HUNGARY

Ornate entrance

Pecs

A pleasant journey across green countryside took us to Pecs. We passed through areas devoted to grapes and other fruit growing. Pec's history goes back 2000 years and is marked by each of the dynasties that have come and gone. Illustrative of this is the presence in the central area of a mosque (now called a mosque church), a basilica, an early christian tomb chapel and a synagogue. The buildings are beautiful and lovingly presented. The main square was about a kilometre ride from the local market where we managed to get a park. It is paved and pedestrian only (of course we still rode our bikes). It is on a slope so we had to ride to the top of the hill to see what we considered the best part of the old city - the gardens around the basilica and the bishop's house. It was so peaceful and beautifully done being located right on part of the original protective wall.

Rather than stay in Pecs, we decided on travelling further toward the Austrian border and found a peaceful spot beside a lake for the night. The road was just wonderful compared to what we have seen in other countries and the rural countryside was green, undulating fields with tidy, nicely maintained villages. It is a nice change not to see a majority of dilapidated buildings.

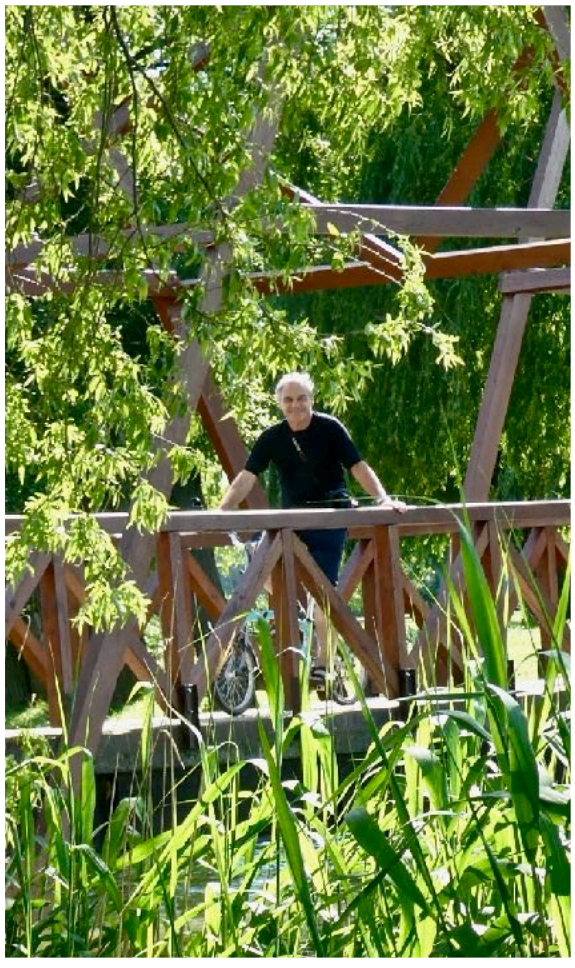
We are sitting here now listening to a drum beat that we assume is intended to assist the rowers on the lake. Walkers and cyclists are everywhere. It is a popular place. More than one or two bare chested lads passed us. Probably off for a swim. A learner driver is practicing backing and parking just beside us. This place is very much like home.

WFT? Heather came home with this frozen vegetable. Even Google Translate was of no help. Thought they were beans but no - and they tasted as disgusting as they looked.

ANOREXIA? Iron statue of a knight is so skinny it looks pathetic. No way could this fellow take on a Saracen in a fight and win.

DOOR ART Amazingly intricate golden door accoutrements. No door bell in sight. Knock, knock.

A truly lovely city……..



PHOTOS