

Issue 219

1€

Central Brittany Journal

September 2022

*Fire
in the
Monts d'Arrée*
pages 28-29



*In
Memory* 6

Hawk Moths 32



*Spotted
Crake*
33





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**Fire in
the Monts
d'Arrée**
**Watersoluble
crayons and
watercolour**
Samuel Lewis
see pages 28-29

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Brittany's Hawk Moths

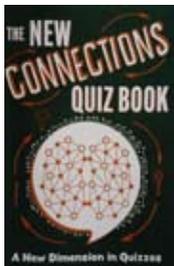
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Spotted Crake

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**CBJ
Quiz**
pages
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*A Tale of
Two Rivers*
pages 19-20

Inheritance planning in France. Protect your heirs.

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10-11

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Contact me on
06 80 44 20 16
or at isabellemariau@gmail.com

ART EXHIBITION
BRENDA HAYES & ANN MARIE RAY



**16th September
to
2nd November
2022**

**La Maison de
l'épagnéul Breton
Callac**

Free Entry



Contributors: SEPTEMBER

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Editorial:

Pictures sent in by readers of the fire in the Monts d'Arrée (page 28) made me think that I ought to write an article on the subject of global warming.

However, that did not turn out to be as simple as I had imagined. People who I spoke to agreed that climate change was an issue that should not be treated in separation from other problems that we face today, and should be seen more as a symptom of a deeper problem, rather than something that can be solved on its own. In the end, I have had to content myself with dealing with the issue obliquely in the Mr Biznuz and Tim the Gardener columns.

On the broader front, however, I still believe that the policy that we have been following together, over the years since we started the Journal – of trying to rebuild a local community, and to forge links between people of different nationalities, different cultures, and different ages – is what gives the greatest hope for the future, and I look forward to your comments and ideas for the October issue over the next few weeks

GL

Central Brittany Journal

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Advertising: info@theobj.com / theobj@orange.fr

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Deadline for classified ads: 20th of the month.

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6 Tavern Ty Elise / Bridge Puzzle

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One of Central Brittany's most famous bars, 'Tavern Ty Elise' re-opened in June, once again under the ownership of Elise Le Provost. Elise originally opened the bar in 1978, with the late Byn Walters, and has now decided to give the pub a new lease of life.

Summer opening times Tuesday - Sunday 4pm-1am (closed Monday).

Rte de Collorec, 29690 Plouyé 06 44 72 41 87
provostelise1@gmail.com

Bridge Puzzle 44

Get That Ruff In

Dealer East All Vulnerable
W N E S
1♥ Pass
3♥ 4♠ All Pass

♠ K Q J 9 4 2

♥

♦ 10 7 5 2

♣ A K 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 9 6

♥ Q 10 8 4

♦ A 8

♣ Q 9 8 7

East leads the 2♥.
Whats your plan?

Solution page 51+

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



In memory: Yvon Morvan 1934 - 2022

With special thanks from the CBJ to the Frères Morvan for their friendship and support over the years.

Food & Drink

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Hetty's Kitchen

Blackberry & Apple Snow p.27

Mushroom & Lentil Moussaka

p.34

Fruity Chicken Salad p.34

Singapore Sling Cocktail p.34

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8 What's On

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Help & Advice page 10

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Olrun Cafe

17 place Bisson, Guémené-sur-Scorff.

11th September. Kreizbrunch. 12pm (100% organic and locally-sourced brunch). 20€.

Saturday 17th September. 'Goodbye to Summer' meal. 5pm-7pm. 20€.

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What's On in September

Thurs 1 - Sun 4 September

September

Exhibition at the musée du Fauoët. "Portrait painting in Brittany" (Le Portrait dans la peinture en Bretagne). Tuesday to Saturday 10am-12pm and 2pm-6pm. Sunday open 2pm-6pm. Closed Mondays. Over 130 paintings and drawings from the 19th and the 20th century. Adults 5€, free for children under 18.

Saturday 3rd September

Second-hand clothes swap. 3pm-5pm. Free. Olrun Cafe, 17 place Bisson, Guémené-sur-Scorff. Tel: 07 83 40 76 24 chloedubocq@gmail.com

Saturday 3rd September

Fest-Noz. Breton music and dancing. 9pm-2am. 'Dibar', Lan Meur 22810 Plougonver (on the road btw Plougonver and Gurunhuel). In aid of the Diwan Breton language school.

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th September

Book & Art Fair. Bulat Pestivien, Ch'ty Coz Café. Pascal Izac, Celtic-inspired artist, invites friends Alain Goutal, Bruno Brucero, Christelle Le Guen, Fabrice Mondejar & Samuel Lewis for a book & art fair. Book & Picture Signing: Saturday: 2pm-6pm; Sunday 10am-1pm & 2pm-4pm. Concert: Sunday 4pm, with Soig Siberil. 02 96 45 75 74.

Mon 5 - Sun 11 September

Tuesday 6th September

Royal British Legion Monthly Social at the Relais de L'Oust, Josselin. Open to non-members as well as members, lunch, quiz, bric a brac, book, poppies, and there is a raffle each month. Starts around midday and lunch is served about 1pm. For further information please contact Greg on CentralBrittany.Secretary@RBL.Community. For Poppies please contact Kissmekate1@orange.fr.

Wednesday 7th September

Simon Scardanelli plays at the 'Pieds dans l'plat' community cafe (opposite the salle des fetes) in Callac. Original folk-rock. Lunchtime concert.

Wednesday 7th September

Soirée du Sept. Open mike and variety evening. Music, poetry and sketches. Register from 7pm for 7.30 start. St Nicodème (22160) salle des fêtes.

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th September

Autumn Plant Sale. 10am - 5pm. 50% off everything. Le Grand Crenard Nursery, Crenard Bras, 22570 Lescouet-Gouarec. Contact Marie: 02 96 24 93 62 bowen.ken@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 10th September

The Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club (AFVBC Brittany) will be meeting at le Black Dog pub, le Corboulo, 15 Rue du Blavet, Saint-Aignan, 56480. Tel: 02 97 27 84 22. Starts 10:30am. If you wish to attend please contact venue with the number in your party to avoid disappointment on the day.

Saturday 10th September

Big Fest Noz, celebrating the life of Jean-Dominique Robin, singer and Breton language activist. Salle des Fetes, Cavan. 6pm-2am. 6€ entry.

Sunday 11th September

Market, vide grenier. Plévin town centre. 9am-1.30pm. Set up from 7am. 2€ per pitch. To book a pitch call 06 45 64 46 72.

Mon 12 - Sun 18 September**Tuesday 13th September**

Quiz at 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 dale-fraser01@gmail.com

Wednesday 14th September

AIKB Visit to a shady paradise. Guided tour of a 2 hectare natural garden with more than 3500 different species plus the bonus of exploring the adjoining nursery. Please reserve by email to info@aikb.fr. Meet at 2.30pm, 10€ per person, Vert'Tige, 22540 Guernevez Plouserf. Vert'Tige is south west of Guingamp.

Friday 16th September to Tuesday 2nd November

Exhibition of paintings by Brenda Hayes and Ann Marie Ray. The Maison Epagneul Breton, Callac. Free entry.

Friday 16th September

Chinese 3 course meal. Starts 7pm. Starter of chicken / veggy nems served with sweet chilli dip on a bed of salad or veggy chinese noodle soup with prawn crackers. Main course, chicken or veg chinese curry. or chicken or veg chinese sweet and sour. Dessert ice cream gateau. 16€ per person. Bar Le Pommier, Landelau.

Sunday 18th September

Vide Grenier, Bulat Pestivien. Organised by the Mairie. 8am-1pm

Sunday 18th September

Fete du Bois. Craft stalls, old agricultural machinery, activities for children, demonstration of traditional sawmill. Free entry. 10am-7pm. Ferme de Coueslé 56350 Allaire.

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New Advertisers

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10 Spotlight on Brittany

Sunday 18th September

Gouel Sant Roch (Pardon of the Chapel of St Roch).

Religious service at 10.30pm. Sausages and potatoes at mid-day, and in the afternoon, a craft market, Breton dancing, music, and various activities. Chapel St-Roch, Plounevez-Quintin.

Mon 19 - Fri 30 September

Saturday 24th September

Wellness afternoon, with yoga, sound relaxation, and vegan snacks. 3pm-5pm. 25€. Olrun Cafe, 17 place Bisson, Guémené-sur-Scorff. Tel: 07 83 40 76 24 chloedubocq@gmail.com

Saturday 24th September

Artisanal market and Fest Noz, Tremargat. Craft market in the afternoon, and Fest noz from 9pm. Food and bar. At the SAGA, Lorient-Mine, Tremargat (Just outside the village, direction Kergrist-Moelou).

Sunday 25th September

Marché des créateurs / Craft Market. 10am to 6pm Mael-Carhaix. Free Entry

October

Sunday 2nd October

Foire aux Courges. Organic food and local craft market.

Pedervec. 10am-6pm. Food, bar, puppet show, conferences. Free entry.

Spotlight on Brittany:

September: The key word for this month's programme is 'Culture' as our no 1 Brittany historian, Wendy Mewes, together with Pierre Pinat, Breton guide of Huelgoat, enlighten us about those 'little people' of Brittany, the Korrigans and the Lutins, then music man, Carl Smith continues his musical tour of Europe, 'travelling' through Germany, Bavaria and Switzerland! You might learn how to 'Yodel'!

All this and much more can be heard by joining us on Radio Kreiz Breizh on Wednesdays at 14h00 and Saturdays at 12h.00 (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 09.30. 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

Limericks

Aliens



*Area 51 where an alien got stuck,
No ride home, what lousy rotten luck,
Not his place of birth,
Down here on Earth,
Still, life here's ok, so who gives a sausage?*

Steven Daniels

*There was a young lady from Mars,
From home in the stars roamed afar,
On Earth she did land,
Saw all she could stand
"Beam me up Scottie" she pined.*

Bláithín Ní Liatháin Lanouée

*Visitors from outer space, aliens and ETs,
Were written about by Däniken in the 1960s,
In the '70s came Sitchin,
With Adams' guide to hitchin,'
And H.G. Wells' which thanks to bugs, were
soon brought to their knees.*

Gerard Dunmoore - Pontivy

More Limericks page 16



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Tax & Investment

Succession issues in France – how is your family affected?

France's complex succession law and tax regimes create various complications for UK nationals setting up life there. Once you understand how these might affect your family, you can tailor your estate planning take steps to ensure your estate will pass according to your wishes and with as little tax as possible.

Succession law and forced heirship in France

The Napoleonic code in France was designed to keep property within 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 or PACS (civil) partner.

EU succession law 'Brussels IV'

It is possible to use the EU succession regulation "Brussels IV" to opt for the succession law of your country of nationality to apply on your death, instead of that of your country of residence. You need to make this election in your will, otherwise French law automatically applies. Make sure you understand the pros and cons.

Note that if French assets pass according to the provisions of a country which does not impose forced heirship rules (eg England and Wales), the protected heirs can make a claim for the share they would be entitled to under the French rules. This effectively override Brussels IV, but you can still use Brussels IV to freely distribute assets outside France.

In any case, there may be other, more suitable ways to achieve your estate planning wishes.

Succession tax

Succession tax is charged on each beneficiary individually, with the rates and allowances varying considerably depending on their relationship to you:

- There is no tax on inheritances between spouses and PACS partners, but lifetime gifts are taxable at 5%-45% with a €80,724 allowance.
- Children (natural and adopted) each benefit from a €100,000 allowance and pay tax at progressive rates from 5% to 45%.
- Grandchildren pay tax at the same rates, but only receive the standard €1,594 allowance for inheritances. You can, however, give them lifetime and cash gifts up to €31,865 tax free.
- Brothers and sisters generally receive a €15,932 allowance and pay tax at 35% or 45%.
- The allowance for nephews and nieces is €7,967 with a 55% tax rate.
- Anyone else pays tax at 60%, and their allowance is just €1,594. This includes stepchildren and unmarried/non PACS partners.

It may be possible to overcome or mitigate the potentially punitive taxes and the restrictions of succession law, through strategic advance planning, so take time to explore your options. If you have not bought your French property yet, research the various methods of ownership to establish what will work best for your family.

Estate planning is a complex area, especially when you have to consider the rules of two countries and how they interact. Every family is different, so your approach should be tailored to meet your personal objectives and unique situation. Take specialist advice for peace of mind that you have got the right plans in place, for yourself and your heirs.

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

Summarised tax information is based upon our understanding of current laws and practices which may change. Individuals should seek personalised advice.

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com

Callac Cinema

- English Language Films in September

Saturday 10th September

Nope. Starts 8.30pm.

Monday 12th September

Vesper (French title Vesper Chronicles.) Starts 8.30pm.

Sunday 18th September

The Godfather (Le Parrain) (1972). Starts 5.30pm.

Tuesday 20th September

Three Thousand Years of Longing (French title Trois Mille Ans à T'Attendre.) Starts 8.30pm.

Saturday 1st October

Everything Everywhere All At Once: Starts 8.30pm.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

CANCER SUPPORT FRANCE

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CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY

Acting Chaplain: Rev Jeremy Cross,
e-mail: jandscross@aol.com, tel: 02 97 93 27 24
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, but please check our website at www.churchinbrittany.org for any changes that may be made to this schedule.

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

4th – 12th after Trinity – Zoom service 10am
11th – 13th after Trinity – Holy Communion 2.30pm

18th – 14th after Trinity – Zoom 10am
25th – 15th after Trinity – Holy Communion 2.30pm
For more details contact:
Henk Lageveen 02 98 99 63 14 ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com
For more details contact:
Henk Lageveen 02 98 99 63 14 ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com

PLOËRMEL (in the Chapel at 14 rue Général Dubreton) Ploërmel

4th – 12th after Trinity – Holy Communion 11am
10th – Saturday - Wedding Blessing at 12 noon.
11th – 13th after Trinity – Holy Communion 11am
18th – 14th after Trinity – Word and Worship 11am
25th – 15th after Trinity – Word and Worship 11am
For more details contact:
Chris Wilson 02 97 72 19 29 chriselbeau@gmail.com

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

11th – 13th after Trinity – Word and Worship 10.30am
25th – 15th after Trinity – Word and Worship 10.30am
For more details contact redon@churchinbrittany.org

ROSTRENE

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)
4th – 12th after Trinity – Zoom service 10am
11th – 13th after Trinity – Holy Communion 10.30am
18th – 14th after Trinity – Zoom service 10am
25th – 2nd after Trinity – 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

Target: 20 points. Answers page 40

Set by Jon Chambers: jonchambers1825@hotmail.com

As well as our regular quiz (below), there are a couple of extra items this month. First, news of another quiz, starting on 30 September. It caters for those quizzers who aren't necessarily interested in dining – in other words, eating and drinking are optional! But the venue is a spacious function room with a bar attached to a pizzeria, so there's something for everyone. Entry is just €2.50 a head for the quiz only, while pizzas are available from about €8. Well done to Andrew Chamberlain for organising this new event. And thanks to the hospitable young lady, Angélique, who runs the bar/pizzeria.

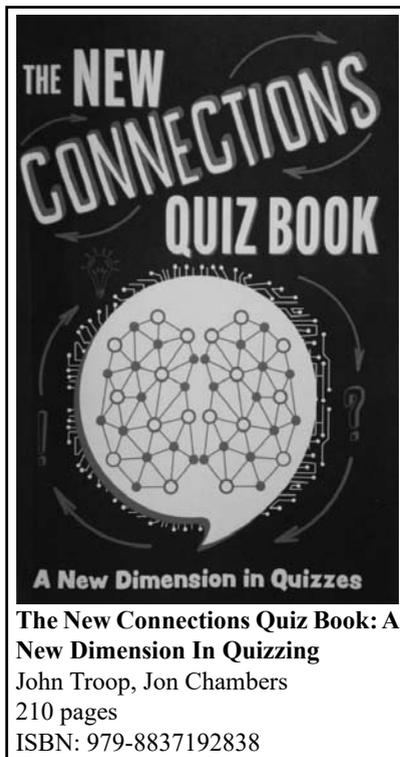
The address is: La Pergola, 8 Rue de l'Elle, 56770 Plouray.

Those wanting to reserve tables should email andrewchamberlain@orange.fr

Second, for those of you who particularly enjoy Connections rounds there's a new book out. It has been compiled by John Troop in partnership with me. John has just returned from a couple of years in New Zealand, where he spent the confinement thinking up Connections rounds like the one below (it's number 23 in the book). Our magnum opus is a collection of 101 such brain-teasers. The New Connections Quiz Book is available on Amazon UK at £9.99, but will be available at the new quiz venue in Plouray for €5.

Jon Chambers

See also New Quiz, page 30



The New Connections Quiz Book: A New Dimension In Quizzing
 John Troop, Jon Chambers
 210 pages
 ISBN: 979-8837192838

I: General Knowledge & Current Affairs

- 1 Erik ten Hag recently became the manager of which beleaguered football club?
- 2 Which subatomic particle is named after a character in Finnegans Wake?
- 3 Turpentine is derived from the resin of which tree?
- 4 The original Legoland was built in which country?
- 5 Why do polar bears not eat penguins?
- 6 Where would you find trees called Gog and Magog, or the Oaks of Avalon?
- 7 Which of these was not a Greek philosopher: Aristophanes, Diogenes, Plato, Socrates?
- 8 Shingles is a viral infection related to which childhood illness?
- 9 Privy counsellors are entitled to be addressed as what, in the House of Commons?
- 10 Who wrote the Billy Bunter stories? (Real name or pen name.)

II: French Language & Culture

- 1 Kent is 'the garden of England'. Which region is 'the garden of France'?
- 2 What is the name of the distinctive, small, black breed of sheep found in Brittany?
- 3 Where might you find a 'nid de poule'?
- 4 What was the Roman name for Brittany?
- 5 During the Bronze Age in Brittany, many implements were made of silex. What is this in English?
- 6 Who famously said, 'An army marches in its stomach'?
- 7 What is a saeu?
- 8 By what (original) title is *Songe d'une nuit d'ete* known in English?
- 9 What French word relates to drama, buildings, and coinage?
- 10 The phenomenon *Telephone arabe* becomes what, in English?

CBJ Quiz *continued*

III: History & Geography

- 1 In which English county is the stately home, Longleat?
- 2 In which city are there medieval streets called the Shambles?
- 3 Who was the first President of the US?
- 4 The Battle of Trafalgar was fought off the coast of which country?
- 5 What is 'the Lone Star' state?
- 6 Who has been the longest-serving British Prime Minister?
- 7 What is Japan's largest island?
- 8 What comes next: Dogger, Fisher, ?
- 9 What technology was invented in Mainz shortly before 1450?
- 10 Who was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world?

IV: Connections Round by John Troop

- 1 Could Zane Grey have written this?
- 2 Who succeeded Edward VII?
- 3 How does British Intelligence refer to the CIA station in London?
- 4 One of the ways of raising money for charity.
- 5 What do we popularly call a senior civil servant?
- 6 What were the SALT treaties designed to limit?
- 7 Which wading bird with a long, curved beak was venerated by the Egyptians?
- 8 What is the German word, with culinary associations, meaning a 'whale village'?
- 9 What kind of cabbage has a French name, although it originated in England and Holland?
- 10 Who ventured into modelling with the Donald Trump Modelling Agency at the age of 19 and went on to become a top media personality?



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Limericks

Aliens

All "messages" pre-dated the Big Bang,
 It's hard to work out who's just rang,
 Let's hope that for us all,
 Each is not a reverse call,
 Can aliens differentiate a yin from a yang?
 Cyril Young, Saint-Nicolas-du-Pélem

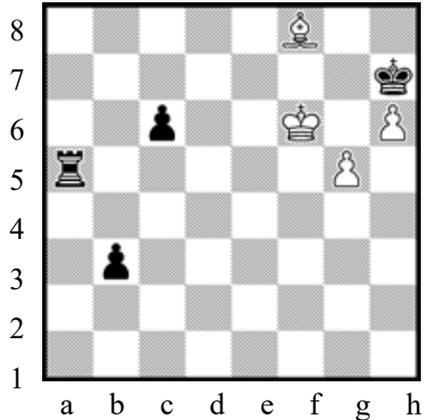
For decades now we've been aware,
 There could be aliens out there,
 With James Webb set upon its task
 There's something that I have to ask,
 Should we resurrect the great Dan Dare?
 Jim Henderson, Carhaix

There have been many sightings of UFOs,
 But whether there are aliens, who knows?
 Perhaps as we explore outer space,
 We may discover another race,
 Though we'll need to find out if they're friends or
 foes.
 Val Edwards

Chess Puzzle

White to play and win.

Hint
 The black b pawn is very dangerous, white has to counter attack with their own pawns and fast!!



Solution page 40

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



Are we alone in the great scheme of things,
 Or are we just one among other beings?
 Given the size,
 It would be no surprise,
 If our vast universe had spacemen with wings.

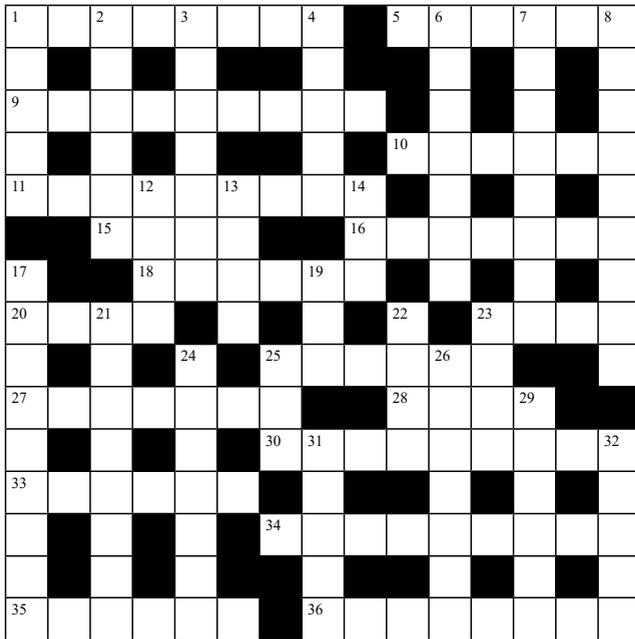
Gerard Dugdale, Gourin.

October Limerick Challenge: Daylight Saving Time

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

Prize Crossword

September Jim Henderson



Across

1. Pass out when the scalpel appears – nothing to add (8)
5. Beginning to realise how you time hip movement (6)
9. Once the applause dies down, place raft ready for action (5-4)
10. Normal Bio products are not, run of the mill, in Scotland. (6)
11. Stammel, or similar cloth, causing confusion
15. Rubbish in a cycle (4)
16. Because it was confusing, each actor left for other roles (7)
18. Dances about before take-off (6)
20. Flip the insect over (4)
23. Once, found in the north of England (4)
25. To lose control at prodigious event was horrid (6)
27. Date pad in altered state (7)
28. Begin to get to the heart (4)
30. Getting excited over electrical bulletin (9)
33. Traipse about pulling off a perfect parody (6)
34. Rock bottom grunge (4.5)
35. Precious stone not for retail, in the watch tower (6)
36. Matey and pal involved in childish way (8)

Down

1. Michael maintained he was not part of the allegation (5)
2. Stew produced easily from wrinkled animal skin (6)
3. Serrates without keeping an edge and nips in the bud (7)
4. Tell of embarrassing love poetry (5)
6. No cover for the unlucky visitor caught in the rain (7)
7. Remain tight lipped regarding the silent progress (8)
8. Need to dream is formed into mazy passages (9)
12. Take it easy round a young animal (4)
13. Plan for a line of action (4)
14. Military band at the music festival (3)
17. Stick to sensible methods when purging (9)
19. Hullabaloo starting up in the pheasant nest (3)
21. I once joined an art and crafts group for somewhere cool to make a killing (8)
22. Frustrate the pastry maker (4)
23. Red stain normally removed with white wine (4)
24. Barren, a common estate outside Leicester (7)
25. Poetic song made out of fashion (3)
26. Less than, no, legal force, turns messy for the doomed (7)
29. Old English dame involved in a form of dropsy (6)
31. The old colonel keeping a low profile? (5)
32. Skinny tent of only two letters it seems (5)

Solution August Prize Crossword:

Winner Aug. prize crossword:
J. Charlesworth, Locmaria Berrien

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



*There once was a man from Mars,
Who travelled through space to the stars,
While the man in the moon,
Who was just a buffoon,
Never moved, but just sat on his laurels.*

Sally Wilson

18 Popular Phrases & Sayings: Bell / Little Toughie

Popular phrases & sayings involving the word:

BELL

From the ancient China of 2000 BC to the present day, bells have been a major form of communication, and, consequently, have found their way into many phrases and sayings.

Ringing the hallowed bell – consecrated bells were believed to be able to disperse storms and pestilence, drive away devils and extinguish fire. In France it was not unusual to ring church bells to ward off the effects of lightning.

Ringing the bell backwards – means ringing a muffled peal. Backwards was often used to mean in the opposite way. A muffled peal is a peal of sorrow, not of joy, and was often employed as a notice of danger.

Bells and Smells – a phrase which characterised Anglo Catholicism, or the High Anglican Church, with its emphasis on incense burning, and other rites more usually associated with Roman Catholicism. Sometimes given as **Bells and Spells**, the phrase was established by the 1980's.

To bear or carry away the bell – to be first fiddle, to be the best. The sheep that led the flock, known as the **Bell Wether**, bore the bell, hence the phrase; but it has been confused with an old custom of presenting winners of horse races etc with a little gold or silver bell as a prize.

Bells and Whistles – refers to additional, largely decorative, rather than functional features.

Sound as a bell – meaning quite sound. A cracked bell would be quite useless as a bell.

Give me a bell – call me on the telephone.

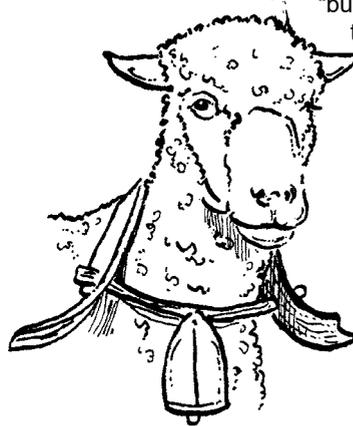
Bell bottoms – trousers that widened greatly from the knee to the ankle.

Bell, book and candle – in the greater excommunication introduced into the Catholic Church in the 8th century, after reading the sentence a bell is rung, a book is closed and a candle extinguished. From that moment the excommunicated person is excluded from the sacraments and divine worship. This form of excommunication closed with the words, 'Doe to the book, quench the candle, ring the bell'.

Who is to bell the cat – meaning who is to risk his own life to save his neighbours – anyone who encounters great personal hazard for the sake of others undertakes to bell the cat. The allusion is to the fable of the cunning old mouse who suggested that they should hang a bell on the cat's neck to give notice of her approach.

"Excellent" said a wise young mouse "but who is to undertake the task".

By the way



The 'Little Toughie' *Jim Henderson*

1		2		3		4
	■		■		■	
5						
	■		■		■	S
6	A		E			
	■		■		■	
7	A		E			

Clues Across

- 1 Brigand (7)
- 5 Podgy (7)
- 6 Collections (4-3)
- 7 Cheese on toast (7)

Down

- 1 Member of the beat generation (7)
- 2 Adolescent Knight (7)
- 3 Remove lead (7)
- 4 Israeli political assembly (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 – 2; B – 2; C – 1; D – 1; E – 8; H – 1; I – 2; K – 2; L – 2; M – 2; N – 3; O – 1; P – 3; R – 2; S – 3; T – 2; U – 3.

Solution in the October issue. Solution August Little Toughie page 51

A Tale of Two Rivers

In the mid-1800's London's central artery, the River Thames, was an ecological disaster. For centuries the Thames was used as a convenient dumping ground for human sewage, and household and industrial waste. The centuries-old problem made the Thames no longer a river but, to paraphrase Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli; "an oozing, diabolical, flow of compressed human excrement, industrial chemicals, animal (and human!) carcasses, rubbish, muck and who knows what else." The era is referred to in history as The Great Stink. The Thames was biologically dead with no aquatic life. With multiple outbreaks of cholera and thousands of deaths, the fear of disease was only too real. Yet more than anything else, it was the smell that prompted national and local administrators to act. So foul was the smell that people actually moved out of the city, and Parliament considered moving to Oxford to escape the oppressive stench. The Great Stink of London was only too real....

In 1858 London got proactive and began to address the problem by modernising its sewage and water supply infrastructure. This ambitious task was given to a civil engineer named Joseph Bazalgette. He designed an innovative sewage system that stretched 1,880 km, and directed waste over, under and around London's streets. Up-river fresh-water reservoirs, embankment systems, overflow ponds, sewage pumping stations, concrete reinforcement tanks, reclaimed land drainage fields – all novel concepts – were part of Bazalgette's design genius. Although the project took ten years, it was a monumental success. His design still operates today and is considered one of the major feats of civil engineering. In 1875, Sir Joseph Bazalgette was knighted by Queen Victoria making him the only civil engineer to ever receive this honor.

Meanwhile, across the channel and onto the continent, Paris's main artery, the Seine river, was home to many of the same maladies as the Thames. Sewage, household garbage, animal waste, toxic effluents, disease, a dwindling supply of fresh water, afflicted the Seine. Paris's main problem was one of demographics: its population of 545,000 in 1801 grew to 1.8 million by 1846, and to 2.8 million inhabitants in 1900. The



20 A Tale of Two Rivers / Tim the Gardener

emperor, Napoleon III, engaged Baron Haussmann to remodel the city centre, and Baron Haussmann delegated the task of modernising the water and sewage systems to the civil engineer, Eugène Belgrand. Between 1852 and 1869 Belgrand succeeded in quadrupling the size of the sewage system, updating flood defenses, and building new aqueducts to bring fresh water into the city.

Paris officials did not limit themselves to engineering solutions, however, they saw many of the health problems in the city as being due to overcrowding and poor personal hygiene. Paris, although polluted and disease ridden, began an age of innovation in the understanding of the causes and prevention of diseases.

Perhaps the best-known work was done by Louis Pasteur. It was Pasteur who put forth the “germ theory” of disease. He made significant progress in stopping bacterial contamination in milk (hence, “pasteurization”). Equally as innovative, Pasteur was a pioneer in vaccine development. He developed an antibodies vaccine which counteracted anthrax, cholera, rabies and later, tuberculosis. Pasteur’s works are credited with saving millions of lives. He is regarded as the key founder of modern bacteriology and the father of micro-biology.

Pasteur was not alone in addressing Paris’s health concerns. The infant incubator invented by Etienne Tarnier (1870), is said to have cut infant death rates by as much as 33%. Parisians Pierre Robiquet and Charles Gerhardt advanced the development of pain killers such as aspirin, codeine and quinine. The stethoscope (1836) and hypodermic needle (1853) were born of the Parisian push towards improved public health.

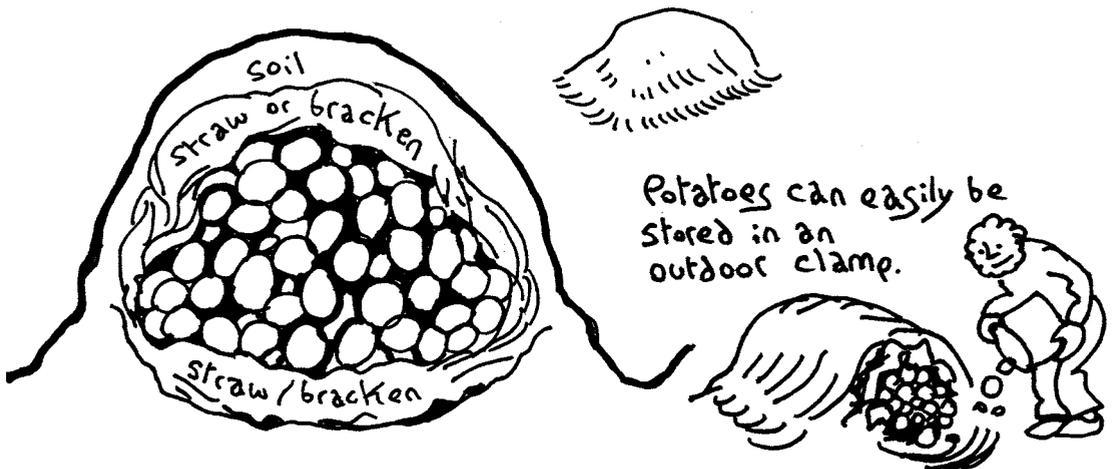
Today, London’s iconic Thames River bears little resemblance to “The Big Stink” era of the mid-1800’s. The river is now one of the cleanest rivers in the world to flow through a major city. It is now home to over 125 species of fish and 450 species of invertebrates. The Seine River also has improved to the point where Atlantic salmon have returned to spawn. Since the early 1900’s swimming has been illegal in the Seine, but so confident is the 2024 Paris Olympic Committee, that they plan to feature many swimming events in the Seine. They hope to give other European cities a blueprint for cleaning up their own rivers.

The recovery of these two cities is both a cautionary environmental tale but also offers a degree of optimism. The environmental problems of today (e.g., climate change, fresh water) and other societal health concerns (e.g., Covid, variants) are all too real. Yet the remarkable ability of people to mitigate these problems should give us some hope. Stay tuned!

Jack Gaioni



Joseph Bazalgette



Tim the Gardener

This has been the driest summer that I have known in Brittany, but we should be grateful that we have suffered less than many other people, in other parts of the country. Even if it rains, it will be a while before the water table is replenished, and if we do not have a wet winter, water shortages may be carried over to next year. In the circumstances, it therefore makes sense to collect and store rainwater if you can.

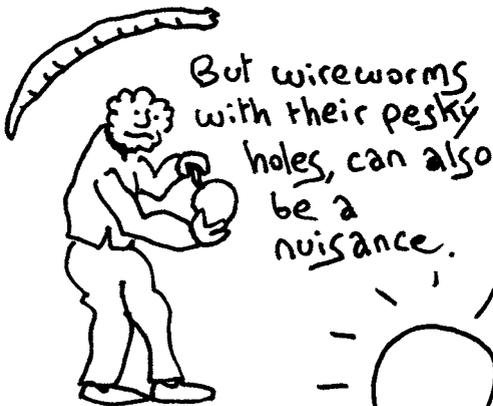
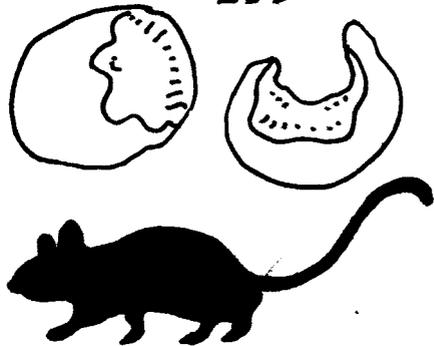
The Harvest

However, gardening is an activity that naturally leads to a philosophical outlook, and it is very rarely that one has a year in which everything does well, or one in which everything does badly. This year, plants that got off to an early start did not suffer too badly from water shortage, and I have had a very good crop of potatoes, peas, broad beans, beets, and rye. This is the advantage of mixed farming, which is something that has generally been practised by most people over most of the world, and it would be nice to think that climate change might bring modern farming to its senses, and encourage farmers to give up monocultures once and for all.

Continued page 25



Mice and voles are the biggest threat.



In spite of the drought, I have a very good crop of potatoes this year.



Exploring the Worlds of Beer and Wine

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times", Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities 1859

"Fan the sinking flame of hilarity with the wing of friendship; and pass the rosy wine", Charles Dickens, The Old Curiosity Shop 1841

“HARD TIMES COME AGAIN NO MORE”

Charles Dickens wrote his novel *Hard Times* in 1858. Wikipedia tells us that “The book surveys English society and satirises the social and economic conditions of the era.” In 2022 we might well relate to this topic. Everywhere we see economic dislocation, shortages, high inflation, plummeting real wages and standards of living, and public services struggling to cope, accompanied by the social and political divisiveness that flows from these problems. Hard times indeed !

Faced with mounting bills and hard choices to be made in the weekly shop, non-essential luxuries such as wine and beer may seem to be unaffordable. Needing to reduce expenses while still wanting to enjoy our favourite tippie, might we be spurred on to consider brewing beer or making wine at home? Maybe hard times are the the best time to take up this cost-saving hobby. All that is required to get started is equipment costing less than fifty euros and the ability to follow a few simple instructions. For wine, most ingredient kits cost between €30 and €120 and make about 30 bottles, so an acceptable bottle of wine costs as little as €1 and quality wines that typically sell for about €20 can be enjoyed for about €4 a bottle.

Is it really true that wine made at home can hold its own against the increasingly expensive bottles of wine on supermarket shelves? Definitely, the good news is that the variety and quality of grape juices now on the market mean home winemakers are no longer restricted to generic reds, whites and rosés for immediate drinking. Wine made from higher quality kits will improve with ageing in the bottle for a couple of years, or even longer, just like fine wines from classic wine regions in Europe, California, Australia and South America.

Access to quality grape juice by home winemakers is the result of exceptional strides in the last twenty years by producers of grape concentrates. By buying grapes directly from vineyards that supply major wineries, and combining sophisticated processing technology with stringent quality control, suppliers have developed kits that have completely transformed and simplified home wine making.

Of course, the secret to producing all outstanding wine begins in the vineyard. Growing classic grape varieties, in hopefully just the right amount of sunshine and good soil while carefully tending the vines, followed by careful grape sorting, crushing and pressing, results in grape juice of intense flavours and aromas that create interesting wines with unique character. Access to the same grape juices used by major wineries has enabled wines made at home to win medals in competition with wines made by the wineries themselves.

The highest quality wines come from grapes of the *vitis vinifera* species, including the six historical “Noble Grapes”: Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Riesling. As new hybrid grape varieties are developed, this list of Noble Grapes expands.. By sourcing *vitis vinifera* grape varieties from vineyards throughout the world’s great wine regions, companies such as Winexpert in Canada and Beaverdale in Derbyshire are now able to supply wine kits that contain juice from specific grape varieties, enabling the traditional wine styles to be replicated by winemakers at home.

In a future column we will take a closer look at how simple the home wine making process has become, and consider in more detail some of the varietal grapes available to make outstanding quality wines at home. Questions or suggestions? We’d love to hear them !

Roger Dawson
rogeralan.rd@gmail.com

Letters & Photos



Roses

I very much appreciated the artwork on the cover of the June issue of the CBJ (Wild Roses in June), and thought that readers might like my single stemmed rose, but with its own bouquet of ten flowers. During this drought season, it is resistant to the dry weather, it is also resistant to disease, and has just a few thorns. Ideal candidate for summer gardens - named Broceliande.

Marie Moran

Book & Art Fair

Bulat Pestivien, Ch'ty Coz Café

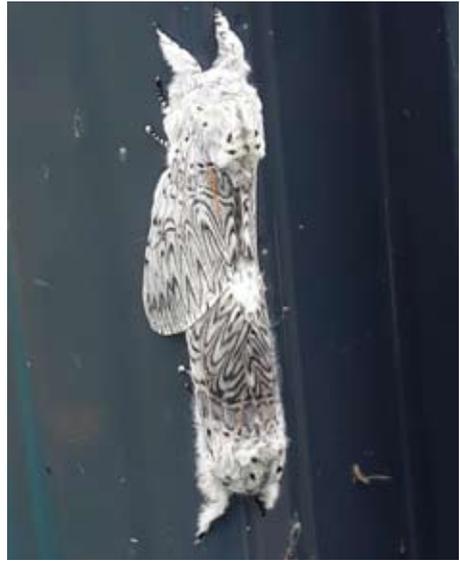
Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th September

Pascal Izac, Celtic-inspired artist, invites friends Alain Goutal, Bruno Brucero, Christelle Le Guen, Fabrice Mondejar and Samuel Lewis for a book & art fair. Plus Sunday afternoon concert with Soig Siberli

Book & Picture Signing:

Saturday: 2pm-6pm; Sunday 10am-1pm & 2pm-4pm

Concert: Sunday 4pm. 02 96 45 75 74



Moths

As a follow-up to the articles on moths in recent issues, here is a photo taken in broad daylight of two very friendly moths. They had landed on a post of my fence.

According to my research, they are "Grande Queue-Fourchue" / "Great Forked Tail" / "Vinule" moths (Cerura vinula).

Marie-Josée Conan

(Picture taken on the 23/05/2022).



Art & Culture

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Trévéneuc

October

22-23

10AM - 18PM Entrance 5€ Free for - 16 Years
Theme : Plants for Butterfly's
See the English page on :
fetedesjardins.com

Fête des Jardins

Château de

Pommorio, Trévéneuc October
22nd and 23rd 2022

The theme chosen for this
autumn is "Butterfly-Friendly
Plants for your Garden".



Sunday 2nd October

Foire aux Courges. Organic food
and local craft market. Pedervec.
10am-6pm. Food, bar, puppet show,
conferences. Free entry.



Exhibition at the Musée du Fauët

Portrait painting in Brittany

(Le Portrait dans la peinture en Bretagne). Open
every day in August 10am to 6.30pm. Over 130
paintings and drawings from the 19th and the
20th century. Adults 5€, free for children under 18.



The popular Café-Bookshop 'L'Autre Rive' situated just outside Huelgoat, has recently re-opened under new ownership. The new owners, Héloïse et Cédric du Boisbaudry are pleased to welcome you every day from 11.30am - 9pm (closed Monday). The cafe serves drinks, cakes and light lunches, and also hosts regular music evenings and book signings with local authors.

Restidiou Vras 29690 Berrien lautrerive@planeterre.fr 02 98 86 94 05

Simon Scardanelli

Callac Les Pieds dans l'Plat

Wed. 7th September

Simon Scardanelli brings his unique style of original folk-rock to Callac when he plays the lunchtime concert on Wednesday 7th September at Les Pieds dans l'Plat, in the town centre.

Singer and guitarist Simon Scardanelli enjoyed chart success in March 1989 with Anglo-Canadian duo Big Bam Boo, scoring a top 40 hit in the USA & Canada with "Shooting From My Heart". Since then he's released 5 solo albums, numerous singles and EPs, composed the music for the award winning "Clean - the Musical" (Brighton Fringe 2021) & scored the music for several theatrical productions & short films. He is currently at work on a Folk-opera which he hopes to launch in 2023, inspired in part by the folklore & culture of Brittany, his home since 2017.

A charismatic and engaging solo performer, Simon's songs are infused with wry observation – he is able to look back on a long and varied career with an ironic appreciation of its highs and lows. From tales of life on the margins of rock and roll in NYC, where he lived and worked as a liquor runner in the notorious "Save the Robots" club during the 90s, to a love song written to a favourite guitar, or meetings with vampires and aliens, his songs are rich in imagery and passion.

www.songman.org

<https://www.facebook.com/SimonScardanelliMusic>



Tim the Gardener

Autumn Planting

The soil is still very dry, but work can be done to prepare it for any crops that you want to sow in the autumn. I had good success with sowing rye early last year, so I plan to prepare a patch now with a view to sowing as soon as the top few inches have received a good dose of rain. I will also be preparing some ground for an autumn sowing of broad beans.

Agriculture and Global Warming

One of the mysteries of modern life is how agriculture has managed to get itself into its current state of confusion. If there is one activity that lends itself to being one-hundred percent solar powered, it is the growing of plants, but modern agriculture uses vast amounts of fossil fuels - not only to produce and fuel its heavy machinery, but also in the production of the fertilisers and chemicals upon which it is dependent.

No one would claim that these machines actually do a better job than can be done by hand, and agricultural chemicals are certainly not superior to natural manures and compost. Nor is modern agriculture particularly productive, when compared to traditional methods.

Historically, it is clear that when people have their own land, they are highly productive, and care for the land to a high standard. When they are expected to work on the land for someone else, or are obliged to pay high rents to a land owner for the right to farm a piece of land, then their sense of enjoyment, and their productivity declines. Perhaps our agricultural problems date to the fact that instead of trying to make land ownership more equitable a few hundred years ago, people looked for ways to get machines to do the work that human beings found unreasonable. If so, it seems that all that was achieved was to put off solving a problem, that, as a result, has become steadily more pressing. Land re-distribution hardly ever seems to feature on the political agenda, but it is a thing that would get fossil fuels out of agriculture, and bring a return to a more sane system of land management.

AIKB Photography Club Challenge

The subject was Negative Space. This is where the photographer tries to keep the space around the subject free from distractions.

To find out more about the AIKB Photography Club and its activities e mail aikb.hopmg@gmail.com



Joint first place: Colin Bond 'Remembering the dead from both world wars', John Sullivan 'Feeding wasp'; Joint second place: Don Taylor 'Skylark', Don Taylor 'Coming in to land'; Third place: John Sullivan 'Lucifer'



A Brittany Alphabet

by Hilary Bridewell

I is for... Isle

Off the Breton Coast lie some beautiful Islands. One of the best known of these is off Paimpol - The Isle of Bréhat - which was France's first ever listed natural site (in 1907).

Measuring 3.5 kilometres long and 1.5 kilometres wide, Bréhat Island has a wild northern part, with the White Tower (Tour Blanche) providing a reference point for sailors, the Rosédo and Paon lighthouses, and the Lenn salt lake. In the south, the most populated part; there are houses with floral gardens and a 16th-century church.

The Bréhat archipelago comprises the main island and 86 neighbouring islets and reefs. Accessible by boat in about ten minutes from the Arcouest headland, this delightful destination is a haven of peace and serenity. Charming houses, wild coves, over 120 bird species, a multitude of flowers: agapanthus, hydrangeas, mimosas, blackberry bushes, aloes, eucalyptus and camellias all contribute to the sense of calm and well-being that visitors find so appealing... especially as you can only travel around the island on foot or by bike! No cars are allowed on Bréhat: to explore it, you can also take the little train around the island or book a guided tour.

Among its tourist attractions are the Birlot tide mill, made of round stones and pebbles, one of the most beautiful in Brittany; the Bréhat Glassworks in the old citadel, where you can admire the glassblowers' work; and Les Albatros water sports centre for sailing, kayak and diving activities.

The coast is stupendous and magnificent, especially the approach to the Point de Paon, where waves have dug caves into the cliffs.

The Le Paon cavern has a tragic legend:

Meriadec, the rich Count of Goelo had two sons, Gwill and Isselgert, who plotted to kill him for his money. Helped by Golon-Robin (a demon) they lured Meriadec to the north of the island and assassinated him. They planned to throw his body into the sea so they put it on their shoulders and climbed up the cliff. Suddenly they felt their feet rooted to the rock, and their bodies grew stiff as stone as they morphed into rock. They still stand there today with the body of their father across their shoulders, whose blood flows upon the rocks around giving them the reddish tinge which forever marks the murderers with the indelible mark of crime.



Blackberry and Apple Snow (for 6)

900g tart apples, peeled and diced
60ml apple juice
Grated zest of 1 lemon
225g blackberries
6 tbsp caster sugar
1 large egg white
Crème de Cassis (optional)
Mint leaves to garnish

Put the diced apple and juice in a pan and cook, uncovered, for 10-15 minutes over low heat until soft. Whizz in a blender or push through a sieve

and stir in the lemon zest. Cool, cover and chill well.

Warm the blackberries and 2 tbsp sugar in a pan over gentle heat until the juices run. Set aside to cool.

When ready to serve, whisk the egg white until stiff then gradually whisk in the remaining sugar until the meringue forms stiff peaks. Fold in the apple purée.

Divide the blackberries and juice between 6 serving glasses and stir in 1 tsp Crème de Cassis into each. Spoon the apple mix on top, decorate with mint leaves and serve.

A Thankyou to the Firefighters

Here is a picture taken on the 23rd July (*below*) of the fires that burned on and all around the Mont Saint-Michel de Brasparts.

We all remember the high temperatures on the 18th July; that was also the day that the fires started. In the evening, the sky reddened by flames was impressive and disturbing. During the night, residents of Botmeur, Saint-Rivoal and Sizun were evacuated. On Tuesday the nineteenth we had fog in the morning, (smoke from the fires).

The fires were only 20 km northwest from my home, as the crow flies. Fortunately, there was a bit of rain and wind on the Tuesday morning to cool the atmosphere and clear the fog. Firefighters monitored the affected area and fought fires that kept breaking out all around.

The wind often changed direction. Some farmers helped the firefighters. The Dash water bomber plane and 2 Canadairs came as reinforcements on certain days.

Almost 3000 hectares destroyed in one month !

What a disaster for our "Mont Saint-Michel" and all the surroundings.

Here it was not a forest, but moor, heather, blueberry and peat. An area that was very dry.

The Saint-Michel chapel which was saved at the top of the Mont now watches over a blackened area.

It will take years to grow back.

Worst of all, the fires were deemed to have been started on purpose and a criminal investigation is on-going.

Many thanks to the people who fought against all these fires.

Marie-Josée Conan Collorec

Facing Page: Mont Saint-Michel de Brasparts. Photo taken by Nick Millington 5th August 2022



Fire
in the
Monts d'Arrée



New Quiz

Andrew Chamberlain will be the first quiz-master at the new monthly quiz venue: La Pergola, Plouray. It will be held on the last Friday of the month, so that the other ‘big’ monthly quiz in our region, at St Nicholas du Pelem, will be roughly equidistant. Here are a few words from Andy, plus a sample round, to give us an idea of his kind of quiz.

‘I became involved in quizzes in the 80s whilst employed in the brewing industry. As a salesman, I would host them for clients such as social clubs and local pubs. In the 90s, I’d attend my local pub, The Fox Inn at Dosthill, Tamworth, every Sunday evening to play in their quiz. When the quiz-master went on holiday, I would step in as host. This then led to a more regular hosting, which I enjoyed nearly as much as competing.

‘When I came to live in France, I was lost to the quizzing world for a while. However, I was asked by the AIKB to host a quiz at Ploërdut on their behalf and this then became an ongoing event, sometimes filling in for Jon Chambers at their other quiz at Gouarec.

‘During the Covid lockdowns, I prepared in excess of 48 quizzes with the hope that some day we would be back to normal. I will have to revisit these quizzes to ensure they’re up-to date after such a long time. However, I am looking forward to hosting as well as playing in these types of events here in Brittany. The quiz at La Pergola, Plouray, on the 30th September will be the first I have hosted for nearly three years. It will be great to see old faces as well as meeting some new ones. This quiz will include my traditional part of five rounds of fifteen questions on various subjects, plus a second part, the Bingo Quiz. This combines knowledge with a game of chance - giving everyone the opportunity to win.

‘We’ll introduce new features as we go along, such as music and audio rounds. We’ll also encourage suggestions from competitors and invite anyone who wants to be quiz-master for an evening to come along and have a go. So long as they remember the objective of the quiz - fun!



Andy Chamberlain’s Sample Round – TV & Films

1. Who was Luke Skywalker’s father?
2. What does TARDIS stand for?
3. Which TV series featured a Dove From Above?
4. Who are the actor sons of Lloyd Bridges?
5. Which footballer was the first person to refuse to be the subject of This Is Your Life?
6. Who starred in the original version of The Nutty Professor?
7. Who is known as “The Muscles From Brussels”?
8. Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis played which 1991 fugitives?
9. Who wanted to buy a copy of his book, Fly Fishing?
10. Who was the original question-master on University Challenge?

Answers page 35

Hetty's Kitchen

Mushroom and Lentil Moussaka

(for 4)

550g aubergines, trimmed and thinly sliced
 4 tbsp olive oil
 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
 1 green pepper, deseeded and chopped
 3 cloves garlic, pounded to paste
 225g chestnut (or other) mushrooms, sliced
 350g tomatoes, skinned, deseeded and chopped
 2 tsp brown sugar
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 Black pepper
 3 tsp dried parsley (or 3 tbsp fresh, chopped)
 30 ml dry white wine or water
 225g cooked lentils, drained
 30g butter
 30g plain flour
 285ml milk
 2 eggs, separated
 ¼tsp ground nutmeg
 115g strong cheese, grated

Heat 2 tbsp oil in a large frying pan. Brown the aubergine slices on both sides, adding more oil as necessary. Drain on kitchen paper and set aside.

Heat the remaining 2 tbsp oil over medium heat and cook the onion, pepper and garlic for 5 minutes, stirring. Add the mushrooms, tomatoes, sugar, cinnamon, a generous pinch of salt and a hefty grind of black pepper. Stir in the wine, bring to a gentle simmer then cover and cook for 10 minutes. Stir in the lentils and take off the heat.

Arrange half the aubergine slices in a large, greased ovenproof dish. Spread the mushroom mix evenly on top followed by the remaining aubergine slices and set aside. (*If making this a day in advance, stop here, cover and chill until needed and make the topping just before baking)

For the topping, melt the butter in a saucepan and stir in the flour. Cook for a couple of minutes, stirring, over gentle heat. Off the heat, gradually blend in the milk. Return to the heat and bring to a gentle boil, stirring all the time. Simmer for two or three minutes, continually stirring until the sauce thickens. Take off the heat and beat in the egg yolks. Season well with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Whisk the egg whites to soft peaks and gently fold into the sauce.

Spoon over the aubergines and sprinkle with the grated cheese. Bake for about 30 minutes at 180°C/160° fan/ Gas 4 until golden. Turn off the oven and leave the dish sitting in the oven for ten minutes before serving with a tossed green salad and crusty baguette.

Fruity Chicken Salad (for 4-6)

150ml natural Greek yoghurt
 150ml mayonnaise
 2-3 tbsp lemon juice
 2 tsp medium curry powder
 ½ tsp salt (or to taste)
 Black pepper
 2 tbsp chopped fresh coriander
 200g sugar snap or mangetout peas, trimmed and halved
 175g cooked long-grain rice
 450g cooked chicken, diced
 Bunch of spring onions, trimmed and chopped
 100g seedless grapes, halved
 2 small cantaloupe or Galia melons, quartered, deseeded, flesh cubed
 425g canned, unsweetened pineapple pieces, drained

To serve: Romaine lettuce and large tomatoes.

Whisk together the yoghurt, mayo, lemon juice, curry powder, salt and pepper to taste and the coriander in a medium bowl.

Blanch the sugar snap peas in a pan of boiling water for one minute, drain and run under the cold tap to cool. Drain well.

Mix the chicken, rice, peas, spring onions, melon, pineapple and grapes into the spicy dressing, cover and chill. Serve on a bed of shredded Romaine lettuce and sliced tomatoes with the chicken mix piled on top. Crusty bread optional.

Singapore Sling Cocktail (measures are per person)

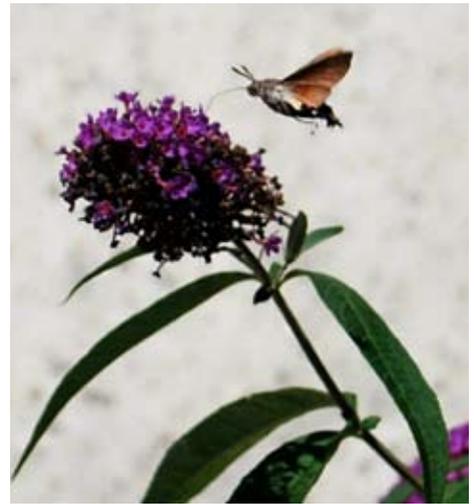
Mix together and serve over ice with a straw and lime slice in a tall glass:

45ml gin
 15ml cherry brandy
 2 tsp Benedictine
 2 tsp Cointreau
 45ml pineapple juice
 15ml fresh lime juice
 1 tsp Grenadine
 Dash Angostura bitters

Bon Appétit

Brittany's Hawk Moths: Part 3

Five more species of Brittany's hawk moths:



Above: Two photos of hummingbird hawk moths, the top one is of the moth at rest, not often seen. This moth is a migrant from southern Europe.

Above: The Broad-Bordered Bee Hawkmoth. It looks similar to the Hummingbird-Bird Hawkmoth but has almost totally clear wings and, as the name suggests, looks like a bumble bee. It and another species, the Narrow-Bordered Bee Hawkmoth, both breed in Brittany but are not often seen. They may easily be overlooked as Hummingbird-Bird Hawkmoths but note the clear wings and coloured tail (abdomen).

The wings of newly emerged Bee Hawk Moths are covered in brown scales and so they look even more like hummingbird hawk moths. These soon rub off and much of the wing is then clear as in my photograph. The trick is to look for the colourful body (abdomen) of the Bee Hawk.

Photos and text by Phil Horton

Birds to See in Brittany: The Spotted Crake

French: **Marouette Ponctuee**

Breton: **Rakig brizhelleck**



We inhabit marshes, swamps, bogs, with dense vegetation, wet grassland and marshy banks of lakes, rivers and pools. We are 23cm in length with olive brown crown and upper parts, speckled and streaked with white and a black centre to each feather.

Our bill is yellow-green, reddish at the base, our throat and breast are greyish speckled with white while our flanks are brown with white bars, a tawny under tail and olive green legs. Our winter plumage is duller with less grey on the chest. We are not easily observed but are recognised by our call. We move very easily through thick vegetation. During our nuptial parade our male birds display themselves to their females by taking long slow steps while holding their wings upraised and their neck extended while uttering a characteristic note. The breeding season is our most secretive time and we are then mostly heard rather than seen. Our males have a monotonous high pitched “Trik Trek Trik Trek” repeated at regular intervals, and the sound is likened to a tap dripping into a half empty bowl of water. When alarmed we emit a “Quitt Quitt Quitt”. From the second half of May onwards is our breeding season. Our nest is built close to water, supported by a clump of turf or by broken plant stems, and is usually screened by the surrounding plants. Reeds and other water plants are interwoven to contain the lining of softer material. Generally 6/15 eggs are laid, olive coloured with brown, purple and ash grey spots. Incubation may begin before the clutch is complete and is carried out by both parents for 18/21 days. The eggs may hatch several days apart. The male plays an unobserved role in rearing the young and there are two broods in a year.

We probe with our bill in mud or shallow water, eating small molluscs, water insects and their larvae while also consuming water plants, seeds and grasses.

Jim Henderson

On and Off the Beaten Track

Hot wasps, slow ewes and fast lambs

“In Germany,” said Alex, “you can be fined 60,000 € for killing a wasp!”

“How much?” we chorused. “But that’s ridiculous.”

We were chatting on Skype to some young German friends to whose wedding we are invited in October. One of those serendipitous relationships between the ancient and modern that began about five years ago following their stay in our gite. (That was before we sold it to our new neighbour, who’s basically a nice lad whom everyone wishes had moved elsewhere – for example to Australia – because he’s a [very] noisy biker with zero social awareness and a few trillion synapses yet to connect.) We became friends and we chat regularly. Last night, the subject of wasps came up which this year are a scourge there as well as here, partly on account of the weather. Ah, the weather. More on that anon.



I distrust wasps because both my father and my oldest son had serious anaphylactic reactions to a single sting. Trouble is, I think I must give off a wasp-friendly pheromone because they find me irresistible. While I would be happy for certain others to find me irresistible, I can do without wasps. I detest them and hornets. No sooner am I sitting outside the bar than they divebomb me from every direction. People laugh because I carry my own spray. It doesn’t do much for the beer, even if it is covered up, but it frustrates the little beggars.

Why is Germany imposing draconian fines? I made a random internet search and find that wasp numbers are declining. Difficult to believe this year, but apparently the case. Nonetheless, one might have thought that the authorities would start with a 60€ fine and work up. So I’m guilty of waspicide. And before anyone reaches for their disgusted-Tunbridge Wells keyboard, or better still the biro that has run out of ink, I do understand that wasps have a place in the natural cycle which is fine by me, as long as I’m not part of it.



However, explain this: in Germany you can buy a trap, but you cannot use it. That is rather like what happened in dear old Blighty after the clean air act, when you could buy coal, but it was illegal to burn it – ah, distance and nostalgia, and advancing cataracts, make the heart yearn for the good old days of myth. Not.

All nationalities have their eccentricities, the English in particular. And in much the same way we have our stereotypes of them

and they of us, so this German cultural revelation was a bit of a googly. I would have expected the Germans to have devised a super-efficient, ecologically-sustainable means of control, but no. In addition, if you are anaphylactic, you are limited to one adrenalin-jab “EpiPen”, because they are in short supply. Do you not sometimes feel that the world has gone mad? How many people are anaphylactic anyway? Is adrenalin in such short supply? And what happens if you are stung twice, of which there seems a sporting chance if you’re not allowed to kill the brutes?

But let nostalgia wing me back to the old country. Our recent sojourn coincided with the heatwave. Naturally, the red top headlines screamed the obvious, as if we needed to be told it was hot. I didn’t see the “Phew, what a scorcher” of legend, but the Daily Star surpassed itself with “March of the zombies”, complemented by such banal gems as “Let’s play heatwave bingo” and “Boiling Brits sleep deprived” among others. Worthy of Private Eye’s spoof Sun headline during the Falklands war: “Kill an Argie and win a Metro”. But who buys this rubbish and why?

Normally such a “weather event” as this would mean that temperatures high up on the Yorkshire moors might rise as high as 2°C (or about 35° Fahrenheit in real money). Not so this time. We went to Pickering to recce the North Yorkshire Moors railway. High up on the tops, I got out to take a photo and was hit by a blast of warm air. Crossing the moors we passed a crudely painted sign saying “Slow down lambs and ewes”. Why should they? I love Yorkshire humour, though this must have been unintentional.



In places the effects of the drought were spectacular. We spent a couple of hot nights in Wensleydale and visited Aysgarth Falls (or Force), the beautiful triple waterfall on the Ure, whose early admirers included Turner and Wordsworth. More like Aysgarth puddles this year.

We decided to visit Rievaulx Abbey only to find it closed because of the heat. C, who is more charitable than I am, suggested that it might be to protect the staff, but obviously management was afraid that the stone would overheat and burn someone. I am once again left wondering how, in the early 21st century, the weather always seems to take us by surprise. “Sun in August shock!”

But then again, thinking back to some of the cloudy, wet summers of my childhood holidays, maybe it is.

Richard Griffiths, rpgf@orange.fr

New Quiz Aswers page 30

1) Darth Vader 2) Time and Relative Dimension In Space 3) Shooting Stars 4) Beau and Jeff 5) Danny Blanchflower 6) Jerry Lewis 7) Jean-Claude Van Damme 8) Thelma And Louise 9) J.R. Hartley 10) Bamber Gascoigne

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See **BED & BREAKFAST** p.45

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See **GARDENING** pp. 42-43

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Property *page 53*

Colour Classified *page 54*

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see page 39

Solution: Chess Puzzle *page 16*

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1) g6+, Kg8. | or | or |
| 2) h7+, Kxf8 | 1) g6+, Kg8; | 1) g6+, Kh8; |
| 3) h8(Q) mate | 2) h7+, Kh8; | 2) Bg7+, Kg8; |
| | 3) Bg7 mate | 3) h7 mate |

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Central Brittany Business Directory

Answers

CBJ Quiz *page 14*

I: General Knowledge & Current Affairs

- 1) Manchester United 2) Quark 3) Pine 4) Denmark 5) They live in different hemispheres – N and S respectively. 6) Glastonbury, Somerset 7) Aristophanes 8) Chickenpox 9) Right honourable 10) Frank Richards (real name Charles Hamilton)

II: French Language & Culture

- 1) The Loire 2) Ouessant 3) In the road (pothole) 4) Armorica 5) Flint 6) Napoleon 7) Bucket 8) A Midsummer Night's Dream 9) Pièce 10) Chinese whispers

III: History & Geography

- 1) Wiltshire 2) York 3) George Washington 4) Spain 5) Texas 6) Robert Walpole 7) Honshu 8) German Bight 9) Printing with moveable type 10) Sir Francis Drake

IV: Connections Round by John Troop

- 1) Best Western 2) George V 3) Grosvenor 4) Raffles Hotel, Singapore 5) Mandarin 6) Intercontinental (missiles) 7) Ibis 8) Waldorf 9) Savoy 10) Paris Hilton Hotels

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Looking for a Home
page 53

*A Tale of
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pages 19-20



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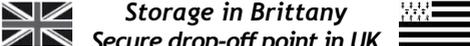
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Solution Aug. Little Toughie
see page 18

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Bridge Puzzle 44 page 6

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You are North playing in 4♠; East leads the 2♥
First count your losers: 1 spade and potentially three diamonds.

Ruff the opening lead. Do not play trumps. Cash the A♦ and play a small diamond, Now when East wins the best he can do is to play the A♠ and a small spade. However, there remains a trump in dummy to ruff a diamond keeping your losers to one spade and two diamonds.

♠ 3
♥ AJ73
♦ J643
♣ J543

♠ KQJ942

♥

♦ 10752

♣ AK6

♠ A85
♥ K9652
♦ KQ9
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♥ Q1084

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♣ Q987

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Mr Biznuz Global Warming

The impending rise in electricity prices perhaps makes this a good moment in time to reconsider the drive towards renewable technologies and the eco-transition. At the heart of the debate is the long-standing tension between small to medium scale business activities, and the strategic plans of governments and big business.

During the last century this was portrayed in the same light as the battle between right and wrong: Western democracies believed in the free market, while the communist bloc believed in central planning. Of course, it was never as clear cut as that: countries with a capitalist economy have always suffered from the fact that big banks and wealthy institutions can pour money into favoured businesses to such an extent that more-efficient but less-well-capitalised competitors are driven to the wall. But the principle still holds true: when someone decides to leave formal employment and to strike out on their own, they are taking a personal risk. If they cannot persuade enough people to make use of their services before their initial capital runs out, the business fails. It is a brutal process, and forces the would-be entrepreneur to be realistic about whether or not they are offering people something that is really useful.



continued on page 54

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Happy: Male Anglo-Français aged 1 year. A very affectionate dog who loves to play. Good with other dogs and cats. Could go to a family with young children. Contact: APAA Trégrom, tel 07 78 39 99 27.



Kalash: Kalash has to undergo surgery as soon as possible and the refuge is looking for a family which can look after him during his recovery. He is good with other dogs, loves cuddles and is very playful. Contact: APAA Trégrom, tel 07 78 39 99 27.

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

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Mr Biznuz

continued from page 52

The situation is quite different when things are centrally planned. The people involved are not shopkeepers, artisans, farmers, mechanics, etc. who make up the backbone of the small business community, but are more likely to be graduates, financiers, government officials, etc., all of whom expect to receive a good salary, simply because of who they are. This is the category into which energy-transition policies now fall. Whereas in the last century, central planners could only make policies for one country or a single political bloc, now we are faced with a global consensus of experts, who have not only decided that the current global fossil-fuel economy has run its course, and that it now represents a threat to human life on the planet, but also that they have a solution that involves investing the combined resources of the world into developing new, renewable forms of energy. These new forms of energy will be used to power electric cars, electric lorries, electric tractors, electric planes, etc., will heat our homes, and will power our industries.

Hundreds of billions of dollars have already been invested in the project, and governments around the world are more or less obliged to prove that they are meeting targets for windmill installation, solar panels, and electric-car charging points, if they want to retain access to global financial markets. Similarly, if there are obstacles to the development of these new technologies, such as a shortage of a particular mineral, then ways are found to overcome them, no matter what the cost, or the environmental damage incurred.

The fact that the global economy has reached the point that so many resources can be directed towards a single goal is remarkable. But, essentially, it is still an attempt to impose a centrally-planned economy on the world. It lacks a mechanism for applying a meaningful level of immediate risk on those who are promoting it; but it exposes us all to an enormous amount of long-term risk if it were to fail.

A more sensible approach might be to cut the amount of fossil fuel extracted from the earth by a certain amount each year: most of the centrally-planned eco-businesses would probably fail, due to their actual dependence on fossil fuels; but ordinary people around the world would use their ingenuity to create human-scale businesses offering tailor-made solutions to meet the needs that arise.



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