

A different slant on Going Dutch

Scherpenzeel, 31st May-4th June 2012

Keith and Mary Robbins

As has already been reported in July's *Impressions*, this year's Going Dutch was a great success, bringing together a good crowd of true Imp enthusiasts. Besides visiting and marvelling at the Aircraft museum, The Gallery, and the Arnhem Experience, several of us were equally excited by an impromptu visit to Henk Hol's garage. This was occasioned by Andy Smith needing to check his gearbox oil and Henk offering his garage facilities. So, as word got around, a small convoy of us set off to the Hol house in Woudenberg on the Saturday evening.

Woudenberg is a typical Dutch chocolate-box village with streets of neat, tidy houses with Henk and Tineke's property conforming absolutely – from the front. However, to the rear of the house it is quite different. Our convoy, led by Henk and Andy Smith, pulled up on the drive to be confronted by a double-width garage with green painted doors. When Henk slid open the doors we were amazed to see a huge garage *cum* office *cum* den *cum* sitting-room

space, and there in the centre was a two-post hoist surrounded by workbenches, tool racks and a massive display of rally boards around the walls. Andy's car was soon positioned on the lift and hoisted into the air but, before we all swarmed underneath, Andy and Henk, being very safety conscious, sent Dom underneath to ensure it was stable! He emerged unscathed, so that was the signal for the rest of us to inspect the underside of Andy's car. Checking the gear-



box oil took less than five minutes, it would have probably taken at least half an hour of juggling with jacks and grovelling on the road to do it without the lift. Meanwhile, Tineke showed the ladies in the party round the house. For some reason they didn't seem interested in looking at the underside of Andy's Imp!

With the job done and Andy's car off the hoist we got ready to leave, but Henk had one more surprise for us. There in the barn behind his garage, looking mean and purposeful, was the Hol family's TVR Griffith 500, which of course had to be started up so we could hear the deep-throated rumble of the V8 engine, like an Imp only louder. Much louder!

During the weekend, several other people also enjoyed using Henk's garage facilities. Henk and Tineke are true stars of the Imp Club and we would like to thank them for their generosity and unstinting help.



Opposite: Unusual house interior!

Andy
Smith's Imp is safe on the hoist!
Photos: Keith Robbins