



La gare de Sos  
47170  
Sainte Maure de Peyriac  
France

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



Easter Frosts, Tonnes of Dust &  
Lighting Up The Station



Lee & his Yamaha XT600 at Villeneuve de Mezin; what an amazing ride out we had at the end of April; 2 hours of pure joy for both of us - just local roads & local villages and we sat here to watch a lone fisherman while we ate home-made fruitcake. Quiet roads that you can actually ride, scenery to catch your breath and perfect riding weather on a warm, sunny Saturday afternoon - no balaclavas or polystyrene thermals required! And what a bike it is, at 35 years old, the youngest in our motorbike fleet.

*(Note how the chevron in the pic points to Lee's 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown hair style!)*

So this glorious Saturday was in contrast to the start of April, which brought devastating frosts to the region over Easter - apart from Tracey's pepper seedlings perishing, the regions' vines have suffered terribly with some local vineyards losing 30 - 40% of their crops. We even had to put the heating back on for a couple of nights. Lee's "Put your coat on Chick" didn't wash with Tracey.

Fortunately, the chilly snap was soon over and the warmth is lovely now. The veg patch here is greening up with carrots, potatoes, rocket, onions & radishes doing well and melons & toms looking fabulous in the greenhouse.



Lee & Paul, finally connecting up the station lamps, after some hard digging to put the cable in. Below, light up time - 9pm here, a lamp at either end of the driveway, stunning.



### ***Like Betsey Trotwood's Donkey War.....***

Tracey has waged a war with a mouse since last September. The little critter lives somewhere under the warehouse kitchen sink and despite having a king of a cat & a dog bred for rat catching, and laying trap after trap, the mouse survives. Not only survives, thrives. It has managed to remove every morsel of peanut butter, every breadcrumb, cracker & bit of cheese that has been carefully balanced in the trap, without getting trapped - it's a genius and the trap is so sensitive too - it seems an impossible feat. We've even placed the food laden trap inside a small margarine tub, to make it more awkward & it's still managed to out-manoeuvre the trap & remove





all the food.

*"je continue de faire la guerre avec une souris!"*

Our department borders with The Landes and La Forêt des Landes is the largest man made forest in Western Europe and it's all maritime pine. So when the yellow dust blew in and covered the station and everything around us for miles, we should have clicked. For most of the month "we have been mostly wearing yellow dust" and we now know that it's pine pollen that blows in from the forest in Spring as the pines wake up. Anyone who knows Lee well will know that he washes his car regularly & keeps it looking shiny & new - well, not in April, in South West France! And anyone who knows Tracey well will know that she has suffered from hay fever since she was 5 years old. The picture of Tracey on the tractor, wearing the goggles, is defence against tree pollen, which she has a ferocious reaction to. The French must really think the lunatics have moved in - Lee always bumbling around in his orange overalls and me walking the dog around the village in my goggles - good ole British eccentricity! As well as the station lamps, this month we have completed decorating 2 bathrooms & the zinc work & guttering on the toilet block renovation.



*Clarence, above, by the river Gelise, over at The Pumphouse. He had spent the day over there with Lee, who was doing more vegetation works. That's the river sand that the floods washed up. We're in a zone that has these huge river rats called "Ragondin" that we have been warned to watch out for - fortunately, just a beautiful kingfisher spotted on this day. The other pic of Daffers and Tracey highlights the massive blue skies that we've had all month - last proper day of rainfall was back in February. Oh, and the crickets have woken up - it's like they're singing La Marseillaise 24/7.....we really feel like we're in foreign lands now we're hearing the crescendos of the cicadas. Happy days....See some videos of our ongoing works, pets & French wildlife at Tracey Green on YouTube.*



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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