

## 20120515 – Burnt To A Crisp

Posted on [May 23, 2012](#) by [admin](#)



Tuesday – sun and cloud.

Yet another lazy day around the caravan.

Despite a mixed day yet again we end the day sat out after 16:00 to glorious weather.

Wednesday – sun and cloud again.

Visit a couple of garages in Partheney to get quotes for two new tyres.

What pleasant people to deal with. No they didn't speak much English. Yes we got by with my awful French. Yes they did understand customer service. And yes they were very cheerful and pleasant. The two young ladies in Profil and Region Cote have managed to restore some of my faith in the French – mind you they're all still living on borrowed time.

Now we all know how the French just love to ignore rules and regulations. But when you're in a major supermarket and the fire alarm goes off; complete with repeated warning in both French and English to leave the store; complete with ear splitting sirens; and everyone, staff and customers just ignore it you know how stupid they can be. Suffice it to say I dumped my bottles and wine and we got out of there. We were the only ones. When you read of 200 staff and customers burnt to a crisp in the press you'll know we were there.

Thursday – hailstones the size of gob stoppers and some sun.

Good chance to get some work done on SQL programming and earn some money.

Yet again glorious end to the day.

Is this some bizarre April fool joke. I've just learned that from 1st July you need to carry an unused Breathalyser in your car. Failure results in a E15 fine.

Let's think about this. You stagger out the pub and use your Breathalyser; you're below the limit; now as you drive off you've committed a crime as you no longer have a unused Breathalyser. Conclusion, you now need to carry 2. Well if they're going to adopt this lunacy what about requiring every car to carry:

Drug testing kit

Eye chart to ensure your eyesight is OK

Sun glasses in case the sun comes out – not much chance this year



ECG machine to check that you're not likely to have a heart attack

Copy of the French penal code to ensure you are legal

Copy of Highway code, that's assuming they have one

Tyre pressure gauge

Tyre pump in case your tyres need pumping up

Spare pair of glasses or contact lenses

Trailer to carry all these essentials



A cynic might think they're just out to make money on tourists, or the lunatics running this asylum have shares in Breathalyser Companies. It just goldfish for jam jars. Kick them out the EU, they've still not sorted all their toilets and toilet seats, before they become another Greece.

Friday - sun and cloud. A very mixed day but at least no rain.

Spend the morning programming whilst Wendy does her weekly shop.

Drive into Parthenay to have two new tyres fitted. That really hurt the wallet. Really wish I'd got rid of this Kia rather than hanging onto it.

Despite having to spend £270 on two new rear tyres - just on the legal limit - I have finally found something really good to say about France. Diesel only £1.04 per litre.

Meanwhile back in multi-cultural Britain a Pakistani family are being accused of murdering their daughter because she would not accept an arranged marriage. When are we going to stamp out this nonsense?

Saturday - rain.

Miserable weather, but at least it's not cold, so we're hunkered down for the day. Not a problem for me as I have loads of programming to do - keeps the nerd in me happy. Wendy soon gets bored. Need something to keep her amused, just like you do with kids, but no crayons; no paints; no lego; no dolls house. Never mind I have a list of tasks to keep her amused.

Sunday – rain, are we still in Belthorn.

Whilst investigating the lunacy of the breathalyser I also came across yet another inspired French law. This one makes it illegal to have a Satnav that warns you about safety cameras (that's a euphemism for speed camera). Even if it's switched off it's illegal with a fine of E1,500. Now bear in mind that all French roads have signs warning you that there are safety cameras ahead; safety cameras have high visibility yellow and black chevrons. I guess they're not making a secret of them and see them as a deterrent. So why ban satnavs that will do the same job? Unless of course you're a cynic and think it's a money ploy to milk foreign visitors!



Who are these lunatics? Why not just give the French an ultimatum to stop being silly arses otherwise they'll be kicked out of the EU. It's just pots for rags!

Monday – guess what, rain yet again.

I'm just fine. I have Internet; programming; plenty of coffee – what more could any nerd want. But, how do I keep Wendy amused – worse than a four year old! Tomorrow it's off to the knitting shop.

Pakistan's government blocked the popular social networking website Twitter after material considered 'offensive' to Islam was posted on the site. Mohammed Yaseen, the head of Pakistan's telecommunications body, said Twitter refused to remove material referring to a group on Facebook in which users post images of the religious character Muhammed.

Why am I here? That's not a metaphysical question. Weathers crap; French laws are bizarre; lunatics are in power; and of course so many French are just objectionable. You'd think after we bailed them out in two World wars they'd just be grateful. But as an eminent historian pointed out, whenever you rescue a country they're never grateful just resentful. Plus they've probably not really got over Agincourt.

Tuesday – bright and sunny.

Hopefully life's back to normal. Yes, lazy day around caravan and walk into Airvault. I nearly got decapitated by a low hanging traffic sign on the pavement, perhaps the average French person is shrinking under the weight of silly laws and EU policies.



Fellow camper ruins my relaxed disposition by giving me a copy of Sunday's Daily Mail. I hate this newspaper along with the Express. Just read half a page and I'm incensed with all the lunacy, quite rightly too, that it reports upon. Within seconds I feel like getting back home and feeding a few politicians to the lions in the Colosseum.

Helped Norman and Anne put up their awning and had drinks on the patio with them in the evening. Makes you



appreciate how important it is to live life to the full – treasure every moment. Do it while you can.

Meanwhile despite walking into Airvault ,Wendy is now hobbling around like a cripple – not PC I know but I'm saving word obsolescence. Good news is it doesn't affect her cooking.

Wednesday – sunny and hot.

Lazy morning around the caravan watching a pigeon vandalise a tree to break little twigs off to make its nest. Amazing, but wha I can't understand is why it flew twenty yards to a tree rather than breaking off twigs in the tree where it was building its nest. Seems a waste of energy – see selfish gene.

You'll all no doubt be pleased to know that some scientist has finally located the “G Spot” and published a learned article on it. Tad worrying, as he found on an 85 year old woman; even more worrying is that she was dead at the time. Good to know there's no ageism among the necrophiliacs though! I don't think it's Nobel prize material.

One of my nerdy heroes, Bill Gates, gave a speech at a school with 12 top tips on life. Any of them sound familiar? Here are just some of them:

**Rule 1** : Life is not fair – get used to it!

**Rule 4** : If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss

**Rule 6** : If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault,  
So don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

**Rule 7** : Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring  
As they are now. They got that way from paying your bills,  
Cleaning your clothes and listening to you  
Talk about how cool you thought you were:  
So before you save the rain forest  
From the parasites of your parent's generation,  
Try delousing the closet in your own room..

**Rule 8** : Your school may have done away with winners and losers,  
But life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades  
And they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer.

\*This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

**Rule 10** : Television is NOT real life.

In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

**Rule 11** : Be nice to nerds.



Chances are you'll end up working for one..

[If you can read this... Thank a Teacher.](#)

Great 2 hour bike ride into St Loup. Mind you there's not a great deal there, but at least we found an Inn open for coffee. Forgot to take water, don't tel Nat. Tip of the day – when cycling keep your mouth shut to avoid choking on flies.



Don't want to sound un-patriotic but is this the Royal Diamond Jubilee fanaticism and exploitation that we're going to miss out on. Kellogg's has created a range of limited edition collectors' boxes fit for a queen, to mark this year's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. They feature retro style designs including the first Coco the monkey illustration and original Snap, Crackle and Pop characters dating back to the 1950s when the Queen ascended the throne. I can see us dashing back home to get some of these to treasure!

End the day with a great German Pils followed by St Emillion, bread and cheese on our secluded patio, hiding from the sun. It's been hot here but no where near as the 31C in Buxton. Don't think I could cope.

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