

During the summer of 2014 Michael and Barbara Porter, together with their friends Carl and Dougie crossed the Atlantic from Maine (USA) to Scotland on their boat "Barbara".

They sailed from Oban to Wick via the Caledonian Canal, to Fraserburgh (D), Delfzijl (NL), Dokkum, Lemmer and Leiden.

When they were in Delfzijl they cycled to Appingedam during the "International Shantyfestival Bie Daip".

In "Joey's Bar" they met the "Chanting Lads", and we had a nice talk.

Michael has a blog of the trip on his website.
<http://www.mp-marine.com>



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Here is the part of "Bie Daip" and "Chanting Lads", published with permission of Michael Porter.

The "Live-Anywhere" Boat - Cruise 2014, Part IV, Delfzijl & Surroundings

Updated September, 2014

As we came to the square by the church and stopped to lock our bikes to a convenient railing, we found there was a singing group in a cafe on the square. This was nice, and we listened for a bit before going to look in the church. Then we noticed groups of people wandering around in similar outfits; evidently something was up.

In fact, without knowing it, we had wandered into the Appingedam "Shantyfestival," an annual three-day fest of groups singing sea chanties (loosely defined). We never got a count of the groups, but there must have been more than twenty, from all over.

The venues were all bars and cafes, and the groups typically did a 25-minute gig before moving on to a different spot.

We found a schedule and saw that a group called the "Chanting Lads" were due to perform at a place called "Joey's Bar," and although neither the bar nor the group had a very Dutch name, the place was close, so we thought we would try them.

The bar was very pleasant, with the bartender's nephew (about 3 years old) "helping" him wash glasses, and the Chanting Lads turned out to be excellent, singing in good, close, multi-part harmony.

Although, of course, we have no way of knowing what else we might have missed, we were very glad of our choice, and after their set we suggested some other songwriters (Gordon Bok and Stan Rogers) whose work would fit, we thought, very well into their style and repertory.

We rode happily back along the canal in the late afternoon, just a little tired and well-contented with our lives.

Michael Porter



the "Chanting Lads" in "Joey's Bar".

Image Michael Porter