

SAM "INVADES" FRANCE 29TH APRIL TO 6 MAY 2010



14 bikes of various shapes and sizes and 23 "samers" decide to cross the water to enjoy another glorious week in France. The sun was shining as we docked in Le Havre. After a quick briefing it was off across the "Pont de Normandie" and onto the Etap Hotel in Tours using only the "D" roads and seeing as much of the countryside as possible. We arrived at the hotel at 4pm and duly left our passengers in the reception area. The bikes were then parked in the underground car park which would have decapitated more heads than the "guillotine" had we allowed pillions to remain on the bikes, the roof was that low! That night we visited a local "watering hole" and had just a quick "shandy " or two before retiring to our well earned beds. Now some say that the Treasurer was seen to buy a round of drinks-surely not I hear you cry. The following day it was off on the bikes to see the Loire Valley, Chinon for coffee followed by a walk around Saumur and lunch. Unfortunately the "prancing gee-gees " weren't practicing that day (sorry Lynn/Clint) but there were a few donkeys about. We watched May Day celebrations and then returned back to the hotel ready for a good rest.

Sunday was a day of rest and was much needed. Many took the time to have a good look around the city and take in the cultural feast on view; others sat and drank coffee and chatted and chatted and chatted.....

More riding through the following days saw us pass the Triogalite caves, visit Oradour Sur Glade memorial village and the wonderful Loire Valley. There were many adventures, laughs, special moments to many to put on the website. There will be a full write up in July's Journal. It was that good nobody wanted to come home in fact some were nearly refused entry back into the UK!! A special thanks to Bubbles and Squeak for there continued education on the "growing techniques of the wisteria"; you really had to be there to believe it. Until we do it again (and we will).

Pete C

Urgent update from Etap-Mickaëla informs me that they have introduced a red sticker on their toilet doors indicating right and left directions!

