



La gare de Sos
47170
Sainte Maure de Peyriac
France

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Lee & Tracey “Green for Go France” Newsletter

18th November 2020

Nearly 3 months in France now and today the purchase of our 3 properties in France was completed, wey-hey! Despite the Covid lockdown, we were allowed to go to the beautiful Gascon village, Mezin, to the Notaire’s office, for the final signing. The windows were open and the sun shone through into the office where lovely Monsieur Botte took us through the final steps. Our beaming smiles hidden by our masks but our eyes sparkled with the same excitement that we felt twenty years ago to the day when we had moved into New Station Cottage, Hanwood.



The Colour Autumn

What a wonderful Autumn we’ve experienced here with gentle warm winds, blue skies, lots of sunshine and the most spectacular colours. This plane tree is nearly bare now - any volunteer leaf pickers? This next picture shows both the old station, the bigger building, and the old warehouse, where we are living.



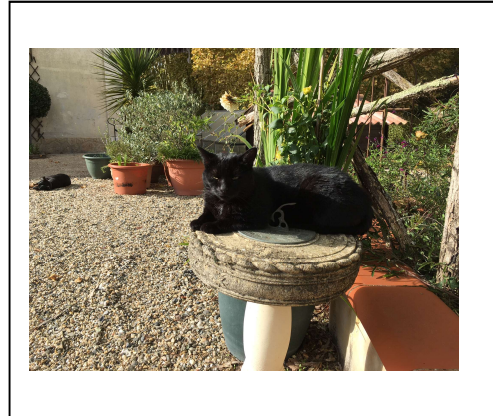
Here we are in Mezin, the chuffed new owners of la gare de Sos. Mezin is where we go for our Sunday market, to buy ripe Cantal cheese, Pyrenees Brebis and plump, sweet local prunes.

Since our last newsletter, we’ve made some progress with French administration and have a doctor, a vet, a hairdresser, electricity accounts, insurances and have started the process of registering Lee’s fleet of vehicles in France. Tracey has practised her French with local architects as we embark on our first French building project - Lee’s BIG garage! We’ve been jabbed against flu & tetanus and have been accepted into The French Lions group - our general state of happiness further boosted by Aston Villa’s amazing season so far. UTV!!!

Daphne, looking beautiful in the Autumn sunshine



Clarence and Daphne continue to enjoy life in France. It's so lovely to watch them lazing about in their favourite sunny spots. Our neighbour's dog, Pasha, is spending lots of time at "la gare" and joins us on our daily walks down the old railway line. He is only young and wants to play with Daphne all the time (who is nearly 8!) He also wants to play with Clarence who tolerates Pasha but has shown him who is in charge - all hail King Clarence! I love this photo - "What does it say Daphne?" said Pasha, "Beats me" replied Daffers, "It's all in French".



"Octobre Rose"

We joined in with a village walk to raise money for a cancer charity, 7km around the local area on a glorious sunny Saturday afternoon with Daphne dressed up in her pink bows. Back in the village square, there was a socially distanced dance performance, all ages - boys, girls, men, women and a free can of beer. The meal had to be cancelled because of Covid but it was a great event and well supported.

And talking of Covid, we went into Lockdown a week before the UK. We have to complete a form with a valid reason to leave home and take our ID and masks with us whenever we go out. We can still walk down the railway line with the dogs and can cycle up to the bakers for our croissants and bread so we're not too restricted here. It's different in the cities of course where the Gendarmes do spot checks. Our local village shop is well stocked so we don't have to go far for supplies. We can get in a lovely round trip cycle ride that gives us views of the Pyrenees on clear days and goes via the bakers & shop. We are on the edge of the vast Landes Forest here and get to cycle past the vines whilst seeing the distant pines and knowing that beyond that lies the Atlantic Ocean. And whilst we miss being able to visit the local restaurants, we have plenty to keep us busy at la gare.....

Tractor in use

Our 1958 Massey Ferguson 35 tractor has been put to good use, creating a temporary drainage ditch, lifting fallen trees down by the river Gelise and hoisting our railway lamp posts. Lee in his element...



Thanks for reading, stay protected and we hope to see family & friends when it's safe to start travelling again, with our best wishes from Lee & Tracey, staying safe in la gare de Sos



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