



La gare de Sos  
47170  
Sainte Maure de Peyriac  
France

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



Not all wine & sunshine....

Well, a few wet weeks in December and we started to feel like we were back in Shropshire. The gentle river Gelise was reminiscent of the Rea Brook in Hanwood, muddy-brown, fast flowing and rising! The leaves have gone and we can see houses and views that we couldn't see before on our walks down the old railway line or up the hill towards Sainte Maure. Our field is occupied by a hunter every weekend who sits on his stool with a massive rifle waiting for the rest of “la chasse” (the hunt) to flush out a little deer or maybe a wild boar. We don't really want to see anything killed on our doorstep but equally don't want to start spouting the French equivalent of “get arfe moi land”. It's a tradition, it's the hunt season, it's the country way of life but we can't imagine we'd have reacted the same way if a hunter had been traipsing around our garden in the UK. One of the many cultural differences we're currently negotiating.....

Well, we've been busy bees throughout November and into December. Christmas is fast approaching but we haven't felt the same pressure to stock up and spend loads of money. A big farm chicken is on order - poulet fermier - which means the head is still attached (!) and Tracey is going to have to make homemade stuffing - no Paxo here!

Lee has been busy renovating the old toilet block which has been in a state of disrepair for over 50 years and heads out to work in his orange railway overalls each morning - never been worn so much. See progress on next page....Tracey was introduced to French wiring, getting her first ever electric shock cleaning a light fitting - switch off but current live!

### Tracey & Daphne & the rain in Fourcès



*Normally, a stroll around medieval Fourcès is like walking onto a film set or into a history book and we're usually here in holiday mode in the summer sunshine! Different in December but still beautiful. It's a circular “bastide” and full of charm & Gascon character; half timbered buildings, arched arcades and the plane trees in the square - you can see how they are severely pruned back by winter time in the wet photo.*

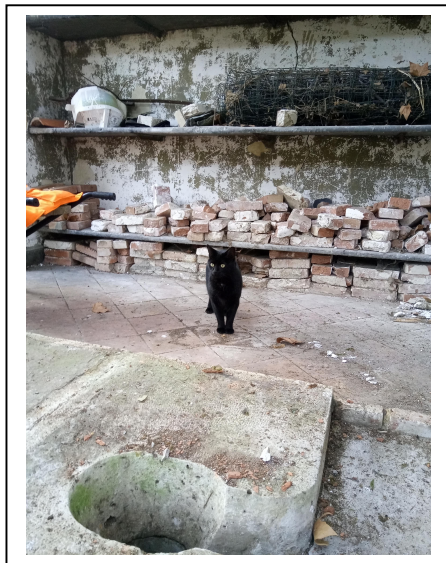


A trip to Fourcès takes us over the departmental border into the Gers and also over the regional border into Occitanie - we're in department “Lot et Garonne” and our region is “Nouvelle Aquitaine”.





For a little village of 600 residents, we weren't expecting such a wonderful display of Christmas lights!  
Spot Daphne and the mobylette!



Tracey received a lovely parcel from her friend in Hanwood - baking powder - after a little moan about French flour and now we might get a decent Bara Brith!

Lee and our good friend Paul have almost re-roofed the old toilet block and stabilized the building with ironwork. The picture of Clarence inside the building shows the original "hole in the ground" toilet! This building will be a bike storage area and tool shed eventually.

To end then, our favourite photo of the summer, Burke Bros, our removal chaps, in the pool with Lee! Happy Summer Days to remember and we wish a "Joyeux Noël à tous" at the end of this very bizarre year. The first line of this newsletter started with "not all wine & sunshine..." True, but wine and rain really isn't all that bad...



Santé!



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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