

Len's letter from the Via

Date 3/07/2017

Location Chalindrey

KM's to Rome 1,449

Steps Today 30,359

After a few days in Langres, full of enthusiasm and high expectations we started our walk today. Walking out of Langres in the morning it became mouth-watering obvious why we love to come to France as we passed this shop window. Langres is a nice village to visit, it is not so much on the tourist trail but it offers a lot to see, as there has been a village on the site for 2000 years. It is surrounded by ramparts which are reminiscent of the ones in Lucca, great for an evening stroll taking in the views and the night breeze. For the cheese lovers, there is a great local brie which



is worth making the effort to get to Langres. While we were there a vintage car rally was passing through, mainly Citroens and Renaults, a few Volkswagens but the one that took my eye was a vintage green MG. Shouldn't be thinking of cars given that I am about to walk 1,462 kilometres to Rome.

Today's walk was through prosperous farming land and a good way to start a long walk being all downhill. As we walked we looked back on majestic views of the fortress village of Langres which dominates the Northern skyline. A very imposing and threatening presence for any potential invaders.

As with all walk guides based on the same walk there is inconsistency in the recommended trail, we took the shorter option today as a warm up for a couple of



big days ahead. Chalindrey is a village in which modern life has not arrived as you can see by the mode of transport Carol opted to use to arrive at the village. On arrival we found that all the local restaurants and cafes were closed so we trudged off to the supermarket for an evening meal of bread and tomatoes with a bit of salad eaten at our rather humble lodgings on a broken down plastic table in the forecourt. We had to have our meal there as there is a sign in our room

"It is forbidden to eat rooms" (*sic*).

I suspect we are in for some unusual overnight stays on our way to Rome but that is the way of the wandering pilgrim, let's just hope they are interesting. Tomorrow we are off to Champlitte.

