

## 20080916 - Folkestone

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16/9/8 After a 6 hours drive (miraculously no hold ups) arrive in Folkestone at Caravan Club Site – Black Horse Farm – very nice and well organized. They have special ferry pitches suitable for just a single nights stay for people catching a ferry or just coming off the ferry. Must join again next year as their sites are well organized and restore a little bit of faith back in UK caravanning – pity they can't organise the weather.

Why is it that HGV driver have no understanding of "Safe Stopping Distance" and the Dept of Transport – or whatever they are currently called – have wasted an absolute fortune on electronic overhead signs that give you no information? For observations and rants on UK motorway travel see my "Soup of the Day" blog at [www.4uand.me.uk](http://www.4uand.me.uk).

Anyway with the state of Sterling compared to the Euro we decide to do a major shop on UK soil. Joy of joys a trip to Sainsbury, we'll need a 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage – I hear Lehman's are offering good deals!

Fortunately they, Sainsbury that is, have a decent café with good 3G reception so like any good nerd I can get onto the net whilst Wendy enjoys herself reading all the food labels in Sainsbury's.

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## 20080917 - Quest For The Sun

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Up early this morning to catch the Ferry. Used Sea France this time, not only a lot cheaper than PO, but also a more spacious and up market interior. Despite setting off late he (being a tad chauvinist I assume it's a male captain) made up plenty of lost time. We burned off at least one PO ferry in the channel.

Then we have a relatively short drive down to Saint Quentin (there's no prison). As usual the auto-routes are very quiet and fast, not that it's much use to us caravanners pottering along.

Anyway arrive at campsite at Seraucourt Le Grand mid afternoon. Now I hope you're all sat down for this but we observed this bright yellow thing in the South Western sky. It stirred a vague memory of something we'd seen before and after consulting my weather book (yes I've decided to study weather forecasting – can't make a worse job of it than the professionals) I discover that it's the sun - yipee. Hastily get the deck chairs out and have afternoon tea out on the lawn.

Today's useless piece of information, marginally less useless than this blog – apparently if you assume tomorrow's weather will be the same as today then you will on average achieve a higher degree of accuracy than the professionals.

Then take a leisurely stroll into the village. What's it famous for I ask. Well nothing much but then I notice evidence of a master craftsmen at work. You've probably all heard of finger painting and I'm sure you know what pointing is. Well Seraucourt Le Grand obviously has a "Finger Pointer", and no he doesn't go around pointing at things. Whoever he is he has obviously conned most of the inhabitants into having their properties pointed by him, or being fair to the fairer sex, could be her. Most of the properties look like they have been pointed by some "craftsmen" who uses his bare hands, and fingers, to point the brickwork. Just to finish off the effect he doesn't bother brushing off any excess mortar, and believe you me it is excessive. Even the quaint old stone church has been suitably ruined by this master craftsmen or one of his acolytes.

Somewhat of a mystery to us but the streets here are also strewn with potatoes. We could not figure this one out and thought that perhaps it was some pagan harvest festival. But then on our way back from the walk all was revealed. The local farmer seems to spend most of his time driving up and down the main street with a cart full to the brim of potatoes. Yes he drives up and then 5 minutes later he drives back down with the same load of potatoes – I'm sure it's some creative scheme for one of those famous French EC farm subsidy.

Anyway enough for one day, lets crack open another bottle of le vin rouge.

It's good to be back.

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## 20080918 – Beaune or Thereabouts

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Yes its out again – the sun that is and apart from a brief shower on the way down it's very pleasant all the way. After a long drive, breaking the 5 hour rule, we arrive at a camp site in the quaint village of Santenay right in the midst of wine growing region.

Being 15:00 the campsite is closed for lunch which seems to last until 17:30, now there's a record. But we pitch up (highly technical caravanners term) and then have a drive into Beaune to get some cheap diesel and look around. Also manage to find a reasonable priced bottle of Beaune. Next time we must stop over for two nights so that we can visit Beaune and Mersault, plus do some free wine tasting.

By the time we get back the site is open and miraculously I manage to complete the whole transaction in French along with a discussion on WiFi problems. I thought she didn't speak any English but then at the end she did drop into good English. It's just so much nicer when they let you have a go at French rather than dropping into English as soon as you've got the first syllable out.

Pleasant evening and we set a new record in that we both stay awake all the way through an "Inspector Morse" episode. I can't quite figure out whether it's Morse or the wine that puts me to sleep. Never mind I'll have to experiment tomorrow night by drinking some more wine.

It's really good to be back.

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## 20080919 – The Mistral

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Wake to a sunny day again and have a very pleasant drive down through Lyon to Salon de Provence which is just on the edge of the Camargue. It's sunny all the way down with temperatures in the 25's, We'll need some new sun glasses at this rate. It must be hot Wendy's even taken her cardigan off.

The auto route is called the Route of the English, but judging by the number of birds of prey (begin to think they're plastic) sat on fence posts I think it should be renamed to the route of birds of prey. Not having an "I Spy Birds" book we're not sure whether they're hawks or falcons or whatever, but they are very elegant.

As we get nearer to our campsite the wind gets up, and when we arrive it is blowing nearly a gale (poetic license). This is the famous Mistral, fortunately it's very hot and sunny with clear blue skys so it's quite welcome.

Campsite is ok, very well shaded with tall trees but I imagine when there is no wind they are very welcome. Well let's hope this weather keeps up, I'm sure as we move towards Nice there will be no Mistral. They also have WiFi here so hopefully we get to pick up email and send of Blogs.

It's really, really good to be back!

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