

Central Brittany

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Journal

September
2005

1€

ISSUE 15

A black and white photograph of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, there is dense, low-lying vegetation, possibly coastal shrubs or grasses. In the background, several large, dark, rounded rocks are scattered across a grassy slope. The sky is light and clear.

**Brittany:
a Walker's
Paradise**

2 Recipe

Pickled Onions

It is quite easy to pickle your own onions - and highly rewarding, for they will be far more delicious than any that you can buy in a shop. Shallots can be pickled in the same way, as can garlic - but garlic will need to be left to stand for twice as long as onions before being eaten.

Ingredients:

- 10 oz (275 g) pickling onions, small regular onions or shallots
- ½ pint (250 ml) water
- ½ pint (250 ml) cider vinegar
- ½ tablespoon mustard powder
- 2 oz (50 g) sugar
- ½ tablespoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Method:

1. Peel the onions and place them in a bowl with the water and two teaspoons of salt (*see note*).
2. Leave them covered overnight.
3. Put two medium-sized glass jars and their lids (the lids being separate from the jars) in a pan of water and heat gently until the water is boiling. Boil gently for 5 minutes. Take the jars out of the pan, and stand them upside down on a tea towel. This procedure sterilises the jars.
4. Drain the onions and put them in the sterilised jars.
5. Measure out the vinegar and stir in the mustard, sugar, salt and pepper. Continue to stir until the sugar has dissolved.
6. Pour the vinegar mixture over the onions, filling both jars. Leave a quarter inch gap at the top. If you don't have quite enough mixture you can top it up with a little extra cider vinegar.
7. Screw the lids on tightly and shake the jars well.
8. Keep the jars in the fridge for a month; they will benefit from being shaken every few days.

Note: Use a glass or earthenware bowl so that it doesn't absorb the smell of the onions.



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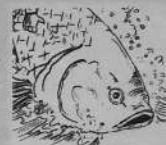


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Central Brittany Journal

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English Language Publications Booming in Brittany



Morgane Barbier, Editor of Morgan Mag

Two new English-language magazines are appearing on the shelves of shops and newsagents in Brittany this month.

Morgane Barbier has launched a bi-lingual (English/French), quarterly magazine, Morgan Mag, which focuses on building understanding between the English and French-speaking sections of society. For the past year Morgane has been helping English speakers to settle in to life in Brittany through her business 'Brittany Easy', which is based near Guémené, and which will be the subject of a TV documentary on France 3 next Spring. Brit Mag is being produced by a team in the Vannes area but will cover the whole of Brittany; it aims to explain the French administrative system as well as including everything that one would normally expect from a glossy magazine. The first issue should be out at the end of August, and the magazine will be bi-monthly.

Planning Permission

The planning department in Finistère has added English-language and German-language versions to its websites.

Under the heading "You want to build and renovate in France: the procedures you need to follow" (and Sie möchten bauen und renovieren in Frankreich; Ihre Vorgehensweise) there is a section that aims to explain local planning regulations to people from abroad who buy property in the department.

<http://www.finistere.equipement.gouv.fr>

Rita Boulton's Octopus's Garden



Rita Boulton has converted one of the barns at 'Le Chêne' into a tea shop decorated in an underwater theme (to the surprise of some St. Thuriau residents). Customers can now enjoy a cup of tea and a snack after browsing through the antiques and second-hand items displayed in the surrounding buildings.

(for directions see ad page 7)

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Craft Workshops

Le Chat qui Lit

Jane Mickelborough is holding a series of craft workshops at 'Le Chat qui Lit', Kergist Moélou, on Thursday afternoons & evenings. Subjects covered include **chair caning, woodcarving, leatherwork** (how to dye, stamp, fold, plait, carve, mould, stitch and lace vegetable-tanned leather), and **repoussé pewterwork**.

All tools are provided and materials are available. The workshops can be joined at any time. You can try a variety of crafts or concentrate on just one.

Jane aims to make the sessions small and informal, fun as well as practical.

From: Thursday, October 6th 2005
30€ for 5 sessions, plus all materials

Contact: Jane Mickelborough
0296 36 59 00 www.chatquilitt.com

Creative Writing Course

Penny Allen and Wendy Mewes are organising Central Brittany's first course in creative writing in the English language. Penny is the author of 'The Face of the Deep' and Wendy the co-founder of Red Dog Books. Both have wide teaching experience.

The course will be held at Bulat Pestivien. For more information call Penny (02 96 45 79 36) or Wendy (02 98 24 15 19).

Embroidery Group



In February of this year, four English-speaking embroiderers met up to see if a group could be formed for mutual encouragement, group buying, socializing and learning new techniques. From there, the group has grown to approximately sixteen members who meet monthly in members' homes and share experience, skills, enthusiasms and a tasty lunch. Every other month we have a short workshop on a technique or new material, and on the months in between there is a set project to tackle, in order to promote the idea of designing for oneself.

Everyone works at their own pace and nothing is compulsory. We are a very relaxed group, but enjoy the inspiration we find in seeing how each person approaches a project entirely individually.

In this first year we have visited exhibitions, bought materials as a group from the UK, and started a joint quilting project to commemorate the life of an excellent embroiderer and stitcher who sadly died early this year. We have had short workshops on bouts quilting, and textural stitches and worked on three different set projects. Re-starting in mid September, we will continue in the same vein and hope to find a venue for a group exhibition.

Anyone interested should contact Shirley McCann on 02 97 51 42 54 or e-mail at coldharbour@wanadoo.fr.

Christmas Craft Fair

Sunday 27th November 2005

This year the Christmas craft fair will take place in the Salle des Fêtes, Klegereg. It is being organised by Belinda Owens and Sarah Farrell. Anyone interested in booking a stall at this year's event should contact Belinda or Sarah as soon as possible:

Belinda: 06 08 72 12 53 Sarah 02 97 38 10 03

Salle des Fêtes, Klegereg (Clégürec), site of this year's Christmas Fair



Tea Shop REVIEW

Lannion



This teasop is in the town square in Lannion, facing the famous medieval buildings. It has a good-sized tearoom and sells a wide range of cakes. Its chocolates and pâtes de fruit are particularly delicious, and the Florentines are highly recommended. Traditional Breton cakes such as Kouign Amann (a cake made from sweet, flaky pastry) and Far Breton (a rich cake containing prunes) are also on sale.

Pâtisserie/Salon de Thé 12 place Général Leclerc, Lannion 02 96 37 04 99

You Can Get That in France



Over the years, one of the greatest sources of annoyance for long-term residents of France has been the phrase 'you can't get that in France' with which they have been greeted when looking for items that are readily available in other countries.

A new breed of retailer seem to be making this a thing of the past. Sarah Farrell (pictured above in the Spice Shop, Klegereg) orders spices direct from London and is able to supply any spice used in Asian cuisine at a reasonable price. In the same vein, Peter Commandeur of Jardinerie Hollandaise, Ste Brigitte, makes regular trips to the Netherlands where he is able to locate almost any known garden plant.



I spy in September: a Baby Salamander
The tadpoles of salamanders can be found in ponds at this time of year. They are easy to recognise as the characteristic salamander markings are visible even at this early stage.

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Editorial

No doubt like many readers of the CBJ, I have spent much of the past month gathering in produce from the garden and the surrounding hedgerows.

I have been struck by how very different my actual experience of tending a garden has been to my previous ideas about Nature.

Growing up in a city, I suppose that I was subconsciously led to believe that there is something hostile about the natural world, and that it is only thanks to modern innovations that we do not all starve - but this is not really how it is in the garden: one has to do only a small amount of work and the garden rewards you with barrowloads of vegetables, fruits, nuts, honey, herbs, and whatever else you have chosen to grow. With such generosity on the part of Nature it is difficult to understand exactly who or what has created all the problems that we encounter in our daily lives.

This month's Journal is fuller than ever, in fact, it is becoming difficult to squeeze everything in - which is why this month the classified adverts start on page 17, letters on page 11, and the list of new advertisers on page 31.

It is no longer a simple matter to add extra pages but our printer has advised us that his presses can accommodate a slightly larger size of paper for little extra cost, so the October issue may be about 1cm bigger in each direction. So far, we are still managing to hold the line on the 16 cover price.

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8 Today in Bourbriac

Today Programme in Bourbriac

An estimated six million listeners may have heard the BBC current affairs "Today" programme on Saturday July 29th when it broadcast from Bourbriac. Nobody knows how many of these listeners were in Brittany. It had taken the best part of a day to turn the salle at the town's Mairie into a radio studio with seating for an audience of seventy.

Only some fifty interested people turned out to watch. This may be a reflection on the number of British residents who listen to the programme, or it may indicate a wider apathy. More likely, the limited support owed more to the early start. Everyone was obliged to be in their seats by 7:30 as the programme was due to transmit at 8:00 (7:00 in the UK).

Whilst the technical side seemed to be unobtrusive, since there were no glitches, it is amazing to consider that the transmission was being heard by people all over Europe, and they may not have realised that there were two studios involved and they are hundreds of miles apart.

Carolyn Quin and her co-presenters gave us a short and funny warm-up. From our vantage point we could see John Humphreys in the London studio, displayed on a huge TV screen. Until two minutes before transmission that studio had been empty! When he did turn up, and after the initial exchanges, the venerable Humphreys began reading the newspapers. The first time that he spoke without moving his lips was a real shock until one realised that some of the programme is pre-recorded and they don't always tell the listener that this is "one we recorded earlier."

One's fascination with the expertise displayed was lost on some of the audience. An early leaver was heard to mutter "It's like watching paint dry." What did they expect? It is a radio programme but not "I'm sorry I haven't a Clue!"

So why Bourbriac? With the best will in the world, this is hardly the centre of the Universe. It's all to do with the bad press that this town has received at the hands of British tabloids when reporting the activities of a very small, disaffected group of "Activists" who see the presence of British people in Brittany as some kind of threat. In the overblown hype that passes for news reporting in some rags, Bourbriac became branded "The Village of Hate".

The BBC soon discovered that there was no

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Today in Bourbriac 9

story. Many local residents didn't even know about the demonstrations until they read about them in the Daily Mail. So "Today" did its best to bring a positive gloss to the presence of so many of their countrymen in this corner of France. Interviews with local traders, luminaries and the Maire suggest that most "local" people are quite sanguine about what is now called the "phenomenon" that has been the British influx into Central Brittany.

They found a poet whose work is being translated into Breton and a cricket team that has started up near Josselin. They don't have a proper pitch yet and, since there is only one other team in the region, the fixture list is a bit short. There was music and attempts to speak Breizhonig. The only jarring notes were the reference to the lack of Marmite in local shops and mention of Tony Blair, quickly passed over.

Two hours sped by and everyone left with a suitably smug feeling of a job well done. The real problems that afflict our region and the British part in them were not seriously heard. Maybe they'll just go away which, of course, is what the BBC did. By Monday morning Ms. Quin was back in London talking about the death of a foreign potentate but it is nice to be able to match a face with the voice.

Graham Smith

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Making a Living in France

Joe Laredo

Making a Living in France

Joe Laredo



From the same publishers as the popular 'Living and Working in France' by David Hampshire, this is as comprehensive a guide to the current employment rules in France as you are likely to find. For English-speakers it has the added advantage of being written in the English language. In the course of its 420 pages 'Making a Living in France' covers everything from self employment to creating a limited company, and from income tax to social security payments.

For the uninitiated it is a book to be treated with caution - it paints a picture of a bureaucracy that appears to make any form of legitimate employment impossible - but it repeatedly points out that there is hardly a single fact in relation to current employment regulations upon which everyone agrees.

Anyone who has experience of running a business in France will find this book full of information, invaluable when dealing with officials and advisors.

The last section contains 'case histories' which include two businesses familiar to CBJ readers

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Letters

UK National Call Rates for Calls to France

As the owner of a cottage near Gourin, I am a regular reader of the CBJ when we visit our cottage, which is about 3 or 4 times a year. I am also the MD of a telecoms company, and know that friends in UK object to making social calls to France as they say the call is 'expensive'.

To overcome this issue I have used my company's influence with a main UK carrier to give a service which I believe is unique, and enables anyone with a land line in France to receive calls that are dialled in the UK to a UK '0870 National Rate' number.

This works as follows:

- Anyone in the UK can dial the 0870 number that is issued for the customer, and the call is routed to any French land line.
- The caller in England pays the BT rate for a UK National Call (8p peak, 4p off-peak and 2p weekend inc. VAT)
- The customer in France receives the call on their land line number. There is no cost to receive the call.

The only cost to the customer in France is a one-off charge of £5 (7 euros) to set the number up initially. The customer in France does not need any UK address etc. This would be ideal for CBJ readers who live in France, let cottages in France and advertise in England, as they could show a UK number on their adverts or websites. It could also be used for relatives and friends to call.

To order one of these numbers, all that is required is a short note via e-mail () or fax (0044-1455-619338) giving your name and address, the telephone number the new 0870 number is to be 'pointed at', and how the 7 euro (£5) setting-up charge will be paid. The easiest method is by credit card.

If anyone would like to discuss this or needs further details they could call either myself or my colleague David Mitchell on 0044-1455-617666.

Regards
Martin Stephenson

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12 Letters

Everyone Welcome, Corlay

Have you ever wondered why there isn't much to do in Central Brittany outside of July and September? And what there is to do you find out about a week after it happened? Or did you think you would not be welcome if you did go to an event? Do you run a business and are frustrated at the lack of tourists out of season? Do you feel central Brittany has so much to offer for tourists year round? Are you organising an event that needs promoting? Maybe you would like to organise something but don't know where to start?

A group of friends in the Corlay area have been discussing these issues over the last few weeks and the result is a new association called Bienvenue à Tous - (Welcome to All). An association for all, marked by an early decision to offer membership at 1€ per annum. Membership that will enable you to take part in our aim to 'promote, enhance and create leisure activities for all within a radius of 10km of Corlay'.

In other words, make more people aware of the many activities that already exist here, encourage them to participate in these activities and to create new activities aimed at widening the appeal of the Corlay area. If you are interested in joining us we are holding a recruitment evening in Plussulien Salle des Fêtes on 20th September at 8pm, (there will be a bar!)

Our activities will focus on five areas - sport, food and drink, art, crafts, culture and music, children and nature. All interested parties are invited to come along and share ideas etc. Look forward to meeting you soon.

Simon Hayes

Bienvenue à Tous

University of Free Time

Châtelaudren

The UTL (Université du Temps Libre) at Châtelaudren Plougat (between Guingamp and St Brieuc) would like to form an Anglo/French conversation workshop between those folks who live near, and those of us who have been learning English between 3 and 5 years.

We also organize visits, and trips out and about, on a variety of themes – local history, nature walks, visits to local businesses etc. as well as fortnightly conferences.

Everything is included in the cost of a one-off yearly subscription.

For more information (in English), please telephone Mme Malledant at 1 p.m. or 8 p.m. on 02 96 74 23 55 or

mhpasquet@hotmail.com

Thank you. Mme Malledant

letters continued page 22

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Walking 13

Brittany, a Walker's Paradise

One of the most commonly-cited reasons for moving to Central Brittany is that the roads are quiet and that there is very little traffic. In many respects, the region is a paradise for walkers.

It has been suggested that almost all the ills of the modern world can be laid at the door of the motor car. Whether or not this is the case, it is certainly true that walking has advantages over all other modes

of transport - it is remarkably economical, it is good for the health, it allows you to cross almost any terrain, and it gets you to where you want to go at a sensible pace. Walking is the only mode of transport that





allows you to fully appreciate the scenery through which you are passing.

Added to all this, walking has a quality that has only recently come to be fully appreciated: it is the activity that civilises the world in which we live. This fact has now been acknowledged by police chiefs in the United States, who have realised that it is the absence of ordinary people walking around on the city streets that has led to them becoming dangerous places unfit for women and children, elderly people, or anyone who is not prepared to take their life in their hands.

An analogous process has taken place in the countryside: fifty years ago the Breton countryside would have been teeming with people - in many areas there was a hamlet every few hundred yards and the countryside was criss-crossed by paths that were in constant use.

Walking Brittany

Judy Smith

Newly republished by Red Dog Books

WALKING BRITTANY



'Walking Brittany' describes 28 circular walks complete with maps, directions, and information about where refreshment can be found along the route. Walks are graded for difficulty.

Accompanying notes provide information about local history, legends and sites of interest. Walks include well-known destinations such as the Pink Granite coast (pictured on this page and on the front cover) and also less-frequented areas that even people who have lived in Brittany for many years may not have had a chance to explore before. Another invaluable guide from Red Dog Books.

First published 2001 as *Holiday Walks in Brittany*.

Revised and Rewritten 2005

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Red Dog Books, 29410 Plouneour-Ménez
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Two factors have combined to empty the countryside of walkers - one is the advent of the motor car, and the other is the process of depopulation which has led to so many young people leaving the countryside for the big cities, most notably Paris.

An Inhospitable Countryside

Since fewer people have been walking in the countryside, it has inevitably become less hospitable. It is easy to blame the farmers for the destruction of the network of paths which previously went from village to village, but the truth is that people had stopped using them, and, in most cases, they had become overgrown and impassable, before landowners decided to amalgamate them into the neighbouring fields.

In the same way, the activities of hunters have got worse since there have been fewer walkers in the countryside - there was a time when hunters were part of the rural community and lived in harmony with their friends and neighbours. Now, however, they pose a threat to anyone who is out walking in the countryside during the winter months.

The Right to Roam

Walkers in Brittany are not, however, as badly off as people in some other countries - most notably England, where people do not have the right to roam freely over the countryside. In France, one can walk more or less wherever one wants. If one walks regularly

Common Sense Rules for Walkers

Don't Cross an Electric Fence When it is Switched On

Fields often interconnect and you may not be able to see the animals that are in them when you cross the fence. Fields may contain a bull or other temperamental animals which are best avoided.

Wear Something Bright

In winter it is advisable to wear bright or fluorescent clothing so that hunters can see you.

Use a Good Map

The 'Série bleue' maps (sold in Maisons de la Presse) have a scale of 1 cm to 250 m, which is sufficient for you to work out exactly where you are and how to get to where you are going.

Wear Sensible Shoes and Waterproof Clothing

If your walk is likely to take you off the road, it is advisable to wear boots of some sort, and on long walks it is always advisable to carry waterproof clothing, in view of the changeability of the weather.

Be Aware of Snakes.

Adders are quite common in most areas. They do not pose a risk if you wear stout shoes or boots and always keep an eye on where you are putting your feet, particularly when walking through long grass. Adders are only likely to bite if you tread on them.

Facing page: Pink granite rocks viewed from the coastal walk north of Perros Guirec.

Previous Page: A farm track close to Callac.

Cover: Gorse and heather growing beside the coastal path.

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16 Walking

from one place to another, one can establish a new path (or re-establish an old one) without causing any of one's neighbours to complain.

The Sunday Afternoon Walk

One tradition that has survived and which is worthy of being supported, is the Sunday afternoon walk. If one goes for a walk in the country (or in the outskirts of a town) one can get a feel for what the countryside was like when there were more people: cars tend to drive more slowly, one has a chance to meet one's neighbours, to exchange a greeting, to note the changing of the seasons, to pick up any litter that may have been dropped in the village, to see other people's gardens and to make oneself part of the community.

People tend to think that it is up to governments to solve the problems of the world - but, realistically, everyone knows that this is not going to happen. The solu-

tions are more likely to come from ordinary people doing simple things. Walking a little more and driving a little less may not seem to be a particularly revolutionary activity, but anything that improves the quality of daily life is a step in the right direction.

Tro Breizh

Up until the Revolution, Brittany's most famous walk was the Tro Breizh - a pilgrimage that took in the seven cathedrals of Brittany, and covered four hundred miles. Every Breton was urged to make it at least once in their lifetime as part of their religious commitment.

People have tried to follow the path of the Tro Breizh in recent times but it has disappeared in many places, being covered over by modern development.

Many of the sites and relics that pilgrims visited along the route have also now been lost.

Marked Footpaths

There are many recognised footpaths which provide an ideal way of getting to know the countryside. They are generally marked by red and white stripes of paint (white on red for the Grandes Randonnées (GR), yellow on red for regional walks, and yellow for short, circular walks), and are well used, making them fairly easy to follow. It is advisable to carry a good map when walking on a footpath that you haven't used before, in case you are in doubt about which way you are meant to go.

The most spectacular footpath in Brittany is undoubtedly the one that follows the coast. It can be picked up in almost any coastal car park, and a few minutes' walk is likely to lead to unforgettable scenery. Other paths are a little more difficult to find, but are clearly marked on the 'Série bleue' maps.

Da viz Gwengoulou e teu dour er poullou.

In September the water comes into the ponds.

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Classified Adverts

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Gite owners. Would you like to hold courses on making organic skin care and herbal remedies for your clients - shampoos, creams etc? For a brochure, please contact: annamariae.baker@free.fr or telephone 02 96 51 30 58

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continued page 37

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18 Count Conomor of Poher - Part 2

Part one of the story of Conomor of Poher described how he took control of much of Brittany during the century after the Romans departed, and how he acquired a reputation for tyranny and brutality. Part two of the story describes how the life of Conomor is related to that of the seven Breton saints who are regarded as the founding fathers of modern Brittany.

Count Conomor of Poher

Part 2: The Arrival of St Samson

In the fifth century BC there was a famous centre of learning in Wales called Llantwit-Major.

Many young men attended it, and they were taught by St Illtud, who was the founder of the school. Amongst these students was a young man called Samson. He was especially dear to Illtud because of his dedication and perseverance, and the other students respected and admired his wisdom and humility.

When Samson had completed his studies Illtud sent him to York to provide the ageing St Dubrice with assistance in the governing of the city. The old man soon passed away, and he named Samson as his successor.

For several years Samson lived in York, and became beloved of the people whom he protected. When plague broke out he did all he could to help the sufferers, but thousands died and many left the district. At last Samson's students grew afraid that he too would fall ill. They begged him to leave the country and finally St Samson agreed. He decided to sail to Brittany with a few of his companions.

They landed at the mouth of the river Guyoult and founded a retreat on an area of land given to them by a man whose wife and daughter Samson had healed.

Soon this retreat – the future city of Dol-de-Bretagne – became famous, and many people travelled great distances to meet St Samson. One day he was visited by a group of noblemen.

"Tell me," said Samson, "what has become of the King of this land?"

The noblemen looked grave and replied that he had been murdered by Count Conomor. His son, Prince Judwal, had escaped and was living in the court of Childbert, King of the Franks. Conomor had usurped the throne and now ruled over most of Brittany. Not long before, he had tried to kill his seventh wife, Lady Trifine, but she had been saved by St Gildas (who had been a fellow student of St Samson's at Llantwit-Major). After this, St Gildas had spent three years walking through Brittany, exhorting the people to rise up against Count Conomor. In 548 there had been a great gathering on the summit of the hill called Menez Bré and Conomor (who had refused to attend) was judged guilty of murder. Since then, the wise men and nobles had refused to support him or to acknowledge him as their ruler but Conomor openly mocked their decision and had become more tyrannical than ever.

When he heard this account, St Samson decided to travel to the court of King Childbert and to ask him for his aid in defeating Conomor, and placing Prince Judwal on the throne. He left St Thélo in charge of his retreat and set out for the town of Paris.

King Childbert greeted St Samson with every courtesy and promised to help him. However, Childbert was on good terms with Conomor and month after month passed away without these offers of help being fulfilled. The Prince was living two leagues outside Paris, and try as he might St Samson could not obtain an audience with him.

Count Conomor of Poher 19

Finally, Samson grew angry at this delay. He reproved Childbert, and a courtier, seeking to please the French king, decided to poison this troublesome suppliant. Samson took the poisoned drink but, sensing that something was amiss, cast it aside before it touched his lips.

Impressed by this act, Childbert summoned Judwal to the court and gathered together fifteen hundred men. He also gave Samson the islands that lay between Brittany and Britain (the Channel Islands). Samson and Prince Judwal returned to Brittany at the head of their troops and as soon as they arrived everyone rose up to assist them in overthrowing Conomor.

Soon Judwal had an army of sixty thousand men. Conomor assembled an army of fifty thousand Danes and Friesians and the two forces met near Menez Arez, four leagues from the town of Morlaix.

The battle lasted for three days. Many lives were lost on both sides but eventually the forces of Judwal gained the upper hand. Conomor was slain and the remainder of his army fled away.

St Samson had been watching the battle from the hillside and came to congratulate the young prince. He told him to reward the Franks who had assisted him and to thank King Childbert.

Judwal obeyed, and, once he had been crowned, visited the many wise men and women who had made their homes in his kingdom. All of them praised the wisdom and kindness of St Tugdual, St Malo, St Pol de Léon, St Briec, St Patern, St Corentin and, in particular, St Samson. Judwal made these seven the chief men in Brittany and gave them land on which to build their retreats and to create centres of learning.

This proved to be a wise decision, and as long as these Seven Saints, as they came to be called, held sway in Brittany the inhabitants enjoyed peace and prosperity.



20 What's On

What's On

September

Music sessions of Irish and Breton music every Wednesday evening at the Celtic Bar, Le Fournil, Bataval, Cleden Pôher from 9 p.m. onwards. Musicians welcome!

Thursday Sept. 1st - Thursday Sept. 15th
Carhaix Tourist Office. Exhibition of Abstract paintings by Justin Beale - local artist living in Plévin. Admission Free.

Fri. September 2nd - Sun. September 4th
Breton Music Championships at Gourin. Friday - concert Bombarde and organ, in the Church, 8.30 p.m. 7 euros; Saturday and Sunday - Château de Tronjoli, Gourin - from 10 a.m. - Qualifying rounds, dances, children's Breton dancing, Adult dance groups; Sunday evening Fest Noz. More information: Tourist office 02 97 23 66 33 / 02 97 23 55 81. Some events are free, some paying.

Tuesday September 6th
AIKB French courses for all levels start at the Pavillon de Rohan in Gouarec.
Also, AIKB (in association with the AREP) are now offering lessons all over Central West Brittany - Guéméné sur Scorff, Gourin, Cléguérec, Rostrenen, Mur de Bretagne & Corlay. More details: Liz 02 96 24 87 90 or email aikb@wanadoo.fr

Saturday September 10th
NEW VENUE Used Book/Bric-a-Brac sale. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Hotel Henry IV, Rostrenen (on the bypass). The biggest location yet. Stands 5 euros & classic 3-course meal 15 euros. Please book. Ray/Yvonne: 02 96 457 911

Monday September 12th
Bulat Pstivien traditional Breton horse fair. Thousands of people pass through the village on this day. Meals served at Chez Yvelynne Le Verge, (the bar opposite the church), whose family have served food on this day for the entire 250 years of its history.
Also a market, art exhibition and a fairground on the village green.

Saturday September 17th
Journées Nationales du Patrimoine (National Heritage Days), Plounevézel (near Carhaix).
To celebrate food in this region and elsewhere, an afternoon of tasting, sampling and eating. Demonstrations by local associations and artisans.
British stalls invited for the first time to this national event. Breton food, breadmaking workshop for children, crêpe workshop for the older people, and much more. In front of the Chapel St Idunet, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., in the open air.

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Sunday September 18th

Book Sale and coffee morning. Carolann's, Carnoët. (On left as you enter village.) Well marked. 10 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Free tables. Booking advisable. Friendly atmosphere. 02 96 21 54 62

Sunday September 18th

Treasure Hunt RDV 2.30pm Pavillon de Rohan, Gouarec. By popular demand. A hunt around the area, to discover places we never knew, enjoying the countryside as well as practising French with bilingual clues, having fun along the way. Prizes for the winners 10 euros per car. Open to all. 02 96 24 87 90

Tuesday September 20th

Salle de Fête, Plussulien, 8 p.m. Launch evening for Bienvenue à Tous, a new organisation for people in the Corlay area, whose aim is to promote the Corlay area, not just its existing facilities but also to create year-round activities for all. All ages and all interests welcome. Activities will include sport, food and drink, art, crafts, music, culture, children's activities and nature.

Friday September 23rd

The Tony Marshall-Philippe Briand Jazz quartet will play in the 15th century Manoir de Moëlien (in Plonevez-Porzay, quite close to Locronan, 16 km west of Quimper). Admission 12 €. The quartet consists of Tony Marshall - jazz guitarist; Philippe Briand (played with Stephan Grappelli & Dizzy Gillespie) - drums & vibraphone; Michel Goldberg (one of the finest saxophone players in France) - tenor sax; and Fred Guenier - bass. The quartet is hoping to establish itself as a first-class concert jazz group based in Brittany.

Tuesday September 27th

Visit 'La Ferme de Coatrennec'. RDV 2.30 p.m. outside the farm (farm is signposted from the N164, Rostrenen/Carhaix road). Cultivation of crops and raising of livestock is 100% organic; this 60 hectare farm has been developed specifically by and for the training and employment of people with difficulties. Free for AIKB Members. (Year membership 30 euros per household). Non members 5 euros.

Friday September 30th

New - in Corlay. Social Club. Bring along your favourite CDs. Wine, buffet provided. For details/book, tel: Margaret 02 96 29 43 06
Bar and entertainment provided.

September

Celtic Trips. Guy Keltic is organising walks around the Quimper & Brest area in which he explains about local history (in English). 10€.
02 98 04 05 43

What's on in your area? Entries included free of charge in the What's On section.
cbj222956@aol.com 02 96 21 52 21

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University of Free Time

Loudéac

I am a member of the Board of administrators of the U.T.L (Université du temps libre) du Pays de Loudéac. The aims of the UTL are to allow people with free time, whatever their age or experience, to extend their knowledge, to discover new activities, to participate in a range of interesting visits and excursions, and to meet people of different backgrounds and experiences. We offer different activities, which range from learning English (for French speakers) to History of Art, Computing, Philosophy, History of music, Pleasures of the table, Scrabble, and French for English speakers. The French lessons are given by bilingual teachers in Plémet, Collinée, Merdrignac and Loudéac.

I am the coordinator for those lessons. We will arrange a series of meetings in the different locations by the second week of September and the lessons could start around the last week of September, beginning of October for a minimum of 12 people in each group.

We usually have three levels: beginners, intermediary and advanced levels. All this depends on the number of people interested. We offer 25 courses of 2 hours each week. The students are requested to be members of the UTL, which gives them the opportunity of attending weekly conferences on very different subjects - this year we may have special conferences for the British residents on subjects which concern them directly.

Liliane Roger 02.96.28.06.96

Tomatoes & Hortensias

Having grown both Sun Gold and Cherry tomato plants from seed, can you throw any light on the problems we have had with both sets of plants? We grew them in seed compost, then planted out into open soil. At first there was plenty of fruit and the plants were fed with engrais de tomate. But the leaves curled up, the stems went black, as has most of the fruit. The roots seem healthy, and no sign of insects on the plants. We would very much like to know what it is. Also, can you advise on the best time to cut back hortensias (hydrangeas).

Many thanks, A. Cutting

The tomato problem sounds like blight (tomatoes are in the same family as potatoes). It can be lessened by preventing humidity building up round the plants - remove most of the leaves and only water via the roots.

Opinions vary about the cutting back of hortensias. Many people simply cut off the flower heads once the plant has finished flowering.

Any suggestions from readers on these points are most welcome.

Please send letters to: info@thebj.com or by post to, CBJ, BP4, 22160 Callac

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Breton Folk

Continuing our occasional series of extracts from Breton Folk an Artistic Tour in Brittany, published in 1880: Henry Blackburn describes his arrival in Guéméné-sur-Scorff, travelling from Le Faouët.

At Guéméné, a little town on the river Scorff, we are still in the interior of the country. It is in some ways more civilised than Le Faouët, but as far removed from railways, and with as little communication with the outside world.



The High Street, Guéméné, 1880

Let us first give our experiences of the principal inn, which is on the left, looking up the street in the sketch, where travellers are driven under an archway into a wide stable-yard, and enter the house by the kitchen. The beds are clean and comfortable enough, the fare is homely but plentiful and there is nothing to scare away the most fastidious. At the midday meal we have trout, caught a little way down the river Scorff, one or two dishes of meat, an omelette if desired, and, as usual, very good bread, butter, and cider. The dinner, or evening meal, is rather more elaborate, especially if a fresh traveller has come in. The view, across the table at breakfast time, of the presiding genius of the inn, the bottle

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The view, across the table at breakfast time, of the presiding genius of the inn, the bottle of cider, the large wineglass, and the half cut loaf, are all depicted exactly.

of cider, the large wineglass, and the half cut loaf, are all depicted exactly. The vacant chair is soon to be occupied by a commercial traveller, who has been busy all the morning in the town, doing more havoc in the one day that he devotes to Guéméné than we like to think of. He represents a cheap clothier's house at L'Orient, and has tempted many of the quiet inhabitants to change their simple stuffs and white caps for the more fashionable dresses and hats of the town. It should be remembered, however, that it is to this very *commis voyageur*, whom we

travellers are apt to treat with scant courtesy and whose proceedings we often regard with anything but pleasure, that we owe the comfort of these inns. The commercial traveller, coming from Vannes or L'Orient is the pioneer in such towns as Guéméné; he teaches the Breton innkeeper the mysteries of modern life. It is a heavy penalty to pay, from the artistic point of view, that he should bring his patterns and his sham jewellery, and leave so much of it behind in Guéméné. But our little waiting-maid is not yet converted to the policy of adopting modern ways. Her spotless white cap and sleeves, neat dress, and rows of pendent coins, are of a pattern as old and characteristic as the gables of the houses of Guéméné.

So bright and charming is our little maid this morning that it is difficult to believe that she came out of a

The streets of Guéméné are full of people on Sunday morning – men in short jackets, wide trousers, and black, broad-brimmed hats, old women in the comfortable *coiffe* sketched above, girls with white caps and stomachers, short dresses, and neat shoes.



carved wooden bedstead let into the wall of the kitchen (a bed of two stories, holding four!), that she does most of the work of the hotel, and helps in the stable. It is enough for us to record that travellers are well cared for; that Englishmen come here for the fishing, and sometimes stay for weeks, living at the rate of four or five francs a day, including everything.

The streets of Guéméné are full of people on Sunday morning – men in short jackets, wide trousers, and black, broad-brimmed hats, old women in the comfortable *coiffe* sketched opposite, girls with white caps and stomachers, short dresses, and neat shoes, all coming into the church and afterwards meeting in the street. These are principally country people but the inhabitant of Guéméné, the small *propriétaire* or *employé*, who lives in the town, often wears a semi-nautical attire, as sketched overleaf.

Five old women sit together in the road, their chairs drawn together for company, and to make an inclosure for two or three little tottering inhabitants of Guéméné, who at the age of three are dressed in the costume of their ancestors. Here the harmony of costume and architecture, both in form and colour, strikes the eye at once, and we want nothing to complete the picture. There is nothing, it seems, to add, nothing to leave out; let us stay for a month (we are inclined to say) and sketch in the high-street of Guéméné such figures as are standing talking together at an old-fashioned doorway, opposite to our inn. But the scene soon changes, and out of one of the old houses, dark in the interior, with the floor below the level of the street, comes a lady with a nurse and child; she has a light dress with a train, a hat with scarlet feathers, and a parasol. She is going for a promenade, and, as she passes down the street, is greeted by the old women thus: "See they carry their tails in their hands, these fine demoiselles!"



"See they carry their tails in their hands, these fine demoiselles!"

The Café du Nord is a favourite house of call, and thither the men resort to play at cards or billiards.



The Café du Nord is a favourite house of call, and thither the men resort to play at cards or billiards, whilst the women bring out their chairs and sit under the eaves, knitting, and gossiping, and watching the passers-by.

There is no traffic in the streets, and no fear of being disturbed. A newspaper may arrive in the evening to inform the inhabitants of the last market prices, or that a workman has fallen out of a window in Paris. A very few items of local intelligence suffice for Guéméné, which is too much occupied with its own interest to care for what the rest of the world calls news. The sun and moon rise for Guéméné alone; it is the centre of *their* wheel of life.

Breton Folk An Artistic Tour in Brittany by Henry Blackburn with a hundred and seventy illustrations by R. Caldecott. Published in London by Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, & Rivington. 1880
Translated into French and republished with original illustrations by Randolph Caldecott in 1994:
Keltia Graphic 29540 Spezed ISBN 2-906992-21-6

Bezit mut pa roet; Pa roer d'ach, komzet

Be silent when you give; When someone gives to you, speak.

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Armel the Soldier

Once upon a time there lived a brave soldier called Armel. He had journeyed through the world for six years, without meeting anyone who was his equal and at last he grew weary of wandering and decided to return home to his village.

One evening he came to a tumble-down cottage and saw an old woman at the door spinning. "Good evening, little mother," said Armel, bowing respectfully. "Would you be so kind as to tell me where I can find board and lodging for the night?"

"Gladly, my son," she said. "Take the road on your left that goes up the hill. When you come to the end you will see a castle. Crows and owls fly about its walls. If you are not afraid you may go in and you will find a good meal and soft beds. Take care not to sleep too soundly, however, for they say the castle is inhabited by unfriendly spirits. For many hundreds of years a young girl has been imprisoned there and although many brave men have tried to free her, all have failed."

"By my patron, Saint Armel," said Armel, "this is an adventure after my own heart. Let us hope that I will be more successful than my predecessors."

He wished the old woman farewell and set off for the castle. He entered the courtyard and rang the bell in the belfry, but no one appeared. Inside, every room was empty.

"No one seems to be awake here," said Armel. "I fear that there will be nothing to eat."

No sooner had he said these words but a table rose up from the floor covered with many dishes. Armel ate and drank his fill, and when he had finished, the table disappeared and a bed appeared in its place. Its sheets and pillows were soft and the coverlet was edged with lace.

"By my faith," said Armel, "this is better than the barracks. I shall sleep as well as the King of France tonight."

However, he had not been in bed a quarter of an hour when he saw a candle coming down the stairs carried by an invisible hand. Armel sat up in bed and cried out:

"Oho – I think you must be the master of this place."

"Who is there?" asked a soft voice.

"Come here, and you will find out."

"I cannot – I would frighten you."

"You will not frighten me," said Armel. "I have wandered through the world and met with many monsters, but I have never been afraid."

"That is well," said the voice, and a figure instantly appeared. It was so ugly that Armel's hair stood on end in spite of himself.

"There, I knew you would be frightened," said the figure. "You will never free me."

"I am not frightened," said Armel, "only surprised. What do you want me to do?"

"You must spend three nights in this castle. Each night you will be beaten, knocked about and ill treated. You must bear it all without saying a word. In the morning rub the ointment in this vase over yourself and you will be healed."

Armel promised to do all she said and soon fell into a deep sleep. At the stroke of midnight he awoke. There was no one to be seen, but angry voices were talking all around his bed. They asked him who he was and why he was there and told him to leave the castle, but he did not say a word. Next, they seized him with invisible hands and shook him until he felt as if every bone

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28 Breton Story: Armel the Soldier

in his body was broken. At last he turned to the wall and fell asleep.

Next morning the monstrous figure came to him again, but now it had the head of a beautiful maiden.

"Thank you," she said. "Thanks to you I am once more becoming myself. Still, the worst is yet to come. Remember, do not say anything, no matter what happens.

"I will not forget," said Armel.

That night the invisible spirits came again. This time the poor soldier was beaten, hung from the ceiling, and finally thrown, more dead than alive, onto his bed. He rubbed the ointment onto his body and immediately felt as well as ever. The next morning the figure came to him with the first ray of sunlight. She now had the form of a beautiful young woman down to the waist.

"The final test will be tonight," she said. "Only a little more courage, my friend, and we will each receive our reward."

"I will hold out to the last," said Armel. "On my faith, as a Breton."

He kept his word, even though he was sorely tried. The angry voices cried "Speak, speak!!" and rained down blows on his poor body; when they left him he had scarcely enough strength to rub the ointment onto himself.

However, his sufferings were now at an end. Next morning the maiden came to him, and she had regained her true form.

"How can I thank you?" she asked. "You have freed me from the spirits who have kept me prisoner for hundreds of years. I would like to repay you with my hand in marriage. I will return tonight and become your wife."

At midnight the maiden entered Armel's room. He was fast asleep, and even though she told him she would have to leave if he did not wake up, he could not hear her. At last she sat down and wrote him a note, then she wrapped it in a satin handkerchief and slipped it beneath his pillow. This done, she went away; unless the young soldier could find her in three days, she would have to become the wife of the Sun.

In the morning Armel awoke and discovered what had happened. Without further ado he took up his sword and set out. As he was walking beside a river he saw a great fish thrashing about in the water. Its tail was caught in a net and Armel took pity on it and set it free.

"Thank you friend, for saving me," said the fish. "What can I do for you in return?"

"I do not know," said Armel; "I am looking for my betrothed who has left me for the Sun's palace."

"I have never heard of the Sun's palace," said the fish. "Still, I can take you wherever you like on my back."

Armel went on his way and after a while he came to an old beggar woman kneeling beside the river. She was dying of thirst and was trying to take up water in a leaky clog.

"Oh, godmother," said Armel, "you will never get any water that way. Give me your clog."

He filled the holes with clay, took up some water, and gave it to the old woman.

"God reward you for your kindness, my son," said the old woman. "What can I do for you in return?"

"It is not easy," said Armel. "I am looking for my betrothed who is in the Sun's palace – but I do not know where that is."

"Perhaps I can help you. I can command every bird in Creation, and I am sure one of them will know. Let me summon them."

So saying, she drew forth a golden whistle and blew upon it. The most beautiful birds came from every direction and gathered in a circle about their queen. Unfortunately, none of them had

Breton Story: Armel the Soldier 29

heard of the palace.

Armel was about to wish the wise-woman farewell when a great raven flew up carrying a half-gnawed bone in its beak.

"Forgive me, Mistress," he said. "I was at the Sun's wedding preparations, and there was so much to eat that I forgot myself."

"You were at the Sun's palace?" cried Armel. "Could you show me the way?"

"Gladly – but it is two hundred leagues from here, over the forests and the oceans."

"Were it at the end of the world, it would be nothing to me!" said Armel. In great haste, he called the fish, mounted on its back, and, guided by the raven, set off over forests and oceans. He travelled very swiftly and soon came to the end of his journey. It was high time, for the wedding procession was already preparing to leave for the church.

"I will have to keep my eyes open and not lose my head," thought Armel.

He stood in the middle of the road and when the bride passed by he pulled out the handkerchief she had given him. She stopped and recognised him, but how was she to get away?

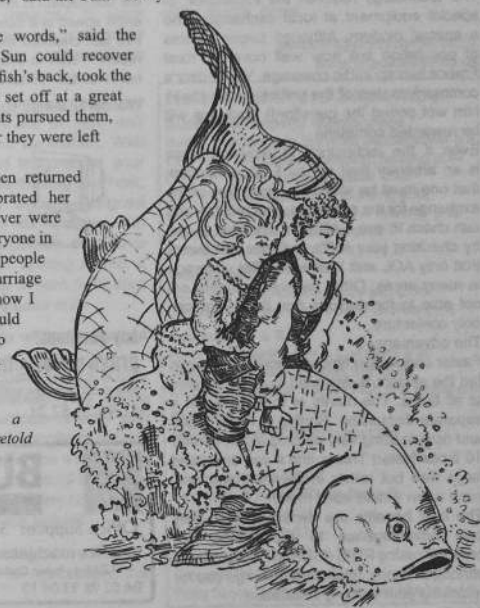
"I can see a messenger," she said. "I think he brings me news of my father. May I go to speak to him?"

"If you wish to, my love," said the Sun. "Today you may do anything."

"Thank you for those words," said the maiden, and before the Sun could recover himself she leapt onto the fish's back, took the arm of her betrothed and set off at a great speed. The Sun's attendants pursued them, but in a quarter of an hour they were left far behind.

Free at last, the maiden returned to her castle and celebrated her wedding with Armel. Never were such festivities seen – everyone in the land was invited, and people continued to talk of the marriage for many years. This is how I came to hear of it and could remember it to tell to you, in the hope that you would enjoy it.

Armel the Soldier is a traditional Breton story, retold by Bethan Lewis.



F. A. Q. 10



Q: "Why can't I get ADSL in my commune and what are the advantages if I could?"

A.: ADSL is another of those irritating computer acronyms. It's sometimes called Broadband but, either way, it is a telephone technology that offers faster connections and faster data transfer for those who want to connect to the Internet.

The technology requires the installation of special equipment at local exchanges and a special modem. Although larger centres of population are now well covered, rural France has sporadic coverage. Your Editor's commune is one of the unlucky ones ('twas him wot posed the question!). Patience will be rewarded sometime.

Even if the technology is provided there is an arbitrary limit set by France Telecom that one must be within six kilometres of the exchange for the system to work reliably. You can check to see if ADSL is available to you by checking your ISP's web site. Be aware that only AOL and Wanadoo offer coverage in many areas. Other service providers are not able to for reasons that this writer can only conjecture.

The advantages?

Faster connection times; typically 5 seconds but the system is designed to be connected at all times. The merits of this are worth a separate discussion. Surfing is much faster and downloading very much quicker; usually 10 times faster! This is fine if you download large files but rather irrelevant if you only send a few emails each month.

The cost benefits are debatable but really only advantageous to those who are presently using RNIS (ISDN to English ears), although France Telecom will charge you for removing your existing installation.

The real benefits are a more reliable connection and the ability to use services such as on-line telephone and video streaming that are difficult or impossible to use with 56k dial-up. Of course, one really must want this functionality to justify the extra monthly cost. Best of all, one can surf the WWW and still make and receive telephone calls. No more engaged signal!

A further point worth considering is that when changing to Broadband there are several speed options; typically 512kbs and 2mbs. The second is four times faster than the first and €10 a month more expensive with Wanadoo. Unless one is a high power user (or a snob) the extra cost cannot be justified. After all, even when one is surfing, the connection is idle most of the time so the extra speed is a dubious advantage.

I've just checked the medium term weather report – rain in Rostrenen but fine on the north coast. Time to return to the beach!

Wonderful things computers...



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Website Workshop

Last month we looked at image optimisation for your website, this month we shall be looking at hosting.

Q – What is hosting?

A – To access information on your website, it must be hosted on a computer that has a permanent connection to the Internet. This machine is called your 'host' or 'server'. Servers are different from home PCs because they are more powerful machines specifically designed to store and host websites. There are companies that specialise in hosting, but beware as charges can vary greatly.

When you purchase hosting you are in fact purchasing a share of hard disk space, CPU usage and bandwidth. With this in mind, you need to consider your forecasted usage when choosing your host; if you are having your website designed by a professional, they will help you with this decision. For companies that have a large requirement for hosting space, it is possible to purchase or rent dedicated servers to store their website only.

Q – So what can I do with my hosted website?

A – If you are a small business, e.g. a Gîte owner, you could establish your online presence and communicate directly with your customers online. Your gîte or holiday cottage would be there for the whole world to see, which means you could be selling beyond local boundaries every hour, every day – even when you are asleep!

Q – What other advantages are there?

A – Your website is an investment that

quickly pays for itself in comparison with other media, which means you no longer need to have large stocks of printed material. Your website is always up to date and you can also supply documents, information and photographs to others – secured by a password if required.

Q – Can I use email from my website?

A – Yes, of course. If you have a small business it will look more professional if you use an email address from your domain name (enquiries@yourcompany.com) rather than an Internet Service Provider (ISP) e.g. company@wanadoo.fr or company@aol.com. More details on this next month.

Next month: Email

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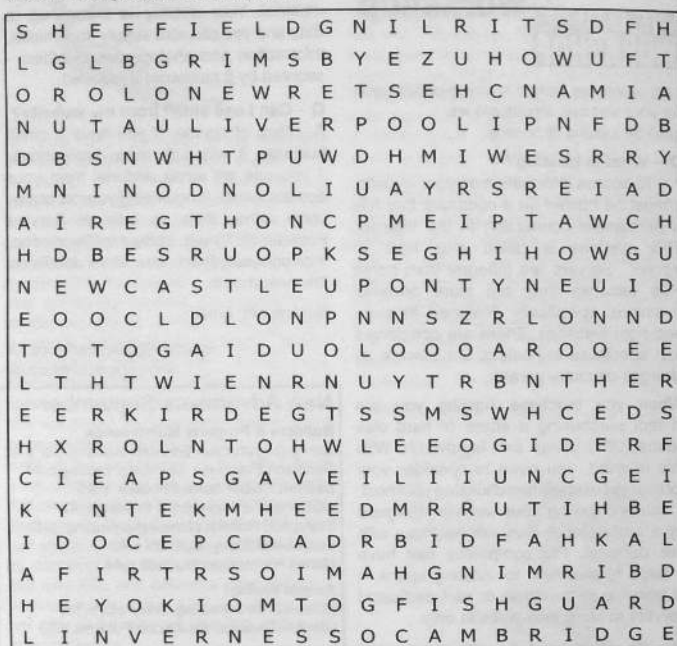
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32 Word Search

Word Search:

Find the **47 British towns** hidden in the grid below. Words can run forwards, backwards, up, down, and diagonally



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AYR	DUNDEE	LEEDS	PERTH
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Gardening 33

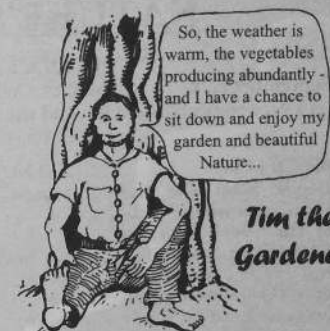
September in the Garden

September is usually one of the mildest and most pleasant times of year in Brittany - ideal for simply sitting back and enjoying the garden.

There are very few pressing jobs that simply have to be done - root crops can be left in the ground until November or December, and there is no particular need to tidy up and cut back summer growth ready for the winter. In fact, in many years there is a late burst of growth of trees, hedges, lawns and grassy areas in early autumn, particularly if there is a spell of warm wet weather.

It is a good idea to take some time to walk round the garden, to take stock of how things have gone this year, and to make plans for the next twelve months.

September is not normally recommended as a time for transplanting trees and shrubs, but in Central Brittany young plants (up to four or five years old) can have a better chance of survival if moved now rather



Tim the Gardener

than in the middle of winter: trees don't seem to go fully dormant here, and therefore benefit from being able to develop some root growth before the advent of the winter winds.

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NATURE'S BOUNTY

September Nut Harvest

September is the month of nuts. Collecting fresh nuts from the hedgerows is a very enjoyable activity, and the results, although not often very large, are always rewarding.

BEECH MAST:

Beech mast are the small triangular nuts of the beech tree; in September they fall in great quantities onto the ground, often leaving the spiny outer case on the tree. Each nut is surrounded by another, smaller triangular case, which must be opened before the nut is reached - often the case can be empty, yet one will soon learn how to tell the difference between 'plump' full cases, and thin, hollow ones. Beech trees do not have a good crop of nuts every year, so it is important to look for mast from several different trees.

HAZELNUTS:

In a good year, a great many hazelnuts can be collected from the hedgerows in Brittany; the nuts ripen in September, and are ready when they easily slip out of their green cases. Hazelnuts are a great favourite with insects and small animals and therefore need to be collected straight off the tree, rather than from the ground. The nuts, although slightly smaller, have a taste superior to those bought in the shops. After being picked they should be shelled immediately, then left to dry, before being stored.

WALNUTS:

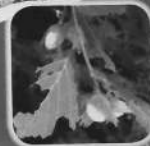
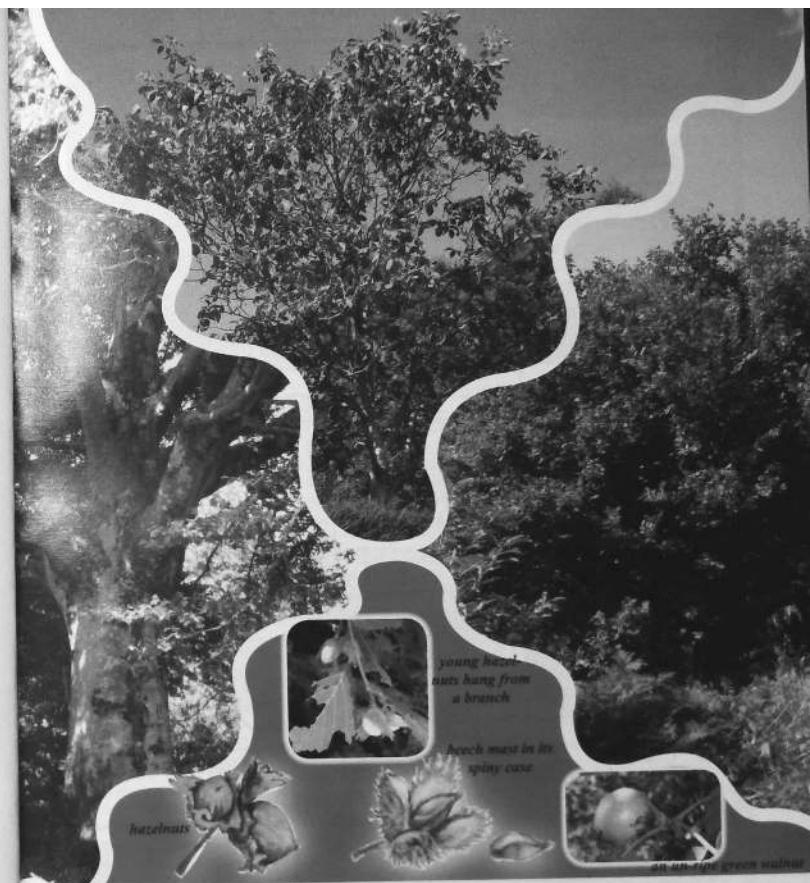
Although not exactly a hedgerow tree, walnuts grow very well in Brittany, and are very productive. The nuts are ripe when they fall off the tree, and the outer green fruit splits open. Walnuts can be stored in their shells; their taste greatly improves after a few weeks.

Facing page:

Top: a young walnut tree.

Right: a good-cropping hazel can be left un-coppiced.

Left: a massive beech tree like this one can be expected to produce thousands of nuts in a good season.



young hazel nuts hang from a branch

beech mast in its spiny case



an un-crop green walnut



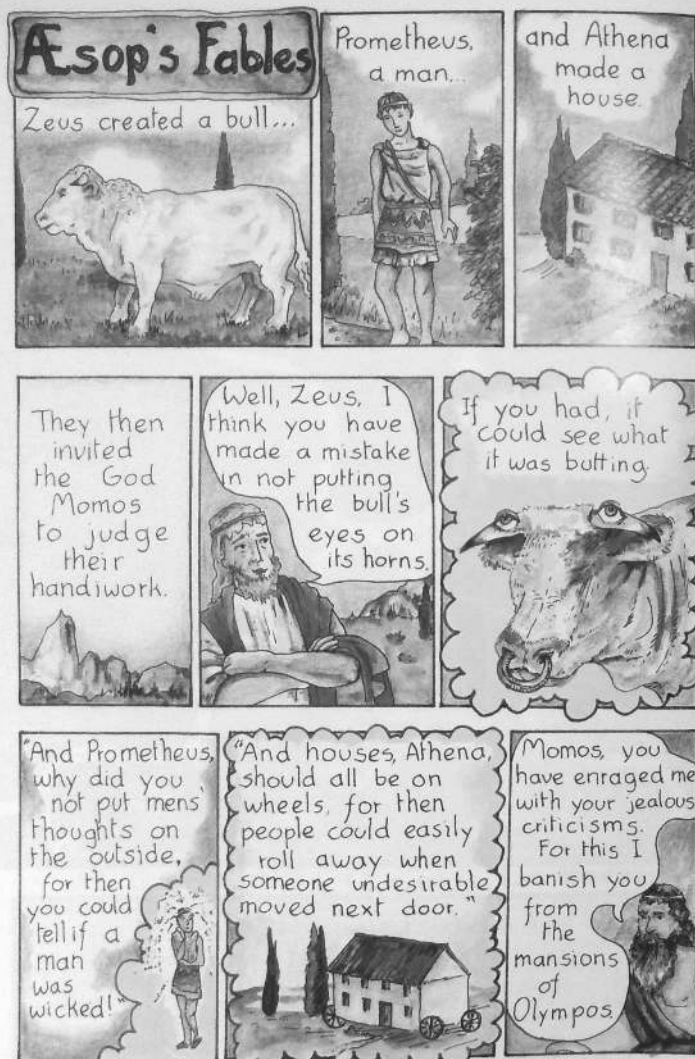
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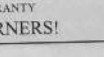
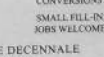
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Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)

French: *grenouille* Breton: *rann*



Anyone with a pond or well is sure to have frogs living in their garden, and will probably have seen the mass of frogspawn laid very early in the spring. The frog at this stage is just the tiniest black egg in a ball of jelly, but it will soon hatch and become a minute tadpole.



If the transformation from tadpole to frog was not so well known, it would hardly be credible. First the small black dot grows a tail, then gills, and after it has absorbed its surrounding jelly, it develops a mouth with which to nibble at the vegetation.

The next step is legs which bud out beside the tail, then lungs develop - at the same time as the gills are functioning. The gills turn into front legs, and the tail keeps growing. People who have studied tadpoles believe that the tail, once fully grown, is absorbed into the tadpole as nutriment, when the tadpole stops eating to allow the front of its body to transform again.



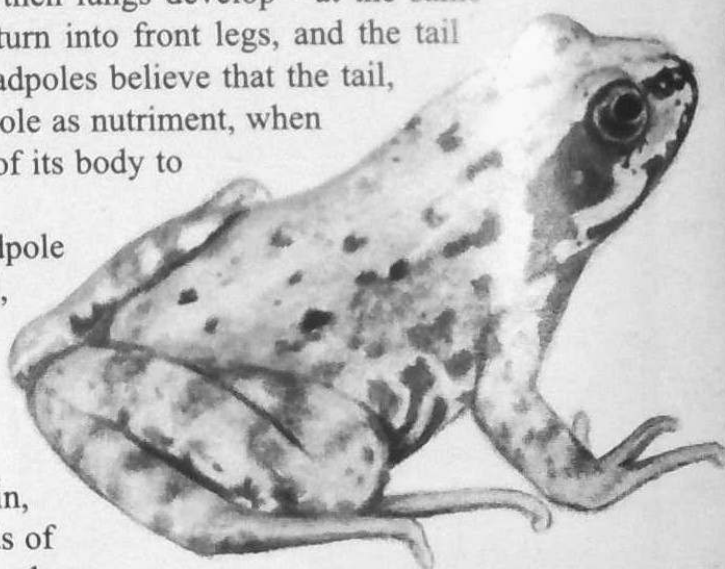
About two months after it hatches, the tadpole has become a tiny frog with a small tail, and is now able to crawl out of the water. So it lives, and grows, until it is a full-sized frog, hibernating each winter at the bottom

of a pond.

Although frogs are often disliked for their wet skin, they are useful to people, eating, as they do, hundreds of mosquitoes and other harmful insects; and it has long been considered good luck to come across one when out of doors. Nobody knows how long they live to; eight years



seems to be an average life span, but if they manage to survive the changes of weather and habitat, and all of their many predators, it is thought that they can live as long as forty years!



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