



La gare de Sos
47170
Sainte Maure de Peyriac
France

June 2021, Issue 9

Lee & Tracey "Green for Go France" Newsletter

June - Heatwaves & Storms



What a mixed month for weather here. We've had temperatures ranging between 22 to 37°; days where we've had every fan running night & day and still flaking in the heat and then slammed by violent rain and the most amazing thunder & lightning storms. Try as Tracey might, she couldn't capture the lightning fireworks display on her phone camera but she is sure that her nieces & nephews will be impressed by her digital editing above!

That's the huge downpour hitting the platform - we had just had all the wood on the station eaves and platform canopy treated during the week - most of the wood is the original and it was overdue some protection. The chap that did it for us hops around in his socks on the roof - no safety harness in sight.

Back to the weather then, most of Europe has been hit by these storms and they have been very violent in some parts of France - we're on a yellow alert in our region, less serious but nevertheless, you have to be prepared here - one minute you're enduring a heatwave, then you're dashing around dragging stuff undercover being lashed by stair rods and then searching for the torches. The 90 ft plane trees are wobbling too! So, another non-stop month here - some of our pool patio tiles have been laid - there's a supply problem with sourcing these travertin tiles so no idea when the rest will arrive. Our new wall is complete around one side of the pool and the pool house extension roof is complete - the outdoor bbq & dining area is a work in progress.



Tracey in Mezin, and another rosé wine for breakfast. We have become slightly obsessed with a staple pâtisserie française - tarte au citron - which is sold at the bakers here. Don't leave Mezin without one!





Clarence in his favourite flower bed & Lee & Daphne in Vianne, a proper fortified Bastide, all fortifications still intact & with the Plantagenet flag.



Another cultural difference this month - a few damp days brought some dark red, long clawed, spiny crayfish onto the grass around the station - that's a journey of about 50 metres from the river - our reaction (after "quelle horreur") "Google It" - the French reaction - "EAT IT" !

We also had the grand uncovering of the pool this month, once the builders had finished at the pool house, and we are both now wishing we had paid more attention in chemistry! The winter cover came off & we set about trying to clear the water - In addition to chlorine there's a host of chemicals to control the pH & alkalinity and it's a right ole balancing act involving test tubes & litmus paper & lots of frowning. We can now see the bottom of the pool, crystal clear and our hair isn't turning green. Our first swim was heavenly on a sweltering afternoon, suddenly feeling like we were on holiday!

Lee finally received his lamp bracket, pictured right, ordered from The Ironworks Centre in Oswestry and was able to connect his lamp on the station front. The saga of this order has been going on for at least six months, trying to get it here from the UK. DPD managed to get it as far as Toulouse, 2 hours away from us, and then it got returned to the UK, not once but TWICE, without explanation. Eventually, we had it sent to a good friend in Hanwood who sent it on with another courier, and packed in teabags, thanks Ben.

Well, we've just winced our way through the highlights of the third day of Le Tour de France - what a brutal start. Friends know that we've followed this race for years and that Tracey roams around France with her Welsh flag, shouting for Geraint & chalking "G"s in the road. Well, now we live here we'll be popping into the mountains on Bastille



Day to catch a Pyrenees stage, rocking up with the deckchairs and baguettes and Daphne on a very tight lead! And one last bit of reassuring news, we are now fully vaccinated and have at last been accepted into the French health care system... *vive la chuffin' France!*

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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