

A Westmuir village 'Tour' to Bordeaux ... May 2016.

There were **four** on the 'Village Tour' including **Maureen** who for many years worked with the **Shoppie** owner who was **Colin's Mum, Viv Sheriffs**. The holiday foursome enjoyed some extra special local sights, scenes and fun ... all thanks to the (confidently bi-lingual) **Famille Sheriffs** of the **Bordeaux Region**. Three days of the **10-day Tour** were spent with (and organised by) **Colin and family**.



Incredible St Emilion: not just famous for its wines but also steeped in **history**. We visited a **wine cave** to learn about **Crémant de Bordeaux**, a sparkling wine (using Champagne method).

Then on to **Chateaux Guillemot** where owner Valerie (6th generation) guided us round the **vineyard**. The **earliest phone number** shown on an ancient 'grape picking' photo - was **no. 8!** (The earliest

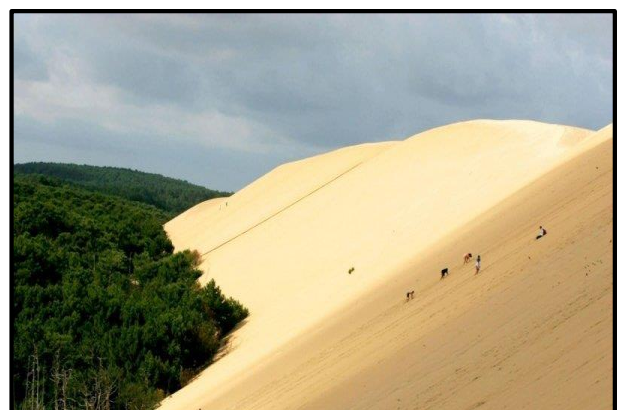


phone number at **Westmuir Shoppie** was **167**). Most of the grapes are gathered by machine now just as many of our Scottish raspas are now. We learned that prime customers these days for the **Wines of Bordeaux**, come from the **Far East ... China and Japan!**



The day was rounded off beautifully with a **Fondue (wild Boar and steak) dinner** produced by **Annabelle**. The kids entertained us enormously ... and the best part of all ... was when they sang for **Westmuir friends, Reta and Robbie Adam (in Westmuir) ... and Grannie Sheriffs in Drumnadrochit ... and the Village Tour 4 ...** all thanks to telephone links. Just awesome.

Next Day – (Definitely 'Highly recommended' by all) was a walk on the **Pilat Dune** after lunch at 'The Two Oaks' in **Pyla-sur-Mer**, on the **Atlantic Coast**. Totally fabulous lunch ... great Mussels!



Then we set off for the **Pilat Dune**. **Highest Sand Dune in Europe** ... about 3km in length ... approx 400ft in height ... amazing views and kite flying areas ... thankfully a set of 200 steps to help reach the top. Well worth the visit! Good area for camping or touring Campervan family holidays!

Village Treasure Trail ...



A full day participating in a village event following **5km of paths, vineyards and villages** close to the **River Ciron**.



Definitely a **great way** to get to know a village and its surrounds, just as we experienced here when the **Westmuir Community Woodland** had its **opening event** in **2005**.

Perhaps we could follow the style of the **'Rallye Pedestre'** one day. **Treasure Trail Twinning!**

Briefly about Bordeaux City ...

It is an **impressive and beautiful city**, a **UNESCO World Heritage site** with much to offer. **Elegant buildings; amazing waterfront by the River Garonne; Impressive tram system**. Ideal starting point for visits to the **Atlantic Coast** or to the **best of the Wine Chateaux country** and earlier this month (June 2016) saw the official opening of **'La Cite du Vin – a world of Cultures'**

It is a **'BOOT'** shaped building described as a majestic glass tower and the 7th floor will have a panoramic restaurant overlooking the river. As with **other iconic buildings** around the world the **'BOOT'** will no doubt begin to feature frequently on travel websites.

