



# News

# Rural Capers Group

1st Edition April 2024

*Now Open!*



## Our Inaugural Newsletter

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first Rural Capers Group newsletter! We're excited to share updates on our project, starting with our recent milestone, hosting our first Gite guest! Stay tuned for more progress reports.

Best regards,  
Heidi & Vic

## The Journey Has Begun

As mid-April unfolds, the landscape at Cubertafond slowly shakes off the remnants of winters grip, signalling the long-awaited resurgence of nature following a season of relentless rainfall. Despite enduring sporadic frosts and a fleeting dusting of snow, the prevailing weather has predominantly been characterized by persistent rain showers. The introduction of a bird table outside our office window has unveiled a bustling avian community, with our familiar Robin joined by a lively ensemble of Bluetits, Great Tits, Marsh Tits, Firecrests, Nuthatches, Blackbirds, and Sparrows, each adding their own charm to the burgeoning spectacle of spring. Amidst the avian congregation, a pair of imposing Birds of Prey remains a captivating mystery, their species still eluding our identification, while the rhythmic drumming of Woodpeckers serves as a daily serenade, despite their elusive presence. With the imminent arrival of nest-building season, we remain vigilant in our efforts to trim and shape the hedges surrounding our property, preparing to witness the vibrant flurry of activity that heralds the dawn of a new chapter in nature's ever-unfolding tale.

As spring settles in around the garden at Cubertafond, a vibrant display of life emerges as the season's bulbs awaken from their slumber. The Daffodils and Tulips we diligently planted last October now push through the earth, eager to unfurl their colourful blooms. Yet, amidst our planned additions, nature surprises us with unexpected delights as Snowdrops and Crocuses burst forth in unexpected patches of vibrant hues. Their early appearance catches us off guard, adding an extra layer of excitement to our daily observations. As we marvel at the kaleidoscope of blossoms dotting the landscape, we find ourselves eagerly anticipating the possibility of Bluebells gracing our property, wondering if their delicate presence will soon enchant our senses and further enhance the enchanting tapestry of spring.

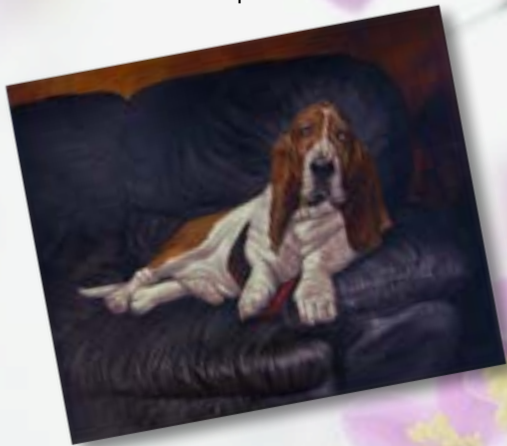
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Back in January, we enlisted the expertise of Farmer Eric, whose Limousin cattle roam the lush pastures across the valley, to help us prepare our field for the arrival of our anticipated Alpacas. With meticulous care, the field was meticulously cut and levelled, laying the foundation for its transformation into five snug paddocks. Among these, two will remain in constant use, facilitating a rotation system to ensure a steady supply of fresh grass. Understanding the necessity of separating the boys from the girls, we're preparing fencing to commence within the coming weeks, a task looming large on our agenda. As the grass begins to flourish, the eagerly anticipated moment draws near when our Alpacas will finally call this land their home. Meanwhile, a small section of the property already awaits the arrival of chickens, with plans for their cosy abode to be erected soon, marking yet another step forward in our rural venture.

Excitement fills the air as progress on the gîte continues at a steady pace. The kitchen, the heart of the home, is almost ready for its grand debut, with the installation of a wood burner adding both warmth and charm. A striking chimney, designed to radiate heat throughout the kitchen and the main bedroom above, stands as a testament to thoughtful design and craftsmanship. With the gas supply soon to be connected to the hob, the stage is set for culinary adventures to unfold. Next on the agenda is the completion of the bathroom, bringing us one step closer to providing a luxurious retreat for our guests. Already, curtains have been carefully crafted, and a trip to IKEA is imminent to add the finishing touches with soft furnishings and kitchen equipment. The gîte is shaping up to be a stylish and inviting haven, and we eagerly anticipate sharing its allure with the world through soon-to-be-released website pictures.



## The World According To Bumble

Bumble the Basset Hound has seamlessly integrated into her new home and embraces every opportunity to explore her surroundings with boundless enthusiasm. Spot, the mischievous barn cat, often saunters past the kitchen door, delighting in teasing Bumble and igniting her playful spirit. Despite Bumble's valiant attempts to give chase, Spot effortlessly eludes her grasp, leaving Bumble momentarily perplexed by the feline's antics. Nonetheless, Bumble's fearless determination shines through, even if her hunting prowess is yet to match her enthusiasm. Amidst the daily routines, the presence of our resident deer brings us immense joy, as her frequent visits affirm her comfort and trust in us. Just last week, she ventured right up to our back door, a heart-warming reminder of the harmonious relationship between nature and our humble abode.

## New Kids On The Block

Seven weeks ago, on the 1st of March 2024, we were blessed to witness the arrival of three precious additions to our family: Lulu, Fleur, and Willow, our darling "Poitou" goats. Since their birth, our days have been filled with the joy of nurturing and caring for these delightful creatures, with three bottle feeds lovingly administered each one everyday. Affectionately referred to as "the girls," Lulu, Fleur, and Willow have seamlessly woven themselves into the fabric of our lives here at Château Stepanow, embodying the spirit of warmth and companionship that defines our home. We extend a heartfelt invitation to all our guests to come and meet these charming members of our family during their stay, for there is no greater joy than sharing the love and laughter they bring to our days.





## **Our Gite “Wisteria Cottage” Is Now Open**

Nestled amidst the serene countryside on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Coussac-Bonneval, our self-catered gite, Wisteria Cottage, offers a haven of tranquillity and charm in rural France. Surrounded by rolling hills, green meadows and quaint French architecture, our gite provides the perfect escape for those seeking a peaceful retreat. Guests are welcomed into a cosy and beautifully furnished space, complete with modern amenities and rustic touches that evoke the essence of French countryside living. Whether savouring a leisurely breakfast in your private garden space, exploring the nearby historic sites and scenic trails, or simply unwinding amidst the beauty of nature, our gite promises an unforgettable experience immersed in the timeless allure of rural France.

Conveniently located a mere 45 minutes southwest of Limoges, our gite offers easy access to the city and all of its cultural and historic landmarks and shopping attractions. Whether you're craving a leisurely stroll through the quaint streets of Coussac-Bonneval, with its very own imposing 12th Century Chateau, which is open to the public, or visiting the many beautiful villages our region has to offer, Wisteria Cottage serves as the perfect home base for your French adventure. With its strategic location, guests can immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of French culture while indulging in the comforts of our cosy retreat.

Bookings are now available for 2024, inviting travellers from near and far to experience the warmth and hospitality of Wisteria Cottage. Whether you're planning a romantic getaway for two or a family vacation filled with exploration and discovery, our gite promises an unforgettable stay amidst the breathtaking landscapes of rural France. Join us at Wisteria Cottage, where every moment is an opportunity to create cherished memories in the heart of the French countryside.

At Rural Capers Group we are excited to announce the ongoing updates to our website, [ruralcapersgroup.com](http://ruralcapersgroup.com), and social media platforms. These will include updated pictures of our accommodation, with our calendar of availability and new booking system, together with a multitude of attractions and activities within our region, all within a comfortable drive from our property. Stay tuned for more updates very soon but in the meantime we can be contacted as below:

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