

South Leicester MG Club France 2016

This is the fourth year Angela and I have arranged a club holiday to France, to be fair Angela does the lion's share of the work. We took 8 cars this year, 3 x A's crewed by Nicky and Graham, Kath and Rich and Roger. 3 x B's crewed by Melv and Jim, Mary and Robin, Angela and I. 2x MGTF's crewed by Carol and Colin, Bob and Marian. We all covered around 840 miles in the 10 days and while the weather wasn't as good as previous years there was still plenty of top down driving. Some stayed for two weeks and got the better of the weather.

This year's French trip was to La Trinite-sur-Mer, a delightful town on an estuary in southern Brittany, close to Carnac and the Gulf du Morbihan. Dominated by its Marina with lots of Bars, Restaurants, Cafés and Shops. At the far end of the town is a small beach and on its pier is a lively fish market. All within walking distance of our boutique hotel Le lodge Kerisper.

The hotel was the best to date, lovely spacious rooms, a bar area for those all-important evening debates! Plenty of parking, a nice conservatory where we had a scrumptious breakfast each morning, well-kept gardens with ample chairs and loungers and a small swimming pool!



We travelled from Leicester to Portsmouth, had a picnic and did some shopping at Gun Wharf Keys then took the overnight ferry to St Malo, in the morning with a stop at Josselin we headed on to Trinite-sur-Mer.

If you have never taken your classic to France you should. If you avoid motorways and dual carriageways where possible the roads are empty, smooth surfaced, quiet and devoid of sharp bends, the speed limit is 55mph and it is very hard to keep to the limit. The main part of our trip was on the D793 from Dinan to Josselin then the D126 from Josselin to Vannes, in around 90 miles we saw two sets of traffic lights and were slowed down for a few miles by two slower cars. It was heaven. The only downside



were some of the humps in the villages the odd one or two would have been called mountains in the UK.

Some of the highlights were Josselin with its medieval castle on the cliff overlooking the river L'Ouest. The U Boat pens at Lorient, Carnac with its standing stones and beach, Queberon with its fishing port and great Atlantic drive, Bono, Lamor Badden and Arradon, all pretty towns on the Gulf du Morbihan. St Cado with its famous cottage on a small island Rochefort en Terre and La Roche-Bernard towns in Southern Brittany with artisan shops and Café's. Auray with its massive market that takes over the town. To name but a few.



We had a great time and didn't let the odd shower get us down, we had some great laughs and as I am sure you can imagine there were some embarrassing moments. We ate some great sea food, the mussels were local and to die for and as is usual in all of France the patisseries were out of this world, the apricot tart being especially nice. We had the usual fun with the language although we are all getting better and several people used translate apps on their phones, (not all pensioners are technology phobic).



It maybe wasn't a good idea to go to France the week after the Brexit vote and thanks to the 52% that voted to leave it cost us all over £100 more than the week before. We will keep an eye on the exchange rates for next year and if it stays the same we may arrange a holiday in the UK. With luck the pound will bounce back and we will be off to France again!

The cars were all well behaved with no overheating issues, even Robin's bonnet didn't open every day! He did have an issue with his timing chain rattling. Roger had a noisy thrust bearing (when we got back and removed his engine it had disintegrated altogether). We had some weak rear springs (when loaded with all of Angela's goods and chattels)



Thanks to all who took part for the laughter, fun and companionship. We were presented with a lovely card and a bottle of fizz in thanks for arranging the trip, it is nice to feel appreciated. It has been a difficult time at home and you all helped immensely taking my mind off the issues.

Take care All and happy MGing KV.