

Lost in France

by Irene Foster

We were all prepared (Janice, Jan, Alf and Irene)

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Paints | ✓ |
| Easels | ✓ |
| Brushes | ✓ |
| Canvasses | ✓ |
| Bags packed | ✓ |
| Sat Nag | ✓ |
| Car filled with petrol | ✓ |



Painting in the beautiful Loire Valley culminating in a painting competition and auction on the banks of a sleepy French town was ahead of us.

Arrived early at the Channel Tunnel with slight delay because train is stuck in tunnel. This didn't help Jan who was scared enough going under all that water. Undeterred we bravely set off with only a few gentle reminders for Alf to drive on the right! Getting very near Paris was our first inkling that the prototype Sat Nag that Alf has been given may indeed be in need of some tweaking as we should have been hugging the coastline. Luckily we had a woman with a map who could actually read it without pointing it in the direction we were going! Impressive Janice. The map of Bordeaux we had in the car was little more than useless. 10 hours later we arrive at our destination, dehydrated, tired and ravenous. Who would have believed that there could possibly be two 'St Martin du Bois' in France???

Painting outside is scary but by the time the competition arrives we have no fears and remembered to say 'Merci' every time anyone talked to us, even though we suspected the French for beautiful was not 'repugnant'.



An evening's entertainment of topless girls and frog's legs didn't help keep our tired little peepers open. Second day was amazing – we were local celebrities with Alf having his picture on the centre pages of the local newspaper.

Picnicking by the river in 30 degree heat with a bunch of very lovely like-minded people and donkeys was sublime. Ok, we didn't win, we didn't sell but boy did we have a laugh and great time.

In no time at all we were on our way home with same Sat Nag. We only took one wrong turning (easily done) but it resulted in us going through the same lightning storm 3 times!!

We're already planning next year's. Coming??