

SHAKURA SUMMER CRUISE DIARY 2018

Part 1



After a smooth overnight crossing on Brittany Ferry Armorique, and long drive, (plus puncture, Bill had to change on route).

We, (Bill, Archie and Me) arrived on board Shakura berthed in Basin Chalutier La Rochelle 15th May, the sun was shining which was a brilliant start to our holiday.

Now the hard work begins: Cleaning, commissioning, servicing and victualing!

Our friends Chris and Elayne visited on 20th which was very welcome, time to relax for an evening.

Chris and Bill disappointed that no pies were on the menu but over-indulged in the red stuff nevertheless !!



On Wednesday 23rd May - We left through the Basin Chalutier Marina lock gates 11:30 heading for La Minimes Marina fuel pontoon to top up for our journey of over 100 Miles as very little wind forecast. After a light lunch, an Archie walk and brief rest at 15:00 we waved goodbye to La Rochelle's twin towers,



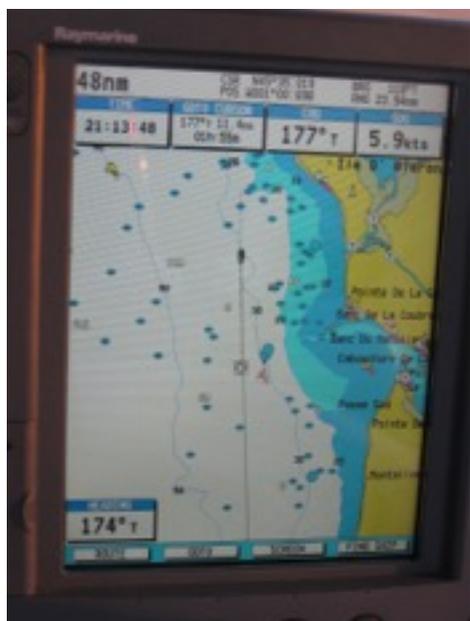
Motoring towards Ile D'Oleron as wind on the nose!! an hour and half later we hoisted the mainsail and turned off the engine, now we are gently sailing (a reach) at 4knots to get to the next waypoint 3.44 nautical miles which would take us approx 49 minutes, so Bill contemplated whether to pull out the Genoa, but decided to leave it as it is until we rounded northern tip of Ile D'Oleron as the sea was like a washing machinell!.

I was chuffed at my attempt at cooking underway a Moroccan type fish stew (delicious) and fresh fruit salad. Unfortunately for Bill, his next task was washing up).

We put the sails away at 8:30 as the wind had died, Archie and I opted for the first watch we were glad not to have missed this amazingly beautiful sunset on calm waters and a clear blue sky, just starting to turn pink.



20:44 - We are sitting watching sea birds dive for fish supper, and the boat is rolling gently with North west swell.



Its 21:07 - Just coming the south of Ile D'Oleron, and once we cross the Gironde Estuary which is the furthest we have sailed so far, we will be starting a new adventure, and to steal a phrase enjoy the "Froth Lyfe"

21:56 - Just about to wake Bill for his watch, wind speed now 1.6 knots.

Tanker past us from the stern 30 minutes ago, not much traffic so far, getting damp now, so time for a cup of tea and a couple of hours shuteye.

Approaching The Gironde Estuary, Bill came on watch.

Thursday 24th May 02:00 - Archie and I came back on watch, but two hours later as the moon went down past a dark cloud it was suddenly pitch black, the stars were spectacular, but, as the time wore on and more of the sky filled with cloud and covered the sky, it was spooky to be all alone on a massive ocean in the blackness. So I called Bill and he took over. Thank you Bill!

(Unfortunately, I missed the dolphin pod which visited him and Shakura at 05:30)

07:30 - Archie and I came back on watch, it was fantastic seeing the sky start to come to life.

The sea was rocking the boat in a side to side motion with the gentle swell apart from that all is well.



At approx 10:00 I saw a boat in the distance which looked to me like a fishing boat, but as it was getting light I couldn't see any navigation lights, so went down to the Navigation desk and look on AIS but saw nothing!!

As the boat got nearer I could see that it was a french Douane (customs) boat, they called me on the radio and requested us to let them board to give a routine check, which obviously we complied. Half an hour delay later we said goodbye mightily relieved and resumed our course.



We were conscious that we had to be at the first Arcachon entrance Landfall Buoy (Which actually was missing) at the entrance to the narrow channel between the sand dunes two hours before high tide to ensure we had enough water under the keel to see us safely over the sand bar. The breakers were crashing onto the sand dunes at either side as we entered into the Archachon Basin.



This is a picture of the 100 meters high PYLA Sand Dune.
(Might not look spectacular but we were 5 miles away at this point !)

Having successfully (phew!) managed

that, we followed the next 15 markers and arrived at Arcachon 15:00 exactly 24 hours after leaving LR. We managed a perfect landing on C Pontoon hammerhead (shame there was no-one watching, we looked very professional!!) ****brilliant****

As we were so tired after 24 Hr passage, we had dinner on board and an early night.

Map of Arcachon..... See top Right, we are in Marina Pontoon C.



The Port of Arcachon is the second largest marina on the Atlantic Coast with 2,600 Moorings. It has been home to a heritage quay reserved for the Basin's traditional boats: pinasses, sailing barges and tall ships.

It's now Friday 25th May, Bill has caught the Train from Arcachon to collect the car from La Rochelle to enable us to drive inland and explore Bordeaux and this region during the next week.

Archie and I have been left in Thunder, Lightening and Pouring rain which, I may say, is no joke with a massive metal thing sticking up in the air called a mast ready to catch any flashes that may come this way????????!!!!!!

Boat cleaning for me until the rain stops and I can take Archie for a much needed walk. As the dry spell was quite short lived I thought I would write a diary of events so far.

Saturday 26th May, - Just a boat work and relax day - nothing to report.

Sunday 27th May, we took the car around the Basin Arcachon, to Cap Ferret



The next stop was Le



The Tide was out, view over the bay to Arcachon

Canon L'Herbe for a spot of Lunch Oysters (Huitres) and Red King Prawns (Crevettes) not forgetting a glass of the local Rose wine.



The village of L'Herbe is emblematic of the Lege-Cap Ferret peninsula.

It is listed in the inventory picturesque sites in France. Made up of brightly coloured little wooden huts, it is inhabited by fishermen and Oyster farmers.



Just enjoying the ambience and the sunshine

Bill and Archie on Main Street



Oyster Fishing???



Birds feasting on leftovers

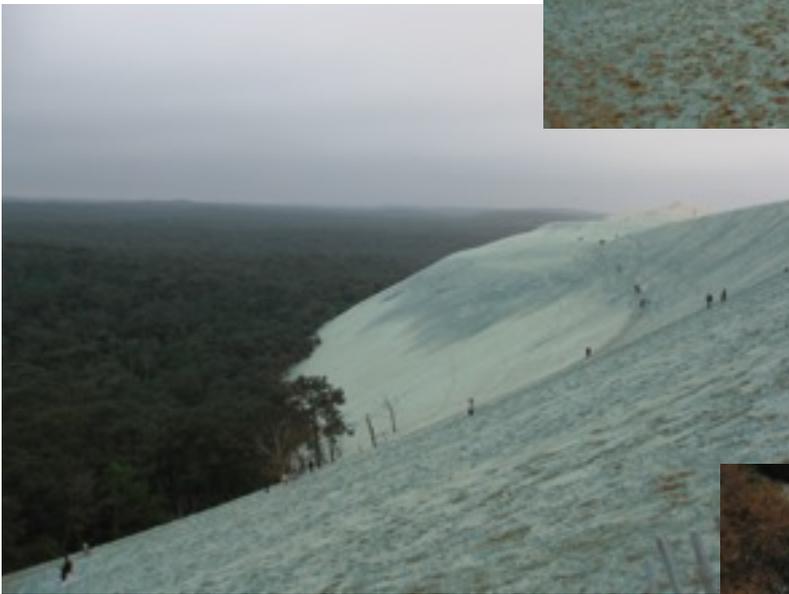


After lunch and a good walk round the village, we moved on to Cap Ferret. This 25 kilometers spit offers one side of ocean beaches and on the other side, the Basin, with it's oyster farming villages, maritime pines and its lighthouse.

The Cap's landmark, this 53 m high lighthouse was built in 1947 after the 19th century original was destroyed by the Germans in 1944. You can, climb the 258 steps to the top.



Monday 28th May, we visited the Dune du Pilat (or Pyla), it is the largest sand bank on the Gironde Coast, and a stopover site for migratory birds.



Archie and I took the easy way up

From there we dusted the sand from our feet and drove back to Arcachon, to the picturesque Le Moulleau, this is a seaside town and at the South West part of Arcachon. Although it has a small centre, there is everything you need for a good day out, small cafes and Restaurants, as well as a jetty and long sandy beaches. Most of the beaches in France do not allow dogs, so with Archie in tow we stuck to grass areas!!



Main Boulevard to Beach

Nelsons Canon, good job it's not loaded!!



Tuesday 29th May, We took the car once more and drove to St Emillion crossing both the Gironde and Dordogne Rivers, beautiful scenery and Grape vines as far as your eyes can see. We reached the town an hour before lunch so had time to explore and pop into many of the wine Caves. Prices ranged from the affordable to the ridiculous!



View from the top of the town



One of the many narrow streets

St Emillion is a beautiful Medieval town, we visited the Eglise Monolithe but, unfortunately, we did not have time to visit the Cloister des Cordier.



Instead we headed back across the Dordogne River to Bordeaux. As it is a large busy city, it was very difficult knowing where to start. We decided to go to the old part of the City and very easily found a parking space by the River.



Walking towards the town we went through the gate of the Porte de la Grosse Cloche, 15th Century arched gateway (Great Bell Gate). It was just one of the entrances to the 13th Century Walled Town. When it existed, this belfry rang out the news that the grape harvest was to begin. This is a beautiful



Building, St. Michel's Basilica, dating back to the 13th Century.



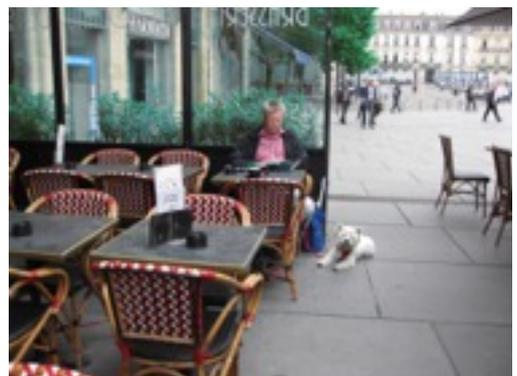
Walking further into the town we came to a large square, Place des Grande Homme (a former Mayor) and is standing near to the Cathedral St. Andre, in Place Pey Berland

This Cathedral is dedicated to St. Andrew and is the most impressive of all the religious buildings in Bordeaux. Built in 11th Century



Also in Pey Berland is the Centre Jean Moulin, which is a museum devoted to the resistance and deportation under the German Occupation. And The Palais Rohan, this is now City Hall, but was the Bishops palace.

We rested for a while in one of the many cafes in the square, for a coffee and cake!! (well, it was a long walk).



So much to see, we couldn't possibly fit it all in, time was going fast and we needed to get back to the car before the parking ticket ran out.

We made our way back to the car, Through another city gate.



We stopped at the bridge for a last look at this fantastic river.

We have had a fabulous day, travelling through the Wine making regions of Graves, Sauterns, and Barsac Regions, not forgetting very importantly St Emillion and Bordeaux too, so we really are spoilt for choice. Strangely enough, we did not purchase one single bottle. HONEST!!

Wednesday 30th May, was not such an exciting day, Bill did boat work i.e. cleaning, commissioning the Rib, fixing a leaking washing machine, whilst I cleaned below, did the laundry, baked bread, etc etc. ready for the off at 17:30 which was 2 hours before half tide to ensure that we had reached the bar at high tide.

We left Archachon (Most expensive marina 97 euros per night, so glad to be away) at 17:30 as planned but on way out of the bay, we noticed that a kite surfer had landed in the water and was waving, we diverted from our course to rescue him which was not easy to get him, his kite and fish the ski/board out of the water, he was very tired by the time we reached him, apparently as the wind dropped, and so did he!





He was very fit and strong but he had difficulty to pull himself out of the water, even though we had left the step fender out, we needed to make another step for him out of one of the jib sheets.

We dropped him off nearer the shore and headed for the buoys which would mark our way out of the basin along the deep water channel.



The Channel was very lumpy/chaotic seas with breakers coming in all directions, it was the case of just holding on tight and sheet guts. We got over the bar with 3.4 meters under the keel and settled for a long haul south avoiding the military firing area marked on the chart. Thankfully, they start firing at 8:30 and Finish at 16:30. BUT, no-one told us that at dark they did jet night flying exercises? OMG!!

It was a very cold uncomfortable night with large swells and with the boat thrashing from side to side it meant we did not get much sleep. Or have any Dinner. We had rain during the early morning but stayed quite dry under the Canopy.

Friday 1st June - We followed the waypoints motoring at 3 knots as wind died and arrived off Anglet, no breakfast and feeling unwell. We followed the Pilotage up River Ardour to berth safely on Pontoon E at 09:30. Lots of heavy industry on the opposite bank of the river. Also only 40 euros per night so Thumbs Up!

We are now in the Basque Region of France so Bill has now hoisted up our brand new Basque Courtesy flag.

For a lot of that of that day we slept, and walked the dog, bless him, he went 16 hours without so much as a wee!!

Saturday 2nd June, Bill left at 10:15 by bus and then train back to Arcachon to collect the car. Arriving back at 8pm, just in time for dinner. I spent the day cleaning the boat, walking the dog and exploring the area a little.

Archie was a reluctant walker, and walked at a snails pace, he did, however, speed up once on the return journey back to the boat.

Sunday 3rd June, Our day off

Travelling by car we visited Bayonne.

Bayonne lies near the coast on the boundary between the Landes and

Basque Country where the River Nive Joins the Ardour. (We are moored in the marina on the Ardour)



We visited the Cathedral Marie, and had coffee in a typical french cafe outside



The streets are narrow with many 6 storey picturesque buildings. It's an interesting town which combines good shopping facilities, Ramparts and quays and a citadel which was built by Vauban.





We decided to leave Bayonne about noon and travelled to Biarritz for lunch.

We parked the car on a street overlooking the beach where there was a surfing competition going on.

There seemed to be hundreds of people taking part.

We ventured on down into the beach area, where I surprised myself and decided to have Moules and Frites!! Bill felt safe with a pizza and salad. Archie loved the moules too.

Biarritz is the most fashionable and most frequented seaside resort in Southwest France.

The setting is magnificent with Atlantic rollers breaking against rocks and reefs, impressive cliffs



and a tiny port.



and Superb bathing beaches.

This was a favoured bathing place of Eugenie, Napoleon's wife.



Some Views of the town
Rocher de la Veirge (The Virgins Rock) crowned with a statue of the Virgin Mary, is Biarritz's main Landmark. It is surrounded by reefs and joined to the shore by a footbridge, made impassable in rough weather by the breaking waves. It was Napoleon III who has the idea of hollowing out the rock and linking it to the cliff.

Me on the bridge.



Bill and Archie too.

Monday 4th was a boat and food shopping day.

In the afternoon we drove to Zumaia in Spain to visit some friends who we met whilst the boat was in La Rochelle. Had a great night, good food and good Company with Charles and Diana on Astraia (A very pretty Nauticat 44.



This is the Zumaya Villa in front of the Marina

The town is on the River Urula



A Norwegian fishing Ship has been built here. They are wondering how to get it out, as the channel narrows around the corner.

Tuesday 5th, Still waiting for our package to arrive for Cmap for the chart plotter, Should have been delivered yesterday...Still, keep fingers crossed! it's now 5:45 pm, been raining all day, it's been a miserable wet few days, cant even get my washing dry!!

Bill has been busy mending our loo, oh joy! I have been dodging the rain taking Archie out for walks.

We went to the supermarket to buy some none slip mats so that Archie can get up and down steps without scratching the wooden floors.

Aft Heads Loo is still leaking, so, back to the drawing board.

Wednesday 6th, Our package was delivered this morning, so we now have the next chart for our chart-plotter for heading further down to the coast of Northern Spain.

We left Anglet pontoon at 10:30 after a slight delay caused by a second customs visit.

All in order of course, and felt that it was very cursory on their part.

We motored out of a very brown River Ardour to face very unpleasant standing waves in harbour mouth as ebb tide met the wind in the opposite direction. I was already feeling poorly with an upset stomach, and the journey past Biarritz was also unpleasant with grey skies, cold, and no-one else around, not even on the famous beaches, Very disappointing!!

We arrived 13:30 after 13 Nautical miles and anchored in a bay off the town of Secoa half a mile south west of St. Jean de Luz, where we took the rib to the charming small town on the west side of the bay and entered the cute little fishing harbour. Archie's morning walk etc. Hmmm!



The middle part of the bay adjoining Secoa is a town called Cibourne, separated from St Jean de Luz by the Nivelle river.

The sun came out and after a rest we took the rib into St. Jean de Luz for a very pleasant pre-dinner evening stroll around the town, dinner on board and quiet evening at anchor, no swell as there was no wind.



The wind did pipe up during the next day and swung round to Northerly, so we up anchored and went to the other side of the bay and dropped anchor in a more sheltered position just off St. Jean de Luz.

Again we took the Rib into St Jean de Luz for an Archie exercise and toilet stop and of course a look around the very fashionable shops, and the most beautiful church we'd ever seen. We stopped at one of the many bars in the square for a very quick beer before heading back to the boat for dinner on board. Once again, a very quiet anchorage as no swell, no wind.



A Beautiful shot in the evening from our anchorage showing the more modern end of this 12th century town.

Friday 8th, Leaving the bay and heading South, once again no wind...well 4.5 knots, not worth mentioning!
(before leaving we had even hoisted the Geneka to ensure no twists - Bill thought perhaps there may be a little wind out to sea) but, alas, no such luck.
So once again we motored the 5.36 nautical miles to Hondarribia, arrived 11:30 perfect landing!!





We are now in SPAIN.

Hondarribia is on the Spanish Side (west) and Hendaye on the French (east) of the river (Rio) Bidassoa which forms the Franco Spanish border.

The Marina is a large Government owned Marina (EKB) very clean toilet and shower facilities, and a launderette (6 Euros) with 2 washing machines and one dryer, I spent a fair few hours there whilst Bill went to collect the car from Anglet.

The New Town of Hondarribia has many modern shops and restaurants/tapas bars.

Saturday Evening 9th June

The Old Town however, dates back to 1203 and is outstanding, Whilst we were visiting there was a medieval festival in progress.





We enjoyed the local tapas in the bar with the barrel outside. Not so adventurous with the drink though, Bill had a Guinness and I, a Plymouth Gin and tonic!

Sunday 10th June We travelled by car to Sare, where we had a very nice lunch and then on to Col St Ignace where we visited La Rhune which is the Basque iconic mountain which dominates the landscape.



We took the cog train, (Le Train de la Rhune) which was established in 1924.



The journey to the summit took 35 minutes where there is a French telecommunications transmitter TDF, the summit being 953 meters above sea level.

It was incredibly windy!



We stayed at the summit for half an hour before catching the train back down the mountain.



From the top, the panorama is magnificent over the Bay of Biscay, the forest of the Landes, the

Basque Pyrenees, and Southward the Bidassoa valley.





This photograph taken from the top shows the Hendaye and Hondarribia

And this one just before we left shows how quickly the cloud can obscure the view!!



We departed Hondarribia 13:30 after engine No start problem, beat to windward under reefed main and Genoa, but with engine running due to the above. Hit a squall with 24 knots and heavy rain well, "it's not all beer, sunshine and sandwiches - this sailing malarkey" says Bill!
I reefed the main when heel grew too much for Archie, we were headed twice by the wind.

Arrived at the entrance to Pasajes in very confused sea but found the entrance easily and was a lot calmer inside.



We were directed to the hammerhead on Pontoon H, again, very good landing!!

After a welcome beer, and we had sorted out the paperwork at the Capitainerie, we went for a walk around the very old town.

Pasajes is mentioned in documentary records as Oisrso in 1203. The village was later changed in 15th Century to Passajes which just means Port.



It is a fishing community, commercial port and the birthplace of the fighting Admiral Blas de Lezo. It lies 5 Kilometers east of Donostia San Sebastian centre and at the foot of Mount Ulia and the Jaizkibel massif.



Narrow cobbled Streets, very picturesque.



Tuesday 12th June, It has been blowing a gale with heavy rain all night. And



the same again this morning so our plan to go to San Sebastian has been put on hold until the weather (wind and Rain) stop. Bill has decided that we will stay here another night, and see what the weather will do tomorrow.



Wednesday 13th June, Unlucky for some!! still blowing a gale and heavy rain, Bill has gone to collect the car from Hondarribia. We will stay another night here methinks. So cleaned the boat and caught up with my diary.

In the evening we went by car to San Sebastian, the weather was too rough to take the boat in.



The sea was roaring up onto the walkway.

We tried to go into the San Sebastian Yacht Club. We were told that the RWYC Plymouth had a reciprocal arrangement with them. We were given short shrift however and told to leave and that they had no such arrangement. But, we had a good walk around, the old town is amazing.

Thursday 14th June, We left Passajes after a quiet morning, the rain had stopped at least. We are heading for Getaria which is 15 nm, wind force 3. We had a gentle 4.5 knots under full sail, boat upright so I was happy with that, so was Archie!



We arrived at the port of Getaria to find no spaces and the Capitanerie told us they were full, we picked up a huge mooring buoy and assembled the fortress kedge anchor (a novel experience - never done it before)



Getaria Port

it's a bit of a beast but worked well holding Shakura head to swell.



Friday 15th June, We dropped twin bow lines to buoy, retrieved Fortress anchor laid as kedge, only practical in extreme cases as the preparation assembly etc about half an hour. Also we were wary of potential damage to topsides. Too big to be handled by one person.

We motored all the way to Lekeitia as very little wind and it was on the nose, although it did increase to F4 just as we arrived off the entrance, typical!!

This is a small pretty, mainly fishing port with no room for us on pontoons. Anchoring wasn't an attractive option due to the swell and small area available. We went up against the harbour wall, not ideal, but the only option. It's a bit of a climb when the tide goes out, especially with Archie.



View of Shakura, the cathedral and the port.

We only intended to stay one night,



but there was a triathlon happening the next day so we stayed to watch, there was over 400 competitors both men and women.



It was a very lively day, with much celebration in the evening.



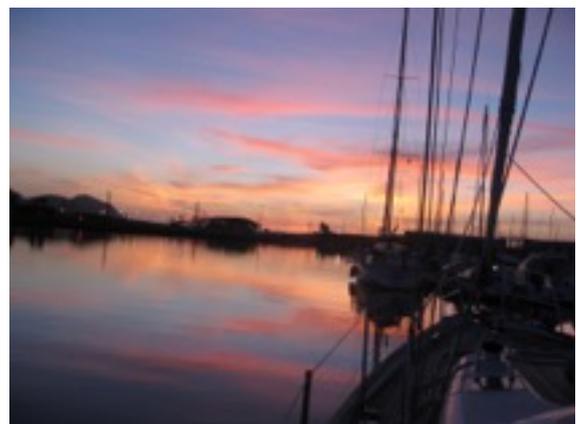
Sunday 17th June - It's Fathers Day, Bill went to a Basque Mass in the Church.

Departed Lekeitio 12:30 after one hour delay due to engine NON start (again)!!

Motor sailed to Bilbao in North Westerly wind from 2 to 10 Knots. Total 31.6nm

Arrived Bilbao port 18:15 met Huge supertanker leaving the port as we entered, so stayed out of his way!! We tried Arenas Marina first but were turned away, they were full due to J80 Racing, so went over to Getxo Marina and found a pontoon free on F Hammerhead. We have found out that our Friends Charles and Di are in Arenas marina, so invited them for dinner tomorrow evening.

Made a chicken and choritzo pasta dish for supper, enjoyed an excellent bottle of red wine and watched an amazing sunset over the port.



Monday 18th June - Bill and I went to go food shopping, walked miles and didn't see one Supermercado!! So had to just bite the bullet in a fruit and veg shop with my limited amount of Spanish. Bill left me in a taxi as he thought I may get lost on the way back to the boat, while he went to find the train/bus station for collecting the car from Pasajes.

We have been asked by the Capitanerie if we could move the boat onto J Pontoon, so will do that tomorrow.

Tuesday 19th June - Boat work in the morning (That's the equivalent of housework!!) We went into the Centre of Bilbao with the car (got another parking ticket to match the one we got in San Sebastian). Dogs not allowed in Guggenheim Museum, so, I went in and Bill walked the dog. It wasn't really my bag of beans, but the building and surrounding water and other art effects were fascinating.



They also had a very effective Westie pup decked out with flowers.....Archie wasn't really impressed, but Bill was.

Wednesday 20th June - Lazy boat day, weather was grey and not very inspiring. Was just nice to relax. Bill had a hard time though trying to fix the stop start button. In the end had to call in the professionals. 50 Euros and a sigh of relief from him, at least it is sorted and safe.

Thursday 21st June - In the morning we visited the Yacht Club at the other side of the bay but were not allowed in. So had some lunch and in the afternoon went to the old port for a wander around, lots of olde worlde very colourful houses, enjoyed a nice cold glass of wine (Bill has a beer).

Friday 22nd June - Bill fixed the leaking toilet!! My crown fell out while I was cleaning my teeth, good job it didn't go down the plug hole!!**, spent lots of time walking around Gexto going from dentist to dentist and pharmacy to pharmacy to find dental cement!! Nothing doing in either case. There' 4 more weeks before I can get to my own dentist!! will have to eat baby food, or use super glue - Bill's suggestion ha ha.



While we were in the vicinity we visited the Puentes de San Juan (A UNESCO world heritage site). This iron transporter bridge, built in 1888 has a suspended cabin for cars and passengers.



It spans the river from Las Arenas to the fishing port of Portugalete. Although there are some in UK in existence, I read somewhere that this one is the only one fully operational. There is a lift up to the top where you can walk along, great view from the top.

Saturday 23rd June - This is our last day in Getxo Marina Bilbao, Bill cleared out and sorted the anchor locker (oh JOY!) I had the mundane task of laundry. In the evening we walked round to the old port to a restaurant and enjoyed the local Paella, as dogs were not allowed into the restaurant Archie was very put out and did whine! which kind of took the edge off what would have been a very nice treat by Bill to save me from the cooking.

The walk back to the Marina in the sunset more than made up for that.





Sunday 24th June - We left Getxo at 11ish after refuelling the boat, making our way out of the estuary and heading under sail for Castro Urdiales.

We had a gentle sail as the wind was anything between 5 and 10 knots, we were sailing at six knots at one point.

Arrived at the outer harbour Castro Urdiales at 1.30pm the vast journey of 9 miles (three of which were from the Gexto marina to the Port entrance)

The harbour was busy as there was a fiesta in full swing, we anchored somewhere in the middle, got the water taxi to the port office where we paid 15 Euros per night (nice one!) this included taxi fares to and from the boat.

We had a walk around the town which was much bigger than we had read about.

There was all sorts going on. The Yacht Club was friendly, and had good amenities. Private swimming area, loungers, showers etc. and a bar which also served tapas at lunch times.

This has been the only friendly Yacht Club so far.



We spent a VERY rocky rolling night at anchor especially with the fishing traffic coming in and out at speed, so decided in the morning to move and use two yellow buoys as trots to hopefully give us a better nights sleep tonight.

June 25th - Yes!, we had a much better night sleep. we picked up two yellow buoys in the morning near the harbour wall which was a little more sheltered. The harbour personnel spotted it and came to tell us us off!! ONLY ONE!! so, in the evening we picked it up again, had a much less rolley nights sleep and dropped the buoy early so the harbour master was none the wiser.

We spent a lazy day in Castro, just walking around seeing what was going on at the fiesta today.

June 26th - We departed Castro Urdiales 11:00 after a very pleasant 2 day stay, beat along the coast to Laredo/Santona, good sail to windward NW force 4/5. Wind freed as we approached Laredo so eased sails to close reach and made 8.5 knots in 15 knots wind arrived at almost empty pontoon/marina at 14:00. Journey 14nm. Spent the rest of the day being lazy, Bill did wash the salt off the boat.

June 27th - Bill went back to Bilbao on the bus to collect the car, when he got to the car he noticed that it had been clamped by the police ref car tax, because we don't use windscreen stickers any more they thought we had no tax, he had to prove to them through the DVLA website that we did actually have tax, so after a lot of argy bargy they took the clamp off; so what should have taken him 3 hours, actually took 7!!.

June 28th - Not very exiting, we took a trip in the car to an out of town supermarket to stock up on our depleted alcohol store, then visited the old town of Laredo, very quaint. We spent the rest of the day and evening just relaxing.

Also found a vet and made an appointment for Archie to get checked for his pet passport to get back to England. Which, we have now amended with Brittany Ferries to come home a week earlier.

June 29th - Tidied and cleaned boat ready for our trip inland. Bill went across to Santona in the RIB ; I walked Archie into the town and back via the beach road.

June 30th - Preparing boat and car for our trip to Madrid and the Picos de Europa.

CHARTS TO FOLLOW

