



NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2021 LE CŒUR DU CHEMIN

Summer is almost over so time to pick-up activities again. As you might remember I visited France during the first 2 weeks of June, right after the travelling ban had been lifted.

During the trip I was able to see about 14 houses/gites in a period of 7 days, scattered along the via Lemovicensis and Via Podiensis. By car almost 1.400 km in that period. Although I did not find a building that ticked all the boxes for me, I learned a lot and met some really inspiring owners of the gîtes. I am thinking specifically about Jean-Marc and Veronique (Le Champs d'Etoiles in Condom), Huberta en Arno (L'Esprit de Chemin, Le Chemin), Jean- Gaétan of the Alchemist (Navarenx), Jesus Gomez (La Cassagnole ,in Faycelles) and Joseph (Beilari in sjpdp). All these owners deliver a pilgrims experience as I would also like to offer to pilgrims. A warm and family like welcome in a special ambiance.

After that week intense travelling I needed a break so I decided to complete the Via Podiensis from Arzacq to Saint-Jean-Pied-des-Portes, a 6 day walk. Although it was relatively short, I had the same great encounters and great walks that I have had previously. It never gets boring. I was really sad to see my companions continue to Spain as I returned home.

Like I said I learned a lot and that brought me back to my original idea, to buy a run-down place and fix it up. The renovation for me is 50% of the fun and the hosting of Pilgrims 50%. Secondly, although I loved the Lot and Gers regions it is just too far away from the Netherlands. I am seriously considering to shift my search toward the Via Campaniensis from Rocroi to Vézelay, in the North of France. A friend of mine is

walking there at this moment at she had great difficulty in finding lodgings, basically every night. So a high need for a gite, few pilgrims and close to the Netherlands. I am thinking about something in the region of Auxerre/ Chablis, fairly close to Vézelay. On the website there is a new page where you can see all the different route in detail on Google maps <http://lecoeurduchemin.org/information/cartes>.

In the meantime we have founded an new Foundation in the Netherlands “Le Chemin du Coeur”, with an associated website. It is in Dutch but should auto-translate. You would help me if you visit the website, since it will improve my “Google” ratings when the website has some visitors traffic. You might also have ideas for projects the Foundation could support or ideas where to find funding for the foundation. Please visit <http://www.lecheminducoeur.nl> to see what the foundation intends to do.

I want to thank you all again for your help sofar and the journey continues ! In September I plan to visit the North of France to scout the area and make some initial contacts. For the remainder of September/October I have a difficult choice to make to either walk to Santiago or to continue to look for properties in that period.

If you have any questions, remarks or tips on building please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail at lecoeurduchemin@gmail.com.

Ultreia

Le Coeur du Chemin

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