

FRS NEWSLETTER

| [Spring 2024 \(2\)](#) |

Free Radio Service Holland is an International non political & non religious Shortwave Free Radio station broadcasting since August 1980.

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P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, The Netherlands



FRS NEWSLETTER: Spring 2024 Edition

Please keep in mind: Unforeseen circumstances can cause an urgent necessity for a frequency change. In most cases FRS will move *to an alternative near by frequency*. And: in most cases we'll put a quick message on top of the FRS site (*latest news*). www.frsholland.nl

Following each broadcast, FRS compiles this *Newsletter* for its listening audience. It contains information regarding the previous broadcast(s) plus informs about future activities.

So...welcome in this second 2024 edition focusing on **FRS' April 28th broadcast** and our tests a week later on Sunday May 5th.

On behalf of the FRS crew thank you for your snail mails/e-mails .

Usually a lot of preparation has to be done before FRS takes to the air. Much more than 'just' recording a show. Therefore we always take a break before starting to reply . To catch a breath. That's why it always takes a few weeks before getting a reply from us. Just for your

information. In this edition we have also enclosed some radio news. *Your comments are appreciated.*

April 28th 2024 broadcast

Traditionally, we are *inactive* during the first months of the new year. To bridge the gap between our December broadcast and the upcoming Summer Splash (July/August), we decided to schedule a regular broadcast at the end of April. Considering the rapidly decreasing shortwave conditions during daytime , it wasn't difficult to plan this broadcast for late afternoon/early evening. And that paid off!

Our entire team was heard during the April broadcast. The start was at 16:52 CEST, and the total broadcast lasted 4 hours and 30 minutes, concluding at 21:34 CEST after Mike Taylor's 'Everything's 80s', followed by the closing tune and the final words from Peter Verbruggen. Unfortunately, we were plagued by frequency issues beforehand. *What was the issue?* Since the broadcast wasn't during the daytime, there could have been interference on 6185 kHz (a frequency we've been using for some time) from a Chinese station on 6190 kHz. Therefore, we decided to switch to 5940 kHz. As for our faithful 7700 outlet... About 2 weeks before the broadcast, we were informed of a problem with the

7700 transmitter. There might have been a solution, but it was far from certain. So, we decided to use 7405 kHz in case the 7700 was unavailable. Ultimately, it turned out that the 7700 transmitter couldn't be repaired in time. In summary: we were heard on **5940, 7405, and 9300** (with low power). The results on 5940 and (especially) 7405 were excellent. 9300 was weak during the first few hours and only became stronger in the final hour. Overall, we are certainly satisfied, knowing that the daytime conditions were very poor, thus justifying the choice for a late start. During the entire broadcast there was no interference from other stations, all 3 frequencies remained clear. The theme throughout the broadcast was a flashback to **April 21, 1991**: that was FRS-Holland's 99th (!) broadcast. Apart from 'FRS goes DX', each show played an extract from almost exactly 33 years ago.

May 3rd : repeat in the evening

Friday evening May 3rd there was an *unplanned* repeat of the previous Sunday April 28th broadcast. FRS was heard on 6275 kHz/ 48 metres. It was about forwarding our ongoing stream at that time via our online platform frsonline.ddns.net. Reception was excellent. A small surprise.... Despite the absence of a pre announcement, we received a number of reception reports.

Some information regarding the **April 21st 1991 broadcast**: a piece of FRS history/ nostalgia. Following a March broadcast, it was Sunday April 21st 1991 when FRS returned on 6280 with 25W of power. The broadcast (from the UK) started an hour too late and lasted just over 3 hours. FRS suffered slight interference from *Ozone Radio* whose signals emanated from the Irish Republic. Mark Stafford presented part of 'FRS goes DX'...rather unique. Presenters were Johnny Best, Joop ter Zee, Mark Stafford & Peter Verbruggen. A solid tea in those days!

FRS-HOLLAND Programme-Schedule for Sunday April 28 th 2024		
UTC Time	Programme Schedule	CEST Time
14:52	Station-Opening : ID's & Theme tune	16:52
15:02	FRS Magazine - Peter Verbruggen with the best music from the past decades. Including the Day Calendar for April 17 th .	10:02
16:00	German Show - Jan van Dijk. Jan mainly focuses on...new indie rock and wave music and features a couple of radio items such as 'Dijk's DX'.	18:00
16:45	Dave Scott's Radiowaves featuring classic rock, modern progressive rock, radio chat and reminiscences about landbased free radio.	18:45
17:30	FRS Goes DX - Peter Verbruggen with News from around the World & SW news	19:30
18:00	Musical Express - Bert van Leer. Music from 70s/80s plus radio related item.	20:00
18:45	Everything 80s - Mike Taylor. Mike concentrates on 1980s tracks including forgotten ones.	20:45
19:30	Close down	21:30

Our first scheduled 2024 broadcast is the 215th ! As always FRS-Holland remains "Just a bit different."

	Streaming service	Date	Time
1	frsonline.ddns.net	Friday May 3rd	16:00- 20:30 UTC/ 18:00- 22:30 CEST

2	frsonline.ddns.net	Monday May 6th	16:00- 20:30 UTC/ 18:00- 22:30 CEST
3	frsonline.ddns.net	Wednesday May 8th*	16:00- 20:30 UTC/ 18:00- 22:30 CEST
4	frsonline.ddns.net	Monday May 13th*	16:00- 20:30 UTC/ 18:00- 22:30 CEST
5	[http://laut.fm/jukebox]	Wednesday May 1st	06:00- 11:00 UTC/ 08:00- 13:00 CEST
6	[http://laut.fm/jukebox]	Saturday May 4th	17:00- 22:00 UTC/ 19:00- 24:00 CEST
7	[http://laut.fm/jukebox]	Sunday May 5th	05:00- 10:00 UTC/ 07:00- 12:00 CEST

* Due to unforeseen circumstances, the scheduled stream for Wednesday, May 8th did not take place. Instead, we were online on Monday, May 13th!

May 5th 2024 broadcast

Already in the Winter edition of this Newsletter we announced a possible test on **13865 kHz**. Why conducting this test? We were (are) very curious about how the signal performs at such a high frequency, keeping in mind reception in the more remote European countries (where we are normally not or only weakly heard), and of course, possible reception in other continents.

To gain a better understanding of the results, it was decided to conduct tests at two completely different times: (1) 08:00 UTC / 10:00 CEST and (2) 16:00 UTC / 18:00 CEST. From the information we had available, **it appeared that 13865 kHz would remain free from possible interference. Would....**

In the morning, it was found that reasonable reception in the more remote European mainland areas was indeed possible. This was evidenced by reception in Cyprus, Romania, and Finland, among others.

Additionally, 13865 was received in **New Hampshire, USA**. We had high expectations for the second test in the afternoon, but it turned out to be merely an illusion. What was found? On 13870 kHz, a strong *Chinese station* was broadcasting with a very wide signal. This caused a lot of interference for us, which was unfortunate because we hadn't taken this into account. Upon inquiry, it was revealed that this was not a weekly recurring (and therefore not a fixed broadcasting time) transmission according to a fixed schedule.

A silver lining was a reception report from **Mangawhai, Northland, New Zealand**, including accurate details, received with someone's own receiving equipment (not an SDR web receiver). Quoting this listener: *"actual audio was not evident until 1644 UTC and with some improvement until the broadcast concluded at 1701 UTC. China Radio International has a strong transmitter on adjacent frequency 13870 in Hausa for Africa from 1630 UTC which caused a little interference."* Remark: the interference was much more intense than 'a little' at many locations. Quoting another (French) listener: *"In the evening, 13865 kHz is a bad frequency. Before 1557, very strong signal on 13860 kHz (China) jamming 13865 kHz. Clear from 1557 to around 1630, but after 1630, impossible to listen, due to a massive signal (China again) on 13870 kHz."*



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Date	CET	kHz	SINPO	Memo
17.12.2023	09:57	7700,4	35333	Heard your
	10:04	6185	45434	Intro Peter Y
	10:10	9330		carrier seen
	10:11	6185	55444	"Drive you f Harvest, Fla Angel, Ever
	11:00			Jan van Dyk Kurzweille,
	11:45		45444	Dave Scott: Mix,
	12:43		45434	Peter Verbr addictives,
	13:07			** sorry ** stream ne
	14:23		45423	back from I Peter Gabri
	15:00			closing dow

Radio:	Yaesu FRG-8800
Antenna:	Dipole: ZS6BKW Direction: NNW to SSE
Location:	JO31eb 40 km west of Cologne Germany
Address:	Klaus Erich Sieber Am Lievendahl 8a D-41812 Erkelenz k.sieber@tutlook.com

STREAMING

Since 2022 FRS is able to set up its own audio streams.

On the photo: recording studio Dave Scott



That offers some extra opportunities. Fact is we do not depend on others. Our stream can be found at: frsonline.ddns.net. Of course *Laut.fm's* facilities will be continued to use following shortwave broadcasts.

PRACTICAL TIP

A **good aerial** is of vital importance! In particular when not using an expensive top receiver. A **telescopic aerial** isn't usually as sensitive as an (outdoor) wire antenna. Even when not having enough space outside, you can try wrapping a metre of **wire** around your telescopic antenna inside the house. Just try and test for the best results. Reception could certainly improve. **It's worth giving it a try...**

RECEPTION REPORTS

When requiring a QSL card (=verification of your reception report) we expect the following items in your report: [details of the programming](#) (over a 15 min. period), **date and time** in UTC or CE(S)T, how well you heard our signal indicated by a **Sinpo code** and what **receiver/antenna** you were using. And not to forget your **location** as we are eager to know where you were listening to our broadcast. See also comprehensive information on our website: <https://frsholland.nl/qsl-policy/>.

We do issue QSLs for **SDR reports** but only if you are *including a Sinpo code* and sufficient (written) details. Even when including an audio mp3/wave recording! Every now and then we receive reports with **no details at all**. Result is a friendly but firm message in which we inform the listener we won't forward a QSL card.

Talking of QSLs: you may make your own choice out of a total of 9 different cards from our '**FRS Through the Years**' series. Make sure it is clearly mentioned in your e-mail or letter via P.O.Box 2702.

Apart from this we sincerely look forward to **personal information** (age, job, family, hobbies etc.) and **programme comments**. It freshens up reading out listener's mails on air!

Apart from using our P.O.Box 2702 in Herten, an alternative for catching a hard copy QSL (much more desirable!) is sending an e-mail report and paying 5 euro via Paypal. Simply use [frs@frsholland.nl].

WEBSITE

In the week before the April broadcast, our brandnew website went online. **Most notable changes/improvements:** the FRS history now extends until 2010 (the missing years up to the present will be added in the coming period). So, many years have been added compared with the previous website which went offline July 2023.

Furthermore, there are quite a number of **new articles and new photos/images**. Also, not unimportantly, **a lot of audio material** has been added (archive program soundbites, jingles, promos). The layout has been completely revised and updated. All in all, a website that is worth preserving and safeguarding our 40+ years of heritage! Thank you to those who have already responded positively to our new site....much appreciated!

NEW STICKER

Since a while we have **brand new stickers** with our station logo. So...if you like to have one or two, you must use our postal Herten maildrop. The sticker is printed in full colour on quality paper, a must have for every FRS listener! Make sure you enclose 3 US dollar or 3 Euro. Combine it with sending in a written report to our Herten maildrop.



April 28th in the FRS-Holland history

A recurrent item in our 'FRS Magazine' show is the *Day Calendar* featuring interesting events on the broadcast's date in the past. This also includes a look back in the **FRS history**: does the broadcasting date (in this case April 28th) match with a date in

the FRS past? Of course this is not always the case but last April it was!

1996 started with the introduction of a new temporary e-mail address: [joop.ter.zee@tip.nl]. The first 'FRS Goes DX' magazine came out late March and the editorial covered an overview of 14½ years of publications. Not without reason: from that moment onwards 'FRS Goes DX' was going to be published quarterly. Producing the magazine had become a very time consuming job, there was too much time pressure and Peter Verbruggen wanted to spend more time on his family and other aspects of radio.

It would take almost 4 months before the first on air activity would take place. **April 28th** would become a disappointing day. Long skip ruled the airwaves and within a radius of 300 kilometres nothing was to be heard. It was the 3rd successive broadcast taking place from the same location and

at 07:00 Speed & Verbruggen took off to the site. The final programme preparations had been done the night before! This time a second rig was in operation, programmes went out on 6252- later 6255- & 6385 kHz. Reception was satisfactory only after 12:00 CET when the 48 mb opened up. That day programmes ended up on 6252 as the other rig had to be switched off due to a faulty modulator.

NEXT BROADCAST

FRS-Holland will return to the airwaves next Summer with the 4th edition of the **FRS Summer Splash**: for 3 consecutive weeks, we are broadcasting **themed programs** in the evening hours between 21:00-23:00 CEST . As always you will be informed by e-mail prior to the planned broadcasts. Detailed info will also be published on our website [frsholland.nl].

MUSICIANS PASSING AWAY IN 2024

In the April 28th 'FRS Magazine' show Peter Verbruggen presented a brief overview of musicians who passed away so far in 2024. Mind you: this list is not complete!

23-01 **Melanie.**

Melanie Anne Safka Schekeryk (February 3, 1947 – January 23, 2024), professionally known as Melanie or Melanie Safka, was an American singer-songwriter. She's widely known for the 1971–72 global hit 'Brand New Key', her 1970 version of the Rolling Stones' 'Ruby Tuesday', her composition 'What Have They Done to My Song Ma' & her 1970 international breakthrough hit 'Lay Down (Candles in the Rain)', which was inspired by her experience of performing at the 1969 Woodstock music festival.

11-03 **Eric Carmen.**

He was an American singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. He was the lead vocalist of **the Raspberries**, with whom he recorded the hit 'Go All the Way' and four albums. He embarked on a solo career in 1975 & had global success with 'All by Myself', 'Hungry Eyes' & 'Make Me Lose Control'.

17-03 **Steve Harley- Cockney Rebel**

Stephen Malcolm Ronald Nice (27 February 1951 – 17 March 2024), known by his stage name Steve Harley, was an English singer-songwriter and frontman of the rock group **Cockney Rebel**. He had six UK hit singles with the band in the mid-1970s, including "Judy Teen", "Mr. Soft", and the number one "Make Me Smile (Come Up and See Me)".

25-03 **Chris Cross- Ultravox.**

Christopher Thomas Allen (14 July 1952 – 25 March 2024), known professionally as Chris Cross, was an English musician, best known as the bass guitarist in the new wave band **Ultravox**. After starting his music career with Stoned Rose, a band in Preston, Lancashire, he was one of the founding members of the band Tiger Lily in 1973, before the band was renamed Ultravox three years later. The

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band's most successful single, "Vienna", was released in 1981.

Offshore Radio Events May

We flashback to the month of May in the past. Most items are related to Offshore radio, however a number of items fall under the category 'News from around the World'.

01-05-1970:

Radio Veronica broadcasts around the clock during the weekend. Radio Capital tests on the 'MV King David'. They broadcast a tape from the BBC World Service. The technician, after all, used to work at the BBC Monitoring department.

01-05-1989: At 11:52 am, Radio Caroline and Radio 819 interrupt their programs. The 'MV Ross Revenge' undergoes a thorough cleaning. The two stations will only sporadically broadcast in the coming days.

01-05-1945: Germany Radio Liberty begins in the Bavarian capital Munich. The station will position itself as an anti-communist station during the Cold War. 01-05-1965: The General Overseas Service becomes the BBC World Service.

01-05-1966: Radio Caroline South stops broadcasting via 199 m on the 'Cheeta II'. The 'MV Mi Amigo' takes over everything via 253 m (AM 1187 kHz).

02-05-1983: Sylvain Tack appears before a Paris court. On 28/11/1981, he was caught by customs at Charles de Gaulle Airport with a fake passport. The former boss of Radio Mi Amigo arrived from Rio De Janeiro with a broken leg. Further inspection, however, led to the discovery of 3.2 kg of drugs hidden in the cast. The creator of 'Suzy Waffles' receives an 8.5-year prison sentence. In 1986, he was



extradited to Belgium due to his involvement with the offshore radio station Radio Mi Amigo. 02-05-1977: There are broadcasts on shortwave on the 'Mebo II', the former Radio North Sea International broadcasting ship. 02-05-2003: Radio Caroline broadcasts unencrypted via the satellite 'Afristar'.

03-05-1970: Radio Veronica broadcasts live from the 'Norderney' for the first time.

03-05-1972: Testing is conducted on the 'Mebo II' with the 10 kW transmitter of Radio 390 on 390 m (medium wave).

03-05-1966: Test broadcasts with a power of 55 kW for



Swinging Radio England & Britain Radio on the broadcasting ship 'Laissez Faire' commence. The frequencies used are 355 m/227 m (medium wave).

04-05-2001: Plans are made for a temporary return of Radio Northsea International on AM 1503 kHz via the lightship 'LV18' or 'Mebo III'. The start date is scheduled for June 3, 2001. They are considering staying on air for 28 days.

04-05-1966: Radio Tower is heard for the last time. There is little heard from the fort transmitter afterward.

04-05-1992: After Radio Caroline started on April 7, 1992, the temporary license expired. Thanks to Quality FM, the former offshore station continues via the 'Astra' satellite at midnight.

05-05-1984: Following the failure of the helium balloon experiment,



the installation of two transmission towers on the 'MV Communicator' is completed.

06-05-1984: Test broadcasts of Laser begin after the installation of the two new transmission towers on the 'MV Communicator' with a 2-hour carrier wave on AM 558.

06-05-1937: Radio reporter Herbert Morrison of WLS (Chicago) experiences one of the greatest disasters in aviation history. During landing in particularly bad weather near Lakehurst, the Zeppelin 'Hindenburg' catches fire. 13 passengers and 22 crew members out of the 97 present perish. The legendary report is swiftly delivered to his employer and then played. NBC Radio Network takes over large portions the next day.

08-05-1973: Radio Caroline is back on 389 m (medium wave) with a 10 kW transmitter.

08-05-1976: Radio Caroline continues testing on 192 m. They take over the programs from 259m.

08-05-1985: Liz West presents the first 'Euro Hit Top 40' on Laser 558.

08-05-2000: The revival of Radio Northsea International on AM 1575 kHz ends at 6:00 am on the 'Mebo III'. Success was elusive due in part to the poor condition of the ship and the low number of visitors.

09-05-1964: Radio Atlanta tests with presenter Bob Scott on the 'MV Mi Amigo' at 6:00 pm via AM 1520 kHz.

09-05-1978: Radio Mi Amigo stops broadcasting from 2:59 pm to 4:52 pm. This allows technicians the opportunity to work on the antenna.

10-05-1982: 77WABC discontinues the 'Top 40' format. The New York station aims to profile itself as a full-time talk radio station.



11-05-1960: The 'Borkum Riff', Radio Veronica's broadcasting ship, anchors off the coast of Scheveningen.

12-05-1964: Radio Atlanta starts at 6:00 am this morning on 201 m (medium wave). Colin Nicol is the first presenter with a pre-recorded show.

13-05-1970: After going off the air due to severe interference and a minor fire, Radio Northsea International returns on the 'Mebo II', on 244 m (AM 1233 kHz). The jammer at the Rochester (Kent) naval base reacts but hampers the reception of BBC Radio 1 on 247 m (AM 1214 kHz). Radio Northsea International ('RNI') decides to stay on air.

13-05-1973: Radio Caroline uses a 50 kW transmitter on 259 m (medium wave). RNI goes DX' with A.J. Beirens on Radio Northsea International via the 'Mebo II' announces the end of the 'World Service' on SW (shortwave). 'World in Action' and 'DX' continue.

13-05-1995: Don Allan dies of a heart attack. The Canadian had worked in Mexico and the US before coming to Europe. Since December 1964, he had been with Radio Caroline South and Radio Caroline North. After a brief stint at Manx Radio, he joined Radio Noordzee Internationaal in 1972. During the last years of his life, he was with Radio 3 in Tullamore, Ireland.

14-05-1973: After the construction of a new transmitter mast on the 'MV Mi Amigo', testing is conducted on AM 388 m (773 kHz).

14-05-1976: Tony Allan presents as the first on Radio Caroline on AM 192 m. Later, tapes and album tracks are played. The dream of a full-time service becomes a reality. Radio Mi Amigo remains on 259m (AM 1187 kHz).

15-05-1971: The crew on board the broadcasting ship of Radio Northsea International, the 'Mebo II', is startled by a loud bang at 10:50 pm. Alan West sends out the first distress signals at 10:55 pm. The quick intervention of the Dutch ships 'Volans' and 'Smitsbank' prevents a disaster. Everyone except three people boards the 'Volans' and the tender 'Eurotrip'.

15-05-1979: Off the coast of Goeree, a new broadcasting ship of Radio Delmare, the 'Aegir II', lies. They plan to conduct tests with a power of 2 to 3 kW within a few days.

15-05-1973: The test broadcasts on the 'MV Mi Amigo' via AM 773 kHz suddenly end at 7:30 pm. They will continue later on AM 1187 kHz.



15-05-1976: Peter Chicago works overtime on the 'MV Mi Amigo'. The technician manages to get a second transmitter running. Thus, Radio Caroline moves to 192 m during the day while Radio Mi Amigo remains on 259 m (medium wave). In the evening, Radio Caroline broadcasts on both frequencies.

16-05-1964: At the Irish shipyard of the Dutchman Cornelis Verolme in Cobh near Cork, an island for Radio and TV Noordzee is being built. After all parts are ready, the platform is loaded onto a former tanker. However, a crane collapses under the 160-ton structure and crashes onto the ship's deck. This delays the crossing. The 'MV Global Adventure' must go to the port of Southampton for repairs.

17-05-1976: Radio Mi Amigo starts with a new programming schedule.

17-05-1960: Radio Veronica on the 'Borkum Riff' starts broadcasting after several tests on AM 192 m (medium wave).

18-05-1970: At the request of Czechoslovakia, Radio Northsea International is once again jammed by a 10 kW jammer from the Navy.

19-05-1972: Following the bombing of the 'Mebo II' of Radio Northsea International on 15/5/1971, the masterminds, Bull Verwey, Norbert Jurgens from Radio Veronica, and three divers involved were arrested. A few months later, they each received a one-year prison sentence. Considering Bull Verwey's four-month pre-trial detention, he was released.

19-05-1973: Israel: Abie Nathan launches 'The Voice of Peace' from the 'MV Peace'. It was unclear whether the item was recorded before or during the departure to Tel Aviv.

21-05-2018: Absolute Radio cuts costs and closes 12 AM stations. These include Hoo (Thames): AM 1197 kHz, Dundee: AM 1242 kHz, Aberdeen: AM 1215 kHz, Guilford: AM 1260 kHz, Swindon: AM 1233 kHz & Sheffield: AM: 1233 kHz.

24-05-1972: At Radio Noordzee Internationaal on the 'Mebo II', an old shortwave transmitter is converted into an AM transmitter. Test broadcasts are conducted on AM 773 kHz.

24-05-1984: Ric Harris launches Laser 558 on the 'MV Communicator' at 6:00 am after a tumultuous preparation. Other presenters include Steve Masters, Jessie Brandon, and David Lee Stone.

24-05-1994: Owner Richard Branson's initial attempt to obtain an FM frequency for Virgin Radio fails.

25-05-1967: British Judge O'Connor rules Radio 390 as illegal. The studios on the former Navy fort 'Red Sands' are within British territory. Despite appeals, on 28/7/1967, Judge Sellers rejects the application.

26-05-1977: Marc Jacobs broadcasts a test program overnight as a joke under the name 'Radio Atlantis'.

27-05-1964: The eccentric singer Screaming Lord Sutch recently announced the establishment of his radio station. Originally, the intention was to use the fishing vessel Cornucopia for this purpose, but during a voyage, Sutch discovered the former Navy fort 'Shivering Sands'. The decision to build a studio there is quickly made. However, the poor reception of Radio Sutch on 1542 kHz, announced by the DJs as 197m and 200m (medium wave), leads to disappointing results.



27-05-1964: Radio Sutch tests on the fort 'Shaving Sands' via 195m (AM 1542 kHz). The reception on the frequency, announced by the DJs as 197m and 200m (medium wave), is very disappointing.

27-05-1967: Paul Beresford receives a severe electric shock during 'Saturday Night at Nine' on Radio 390 when a lightning strike hits the mixing desk. With much fright and trembling hands, he manages to recover and continue after a few minutes.

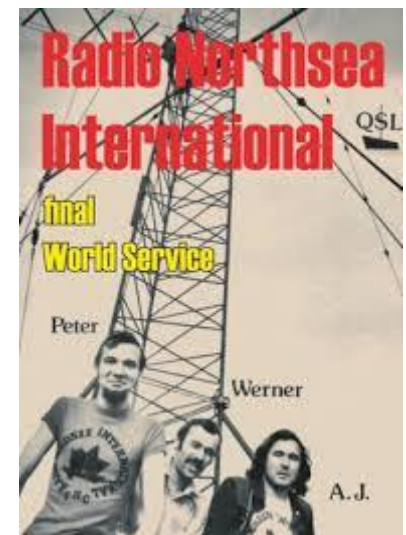
27-05-1973: The World Service at Radio Northsea International, which had been on KW 6205 kHz since 12/11/1972, ceases. 'RNI goes DX' and 'Our World in Action' move to Sunday mornings.

27-05-1984: Paul Dean, Paul May at Radio Northsea International, starts at Laser 558. His arrival reduces the shows to four hours.

28-05-1970: Radio Northsea International on the 'Mebo II' alternates every fifteen minutes between AM 1227 kHz and AM 1232 kHz to evade the jammer. However, it proves to be futile.

30-05-1960: The 'MS Olga' arrives in the port of Hamburg where it is being equipped as a broadcasting ship for the Norwegian Radio Nord at the 'Norder Werft'. The cargo hold will house the studios, transmitter room, and sleeping quarters. The plan to install two masts on the deck is abandoned for technical reasons. Additionally, the name 'MS Olga' is replaced by 'MV Bon Jour'.

30-05-2013: The 150 kW powerful AM transmitter of AFN in Weisskirchen, north of Frankfurt am Main, is permanently shut down. The American Forces Network will largely withdraw from Europe.



Mailbox 2702



In this section, a selection of the emails and letters we received in response to our April broadcast, the partial (and unexpected) repeat on Friday, May 3rd, and the test broadcast on Sunday, May 5th. Every e-mail or letter via POBox 2702 is much appreciated. We'd love to hear from you. Not only the reception quality but also some personal info & comments on the broadcast. Thanks a lot to all of you who responded to our April and /or May broadcast(s).

"Dear Radio FRS Holland, I am a listener from China. Today I received your program signal at 14:52-16:00UTC. The frequency is 5940kHz, the signal is very strong, the listening effect is very clear. Here I want to apply for a paper QSL card (e-QSL is also OK, if there are souvenirs with FRS-Holland's logo, it would be even better.." *(we are glad to verify correct reports with one of our A5 multi coloured QSLs plus sticker, in such case make sure to either send your report to our Herten address with 3 euros/3 US dollars enclosed. An alternative is to pay via PayPal (use frs@frsholland.nl) and then you can simply send your report via email- PV).* Dinglu, Jiangyin city, Jiangsu province, China.

"It is with great pleasure that I listen to your program. Frequency: 5940KHz. Reception conditions: SINPO= 45343. Receiver: web Kiwi SDR receiver via Alberschwende, Austria. Antenna: 80m long vertical loop. I am a 60 years old pharmacist. My experience of shortwave reception is 47 years. I have found a great pleasure in this hobby. Your Radio show has a great value."

Kazuaki Oikawa, Kawasaki-city, Kanagawa-ken, Japan..

“Dear FRSH, just now I am listening to your programme on 7405 kHz. It would be an exaggeration to say that reception is good. There is some weak fading, locally produced noise (I reside right in the middle of town) but so far no interference from other stations. When I returned to my radio room at 19:30 CET reception *had greatly improved* on 7405 kHz. At 19:30 you talked about the new website. It's quite refreshing hearing a station that devotes so much energy to presenting real radio programmes with lots of interesting information. Receiver: Sangean ATS 909. Halmstad is located on the West Coast of Sweden.” [Christer Brunström, Halmstad / Sweden.](#)



A message from the Netherlands (translated): “Dear people at FRS-Holland, through the Facebook page of my DX club (BDXC), I heard that you were on the air today. As a result, I was able to enjoy your program today. I heard you on 5940, 7405, and 9300 kHz. The latter frequency seemed to drift a bit and was of the lowest quality due to generally weaker signals. 5940 kHz and 7405 kHz were better, with strong signals and little interference. I am 61 years old and have been interested in radio since I was 17. However, career and life caused me to spend less and less time with the radio in recent years. That's how things go. Now that I am retired, I have plenty of time for my old hobby again. You can read about it on my blog: [www.petersdxcorner.nl].” [Peter Reuderink, Woerden, the Netherlands.](#)

“ Dear Peter and FRSH-mates, the long wait was worth it: Thanks for yesterday's great broadcast after the long dry spell! And the conditions also played their part: I'm glad to report that 7405 kHz offered a solid signal (O=4) over the complete broadcast. 5940 kHz also worked well, but in direct comparison some weaker than 7405 kHz. The new FRSH-website has become an almost inexhaustible archive and wonderful treasure trove! Thanks for all the great work on this! [Michael Geisel, Pfullingen/ Germany.](#)



“ Hello FRSH, I could receive euhe station moderately in Leipzig / Germany today on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 17:56 to 18:03 UTC on 5940 Khz. There is also a video recording with my receiver, a Tecsun PL 365 with telescopic antenna.” [Dieter Leupold, Leipzig/ Germany.](#)

“Dear FRSH, informed by email, I was looking forward to your transmission on Sunday 28th and -for sure- tuned in awaiting another "lazy sunday afternoon" with good music and interesting, varied programme. My "reception report" is somewhat meagre as I preferred to listen and only sporadically took some notes. 5940 and 7405 kHz were good to receive and very similar in quality, but in the range of 9300 ... 9345 there was no sign of FRSH. Congratulations on the new website! Very tidy, clearly structured, unobtrusive colors, pleasant to read, in short: inviting! A big THANK YOU for the

felicitous Sunday and I'll be back for Your test on 13865 kHz! [Klaus Erich Sieber, Erkelenz/ Germany.](#)
 “Yesterday I spent a wonderful time listening to Free Radio Service Holland, the best of the pirate radio stations for its team and programme quality. I had the feeling to be Invited to take part to the show somewhere in the Netherlands. SINPO:4-5-4-4-4. A powerful and very clear signal made the listening nearly perfect. [Jacques Augustin, Rosny-sous-Bois/ France.](#)

“Unfortunately, I missed the December broadcast due to some health problems however, I am pleased to say that I did manage to hear part of your broadcast yesterday, 28th April 2024, and as always, I do hope my latest report will be of some interest: I heard you from 18.27 to 19.35tc on 7405 kHz. Reception was good with a SINPO of 45444. Frequency was clear of any interference with just some very slight noise and fading at times. As always, I heard you on my Eton satellite 750 receiver with telescopic whip antenna, at my home in the small town of Padiham, in the county of Lancashire, in the northwest of England. [Allen Dean, Padiham/ England](#).

“Hallo! And congratulations on the launch of your brand-new website! As for your Spring broadcast on 28th April, I was ready in front of my (husband’s) radio in our kitchen at 14:52 (UTC).

Unfortunately, I heard hardly anything on all the advertised frequencies, so I gave up on it for a while. When I switched on the radio again a little before 17:30 (UTC), I was pleasantly surprised that the reception on 5940 kHz was quite good. It’s sad to hear that quite many radio stations have recently stopped (or will stop) their broadcast. On the other hand, it’s encouraging to hear that some European (especially Dutch) private stations are determined to “keep shortwave alive”.

To: FRS Holland

RECEPTION REPORT

I am pleased to inform you that I have listened to your radio broadcast.

1. Date (UTC): 28 April 2024
 2. Time (UTC): 17:30 - 18:25
 3. Place: St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, U.K.
 4. Frequency: 5940 kHz
 5. Reception Quality: SINPO = 45333
 6. Receiver: SONY CFM-23L (with a built-in telescopic antenna)
 7. Contents
- 17:30 Station ID & information, listeners’ names, later broadcast contents, etc.
17:33 <Latest Radio News>
Radio Caroline (60th anniversary), Obituaries, etc.
17:41 <Latest Radio News>
Website for creating jingles, Radio Mi Amigo, Books, Off-shore radio & radio in vehicles in USA, Podcasts, Radio Monique, Morse code cor
Sunshine Radio (switching off), etc.

[Misayo Tanaka, St.Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, U.K.](#)

“Warm greetings to FRS Holland and to all The Netherlands! I am Norbert F5202SWL, a 60 years old french SWL from Paris southern suburbia. I have picked up the FRS Holland show yesterday May 3rd, 2024 on 6275 kHz AM. Nice music program with a dynamic presentation, I spent a good time! Thanks keeping SW alive, I stay tuned to your airwaves ! [Norbert Faynot, Saaint Germain les Arpajon/ France](#).

“My name is Göte Lindström and I am writing to you because I heard your radio station FRS Holland on 6275 kHz shortwave on May 3, 2024 from 20.17 to 20.19 your local time). I listened to FRS Holland and you played some really good music. For listening I used my Perseus receiver and a 500 meters long beverage antenna at my home in Tenhult. I have been a radio enthusiast since 1969 and my favorites are stations in the AM/mediumwave band but I also listen to shortwave. Over the years I have received confirmations from approximately 2850 stations in 167 different countries. My radio receivers are a Perseus software defined receiver and an ELAD FDM-S2 software defined receiver and I use directional antennas beamed to different parts of the world. I also use different remote controlled Kiwi-SDR receivers in the Nordic countries. I am also a radio amateur or HAM-operator with the call sign SM7XUF. I am 69 years old and four years ago I retired from my work as CFO and Real Estate Manager at Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola, which is a school for students over 18, in Jönköping in the south of Sweden. I wish you all the best in your work with your station.

[Göte Lindström, Tenhult/ Sweden](#).

“Hello from France, Yesterday afternoon I came back from a trip in Korea & Taiwan, so this morning I was able to listen to your test broadcast on 13865 kHz. The signal was good, with always nice music. So here is a short reception report. This afternoon at 1600 UTC on 13865 kHz, reception was better than this morning. Medium signal, low noise, light fading. So a quite nice reception. I had time to

visit your new website, a very nice one. Very easy to visit and found any info.

[Christian Ghibaudo, Tende \(near Nice\)/ France](#)

Dear Peter, here is an SDR reception report from a Kiwi SDR in Salerno , Italy which was the best , almost the only place I could hear the transmission apart from a weak signal in Cyprus. May I kindly request an eQSL card to add to my FRS Holland collection as confirmation? [Nick Sharpe, Laleham/ UK.](#)

FROM the FRS-HOLLAND ARCHIVES

In the past few years we've been welcoming many new listeners. At the same time we are proud knowing there are listeners out there who already tuned our way in the 1980s, the first years of the station. In all those 40+ years FRS's history became longer and richer: there are many stories to be told. In this column we dig up some of them...

In this edition we go back in time 30 years. We recall (part of) 1994...a year with ups-and-downs. Sunday January 9th 1994 FRS-Holland started with fresh courage. However, 1994 did not appear to be a fantastic year. For more than 6 months FRS-Holland remained silent.... But it also was a reunion with the suitcase seized in 1983 containing two 10W transmitters. Quite special!

Following a few set backs in the 2nd half of 1993, FRS was determined to start the new year **1994** with a loud bang. For the second time WGAS- the World Greatest Anorak Station- would act as relay station. But before that happened, FRS got an unexpected offer for the 9th of January. Programmes commenced on 6219 but had to move to 5944. This unusual switch was announced live on air by the responsible station OP. Too much interference resulted in a yet another switch to 6229 and finally FRS ended up where it started that morning: 6219. On the 16th FRS chose to use 7414 kHz within the 41 mb. That would be better for continental listeners, taking advantage of the longer path of the 41 mb signal (emanating from the UK). Conditions appeared to be rather weird- in The Netherlands almost 2 hours non reception and in Germany a listenable signal- and January would be the start of a very poor period. February 20th once again poor conditions during the WGAS relay. At 13.57 CET the

FRS-HOLLAND SPECIAL QSL	
<<1980-1994: 14 Years of FRS-Holland on SW>>	
TO	
DATE	Sunday October 16th 1994
TIME	FREQUENCIES 6283/ 7419
SINPO's	6283 7419
POWER	48 metres 6283: 40W 41 metres 7419: 250W
AERIAL	on both 48 & 41 metres open half wave dipoles

transmitter left the airwaves: both tape machine and programme tapes were stolen. As a result no 14:00-18:00 repeat took place. WGAS agreed to repeat the shows March 6th. Luckily Peter had copies of the programming. Next WGAS relay was on April 24th on a new channel: 6220 operating in parallel with 7419. For only this occasion FRS was to be relayed on two parallel frequencies. This time a more or less strong signal on 48 but a very poor modulation. 7419

was weak or non-receivable most of the broadcast. So far 1994 was very disappointing with a lack of quality signals and poor listener's response. FRS went silent for 6 months. Looking back we didn't regret the decision to take that long break as propagation continued to be very poor that Summer. Despite the lack of broadcast activities, the 1994 summer brought some exciting news. 'FRS Goes DX' subscribers received early July edition #129 which was totally restyled. The slogan we used in those days was: 'FRS Goes DX, the magazine for the internationally orientated radio listener.

Peter Verbruggen remembers: "It was in July that Joop ter Zee and I together would go to De Hague

where we would meet up with good old Gerd. Reason for the De Hague trip was the PTT exhibition 'On the air, off the air' which was all about illegal radio broadcasting equipment being confiscated by the RCD, a PTT division and exhibited in the PTT museum. We hoped for that our former 10W transmitters were part of that exhibition. January 16th 1983 FRSH was raided and a wooden trunk containing our two 10W SW transmitters was confiscated. A year later- 1984- both rigs were to be seen on Dutch television and it was then that we discovered that the RCD had not been destroying our equipment. From certain sources we learnt that there was a kind of little museum at the RCD Headquarters in Nederhorst den Berg in which several unique confiscated transmitters had been stored. As soon as we



heard about the exhibition in De Hague we planned to make a trip to find out whether the wooden trunk was among the exhibits. Saturday July 23rd, a very hot 30+ temperature day, Joop and I drove to De Hague with some expectations and a large cool box full of tins with cola etc. We reached De Hague early in the afternoon and nearly 15 minutes later we met Gerd in the museum. The exhibition was on the second floor and we all were very curious. A few minutes later we caught sight of a large brown trunk. It

really seemed nothing had changed since 1983. Inside the trunk, two complete built-in 10W transmitters each one having 3 valves: an ECC82, an 807 and an 6L6. Even the X-tals, modulation wire and SWR metre were inside. Strange to face a piece of FRS nostalgia- no doubt THE piece of FRS nostalgia!- after a period of 11 years. Once this wooden trunk belonged to FRS-Holland- it was FRS-Holland- because it were the transmitters inside giving us the success in our early years. 'With a power of only 10,000 milliwatts' ...remember that 1980 jingle. Of course there was much more stuff to be looked at. We discovered that pirates can be very inventive people when looking how some transmitters were hidden (for instance in a vacuum cleaner or a cookie tin). July 23rd 1994: it appeared to be a very special day, a remembrance which won't fade out. In the mean time all the equipment is once again in Nederhorst den Berg. By the way a place which is not opened to the public. We think the wooden trunk still is there..."

'FRS goes DX' news

Some time ago one of our loyal listeners suggested to include some of the 'FRS goes DX' items in this Newsletter. Particularly some of the mentioned web links aren't always easy to reproduce.

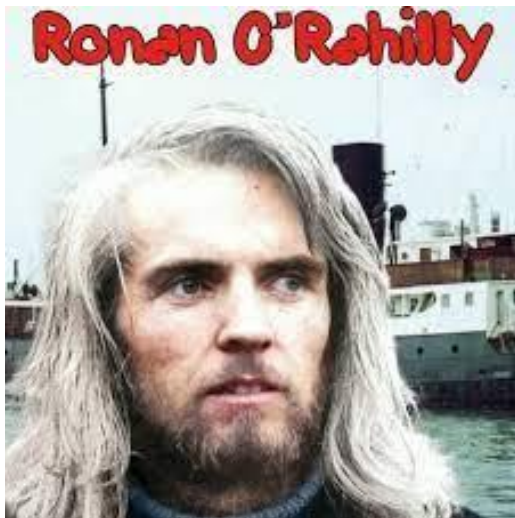
Obituaries

We were sad to hear of the death of **David Gapes**, co-founder of Radio Hauraki. A pioneer of pirate

radio, he ventured into international waters in 1966 to broadcast pop music to Auckland. Following four years at sea, Radio Hauraki obtained a commercial license in 1970. Gapes remained with the station as an executive until 1977.

Andrew Turner, born in 1954, had a notable career in radio journalism. Beginning in local radio, he later joined BBC Radio One's Newsbeat as a journalist, becoming a regular voice on the Breakfast Show during the era of hosts like Dave Lee Travis and Mike Read. Turner then transitioned to freelance work, serving as news chief for Laser Hot Hits and Radio Blue Danube in Vienna. Following stints with LBC/IRN and publisher Robert Maxwell, he joined the Press Office of Sky TV. Turner's voice was also heard on Atlantic 252 and Capital Gold. He passed away on March 7th, 2024. [extract Andrew Turner on the first full day of programming from Laser Hot Hits, 7th December 1986] Adrienne Sebastian-Scott, also known as Judy Murphy, briefly worked for Radio Caroline in 1988 before moving on to Radio Luxembourg 208 and Sunshine Radio in Luxembourg. Herbert Visser introduced her to Caroline when the station needed staff. Adrienne began her radio career after visiting Radio 10 in the Netherlands.

On the 4th of February, it was announced that former radio DJ and presenter, **Jan van Veen**, passed away at the age of 79, after a short illness. He started his radio career on September 1st 1964 aboard Radio Veronica, where he later also became programme manager. In 1971 he joined RNI together with former Veronica px-director Joost de Draaier.



April 20th it was 4 years ago that the flamboyant Irishman **Ronan O'Rahilly** (79), who shook the BBC's monopoly in 1964 with the arrival of Radio Caroline aboard the 'mv Fredericia', passed away due to complications from aspiration pneumonia (numenia). Offshore Echo's published a deserved memorial to Ronan O'Rahilly with a 135-minute documentary DVD 'Ronan O'Rahilly – The Glorious Madness'. For more information about this new DVD go to: [www.offshoreechos.com] or write to: Offshore Echos PO Box 1514 London W7 2LL, England.

Hans Knot & Martin van de Ven: brand new website

Hans Knot streamlined his archives. In the history of radio, the 'adventures' of offshore radio stations continue to captivate the imagination. This is evident in the sustained interest in the phenomenon through hundreds of websites and streams that build upon that unique period. In December 1996, 'Offshore Radio Links' went online for the first time. A few years later, it became the Offshore Radio Guide. Over the past 27 years, hansknot.com, radioday.nl, seesender.de, radiocaroline.de, and broadcasting-fleet.com have gradually been added. As it was time for a more modern layout and, above all, a streamlining of the various pages, the new internet platform '**Offshore Radio Nostalgia – A kaleidoscope of the Watery Wireless era**' is now online. It features hundreds of articles by Hans Knot, news, contributions, links, and access to 30,000 photos and numerous vid Thanks Martin for this very time-consuming work produced this excellent new site.

Bits and Pieces

* **Jingleweb.nl launches Jinglegek.nl**, an online radio station dedicated to jingles, tunes, and podcasts about radio and TV design. Created by CSN Media and Dutch Jingleweb.nl, it offers a variety of content, including jingle demos, specials, and podcasts on radio design. The official launch was on January 29. Visit [www.jinglegek.nl] for more details.

* Amidst new English fiction books, our attention was drawn to a novel by successful American author Alexander Hamilton Cherin titled '**The Mighty 690**'. The title refers to the legendary AM radio station from Tijuana, Mexico, which broadcasted Top 40 music to Southern California with 50 kilowatts of power in the late '70s and early '80s. Set in the summer of 1981, the book narrates a radio contest remembered by the author since age 11, offering a fictionalized account of the events where listeners had to search for a \$50,000 treasure based on clues. Despite some factual inaccuracies, the book vividly portrays California's flourishing radio scene during that golden era. It's now being promoted in major European online bookstores, priced between 18 to 25 euros.

* An outstanding story: Less than a month after copper thieves caused an FM transmission tower to collapse in Oklahoma, stealing copper wires and pipes, a radio station owner in Alabama reports an even more shocking story: their 60-meter tower was stolen, following a pattern of thefts targeting radio infrastructure. Discovered by a maintenance crew in Walker County, the transmitter building was destroyed, and the entire structure vanished.

* The **Media Network Vintage Vault** can be found at: [jonathanmarks.libsyn.com].

* A link to an item on German NDR Television: It's about the **Galaxy from Radio London** in Hamburg and Kiel with very interesting shots: [www.ndr.de].

Mi Amigo 50

A radio station that hasn't broadcasted for 44 years but still has a devoted fanbase. Mi Amigo, the Flemish/Dutch offshore radio station, operated from the Mi Amigo for over five years, becoming more than just a radio station; it was an adventure filled with chases, confiscations, court battles, dramatic sea rescues, media attention, and of course, music, charismatic DJs, and memorable jingles. 'Mi Amigo 50' commemorates this legacy for the last time, following previous events in Oostende (2014) and Blankenberge (2019). This year's event will feature live radio broadcasts from the MV Castor, anchored in Terneuzen on June 28th, 29th, and 30th, with the same dedicated team ensuring its success. In addition, these broadcasts are relayed by various LPAM stations in the Netherlands on medium wave. The online radio station KL85 provides support with the assistance of Broadcast Partners. Mi Amigo 50 is organized by the non-profit organization Nordica.



Laser Radio

The iconic offshore radio station Laser 558, prominent in the mid-1980s, has returned as a British online station to commemorate its 40th anniversary since its original launch on May 24, 1984. The stream features polished fragments and original commercials from the 1980s, playing hits from the mid-1980s alongside a mix of music from the 1950s to the 1970s, including Motown, reggae,

and rock 'n roll. Original DJs such as Rick Harris, David Lee Stone, Tommy Rivers, Jessie Brandon, Craig Novak, and Charlie Wolf are part of the stream, filling the airwaves daily during the same time period. Director Steve Bannister views the comeback as a complement to current radio trends, offering listeners the option to tune in to streams with the original AM feel or original off-air recordings of Laser 558. Just over 3 weeks from now- May 24th- it's exactly 40 years ago since Laser 558's start. [laser558.live/].

Shortwave related items

* shortwavearchive.com/archive/ offers a collection of shortwave radio recordings that you can download or listen to as a podcast. The collection grows every day and includes both historic recordings and current recordings from the shortwave radio spectrum.

* **Raids:** Two well-known stations have been raided in recent months. Charleston Radio International was taken off the air on February 28th after being on the air for about 6 years, even running 24/7 for the last 4 years, mostly on 5140 kHz with music from the 1920s to 1940s along with radio snippets of that era. The station was located in the South of Switzerland, transmitter power was about 160 watts fed into a Diamond W735 aerial some 15 metres above the ground. According to station manager Harry Richman Charleston Radio International is finished and he has no intention to return to the airwaves.

Radio Augusta International was silenced by the authorities on April 4th. The station had been on 1611 kHz almost every day for a couple of years. Augusta transmitted from a small village next to the border between Belgium and France. The 400 watt transmitter was seized by the Belgian radio authority. Augusta continues on the internet at [www.radioaugusta.com].

* **RealMix Radio** is a new shortwave station from the Southwest of Finland that started transmissions on March 2nd and is active throughout the weekend on 6185 kHz. Power is 15 watts but should be increased in future to 250 watts. Programmes are in Finnish and English. Reports by email are welcome at [realmix.sw@gmail.com].

* **Moonair Radio** is a rather new project run by a Dutchman who is said to be living in Germany now. The station was first logged in December 2023 and has been active on 48 metres 6275 kHz but also on the unusual frequency of 5999 kHz, both in the morning and afternoon hours. Power is around 50 watts. Email address: [moonair@mail.de].

* **World Music Radio** – WMR: the problems with the antenna for 927 kHz in Copenhagen seem finally to have been solved, and the daytime coverage in Denmark and Southern Sweden is very good until sunset when the signal is spoiled by the strong Italian station on 927 kHz 'Power 927'. Currently World Music Radio's 15700 and 25800 kHz are giving good results in many places – as well as 5930 kHz in Northern Europe. All four WMR frequencies – 927, 5930, 15700, and 25800 kHz are on the air every day 24 hours a day. [www.wmr.dk].

All the best & 73s, Peter V. (on behalf of Jan, Dave, Mike, Bert & Brian)

"FRS-Holland, not just a station but a tradition"

We are curious if you like this style of FRS Newsletter. Your input is more than welcome!

[frs@frsholland.nl] or P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, The Netherlands.

Of course the FRS Newsletter is free of charge.

Any **small donation** is welcome via Paypal [use frs@frsholland.nl] or of course via our POBox.