

Issue 213

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Central Brittany Journal

March 2022



Camaret sur Mer 30



Abbaye de Beauport part 3 23-25



Ringed Plover 31



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Cover Parsnips

Water-soluble coloured crayons and
watercolour, by Samuel Lewis.

See 'Tim the Gardener' pages 20-21

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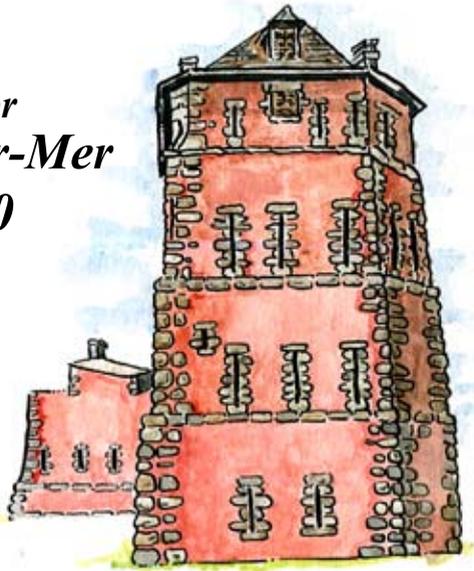


Monday 9:00 - 12:00
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C is for Camaret-sur-Mer page 30



Popular Sayings
pages 10-11



Limericks page 16



How My Grandfather
Ended World War 1...
pages 18-19

Tim the
Gardener
pages
20-21



Life after Brexit for UK nationals living in France

Seminar

The last two years have been challenging with Brexit and the pandemic. Has your financial planning kept up with developments?

Wed 30 Mar GRANZAY GRIPT (*Niort*) (79)

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Letters & Photos



Black Redstart

My neighbour has a black redstart in his property which first arrived in September.
Hugh Poulain, Callac



Goldfinches and Green Woodpecker *Ian Griffiths*

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Paulette Hervé	Photo of the Month	back page

Editorial: This month, there has been a hint of a return to normality in work on the Journal. I have had the rewarding task of trying to cram more material into its fifty-six pages than they can easily hold. This is one of the often-overlooked strengths of the print media (vs the internet); space available is finite, and, when things are working well, everything has to give a little ground and make room for something else, making the whole more concise and worthy of the reader's attention.

I have been surprised by how closely readers have been following the presidential election campaign, and the number of limericks received on the subject. The Chess puzzle has moved to page 7, and the Little Toughie to page 6, in order to make space for them. I am hoping that the trend continues next month, and that there will be a similar challenge to fit everything into the April issue.

On the wider front, at the time of writing, war in Europe seems to be on the agenda again. By coincidence, I have been reading books about Russian history recently. One thing that they all agree on is the warmth and generosity of the Russian people. It seems a desperate shame that people from different countries cannot find a way of talking to each other and resolving their difficulties without involving the men of power, and their military machines. *GL*

Central Brittany Journal

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Deadline for classified ads: 20th of the month.

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6 Bridge Puzzle / Win Tickets / Little Toughie

Music Win Tickets

Bluesman Melvin Taylor plays La Grande Course, St Agathon, Guingamp, at 5.30pm on Sunday 27th March. Born in Mississippi 63 years ago, Melvin makes a welcome return to France after 30 years absence. To have a chance of winning a pair of tickets, answer the following question.



Melvin Taylor cites Jimi Hendrix as one of his later influences. Other than Jimi himself, name one of his 'Experience'.

Text answer with name and number to 06 02 31 29 41 by Saturday 19th March when the draw will be made.

Bridge Puzzle 38

When to Draw Trumps

Dealer East. E/W Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

♠ Q 10 7

♥ Q 5

♦ K Q 8 4

♣ A 9 6 3



West leads the K♠.

How should declarer plan the play?

♠ A K J 8 3

♥ 6 4 3

♦ A 6 2

♣ 5 2

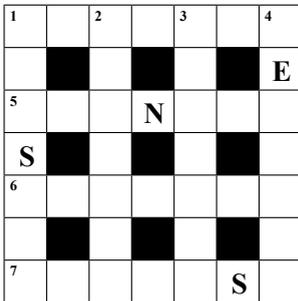
Solution page 53

Bridge puzzle contributed by Dan Lewis, buildingmatters@yahoo.co.uk

Calling all quizzers

New Quiz starting April 12th and after that, the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Venue - Le P'tit Pelem, St Nicolas du Pelem (near the church). 7.50€ each for chicken with sauce, or omelette, or vegetarian steak with chips. Plenty of parking nearby. All Places must be pre-booked and limited to maximum 20 teams of 4. If you are interested in the next or future quizzes either to take part or host, please email dalefraser01@gmail.com. Health pass/mask required.

The 'Little Toughie' *Jim Henderson*



Clues Across

- 1 Begging for money (7)
- 5 Requisites (7)
- 6 Group of intellectuals (7)
- 7 Pathos (7)

Down

- 1 They make things happen (7)
- 2 Surfaces (7)
- 3 Corrupt (7)
- 4 Thwarts (7)

The following numbers of letters are required to solve this puzzle – a few have been inserted already to help you to get started.

A – 3; D – 3; E – 9; G – 3; H – 1; I – 1; K – 2; L – 1; M – 2; N – 2; R – 4; S – 7; T – 1; V – 1.

Solution in the April issue. Solution February Little Toughie page 51

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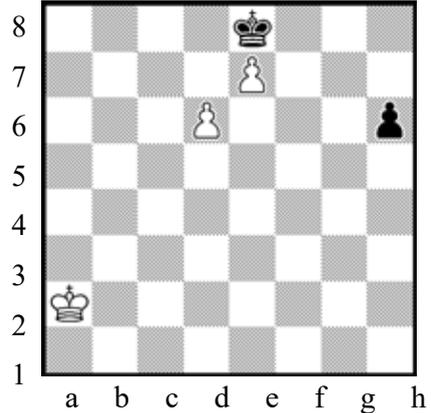


Chess Puzzle

White to play and win.

Hint

White is one move short of catching to black pawn but by heading for it by a different direction they can create a threat which will force black to take evasive action.



Solution page 43

*The Knight in Shining Armor;
Huelgoat Chess Club,
chrisandmalbody@yahoo.co.uk*

Hetty's Kitchen

Savoury Vegetable Pancakes - p.20

Carrot Brownies - p.26

Poached Pears and Ginger

Parkin - p.26

**Potato Pancakes with
Bacon & Mable Syrup - 51**

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Help & Advice page 10

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What's On in March

Wed 1 - Sun 6 March

Wednesday 2nd, 16th, and 30th March

Sale at the Secours Populaire, Callac. 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Rue Louis Morel, behind the library.

Thursday 3rd March

Death on the Nile (French title: Mort sur le Nil). Directed and starring Kenneth Branagh. Starts 8.30pm. In English with French subtitles. Rostrenen Cinema.

Sunday 6th March

Concert at the Chapelle Saint Yves de Quintin. Accordeon and guitar concert with Martin Coudroy, and Aurélien Tanghe. Starts 5pm. Entry 12€, free for under 18's. Quintin.

Sunday 6th March

Blues Concert with Mac Arnold 5.30pm. 16€ on the door. La Grande Ourse, St Agathon, Guingamp. Contact 06 59 15 18 32 or www.ourse.fr

Mon 7 - Sun 13 March

Friday 11th and Saturday 12th March

Bric a Brac, tools, clothes, DVDs, books etc for sale at La P'tite Pause St Lubin, 22110 Kergrist Moelou. Takeaway cakes and tea also available.

Saturday 12th March

Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop. 2pm to 6pm. Bring a penknife, or craftknife. 13€ per person. Places limited, so please reserve. 02 96 21 59 73. Organised by ARES (Animations Rurales et Solidarité).

Spotlight on Brittany:

March: With Spring in the air we hope to put a spring into your step after hearing from accomplished accordion player, Christian Lefievre, also known as Kicou (Kikou). In our February programme, the poet Francis Powell read one of his poems, this month he explains what inspires him and why, and Denise Duncanson, a long time resident here in Brittany, offers advice on how to become well integrated – basically, get involved!

All this and much more can be heard by joining us on Radio Kreiz Breizh on Wednesdays at 14h00 and Saturdays at 12h00 (102.9Mhz - 106Mhz) or on Radio Bro Gwened (101.7Mhz-92.6Mhz) on the first Wednesday of the month at 14h00 and the third Sunday at 09h.30. More simply perhaps, you can listen anytime to this month's programme, and others from the archive, by following the links on our website:

www.spotlightonbrittany.fr

Mon 14 - Sun 20 March

Friday 18th and Saturday 19th March

Bric a Brac, tools, clothes, DVDs, books etc for sale at La P'tite Pause St Lubin, 22110 Kergrist Moelou. Takeaway cakes and tea also available.

Sunday 20th March

Gospel Concert with Cynthia Musson and the Power of Gospel Choir at the Church of Notre Dame de Lampaul-Guimiliau at 3pm. Free entry with the participation of the hat. More information contact 06 73 20 80 22 or e-mail lampaul.expression.gospel@gmail.com

Mon 21 - Sun 31 March

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th March

Bric a Brac, tools, clothes, DVDs, books etc for sale at La P'tite Pause St Lubin, 22110 Kergrist Moelou. Takeaway cakes and tea also available.

Saturday 26th March

Repair café. Give a second life to old objects. Team of enthusiastic volunteers to help you mend your old or broken household items. 2pm-6pm. Ch'ty Coz Cafe, Bulat Pesitivien 02 96 45 75 74 or chtycoz@orange.fr

Sunday 27th March

Belfast. Directed by Kenneth Branagh. Starts 8.30pm. In English with French subtitles. Rostrenen Cinema.

Sunday 27th March

Blues concert with Melvin Taylor, 5.30pm, 16€ on the door. La Grande Ourse, St Agathon, Guingamp. Contact 06 59 15 18 32 or www.ourse.fr

April

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April

House Clearance including furniture, tools, garden furniture, decorating equipment. Noon til 4pm. Lieu dit Keranscouedic, Plonevez du Faou 29530.

Tuesday 12th April

New Quiz starting 12th April and after that, the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Venue - Le P'tit Pelem, St Nicolas du Pelem (near the church) 7.5€ each for chicken with sauce or omelette or vegetarian steak with chips. Plenty of parking nearby. Please pre-book. Maximum 20 teams of 4. To find out more please email dalefraser01@gmail.com. Health pass/mask required.

Friday 29th April, Saturday 30th April & Sunday 1st May MAD: Morbihan Am Dram: Rescheduled performances of 'Dirty Dusting'. More info: morbihanamdram@gmail.com

Sunday 20th March. Boot sale in Bulat Pestivien, organised by the Mairie. 8am-12pm. Bulat village centre.

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See also FRENCH LESSONS, on page 8.

Popular phrases & sayings using the word:

GREEN

"Green" is young and fresh but also immature in age or judgement and inexperienced.

When we say "Do you see any green in my eye" we are saying "Do I look credulous and easily confused?" – "Do I look like a Greenhorn?" A Greenhorn is a person who is considered simple, raw and easily imposed upon.

"Green Hands" is a nautical phrase for inferior sailors while "Having Green Fingers" is having a natural talent for gardening and making plants grow successfully.

"Green Goddess" is an alliterative nickname in the UK for Second World War fire engines (painted green) – Liverpool Trams and a keep fit demonstrator on a BBC Breakfast programme in 1983, who wore distinctive green exercise clothing.



"To Give A Girl A Green Dress" – a timeless phrase for romping with a girl in the fields or rolling in the grass so that her dress is stained green – hence to go beyond the bounds of innocent amusement.

"The Green Man" – a popular public house sign which probably represents either the folklore figure symbolising fertility often depicted with branches and greenery protruding from his mouth, or a gamekeeper who used, at one time, to be dressed in green.

"Green Shoots" – Phrase used to indicate that something is about to bud or bloom which was used politically to mean that the country was coming out of a recession in the nineties.

"The Green Eyed Monster" – Jealousy, as described by Shakespeare in Othello. A greenish complexion was formerly held to be indicative of jealousy; and as cats, lions, tigers and all the green eyed tribe mock the meat they feed on, so jealousy mocks the victim by loving and loathing it at the same time.

"I'm Not So Green As I'm Cabbage Looking" – I'm not such a fool or as innocent as I may appear; I may be cabbage looking but I'm not green. This expression has been around since the late 19th century.

"The Green Room" – In a theatre, a room where the actors relax and entertain guests, generally backstage; so called because at one time the walls were coloured green to relieve the eyes affected by the glare of the stage lights.

"Gentlemen Of The Green Baize Road" – referring at one time to Whist players, while...

"Gentlemen Of The Green Cloth Road" – referred to billiard and snooker players.

"Greengage" – a variety of plum introduced to Britain from France by Sir William Gage of Norfolk around 1725 and named in honour of him. The French called it "Reine Claude" in honour of the daughter of Anne de Bretagne and Louis XI.

"Green Cross Code" – a code of road safety rules for children introduced in 1971.

Finally something for us all to look forward to **"Green Old Age"**, which describes an old age in which the faculties are not impaired and the spirits are still youthful.

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Tax & Investment

Estate planning in France Q&As

Living in France offers many benefits, but there are some drawbacks, such as having to navigate France's complex and old-fashioned succession regime. Here we look at some of the frequent questions we are asked about estate planning in France.

A UK will or a French one?

To help prevent delays and expense for your heirs, it's often beneficial to have one will for your assets in France and a UK one for British-based assets. They should follow French succession law, or officially opt for UK succession law to apply to your estate, otherwise it will be invalid.

How much tax will your heirs pay?

Inheritances between spouses are tax free, but gifts are not (anything above €80,724 is taxable). Children benefit from a €100,000 allowance then tax rates start at 5% and rise progressively to 45%.

Siblings pay tax at 35% or 45%, with a €15,932 allowance; nephew and nieces pay 55% (€7,969 allowance) and non-relatives, including step-children and unmarried/non-PACS partners, pay 60% (€1,594 allowance).

What is forced heirship?

Under French succession law (the default position unless you make other arrangements), inheritances must pass down the bloodline. Children are protected heirs and must inherit between 50% and 75% of your estate. You can only leave the 'freely disposable' part to your spouse/PACS (civil) partner.

Can you bypass succession law?

You can use the EU succession regulation 'Brussels IV' to opt for the succession law of your country of nationality to apply on your death instead French law. You must opt for this in your will.

Be careful though and establish how it affects your family and estate planning. Note also that children who were not left the share of French assets that they are entitled to under French law can now challenge the will and seek compensation. This would apply if you or your children are EU residents and the succession law you opted for does not apply forced heirship.

There may be other ways to leave assets to your chosen beneficiaries, including for properties, so take advice.

It is easier to avoid forced heirship on capital investments than with real estate. A widely used solution is to hold investment assets within an assurance-vie. These policies can considerably mitigate succession tax and are exempt from succession law, passing automatically to the nominated beneficiaries. Normally a savings vehicle, they are a great source of beneficially taxed income – but also fantastic succession planning structures.

The French succession regime is very detailed and complex, so I can only touch on some issues here in very general terms. You must do sufficient research but also take professional, specialist advice to ensure you get it right and your wishes for your heirs are fulfilled.

*Dave Lamont, Blevins Franks
rennes@blevinsfranks.com*

Tax rates, scope and reliefs may change. Any statements concerning taxation are based upon our understanding of current taxation laws and practices which are subject to change. Tax information has been summarised; individuals should seek personalised advice.

You can find other financial advisory articles by visiting our website here www.blevinsfranks.com

BABLE Huelgoat

Where the English learn French and the French learn English

The Bable group in Huelgoat re-started their weekly meetings in September, and are now ready to welcome new members. The Huelgoat association was founded in 1996 with the aim of integrating, practising language skills and sharing cultures and customs. It meets every Tuesday (except during August) at 2pm, in the C.A.L (Centre d'Accueil et de Loisirs). There are also monthly outings, a Christmas party, galettes des rois in January,

pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, and an annual treasure-hunt.

Each Tuesday, members can learn or practise English or French in informal groups. Meetings start with tea and biscuits to give members a chance to "catch up" with each other.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend one of the weekly meetings and join in with one of the groups before deciding whether they would like to become a member.

Further information: maureen.kill@orange.fr .

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

CANCER SUPPORT FRANCE

Cancer Support France provides help and support to English speaking people in France who are touched by cancer. Contact 0800 240 200 or helpline@cancersupportfrance.org

THURSDAY MORNINGS

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Churchwardens:
Chris Wilson 02 97 72 19 29 and Janet Lageveen 02 98 99 63 14

We have provisionally planned for the following mix of live and online services during March. Please check our website at www.churchinbrittany.org for any changes that may be made to this schedule. Services from Ploërmel will be live streamed each Sunday and a recorded version of the service will also then be available on the Facebook page to watch at any time.

HUELGOAT (Holy Communion services held in the parish church, Huelgoat))

6th – 1st of Lent – Chaplaincy Zoom service 10.30am
13th – 2nd of Lent – Holy Communion 2.30pm
20th – 3rd of Lent – Zoom service 10am
27th – Mother's Day – Holy Communion 2.30pm.
For more details contact: Henk Lageveen
02 98 99 63 14 ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com

PLOËRMEL (in the Chapel at 14 rue Général Dubreton)

6th – 1st of Lent – Chaplaincy Zoom service 10.30am
13th – 2nd of Lent – Holy Communion 11am
20th – 3rd of Lent – Word and Worship 11am
27th – Mother's Day – Holy Communion 11am
For more details contact:
Chris Wilson 02 97 72 19 29 chriselbeau@gmail.com

REDON (Eglise St Charles, 10 avenue Gaston Sébilleau, Redon)

6th – 1st of Lent – Chaplaincy Zoom 10.30am
13th – 2nd of Lent – Word and Worship 10.30am
27th – Mother's Day – Holy Communion 10.30am
contact redon@churchinbrittany.org

ROSTRENEAUX

Word and Worship services in the salle paroissiale, 4 Rue Joseph Pennec, Rostrenen. Holy Communion services in the Chapelle du Collège de Campostalat, 5, place du Bourg Coz, Rostrenen (off Rue de la Marne)
6th – 1st of Lent – Chaplaincy Zoom service 10.30am
13th – 2nd of Lent – Holy Communion 10.30am
20th – 3rd of Lent – Zoom service 10am
27th – Mother's Day – Holy Communion 10.30am
For more details contact:
John Cullingford 02 56 43 11 27 cullingj47@gmail.com

Clubs & Associations: *For a free entry on the Church and Community page, please send information to: info@theobj.com / CBJ, BP4, 22160 Callac*

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CBJ Quiz

Set by Jon Chambers: jonchambers1825@hotmail.com

Target: 20 points.

Answers page 40

I: General Knowledge & Current Affairs

- 1 With about 48% of its population having at least one tattoo, what is the world's most inked country: Iran, USA, GB, Italy? Bonus: And which country is considered the least tattoo-friendly: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden? In 1966, it banned tattoos on the face, head, neck and hands.
 - 2 Which tv quiz show question master died on 8 February 2022, aged 87?
 - 3 On 1 January this year, the Hubble spacecraft reached a milestone of 1 billion seconds in space. What does that amount to, to the nearest year?
 - 4 Who has been the only English pope in history?
 - 5 What do the letters BYOB signify on a party invitation?
 - 6 The discoveries of Lucy in Kenya and of The Terracotta Army in China were both made in the same year. In which decade of the C20th?
 - 7 The largest ichthyosaur skeleton ever found in the UK was recently unearthed in: Hampshire, Devon, Dorset, Rutland?
 - 8 Which Cabinet Minister got stuck in a BBC lift while waiting to do his media round?
 - 9 Fulminology is the study of ... what?
 - 10 Which Buckinghamshire town beat previous holder Peterborough at the end of last year to the 'worst place in England' title? Clue: It begins with A.
- 8 Historically, which African team has been the most successful, with 7 victories since the first Nations Cup in 1957?
 - 9 Which nation topped last month's Winter Olympics (in rank order of gold medals won)?
 - 10 Which nation finished top of the previous Winter Olympics? Bonus: Who finished second?

III: French Language & Culture

- 1 Sel de Guérande and Fleur de sel de Guérande are, as the name suggests, from the Guérande peninsula. In which department of France is this geographical feature?
- 2 Which French philosopher was born on 28 February 1533 in his family chateau, and is famous for such thoughts as: 'The most certain sign of wisdom is cheerfulness'?
- 3 Who directed the cult films *Betty Blue* (1986) and *Diva* (1981)? He was regarded as a leading exponent of 'cinéma du look', and died in January.
- 4 What part of France is widely considered to speak the 'purest' French: Marseilles, Orléans, Versailles, Tours?
- 5 What is a berceau?
- 6 The group of C16th poets known collectively as 'Les Pléiade' consisted of how many members?
- 7 Which influential institution was created by Cardinal Richelieu in 1634?
- 8 Who became France's first female PM, in 1991?
- 9 The insulting term 'bobo', applied to well-educated, left-leaning, bio-eating Parisian elites, is a combination of which two adjectives? ½ point for each
- 10 Which French team would you support if you sported an EAG sticker in the back of your car?

II: Sports & Games

- 1 Which Australian batsman scored hundreds in both innings in the Sydney Test last January?
- 2 In the world of professional cycling, who is 'the Manx Missile'?
- 3 In Trivial Pursuit, what category of questions are associated with the colour yellow?
- 4 Where is Britain's only professional football club ground that is not on the British mainland?
- 5 'The Shrimps' is the nickname of which League One football team that gave Spurs a scare in the 3rd Round of the FA Cup?
- 6 Still on monikers: If 'the Ivories' played 'the Desert Foxes' which two African national teams would be involved? ½ point for each
- 7 Which team won the 2022 African Nations Cup?

IV: Connections

- 1 What is the shortened form of the name, Margaret? It is the diminutive form that Thomas More called his daughter, for example.
- 2 What was the colour of the boat in Edward Lear's poem, *The Owl and the Pussycat*?
- 3 Which mammal, scientifically *Martes martes*, is an aggressive predator of squirrels and other small mammals and is abundant throughout northern Europe?

- 4 Which Cadbury product, first launched in 1926, was originally intended to ‘introduce variety’ to the chocolate bar?
- 5 According to the Collins English Dictionary, what seven-letter slang word is used of a person that is mad or whose behaviour is very strange?
- 6 Which ‘supermajor’ British oil and gas company is headquartered in The Hague and reported 2020 revenues that were the 19th largest in the world?
- 7 Which American businessman, who died in 1980, was most famous for founding the fast-food chain, KFC?
- 8 Which country earned the right to keep the Jules Rimet trophy in perpetuity?
- 9 Which female sports presenter and commentator, born in St Andrews in 1965, is most strongly associated with athletics, golf, snooker, and football?
- 10 What is the only manmade structure visible from space?
- 11 How does poitrine translate into English?
- 12 Which small bird, a member of the Sittidae family, has a relatively large head, small tail, and powerful bill and feet? It has greyish-blue upper parts and a black eye-stripe.
- 13 Which structure in the human brain, part of the limbic system, is responsible for processing emotions, and has a distinctive shape which gives it its name?
- 14 The Association of Teachers and Lecturers merged with which other union in 2017 to form the NEU?
- 15 Mike Nesbitt, who died in December 2021, was a member of which pioneering boy band? Bonus: What is the connection?

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Limericks

French Presidential Elections

*It's close to the French national election,
To vote or not vote is the main question.
Too many parties in fight?
You can't tell left from the right!
Probably best to abstain, avoid political indigestion!!*

Cyril Young, Saint-Nicolas-du-Pélem

*Will Macron win another spell?
Or will Le Pen do very well?
The Right perhaps are not so sound,
While the Left have just gone underground,
At this point, it's too close to tell.*

Jim Henderson, Carhaix

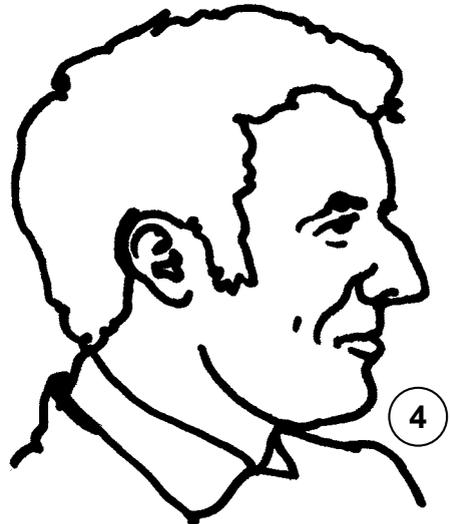
*There once was a President Macron,
Who wanted to win an election.
He was giving out money,
Like a big Easter Bunny;
To cope with the cost of inflation?*

Ian Griffiths



*M Macron would like to stay on,
Si nous les voteurs permettrons.
L'espoir est mièvre,
Entre tasse et lèvres,
Soignez en cas que nous glisserons.*

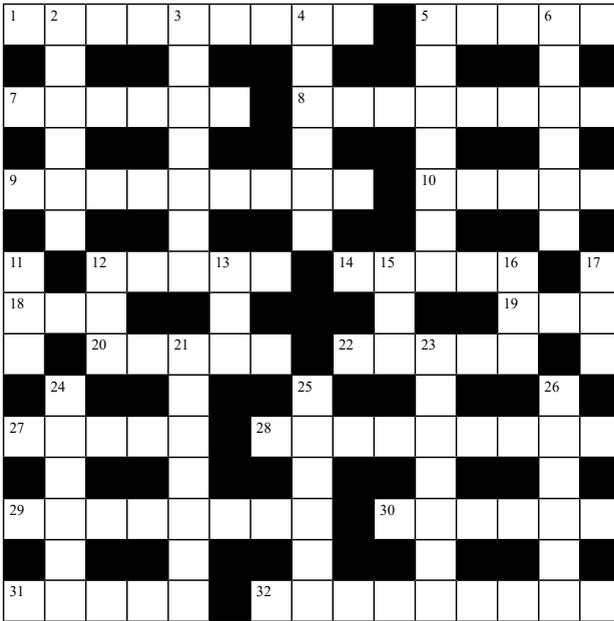
Ian Beckwith



Who's Who? 1. (page 3) Yannick Jadot, Green party; 2. Valérie Pécresse, centre right; 3. Jean-Luc Mélenchon, radical left; 4. Emmanuel Macron, centre; 5. (page 19) Marine Le Pen, right; 6. (page 39) Anne Hidalgo, socialist; 7. (page 39) Eric Zemmour, far right.

Prize Crossword

March Jim Henderson



Across

1. How I vote on other issues is out-with the norm and may seem vulgar (3,6)
5. Separate with a bit of distance (5)
7. Exaggerate accent (6)
8. Have a prejudiced view of Cajun stamp (8)
9. Allowing passage of small coins by enlarging hole? (9)
10. Reshape the future (5)
12. Deluxe mushroom? (7)
14. Primarily stark, one without a friend (5)
18. Blacken the family somehow (3)
19. Ecology seen as witchcraft (3)
20. Unwashed youth (5)
22. Secure the bits and pieces (5)
27. Limit of one time shin cover? (5)
28. I am with it in regards to the ambit of fermented pear juice (9)
29. Spot a miner when having a good old sleep (8)
30. Tone down lawless opposition to technological innovation (6)
31. Endless narrative on building tier (5)
32. Enduring alliance of men and creator? (9)

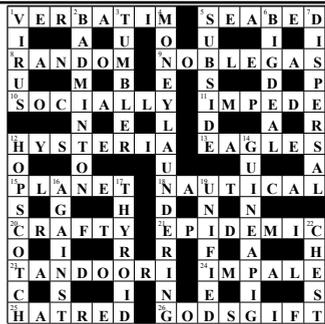
Down

2. Reveal opening for retailer (6)
3. Old boy featured in bawdy drama (7)
4. Take issue with device used in protest (6)
5. Recall with American involvement in circular movement (7)
6. George made the early train and got in, in time for some salad (6)
11. The elite caught out in siesta mode (3)
12. Where the atmosphere was blue (3)
13. Lift off before the end of the passage (3)
15. Show diplomacy then take off in pretence (3)
16. Pick up a ladle – then drop so as to pass the buck (3)
17. Agree on pickle in the soup (3)
21. Go for appropriate piece while considering economy (7)
23. Measure with less paper thickness, in duplicate (7)
24. Chance a visit to the holiday centre (6)
25. Show the calibre of brass (6)
26. In the bag at first then without asking – the idiot showed up (6)

Solution February Prize Crossword:

Winner Feb. prize crossword:
D. C. Dunn, Senven Léhart

Twenty euros to the first correct solution drawn from the hat for the March prize crossword. Please send completed solutions to:
Prize Crossword, CBJ, BP4, 22160 CALLAC, by 20th Mar.



Limericks continued

*Tinker or tailor ... all bets are on,
Rich man, poor man ... Zemmour, Mélenchon.
Whatever the credentials
For the French Presidentials
Beggarmen, thief – Le Pen, Péresse, Macron.
Gerard Dunmoore, Pontivy*

*Every five years the French get to vote
On who will try next to keep France afloat,
A very close fight,
For the left or the right,
The winners will soon get their chance to gloat.*

*Gerard Dugdale, Gourin
More limericks page 19*

**April Limerick Challenge:
'Partygate'**

Please send limericks on this theme by the 20th March to: info@thebj.com CBJ, BP4, 22160 CALLAC

How My Grandfather Ended World War 1... *(but started World War 3)*

As a two-year-old, my sister Linda just couldn't say "Grandpa". She reversed the syllables and it came out "Paga". Gibberish to be sure but the name stuck. This is the story of my grandfather Paga...

In his own way Paga was a polymath Renaissance man. Not in a Leonardo da Vinci kind of way but with varied skill levels. He was a successful businessman, a green-thumb gardener, champion marksman, a vintner, skilled auto mechanic, plumber, prolific reader of books, and a multi-linguist (more about this later). He was born in 1896 in what was then known as Savoy and emigrated to the United States at age 6. His was not a typical immigrant family as they were relatively wealthy with an established food import/export business. Savoy, or the Piedmont region of northern Italy, was an in-between region of Italian, French and Swiss cultural and linguistic influences. Paga spoke perfect English and Italian, passable French and even some basic German. He never considered himself a "linguist"

(From Left) Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau and Woodrow Wilson, attending the Paris Peace Conference



per say but this ability would influence the trajectory of his life.

Drafted into the "War to End all Wars", Paga was wounded in the World War 1 nightmare known as the battle of St. Mihiel, France. His wounds from shrapnel and poison gas put him in a nearby military hospital with other American, French and Italian soldiers and even some German prisoners of war. A ranking officer evidently recognized the value of Paga's linguistic ability to communicate. After the armistice ceasefire in 1918, and as the American troops began their trip back across the Atlantic, Paga was ordered to stay behind. He was sent to Paris as a security guard for the Paris Peace Conference.

The mission of the Paris Peace Conference (1918-1920) was to redraw the map of the world, distribute the spoils of war and rebuild the political systems of half the world. To say the least, this diplomatic undertaking would prove to be a daunting logistical task. Yet few historians have ever considered the magnitude of organizing the conference. In addition to the thousands of diplomats, delegates and journalists that poured into the war-weary city of Paris, came an army (pun intended) of support staff. Literally thousands of personnel - cooks, chauffeurs, tradesmen, dining hall staff, garage mechanics, telephone and telegraph operators, typists, printers and security guards - collectively flooded the city. Where to house these thousands? How to provide food services? Office, printing and telephone/telegraph facilities? Courier services? etc. Paga was officially assigned as a security guard to the Hotel Triumph but he wore many hats. He recalled chauffeuring the world leaders such as George Clemenceau, Woodrow Wilson, David Lloyd George, Vittorio Emmanuel and their diplomatic staffs between their hotels and conference headquarters at the Quai d'Orsay on Paris's Left Bank. On some level, he was able to communicate with these power brokers in their native languages. He would later stand guard at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He rubbed shoulders with other security guards, chauffeurs, the cafeteria staff, and with other support staff - he worked in the kitchens, he fixed some plumbing and

How My Grandfather Ended World War 1 / Limericks 19

repaired automobiles. To be sure, he was outside the inner sanctum of the Conference's high international politics, but the informality of his contact with the world leaders, may have contributed to a "soft peace" outside of the heated diplomacy inside. Paga was a personable man, and it must have been a welcomed relief for these world leaders to have "small talk" perhaps in their native tongue, about "small details" (e.g., the weather, the traffic, food, music, art, their homeland). We will never know the extent, if any, that the personable common man effect may have had on the power brokers of the Paris Peace Conference. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles (1918) officially brought World War 1 to an end. But Paga's story was just beginning...

For reasons known only to him, Paga stayed on in Paris for another two years. He continued his role at the Hotel Triumph as a security guard, concierge, plumber, chauffeur, cook, etc. Ultimately though he did return to the U.S.A. In due course, he married my Grandmother Lena, successfully continued his family business and raised 4 children with my mother being the oldest. But the marriage was always rocky. To me as a small boy, my grandmother seemed perpetually angry, bitter and very loud about her displeasure. There was always this flashpoint rumour that my grandfather was hiding a secret. It seems that a few years after their marriage, a French woman appeared in our small town with a young child in tow. One version was that Paga had a love interest while in Paris resulting in this child. Another version was that he had married this woman and Paga in fact, was a bigamist! Yet another rumor was that

in the decades to come, Paga supported the French woman and child by setting her up in a nearby town and in fact, had two families and lived a double life. Still yet another version portrays my grandfather admitting to his "pleasures of youth" (wink/wink) and felt a certain responsibility to the child that he sired. The scenarios weighed heavily on the marriage and my grandparents divorced after 40 years. Like gasoline thrown on an already dysfunctional bonfire, the schism fractured my mother and her siblings in a thousand different ways. My mother's family became a family divided. The loyalties were split and passions ran high. The siblings barely talked to one another and on those rare occasions when they did (e.g., holidays, weddings, funerals) the results were tearful shouting matches. The enmity was palpable. The hostilities spread like a wildfire, affecting their own marriages, and even relationships with people outside the immediate family like their close friends and business associates. As to which version is true? These secrets have long since been taken to the grave.

Did Paga "end" World War 1? Obviously, the question is a tongue-in-cheek overstatement. Perhaps in some small way his common man/common touch contact with the Paris Peace diplomats inspired them to seek an equitable peace. Did Paga start World War III? The deep hostilities caused by his mysterious stay in Paris, no doubt destroyed his family unit. Through my eyes as a young boy, it seemed like World War III.

Regardless, RIP Paga.

Jack Gaioni

Limericks continued

*The French Presidential Election isn't far away,
So when will Macron enter the fray?*

*With Le Pen being the alternative schemer,
Will her fascist views make you a believer?
Or is the middle ground man here to stay?*

William Martin

*Entre la Gauche, le Centre, le Droit,
Et les Verts, comment faire choix?*

*Regardez l'histoire,
Qui gagne la victoire?
Reanimez de Gaulle pour faire roi.*

Ian Beckwith



Tim the Gardener

This winter will probably be remembered for having been wet, and relatively mild. It is still possible that we might get some cold weather in March and April, and if we do it will be a setback for any plants that put on an early burst of growth, but, in general, work in the garden now involves looking forward to spring and the growing season.

Tidying Up

The first thing that I will be doing is going round the garden tidying up branches that have been left on the ground after pruning or coppicing work, or which have blown off in the wind. If left, they can be a real nuisance later in the year when cutting the vegetation.

Cutting the Lawn

My lawns have suffered (as usual) over the winter, with parts of them having been turned into muddy quagmires over the past few weeks. If there is a spell of good drying weather, I will try to get them cut as close to the ground as possible; starting with a high cut, especially on shady areas, and gradually reducing the cutting height as the grass dries out. If the

lawn is properly mown by the end of March, it is usually fairly easy to maintain over the following months, and the worn, muddy areas recover surprisingly quickly.

The Vegetable Garden

Parsnips: Now is a good time to plant parsnips (*see opposite*). I have had a particularly good crop this year, following a few years of minor problems (mouse damage, poor germination, etc.). Generally, if you grow a wide variety of crops in the garden, you will have a few successes each year; not necessarily the same crops each time, which gives you all the encouragement you need to try again the following year.

Onions: I used to plant onions and shallots earlier in the year, but I found that they remained completely inactive for several weeks afterwards, and it is usually a much more pleasant experience planting in March, than on a bitterly-cold day in January.

Peas: I didn't get round to planting any peas in February – the weather was too wet, but I will now start planting a short row at a time, as soon as possible

Compost Heaps: Compost heaps can become waterlogged over winter, halting the process of decomposition. The solution is to get air into the heap by turning it over with a pitch fork.

Hetty's Kitchen

Savoury Vegetable Pancakes *(for 4)*

- 150g plain flour
- 3 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- Salt and pepper
- 200ml milk
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 onions, roughly chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 large aubergine, trimmed and cut into small cubes
- 4 sticks celery, chopped
- 4 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp capers, rinsed and drained
- 500g cherry tomatoes
- Few fresh basil leaves to serve

In a large bowl, mix the flour, herbs and some seasoning

In a jug, mix the milk with 150ml water and a tablespoon of oil.

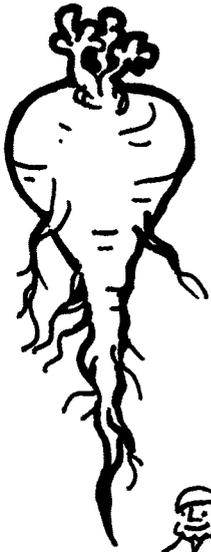
Break the eggs into the flour, then slowly whisk in the milk mix until smooth. Cover and set aside.

Heat one tablespoon oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Fry the onion for about 4-5 minutes, stirring, then add the aubergine and garlic. Cook, stirring, for about 8-10 minutes. Add the celery, vinegar and capers to the pan with 2 tsp oregano. Cook until the vinegar has almost evaporated then stir in the tomatoes and 150ml water. Simmer, uncovered, for about 10 minutes or until the aubergine is tender. Add a bit more water if the mix becomes too dry.

Heat a large non-stick frying pan or crepe pan over medium-high heat and brush with oil. Whisk up the batter with a fork before cooking.

Pour in about an eighth of the batter and swirl around the pan base. Cook for a couple of minutes on each side until golden, then slide onto a warm plate and keep warm. Repeat with the remaining batter to make 8 pancakes.

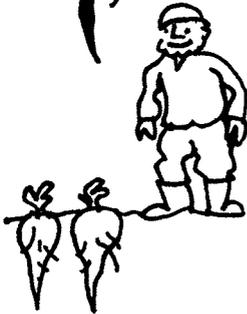
Serve two per person with the vegetable filling divided among them. Scatter with some shredded basil leaves for decoration.



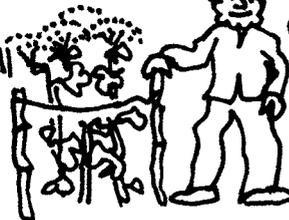
Parsnips will keep in the ground all winter.



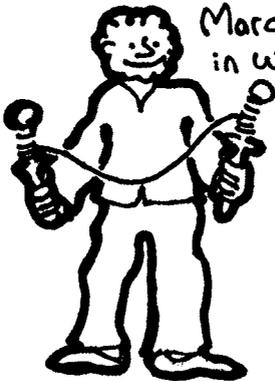
In March, when the roots begin to sprout, they should be dug up, and then stored for another couple of months in a shed or cellar.



Remember to leave one or two roots in the ground. They will flower and give next year's seed.



Parsnip seed should be renewed each year.

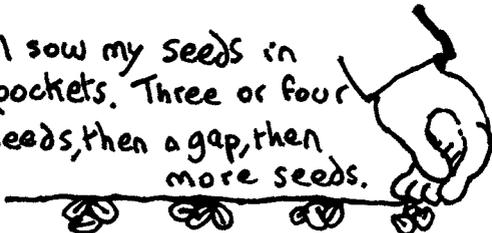


March is also the month in which I plant my parsnip seeds!

The ground can be quite cloggy, but parsnips don't really mind.



I sow my seeds in pockets. Three or four seeds, then a gap, then more seeds.



Parsnips sown in March can take up to a month to come up, but you will be rewarded with very large parsnips in the Autumn.

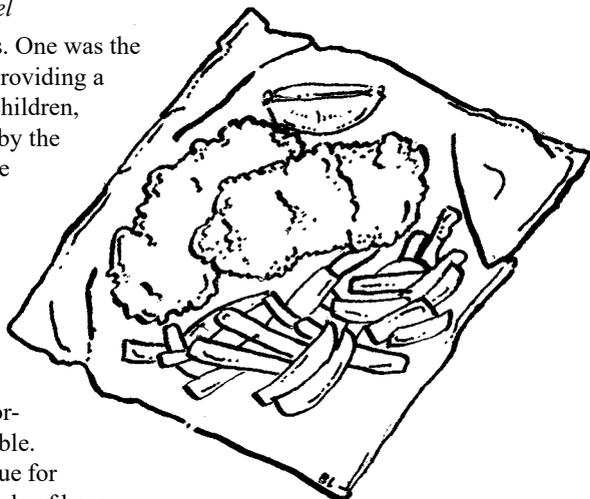


Exploring the Worlds of Beer and Wine

FISH 'N' CHIPS BREWING

“... no pubs or fish and chips counters here, only ganga-jal – the holy ale” Aporva Kala
“You can’t go wrong with fish and chips” Michael Sandel

People have brewed beer at home for many reasons. One was the need for an alternative to unsafe drinking water. Providing a supply of ale for the whole family, including the children, was an important part of the domestic duties performed by the lady of the house. Today the brewer in the family is more likely to be Dad, and lack of clean drinking water has been replaced by other motives for brewing at home. In addition to the satisfaction of producing a beverage that is enjoyable to drink alone or with friends, increasing beer prices, driven by spiraling production costs and taxes on the brewing industry, make the value for money offered by home brewing even more attractive.



Another motivation for many home brewers is the opportunity to enjoy ales that are not otherwise readily available.

As noted previously in this column, this is particularly true for beer lovers in Brittany, where lager is the predominant style of beer brewed. After all, making beer is essentially a simple process: extract

sugars from a cereal such as barley, add water and any additional flavouring such as hops, sprinkle yeast to ferment the sugars into alcohol and about a week later, “hey presto” we have a drink that is economical and enjoyable. Of course, things are seldom quite that simple! Good beers involve a delicate balance of the right malted sugars and hops to achieve their particular style, whether it be a chocolatey stout, austere IPA, clean tasting lager or fruity ESB*. Like winemakers, brewers use a range of skills and techniques to produce nuances of appearance, taste, aroma and texture that create the complex character of the beer. Fortunately for the home brewer, the quality of the kits that are now available has eliminated most of the technicalities and uncertainties involved in making good beer.

In addition to being an undeniably quaffable drink, beer has other gastronomical possibilities such as pairings with food, and use in cooking. A familiar example is “beer battered” fish and chips. There are good reasons for using beer as the main liquid in mixing the batter. It contains carbon dioxide, proteins and alcohol that act as foaming agents to increase the bubbles in the batter as it hits the hot oil in the fryer, giving the batter a lighter and crispier texture. In addition, the bubbles insulate the fish inside the batter so that it cooks at the optimum temperature, and as alcohol evaporates at a lower temperature than water, the batter crisps more quickly and avoids overcooking the fish inside.

When the time comes to tucking in, what is a great beer pairing? Since fish and chips is arguably England’s national dish it must be an English ale, right? Actually any light beer works fine, so lagers come immediately to mind. Better still, though, is a light beer that has a good balance of malt and hops with neither being excessive. The mild bitterness of the hops cuts through the protein-laden fattiness of the batter and oil, while the slight sweetness of malt blends nicely with the hint of sweetness in the batter - which brings us back happily to an English ale! An ESB certainly fits the bill. Alternatively, for a little more sweetness try a cream ale, or for more emphasis on the bitter side a pale ale should do the trick.

Ultimately, of course, like all subjective questions of taste, the best choice is what works for you. So next time you sit down to a delicious plate of fish and chips try out one of the many options, and if you can’t find the beer you want in Brittany it’s time to make your own!

Questions or suggestions? We’d love to hear them!

Roger Dawson
rogeralan.rd@gmail.com

*ESB: ‘Extra Special Bitter’, an English-style pale ale.

L'Abbaye de Beauport

In Brittany: Part 3

The end of the alien priory of West Ravendale

While visiting part of the Brittany coast in 2019, historian Ian Beckwith came across the familiar name of Waltham in Lincolnshire. His subsequent research revealed long-established links between the Abbaye de Beauport, near Paimpol, and Lincolnshire in the UK. Part 1 described how the Abbaye de Beauport was founded in 1202 by Alan d'Avaugour, who also had lands in England, as a result of his forebears having played a leading role in the Norman invasion of England in 1066. Part 2 covered the early history of the West Ravendale priory, how it was founded by Alan d'Avaugour to oversee his Lincolnshire interests, and how it gradually fell into disrepair over the ensuing centuries due to the political conflicts between the French and English kings.



West Ravendale Priory (The number of canons located here was always small but by the late fourteenth century it seems likely that only the prior remained and whether he actually resided here, in what had already become a ruin, is doubtful.)

In succession to Prior Oliver, his brother (whether in religion or by blood is not clear) Robert of Ludlow (the Shropshire town is about as far to the west as West Ravendale is to the east) had been given charge of the West Ravendale priory. However, he also failed to maintain the buildings in good repair and between 1399 and 1401 custody of the priory was assigned to Richard Lincoln. Finally, in 1413 King Henry IV gave the lands of West Ravendale priory to his second wife, Joanna of Navarre, as her dower. Ironically, Joanna's first husband had been John IV de Montfort, Duke of Brittany, and so, in a sense, for the next thirty-three years the site of the priory renewed its Breton connection. Two years later, in a process that foreshadowed, and possibly created a precedent for, Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries just over a century later, West Ravendale

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Priory was dissolved by act of Parliament*. When the dowager Queen Joanna of Navarre died in 1437, without issue, the site of the priory, with its land and revenues, was assigned by her step grandson, the pious Lancastrian King, Henry VI, to the Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of Southwell (i.e. Southwell Minster) in Nottinghamshire in 1439, the grant being confirmed by his Yorkist rival, King Edward IV, in 1461. The Church still owns the land, which is managed by the Church Commissioners, the body which administers the properties of the Church of England. The priory ruins are Grade 2 listed and are in the care of English Heritage.



Crumbling Chalk Wall of West Ravendale Priory. It is remarkable that this much remains. Although chalk was readily available locally, it is not a resilient building material, being subject to erosion by wind, of which there is plenty on this exposed ridge not far from the coast, and rain.

Given that, first Prior Oliver, and then Brother Robert of Ludlow had apparently allowed the buildings of West Ravendale Priory to fall into ruin, it seems remarkable that, more than six centuries later, anything remains of what appears to have always been a small and precarious establishment. Most local people seem to be unaware of its existence. It is a strange feeling to scramble across the heavy clay furrows to find a few feet of crumbling chalk wall still standing on a grassy knoll above the modern ploughed field and to reflect on how this place is connected to the ruins of the great abbey at the head of the creek from which it takes its name, far away in Brittany.



Site of West Ravendale Priory 2019. Note the heavy clay furrows

Nor is it easy to see what benefit L'abbaye de Beauport derived from the parishes it held in the remote Lincolnshire Wolds, or they from it. Almost from the outset Count Alan's new abbey, was cut off from its Lincolnshire endowment by the politics of King John's reign. For most of the two and a half centuries of their presence, the White Canons of West Ravendale were at the sharp end of the vicissitudes that went with having a mother-house located in enemy territory. As I worked my way across the heavy clay furrows (by

*The year was 1415, the year in which Henry V's outnumbered army won a famous victory against the French at Agincourt.

permission of the farmer whose land this now is) to stand beside the remaining wall of the priory on its ridge high on the Wolds, I wondered about the quirk of history that had made these Lincolnshire parishes part of the honour of Richmond, which in turn brought them into the possession of a great monastery on the Brittany coast but then, within the space of a few years, cut them off from what would have always been, at best, a tenuous link to their overlords, the abbot and canons of Beauport, leaving the little priory at West Ravendale to fend for itself. Deprived of all contact with the mother-house as a result of war, prevented from being able to transmit the revenues from the Lincolnshire parishes back to Brittany, the priors of West Ravendale would have been obliged to become self-sufficient. Some, like the prior turned poacher, William, seem to have gone rogue. Others, notably Prior Oliver and his brother Robert, appear to have diverted the considerable income from the priory estates to their own use and benefit. By then it had become a religious house in name only, the monastic establishment, always small, having dwindled away, until it seems only the prior remained in nominal residence. Did he even maintain the daily round of prayer for the souls of the long-dead founder, Count Alan, and his forebears?



Nave of L'abbaye de Beauport, 'mother-house' of West Ravendale Priory (dissolved during the French Revolution)

Eventually and inevitably the end came and in the reign of Henry V the priory of West Ravendale succumbed to the process of dissolution by act of parliament that would provide Henry's namesake, the eighth of that name, with the precedent he needed to sweep away every monastery in England and Wales, taking all their estates into his hands. Six generations after the suppression of West Ravendale Priory, the Reformation Parliament, managed by Henry's right-hand man, Thomas Cromwell, passed the Act for the Suppression of Religious Houses (27 Hen 8 c.28). By then the existence of the little priory, high on a windswept ridge in the Lincolnshire Wolds, its chalk walls already ruinous by 1378, and its link with a great abbey on the coast of far-away Brittany, would have been long forgotten.

As for L'abbaye de Beauport, some 370 years after the dissolution of its daughter house, West Ravendale Priory, it too was dissolved during the French Revolution. The vast abbey estates, upon which its considerable prosperity had depended, were sold off and the buildings turned into successively a stable, a factory producing salt-petre (an ingredient in the manufacture of gunpowder), a school and a cider mill. With its well-tended gardens and overlooking the bird-haunted wetlands of the creek that gives it its name, the beautiful or fair port, the abbey is now a major tourist attraction, with over 150,000 visitors annually, in the keeping of the Conservatoire du littoral, on the Côte de Goëlo, a sharp contrast to the sad scraps that remain of its daughter, the priory of West Ravendale, all but forgotten* on its windy ridge surrounded by acres of hedgeless arable fields, 370 miles away in the Lincolnshire Wolds.

*Ian Beckwith
Photos © Ian Beckwith*

* Except by the Guide for visitors to L'abbaye de Beauport, without which I should have known nothing of West Ravendale's link with Brittany and this story would not have been written.

Hetty's Kitchen

Carrot Brownies

250g plain flour
60g cocoa powder
1 tsp baking powder
2 tsp mixed spice
200g white sugar
200g brown sugar
250g butter
275g natural Greek yoghurt
160g dark chocolate
50g white chocolate, chopped
125g carrots, finely grated and excess water squeezed out
Zest of 1 large orange
75g walnuts or pecans, chopped

Frosting:

100g soft butter
200g cream cheese
100g icing sugar
25g white chocolate, melted

Grease and line a brownie tin (about 9 x 12"/25 x 30cm)

Set a heatproof bowl over a pan of hot water (not touching the bowl) and break in the dark chocolate. Add the butter in chunks. Stir very gently occasionally until everything has melted.

In a large bowl, stir together the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, mixed spice and the sugars. Make a hollow in the centre and add the yoghurt. Mix well, then add the orange zest. Whisk in the melted chocolate mix and fold in the carrot, walnuts and chopped chocolate. Scrape into the prepared tin and level the top. Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C/160°F/Gas 4 for about 45 minutes. Cool in the tin on a wire rack.

To make the frosting, whisk together the butter and cream cheese with a hand held electric whisk. Gradually add the sifted icing sugar and finally the melted white chocolate. Cover and chill for an hour. When the cake is cold, remove from the tin and discard the paper. Spread the icing on top and make a decorative pattern with a fork. Alternatively, cut the brownies into portions and pipe the frosting on to each one. Grate a little extra dark chocolate over the top to decorate.

Bon Appétit

Cider Poached Pears and Ginger Parkin (for 6)

For the Poached Pears:

6 firm pears, peeled, halved and cored
500ml cider
150g caster sugar
2 cinnamon sticks
Pared peel of 1 lemon

For the Parkin:

145g self-raising flour
2 tbsp ground ginger
Pinch salt
1 tsp mixed spice
40g buckwheat flour
175g golden syrup
50g black treacle/molasses
110g butter
110g brown sugar
1 egg, beaten lightly
2 tsp milk

To make the Parkin, grease and line a 20cm/8" square cake tin. Preheat the oven to 140°C/120°F/Gas 1.

Sieve the flours, a pinch of salt, ginger and mixed spice into a mixing bowl and mix well.

In a small saucepan, warm the syrup, treacle, butter and sugar until the butter has melted and the sugar has dissolved. Pour into the flour mix and stir to combine. Stir in the egg and milk and mix well. The batter will be runny.

Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 50-60 minutes, or until firm in the centre when touched lightly with your fingers.

Set aside to cool in the tin. Cut into squares when cold.

For the poached pears: Place the cider, sugar, lemon peel and cinnamon sticks in a large frying pan and warm through, stirring, to dissolve the sugar. Arrange the pears flat side down in the pan. Top with a circle of greaseproof paper and bring to a gentle boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook the pears for about 15 minutes, flipping them over after 10 minutes. Test the fruit with a knife to check if they are tender. If still very firm, continue to poach for a further five minutes, then check again. They will start to look a bit translucent when cooked.

Remove the pears carefully with a spatula and set aside. Put the pan back on the heat and bring to the boil. Reduce the liquid by half to make a syrup.

To serve, arrange a square of Parkin on a plate with two pear halves and a blob of vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. Drizzle over the syrup.

Savoury Vegetable Pancakes *page 20*

Potato Pancakes with Bacon and Maple Syrup *page 51*

AIKB Photography Club

The subject of the January challenge was Food.

1st place Don Taylor, "First slice one lemon...."

2nd place Bernie Faiers with "Breakfast"

Joint 3rd place Bernie Faiers with "Tomato Soup"

Joint 3rd place Don Taylor "Des Oeufs"

Joint 3rd place Don Taylor "Blood Orange"

The AIKB Photography Club meets twice monthly on Tuesday evenings at the Salle Polyvalente in Gouarec. The club welcomes photographers of all levels. To find out more about the club and activities e-mail: hopmg@gmail.com



On and Off the Beaten Track

Observations from a small part of a small island...

Back to Blighty, sadly for my brother-in-law's funeral. So, bleary-eyed, on a filthy February morning, we queued for customs and passport control, choosing the slowest queue as ever. On the plus side, we were impressed by the genuine charm of the passport control lady – no I'm not being ironic, she was charming and solicitous. Once again, no one asked for the sinister Passenger Locator form, so no doubt our details are buried deep in some home office data-bunker.

We left the port by about 7 a.m., so angst number one was out of the way. Angst number two was getting to Blackburn in time to double-check the following day's funeral arrangements which we had organised from France. Last October, the journey took forever due to the appalling state of the M6 and the Dept. of Transport's unsmart installation of unsmart motorways. God help anyone who breaks down. Diluvian rains notwithstanding, we arrived by 1 p.m.

My brother-in-law lived for forty years in Stanley Grange, a care village near Blackburn in the centre of an inaccessible village called Samlesbury. We have been going there on and off all that time, however, we had no idea that there is a secret, cyber-warfare establishment there. I recently read an article about it; one of those "Britain is ahead-in-the-field articles". Maybe Britain is and maybe Samlesbury does have a secret centre, but in this post-truth world, we'll never know.

But if it exists, where is it? Certainly not in the village.

Being of the Avengers' generation when, in later episodes, "Mother", the improbable controller figure, drove around in a taxi, and being also a fan of Bond movies where some unlikely warehouse transforms itself into a sophisticated communications' centre at the flick of a switch, we vainly scrutinised every derelict farm and tree-screened, ex-mill-owner's house for signs of clandestine activity. Nothing. Finally, C wondered whether it may be hidden in broad daylight in the huge BAE facility nearby. Possible, though my inner romantic self would love it not to be.

Neither of us will be sad not to return to Blackburn, though I feel a pang of guilt saying it, because the people I have met over the years have been lovely. But as I observed when I last wrote about it, it is a town that has not recovered from industrial Armageddon, so once again we stayed ten miles away in the village of Waddington near Clitheroe, which meant a daily commute for three days.

Which brings me to the observations. First, there is the appalling state of some of the roads once you are off the main A59 cross-Pennine route. Then one observes that despite widespread poverty in and around Blackburn, many people drive high-end Audis, Mercs, Toyotas, Range Rovers etc. A flash of BMW screaming red cutting across you as you leave a roundabout reminds you



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that they drive like the clappers. Neither of us is a hesitant or slow driver, but some of these people leave you breathless. Presumably they account for the large numbers of particularly graceless speed cameras that disfigure the main roads.

And so to communications. You might think that the mobile network in Brittany is bad. Well, the Ribble Valley is similar, if not worse. BT is no better a partially-reconstructed utility than France Telecom. Each has a superficial marketing gloss that adds nothing.

We were struck too by the housing developments: farmland concreted over when there is no shortage of brownfield sites. But these houses will ease the housing shortage, right? Probably not. These are not starter homes, although some may have been included to obtain planning permission. I saw no council housing or affordable housing association dwellings under construction which would help the less well-off.

Nor do there appear to be plans to improve the infrastructure to cope with the increased traffic about to be unleashed, so already busy city roads will become ever more congested. Parking more difficult. This is not nimbyism. Yes, England either needs more dwellings or fewer people. Since the latter is an unlikely contingency, the former becomes the necessity, but development has to be done to a strategic plan of which there is no discernible sign. Shades of uncontrolled 19th century development around London's burgeoning railway network. (See Christian Wolmar's Cathedrals of Steam.)

Our sad business completed, we had hoped to have a day off prior to heading to Yorkshire to deal with legal matters, but Storm Eunice intervened. Blackburn and Clitheroe got off lightly, but it was still very rough and hardly the day to venture up Pendle Hill, our intended destination.

Since the storm also kiboshed plans to cross the Pennines via Manchester and the M62 to see friends, we took the A59 the following day and decided to venture up Pendle's foothills en route. The sleet turned to snow as we climbed and by the time we crossed the cattlegrid onto the moor the hills were shrouded in mist and swirling snow. A lone sheep stood hopelessly on the road ahead watching the cars coming down from the tops. We were tempted to go higher, but discretion and necessity capped fun. Reluctantly we re-joined the A59, crossing the Pennines via Skipton to Boroughbridge. I caught a glimpse of a saddleback tank engine billowing smoke as it hauled a passenger train on the Emsay steam railway, which made my day.

And the snow kindly held off till after our arrival. (With apologies to Bill Bryson for cannibalising his title.)

Richard Griffiths, rpf@orange.fr

Photos, facing page: The approach to Pendle Hill

Art & Culture

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A Brittany Alphabet

by Hilary Bridewell

C is for Camaret-sur-Mer

We have spent many enjoyable holidays on the Crozon peninsula, famous for its numerous beaches and jagged cliffs offering wonderful views. These are our two boys (*below*) Ben and Max playing on the Trez-Rouz beach.

It was on this beach that the Battle of Camaret took place in 1694, during the Nine Years War between William of Orange and Louis XIV of France.

On the 17th June 1694 an Anglo-Dutch fleet of 36 warships and 80 transport with 8,000 soldiers anchored near Camaret Bay, ready to launch an attack.

However, the next day a thick fog had settled over the area, and it was not until eleven o'clock that the English warships were able to launch an attack upon Camaret; transport ships launched 200 longboats loaded with soldiers heading for the nearby beach.

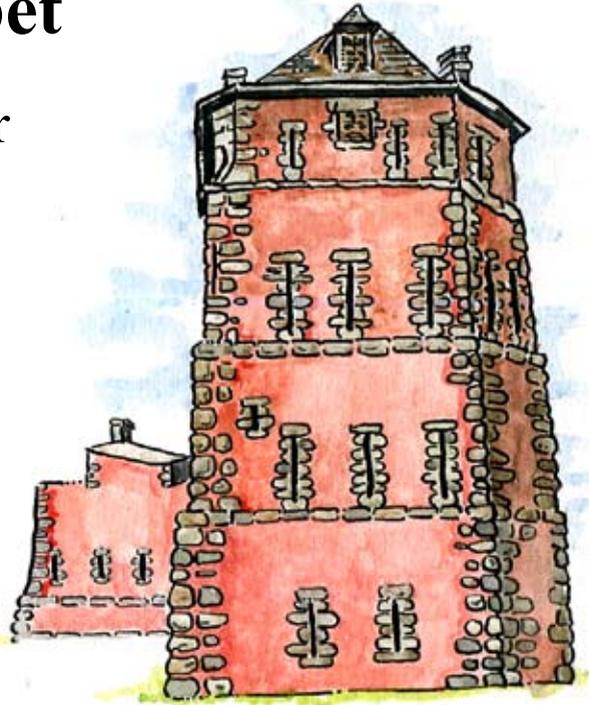
The English commanders, however, had underestimated the strength of the French defences, which Louis had put under the command of Le Prestre de Vauban, still regarded as one of the most accomplished military engineers of modern times. Having been forewarned of the attack, Vauban had hurried to complete work on the now famous 'Tour Vauban', from which gunners were able to rain down cannon fire on the English and Dutch ships. In this encounter a cannonball shot off the top of the spire of the Chapelle Notre-Dame de Rocamadour, also known as the Fisherman's Church, which is situated on the seafront.

Meanwhile, the troops landing on the beach were also subjected to cannon fire and encountered a determined company of Breton militiamen who had been stationed there by Vauban.

The landing troops fell back, but were unable to return to their ships as the retreating tide had left most of the longboats high and dry. The English losses were considerable; 800 of the troops from the landing force were killed or wounded, 400 men killed on the ships of the line, and 466 taken prisoner, including 16 officers. The French, according to contemporary reports, had around 45 wounded.

Since that date the landing beach, stained red with blood, has been known as Trez-Rouz (red beach). The nearest cliff, from where a cannon ball was fired that was believed to have given the English commander a fatal wound, is still known as 'Maro ar saozon' (the Englishman's death).

In Camaret you can still visit the Tower of Vauban and also the nearby Fisherman's church. The stained glass window in the Town's church is well worth a visit also. The church of Saint-Rémi in the town has a wonderful stained glass window depicting this battle.



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Birds to See in Brittany: **The Ringed Plover**

French: **Pluvier grand – gavelot (or Grand Gavelot)** Breton: **Novelig gras**

You will find us on sandy and muddy shores and open tundra in Spring and Summer but on

shorelines and estuaries mainly during Winter. We are medium sized, dumpy and stocky thrush – sized birds. We are fast running, with a distinctive black breast band and facial mask. Our upper parts are sandy brown up to the neck band and our black and white chest pattern; our crown is also sandy brown – the band across being separated from the bill by a white area and a brown eye stripe running from the base of the bill through the eye to the nape. Our eye ring is yellow. Our underparts are white, marked only with the black breast band. Our legs are orange, as is the basal half of the black tipped bill. In winter our bold rings become somewhat indistinct brown smudges and our legs become dirty yellow. We generally nest along the shoreline among sand or the pebbles not far above the high water mark. Occasionally we may nest near inland water.

We make a shallow hollow in the ground which we sometimes line with flat pebbles, a few wisps of grass or pieces of shell or wood. This can make our nest fairly inconspicuous against a pebbly background but when in sand or turf the lining may show up quite distinctly.

Laying begins in April and we lay two clutches in a year – each clutch containing 4 eggs – sometimes only three. Like most wading birds our eggs are pointed at the narrower end and are arranged in a circle with the points innermost, and occasionally partially buried in the sand. Incubation is by both parents and takes 24-25 days with frequent change-overs between the parents. The young leave the nest as soon as they hatch and are cared for by both parents until they fly after another 25 days. In the event of intrusion into our territory we deploy distraction tactics where one of us will attempt to lure the intruder away from the nest by running past with one wing held low as if injured, or running directly away with tail fanned, making itself very conspicuous.

Our call is a melodious “Too-lee” or “Coo-cep”. A single “Too-lee” note is often the first indication of our presence and means that our territory has been invaded. We feed on insects, winkles, small crustaceans, worms and some vegetable matter.

We are very sociable birds and several of us can be seen together along the shore, often in a large mixed flock with Dunlins.



Jim Henderson

My Favourite Photography Location The ‘Vallée du Doré’ and its Bridges

The centre of Brittany never ceases to reveal its wonders. Last year’s Spring lockdown (with its strict 10km limit) led many people living near Plouguernével to spend time exploring the Vallée du Doré (sometimes called the ‘Petit-Doré’). We were no exception, meeting neighbours, dog walkers and Sunday strollers within this charming little valley, with its meandering river and delightful granite chaos. Little known except by locals, this magical setting is well worth a visit, and offers plenty of scope for keen photographers.



Within the commune of Plouguernével, lying roughly on the old Roman route between Carhaix and Rennes, the Petit-Doré runs through a granite ‘massif’. This quiet little river is named after the ‘gold’ glitter that was supposedly found on the river bed. Apparently, this ‘gold’ was actually black mica (from the granite), turning yellow as it aged. The underlying granite base is over 450 million years old. The geological particularities of its formation and cooling give rise to three different forms of granite in this area.

Close to the RN164, the easiest way to visit is to park near Pont Croix, a little bridge with twin arches, and cross the bridge on foot. The path to the right follows this shallow river as it winds along, and gradually we notice the river bed becoming more turbulent. We really begin to notice the glint of granite as the path draws parallel with the former mill at Cordy. The path continues through the forest, with the river bed becoming



more and more rocky. On the opposite side of the river, we now see large rocks scattered amid the trees.

Eventually, the granite boulders within the river bed start to pile up on themselves and the river twists its way through this ‘chaos’. This can be dramatic following heavy rains, with the river level rising. Indeed, at Christmas 2013, following exceptional rainfall, the river level was so high that the arches of Pont Croix were almost completely hidden.

A little way further along lies another bridge, Pont Min, with

My Favourite Photography Location 33

its flat, massive granite slabs placed on blocks (also in granite) spread out across the river bed, enabling us to cross the river at this point. This remarkable feature is sometimes called the 'Pont Gaulois', to distinguish it from the twin-arched Pont Croix which is sometimes (apparently wrongly) called the 'Pont Romain'.

There are many footpaths within this wooded valley, some quite steep, as well as marked paths such as the GR

37. For this reason, there has also been an event ('Trail an Doré') for trail runners, and organised visits hosted by local geologists to explain the formation of the valley and river.



Sheila Brélivet

Sheila is a member of the AIKB Photography Club More info: .aikb.hopmg@gmail.com”

Photo Notes : *My accompanying photos show very typical views of this lovely setting. One was taken with my DSLR and the others with my mobile phone. The footpaths are rough and do not make it easy to use tripods. Therefore, you may need to maximise light levels and avoid shake or blur. A fast shutter speed and medium-to-high ISO setting may be helpful. The forest setting, in particular, allows for a remarkable range of light conditions. Aperture settings, however, would depend on how much depth of field you would wish to achieve, and your choice may be limited by the previous two factors.*

A tripod or monopod would, of course, allow you full use of your manual settings. (A typical example might be to photograph the water tumbling over the rocks, using a slow shutter speed to make the water smooth and milky.)

Photos: Above & top left: Petit-Doré; Left: Pont Min

A Brittany Alphabet *continued*

C is for Clubs

There are numerous clubs in Brittany where people can meet on a regular basis. Entertainment takes various forms, the most popular being belote (a card game), Breton boules and petanque. It was at our local club that I was taught how to play belote; it is similar to partner whist, normally played in teams of two against an opposing team. One way in which belote differs from whist is that if you do not play your cards in accordance with some pre-set rules, the points are forfeited to the opposing team.

C is for Concours

Clubs and associations, often to raise funds, will host 'Concours', open to all and sundry. At the 'Concours de Cartes' (belote), 2 teams of 2 play against one another in 5 rounds each consisting of ten hands of cards.

After each round the winners buy the losers some refreshments - the price of these is normally set at €1. These refreshments, normally small glasses of wine, beer, cider and soft drinks, cakes and jambon casse croutes are provided by the club or association hosting, and are how they make their money – as the entrance fee of €5 per player is given out in prize money.

Rock and Blues in Brittany

After three frustrating seasons of stop-start gigs and cancellations, the Autumn 2021 programme went ahead, with only the final concert falling foul of the prevailing Covid restrictions. But everyone is confident that the Spring 2022 season will be rolled out as planned. There are some great acts to look forward to, and this time a number of them are scheduled for Saturday night instead of the usual Sunday morning.

Last season began in September with the first rock night at La Grande Orse (LBO) in St Agathon, near Guingamp (22). It was well attended and both bands – Santa Claws and Moundrag – were very tight and energetic. The Lowland Brothers brought their own blend of blues along a week later, injecting soul, funk and disco into the mix.



Above: Rozedale; Below: Mister Mat



Rock Night. Above: Santa Claws; Below: Moundog



In October, Rozedale came to promote their new album, and rocked the place with bluesy vocals and amazing fretwork from their versatile guitarist.

Callac cinema was the venue for an unusual blues-themed soirée on a November Sunday evening. The Blues Brothers film was the headline attraction, supported by a strangely entertaining singer/guitarist with a robot sidekick! You had to be there!

The season finished prematurely when Mister Mat became the final act. After three times being the victim of Covid cancellations, the guitarist with the Ray Charles voice gave a masterful performance, with his legendary rendition of 'Georgia on my mind' being his third and final encore. All this, after some slam poetry as the opening act, made for a fine November night.

The forthcoming Spring season promises to be no less wide-ranging. **Mac Arnold** arrives from South Carolina after playing for many years with Muddy Waters. After coming out of retirement some years ago, he can't stop gigging, and brings his blues band to the LGO on **Sunday 6th March**.

After not playing in France for 30 years, **Melvin Taylor** and his band play at the venue on **Sunday 27th March**. With influences ranging from Albert King to Jimi Hendrix, it should be an evening to remember.

A double-header on **Saturday 30th April** showcases the incredible vocal talents of **Moonlight Benjamin** and the folk-rock guitarist **Mô'ti Tëi**. The 'punkie voodoo queen' (Moonlight Benjamin) hails from Haiti, and is described as the Caribbean Patti Smith.

Another Saturday co-headliner is on offer on **Saturday 7th May**, and let's hope it's third time lucky for **Princesses Leya** after two Covid re-schedules. The quasi-metal band promise an evening of heavy rock and humour. On the same night, **Rage against the Peppers** are a fusion tribute act - I'll leave you to work out which two bands – and will deliver their wacky blend of energetic fun: if you were there when they played the Bacardi in Callac in 2017, you won't want to miss them.

Saturday 14th May sees the season come to an end with another double-bill. **Gaëlle Buswel** is still a young woman, but with over 500 gigs in Europe and the USA under her belt, she knows how to present her husky blues voice. And with **Howlin' Grassman vs Stompin' Bigfoot** rounding off the rock and blues programme with their unique blend of energy and intensity, the Spring season draws to a close. See you there!

Darren Milsom

All gigs will follow current Covid protocols. Reduced prices and season tickets are available - details can be found at www.ourse.fr; or contact 06 59 15 18 32. And, don't forget, a pair of tickets is up for grabs for each concert – **Music: Win Tickets, page 6**

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Animals

See **ANIMAL WELFARE** p.42

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See **BED & BREAKFAST** p.46

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Building & Property Services

See **BUILDING & PROPERTY SERVICES** pp. 44-49, & 55

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Garden Services

See **GARDENING** pp. 40-41

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Health & Beauty

See **HEALTH & BEAUTY** p.39

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Counsellor/Psychotherapist, Peter Mickelborough, formerly British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy Senior Registered Practitioner, for individuals or couples, Central Brittany, 02 96 36 59 00, peter@chatquilit.com

Caroline Lotoux, English- speaking psychotherapist, is in Maël-Carhaix (22) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and in Plœrdut (56) on Tuesdays and Thursdays (medical offices). Phone : 02 56 25 11 68. www.caroline-lotoux.fr

Klassic Kuts by Karen. Please call 02 56 33 50 11 or 06 35 95 05 37 for an appointment. I am in Le Faouet (56) and cover surrounding areas.

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Translation & Advice

See **HELP & ADVICE** page 10

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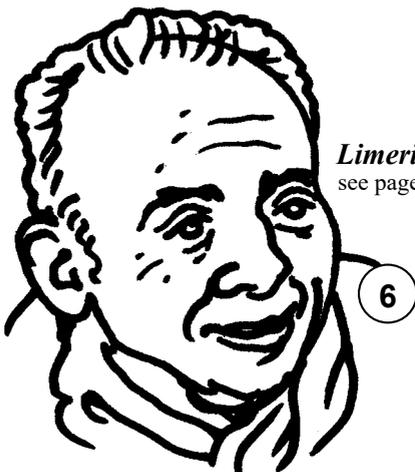
Gems Nails Ongles
Mobile Nail service page 2

Wanted *contd.*

Wanted: 2005 onwards, Tidy and clean repairable Cars, e.g. mechanical problems maybe needing head gasket / turbo / timing belt / clutch repairs, or something similar. Please call: 02 97 38 62 82 or ian.torode@orange.fr

Property pages 53 - 54

Colour Classified page 54



Limericks
see page 16

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Answers CBJ Quiz page 14

I: General Knowledge & Current Affairs

- 1) Italy; Denmark 2) Bamber Gascoigne 3) 32
- 4) Adrian IV (formerly Nicholas Breakspear)
- 5) Bring Your Own Bottles 6) 1970s (1974)
- 7) Rutland 8) Gove 9) Lightning
- 10) Aylesbury

II: Sports & Games 1) Usman Khawaja 2) Mark Cavendish 3) History 4) Portsmouth – it's on Southsea Island 5) Morecambe 6) Ivory Coast, Algeria 7) Senegal 8) Egypt 9) Norway 10) Norway; Germany (with 6 golds each)

III: French Language & Culture 1) Loire-

Atlantique 2) Michel de Montaigne 3) Jean-Jacques Beineix 4) Tours 5) cradle 6) 7

7) The Académie Française 8) Edith Cresson 9) Bourgeois, Bohemian 10) Guingamp

IV: Connections 1) Meg (nutmeg) 2) Pea green (although peanuts are legumes, they are generally classified as nuts) 3) Pine marten (pine nut) 4) Fruit & nut 5) Nutcase 6) Shell 7) Colonel Saunders (kernel) 8) Brazil 9) Hazel Irvine 10) The Great Wall of China (Walnut) 11) Chest 12) Nuthatch 13) Amygdala (so called because of its almond shape – the word means almond in Greek) 14) NUT 15) The Monkees (monkey nuts); Nuts

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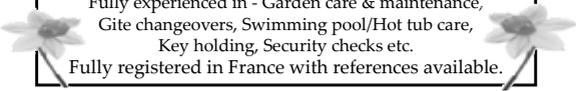
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More GARDENING ads on page 55

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Removals

Watson European page 53

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Solution: Chess Puzzle *page 7*

- 1) Kb3, h5;
- 2) Kc4, h4;
- 3) Kd5,

Now black cannot allow white to play Ke6 next move as this will lead to white playing d7 mate

- 3)..... Kd7;
- 4) Ke4, h3;
- 5) Kf3, h2;
- 6) Kg2 and wins

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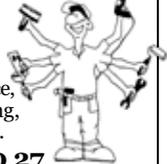
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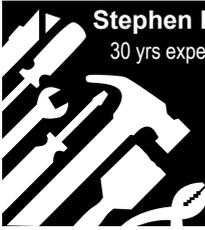
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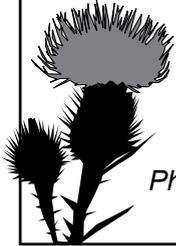


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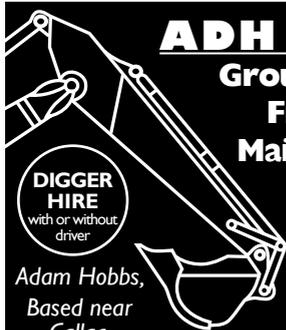
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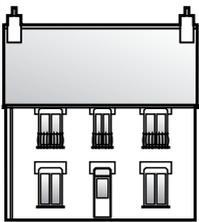
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- Maple syrup

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Half way through the potatoes cooking, arrange the bacon slices on an oven tray and cook at the same time on a lower shelf. Keep an eye on them and take out when they are as done as you like

them. Keep warm.

While the potatoes are still hot, cut them in half, hold each half with a folded tea towel and scoop out the flesh into a bowl. Mash well until smooth.

Whisk the flour, eggs and cream to make a smooth batter, then add the mashed potato and beat well to combine. Season well.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan. Use a small ladle to pour in enough batter to make a 5"/12cm diameter pancake. Cook two at once if the pan is big enough. Fry until golden on both sides and transfer to a warmed plate lined with greaseproof paper. Keep warm while you cook the rest. There should be enough batter for 8.

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Solution

Bridge Puzzle 38 page 6

When to Draw Trumps

South is playing in

4♣. West leads K♣.

How should

declarer plan the play? ♠ K Q J 7 4

♠ Q 10 7

♥ Q 5

♦ K Q 8 4

♣ A 9 6 3

	N	
W		E
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♠ 6 4

♥ A J 9 7 2

♦ J 9 5

♣ 10 8

Win the A♣ and immediately concede ♠ A K J 8 3

a heart trick. On regaining the lead

concede a second heart trick. Win

the next trick and ruff the third heart

in dummy. Declarer loses two hearts

and a club.

If declarer draws trumps before conceding the hearts there would remain three losing hearts in hand unless in the unlikely event of diamonds breaking 3/3, in which case a small heart could be pitched on the fourth diamond.

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Tiago: 10-month old male Setter X. He has been left on his own for the past 8 months and needs a home with a garden where he can use up his energy. His education and training will be ongoing. Contact the Lovebest refuge at Laurenan near Loudeac, tel 06 15 50 88 32 or Compassion Animaux Bretagne via their facebook page.



Rocky: Beautiful 9 month old Male Beagle X. As with Oslo, he is in urgent need of a foster/forever home. Contact The Green Valley Brittany, tel 06 95 56 64 73.



Oslo: 3 year old male Golden Retriever. Needs an urgent foster/forever home. He is very friendly and affectionate; good with children, cats and other dogs. Contact: The Green Valley Brittany, tel 06 95 56 64 73.

If you would like further information about these or the other dogs available for adoption in our area, please contact us at Liberté Pour Chiens on 02 96 72 26 53, and we will do our best to help.

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Photo of the Month: Port de Saint Brieuc. Paulette Hervé

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