



La gare de Sos  
47170  
Sainte Maure de Peyriac  
France

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## Lee & Tracey “Green for Go France” Newsletter



Bonne Année à tous....

...and that means “A Happy New Year to all” which we can say in France all through the month of January - none of that awkwardness about when to stop saying it - a French tradition, along with “Galette des rois”, a delicious cake baked for Epiphany and eaten all month long and in good supply at our bakers. It comes with a King’s paper crown & one lucky eater (or unlucky eater, depending on the state of your teeth) will find a “fève” inside - a little trinket baked into the cake. We now have a fine collection of paper crowns and plastic trinkets lined up, and even bigger waistlines!

Christmas was quiet here at la gare but Christmas morning delivered a gem of a tale. So we’d ordered our Christmas Day bread - the baker bakes all through Christmas Eve into Christmas Day and Lee was dispatched at 09.00hrs on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to collect it. Two fig & walnut loaves, our baker’s speciality, to go with our “foie gras” starter. (That translates as “fat liver”- the liver of duck or goose, a speciality around here - we know that the fattening of the birds is controversial so enough said.) Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Tracey is doing all the usual prep - peeling, chopping, mixing, rolling, blending. The dog hasn’t had her walk - too much to do, the table needs laying, the wine needs opening, ‘twas multi-task central - you get the picture. 10.00hrs, no sign of Lee or bread but the chicken has been re-shaped to fit the cooking tray. 11.00hrs, no sign of Lee or bread but the stuffing is made. 12.00hrs, no sign of Lee or bread but the cream has finally thickened for the trifle. Tracey is going through cycles of “Panic-Breath-



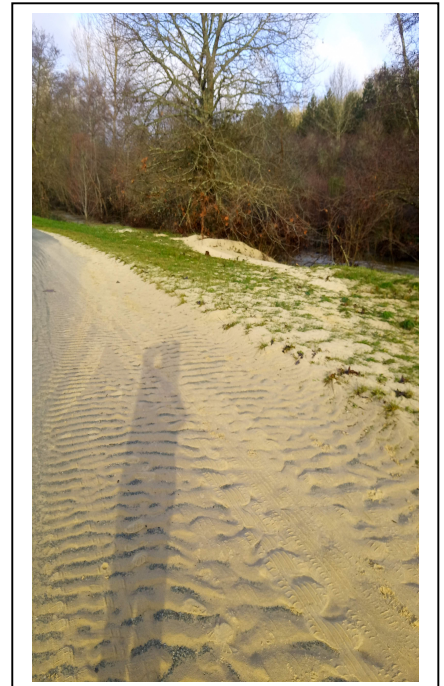
*Snoring in the station - the only way to spend Christmas Day*

Panic” when, at around 12.30, a rosy-faced husband returns, shaking his head, and repeating “he drank the lot, he drank the lot”. Turns out that there was a spontaneous boy’s party in the baker’s back room with our bottle of Pen Deryn Welsh whisky, a very special bottle of local red wine, (Pellehaut) contributed by a Parisian Chef, a large ham and an abundance of bread. Our lovely baker has a fondness for whisky and he always jokes with Lee about “whisky for breakfast” - today it was! Every time someone came into the shop the baker signalled “shhh” - even hiding the bottle of whisky in a baguette paper bag! Needless to say, a good time was had by all the miscreants in the back room. Our Christmas dinner was a feast and a half and the black cherry trifle, sublime.

*[Forward Planning Diary Note: 25 December 2021 - Tracey collecting bread]*



*End of year flooding -our road closed for almost 2 weeks. Then, as soon as the river level dropped, deposits of all this glorious golden sand had appeared. The river banks are like beaches now, with some lovely fishing spots.*



We headed into 2021 dealing with the aftermath of an almighty storm that took our phone line & internet out & closed our road for 2 weeks. The flooding was pretty grim - a lot like a Shropshire winter all over again. The sun came out, the water dropped & the phone was eventually fixed. We did have to pump the cellar out and were so grateful that we hadn't stocked it with wine! The roof on the old toilet block is almost complete - just waiting on some zinc work. Here's Lee putting the Massey Ferguson to good use again, taking out those stone toilet holes that Clarence was looking down on the last newsletter. We've also decorated the station kitchen and are currently decorating the station waiting room. Tracey has organised the gite kitchen cupboards - who'd have thought that could be so much fun - and had to stop at labelling everything - that's retirement for you. Our last lockdown was lifted mid-December and became a curfew - we have to be back home by 18.00hrs. Our bars & restaurants are still closed though and we have heard that our village bar is up for sale - any takers? We do want our local businesses to pull



through. We also fully expect to be back in Covid-Lock-Down any time soon. Our mayor sent us a new year message to lift our spirits which translated as ***"after winter and its greyness come the colours of a blooming world"*** so chin up buttercups, really hope we'll be guzzling something delicious with you soon. *(Current favourite - A Burgundy Chardonnay with fish finger baps!)*

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

France Tel 05 53 65 63 37  
International 00 33 5 53 65 63 37  
[lgreen68@icloud.com](mailto:lgreen68@icloud.com)  
[tracey1of6@gmail.com](mailto:tracey1of6@gmail.com)

