



The OLDEHOVE of LEEUWARDEN



THE OLDEHOOFSTERKERKHOF

The square Oldehoofsterkerkhof used to be the main cemetery in Leeuwarden until 1833. The slabs with historical information in the square, that are designed like gravestones, are reminders of that period. These slabs - together with occasionally spouting fountains - indicate the location of the

former Saint Vitus church, that was demolished in the early part of the 18th century. In 2006 the square was transformed into an event plaza, with an underground car park. Today the Oldehove often functions as background to all kinds of activities.

A FEW FACTS:

- . Height of tower: 39 m (127 ft) without timbered top, 48 m (157 ft) with timbered top.
- . Number of steps: 183
- . Angle of leaning: 1.99 m (6.5 ft)
- . The Oldehove is not the most lop-sided tower in the Netherlands; that is the one in the village of Miedum (in the municipality of Leeuwarden!)
- . Among other things the Oldehove has been used as timepiece, storage space, observation post, status symbol and tourist attraction.



VISITOR'S INFORMATION

MORE INFORMATION:

- . The book 'Oldehove, scheve toren van Leeuwarden' by Erwin Boers (on sale for € 7,50).
- . Visit the nearby Historisch Centrum Leeuwarden for more information about the Oldehove and the history of Leeuwarden.

ADMISSION:

- Adults: € 3
- Children <12 years old: € 1,50
- Special rates are available for group visits. The Oldehove is included in several arrangements. Your Oldehove entrance ticket offers free access to the Pier Pander Museum in the Prinsentuin.

OPENING TIMES:

- 1 May - 30 September
- Monday: closed
- Tuesday-Sunday: 13.00-17.00



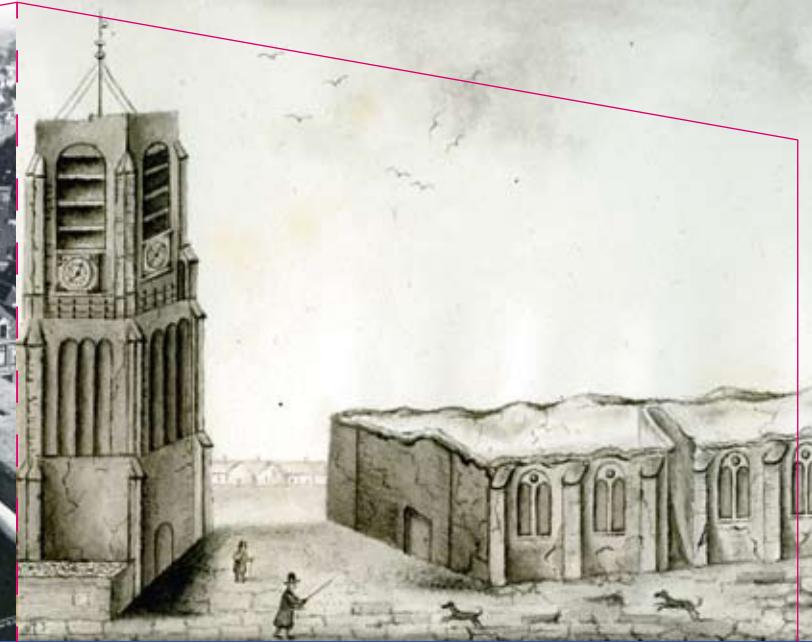
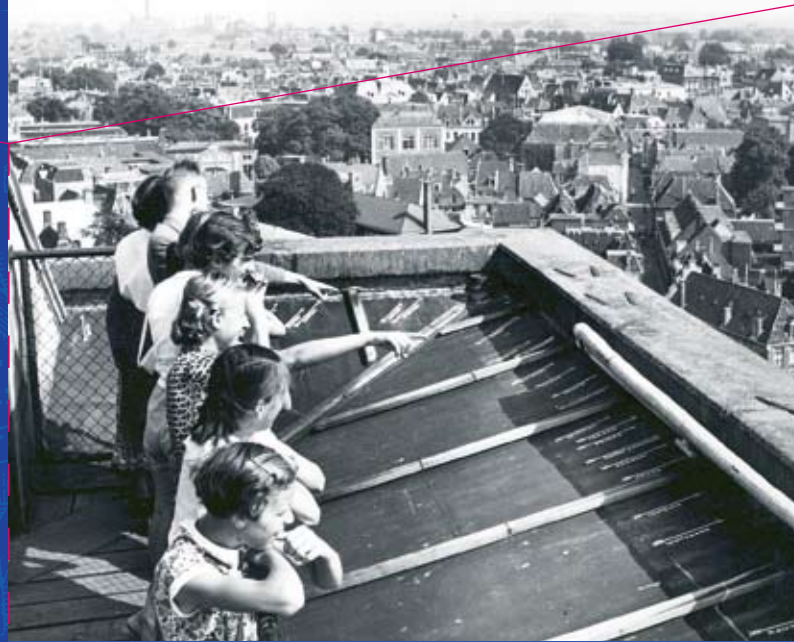
www.historischcentrumleeuwarden.nl



HISTORISCH CENTRUM | LEEUWARDEN

THE OLDEHOVE

Construction of this leaning, curved and unfinished tower began in 1529. The original plan included attaching a new church to the tower, which would replace the old Saint Vitus church, but this was never realized. Master builder Jacob van Aken was unlucky from the start, because the tower began to sink during construction. In an effort to compensate for the tilt, it was decided to continue to build perpendicular on top of the leaning bottom. Because of this the tower is also curved. Construction was subsequently halted in 1533 and has never been resumed. The tower never reached its intended height of about 120 m. Although the Oldehove has never been used for special purposes, it acquired a symbolic status nevertheless. Inhabitants of Leeuwarden are proud of their Oldehove. 'I feel rather homesick, when I cannot see the Oldehove', is a well-known saying in the local dialect. The tower is managed by Historisch Centrum Leeuwarden (HCL) since 2010.



IN AND ON THE OLDEHOVE

The timeline on the ground floor gives an impression of the fascinating history of dwelling mound Oldehove and the tower of the same name. Several showcases contain archaeological findings from the surrounding area.



The bell in the back of the tower used to hang in the Nieuwe Toren (new tower), which was demolished at the end of the 19th century. The bell was probably mounted in the Oldehove in 1915. It is called De Leeuw (lion) and was founded in Antwerp in 1541.

The wooden floor is engraved with names of people who played an important role in the history of the Oldehove.

The 16th century gravestone of Tiete van Cammingha originates from the former Saint Vitus church. It was moved from the Oldehoofsterkerkhof to the tower in 1933.

An elevator was fitted in the Oldehove in 1916 and was dismantled again in the 1950s. With financial support from the Friesland Bank, a new, glass elevator was reinstalled in 2011, which takes visitors to the first floor.

The first floor houses a multimedia presentation about the leaning tower, which is presented by the fictional tower guard Teake.



The stairs lead to a gallery with two bells, that were founded in Leeuwarden in 1633 and 1636. They were mainly used for mourning the dead, but also for celebrating holidays and for warning in case of imminent danger or fire. The voice is of Leeuwarder performer Anne Feddema.

He praises the bells of the Oldehove in a Frisian poem from the early 20th century:

Translation of the poem:

Bells of our Oldehove
Drone across our fatherlands meadows
Sing about our ancestors' deeds in sounds
Sing for us about old Frisian allegiance
Oldehove, Oldehove

The fireplace in the recess used to keep the tower guard warm. It also used to be the place where outbreaks of fire in town were being watched closely. It now provides a beautiful view of Leeuwarden.

The top of the tower gives a wonderful panorama. Information about the sights is available on panels. In clear weather the Dutch islands of Ameland en Schiermonnikoog can be seen.

