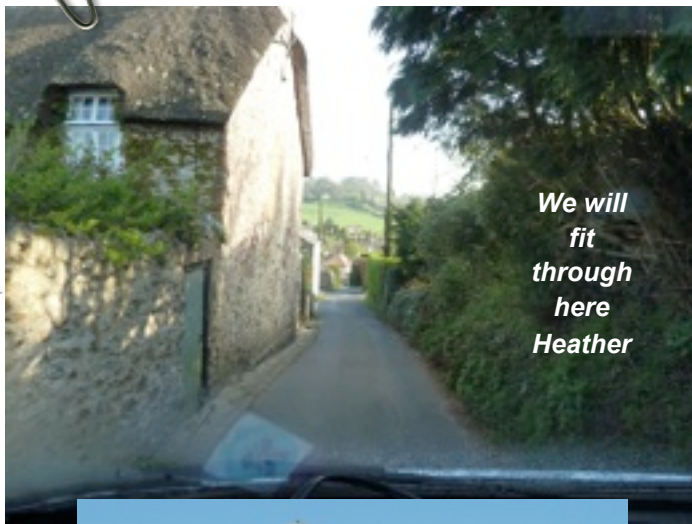


A trip to remember

2011 - ENGLAND

10 April 2011

The roads are getting narrower and (unlike Germany) the edges are bounded by soft bushes.



*We will
fit
through
here
Heather*



A flower amongst the blooms in Exmouth

SIGGY'S RAMBLINGS

The closer we get to Cornwall the more people warn us about the very narrow roads - particularly when they see the size of our van. We both need to learn how to breathe in I guess. I'm not sure about Heather but at least I am doing my bit to reduce my girth - I need a belt for my pants already and my watch seems to be loose around my wrist. The bike riding and good food must be having a positive effect. Mind you Heather reckons her ankles have not diminished in size but then I always knew she had thick ankles anyway. We can't do anything about the size of the van though and that's that.

I know when Heather gets concerned about the road ahead. When we are on a very narrow road and she sees a truck coming towards us she sidles up closer to me (and the steering wheel) and starts to breathe deeply. It's her way of letting me know that she has full confidence in my driving abilities. Luckily, so far, I have always found a way to turn our van around when we have found ourselves in difficult places. But I gather Cornwall will be an even bigger test of my special driving capabilities.

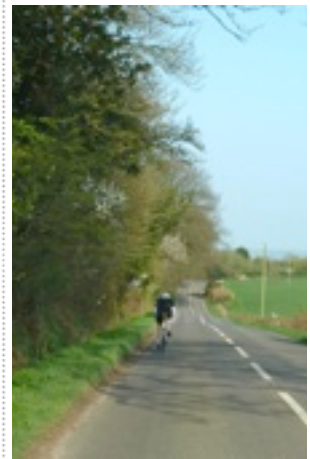
THE VAN

The van is working out very well. There is plenty of storage space for our goods and clothing and even for our two bikes. The two made-up beds are excellent if one of us wants to have a power nap or go to bed early. The all round visibility is also excellent. The heater suddenly stopped working two days after Luton so the mornings are a bit chilly. But the petrol economy is excellent and we are able to keep up with traffic easily enough.

55
 21.10.14
 18.10.14
 19.10.14
 20.10.14
 21.10.14
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Our camping site for the night just outside a lovely village. Hot showers at last!



Look Gary & Cheryl

REFLECTIONS

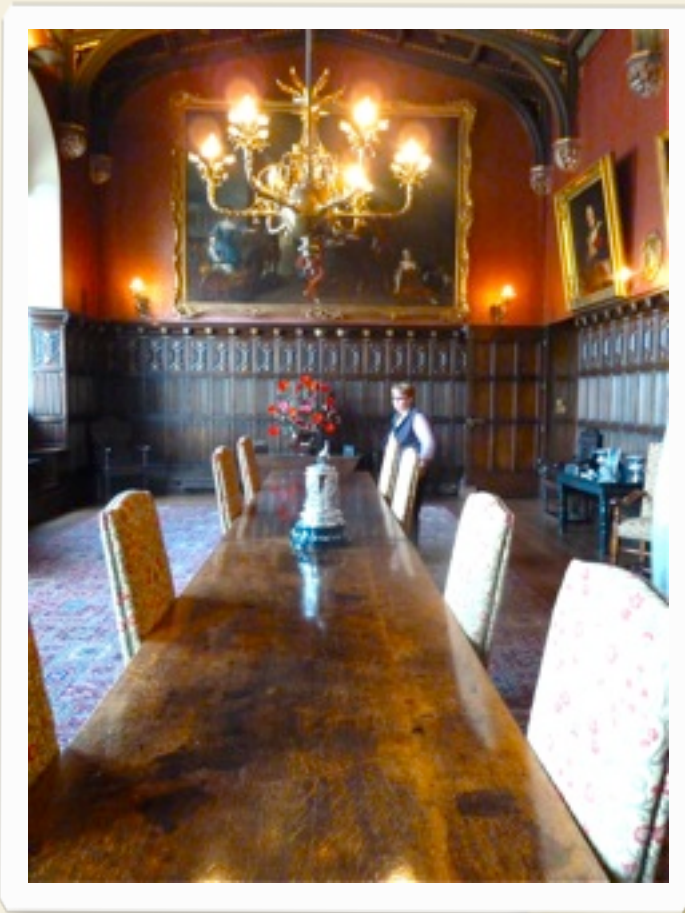
- We have not seen any burkas since we left London.
- We have seen a significant number of open topped convertible cars - more than we have seen in Queensland in a year.
- We have seen (and admired) lots of thatched roofs.
- The country we are in currently, is more hilly, and as a result we come across dramatic views around most corners.
- The weather has been very pleasant. We usually rise around 6-7am and go for a ride or walk. It is very chilly and we have to rug up but it warms up by 9am. As long as we stay out of the wind it can be very pleasant. The sun sets around 8.15pm and the nights get very cold.
- We are seeing lots of caravans and motorhomes on the road. There is no shortage of caravan parks. However they are often hard to find. The cost of a night varies between \$18 to \$35. In most cases one has to pay extra for hot water.



Rugged up ready to ride along the Exmouth foreshore.



Proof for Janine that we did indeed visit Exmouth



A big family dining room

EXMOUTH

Janine and her family (niece) live in Exmouth WA so we decided to stop for a bike ride around its namesake early this morning. The town appears to be quite large - 20 to 30,000 - I would say. We rode around the extensive beach promenade. The beach front was very busy with strollers enjoying the sun. Many were lightly clothed but we enjoyed our 1 hour ride with gloves and coats and then drove on towards Plymouth.

POWDERHAM CASTLE (DEVON COAST)

We stopped for lunch and went on a tour of this restored residence which is still lived in by the original descendants of the family that first built it about 1000 years ago. We were shown around the many stately rooms and viewed paintings and old paraphernalia. They even had a fireplace which could be moved downwards to feet level so that the wax pasted on people's faces would not melt in the heat generated and thus expose the skin to their dangerous makeup made from lead and arsenic. This was the origin of the saying "saving face". Another saying - "worth your salt" originated from when salt was very expensive and the dining room was divided into two levels - the higher level (where the duke and his entourage sat) was where salt was made available, while at the lower level there was no salt. We also visited the kitchen area which was very interesting but did not have time to visit the gardens.



Powderham Castle

It was getting late so we hurried off to find a caravan park near Kingsbridge but our dam GPS got us totally lost. We finally found a caravan park by accident which so happened to be only 2 kms from Kingsbridge. The owner of the caravan park was fantastic. He came into our van and spent time with us explaining how to get the best experience out of Cornwall and which roads to steer clear of. We have met so many friendly people who have gone out of there way to help us.