One of the advantages of living in a moving village like the European barging community is that you often have friends moored in places that you want to visit. This year, our Dutch friends Henk and Jacqueline spent the winter at their mooring near Amsterdam, and they were kind enough to invite us to come to Holland to see the tulips in bloom. Living in Paris makes it easy to hop on the train and the trip between Paris and Amsterdam is direct, takes about 4 hours, and is inexpensive if you buy the tickets in advance. Henk told us that it would be best to come mid-April, so that is exactly what we did, and just as we had been lucky with the weather in Ireland, we were blessed with sunshine every day during our stay in Holland, something that our friends said doesn't happen very often.