

In Search of the Lost Glasses...

While on holiday in France, I was swimming in the ocean when a huge wave knocked me over and swallowed up my glasses. I searched for them desperately, half-blind, which was about as effective as looking for a needle in a haystack—only wetter and sandier. Faced with the sheer scale and hopelessness of the task, I asked a few people on the beach if I could leave them my phone number, just in case, by some miracle, the glasses turned up after high tide. I left the Breton beach empty-handed.

That very evening, I received a call from one of the beachgoers. A seagull had caught their attention as it pecked at something on a low wall, which turned out to be my precious glasses. My husband and I went back to meet the band of spectacle finders, who greeted us with applause, offered us an aperitif, introduced themselves, and made us feel instantly welcome. We discovered shared passions, including rugby and classic cars, and learned that Le Mans Classic would become an annual event from 2026 onwards, giving enthusiasts the opportunity to relive the excitement of legendary motor races every summer near the famous city of Le Mans.

Our hosts noticed the sparkle in my husband's eyes as he heard about such an event, his grin stretching from ear to ear. In an extraordinary display of generosity, they immediately invited us to attend all four days of the festivities and stay with them on site. We now have our tickets and are looking forward to seeing our eight rescuers again, getting to know them better, and building lasting friendships.

A month later, after another swim—this time in a pond in north London—I sat on a tree trunk to put in my contact lenses and forgot to put my famous glasses back in their case. The following day, a friend and I returned to the spot and searched high and low for them, but without success. This time there were neither helpful passers-by nor obliging wildlife to come to my rescue.

So I had no choice but to choose a new pair of glasses—which, as it turns out, suit me even better!