

Issue 220

1€

# Central Brittany Journal

October 2022



Popular Phrases 19

Sparrows 29



Limericks 16



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**Badger in Autumn Wood**

*Watercolour by Bethan Lewis*

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# Contents

Bridge Puzzle	4
Editorial	5
News / Letters	6
Food & Drink	7
What's On	8
Antiques & Second Hand	9
Spotlight on Brittany	11
Tax & Investment	12
Church & Community	13
CBJ Quiz	14
Global Warming	15
Limericks	16
Chess Puzzle	16
Prize Crossword	17
Little Toughie	17
A Brittany Alphabet	18
Popular Sayings: Happiness	19
Tim the Gardener	20
The World of Beer and Wine	22
Art & Culture	22
Music: Win Tickets	24
AIKB Photo Club	25
On & Off the Beaten Track	34
Brittany Broderie Textile Group	27
Rock and Blues in Brittany	28
Birds to See in Brittany	29
Hetty's Kitchen	31
Fire in the Monts d'Arrée	26
Classified advertising	36

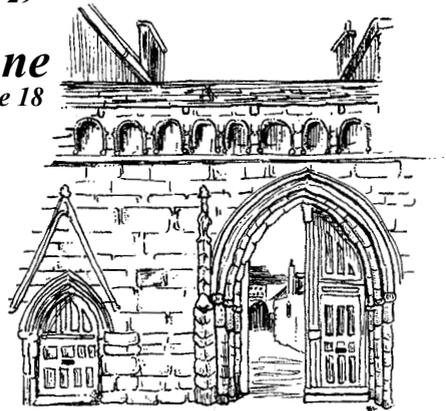


**Popular  
Phrases**  
page 19



**Sparrows** page 29

**Jean & Jeanne**  
page 18



**Broderie  
Group** page 27



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4 Bridge Puzzle



## Bridge Puzzle 45

### Count First then Play

Dealer West E/W Vulnerable  
 W N E S  
 1NT Pass 2♦ 2♣  
 3♥ 4♠ All Pass

♠ A 8 6 3

♥ 9 4

♦ A Q

♣ 9 7 5 4 2



♠ Q J 10 9 7 4

♥ A J

♦ J 4

♣ K 6 3

1NT means 16-18 points.

2♦ is a 'Jacoby Transfer' to hearts.

West leads the K♥.

What is your plan?

Solution page 47

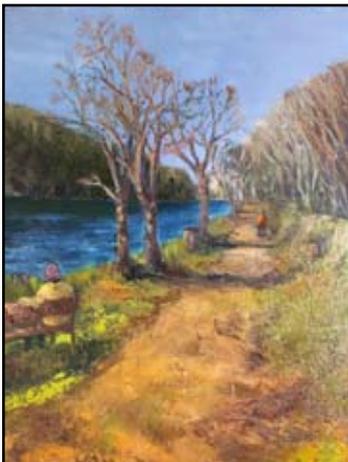
Bridge puzzle contributed by Dan Lewis,  
 buildingmatters@yahoo.co.uk



AIKB  
 Photography  
 competition  
 page 26

# ART EXHIBITION

## BRENDA HAYES & ANN MARIE RAY



*16th September  
 to  
 2nd November  
 2022*

*La Maison de  
 l'épaigneul Breton  
 Callac*

*Free Entry*



## Contributors: OCTOBER

Dan Lewis	Bridge Puzzle	4
Marie-Josée Conan	Mushrooms	6
Dave Lamont	Tax & Investment	12
Jon Chambers	CBJ Quiz	14-15
Malcolm Body	Chess Puzzle	16
Dave King	Prize Crossword	17
Hilary Bridewell	A Brittany Alphabet	18
Tim the Gardener		20-21 & 48
Roger Dawson	Beer & Wine	22
Hetty's Kitchen		24 & 30
Richard Griffiths	On & Off the Beaten Track	26
Shirley McCann	Brittany Broderie Group	27
Darren Milsom	Rock & Blues	28
Jim Henderson	Sparrows	29
Patrick Hervé	Picture Menez Mikael	31
Nick Millington	Photo	back page

## Editorial:

There seems to be a greater disconnection, than ever before, between the news that I am reading (too much of, I admit), and the life that I am actually living. In the news there is war (maybe nuclear before long), climate catastrophe, financial crisis, and a breakdown in law and order. In my life, there are people, all trying to do the best we can, given the circumstances in which we find ourselves, and there is the generosity and the beauty of Nature. I read a learned article recently that suggested that this disconnection is caused by technology, and particularly new digital technologies which, rather than connecting people to each other, as we were promised, are having the effect of cutting people off from those around them, giving rise to a crisis of social dysfunction.

I would like to think that the printed media can still be on the right side of this technological divide, and that the Journal is serving a role in bringing people together. As usual this month, I would like to thank everyone for the time and trouble they put into supporting the Journal, whether it be by sending in an article, placing an advert, or simply buying a copy to read.

Deadline for the Nov. issue: 20th October. *GL*

## Central Brittany Journal

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Advertising: [info@theobj.com](mailto:info@theobj.com) / [theobj@orange.fr](mailto:theobj@orange.fr)

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Central Brittany Journal, B.P. 4, 22160 Callac, France. Editor: **Gareth Lewis** [info@theobj.com](mailto:info@theobj.com)

**Deadline for classified ads: 20th of the month.**

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# News



## International Photography Competition 2022

The International Photography Competition organised by the AIKB Photography Club received a total of 79 entries. From left to right Marilyn Le Moign, third place, Sheila Morris, winner, Evelyn Whittington from the AIKB Photography Club, and Don Taylor, second place. Winning entries page 25



**Mont St Michel de Brasparts**, and the peat land of Yeun Elez. Nick Millington (see also page 31 and back page).



# Letters

## Mushrooms

These pictures are of a mushroom that I came across by chance in an orchard on the 16th September.

It was hidden under the grass and looks like ... a clod of earth, or ... cow dung ! I removed the grass that covered it and cut out a part to see what it was made of. It is a very compact brown foam.

Then we did some research to find out what mushroom it could be.

We decided that it was "Vesse-de-loup géante" (*Calvatia gigantea*), also called in French "Lycoperdon géant", "Boviste géant" or "Tête de mort". In English, you may know it as "Giant Puffball", also called "Giant Lycoperdon", "Giant Bovist" or "Death's Head".

On these photos, this mushroom is at a very advanced stage of maturity. It must have been impressive when it was in the state of a white ball (a priori the size of a football) !

Perhaps among the readers of the CBJ, an amateur / specialist in mushrooms can specify / confirm the name of this mushroom ?

Marie-Josée Conan



# Food & Drink

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## Hetty's Kitchen

**Rich Chocolate Cake** p.26

**Bacon & Potato Soup** p.30

**Mini Muchroom Pies** p.30

**Chicken Potjie** p.30

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**Christmas Market** on the  
**27th November** at the Salle Polyvalente  
in **Lescouet-Gouarec**.

Some spaces are still available for stalls  
for hand-made & home-made goods.

Contact Priscilla: [createlier@orange.fr](mailto:createlier@orange.fr)

## New Advertiser

**Sexologist / Counsellor** p.37

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To speak better French get in touch with Isabelle on  
**06 80 44 20 16** or [isabellemariau@gmail.com](mailto:isabellemariau@gmail.com)

## Help & Advice page 10

## Insurance



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See also, *Yves de Reviere*, *Generali Insurance*  
on back page.

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# What's On in October

### Tuesday afternoons

**Craft afternoons** 'Les doigts de fée'. From 2pm. Sew, knit mend. The event takes place in the communal hall 'La convergence des loutres' 10, route du dresnay 22780 Loguivy-Plougras.

## Sat 1 - Sun 2 October

### Throughout October to Tuesday 2nd November

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

### Sunday 2nd October

**Flower Festival, St Gilles Vieux Marche**, Visits to the private garden of the Manoir de Poulancre, and to the private garden of Madame Koolhaas open to all. 10am to 6pm and guided visits of the centre 2pm to 3.30pm. Free entry to everyone.

### Sunday 2nd October

**Foire aux Courges.** Organic food and local craft market. Peder-nec. 10am-6pm. Food, bar, puppet show, talks. Free entry.

### Tuesday 4th October

**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](mailto:Secretary@RBL.Community). For Poppies please contact [Kissmekate1@orange.fr](mailto:Kissmekate1@orange.fr).

## Mon 3 - Sun 9 October

### Friday 7th, Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th October

**Blues des Deux Rivières festival.** Fri. & Sat. evenings from pm, Blues concerts in the Louargat Salle Polyvalente. Sat. 2pm-7pm concerts in the 'Halles' in Belle-Isle-en-Terre. Blues in the bars of Louargat & Belle-Isle over the weekend. See website [www.bluesdesdeuxrivieres.com](http://www.bluesdesdeuxrivieres.com) for more details.

### Friday 7th October

**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 8th October

**The Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club (AFVBC Brit-tany)** 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 8th September

**Fest Noz, 'Nuit du Glaz'.** Traditional Breton music and dancing (9pm-2am), preceded by crepe evening (from 7pm). Salle Glenmor, Carhaix. Crepes and bar.

### Sunday 9th October

**Tim the Gardener's Autumn Open Day.** 10am-4pm. Garden tour, picnic at midday, demonstrations, mini-market. 3 An Nezet 22160 Duault. 02 96 21 56 40 samuel@theobj.com

## Mon 10 - Sun 16 October

### Tuesday 11th October

**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 dalefraser01@gmail.com

### Thursday 13th October

**Rostrenen Cinema. Moonage Daydream,** documentary starring David Bowie. 8.30pm. In English with French subtitles.

### Sunday 16th October

**Vide Grenier,** Bulat Pestivien. Organised by the Mairie. 7am-1pm

### Tuesday 18th October - Let's discover the neolithic site of Quelféneç

Did you know that 2 to 3 million axe heads came from Central Brittany and were exported all over Europe? The site of Quelféneç is marked by the Neolithic exploitation of dolerite, a particularly dense, hard eruptive rock, ideal for the manufacture of polished axes and adzes. Significant quarrying activity took place on this rock outcrop from 4200 BC and for almost 2000 years. We are lucky to have an English-speaking guide to take us round the exhibition before taking an easy 1.2km walk through a protected environment to the production site itself.

There we'll enjoy the diversity of nature, home to mammals with 13 species of bats including the European Barbastelle, plus the dormouse, an emblematic species found on the edge of woods and forests.

Meet at the Mairie de Plussulien, 23 rue du Centre, Plussulien, at 2pm. 8€ per person.

Please reserve by emailing info@aikb.fr

## ANTIQUES & SECOND HAND

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**Collective Garden.** 2pm Every Tuesday. Sow, plant, weave... 'La convergence des loutres' 10, route du Dresnay 22780 Loguivy-Plougras.

### Saturday 22nd October

**Paper flower making workshop** with Anne-Cath. 2m-5pm. 10 people maximum. Reserve on 02 96 45 75 74. 25€ pp. Materials provided. Ch'ty Coz Cafe, Bulat-Pestivien.

## Help & Advice

### Kelly Torode

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## French Lessons page 8

## Mon 17 - Mon 31 October

### Tuesday 18th October

**AIKB Visit to the neolithic site of Quelféneq.** An English-speaking guide will take visitors round the exhibition before taking an easy 1.2km walk through a protected environment to the site itself. Meet at the Mairie de Plussulien, 23 rue du Centre, Plussulien, at 2pm. 8€ per person. Please reserve by emailing [info@aikb.fr](mailto:info@aikb.fr)

### Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd October

**Garden Festival.** Chateau de Pommorio. This year's theme is 'Butterfly-Friendly Plants for your Garden'. Tréveneuc. 10am-6pm. 5€ entry (under 16s free). See ad on page 4.

### Saturday 22nd October

**Rock concert with Dr. Feelgood,** 9pm. 20€ on the door. La Grande Ourse, St. Agathon, Guingamp. Contact 06 59 15 18 32 or [www.ourse.fr](http://www.ourse.fr).

### Sunday 23rd October

**'Fete de la Chataigne',** Plédéliac Ecomuseum. Traditional craft fair, roasted chestnuts, apple and mushroom identification, basket and besom broom workshops. 11pm - 6pm. 5€ entry (under 12s free). Food and drinks on site. 61 Le Saint Esprit des Bois 22270 PLÉDÉLIAC. Tel 02 96 34 80 77.

### Sunday 23rd October

**Bluegrass & Old time Jam Session with Sam Hutchins & Co,** From 3pm in the 'old hangar' next to the Ch'ty Coz Cafe, Bulat Pestivien (22160). Food and bar. More info, Contact 02 96 45 75 74

### Sunday 23rd October

**Rostrenen Cinema. Ticket to Paradise.** Starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts. 8.30pm. In English with French subtitles.

## November

### Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th November

**Biojik Organic Expo.** Wine, food, cosmetics, books, local crafts. Talks. 10am-7pm. 2€ entry.

### Sunday 6th November

**Blues concert with Stephen Hull Experience featuring Andrew Alli.** 5.30pm. 17€ on the door. La Grande Ourse, St. Agathon, Guingamp. Contact 06 59 15 18 32 or [www.ourse.fr](http://www.ourse.fr).

# Letters

## Contact Details

I've just been reading through this month's CBJ and some previous issues (hiding from the rain) and I've noticed that several organisations are only contactable via Facebook.

It's a sad indictment of the world that organisations are no longer contactable face-to-face or even by telephone.

Not everyone is a member of Facebook or wants to join Facebook (me being one).

Perhaps it's an age thing with me, but it may be a good idea for all organisations to publish their full contact details when placing items in the CBJ - it may open up lots more opportunities.

Kindest regards,  
Sue Taylor

*Letters continued page 15 & 31*

## Spotlight on Brittany:

**October:** This month all the team have been clocking up kilometers to bring you our programme for 'October'! We headed down to Guern in Morbihan to talk to Ann and Latitia, two of an impressive team involved in setting up L'Epi de Guern, an epicerie (grocery shop) run entirely by volunteers; then up to La Roche Jagu to find out more from guide, Sandra Membre, about the current exhibition which brings together 'insects' and 'instruments', that have seen better days! Nearer to home, Belinda Smith explains how her stall at Rostrenen market, Bara-Tan-Douar, selling tea, coffee, homemade cakes and scarves from India, is raising funds to help displaced Syrians, still living in Syria, and there's even more – so you'd better tune in!

All this 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-92Mhz) on the first Wednesday of the month at 14h00 and the third Sunday at 9h30. Or simply listen anytime to this month's programme, and others from the archive, by following the links on our website:

[www.spotlightonbrittany.fr](http://www.spotlightonbrittany.fr)

## ART & CRAFTS

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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](http://www.blevinsfranks.com)*

## Clubs & Associations:

*For a free entry on the Church and Community page, please send information to: [info@thebj.com](mailto:info@thebj.com)  
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# CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

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**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](mailto:helpline@cancersupportfrance.org)

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## CHRIST CHURCH BRITTANY

Acting Chaplain: Rev Jeremy Cross,  
e-mail: [jandscross@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.churchinbrittany.org) for any changes that may be made to this schedule.**

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

**2nd – 16th after Trinity** – Zoom service 10am  
**9th – Harvest Festival** – Holy Communion 2.30pm  
**16th – 18th after Trinity** – Zoom service 10am  
**23rd – 19th after Trinity** – Word and Worship 2.30pm  
**30th – 4th before Advent** – Holy Communion 2.30pm  
For more details contact:  
Henk Lageveen 02 98 99 63 14 [ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com](mailto:ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com)  
For more details contact:  
Henk Lageveen 02 98 99 63 14 [ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com](mailto:ccb.huelgoat@gmail.com)

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

**2nd – 16th after Trinity** – Memorial Service for Queen Elizabeth  
**9th – Confirmation Service** – 11.30am  
**16th – Harvest Festival** – Holy Communion 11am  
**23rd – 19th after Trinity** – Word and Worship 11am  
**30th – 4th before Advent** – Holy Communion 11am  
For more details contact:  
Chris Wilson 02 97 72 19 29 [chriselbeau@gmail.com](mailto:chriselbeau@gmail.com)

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

**23rd – Harvest Festival** – Holy Communion 10.30am  
For more details contact [redon@churchinbrittany.org](mailto: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)**  
**2nd – 16th after Trinity** – Zoom service 10am  
**9th – Harvest Festival** – Holy Communion 10.30am  
**16th – 18th after Trinity** – Zoom service 10am  
**23rd – 19th after Trinity** – Word and Worship 10.30am  
**30th – 4th before Advent** – Holy Communion 10.30am  
For more details contact:  
John Cullingford 02 56 43 11 27 [cullingj47@gmail.com](mailto:cullingj47@gmail.com)

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Please return this form to CBJ, BP4, 22160 Callac, France

# CBJ Quiz

**Target: 20 points. Answers page 40**

Set by Jon Chambers:

*jonchambers1825@hotmail.com*

## I: General Knowledge & Current Affairs

- 1 What is the name of the cat in 10, Downing St??
- 2 Two words ending in tz: a) which hard mineral is composed of silicon dioxide; b) what is the SI unit of frequency? (½ point for each)
- 3 The ‘Glorious 12th’ is in which month?
- 4 Which British brewery, founded in 1777, has a red triangle as part of its distinctive logo?
- 5 Who is Liz Truss’ new Etonian-educated Chancellor?
- 6 What is the plural of octopus?
- 7 On a standard English keyboard, what letter is immediately to the right of the letter A?
- 8 What brand of slot-car racing sets first appeared in 1956?
- 9 What is the more common name for the alligator pear?
- 10 For which club was Emiliano Sala destined in 2019? His plane, taking off from Nantes, crashed in the English Channel.

## II: French Language & Culture

- 1 What kind of creature is a licorne?
- 2 What do the letters MSF signify in French culture?
- 3 In which department of Normandy is Bayeux?
- 4 Which artist was famous for his portrayal of music hall artistes?
- 5 Who followed Jacques Chirac to become French President in 2007?
- 6 At 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which is France’s largest department by area: Dordogne; Gers; Gironde?
- 7 On a standard French keyboard, what letter is immediately to the right of the letter A?
- 8 For which Spanish club does Frenchman Antoine Griezmann play? (For contractual reasons, he plays less than half of every match – whoever said that money has ruined football?)
- 9 In Jersey French, they’re the îles de la Manche. What are they in French?
- 10 What is a cacahuète in English?

## III: History & Geography

- 1 What kind of meteorological phenomenon is a ‘ha-boob’?
- 2 What do the initials BSA stand for (as in motor-bikes)?
- 3 In which English county would you find the town of Tring? (Clue: It’s 30 miles from central London.)
- 4 And in which English counties would you find these hill figures: The Long Man of Wilmington/Wilmington Giant; The White Horse of Avebury? (½ point for each)
- 5 Funchal is the capital of which island in the Atlantic Ocean?
- 6 Which English king was born in the Palace of Placentia in 1491?
- 7 What building was specifically constructed for The Great Exhibition of 1851?
- 8 Which London landmark closed for repairs only three days after its opening?
- 9 The first sporting event of its kind took place in 776 BC. What was it?
- 10 Which European country has the international internet code .at?

## IV: Connections

- 1 At which cricket ground have Hampshire CCC played at since 2001?
- 2 Staying with cricket, which fiercely contested county fixture began in 1849?
- 3 What conflict provided the main narrative thrust of Shakespeare’s Henry VI trilogy?
- 4 Which motor company began manufacturing at an abandoned print works in Longbridge in 1905?
- 5 In Gothic architecture, what name is given to the large, circular window in churches and cathedrals usually decorated with stained glass?
- 6 Which concentrated fruit drink was patented in 1867?
- 7 Which English pop-singer topped the UK charts in 1978 aged 19 with a song whose title is also that of a novel by Emily Brontë?
- 8 Which ill-fated vessel was launched in 1511?
- 9 Who wrote Restoration and its sequel, Merivel?
- 10 In Old English, the ‘th’ sound was represented by which letter of the Anglo-Saxon alphabet? What is the connection?

# Letters

## Global Warming

I welcome the editor's wish to broach the issue of global warming. Here is my take on one aspect of the problem which concerns the role of the fossil fuel companies.

I first became aware of the link between CO2 emissions and atmospheric heating in the late 70's (graphs showed the two rising in tandem) and used to bang on about it with friends, but gave up after a while because they thought the idea a bit bizarre or of no consequence. But the science began to harden and in 1984 Margaret Thatcher of all people, in her guise as scientist, not politician, gave a remarkably prescient speech.

Cue for the oil companies and certain "think tanks" to launch a massive campaign of disinformation questioning the science and spreading doubt, even to the extent of going against the findings of their own scientists. Even more astonishing, they brought into play some of the "experts" who a generation before questioned the evidence of a link between smoking and cancer. The BBC played a supporting role, its

idea of balance being to give equal time to opposing views, ignoring the fact that 95% of climate scientists (and now near unanimity) believed the evidence.

The result was that progress in addressing the problem was stymied. But as the public became more aware, the new tack was to say that maybe global warming was happening but it was not that serious and probably due to natural causes and scientists were being alarmist. Some people accused them of having a political agenda and wanting to undermine the capitalist system, banning our cars and holiday flights. Some even spouted nonsense about them returning us to the Middle Ages. However, the last five years have shown that far from exaggerating the problem, climatologists underplayed it and are themselves surprised at the rapidity with which extreme events are happening all over the globe. And this is at the current increase in emissions over the past century of a mere 1%. Even the minimum of 1.5% the world hopes not to exceed will cause even greater damage with, for example, more and more cities experiencing episodes of 50 degrees, a temperature at which human organs begin to break down.

*Continued page 18*



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# Limericks

## Daylight Saving Time

*Experts have found it hard to agree,  
 How to best use light energy,  
 But to reverse time,  
 Even beat Einstein,  
 Why they stopped at one hour, beats me!*  
 Cyril Young, Saint-Nicolas-du-Pélem

*Daylight saving time was on the mark,  
 When kids walked to and from school, in the dark,  
 But by today most things have changed,  
 And taking to and picking up, can be arranged,  
 So maybe it's a change on which we should em-  
 bark.*

Jim Henderson, Carhaix

*A French farmer one day said to me,  
 Now it's two, but they tell me it's three,  
 But my cows never know,  
 As I let the grass grow,  
 That there's one hour's grazing for free.*  
 Gerard Dugdale – Gourin

*The Sun comes up when it comes,  
 There's no daylight saved, I mean crumbs!  
 For the days ain't no longer  
 The maths couldn't be wronger  
 So just think it through, do the sums.*  
 Gerard Dunmoore – Pontivy

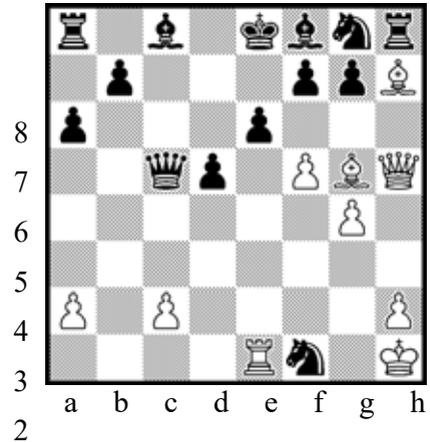
*An hour's extra light for workaholics,  
 Means we suffer these temporal frolics,  
 If they'd just stay in bed,  
 Till the Sun's overhead,  
 We could stop all this time-changing nonsense.*  
 Steven Daniels

# Chess Puzzle

White to play and win.

Hint:

Such a wild position calls for wild moves – white has a mate in 2 moves



Splution page 36

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

*In spring we are one hour down,  
 Which matters if you live in town,  
 But here in the sticks,  
 We don't fall for those tricks,  
 For it's payback when fall comes around.*  
 Sally Wilson



**November Limerick Challenge:** The UK prime minister recently suggested building a bridge across the English Channel. There are numerous sea crossing in China, longer than the 20 miles between England and France!  
 Should the Channel Bridge finally be built?

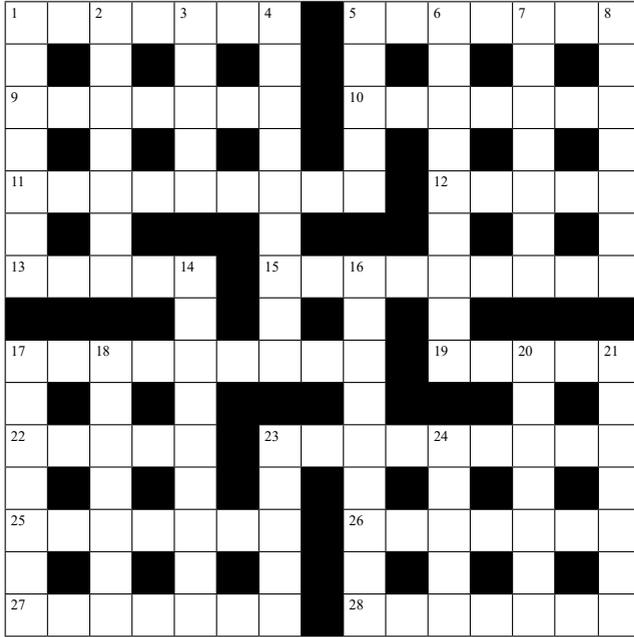
## A Bridge Over the Channel

Please send limericks on this theme by the 20th Oct. to: [info@thebj.com](mailto:info@thebj.com) CBJ, BP4, 22160 CALLAC

Prize Crossword / Little Toughie 17

# Prize Crossword

October Dave King



**Across**

1. Cover version by wife, a pop singer (7)
5. "Healthier" preserving right to some fried food (7)
9. Stays to get leftovers (7)
10. Free to negotiate with new tenants, perhaps (7)
11. Later being a whole new experience? (9)
12. Look after cow (Daisy) (5)
13. Always written in poetry? That's uncanny (5)
15. Plot by tall men to get representation! (9)
17. Diversion essential for getting round English blokes (9)
19. Cannot change part of score (5)
22. He won't mind his own business (5)
23. May fly for only a day? (9)
25. Angered terribly by small weapon (7)
26. Sibyl moves outside Los Angeles for courses (7)
27. Stonework proceeding by degrees on railway (7)
28. Flighty gents conceal, say, a sum kept for contingencies (4,3)

**Down**

1. Sound of dockland leads to conflict (7)
2. Current measure? (7)
3. Inquisitive-sounding monk (5)
4. See its curate become at home in the countryside (9)
5. In favour of Church using coercion (5)
6. Such gains dodgy, not legit, and light-headed (3-6)
7. Bar suitable for a swinger? (7)
8. Vote back in, and celebrate: dance, and so forth (2-5)
14. Report of freezing downpour causing visibility problem (9)
16. Finally grasps the fact that door is locked (7,2)
17. Girl playing in mornings at get-together (7)
18. Vain plea from conservationists? (7)
20. Garden where some rainwater races down stone wall (7)
21. Brick carrier entangled in heather on small plot (7)
23. Poem, for example, in English cathedral (5)
24. Considers whether to make a hot drink? (5)

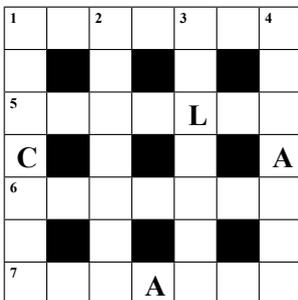
**Solution September Prize Crossword:**

Winner Sept. prize crossword: S. Marsden, Lanvénegen (56)

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



## The 'Little Toughie' Jim Henderson



**Clues Across**

- 1 Dawn (3,4)
- 5 Buckets (7)
- 6 Defend (7)
- 7 Officer in charge of Indian police station (7)

**Down**

- 1 Extraction (7)
- 2 Curved Turkish sword (7)
- 3 A measuring rod (7)
- 4 Advocate (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 – 10; C – 1; D – 3; E – 6; G – 1; I – 1; L – 3; N – 4; P – 2; R – 2; S – 1; T – 2; U – 2; W – 1; Y – 1.

Solution in the November issue. Solution September Little Toughie page 47

# A Brittany Alphabet

by Hilary Bridewell

## *J* is for... **Jean and Jeanne**

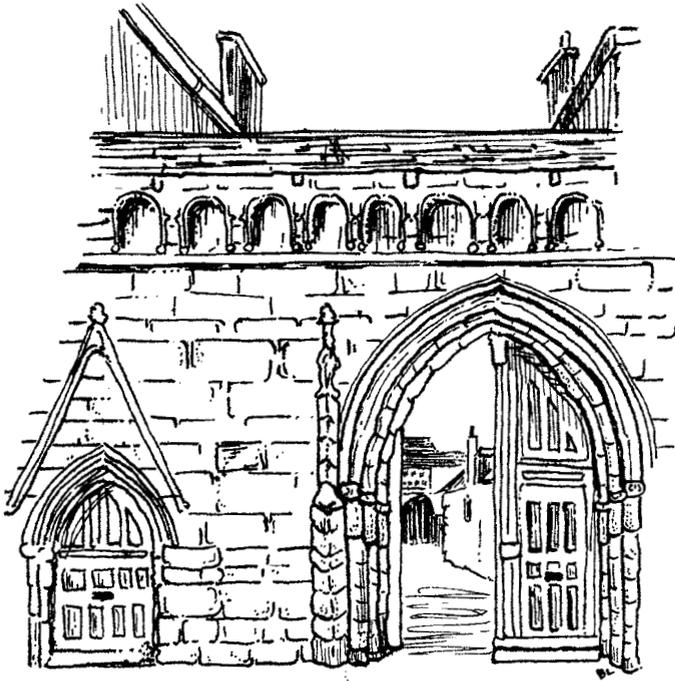
Charles de Blois and Jean de Monfort both claimed the succession of Duke Jean III of Brittany; this resulted in a 25 year civil war, and each in turn was imprisoned. Their wives Jeanne de Monfort, nicknamed Jeanne la Flamme (flame), and Jeanne la Boiteuse (lame) carried on the struggle and it became known as the war of the two Jeannes.

Eventually, after many combats, sieges, truces and renewals of hostilities they agreed to one great battle which happened on September 23rd 1364 on the plain of Auray. Charles, against all advice, let himself be drawn into his enemies' ranks, where he was surrounded and stabbed to death.

Jean de Monfort was then proclaimed Duke Jean IV of Brittany. But his triumph was said to have been blighted by the ghost of Charles de Blois: wherever he went he saw the spectre behind him. In 1368 he received the hospitality of the Cordeliers

of Dinan (a group of Franciscan monks who had a monastery in the centre of Dinan). These holy men held Charles in pious memory as they had received many gifts from him. On entering their church Jean de Monfort saw in front of him a portrait of Charles in a knight's armour wearing the arms of Bretagne. He asked the monks to efface the picture, they did not dare to refuse him so covered the painting with whitewash.

But at the very spot above the heart of Charles, blood began to flow from the wall. The entire town rushed to see the wonder. Some soldiers accused the monks of trickery; they inspected the spot closely and struck knives into the wall, only to meet the hard surface, and at the news of this Jean de Monfort hastened from the town of Dinan and never visited it again.



*Gothic porch on Place des Cordeliers, Dinan*

### **Global Warming** *Continued from page 15*

And now, with the embargo on Russian exports, the fossil fuel companies are making huge unforeseen profits and the government, at the time of writing, thinks they need to keep this money to re-invest. To invest in what? More oil extraction, mining and fracking, citing the world shortage. But there is no shortage of oil, the major producers see no advantage in ramping up production when they can profit more from the current high prices. The gas shortage is more problematic and will probably be only resolved when the Ukraine

war is over. There is no way the production of gas can be massively increased in the short term even if that were desirable.

In conclusion, I think the oil, gas and coal companies are largely responsible for holding back the transition to renewables, and other measures, such as home insulation or investment in carbon capture, by several crucial years. My prediction is that they are going to face a serious reckoning with the rising generation in the years to come.

*Bob Thorpe*

*Popular phrases & sayings involving the word:*

## HAPPINESS

In 1766 Samuel Johnson declared that “**Happiness consists in the multiplicity of agreeable consciousness**” – since then it has been described in simpler form as in 1942 with the E. Y. Harburg song “**Happiness is a thing called Joe**” and in around 1957 Charles Schultz, creator of the “Peanuts” comic strip which centred around a child hugging Snoopy and saying “**Happiness is a warm puppy**”. The book carrying this title became a best seller in 1962 and seems to have been the start of a stream of promotional phrases using the format such as “**Happiness is egg shaped**”- “**Happiness is a cigar called Hamlet**”- “**Happiness is a warm ear piece**”- “**Happiness is being elected team captain and getting a Bulova watch**” while from the US came the not so subtle “**Happiness is seeing Lubbock Texas, in the rear view mirror**” from a country and western song.

**As Happy as Larry** – which means being extremely happy is said to be an Australian expression which supposedly refers to the boxer Larry Foley 1847-1917, from around 1905. Another suggestion is that the phrase derives from the Australian word Larrikin which means “lout, hoodlum, mischievous young person”.

**Happy Hunting Grounds** – said to be a translation of the North American Indian name for Heaven – Paradise. The phrase is now used in any area that appears fruitful. Some would suggest it owes more to the imagination of the pioneer than to the actual usage of the Native Americans.

**Happy as a Clam at high tide** – An American saying, referring to the fact that clams are gathered only when the tide is out.

**Happy Dispatch** – another name for Hari Kari – a method of suicide carried out in Japan since the 12th century.

**Happy as a Sandboy** – in the 19th century, sand was sold for scouring, as a floor covering to absorb liquids and for bird cages. Sandboys were proverbially happy people, and it is easy to see

why, when they could buy a load of about 2 ton of sand for 3 shillings and make £6 or £7 for a morning’s sales. As the century progressed, sawdust tended to replace sand, initially in the gin palaces, tap rooms and butcher’s shops, which would make the Sandboys a little less happy. Other explanations for the meaning of the phrase include a sand flea known as a “Sandboy” which jumped and hopped about in a jolly manner, also it was noted that the “Sandboys” working in a dusty atmosphere would be in need of regular refreshment and that the type likely to be offered would be responsible for their happy state.

**Happy as the day is long** – meaning happy and contented, was current by 1786. The expression was much used, for example, by Charles Dickens, who nevertheless occasionally varied it.

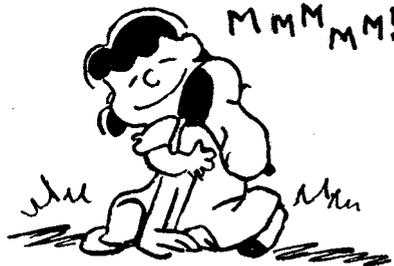
**Happy Medium** – meaning a compromise avoiding extremes, was in use by 1778.

**Happy Couple** – a pair about to be or just joined in matrimony, known by 1753. Similarly the **Happy Pair** – a phrase known by 1633 and in the specifically marital sense by 1697

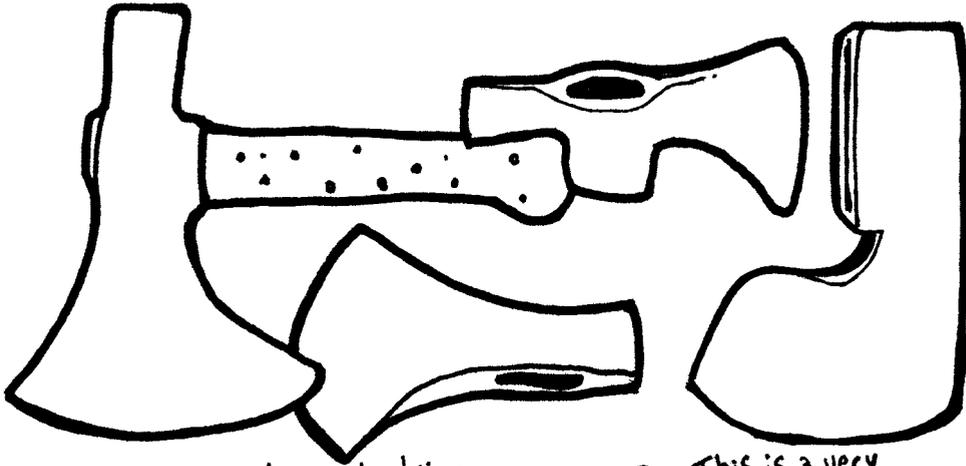
**Happy Days** – a catchphrase from the BBC radio show “Band Waggon” 1938-39. The phrase is also known in other contexts: it was a popular drinking toast by the early 20th century, and, in 1974, Happy Days was taken as the title of a long running US TV show that looked back nostalgically to the 1950’s.

**Happy Birthday To You** – regarded as the most frequently sung phrase in English, It started out as “Good morning to all” with words by Patty Smith Hill and music by Michael J Hill in “Song Stories for the Kindergarten” 1893. “Happy Birthday to you” is the first line of the second stanza but did not become the title until 1935. The song has had a chequered legal history

because of the erroneous belief that it was in the public domain and out of copyright.



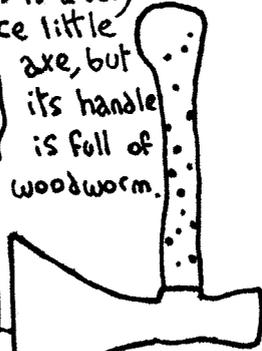
*By the way*



I have been looking through some of my old tools, and seeing if any need a new handle.



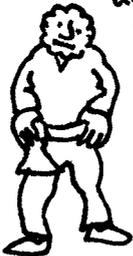
This is a very nice little axe, but its handle is full of woodworm.



The best wood for axe handles is seasoned ash.



Once the handle fits comfortably into the axe, saw a groove in the end of the handle and carefully tap in a wedge.



# Tim the Gardener

Something that I have discovered over the years since I started gardening in Brittany, is that the harvest can last for a lot longer than one may imagine. Apart from early vegetables, such as peas and broad beans, the harvest starts in my garden with any winter cereals that I have sown – I usually cut my rye at the end of July – and then it just continues. I still have bean plants hanging up to dry, which I hope to thresh in the next few weeks; I am hopeful that some of the cabbage plants will be suitable for making sauerkraut; the hazelnut season is drawing to a close, but I am keeping an eye on the walnut and chestnut trees to make sure that I don't miss the crop when it starts to fall. I also planted an area of buckwheat again this year. It is cut, and stacked up drying in the field, ready to be threshed at some point in October.

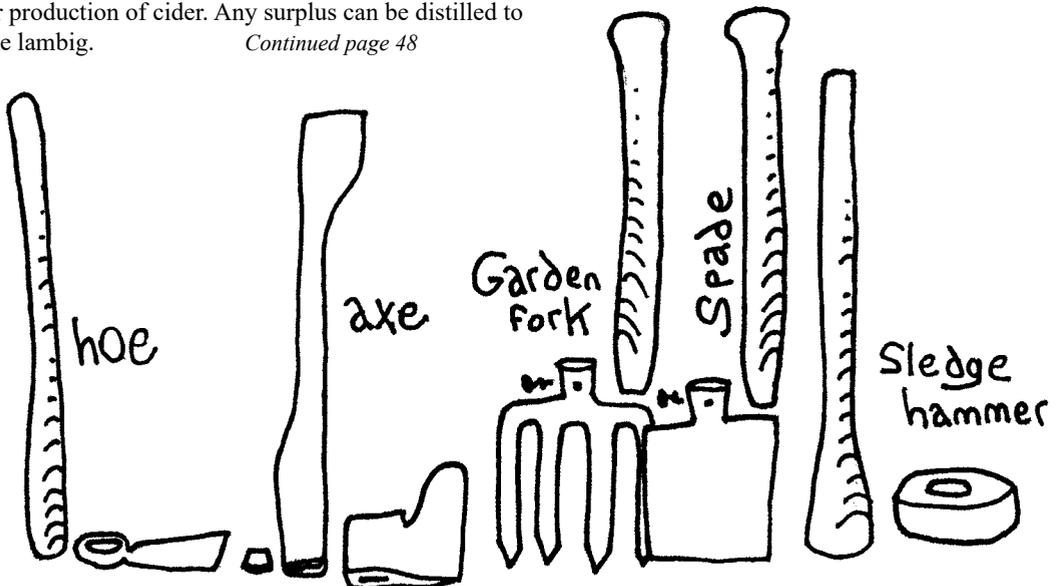
## Apples

The major crop for most of us this month will, however, be apples. Despite all the climatic anomalies, the apple trees seem to be well laden with fruit, and people are expecting a bumper crop. A certain number of eating apples can be stored for the winter. I have a cage made from metal grill mesh, fine enough to keep the mice out; it is in an open shed, so well ventilated but frost free. Provided that they are not bruised at the outset, apples can keep well there until the spring.

The major, traditional, way to preserve apples, however, is to make them into cider. (*Making cider, pages 36, 38, 45, and 50*) This is something to bear in mind when you are laying out an orchard, or planting apple trees. There is a limit to how many eating apples you can eat, but in a good apple year, you can simply up your production of cider. Any surplus can be distilled to make lambig.

*Continued page 48*

Ash is my favourite wood, as I like to make really strong handles, which last for ages.



# Exploring the Worlds of Beer and Wine

*"The King of wines, the wine of Kings", King Louis XIV describing Tokaj wine;*

*"Blessed be the land that has produced you", Pope Benedict XIV thanking the gift of Tokaj*

## OF ROYAL CELLARS AND "CHATEAU PLONK"

**D**uring the period of mourning that followed the sad loss of Queen Elizabeth II, we have reflected on her devotion to duty and service that made Her Majesty a loved and respected leader throughout the world. But there was also a more personal side to Her Majesty that we occasionally glimpsed. According to a recent article by Nathalie Baylaucq in *The Independent*, for example, the Queen enjoyed four small meals a day including afternoon tea, tomato juice, bottled drinking water from the springs of the Malvern hills, Twinings English Milk Tea and of course English Breakfast in the morning!

For something a little stronger, the Queen is known to have enjoyed gin and Dubonnet as an aperitif. She even had her own brand of gin developed for her called "Buckingham Palace", which is infused with lemon verbena, hawthorn berries, laurel and blackberry leaves as well as herbs grown in the Palace gardens.

When it comes to wine, the Queen preferred a couple of styles that are out of fashion today: traditional sweet German "hock" (a generic British term for German white wine) that is now seldom seen on wine shelves, and Portuguese Mateus Rosé whose heyday was in the 1960s. A prominent wine writer and consultant, Ben Howkins, reflecting in *Académie du Vin Library* on the Queen's taste for German wines, observes that tradition runs deep in the Royal wine cellars and that "in 1986 there was no French wine apart from a handful of Alsace and dry white wines such as white burgundy in stock, but there were over 40 hocks and Moselles listed. The long arm of Prince Albert prevailed. It took many years for Her Majesty to be persuaded that France did produce some quite decent white wines." !

The Queen's major champagne suppliers were Bollinger, a favourite of Queen Victoria; Krug, an expensive French champagne; and Lanson which carried Queen Elizabeth's coat of arms on the bottle. The Queen also had her own champenoise sparkling wine made from grapes grown on seven acres of the south lawn at Windsor Castle, thanks no doubt to the climate change that has made vineyards viable throughout southern England.

While it may be tempting to imagine Her Majesty ringing for a taxi to come to the back door of the Palace and pop her down to the local Waitrose or Sainsbury's to pick up a bottle or two of royal plonk, there is no evidence to suggest this actually occurred! The Royal household has a vast stock of wine thought to be worth around £2 million stored in sprawling wine cellars under Buckingham Palace that have hardly changed since 1703.

Jancis Robinson, one of the world's most influential wine critics, explains on her website how wines are selected by the Royal Household Wine Committee of which she is a member. Ben Howkins, also a member of the Committee, observes that "there is a running debate as to whether Her Majesty should serve first growth clarets to her first-class guests. On the one hand, she should serve the best to the best; on the other, should she do so, the nice broadcast media would have a field day about 'our money'." The money for the Royal cellars comes from the budget allotted by Parliament in the Civil List which covers the monarch's expenses in carrying out the official duties as head of state. Since the amount of money paid into the public exchequer by the Royal Estates is ten times the amount of the Civil List, British taxpayers actually get a very good bargain !

The wine experts on the Royal Household Wine Committee have to select about 5,000 bottles annually for more than 300 events each year in Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Ms. Robinson points out that most of the wines chosen are for big receptions, so "far from picking the plums of the world's vineyards for Her Majesty's cellar, the reality is very much more prosaic". Most of the wines are quite modest, like non-vintage champagnes, inexpensive New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc and basic red Bordeaux, although there are some fine wines such as Krug champagne and classic "great growth" Bordeaux like the "Château Margaux

# Art & Culture



## Fête des Jardins

Château de  
Pommerio, Tréveneuc  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

The theme chosen for this autumn is "Butterfly-Friendly Plants for your Garden" with a conference hosted by Benoit L'Hotellier.

Plant stalls, fruit trees and bushes, seeds, local produce...

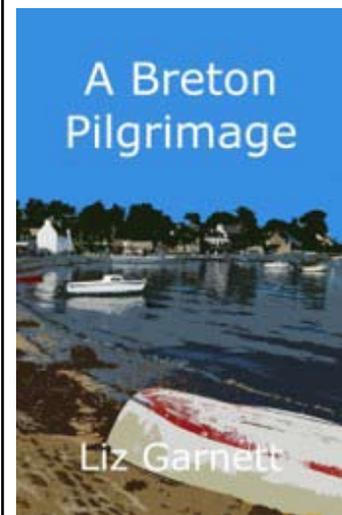
10am -6pm. 5€ entry  
[fetedesjardins.com](http://fetedesjardins.com)



Sunday 23rd October

## Bluegrass & Old time jam session with Sam Hutchins & Co,

From 3pm in the 'old hangar' next to the Ch'ty Coz Cafe, Bulat Pestivien (22160). Food and bar.  
Contact 02 96 45 75 74



## Books

### A Breton Pilgrimage Liz Garnett

Setting out from Kent in the United Kingdom, this book follows a trip Liz Garnett took in the summer of 2018 with her 16 year-old son. It was her first pilgrimage and, due to a lack of fitness and time constraints, she followed the Tro Breiz pilgrimage route by car.

The pilgrimage route visits the sites of the seven founding saints of Brittany, France. Originally designed to be completed by walking one week a year for seven years. Liz's experience of camping and the people she meets along the way pepper the book, as well as the challenges thrown up by sleeping under canvas. History and medieval pilgrimage are covered along the way.

Based in the UK, Liz has been a travel photographer for over 29 years. In that time, she has regularly travelled to France. This book draws on her experience and knowledge of Brittany as well as camping with two sons. Liz's love of the French language and food shines through the pages of the book.

Published in September 2022 and is available online and through bookshops. ISBN 978-1-7399484-1-2 (paperback).

Further details from [www.lizgarnett.com/books.html](http://www.lizgarnett.com/books.html)

## OF ROYAL CELLARS AND "CHATEAU PLONK"

1961" that was served at a reception for President Chirac at Buckingham Palace in 1996 and today sells for almost £2,000.

According to Jancis Robinson, "Among the more impressive bottles in the royal collection is "a Château Léoville Barton dating from 1988 ... But the pièce de résistance of the cellar is a bottle of sherry dating back to 1660, which was discovered when the new London Bridge was built, and presented to the Queen." To paraphrase Horace Rumpole in John Mortimer's series "Rumpole of the Bailey", and a frequent denizen of Pomeroy's Wine Bar, one can only hope that the new King Charles III is partial to a glass of "Chateau Plonk" himself.

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

Roger Dawson, [rogeralan.rd@gmail.com](mailto:rogeralan.rd@gmail.com)

## 24 Art & Culture

### Music Win Tickets

On Saturday 22nd October, the Canvey Island pub-rock legends, Dr. Feelgood, play at La Grande Ourse, St. Agathon, Guingamp. To have a chance of winning a pair of tickets, answer the following question:



**Name the original vocalist who sang on hits such as 'Roxette' and 'Milk and Alcohol'.**

*Text answer with name and number to 06 02 31 29 41 by Saturday 15th October with the draw will be made.*



Blues guitarist Stephen Hull and harmonica player Andrew Alli play at La Grande Ourse, St. Agathon, Guingamp on Sunday 6th November. To have a chance of winning a pair of tickets, answer the following question:

**Stephen Hull cites B.B. King and Albert King as musical influences. Which other King had Robert Fripp as guitarist**

**in the 60s and 70s ?**

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

### Saint Gelven Short Mat Bowls Club



Thursday 1 September the Turner Challenge trophy, best wood competition took place with 10 registered participants. 5 teams formed to play 6 ends. The "white" team of Ruth Everitt and Ian Foster and the "red" team of Laura Dawson and Christiane le Guen tied. The last game was played in 3 Ends to separate the two white and red teams and arrived in the final the team formed by Ruth Everitt and Ian Foster won with 27 points and the team formed by Laura Dawson and Christiane le Guen got 24 points and were second in the competition.

*Christiane le Guen*

### Rich Chocolate Cake

- 150g butter
- 1 cup\* hot water (\*1cup=250ml)
- 1 tsp instant coffee
- ¾ cup chopped dark chocolate
- 1¼ cups brown sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ¼ cup cocoa powder
- Icing sugar

#### For the Ganache:

- 125g cooking chocolate
- 2 tsp butter
- 60ml cream
- Liqueur (optional)

Grease and line a 20cm/8" square cake tin.

Melt the butter gently in a pan large enough to hold all the cake ingredients. Remove from the heat and stir in the hot water, instant coffee

and chopped chocolate. Stir gently until the chocolate melts.

Add the sugar and stir again until it dissolves. Add the eggs and beat vigorously with a wooden spoon until combined. Sift the flour, baking powder and soda into the pan and fold in. The batter will be quite thin.

Pour into the prepared tin and bake in a preheated oven at 180°C/160°fan/Gas 4 for 50-55 minutes, or until the cake springs back when lightly touched.

Cool in the tin for 10 minutes before turning out on to a cooling rack.

When cold, dust with icing sugar and/or decorate with swirls of ganache.

#### To make the ganache:

Break the chocolate into a heatproof bowl set over a pan of hot water (without the bowl touching the water) and add the butter. Stir very gently until the chocolate has melted. Remove from the heat and add the cream. Mix well. Stir in a tablespoon of liqueur of your choice and chill until firm enough to pipe.

## **AIKB Photography Club International Photography Competition "The Fragile World"**



Over the summer months the AIKB Photography Club organised an International Photography Competition and exhibition on the theme of "The Fragile World".

The competition was held at AIKB in Gouarec and the winner was chosen by public vote, which took place between 16th and 21st August. There were 79 entries in total and over 200 visitors to the exhibition which closed on 2nd September.

Many visitors commented on the high standard of the photography and how difficult it was to vote for their favourite!

A big thank you to everyone who entered and voted!

**FIRST PLACE** : Sheila Morris with "Worms for dinner Again";

**SECOND PLACE** : Don Taylor with "Sycamore"; and

**THIRD PLACE** : Marilyn Le Moign with "Un question d'eschelle".

*To find out more about the AIKB Photography Club and its activities e mail [aikb.hopmg@gmail.com](mailto:aikb.hopmg@gmail.com)*



# On and Off the Beaten Track

## End of an era?

It seems odd to talk of the Queen's death as unexpected, given her age. However, for me, as for many people, she has been a lifetime presence. And given her mother's longevity, I expected her to make it to her century as well, so her death was a shock and I felt much more moved by it than I would have expected.

I was surprised too by the response of both French friends and indeed the French broadcast media. The media beast being forever in search of a good meal, it was inevitable that they would make much of the story. I saw mostly TF3 and TF1 news and what I saw was handled sympathetically. I



I certainly did not expect to see TF3's midday presenter dressed in black against a black Union Jack on the 9th September. And M. Macron's eloquent appreciation certainly seemed heartfelt. Nor did I expect French friends to offer condolences as though we had been personal friends of the monarch, but they did (and continue to do so).

If some French people are bemused by the archaic concept of a monarchy, constitutional or otherwise, the people to whom I have spoken held her in high regard. And the sudden focus has whetted their curiosity about the nature of British democracy. How is it compatible with having a monarch? Are you a monarchist or a republican? To which the answer is I'm a republican in France and a monarchist in the UK. Yes, I went through a republican phase shortly after arriving here and seeing the unseemly and entitled behaviour of two of her children that led to her *annus horribilis*. But it was a phase. And certainly since then and while Queen Elizabeth was alive, I have been a monarchist.

"Pourquoi une monarchie," asked Jean-Claude one evening when I was in Monique's tiny bar-cum-shop at Pomeleuc near the chapel. "Parce qu'elle n'est pas cassé, donc il ne faut pas la réparer," I replied, loosely adapting a very un-French Americanism. (Because it ain't broke, so don't mend it.) Of course not everyone will agree with that, however, notwithstanding the antics of Andrew and Harry and Ms. Markle it remains my view. So we got onto the question of how it works and how much it costs and my friend, Thierry, chipped in to say that according to what he had read, the royal family brings in more in tourism than it costs. Maybe.

I don't think Jean-Claude understood my probably inadequate explanation of the evolution of our constitutional monarchy as against the absolute power retained by the French throne. Also, I freely acknowledged that it would not work in France – yes, I know, there are still French monarchists, but in a tiny minority – so we left it at that.

Although I have discussed the subject many times over the years, Jean-Claude's question caused me to reflect once again on the advantages and disadvantages of both systems.

OK, so let's suppose the United Kingdom, or the disunited kingdom as Ouest France's leader dubbed it this morning, becomes a republic. Be careful what you wish for. How, practically, would it be achieved? How elected and for what term? Does the prospect of Presidents Blair, or Brown, or Cameron, or, Lord preserve us, Johnson appeal? Frankly not much. But who other than former politicians might be elected? Would they have the discipline not to interfere? Would it lead to a constitutional battle about where executive power lies?

## Brittany Broderie Textile Group

Brittany Broderie was founded in around 2006 and goes from strength to strength. Our meetings are on the third Thursday of every month in the lovely light and airy hall in Mûr de Bretagne. We meet at 10.00am each bringing a packed lunch for midday before winding up the meeting at around 15.30pm. Annual fees are 20€ per person which covers some of the kits, tea, coffee and insurance. In recent years the group has organised a coach to go to the annual textile fair Pour l'Amour du Fil in Nantes which is a terrific and inspiring day out.

Our membership is about 50:50 English and French speaking so it's an excellent opportunity to brush up your language skills in a friendly and creative atmosphere. We generally have a project on the go every month, taught by one of the members, but if you want to bring your own ongoing pieces that is more than acceptable.

We have learned all sorts of different techniques, blackwork, Hardanger, quilting, dyeing, beadwork, sashiko and lots of other styles of textile art. In the past we have created a number of large-scale group pieces, the first one being an aerial view of the Lac de Guerlédan, and since then we have made a large alphabet quilt

for a literacy project and currently, we are working on Celtic banners on various Breton cultural themes.

We're always happy to welcome new members, French or English speaking, so do get in touch if our group appeals to you.

Shirley McCann.

coldharbour@orange.fr 02 97 51 42 54



## End of an era? *continued*

And the constitutional complexities of unravelling the monarchy would make Brexit look like a doddle. Better to focus in the first instance on creating a democratically elected second chamber that so far seems to have been beyond the wit of anyone. Still, a republic might yet happen. It remains to be seen whether King Charles can hold the line more effectively than his previous namesakes. Given their track record, a curious choice of name I thought.

When the unfortunate Diana Spencer was buried, I felt I was the only person in the Île de France who was not glued to the television. I was not a fan and the media-fuelled, emotional outpouring was just too much. I went to an empty pub in St. Germain-en-Laye – usually it was busy – and chatted to the English landlord.

Yesterday, however, I was pretty much glued to the television. The ceremony was moving and the pageantry magnificent, a view again shared by French friends. UK politics may be in the doldrums, but in some things Britain cannot be surpassed. We have never seen the like before, nor shall we again. For that alone I am grateful, but for more besides. Adieu.

Richard Griffiths, [rpf@orange.fr](mailto:rpf@orange.fr)

# Rock and Blues in Brittany

Rock legends Dr. Feelgood make a welcome return to the stage at La Grande Ourse (LGO) at ST. Agathon, near Guingamp (22) this month. After gracing local music venues several times over recent years, the band return with their unique rock sound on Saturday 22nd October. The autumn season opens will liven up LGO after a quiet summer of holidays and festivals elsewhere.



The previous roster of acts boasted a wide range of music and popularity. With a mixed bag of genres and talent, February's Clubster 2 event provided a slow start to the campaign. But Mac Arnold's blues show lifted the spirits and the audience numbers, as the ex-Muddy Waters guitarist showcased his rare oil-can guitar skills.

Three weeks later, Melvin Taylor and his band delivered a very tight blend of blues, soul and funk, including a sublime version of Bill Withers's 'Ain't no sunshine'.

On the last day of April, the Haitian (punk voodoo) songster, Moonlight Benjamin, delivered a commanding performance. With her black lacy robes, she dominated the stage and audience with her mesmerising vocal talents, including an almost unrecognisable rendition of Led Zeppelin's 'Immigrant song'.

The season-closing double header of Rage Against the Peppers and Princesses Leya was an entertaining – and sometimes chaotic – soirée, with both bands providing a mixture of banter and rock music. After the former group delivered a tribute Battle between Rage Against the Machine and Red Hot Chili Peppers, the co-headliners also played a mixture of styles, including a Rammstein-esque version of Sabrina's 'Boys, boys, boys'!

So, to the forthcoming autumn line-up. Supporting Dr. Feelgood will be Howlin' Grassman vs. Stompin' Bigfoot with energetic brand of blues.



On Sunday 6th November, Stephen Hull, a 22-year-old guitarist from Wisconsin, will be joined by fellow American and blues harmonica player Andrew Alli.

A fortnight later, Chicago blues aficionado, Mike Wheeler, blows in from the Windy City to impress us with his guitar prowess.

More dates may be added – so watch this space! And, make a note – Gaëlle Buswel and her husky blues voice has been rescheduled from 14th May this year to exactly the same date in 2023.

Needless to say, all gigs will follow any current Covid protocols (if any). Reduced prices and season tickets are available – details can be found at [www.ourse.fr](http://www.ourse.fr), or contact 06 59 15 18 32. A pair of tickets is up for grabs for each concert – details in this and subsequent CBJs. See you there!



Darren Milsom

## *Birds to See in Brittany: House Sparrow – Tree Sparrow*

French: **Moineau domestique - Moineau friquet** Breton: **Golvan tiez - Golvan ar maeziou**



**H**ouse Sparrows are often considered to be the most commonly-seen bird, but our total population is less than many other species. It is our dependence on man for food and shelter that has resulted in our becoming adept at living close to man in village, town and city. We are scarce and often absent in uncultivated and sparsely populated areas. Our male is basically brownish, with bold black streaks above and greyish underparts, black on throat and in front of the eyes, grey crown and cheeks with chestnut brown flanking on both sides, white wing bar and greyish rump. Our females and juveniles are duller, lacking black throat, grey crown and rump. Our nest is built in the most diverse sites – under roofs, behind gutter pipes, on facades, in the nests of House Martins, in short, in any conceivable hole or niche, where we make an untidy heap of straw, wool, stems and feathers. However, when we do choose to nest in a tree we build a large spherical nest with a side entrance in the branches, usually at a safe distance above the ground. We normally nest up to three times a year – occasionally four – from April to August. A clutch contains usually 5 or 6 eggs, with a maximum of 10. Both adults incubate the eggs for 13/14 days; the young leave the nest at 15 days. They are fed by both parents, firstly with crushed insects from our crop, and later with insects from our beak. Before the advent of mechanical power we were unpopular with some people due to our depredation among ripening grain, but were still regarded with much affection, enough to have us referred to as “Philip” or “Phip” Sparrow. We were both a caged pet and a food item, and thanks to the emigrants who took us as caged pets to the Americas and the Antipodes we are now established in every continent but one – we have not yet colonised Antarctica.

*Continued page 31*

# Hetty's Kitchen

## **Bacon and Potato Soup** (for 4)

- 1 tbsp grapeseed oil
- 225g smoked lardons
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 fresh green chillies, deseeded and finely chopped
- 2 sticks celery chopped
- 2 large carrots, diced
- 450g potatoes peeled and diced
- 1 tbsp plain flour
- 725ml chicken stock
- Can of white beans, rinsed and drained
- Salt & pepper
- 150ml milk
- 115g Parmesan cheese, grated
- 2 tbsp snipped fresh chives

Heat the oil in a large pan over moderate heat and fry the lardons until crispy. Lift out with a slotted spoon and set aside on some kitchen paper.

Add the onion to the pan with the chillies, celery, carrots and potatoes. Cook for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are softened. Sprinkle in the flour and cook for a minute then add the stock and beans. Stir well and bring to the boil, stirring. Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer and adjust the seasoning to taste. Simmer for about 20 minutes or until the vegetables are tender.

Whizz the soup with a stick blender until smooth. Stir in the milk and lardons and reheat gently. Ladle into bowls and sprinkle with Parmesan and chives. Serve piping hot with crusty bread.

## **Mini Mushroom Pies** (for 5-6)

- 450g puff pastry
- 400g mixed mushrooms, roughly chopped
- 1 shallot, diced
- 100g bacon, chopped
- Olive oil
- Salt & pepper
- 1 bunch chives, finely chopped
- 1 bunch parsley, finely chopped
- 150g crème fraîche
- 4 eggs

Grease a 12 hole muffin tin.

Heat a little oil in a frying pan and cook the shallot gently until translucent. Add the mushrooms and bacon and turn up the heat. Stir fry quickly, take

off the heat and season well. Set aside to cool completely.

Roll out the puff pastry and cut 10-12 circles about 5" diameter. Use these to line the muffin cups and save the trimmings to make strips for the pie tops.

Chill for 15 minutes.

Whisk together the eggs and crème fraîche and season to taste. Fold in the herbs. Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°fan/Gas 6. Divide the mushroom mixture between the pastry cups and pour over the egg mixture. Top the pies with pastry strips. Bake for about 30 minutes until golden. Serve hot or cold.

## **Chicken Potjie** (for 4-6)

- 340ml red wine
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
- 1 tsp each dried thyme and marjoram
- 12 large chicken thighs, skinned and boned
- 3 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 115ml brandy
- 1 tsp dried mixed herbs
- 10 button onions or small shallots, peeled
- 340g small mushrooms
- 3 sticks celery, chopped
- Salt & pepper
- 340g smoked lardons

Pour the wine into a shallow dish and stir in the garlic and herbs. Add the chicken thighs, cover and leave in the fridge to marinate for at least two hours, or overnight.

Remove the chicken and pat dry on kitchen paper. Put the flour in a plastic bag and add the thighs. Toss well to coat. Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole and add the chicken. Brown on all sides for about 10 minutes. Spoon away any excess oil in the casserole and discard. Add the brandy, heat for a few minutes then light. Once the flames have died down, stir in the onions, mushrooms, mixed herbs and celery and cook for a couple of minutes.

Pour the reserved marinade into the casserole and season well with salt and pepper. Mix in the lardons, bring to a gentle simmer and cover. Simmer gently for about 1½ hours until the chicken is very tender.

Serve with potatoes or crusty baguette.

**Rich Chocolate Cake** page24

**Bon Appétit !**

## *Fire in the Monts d'Arrée*

Following your piece about the fire in the Monts d' Arrée, I thought that readers might be interested in the work of a group of artists called Arrée Rural Sketchers. Some of us have made pictures of the moors on fire or after the fire. We hope to have an exhibition in Commana during the winter.

This is the engraving that I have done of menez Mikael with fire around..

Patrig HERVÉ



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## *Birds to See in Brittany* Continued

We have a loud “Cheep” or “Chippip” call and a rapid harsh twitter. Our chirping may be developed into a series with squeaky or almost purring trills which could be called a simple form of song. We are considered in some places as symbols of lust, sexual potency, commonness and vulgarity.

**We are known as the “Tree Sparrow”** but will sometimes nest in buildings. On the whole we are much less dependent on man and his activities and are a correspondingly scarcer and less known species. We are altogether a neater bird than our relative, being smaller and slimmer. Another difference is the lack of variance in our plumage between the sexes. We are dark brown with black streaks above, cheeks and underparts are greyish white. Our head is chestnut brown with a black chin and front of eyes, with black spot on cheeks and double wing bars. All Tree Sparrows are marked the same whether cock, hen or juvenile. We are rarely seen in towns and large villages, but can be a common sight in old orchards, parks and on the outskirts of villages and woods. We usually nest in tree holes but also in holes in walls, in Sand Martins' burrows, in nests of large birds or even in nesting boxes intended and prepared for other birds. The nest is an untidy structure of straw, twigs, hairs and other fibres then lined with feathers. Like the House Sparrow we also sleep in nests when not actually nesting. We breed very much as the House Sparrow, but our eggs are smaller, though the same in number. As soon as our young attain independence and are no longer fed by adult birds they join together in large flocks and fly out into the fields in search of food – eating a greater proportion of insects than the House Sparrow. We are sometimes viewed as a pest but are widely celebrated in oriental forms of art.

Jim Henderson

**Classified Advertising 25 words 3€ / Colour Classified 5€**

### **Classified Index**

**Architectural Services 46**

**Art & Crafts 11**

**Animal Welfare 37**

**Antiques & Second**

**Hand 9**

**Bed & Breakfast 41**

**Building & Property**

**Services 41-45 & 51**

**Car & Garage Services 48**

**Carpets 40**

**Chimney Sweeping 42**

**Cleaning 40**

**Fencing & Gates 51**

**Food & Drink 6-7**

**Fuel 39**

**Gardening 38-39 & 51**

**Garden Machinery 48**

**Health 37**

**Help & Advice 10**

**Office Supplies 40**

**Photography 7**

**Property 49-50**

**Removals 46 & 49**

**Satellites 37 & 47**

**Technology 40**

**Tree Surgery 38**

## **Animals**

See **ANIMAL WELFARE** p.37

**For Sale: Pups, German Shepherd;** male, 250€, female, 300€. Available at Gourin. Tel. in the evening 07 89 83 96 32 or 0032 46702 2562

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**HOUSE / PET SITTER** Very reliable, trustworthy, animal loving house sitter (cats, chickens, dogs, goats, horses, sheep). Very reasonable rates. Full references. SIRET registered. brittanyhousesitting@gmail.com (07 51 68 87 08).

**Tom and Jeb**, 18 month old Cairn Terrier brothers looking for their forever home. They have been left in kennels as their owner is poorly and can no longer care for them. They are very sociable, with fun

personalities and like to say hello to you. They come when called, are used to a leads. A secure garden would be needed for them until they learn boundaries. They are chipped and with up to date vaccinations. Do you have room in your life for these two? Please contact Anna on 02 98 81 49 04. (see page 50)

## **B & B / Gîtes**

See **BED & BREAKFAST** p.41

**Ty Gwennili Gîte and Chambres d'hôtes** (Gîtes de France 2 epis) Relaxed, quiet country setting between Bourbriac and Callac, ideal for walkers, cyclists, househunters short or longer breaks. Tel: 02 96 45 73 46 www.brittanystopovers.eu email: kerlouet@gmx.fr

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## **Books / Cards**

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## **What's On in October**

pages 8 to 10

### **What's On in November and December?**

**For a free entry in the What's On column, send info to: whatson@thcbj.com**

## Building & Property Services

See **BUILDING & PROPERTY SERVICES** pp. 41-45, & 51

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See **HELP & ADVICE** p. 10

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See **GARDENING** pp. 38-39 & 51

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

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## Translation & Advice

See **HELP & ADVICE** page 10

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## Property *page 49*

## Colour Classified *page 50*

## Answers CBJ Quiz *page 14*

### I: General Knowledge & Current Affairs

- 1) Larry 2) Quartz; hertz 3) August 4) Bass
- 5) Kwasi Kwarteng 6) Octopuses 7) S
- 8) Scalextric 9) Avocado 10) Cardiff City

### II: French Language & Culture

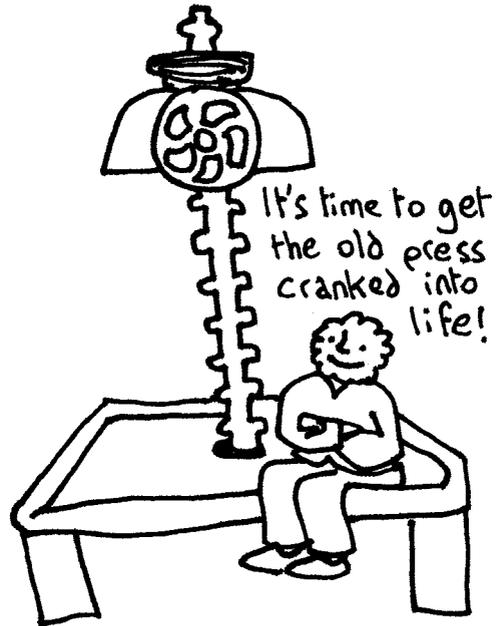
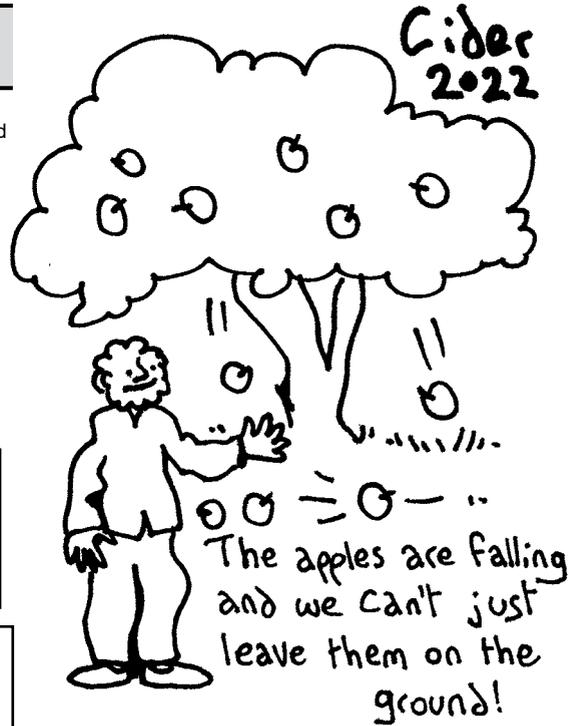
- 1) Unicorn 2) Médecins Sans Frontières
- 3) Calvados 4) Toulouse-Lautrec 5) Nicolas Sarkozy 6) Gironde 7) Z 8) Atletico Madrid
- 9) Îles Anglo-Normande 10) Peanut

### III: History & Geography

- 1) Dust storm ('dust wall' in Arabic)
- 2) Birmingham Small Arms 3) Hertfordshire
- 4) Sussex; Berkshire 5) Madeira 6) Henry VIII
- 7) Crystal Palace 8) Millennium Bridge
- 9) Olympic Games 10) Austria

### IV: Connections

- 1) Rose Bowl 2) Yorks. v Lanes. (Roses Match)
  - 3) Wars of the Roses 4) (David) Austin 5) Rose window 6) Rose's Lime Juice 7) Kate Bush
  - 8) Mary Rose 9) Rose Tremain 10) Thorn
- Connection: Rose



**Classified Adverts 3€ 25 words see page 35**

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Looking for a Home page 53

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More GARDENING  
 ads on page 51

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 page 16  
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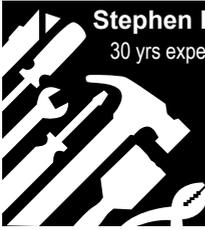
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*Watson European page 53*

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Solution Sept. Little Toughie  
see page 17

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## Solution Bridge Puzzle 45 page 4

### Count First then Play

You are South, playing in 4♠. West leads the K♥. What is your plan?

On the bidding, West is marked with most of the points, having opened 1NT vulnerable (16-18pts); declarer and dummy have 22pts in their two hands. West must, therefore, hold both K♠ and K♥.

Win the A♥ and play the Q♠. If West covers, draw the other trump and take the diamond finesse. If West fails to cover, take the diamond finesse, then cash the A♠. Now cash the A♥, and exit with the J♥.

This places West in the awkward position of having to concede a club, or give a ruff and discard.

♠ A 8 6 3  
♥ 9 4  
♦ A Q  
♣ 9 7 5 4 2

♠ K 5  
♥ K Q 10 6  
♦ K 8 7 6  
♣ A Q 8

	N		♠ 2
W		E	♥ 8 7 5 3 2
			♦ 10 9 5 3 2
S			♣ J 10

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## *Tim the Gardener*

*continued from page 21*

### **Eau de Vie / Calvados / Lambig**

Unlike Calvados, a similar drink that comes from Normandy, Breton lambig is not a particularly well known spirit. This gives an insight into the history of Breton farming, and the Breton pre-industrial economy. Up until the second world war, every hamlet in Brittany had its own cider-making equipment, and its own cider trees. Cider was produced for local consumption; the surplus was distilled to make an apple brandy, lambig, but very little of this product found its way onto the open market. At that time, the emphasis of Breton farming was on self-sufficiency, and the aim was for as many people as possible to have a farm of their own, and to get as good a living from it as they possibly could. This is quite different from the remnant of the feudal model, which has survived in England, and in Normandy, of land ownership being concentrated in a few hands, and ordinary people having a subordinate status of farm worker, rather than farmer, which led to as much produce as possible being sold off the farm for profit.

### **Woodland Management**

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*continued on page 50*

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## Tim the Gardener

*continued from page 48*

In the past, when woods and hedgerows were managed according to a system that had been worked out in the long-forgotten past, this harvest was more-or-less assured, and was not subject to the vicissitudes of the weather from one year to the next.

There are arguments to be made in favour of modern forms of energy – petrol for cars and aeroplanes, electricity for all manner of things, etc. – but no sound argument has ever been made as to why it was in anyone's interest to give up their personal fuel sovereignty, which came with being in proud possession of a well-managed piece of Breton farmland.



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