

## Lens letter from the Via

Date 7/07/17

Location	Cussey-sur-I'Ognon	KM's to Rome	1,342	Steps Today	33,244
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Today was one of those magical walks through old established forests. From what we could work out the land was formerly attached to a large chateau which now has been converted to municipal protected parklands, which means no logging. The



forest had a myriad of paths through it (not all that well marked) and it was good for our feet to walk on dirt for a sustained period. The forest has some very old beech trees. As you can see from this photo the trees were quite a lot taller than Carol. It was also good to get some respite from the sun. The forest was a haven for birdlife and it was evident from a few mud bogs that wild boar are active in the area. Carol also saw a deer run across the path.

All good things come to an end and we were back on the tarmac, but it gave us a chance to walk along a well-

planned and run farm squeezed into the flats between the protected forest and a replanted forest. The farm and the replanted forest were to be our companions for the next four kilometres. Yes, it was a big farm. Unfortunately, today was our first misstep with directions as we missed the turn-off back into the forest. Not too much damage as we found our way back onto the track and only added an extra four kilometres. On coming out of the forest we came across this planting of a crop. Would be interested if anybody knows what the crop is. They are probably legumes but they must be very heat resistant as the crop is doing extremely well without any irrigation.

Bit of a nature day for us today as we also walked past a crop of sunflower plants and the local bees were very active. Not



sure how much difference the bees would have made to the total yield but they were having a good time.

It is good to see so many urban gardens have a portion of the land set aside for growing crops for home consumption, from all manner of vegetables to grape vines.

On arriving at Cussey-sur-Salon we committed the unforgivable sin of waking a French person from

their siesta, we virtually had the keys thrown at us so we had low expectations of our visit. We were wrong as the owner turned out to be a good host and brought out a second meal as we misunderstood what we were ordering. Let's see if we get that sort of service in Rome.