

# EUROPE 2023

4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs | 2 grand-boys

## Gliders?

Unbelievable to see gliders in this part of the world. I always thought sail planes got their lift from thermal currents. What thermal currents are there in Chipping? Deakin was quick to remind me that gliders get lift from slope soaring too and there are lots of hills around here. I learned something today.



## Narrow Roads

You don't see many fences around this area - mainly hedges. And hedges grow out into the road and up so high you can't see over them. With extremely narrow roads the sharp branches of a newly cut hedge can easily scratch your vehicle, especially when a passing tractor with trailer tries to come through. It means progress is slow and drivers need to check every corner in case a vehicle approaches from the opposite direction.



Star attraction at Wild Boar Park!

## Lazy Day

As the title suggests it was not a busy day today. Once again it was a delayed start due to the necessity to be around to watch the playoff for 3rd place in the Women's World Cup. Maddi concocted a lovely pile of pancakes that were consumed in front of the TV.

We then headed to the gliding field we had spied yesterday to see if they were doing any "joy" flights. Blayze has not yet been up in a glider and if the opportunity presents he wants to have a go. The conditions were not good today but we were shown around some of the aircraft and welcomed to return if better weather presents itself.

After lunch we headed to the local Wild Boar Park just 2 miles down the road. It was a little disappointing really — with little kids running around having a good time but the array of animals (and their habitats) were not as depicted on the internet. Blayze (and Deakin and Maddi I believe) did enjoy seeing some of the animals. The pigs/boars were a favourite of Blayze. There were some very unusual sheep that we would be unlikely to see in Australia.



Our biggest “experience of the day” was coming face to face with a huge tractor (with 2 forks out front) and long trailer out the back. We happened to meet it on a very sharp corner. Of course we were travelling very slowly anyway but we were forced to stop with a skid and needed to back up some distance so that it could get past us. These roads are really only one car wide and are edged by very high hedges.





