern outskirts of Arnhem. It runs through hilly terrain in dense woodland which opens out occasionally to give great views across the land below. *En route* a coffee stop was made at the Terlet Glider Flying School where we enjoyed views of the flying and some deer in the distance on the heathland on a particularly sunny morning. The destination today was 'The Gallery', a privately owned classic car company/museum spread over two floors and the basement of a modern building. On display were a multitude of high-end classic cars, most of which are for sale with significant price tags and a few dozen with sold labels on the screen. As a side attraction another classic car run arrived just before many of us departed and a whole host of other motors to admire arrived to add to our enjoyment.

Having had a long day out the evening barbecue was much anticipated and we weren't to be disappointed. Self-catering was the order of the evening as we all had to cook what we wanted from the vast selection of food provided. Much camaraderie ensued as we jostled to help each other cook our dinners on the large frying pan/grill. The evening was rounded off with a gathering around the campsite fire – a 40-gallon barrel loaded with much dry timber!

Sunday morning dawned all too early and it was back out towards Arnhem on a different route to the fascinating Airborne Museum at Oosterbrook and a nearby Military Cemetery where many WW2 British soldiers were laid to rest in an immaculately kept, tranquil setting. The Museum gave an excellent insight into the operation that was code named 'Market Garden' which later became the 'Battle of Arnhem'. Spread over four floors the sequence of events that unfolded in those dark wartime days of 1944 was described in incredible detail and complemented with numerous artefacts recovered from the area. The museum visit culminated in a fascinating display in the basement where an extensive recreation of events of the battle unfolded around us complete with some very realistic displays accompanied by authentic audio-visual effects.

Several of us then ventured into the centre of Arnhem and the bridge where the battle was fought. After a few photos and with time marching on it soon time to head back to camp and gather around the campfire once again before the uncooked leftovers of the previous evening's barbecue was promptly cooked to soak up the copious amounts of farewell drinks that were



provided for us by our hosts.

In a bit of blur after the previous night's session, Monday came around and all too soon it was time to hitch up the A-frame and tow our Imp for back to the ferry at 'The Hook'. Persistent heavy rain for almost the entire journey made for a

damp end to what was otherwise a great weekend.

To sum up our first Going Dutch, I have to say the opportunity to switch off and enjoy an Imp event without being involved in any way, shape or form with the organisation, Health & Safety, orange tape or even white paint was a joy! Seriously though, I recognised early on that there had clearly been a significant amount of effort and planning behind the scenes to make the whole weekend so enjoyable and successful. The campsite and the choices of places to visit together with the routes to them was brilliant. The advance info via the Forum and the event's Website, plus the documentation, etc, was excellent.

It is therefore only right that I repeat the few words I spoke on the last evening, on behalf of all those who attended: "I offer our thanks to the entire team, and not forgetting all the ladies for their hard work and support. Well done to everyone involved!"



**Cor van den Berg's  
rather nice Imp cabriolet**  
*Photo: Graham Anderson*



**"Put your foot down, Elaine,  
it's gaining on you!"**

*Photo: Graham Anderson*