

# MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | SATURDAY, 30 MARCH 2013

## Happy Easter

It's snowing quite heavily outside. Heavily for us means that we can at least catch a snowflake or two before it lands and melts. Never thought we would have a white Easter.

The TV is on but we can only surmise what is going on. Dutch is a strange language - somewhere between English and German. Very guttural sounds - spoken as if the person is bringing up phlegm and about to spit but we don't mind it at all. Occasionally we recognise a word or two but it's hard work to listen and try to make out the context. We tend to watch the gesturing and not concentrate on the speech - very funny at times. Thankfully English is not a problem in this country - every person we have talked to understands English.

This morning we drove to a large shopping centre to check out a new camera and mix with the locals. The place was very busy with last minute Easter shoppers. As soon as we got home we jumped on our bikes for a short invigorating ride. Within minutes we found ourselves out of suburbia and into a rural area. The weather was freezing so we did not last long. It was supposed to be a rest day after all.

Tomorrow the bunny arrives.



Kelly sent us this picture - grand daughter Lily ready for the easter bunny.



**THE WORLD IS A SMALL PLACE** We forget where we are. This could be Australia. Then the reality sets in - the cars are on the wrong side of the road and its bloody freezing.



**SNOW FLAKES** Funny how simple things like falling snow can give us such pleasure. We acted like kids when the first flakes began to fall. We rushed outside only to come back inside quickly because it was just too cold to linger.



**SWEET TOOTH** Its interesting to check out the supermarket shelves to see the food on offer. The variety of Dutch pastries and cakes is amazing - maybe that's because its Easter.





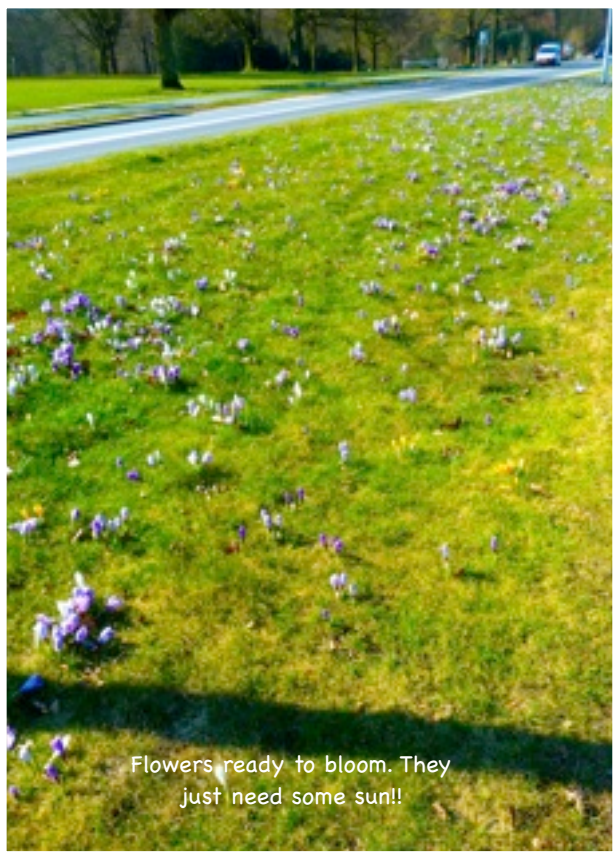
# PHOTOS



Far too cold to do any serious riding



Siggy ready to bloom.  
All he needs is some sun!!



Flowers ready to bloom. They just need some sun!!



One side it's houses, the other side it's arable land

THE DELINEATION BETWEEN "URBAN" AND "RURAL" IN THE NETHERLANDS IS LIKE CHALK AND CHEESE. RURAL LAND BUTTS RIGHT UP TO RESIDENCES. IF IT'S RURAL FARMING LAND IT'S QUARANTINED FROM RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPERS - FULL STOP. HISTORY HAS SHOWN THE DUTCH AND THE EUROPEANS THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF RURAL FARMING LAND WILL NOT BE GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY LONG TERM. GREEN SPACE AND FARMLANDS ARE SACROSANCT. NOT SO IN AUSTRALIA. WE DON'T SEEM TO LEARN THE MISTAKES OTHERS HAVE MADE OVER TIME.