

August, September, October

Well, we did it!

We opened on the 1st August. The pool was fully functioning, and we had 5 suites and 2 apartments listed on our website and other booking sites. The Penthouse apartment and suite did not make it on to the completed list but they were not far off. One of the Covid delays unfortunately resulted in the kitchen for the apartment not arriving on time. However, for our first stage we figured this was enough capacity to test us and the Chateau.

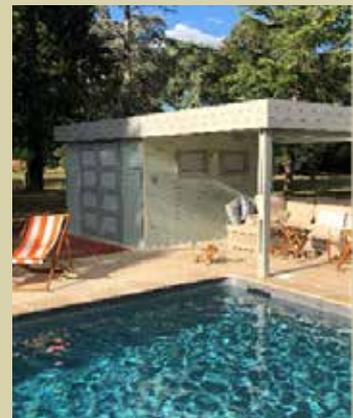
It was such an amazing feeling to greet guests and see their reaction when they entered the Chateau and again when they entered their rooms. You know when you love something and you think it looks ok but you are just not convinced until the real test is done? For us, the guests we had over these three months gave us so much compassion, warmth and encouragement it was amazing.

Cross cultural. We had a host of volunteers and professionals of all nationalities working here but now with borders closing and quarantine rules our guests were 99% French. Ok scary moment, we have yet to find time to start French lessons properly, so how will we manage. What if our guests are upset their hosts in France speak English. Well I have to say they were all without exception amazingly supportive. One guest even helped with our website translations. Our integration to France has been warm, welcoming and supportive.

Of course, we still had things to get done in between being hosts, and again our guests were so wonderful and understanding.

The Pool House Gets Painted

It is always amazing what a difference a coat of paint makes



Overlooking it is always amazing what a difference a coat of paint makes. This building was acceptable in its raw state but the added colour here just made it something special and it fitted right in. In fact, in a way it made it sort of disappear into the background.

The grass was sowed in September so all summer we had a red carpet leading to the pool. Our guests were royalty to us, so a bit of red carpet was fitting we felt.

Chino

Our very special little old man. Chino moved with us from Australia to Switzerland and then made his last big adventure to the Chateau in France. With the pool house painted our wonderful volunteers Andy and Fran suggested a walled garden bed at the end and this became the best resting place for Chino. We get to say hello to him every time we go out or come home and he would have liked being able to watch the driveway and have his back to the pool. Thank you guys, we treasure this gift.



The Little things...

...The outside lighting, door stoppers, picture hanging, the list was endless but it moved us into a state of completion and satisfaction so we could prepare ourselves for the next step.

Once we got to the end of September, we started on the first three of our remaining 14 bedrooms. This is what we call phase two and it will definitely keep us busy during winter.



destiny

noun

/ˈdɛstəni/

plural *destinies*

the way your life will develop in the future

A Time To Reflect And Say Thank You

We looked back on all we had achieved so far and realised just how much help and support we have had.



Of course, we had tradesmen but they were paid to do a job. We had amazing volunteers and, while they are not all with us still, we are thankful for each and every one of them every day. We also looked at the local support we have had, we had great advice and helping hands at every turn and we wanted to put a lunch on for everyone that had worked and contributed to the completion of phase one.

from people about how we should be proud of what we have achieved I know there is no “we” - it was a team of people constantly taking care, taking time and taking an interest.

The length of the table was humbling and while we get many comments

To everyone who reads these newsletters, who likes a picture on social media, who makes a comment, who listens to our Mums talk about it back home. Every act has helped to move us forward and given us energy. So as we gear up for winter and phase two the only thing left to say is THANK YOU!