

Trip to the “40^e Friese Radio Markt” near Leeuwarden Holland.

Not being able to attend the Friedrichshafen Ham Fest this year, I decided to arrange a small outing to one of the many Dutch radio rallies and landed on one near to the town of Leeuwarden in the North of the Netherlands. Together with Chris, G4CCC, we took the night crossing from Harwich to the Hoek van Holland and arriving early decided to make a MacDonaldis stop for breakfast. Needless to say, I missed the exit as in our previous visit, and had to negotiate a long detour, avoiding cycle paths, to gain access.



Pic 1.

Suitably refreshed we headed north to Flevoland on the IJsselmeer, to visit the Lelystad “Luchtvaart Aviodome”. This is a great place to visit and has the reconstructed Schipol Terminal building in its grounds. It is a history of flight in the Netherlands with some interesting exhibits. The old terminal building also houses an amateur radio station.

On leaving Lelystad we drove across the Markerwaarddijk toward Enkhuizen of overnight stop. Half way across the is Houtribdijk, a small harbour and aerial mast. This was the site that some tests on 1008 khz were transmitted from in the hope of resurrecting “Big L” or radio London. The signals were not good enough to be useful, as the station was only licenced to use 1 kw.

The dam (dijk) separates the Markermeer from the IJsselmeer



Pic 2



Pic 3

Our first nights stop included a meal and peaceful pint on the harbour side in Enkhuizen



Pic4

So on the second day we set off to the Dutch navel port at Den Helder. This is where I found a cycle path to drive along, only this was in the middle of the town ! I missed the sign which indicated it was for cyclists only. Nice town, only our stop there was cut short due to a serious road accident which delayed us for over an hour.

Travelling onwards to Harlingen, which was to be our second stop, we crossed the Afsluitdijk which separates the IJsselmeer from the Waddensee.



Pic5

In this picture the Waddensee is to the left and the IJsselmeer to the right, which is lower.

We arrived in Harlingen mid afternoon, checked into our hotel and decided that some refreshment was in order, so before walking down to the harbour to see the Radio Seagull ship a light refreshment was called for.



Pic 6



pic 7

The converted light ship "Jenni Baynton" is moored in Harlingen harbour, and despite several emails, all of which were un answered, we were unable to visit the ship. The programmes from Radio Seagull and KBC are transmitted from the ship on 1602 khz using a 1 kw transmitter. KBC is the daytime Dutch service and Seagull the night time English language programmes. Harlingen is a beautiful town and well worth a visit.

So early Saturday we set off for the Friese Radio Markt. A very pleasant rural rally, about the size of the McMichael rally in Reading. The day was beautiful and hot around 30 degrees, but the site is surrounded by trees, which gave welcoming shade. Although there was a lot of typical “junk” for sale, there were some stands selling some very reasonable equipment. I purchased two triplexers for 2/70/23 cms, which I hope to put into service soon. Luckily there was a bar to offer refreshments, and most people spoke English, this being very useful as my Dutch is limited to “ een bier alstublieft “



Pic 8



pic 9



pic 10.

By mid afternoon we had seen all we wanted and started our journey south to Roosendaal. Great hotel, when we actually found it, the town was being dug up and had a mass of road closures. The staff were amazingly friendly and allowed us through a gated town square to their private car park. Out in the town in the evening for some light refreshment.



Pic 11



pic 12.

Sunday morning, after a first class breakfast, we set off for Calais and our return journey. Traffic hold ups around Antwerp, and the sat nav didn't do any favours. Arrived in Calais in good time and home mid afternoon. All in it was an excellent few days around Holland meeting some nice people and seeing some interesting sights.
Mick G4EFO