

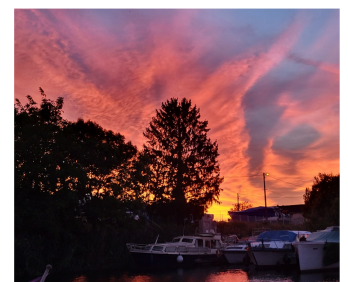
In Limbo at Losne...August - September 2023



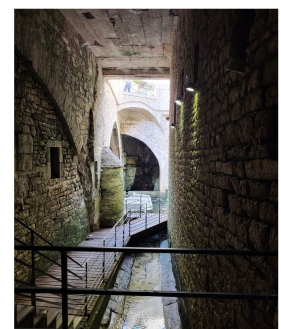
The weed!

And so in late September we returned to Burgogne, St. Jean de Losne and Otter...believing that we would manage a month's sailing up the Doubs at least to Besancon and back. The owner of the boatyard was finally back and we waited for the spare part....stressed and temperamental (him not us), we waited a few days and chose our moment. Mais non....mais non, non, NON! The part had gone out of production and they would have to make another out of stainless steel, but not before winter. So that was that. Out of 3 months, we had about 2 weeks cruising (and a week of that was spent in Dole). But that's how it goes sometimes....ask any boat owner.... Still roasting, we decided to make the most of the last days...so we went for lunch in Chalons-sur-Seine down the Saone, a favourite spot with its pastel-coloured streets (below), to Dole again and to Franche Comte´.

A word about the weed.....many of the smaller canals are impassable now because of the thick weed choking them from bank to bank, and making impossible to open the locks. When we left our marina in St. Jean two years ago, the water was so thick with it, we wondered if we would be able to get out again. It binds the propeller and fills the water filters. It originated in the Far East and somehow got to France where it spreads rapidly. It is non-toxic but a great nuisance. What a surprise to find it virtually gone in our marina thanks to an experiment by one of the universities ...who are now putting a non-toxic dye in the basin which blocks the light so the weed dies. And every time we flush the toilet we get pretty green water! But, it seems to be working, so hopefully they will extend it to the canals.



And yes, we went back to Dole, with about 100,000 other people, not knowing they were in the middle of an annual gastronomic weekend. Streets were filled with booths displaying local produce ...cheeses, wine, vegetables, saucisson and more. Fantastic atmosphere.



But there is always something new to see....around each corner.

And there was more time to do the things you often don't....like re-varnishing the trim and mast....newsletters....and plan a trip by car to Besancon, Nancy and up through Germany along the Moselle River which we will not get to by boat now, but would love to see. And so we do....8 days of continual sunshine....another area we would probably not have seen. So a good season, all in all, with many new experiences, even though it was different to what we had planned. More newsletters on that to follow a little later.