

# NORTH FRANCE

ROYSTON → NORMANDY

BORED AT THE HOSTEL ONE DAY, I DECIDED TO GO OUT AND EXPLORE A LITTLE ORGANIC ORCHARD MARKET NEARBY, LOOKING FOR SOMEONE NEW TO SPEAK TOO AND A CHANCE TO PERHAPS STAY AND WORK IN ORDER TO SAVE SOME OF MY QUICKLY DISAPPEARING POCKET MONEY.

THE GARDEN KEEPER, AN ENGLISH WOMEN, WELCOMED ME IN AS SHE SAW ME APPROACH, AND LED ME TO A TABLE IN THE GARDEN TO SIT AND TALK. SHE TOLD ME ALL OF THE DIFFERENT KIND OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES SHE GREW, AND HOW SHE WAS THE MAIN SUPPLIER FOR ALL OF THE RESTAURANTS IN THE VILLAGE OF *VILLEDIEU-LES-POELES*. SHE TOLD ME SHE HAD NO WORK FOR ME, AS SHE HAD ALREADY TOO MANY HELPERS WORKING FOR HER, THAT MOST OF THEM HAD TO RESULT TO SLEEPING IN THE EMPTY CARAVANS AND SPARE HAMMOCKS BY THE ORCHARD.

UPON HEARING I COULD SEW, SHE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME MAKING A PHONE CALL TO A FRIEND, WHO COINCIDENTALLY WAS LOOKING FOR HELP TO MANAGE HER SMALL SUSTAINABLE CLOTHING LINE SHE RAN FROM HER HOME. HER FRIEND, AS IT HAD IT, AGREED TO HOST ME RIGHT AWAY AND CAME AND PICKED ME UP THAT EVENING. FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS I STAYED AT HER FARM HOUSE WITH HER HUSBAND AND THREE WILD SPIRITED CHILDREN.

THE MOTHER OF THREE HAD STARTED HER BUSINESS BUYING USED PILLOW CASES FROM THRIFT SHOPS AROUND TOWN AND REFURBISHING THEM INTO T-SHIRTS. FROM ALL OF MY CONVERSATIONS ON SUSTAINABILITY THROUGHOUT MY TRAVELS, I HAD SCARCELY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION ONE OF THE BIGGEST POLLUTANT INDUSTRIES <<AND THE REASON WHY I BECAME SO FASCINATED AND CONCERN ON BECOMING, AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO BECOME MORE ECOLOGICAL CONSCIOUS>> THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY!

FINALLY I WAS ABLE TO USE MY TALENT AND MY SKILLS TO HELP SOMEONE CREATE A SUSTAINABLE AND GOOD-CONSCIOUS BUSINESS. NOT ONLY WAS ALL THE MATERIALS SHE USED SECOND HAND, BUT SHE CREATED HER PATTERN PERFECTLY FITTING TO THE SIZE OF THE PILLOW CASE SO THAT ALMOST NO MATERIAL WAS WASTED.

WHEN I LEFT HER HOUSE, SHE GIFTED ME WITH THE ONE OF THE T-SHIRTS (AS SHE CALLED THEM) WHICH I HAD MADE FOR HER, PICTURE ABOVE.

