

Autumn Trip to France 2014

Our autumn trip to France started in Thame on an overcast but pleasant day. We went in convoy with Hazel, Tony leaving home about 9.30. We arrived in Portsmouth a couple of hours later and decided to spend the day in the historic dockyard. I had bought the dockyard tickets the day before and what value for money they were. An annual ticket of £19.50 (senior tickets oh course) entitled us to visit any of the attractions at any time. We spent most of the time on the Mary Rose exhibition. It was a superb exhibition full of artifices which divers had brought us from the wrecked ship. We only had time for a trip around the harbour before collecting the cars from the car park and driving to the dock to board our boat, the Pont Aven for our overnight crossing to St Marlo. We had a lovely meal before retiring to our tiny cabins to spend a long night. Morning brought us into St Marlo and a lovely drive through many small towns down to Carcaneau. Our hotel, the Hotel de Ocean was situated on the sea front and was lovely. After a walk along the front we came back to the hotel for our evening meal. Twenty two car club members sat together and enjoyed a lovely meal. We finished off in the bar to have a night cap and then we all retired for the night.

After a great nights sleep our first full day commenced after breakfast. Nigel, Alison, Hazel, Tony, Bert and myself had a walk into the town. Such a lovely city, very medieval and with some super shops. We visited a museum de pech! It was a history of fishing and as usual it was very well done with lots of information (we had the English version) we went on board an old fishing trawler which was tied up in the old harbour and spent lots of time going up and down steps and counting the number of beds etc., only one shower and no toilet! You can imagine what the men said to that, poor Bertie would never have managed!!!! After a coffee and more shopping we found a wonderful restaurant called 'Ty Cosy'. My first modules marina ire of the year and they were lovely.

We had a leisurely walk back to the hotel, Alison and Nigel went for a swim and the rest of us sat in the sunshine people watching and having the occasional drink! Again we had a very nice meal in the hotel restaurant followed by a game of pool in the bar. Hazel and I took on, and beat Bert and Tony. As the winners we then played the next couple Nigel and Alison who we beat. It became too much for us so we let Angela, Vic, Keith and ???? Have a go. The entertainment wasn't as good as when Hazel and i played as they managed to pot the balls in the pockets, we thought the object of the game was NOT to get the balls in. However, a great night was had by all and we all turned into bed wondering what the following day had to offer.

It was raining when we looked out of the window, after breakfast it was out with the wet weather gear to have the group photograph. We set off and after a damp journey we arrived in Quimper. A very nice medieval city and after our first coffee we explored the town and as a bonus the sun came out which made everything look much better. We decided to move onto Pont Aven for lunch. Such a pretty town and we found a nice restaurant that Hazel and Tony had visited on a previous visit and we decided on a small lunch which turned out to be HUGE. Omelette and a few chips - well it was enormous. A sunny drive back to the hotel and spent the rest of the afternoon watching the world go by.

The evening saw us walking into the town of Concarneau to have another wonderful meal. We

power walked back to the hotel with all the goodness it caused being cancelled by the huge gin and tonics which were consumed when we got back to the hotel.

Tuesday and it was very very windy this morning with showers. We decided that as Concarneau was such a lovely city we would forgo the drive and walk into the town again. We were not disappointed, nice little shops full of biscuits and chocolates and the occasional bars! After lunch we fought our way back to the hotel through the gales which were raging where we collapsed to get our breath back.

After a rest and after the wind had dropped we walked back into the town to have our last meal. Twelve members gathered in a restaurant called The La Porte Au Van. A brilliant time was had by all. Euro 55 per couple not bad for a three course meal and drinks. Now back at the hotel for a nightcap then bed.

Off to Dinan. Weather is lovely although a little cold. It was a long drive with a stop for coffee then another stop for lunch in a supermarket cafe. We arrived in Dinan at the Ibis hotel around fiveish, booked in then had a walk around the town. We have been to Dinan before and what a lovely medieval town it is. After the compulsory stop for beer or coffee we went back to the hotel to freshen up before going next door to a very nice restaurant for dinner. There were fourteen members for dinner and poor Tony decided to try pig's trotters as a starter - this was a bad mistake! Besides looking awful apparently it tasted awful as well. The rest of the meal was good and not expensive. We all retired ready for our last day where we will visit Pegasus Bridge.

Our last day and we were up and ready to rock & roll. The weather was a little overcast and chilly but dry so we decided to have the hood down. Then Vic told us he thought his car battery may be dead!!! Anyone have any jump leads? We all went down to the underground car park where the cars were and Vic tried to start his Jag. Success - it started first time all that worry for nothing.