

Central Brittany

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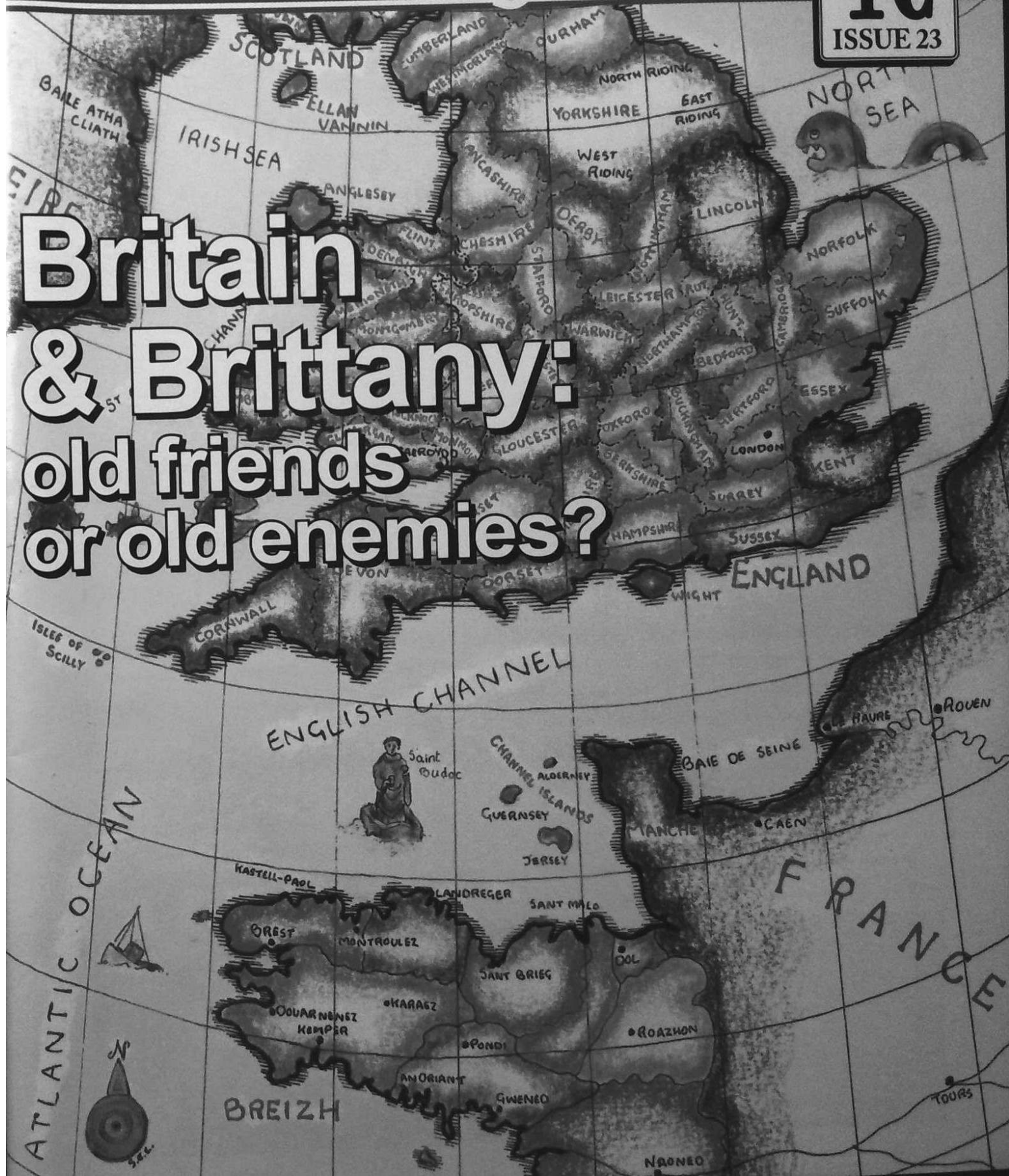
Journal

May 2006

1€

ISSUE 23

Britain & Brittany: old friends or old enemies?



2 Recipe: Date & Orange Flapjack

Date & Orange Flapjack

An easy recipe for flapjack, which children will also enjoy following.

Ingredients:

- 6oz (175 g) dried, stoned dates
- 5 tablespoons orange juice
- 6 oz (75 g) margarine
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup or molasses
- 12 oz (350 g) rolled oats



Method:

1. Chop up the dates into little pieces and put them into a small pan with the orange juice.
2. Place the pan over a low heat and stir frequently until the mixture is soft.
3. Place the margarine and syrup in a larger pan and heat gently, stirring occasionally, until the margarine has just melted.
4. Tip the date mixture into the pan of melted margarine and syrup and stir well. Add the rolled oats to the pan and stir until the mixture is well blended.
5. Lightly grease a baking tray and spread the flapjack mixture on it. Flatten it with a knife so that it is the same thickness all over.
6. Place the tray in the oven and cook at 190°C (Gas 5, 375°F) for about 12 minutes or until the flapjack looks golden brown at the edges and is starting to come away from the sides of the tin.
7. Remove the baking tray from the oven and stand it on a wire rack to cool. After about 5 minutes mark out squares using a blunt knife on the surface of the flapjack.
8. Leave to cool in tray, then cut up the squares and store them in an airtight tin. The flapjack should keep fresh for up to 2 weeks.

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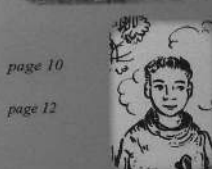
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Nature in Brittany

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Central Brittany Business Directory 2006

Next month's issue will include a free copy of the Central Brittany Business Directory (Normal price 2€)
 If you would like your business to be featured in the directory, please call
 Lin on 02 96 21 52 21

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4 Alpacas

Alpacas in Belle Isle en Terre

Anyone who has driven from Belle Isle en Terre to Plounevez Moëdec cannot help but have noticed a herd of alpacas beside the road. These belong to Linda Hitchcock who has started an alpaca stud in Brittany. Alpacas, which originally come from South America, are quite well suited to Breton conditions - their thick coats can cause them to overheat in more southerly areas of France. In the UK there has been a huge increase in interest in alpacas over the past few years. They have been found to provide country dwellers with a profitable way of using their land without having to become involved with the complex EU farming system. Demand for alpaca wool at present outstrips supply and animals that yield good-quality fibre are therefore able to command premium prices. Linda thinks that this interest will soon spread to France: much of the existing French stock of Alpacas is derived from animals that were kept in zoos, while the animals that Linda has imported from the UK are derived from Peruvian stock specifically selected for the quality of their fleeces. Added to these economic advantages, alpacas are particularly good-natured and easy to care for; they may therefore be the perfect solution for anyone who has some spare land and is looking for a way to make a little extra money. UK breeders have established a website which enables buyers to determine the prices and the pedigrees of animals being offered for sale - www.alpacaseller.co.uk, and there is now also a magazine dedicated to alpacas: Alpaca World Magazine, Vulscombe Farm, Cruwys Morchard, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 8NB, UK www.alpacaworldmagazine.com.

For more information, contact Linda on 02 96 38 73 36



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Acer thurstonianum 'Aureum'

Thatchers in Brittany 5

Business Focus

Thatching: Roofs for the future



Thatching a house in Vire, Normandy

Rod and Pam Miller have run a successful thatching business in Dorset since 1966 and have long been admirers of the relatively unspoilt countryside of Central Brittany, which they say reminds them of rural England half a century ago: 'before demand for mass housing urbanised villages and small towns, and before every household ran at least one vehicle and when traffic jams in lanes were caused by lumbering cattle, not cars.'

They bought a house on the outskirts of St. Gelven eighteen years ago, and time spent visiting Brittany revealed that a vast number of rural dwellings were originally thatched. Neglect and subsequent abandonment have meant that

continued page 14

Spring Fair

The Spring Fair held in Callac to celebrate two years of the Central Brittany Journal, received enthusiastic support from readers. The café (below) was a very popular feature, as were the many stalls featuring a variety of locally made products (below bottom). The winner of Haut des Arbres' 'guess the weight of the mushroom' competition was Jean Henrionett from Duault who guessed 8.435 kg, while the actual weight was a round 8.5 kg.



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Traditional Roses

Noëlle and Philippe Morinière moved from Strasbourg to Kerusten, Ploërdut (not far from Guéméné-sur-Scorff), 6 years ago, to fulfil their dream of living in the country and creating a beautiful garden.

Noëlle and Philippe spent several years restoring their Breton longère (pictured below), using natural and recycled materials wherever possible, and the couple are now free to devote their time to 4 hectares of gardens, and the propagation of traditional varieties of rose, which they offer for sale to the public.

They have a stock of 150 different varieties, including old favourites such as the 'City of York', a white climbing rose, and 'Honorine de Brabant', which is white with dark pink streaks. Visitors are welcome. Phone 02 97 51 67 47 Open weekends during May and June.

Directions: From the centre of Ploërdut go past the fire station, an English phone box, and the mairie. You come to a large sign giving directions to all the hamlets. Go straight on for 6 km. Turn for Kerusten, go another 1½ km. Turn right.



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Editorial

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Spring Fair such a success, by turning out on a wet April afternoon to come to the Salle des Fêtes in Callac. The occasion gave me a chance to meet readers and contributors, many of whom I had never met before. Not surprisingly, given the context of the event, the topic most often raised was whether, on balance, more English-speaking people were moving to the area or whether people were moving away. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that reports of a decline in the number of English-speaking people moving here are out of date, and that the past few months have seen a large increase in the number of visitors looking for property and a significant increase in the number of properties being sold. Local people who have been following the progress of the Journal with interest saw the Spring Fair as a sign that people were managing to settle into the area successfully - and welcomed the fact, as discussed in this month's main article!

At present we are working hard on a project to produce Central Brittany's first English-language business directory. We believe this to be a much-needed resource that will allow local businesses to reach English-speaking clients more effectively. To help launch the directory, the 2006 edition will include useful information, teashop reviews and a hotel and restaurant guide, and will be given away free with the next issue of the Journal. Anyone who would like their business to be included in the Directory should contact Lin as soon as possible (see ad page 3).

Something that I have particularly appreciated when putting together this issue of the Journal is seeing how many gardening-related businesses now advertise with us, and I hope that readers have a chance to enjoy all the garden open days and events that are taking place in May.

GL

Central Brittany Journal

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Advertising:

Phone Lin: 02 96 21 52 21

cbj22956@aol.com

Deadline for classified ads: 20th of the month.

8 News

New Recording Studio, Plussulien

Jo Goodyere has completed fitting-out a recording studio and song writing suit in Plussulien. The liveroom is 25 m² and the control room, which is equipped with all the necessary equipment and recording software, is 12m². The studio has a resident English-speaking sound engineer, and can be hired for 100€ for an eight hour day. More info: 02 96 24 09 75 laforgestudio@hotmail.com

Garden Open Days

Maël Carhaix
Sunday 14th May 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
As in previous years, the organisers are keen to welcome English-speaking gardeners and visitors to the open day of 'Les Jardins de Kervézennec', beside the lake in Maël Carhaix. Local growers will have plants for sale, there will be demonstrations of traditional crafts, and artists will be displaying their work. There will also be refreshments on sale. Entry 5€

Jardinerie Hollandaise, Ste. Brigitte

Peter and Marieke Commandeur will be holding their popular Spring open days on May 27th and 28th this year. Their Jardinerie Hollandaise is well signposted from the village (see ad page 6)

Jardin Japonais, Le Sourn

After several years of preparation Gary Lewis' 'Jardin Japonais' is now open for business. He stocks 120 different types of bamboo and has an extensive collection of Acers for sale. The garden is set in an area of unspoilt deciduous woodland. (See ad page 4)

Solar Power/Alternative Energy Sources

Two CBJ advertisers are now offering solar power and renewable energy heating systems - Martyn Parry (Page 45) and Paul Bridgen of TLC services (page 47). They are both able to supply and install the latest designs of solar panels which are reputed to be 80% efficient and able to heat domestic hot water even in wintertime. The CBJ hopes to include a feature on the subject of renewable energy later in the year. Any information about local initiatives relating to this important subject will be gratefully received: info@thebj.com.

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News 9

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The English Grocer & T-4-2

The old Sufemart in St.Jacut du Méné has now reopened under new management and with a new name: The English Grocer. It has been refurbished, restocked, and now also has a tea shop - T-4-2. The new owner - Patricia Bond - looks forward to welcoming back old customers and finding new ones. Tel: 06 17 93 85 51 Open Wed. - Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 2

Brittany Walks

Local walkers and ramblers have set up a new website www.brittanywalks.com, which is devoted to walking in Brittany. It includes articles, book reviews, information about walking groups and suggested walks, plus town trails and planning information for walking holidays. Its aim is to provide people with an opportunity to 'get to Brittany at a walking pace'. www.brittanywalks.com

Message board

The CBJ website has a new message board: send in information, questions, etc. and they will be posted to the message board. www.thebj.com

New Outlets

Quimper: Ar Bed Keltiek, 2 rue Roi Gradlon
Brest: Ar Bed Keltiek, 4 ave. Georges Clemenceau
Langourla: Auberge de la Vieille Tour
St. Jacut du Méné: The English Grocer

The Language of Shakespeare

"Condemn the fault and not the actor of it!"

Measure for Measure 2 ii

Letters

Veteran Car Rally: Huelgoat

I am writing to inform readers of an annual car rally that this year will take place on the 18th June. It is reserved for cars that are at least 20 yrs old, and takes place over 3 stages, all starting and finishing in Huelgoat. It is organised by Auto Rétro Sport d'Armorique. Registering for the rally costs less than 100€ and includes plates for the car, insurance, breakfast, a midday meal at the Hotel du Lac, and 'pot de remise des prix' at the end of the day and a keepsake for each team that takes part. We would very much like to invite British residents of Central Brittany to take part in this year's rally. For more information please contact: dthomas29660@yahoo.com Kenavo, Didier Thomas (See picture page 3)

Help for Alcohol Addiction

I would like to thank you for including our classified advertisement for Alcoholics Anonymous over the past year. We are a group of recovering alcoholics living in Brittany, who are seeking to improve and extend our help lines to individuals who suffer from drink problems. We are not 'do gooders', but people who have been restored to a 'normal' way of living with the help of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is the keystone of our recovery programme to pass on the message to suffering alcoholics that there is help and a recovery programme out there. We now have a network covering an area from St. Brieuc to Ploëmel. Thanks again for your help - without your support it would not have been possible. We have already saved someone from a spell in prison! Andy 02 97 73 94 99 or 06 32 29 60 01

Plants for Sale

We are a horticultural college situated in the commune of St. Jean Brevelay (56660) on the outskirts of the town, opposite to the primary school (route de Colpo). We are open from Monday to Friday from 9-12 & 2-5.30 and on Saturday afternoons from May. We produce a wide range of herbaceous plants, vegetable plants, shrubs, heathers, annuals, biennials, and flowering plants. We also sell compost, pots and hanging baskets. Our speciality is half-hardy flower plants (geraniums, diascia, nemesia etc.) and many plants that are often not easy to find in garden centres.

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We are always happy to welcome our 'cousins britanniques' as clients, not least because of their love of flowers. Reduced prices according to quantity purchased.
Kenavo
Philippe Mahé, Director of production

A Happy Dog Story

After reading Joan Minns' letter in the March issue of CBJ, I felt that I would like to respond with our own experiences.

Just over 3 months ago my husband found a lone dog wandering along a busy road leading to Quimper. He pulled over and, fearing for the dog's safety, got him to jump in the car. (Obviously no one had warned him not to accept lifts from strangers!)

The following day I went to our local Marie in Commana. I was very concerned that there may have been an anxious owner out there, keen to be re-united with their dog. Fortunately the Marie's response was in complete contrast to that which Joan Minns experienced. They did everything they could to assist us: they contacted neighbouring mairies, phoned the SPA, and asked us if we wanted to keep the dog if no owners came forward. Although neither myself nor my husband felt ready to own a dog, we couldn't bear the thought of him being sent off to the kennels, so we happily agreed to keep him.

The next step was to get the little fella scanned to see if he had a chip. This showed up negative. The assumption was that he had probably been abandoned. We were advised to get him vaccinated and fitted with a microchip. Apart from the health issues, he would then legally become ours. I was hesitant about rushing into doing this in case the owner came forth, so we waited. And waited. But no one came to claim him, so eventually we went through all the necessary procedures. The little fella is now officially ours, and, like Daisy, is very much loved and settled as part of our family.

I cannot adequately express our gratitude for the help and assistance we received. People in our commune are very taken by the little fella, who we have named Reglis. It seems sad that Joan Minns did not receive the same support and help.

May I also take this opportunity to say how much I enjoy the CBJ and really, what fantastic value for money. Razale Scott Olivier

Please send letters to:
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S. P. Fishlock p.45
RGS Heating & plumbing p.36
Roofing Specialist p.40
Bretagne Architectural Services p.39

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Animals: In the Dog House p.36

Helping Hands p.37

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European Satellite Installations p.44

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Domestic Help: Helping Hands p.34

St Ronan

An aotrou Ronan benniget
Anez Iverni oa ganet,
Bro-Saoz, en tu all d'ar mor glas,
Demeus a benntieien vras.

Our good Lord Ronan
In Ireland was born
In the land of the Saxons, beyond the blue sea
Born to the chiefs of a powerful line.

As the words of the old song tell us, St. Ronan was born in Ireland, to a family of powerful chieftains. He was a close friend of St. Patrick, and became well known for his wisdom and power of healing.

Around the year 500AD St Ronan set sail for Brittany. Unlike many of the other emigrants, he travelled alone, and landed near to Le Conquet, a town close to modern-day Brest. He built himself a hermitage, not far from the coast, but after a short time he travelled on to the beautiful Forest of Nevet. On the summit of one of the highest hills he built a second home, and began to lead a life of peaceful retirement. However, there were many peasants and villagers living in the valley beneath him, and one day St. Ronan's peace was disturbed: a wolf with a sheep between its jaws came running past his hut. St. Ronan contrived to set the sheep free and its owner was filled with gratitude. He thanked St. Ronan again and again, and the more they talked together, the more impressed the stranger was by St. Ronan's wisdom. Soon he became Ronan's friend and he visited him as often as possible.

Many other people started to come to hear Ronan speak, and to seek his advice, and he taught them many things. His fame even reached the ears of the king of the region, whose name was Gradlon, and he too came to visit St. Ronan.

The man whose sheep had been saved told his children about Ronan, and also his wife, whose name was Kéban. When she saw how dearly her family had all come to love the hermit, she became very jealous and decided to visit Ronan herself.

"Who are you?" she cried angrily. "Why have you come here to take away my husband and my children? You have bewitched them, and they do nothing but visit your hermitage. If you do not take heed of my words I will be revenged."

Sure enough the foolish woman began to spread ill rumours about St. Ronan, and seeing that no one believed her, she decided to travel to the court of King Gradlon.

"Sire," she cried, "I demand justice. My daughter has been killed by Ronan of the Sacred Forest."

Gradlon listened to her complaint and sent his soldiers to arrest Ronan and throw him into prison.

Now, the true facts of the case were known to St. Ronan, for he had discovered that to make her story more plausible, Kéban had hidden her daughter inside a wooden chest. In spite of this, the next day he was placed in the greatest danger, for without asking for his version of the story, King Gradlon decided to set two ferocious hounds upon him.

"If these dogs attack him, he is guilty," declared the King. "If they spare his life, he is innocent."

The two hounds were released and came rushing towards St. Ronan. He calmed them with a few gentle words and, to the amazement of all present, they began to lick his feet.

Gradlon was filled with wonder and asked Ronan to forgive him.

"What can I do for you, to atone for my mistake?" he asked.

"I ask for nothing Sire," said Ronan.

"This woman here shut up her own daughter in a chest, and if it is brought here I can show you the child myself and prove my innocence."

The chest was fetched, and opened up, but to everyone's horror, the poor child inside was to all appearances dead.

Reproaches were heaped on the unhappy mother, and people began to clamour for her death. However, St. Ronan took up the child, and after some time, the little girl began to show signs of life.

Gradlon was even more amazed, and once again pressed the hermit to ask for something.

"I want nothing Sire," repeated Ronan, "I only beg that you will spare the life of this woman."

Gradlon consented, and Kéban returned home. She still continued to bother the saint, however, and at last Ronan resolved to leave the forest of Nevet and find a new hermitage.

He walked towards Carhaix and then on towards the coast. In the bay of St. Briec, not far from Hillion, he built himself another hermitage, and his influence was soon felt in the surrounding area.

Soon he became as beloved in his new home as he had been in the forest of Nevet, and even after he passed away, he was spoken of with affection for many hundreds of years.



Every week St. Ronan would walk the eight mile tour of his land, visiting the people who inhabited it, and making sure that everything was in order.

Locronan

The word "loc" means hermitage, and the town of Locronan is close to the hermitage of St. Ronan, in the forest of Nevet. In later years it became famous for its weaving, but the story goes that it was Ronan himself who taught the skill to the local people. One day he saw a spider weaving its web, and inspired by its work, he copied it, and built himself a simple loom. Every day he would sit weaving, and soon he passed the skill on to the people who came to visit him.



Jacques Cambry

Travels in Brittany 1794

In 1794 a government official, Jacques Cambry, made a tour on horseback of the region of Finistère. The book he wrote describing his travels is one of the chief sources of information on life in Brittany two hundred years ago.

In this extract, Cambry describes a sport that, not long before, had been popular in Brittany.

"Soule" was formerly a common sport in these parts, and it is still practised in some districts of Brittany. The Lord, or chief worthy, of a village threw a ball full of bran into the middle of the crowd, which the men of different parishes would try to seize. He who succeeded in hiding it, and keeping it from the pursuit of

his assailants, until the hour of sunset, won the prize provided by the instigator of this dangerous celebration.

Sometimes men were seen to follow the "soule" into the sea, and to drown in pursuit of it. In my childhood even I saw a man break his leg jumping through a window into a basement to catch it: these sports encouraged strength and courage but, I must repeat, they were dangerous.

Thatching contd from page 5

few thatched roofs have survived and the rural crafts and traditional agricultural methods that maintained them have become a dying art.

Rod has now re-thatched three roofs in Brittany and one in Normandy, and, with forty years experience in the construction industry, sees great potential for the reintroduction of thatch to rural areas. When working here and in the UK he uses French reeds cut from water reed beds in the Camargue and in the Park de Brionne, and says that 'thatch is competitive in terms of price with other roofing materials and that the raw fibres of Water Reed complement the natural stone buildings of Brittany just as much as they do the "chocolate box" cottages of England.'

Water Reed is a natural, eco-friendly, building

material that is economical, reliable, and sustainable, and yields year in, year out. In the right conditions it can grow at a rate of four inches per day and is harvested throughout the winter until March. It is laid at a thickness of approximately fourteen inches and provides a truly warm, quiet, and insulated roof with a life expectancy of forty years.

Rod and Pam are now spending more of their time in France and would like to expand their thatching business here. They would be pleased to offer advice on renovation projects and to provide quotes for potential work. They can be contacted on their UK number 01929 405620

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Britain & Brittany: Old friends or old enemies?

Over the past few years, thousands of people from Britain have bought homes in Brittany. To some people this represents a new and perhaps worrying phenomenon, but when the broader sweep of history is taken into account, it can be seen as the latest chapter in a story that has been played out over many centuries.

The Age of the Megaliths

Contrary to the impression sometimes given in history books, our knowledge of the past is at best patchy, and more often than not non-existent. Thanks to archaeological research, it is now accepted that there were people living in Britain and Brittany over six thousand years ago, who, for reasons that we are not able to explain, both constructed dolmens, stone circles and standing stones. The uniformity of the style of these structures in Brittany, South West England, Wales, and Ireland, suggests that the peoples of these regions were at that time in regular, and perhaps friendly, contact with each other.

The Celts

Celtic people are thought to have settled in Western Europe around 4000 years ago. Like their predecessors, they left no written records: most of our knowledge about them comes from the necessarily biased accounts written by their Roman conquerors. However, both Roman chroniclers and the archaeological remains that have survived from that time, suggest that links between Britain and Brittany were very strong in the period leading up to the Roman invasion: one of the reasons cited by Julius Caesar for his expeditions to Britain was that he wished to deter the Britons from providing further aid to their allies on the mainland. In addition, surviving Celtic myths and stories imply that at one time the people of Britain, Ireland and Brittany were not only linked by trade but also by close family ties and political alliances.

Roman Occupation

For over four hundred years, both Britain and Brittany were reduced to the status of provinces of the Roman Empire. Brittany was part of Gaul, and appears to have been quite a prosperous part of the Empire, relatively free from barbarian incursions or from civil uprisings. Britain,



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on the other hand, never did particularly well under Roman administration: in particular, the countryside did not lend itself to farming techniques developed to suit a Mediterranean climate.

'Saxon Britain'

The Romans made an orderly retreat from their unprofitable British colony in an attempt to redefine the borders of the Empire within defensible limits. This opened the way for settlers from Saxony to move into Britain.

At one time, historians believed this migration to have taken the form of a bloody invasion, resulting in the Celtic inhabitants of the island being pushed to a few isolated pockets in the West. This view is inconsistent, however, with the known fact that the Saxons adopted the Celtic religion and revered the holy men of Britain as Saints, as well as allowing them to guide many of their affairs of state. It seems likely that, thanks to the improved farming techniques introduced by the Saxons, Britain was enjoying a time of unusual prosperity just at the time that the rest of Europe was being engulfed by war and chaos due to the final collapse of the Roman Empire.

The Breton Saints

Records suggest that when the Roman system of administration finally collapsed in Western Europe, Brittany was affected particularly badly. All forms of law and order seem to have disappeared and the country descended into anarchy. Many people fled eastward, seeking shelter in areas that had been settled by the Franks, while others hid in the woods and forests that still covered much of Central Brittany. Agricultural land around the coast, which had been farmed for centuries, was left untended and untilled.

This seems to have been the context that caused the 'Breton Saints' to cross over from Britain to Brittany: to help restore order and to give hope to the shattered population. It is unclear to what extent the holy men were accompanied by settlers from Britain, and to what extent they helped to build communities out of the people who were already here. But it is from this time that the current Breton language and Breton culture can be traced.

These events happened around fifteen hundred years ago, and they represent a point in history when the people of Britain and Brittany were living in closer harmony with each other than at any time since - up until the present day.

The blind St. Hervé with his guide,
Guich'haran



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Viking Invasion

Britain suffered much more severely than Brittany from Viking invasions. Vikings first made raids along the Eastern coasts of Britain, then formed settlements and eventually launched a full-scale invasion, establishing a kingdom which covered the North-Eastern part of the British Isles.

Other Nordic invaders founded a comparable colony in Normandy from which they pushed Eastward towards Paris and South and West towards Brittany. The Bretons were successful at resisting this Norman invasion, and retaining their independence.

The whole of England, however, eventually fell under Viking control and this undoubtedly caused a rift between the two countries.

The Norman Invasion of England

Even though Bretons and Normans had been opposed to each other for centuries, many young men from Brittany accompanied William the Conqueror on his invasion of Britain in 1066. No doubt they were able to justify their actions by the notion that William was at war, not with the Britons, but with their Nordic overlords.

In practice the Norman conquest of Britain proved to be the most brutal and repressive of all the invasions that the British Isles have suffered since Roman times: the entire system of administration, and the entire ruling class - Viking, Saxon, and Celt - were wiped out and England and Wales were divided out amongst William's companions. This resulted in several Breton families acquiring estates and titles in Britain.

The Middle Ages

William the Conqueror's descendants established their headquarters in Britain but were reluctant to relinquish their claims to large parts of what is now considered France - Normandy, Anjou, etc. This was the underlying problem that gave rise to the state of hostilities that existed between England and France throughout most of the Middle Ages. Although nominally independent, Brittany could not help but be caught up in these disputes: sometimes siding with England sometimes



Arthur de Richemont became duke of Brittany in 1457, at the age of 64 years old. Perhaps inspired by Arthurian legends, he formed a plan to invade Britain and reclaim it for the Breton people. He died before he could put it into action - his reign lasting only one year.

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with France - and as a consequence sometimes being invaded by French forces in punishment for supporting the English king, and sometimes being invaded by English forces as a reprisal for support given to the French king.

These conflicts appear to have been carried on almost exclusively by members of the aristocracy, and it seems possible that at the same time they were going on, reasonably friendly relations were being maintained between the ordinary peoples of Britain and Brittany. There seems to have been healthy trading between the two countries, and a reasonable amount of contact and cooperation between their fishing and trading fleets.

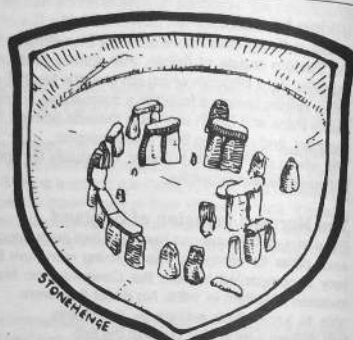
Something that is particularly interesting is that it is impossible for modern historians to determine to what extent people cooperated in the smuggling of goods back and forth between the two countries to avoid customs tariffs and restrictions - but smuggling in both Brittany and South West England was certainly extensive, and probably played a significant role in maintaining the prosperity of both regions.

1532: The Treaty of Union

Friendly relations between Britain and Brittany were put into reverse when France and Brittany became officially united in 1532. Breton institutions retained a large degree of autonomy, but even so, the natural friendship that existed between Bretons and Britons was often forced to give way to political manoeuvrings on a broader stage, as Britain and France vied with each other for power and influence in Europe and the wider world. For much of the sixteen and seventeen hundreds, Britain and France were at war with each other, and both governments did what they could to prevent friendly contact between the people of Brittany and their traditional friends in Britain.

Nineteenth Century

The combined events of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars served to reduce relations between Britain and Brittany to one of their lowest points ever. Bretons - some motivated by revolutionary zeal, and others by forced conscription - fought in Napoleon's armies across Europe and eventually found themselves confronting British forces in Spain and at Waterloo. The aftermath of the revolutionary turmoil was



STONEHENGE



CHOUAN



JULIUS CAESAR

particularly bad for Brittany; it finally lost the remnants of its autonomy and became fully amalgamated into France. Bretons found themselves to be second-class citizens in their own country.

Paradoxically, this contributed to an improvement of relations between Britain and Brittany. English visitors to Brittany over the course of the nineteenth century often proved more sympathetic to local customs and traditions than their French counterparts, and institutions such as the University of Wales built up a much more comprehensive archive of Breton material than any Universities in Brittany or France itself.

Twentieth Century

As travel became easier, traditional friendships - particularly between Brittany and South West England, Wales, and Ireland, continued to improve during the early part of the twentieth century, even though the governments of Paris and London were often in opposition to each other. Accounts of life in Brittany during the Second World War indicate that these friendships helped to provide hope to people living under German occupation.

Opposite:

Top: Stone henge. Similarities between megalithic remains in Brittany, England, Wales & Ireland point to them being culturally united prior to the dawn of recorded history.

Middle: The Breton resistance movement at the time of the French Revolution received active support from the UK.

Bottom: Julius Caesar, saw Britain and Brittany as part of the same civilisation, hence his invasion of Britain during his Gallic campaigns

Many people from Brittany sought refuge in Britain as the occupying German forces moved in, and the cooperation between the Resistance movement in Brittany, and British special forces, is well-documented.

Since the war, and with the creation of the European Union, relations between Britain and Brittany have continued to grow closer and more friendly; many Breton towns are twinned with towns in the UK, tourist links between the two countries are strong, and an ever-increasing number of visitors have been able to make the trip from Brittany to Britain, and vice versa.

The most recent development in this story has been brought about by the collapse of the rural economy of Central Brittany, and the relative rise in prosperity of the UK. This has resulted in the first significant migration between Britain and Brittany for almost fifteen hundred years. Thousands of people from Britain have moved to Central Brittany; with them they have brought a huge investment in the housing market, new skills, new enterprise, and new spending power.

The long-term history of Britain and Brittany would suggest that this is not something that should give cause for concern. It is true that over the course of the past thousand years, Britain and Brittany have been often technically at war with one another, but this has always been due to differences between the leaders of the two countries; the people themselves of Britain and Brittany always seem to have managed to remain the best of friends.

French Proverbs:

Qui craint de souffrir,
Souffre de la crainte.

He who fears to suffer,
Suffers from fear.

Plus fait douceur
que violence.

Gentleness does
more than violence.

What's On

Sundays from May to September

Sunday market at Bon Repos near Gouarec. Very popular market in beautiful surroundings - 10 am-1 pm. Lots of stalls. Refreshments available.

Wednesday May 3rd

Painters and sculptors open workshop at the Chateau de Kerinaouët (29910 Tregunc). For more information www.tarockbretagne.info and www.chateauubretagne.info

Sunday May 7th

Plant swap, book and bric-a-brac sale at Fleur de Bretagne, Camping Rostrenen, Kerandouaran (dir. D31 Silliac) Bring a plant! 10 a.m. start. Traditional roast Sunday lunch at 1 p.m. is 15€ including carafe of wine. Booking essential. Tel. Ray/Yvonne 02 96 45 79 11

Tuesday May 9th

Wildwalks organise a monthly programme of guided walks. Huelgoat. Meet 2.30 in the carpark by Mairie, and Cost 3€. For more information, please phone: Tel: 02 98 24 15 19

Friday May 12th

Palais de Congres, Pontivy. 7 p.m. Concert and meeting with the musicians - for parents and children. Wind quintet plays music from operas, symphonies and songs. 5€ adults/ free for under 12s. More information: 02 97 07 01 24

Sunday May 14th

Maël Carhaix. 13th Plant festival at Kervezennec water gardens. Exhibition and sale of rare and collectible plants. Beautiful surroundings. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday May 21st

New venue for Indoor car boot sale: Salle Polyvalente, Carnoët. 10 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. Free admission. To book a table (5€) phone 02 96 21 54 62
Light refreshments available.

Sunday May 21st

Horsereading - steeplechasing and trotting - at the Hippodrome de Penalan, Plounevél, Carhaix. 2 p.m. start.

May 20th /21st and May 27th/28th

Open days at the Kerusten gardens near Ploerdut, Croisty and Guemene sur Scorff. An association of collectors of old varieties of roses open their garden every weekend starting 20/21 May to end of June. 400 different varieties of roses. For more information, call Noelle or Philippe on 02 97 51 67 47. English spoken.

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SOIREE

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Friday 9th June 2006

Salle polyvalente, St Goazec (29)

Dinner and Knees-Up with the music of the popular country-rock band

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Menus:

Aperitifs and Nibbles

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Join us for a 'cultural exchange' with a difference and be sure to bring your French friends and neighbours!

Rendezvous des Celtes

Plussulien 02 96 24 04 26

Every Wednesday at 8pm

FREE! wine tasting and tapas, just a couple of wines available locally, some nibbles and good company.

Tuesday 9th May starts 7.30pm

Darts and Skittles, 5€ to include by popular request Annie's Steak Pie and Chips. Good social night out, no particular ability at playing required (or expected!) Booking advised, teams made up on the night 02 96 24 04 26

Tuesday 23rd May starts 8pm

Quiz Night & Annie's Steak Pie and Chips 5€. Very popular evening-early booking advised 02 96 24 04 26 (This months anagrams -win a bottle of Glenfiddich!)

CONCERT

"CHORALE FOLIE DOUCE"

Gospel / Jazz / 'West Side Story'

Sun. 14th May 5 p.m.

Basilique Notre Dame De Joie Pontivy

7€ / 3€ (reduced) Under 12s free

For a free entry in the What's On column, please send details of the event to info@theobj.com or by post to: Central Brittany Journal, BP4 22140 Colfer. Please include in the What's On section start from 12€ for more information contact Liz 02 96 21 32 21

Monday May 22nd

"Happy Hour" at the Opera de Rennes, place de la Centre, Rennes city centre. All seats 3€ 50. Songs from Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini and many more. 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. A nursery is available for the under 7s. 02 99 78 48 78 www.opera-rennes.fr

Thursday May 25th

Social evening at Carolann's, Carnoët. (On left as you enter village). Well marked. 7.30 p.m. All welcome. 02 96 21 54 62

Thursday May 25th - Sunday May 28th

18th festival of the popular clarinet at Glomel. Musicians from many countries meet and play music in and around Glomel village and the Korong. Many concerts - including free ones. More information: 02 96 29 69 26 or Rostrenen Tourist office: 02 96 29 02 72

Friday May 26th

Wildwalks: Bulat Pestival. Meet 2.30 by church. Cost 3€. For more information, please phone: Tel: 02 98 24 15 19

Sunday May 28th

Ragamuffins play Old Time Jazz at the Pub/Café La Brasserie, 2 place de la Mairie, Carhaix. 9 p.m. Entrance free.

Sunday May 28th

Aguided walk across the Mont Saint Michel Bay. Organised by AIKB in association with Euromayenne and Amicale Culturelle. The outing will start with a "Bring and Share" Picnic at Genets from 11.30am and will include a guided 13 km return walk to Mont St Michel and back with a one hour stop on the island. Cost is 7€ per person. Euromayenne is similar to AIKB and has been running for several years. For more details contact Liz. 02 96 24 87 90 or e-mail aikb@wanadoo.fr www.aikb.fr

Saturday June 3rd

Fun, games and traditional music, and a meal of pork and apples with a glass of cider at the gardens of the Foirail, Gouarec. 10€ per person. Bring a warm jumper, as the evenings can still be a little chilly by the canal in June. Tickets available in advance at the Pavillon de Rohan. Call Liz: 02 96 24 87 90. Open to all.

French Proverb:

Il faut vouloir vivre,
et savoir mourir.

You must want to live,
And know how to die.

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Bar & Campsite

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Quiz Nights 4th & 18th

Darts 15th

Darts 25th

Sunday Lunches: 15€ including wine (1 pm)

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Enthusiasts Pub evening 7.30 start

Friday 21st: Fish & Chip Night 5th & 15th (6€)

6.30 - 9 pm Booking advisable

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or ring 02 96 29 15 45 for details

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MAËL CARHAIX
SUNDAY MAY 14th
9 A.M. - 7 P.M.
ADMISSION 4 EUROS / UNDER 12s FREE




Sunday May 28th
Christ Church Brittany. 10.30 am Bonen
Church nr. Rostrenen
Holy Communion All Welcome
More info: Robln & Laura Hillman
02 97 51 74 26 kermoran@wanadoo.fr

F. A. Q. 19



Q.: "What's Phishing?"

A.: It is an attempt by someone to gain sensitive personal information which can then be used for dishonest purposes. For instance, someone asks for your internet banking details. Once they have them they can access your accounts and do just as they please with your money. "I wouldn't be that stupid!" I hear you say. No more would all the poor fools who have done precisely that. It isn't really fair to call them fools because they've been gulled by some very clever operators. These scams are sophisticated and well practised.

Although they have only recently become widespread the first recorded Phishing scam was done against AOL customers in 1996. They were sent emails purporting to come from AOL and asking victims to confirm their login details. Well, if your ISP asks you for information you give it don't you?

Over the years these criminals have become much more sophisticated. I regularly receive requests from eBay to visit their site and login to confirm something or other. In the email they helpfully include a link to the login page. This is a perfect facsimile of eBay's own site, but it's false. I've had similar requests from banks and other organizations, some of which I've never had any dealings with. These are obvious scams.

Most UK banks now have warning notices on their sites. Sadly they haven't learned from experience. My bank recently updated its website. It was long overdue and the new offering is a great improvement. However, the first time I visited I thought I'd been scammed. Gone was the familiar boring black on white, replaced with a trendy dove grey and calming blue. (And it actually works with Opera and Firefox) They'd failed to mention that they were introducing these changes. There's always a better way!

So, what can one do to avoid getting caught by these sorts of nasty intrusions? Simply never give out your personal details to anyone; and I mean ANYONE! Be suspicious of everyone (except me of course). Banks and other institutions do not ask for this information except when you log into their websites. So make sure you're at the right place. Do not click on "helpful" links but use your own bookmarked favourite places. If you're not sure, type in the correct address or do a search.

It's a good idea to change passwords regularly and do stop using the dog's name or mother's birthday. If you have a lot of different login/password combinations that are difficult to remember you will need a program for keeping passwords. There are several free "Passkeeper" programs available. That way you only have to remember one.

Before you protest that you don't have many different login/password combinations, think about it. Your ISP will need three for connection, email and web mail and one for managing your account. Then there's eBay and PayPal, your banks (my household uses four) and forums at websites like Anglinfo and Yahoo! Of course a smart person would use the same info for all of them.



Any questions?

graxwarrior@wanadoo.fr

or leave a message with the CBJ:

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Website Workshop

Digital Cameras - Part Two

Q - My camera is now correctly set up and I have taken some digital photos, how do I transfer them to my computer?

A - Most digital cameras have free software that you will find on the accompanying CD. With this you can copy pictures from your camera to your computer. You should read your manual as the instructions will be specifically for your camera and software as few manufacturers follow the same format - and if you have Windows XP, you can copy pictures to your computer without even having to use additional software. Simply plug your camera in and when XP asks you what you want to do, choose Transfer Images To Computer or Run Camera Wizard. This makes it much easier to transfer images.

Connecting your camera directly to the computer can be done by using a USB (Universal Serial Bus) cable - or, maybe your computer has a memory card reader already installed, which means you simply remove your memory card from the camera and plug it into the appropriate reader slot. Once your images are on your computer, you can erase them from your camera, freeing up the memory card so you can take more pictures. It's also easier to view your pictures on a larger screen and decide which ones are worth keeping rather than trying to second-guess their quality from the little LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) on the back of the camera.

Q - I would like to make sure my images are safe in case my computer crashes - what is the best way to do this?

A - These days, writeable CD and DVD discs are extremely cheap. If your images were, for example 500Kb each, you would be able to get around 1,400 images per 700Mb CD - and well over 10,000 on a 4.9Gb DVD! Some archivists are belt and braces merchants who make several CD and/or DVD copies for storage in several geographical locations in case of fire or some other disaster.

Q - OK, my images are now on the computer, how do I optimise them to get them on my web page?

A - Depending on its functionality, you may be able to do this automatically with your digital camera software but you might want more control than

the limited adjustments it offers. There are plenty of image editing software packages out there you can trial - or even get for free; www.download.com is just one of the many websites where you can legally download software for countless projects.

There are no hard and fast rules for image sizes as it depends on their location and purpose, but as a general rule of thumb an image that is 320x240 pixels is plenty large enough to provide a clear indication of its subject. If you have images that will benefit from being a larger size then you should perhaps think about having popup windows, i.e. have smaller 'thumbnail' images that can then be clicked on which then opens a popup window (or another web page) that will show a much larger version of the image. This then prevents the initial page from being too big which will make the page very slow to open. Save photographs as JPEGs rather than GIFs and refer to one of these earlier columns for help on quality levels, etc.

Q - I would like to print the image as well - how is that achieved?

A - In most cases you can still use the digital camera software to print out the images for you. If you check out the properties of each image before printing (usually in Tools, Properties), it will tell you what size the image will be when printed on paper. If this is not available to you then take a look at last month's column to give you an idea of the printed size from the original pixels.

Next month: Streaming

You can contact Malcolm at malcolm@practicalnet.com or on 02.96.26.04.83. Practical Net - Website Design, Hosting, Computer Repairs/Upgrades & Computer Coaching. www.PracticalNet.com

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Prince Pengar & the Genie

This traditional Breton story is a little different from others featured in the Journal as it tells of a place far removed from Brittany itself.

Once upon a time there was a king of Persia who had one son, called Prince Pengar. The old king died, and as Prince Pengar was still young, his mother ruled over the kingdom.

The young Prince was very kind-hearted and he gave a great deal away to the poor. Sometimes his mother reproved him for his generosity, but he always said:

"Oh Mother, why are you so uneasy? We are rich and will always have plenty."

However, the little prince was so generous that at last he gave away all they had, and he and his mother became very poor.

One night Prince Pengar was asleep, and he dreamt that a genie came to him. The genie told him to go to a certain place, to lift up a large stone that he would find there, and to dig up the treasure that lay beneath.

The next morning Prince Pengar ran to his mother, and told her what the genie had said.

"Unfortunately, it was only a dream, my son," said the Queen.

"Dream or not, I will do what the genie told me," said Prince Pengar. "Then we will be rich again, and can give our wealth away to the poor."

So the prince went with a party of men to the place described by the genie. They lifted the stone, and dug beneath it, but there was no treasure to be found. They returned home, weary and disappointed.

"We could not find the treasure," Pengar said to his mother.

"What did I tell you, my son?" said the Queen. "This is what happens to those who believe in dreams."

The next night the genie came to the prince again, and told him to go to a room in the palace which he had never entered. There he would find a great stone, beneath which was an immense store of treasure, which his father had hidden there.

The next morning Prince Pengar told his dream to his mother.

"It is just another dream, my poor child," said the Queen.

"All the same, I will do what it says," said Prince Pengar.

He went with a party of men to the room and lifted up the great stone. They dug beneath it and at last they uncovered a stone staircase, leading to a cavern beneath the palace. They went down into the cavern, and came to a room in which there stood eight beautiful marble

statues, on eight pedestals. Round about them were piles of gold, silver, diamonds, jewellery and ornaments.

There was also a ninth pedestal, but on this there was no statue. A little chest, with the key in the lock, stood beside the empty pedestal. Prince Pengar opened it and took out a letter. The letter told him that whoever could find the ninth statue, and place it on its pedestal would become the owner of all the treasure in the room, and would never want for anything so long as he lived. The letter also said that, first of all, he should go to a wise hermit who lived in the wood, and who would tell him what to do.

When the prince had read the letter, he went back to his mother and told her all he had seen.

"I know this hermit," she said. "He was a great friend of your father's. He is certainly very wise, but I do not think you should go to him. I do not quite trust him."

However, Prince Pengar was determined to visit the hermit, and he set out accompanied by one attendant.

They entered the forest, and soon came to the old man's hermitage. The hermit came out to see them, but he did not recognise the Prince.

"I am Prince Pengar," said the young man. "I am the son of the King of Persia, and I have heard that you used to be his friend and advisor."

"Indeed I was," said the hermit. "How can I help you?"

Prince Pengar told him about the genie and his dream, and the room full of treasure, and he explained that he could only claim it when he had found a statue to fill the ninth pedestal.

"Here is the letter I found in the little chest," he said. "It tells me to come to you, and ask your advice."

The hermit took the letter, and immediately saw that it was in the handwriting of his old friend, the Prince's father.

"Yes," he said, "I know what all this means. I will come with you to the genie, for only he can tell us how to find the ninth statue. I know him very



26 Breton Story: Prince Pengar & the Genie

well. We once had a battle of wits and skill together, and I won from him as much land in his kingdom as can be covered by the lid of a barrel. This is why I can enter his kingdom unharmed, I merely set down my barrel lid, and so long as I do not step off it I am quite safe. We will both stand upon it, and he will be forced to bring us the ninth statue, for this is another of the conditions he agreed to when I defeated him."

They set off together through the air, thanks to the magical powers of the hermit, and soon came to the edge of the genie's kingdom.

The hermit threw the barrel top onto the ground, and he and the Prince stepped onto it. Almost immediately the genie arrived, and invited them to come to his palace, where he could give them a proper welcome.

"Oh no," said the hermit. "We will not leave this circle, where, as you well know, we have every right to be, until you bring us the ninth statue, belonging to the ninth pedestal in the King of Persia's treasure room."

"With all my heart," said the genie, "but first you must find a maiden who has not only never done any wrong, but has never even thought of doing so."

"Where shall we find such a wonder?"

"Take this looking-glass," said the genie. "Give it to all the maidens in Persia, and if you find one whose breath does not tarnish the glass, bring her to me, and I will take care of the rest."

The hermit took the looking glass from the genie and they returned by the way they had come.

When he got home, Prince Pengar announced throughout the kingdom that he wished to marry, and that all the maidens were to come to the palace.

Soon a crowd of girls arrived, some rich, some poor, some ugly, some beautiful, for all were invited.

When they arrived, each maiden was told to look into the looking glass, and to breathe upon it.

No one, be they ever so beautiful or rich, could do so without tarnishing the glass, and Prince Pengar began to despair, for almost every maiden had been tested, and none had succeeded. At last someone told him of two sisters, who were living in great seclusion in a little village. They were young, and rich, and beautiful, and they had not, as yet, come to the palace.

Prince Pengar gave orders for them to be brought and they soon arrived at the court. The two sisters were certainly very beautiful, and they were also very shy, for they had never been into the world before.

First the elder sister was given the looking glass. She breathed upon it, and tarnished it ever so faintly, but much less so than the other girls. Next it was given to the younger sister. She also breathed upon it, but her breath did not leave the faintest mark.

"At last!" cried the Prince. "This is she whom I have been seeking, and no one else shall be my wife."

He and the hermit returned to the genie, and showed him the maiden they had brought with them.

"Yes," said the genie. "This is the wise and pure-hearted beauty that you had to find. Now, give her to me and return to your palace. Go down into the treasure room, and you will find the ninth statue on the ninth pedestal. Prince Pengar will thus have fulfilled all the conditions, and will be able to enjoy the vast wealth amassed by his father."

Breton Story: Prince Pengar & the Genie 27

The Prince did not want to give the maiden to the genie, but the hermit assured him that all would be well, and they returned together to the palace.

They entered the underground cavern, and saw the eight statues as before. Upon the ninth pedestal stood a shape that looked something like a woman, wrapped in a long, thick veil. The hermit told the Prince to pull off the veil; and when he did so, he saw to his joy that the pure-hearted maiden stood beneath, dressed in all the finery of a bride. He gave her his hand, and she smiled at him, and stepped down off the pedestal. The Prince presented the maiden to his mother, and the betrothal was celebrated immediately.

The wedding took place eight days later, and there was much public rejoicing, and many festivities, to which both the poor and the rich were invited.

The genie and the hermit were also there, and they forgave each other, and became friends once again.

The hermit even gave up the circle of land which he had won from the genie, as a token of thanks for all he had done for Prince Pengar.

Traditional Breton story retold by Bethan Lewis ©
2006 CBJ

*French Proverb:*

**Les jeunes gens disent ce qu'ils font,
Les vieillards ce qu'ils ont fait,
Et les sots ce qu'ils feront.**

*The young say what they are doing,
The old what they have done,
And the fools what they will do.*

Mr. Biznuz

Where should I go for advice on setting up a business?

This may seem strange to newcomers to the world of business, but there is no one whose advice you should really trust when it comes to setting up a business:

Other Business People: Advice from other people in business in your particular field should obviously be treated with caution: they are not going to give too much away to a potential competitor.

Courses: It is a general maxim in business that people who know how to run a business, spend their time running a business, not running a course.

Accountants: A good accountant will know how to run an accountancy business, but cannot be expected to know how to run a catering business or a building business, for example. Just because he or she has other clients operating in your field, does not mean that your accountant will know what makes them successful: many business people do not tell their accountants all their secrets.

Older People: In days gone by, people learnt how to run a business from their parents, or even from retired business people. Nowadays, it is generally the case that many of the skills that people have acquired over the course of building a business are now out of date. They may not, for example, have



any knowledge of the significance of the internet and modern technology to business life today.

The sum of all this is that if you are planning to set up in business, consult as widely as possible, talk to people who are already in business, talk to local officials and government agencies, read any books and articles that you have on the subject, talk to at least one accountant - and then make up your own mind about what you ought to do.

Above all, bear in mind the simple principle that, in business, the aim is to keep expenditure to the minimum, and income to the maximum. Before committing yourself to any expense, make sure that each item of expenditure will yield a profit - this principle applies just as much to money spent on business advisors as to everything else.

Next month: Is Central Brittany a good place to set up in business in 2006?

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The Garden In May

May is the last month in which you can plant vegetables to yield a crop in the summer. The weather can change quite dramatically over the course of the month. In the first two weeks of May, we can still get cold winds and low night-time temperatures that are very damaging to seedlings of sensitive plants. Towards the end of the month, we often get perfect growing weather - moist soil, sunshine, warm weather and very long days. The aim of the vegetable gardener is to have as many plants in the ground as possible and for them to be in a healthy enough condition to be able to take advantage of the good weather when it comes.

Replanting

Any crops planted in April which have failed to germinate can be resown at the beginning of May and there is every chance that they will catch up with earlier-sown crops, provided that they are watered regularly during their first few weeks.

French Beans

As might be expected, French beans are ideally suited to this climate. Plant them in May, once the soil has started to warm up, in rich soil. Most people now grow bush varieties as they do not need a frame to grow up. Weed and mulch round the seedlings, water if the weather is very dry in June, and you should be able to start picking beans in July. Frequent picking causes the plant to keep flowering and to produce a bigger crop. It is possible to allow beans to grow to 6-9" long, but the very thin beans that are only 4-5", are considered one of the finest delicacies from the garden in the summer months.

'Coco' Beans

There are several varieties of beans that have been developed for growing locally and drying so that they can be stored over winter (they are commonly known as 'Coco Paimpol'). A variety that is widely available in the shops is called Haricot Nain Tregor. It produces a large, white, bean that is easy to harvest and dry and which is very tasty in stews and soups. Plants look similar



Tim the Gardener

to French bean plants. Instead of picking the pods, leave them on the plants to dry out, and pick them when they start to split open.

Runner Beans

Runner beans are not a vegetable that is traditionally grown here - probably because of the popularity of French beans, which yield a crop at the same time - but they grow well in the Breton climate and their red flowers make an attractive addition to the garden.

Plant the seeds outdoors in a sheltered spot, in rich soil, in the middle of the month. Provide a framework about six foot high for them to grow up. You will probably have to buy the seeds from the UK or beg a few from an English neighbour.

Sweet Corn

Sweet corn seeds are expensive and you therefore want as successful a germination as possible. For this reason, it may be better to sow the seeds indoors and plant them out once they are a few inches tall. Take care not to damage the roots - make a hole for each seedling with a dibber, and pour plenty of water into the hole before inserting the plant.

The correct spacing is important with sweet corn. If they are too close to each other the plants do not get enough light and the cobs are small; on the other hand, they need to be close enough to each other to ensure a good pollination. It is customary to plant them in a square with about 12-18" between each plant.

Courgettes

Timing and providing the right sort of soil are the secrets to obtaining a good crop of courgettes. The young plants are extremely sensitive to cold, and even though it may not kill them, an easterly wind and a few cold nights can set them back several weeks. On the other hand, the plants need to be growing rapidly by the beginning of June if they are to produce a really good crop later in the summer. It may therefore be worth planting out your courgette plants under a cloche around the middle of May. Lift the cloche off on warm, sunny days, and remove it completely, once you are sure that real summer weather has definitely arrived. Courgettes like very rich soil. One way to grow them is to dig a hole about 18" x 18" x 18" and to fill it with compost, and to plant your courgette plant in the compost. The compost does not have to be particularly well-rotted.

Cucumbers

Cucumbers are in the same family as courgettes, but are even more sensitive to cold. Grow them in a polytunnel or in a cold frame. One or two plants is sufficient for most people as they yield prolifically once they are established. Plants may need to be pruned to prevent them from taking over the garden.

Aubergines, Peppers, Chilli peppers

In a good year, all these can be grown outdoors, especially if they are in a warm, sheltered position, but they will do better and yield sooner if they are grown indoors in a polytunnel or greenhouse.

French Proverb:

**Le bonheur est dans soi,
Chez soi, autour de soi,
Et au-dessous de soi.**

*Happiness is in you,
At home with you,
Around you,
And beneath you.*

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Carhaix and Surrounding Area
Reliable and friendly service
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LE JARDINIER
Anglais
Care and
maintenance
of gardens,
grounds and
green spaces
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lejardinieranglais@wanadoo.fr

Food

Pork Raised humanely?
Free range? Don't
know? Peter does.
All his pigs are raised outdoors at Plouyé,
running around as nature intended, not even
artificially inseminated. That's done by Idris.
A real pig and a real boar.
Peter's Pigs. Tastefully reared, tasteful
results. Tasteful prices.
Whole, half or quarter pig or 10 kg batches,
for collection or delivery.
Tel: 06 850 850 77
www.peterspigs.com
No pigs were harmed in the making of this ad

ORGANIC LAMB
Traditional grass-fed lamb
Different quantities available on request
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Registered with Ecocert

Television

SAT SHOP
Place de l'Eglise
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TEL. 02 97 28 00 40
Amstrad **PACE**
THOMSON
SKY DIGIBOX €199
NEW DIGIBOX WITH 1 YEAR RTB WARRANTY
NO CONTRACT!
COMPLETE KIT €245
KIT INCLUDES SKY DIGIBOX, MINI DISH WITH LNB,
CABLE, CONNECTORS & FULL INSTALLATION NOTICE
FREE 48 HOUR DELIVERY ANYWHERE IN FRANCE!
QUAD LNB's €60
RUN UP TO 4 DIGIBOXES FROM 1 DISH
ALL ITEMS ON DISPLAY AT OUR SHOP IN SEGLIEN
INSTALLATION POSSIBLE FROM €200

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Landscape Gardening
Professional Garden Service.
Fruit tree pruning, Paths and patio
laying Hedges and Grass cutting. Ponds.
Property and General Maintenance.
20 Years Experience in the UK.
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buddhistgarden@wanadoo.fr Page 36

Classified ads. contd. page 36

36 ANIMAL WELFARE

La Saude Cattery
Purpose-built,
Heated cabins
Outside runs
Lots of social contact and plenty of cuddles
Carol McDermott
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All your pets' needs catered
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Kennels Dogs
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• Individually heated
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• Exercise area
• Walks
• Visit before
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SAFE IN OUR HANDS
High-quality boarding
kennels tailored to your
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10 min Gouin / Le Faouët / Rostrenen
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**THE PET HOTEL
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Select Boarding
Kennels for dogs & cats
Indoor, heated & spacious
Exercise area & walks
Visitors welcome
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In The Dog House
Quality, family-run
kennels in Collorec,
west of Carhaix
Offering spacious
accommodation
plenty of walks in
large field
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Cattery opening soon
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Boarding Kennels**
• Individual boxes
• Large exercise area
• Food provided
• Personal Service
(special care, diets etc.)
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Le Haut Cortay 02 96 29 91 80
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Pets & house are safe with me
Call Donna on:
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about your pets
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Real Food for Pets
Natural - Wholesome - Complete
Developed by a
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• The Holistic Diet
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• No GM Ingredients
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Pine double bed; pine double
wardrobe; bed settee; table and
chairs; cooker; French TV and stand;
swinging garden seat. Other smaller
items. All VGC & reasonably priced.
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Framed watercolours, various
artists, from 15€. Tel: 06 85 98 98 12

Shower & cubicle (unused),
Cooker, Fridge, Basin, Bidet, Toilet,
Sink, Kitchen units. Suitable for
conversions. 800€ the lot. Will sell
separately. Buyer collects.
Phone 02 96 28 55 82

ANIMAL WELFARE

The Rocking Horse
Tack and feed shop
now open.
We now have in stock indoor/outdoor rugs, riding
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Horseware, Lovesons etc. Mucker boots also available.
We have a full range of Spillers feeds.
We have a range of supplements for the general well-being of your
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Based at Le Fert, Mael Carhaix (22)
All enquiries Roger or Nikki 02 96 36 67 53

ANIMAL ASSISTANTS
CARE FOR PETS & LIVESTOCK
IN YOUR ABSENCE
Daily visits or house sitting
From cats to cattle, guinea pigs to goats,
horses to horses
We are reliable and experienced in farm
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animal care
Reasonable rates
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Short term,
emergency help
available for
domestic pets/
smallholding
dept 22
refs. available
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Kerrolland Stables
Horses are for sale or loan. No
silly foibles or vices, good breeding,
papers & 100% traffic, box etc.
ANY ARRANGEMENT CONSIDERED
holiday cover for any horses we sell or loan.
We have 35 years experience
in horse management/riding
and provide livery from 220€
per month for field & hangar
(includes high quality daily
balanced diet & full care).
Stable livery extra. References available.
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Chad and Carla
O'Brien
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using natural horsemanship
& equine-friendly methods.
Livers taken in purpose
built yard with post and railed
paddock

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Classified Advertising / B & B 37

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MAGNIFICENT VIEWS, QUIET POSITION,
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http://perso.wanadoo.fr/webbsglomel

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Open all year
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etc. Open all year.
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www.brittanystopovers.com
e-mail: kerlouet@wanadoo.fr

Classified ads cont'd. from page 35

Courses

Traditional Upholstery workshop.
Come & learn the traditional
methods. Beginners & Advanced
students welcome. Daytime class.
Join at any time.
Tel Jude: 02 98 78 59 09

**Craft Workshops at Le Chat qui
lit.** Leatherwork, Pewterwork,
Woodcarving, Paper Embossing,
Chair caning 30€ for 5 sessions,
plus materials. Tools supplied, start
when you like and work at your
own pace. Come and learn, no

experience needed. Pempoulrot,
22110 Kergist Moellou, tel
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For Sale

Firewood 90% Oak, 10% beech.
Cut to size. 170€/cord delivered.
From pruning and sustainable
forests. 1 metre lengths green wood
105€, split: 130€/cord
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**Cream leather suite. 3-seater + 2-
seater. VGC (cost new £1,200) 400€.**
Tel: 02 96 28 50 39

www.thebcj.com

Classified ads cont'd. from page 36

Gardening & Landscaping

**Exchange or sale of rooted
cuttings of old roses and
hydrangeas from the Association
'Les Jardiniers de Kerusten'**
Tel: 02 97 51 67 47

Tractor for hire with Driver. Along
with Rotovators, Grass cutters,
Tipping trailer, Loads of uses.
Area 22 and others. Hourly rate or
estimate. Tel: 02 96 45 74 35

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driveways and garden clearance.**
One tonne tipping truck for deliveries
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Mowing. Professional equipment
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Also regular field cutting service. Tel
David: 02 96 45 04 31

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and other small machinery available
for hire.** Tel: David 02 96 45 04 31

**PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEON
& LANDSCAPE GARDENER** 10
years of experience in the U.K, now
living & working here in Beautiful
Brittany. Call for free advice, site visit
or quotation. Wood chipper & cherry
picker available. Steve Freanson
02 96 36 92 26 (see ad page 33)

Classified cont'd. page 38

www.thebcj.com

38 Building & Property Services

ODDel Doowitt Ltd.
...for all carpentry & building work
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Homme au Travail
Home Maintenance and Building Works
Painting & Decorating
Tiling - walls & floors
Floors sanded & varnished
Veluxes & windows installed
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Chimneys swept & capped
Electrical testing & rewiring
Domestic plumbing
Plastering, Kitchens, Bathrooms etc.
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nigelradcliffe460@msn.com

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Wheeled and Tracked
13 ton to 1.5 ton
Advice on fosse installation
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06 67 83 91 46

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Kitchens
Bathrooms
Extensions
Dry Lining
Ceramic Tiling
Plastering Blockwork
Stonework
Barn Conversions
Tel: 02 98 93 58 07

Classified contd. from page 37

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tel : 02 96 51 30 58

Reiki for pain relief, well-being and relaxation. Courses taught regularly. Tarot readings also available. Contact Jacqui on 02 96 30 47 96
jacqui@inspiredchoice.co.uk
www.inspiredchoice.co.uk

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Personal

Gentleman, 60 yrs old, French, good education, romantic, cultured, worked in International firm, now pianist/composer, would like to meet English lady, 50-60 years old, with charm, lover of music, for friendship and perhaps more if possible. Please reply to CBJ, BP4, 22160 Callac de Bretagne, marking the back of the envelope "reference May 2006".

Services

Alcoholics Anonymous. Do you want to stop drinking? Meeting: Josselin Weds. 7.30 p.m.
Tel: Andy 02 97 73 94 99 or 24 hour helpline: 06 32 29 60 01

Need a Solicitor in Britain with Brittany connections? Contact Justin Culver Solicitor. Property, Leasing, Rental, Company, Wills and Contracts www.justinculver.co.uk Fees negotiable
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Secure caravan storage in Central Brittany. 75 mins from both coasts with immediate access to national routes. Overnight accommodation available.
Tel. 02 96 29 22 64

Loose covers, curtains, swags and tails. Roman blinds, pelmets, bed valances. 30 years experience. Pam 02 96 29 54 86 / 07969 554030 (UK mobile)

Annual caravan and boat storage. Secure, fully enclosed and covered building in central Brittany. Price from 280€ p.a. Call 02 97 51 24 05 for further details.

Mrs Mops. Old-fashioned reliability and quality on all tasks. Cleaning, changeovers, keyholding, grass, garden & house maintenance. Bannalec, Pont Aven & surrounding areas
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terry.manuel@wanadoo.fr

Agence Maison Direct. Selling your property or land? We can help. For more info, please contact Jonathan 02 96 25 97 47 www.maison-direct.com

services contd. page 39

RGS
For all heating, plumbing & electrical needs.
French-qualified professional offers reliable quality service.
No job too small.
Call for free, friendly advice & estimate
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All S.E. England & all of Brittany
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www.sckb.org
www.worktopmaster.com

www.thebcj.com

Building & Property Services 39

Services contd. from page 38

Bouncy Castle Hire. Parties, birthdays, weddings, schools, kermesse etc. Different sizes available. Excellent rates including delivery, installation, collection. Covering depts. 22, 29, 56
Tel: 02 97 51 34 92
e mail: mikeandtrudy@wanadoo.fr

TAROT. Forget fortune-telling! Star Tarot offers intuitive, sympathetic and helpful readings by email/post or in person. starnot@wanadoo.fr
02 98 24 15 19

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Please call Yvonne 02 96 45 79 11

Sign writing. They can be for your house, boat or business..... whatever you want. Starting from 10€. Live near Callac. Call Tabatha: 02 96 45 02 01

Mobile Hairdresser. English qualified. Fully registered. Will travel fair distance.
Tel: Christine: 02 97 39 52 40 / 06 70 75 57 02

Traditional & Modern Upholstery. Antique furniture restored in the traditional method. All types of furniture undertaken. Custom-made soft furnishings. Interior design.
Tel. Jude 02 98 78 59 09

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Chêne des Architectes
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ou
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Do you really need them?
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Septic tanks, drainage, landscaping etc.
Rostrrenen, Guingamp, Carhaix area
Bilingual help and advice.
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06 17 85 55 02

Mini digger + Large tipping trailer
Soakaways & problem drainage works a speciality
Gravel/aggregates supplied
Small enough for interior work
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Call Sean 02 98 93 55 89
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Septic Tanks Emptied
LE VIDANGEUR BRETON
Septic Tanks Emptied and Cleaned
25 km radius of Carhaix
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Mobile: 06 07 08 99 60 (English spoken)

Mobile Vehicle Servicing and repairs carried out by highly-skilled mechanic. Will work on any make of car. Small or full services, MOT Work etc.
tel. 06 29 78 00 91

English band available for parties, dinners, restaurants, bars and weddings. Rock and pop covers from the 60s onwards. 3 hours for 300€. What could be better?
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All your planning needs and solutions
Specialising in Renovation, New Build, & Disabled access.
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paul.stone@wanadoo.fr
www.maisonsbretonnes.com

Translation & French Courses

ARMOR TRAD Translation & Interpretation, Accredited Translator, (Rennes Court of Appeal), Tel/Fax: 02 96 47 26 55 dany.oneill@wanadoo.fr
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French teacher experienced in teaching. Good results, friendly atmosphere.
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lelourmeux.stephanie@wanadoo.fr

translation contd. page 40

www.thebcj.com

40 Building & Property Services

Translation contd. from page 39

QUALITY BUILDERS & PLUMBERS

All aspects of the Building Trade

Roofing Bathrooms
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Free Estimates

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in small, friendly, informal

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Peter Mickelborough. 22110

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LHD. Excellent condition.

Owners leaving. French

Registered. 6000€ ono

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Motorbike. Suzuki 750

Sports. 1998. French reg. Ex.

Condition. New tyres, battery,

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Renault Trafic 1990

White. Reliable. Light use.

New controle Technique.

320,100Kms. 1,500€ ono

Tel: 02 96 36 69 46 or

06 83 24 80 17

Renault Master 1994. White.

Reliable and tidy builders

van still with shelving within.

180,000 km. New controle

technique. 2,500€.

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06 83 24 80 17

Vehicles contd.
page 41

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GENERAL CONSTRUCTION · MASONRY

STONEMASONRY · FOSSE SEPTIC

CARPENTRY · ROOFING · PLASTERING

PLUMBING & ELECTRICS

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24 hour emergency call-out service

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Building & Property Services 41

Vehicles contd. from page 40

Renault Espace RTX Petrol Auto R.H.D. 1998 64K miles. New

C.T. and lights. Just needs re-reg. C.D. A.C. Seven seats.

7,500€. V.G.C.

02 96 24 66 20

Mitsubishi L200 2000 4x4 pick-up. Lilac and silver. VGC.

New controle Technique. 126,600 Kms. Excellent solid vehicle.

12,500€. Tel: 02 96 36 69 46 or 06 83 24 80 17

Caravans

Caravan. 4-berth. Very clean, good condition. Non-smoker.

2-ring hotplate, fridge, washbasin, cabinet for w.c. 700€. Callac

area. Tel: 02 96 45 08 13 (English) 02 54 87 01 32 /

06 82 07 49 18 (French)

Caravan with awning. 2-berth. 5 m long. Swift. Good

condition. Toilet/shower. 1000€. Tel: 02 96 45 55 48

Classified contd. page 44

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FOR ALL ASPECTS OF CARPENTRY
A-FRAMES, KITCHENS, LOFT CONVERSIONS,
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FLOORING, CONSERVATORIES, DECKING

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One Stop Shop

Repairs to full

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Decorating &

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Fully registered.

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Reasonable Prices

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Free estimates

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We offer a complete service and are specialists in natural stone work

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DOORS GARDEN

Call Malcolm on
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Breakdown Service

References available on request.

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Mark LONGMUIR

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Couverture Zinguerie

Place de l'église. 56160 Langoëlan

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mark.longmuir@wanadoo.fr

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30 years experience

INSTALLATIONS REPAIRS

SERVICING incl. COMBUSTION TESTS

40 km radius Ploenevez du Faou

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GROUNDWORK DESIGN

Hard landscaping, patios, fencing,

pathways, internal tiling, dry lining &

petits travaux

Contact Mark : 02 96 36 65 61

gorton61@yahoo.co.uk

42 Property

Houses for Sale

For Sale St Gelven. Semi detached 4/5 bed house on three floors. Large lounge, kit/din, sdb and 1 en suite sde. Rear courtyard 12m x 4m. Front off road parking & terrace. Includes new and insulated roof, new doors/windows/floors. Interior studs finished to first fix. Plus recent new foss system with Satese certificate. Water and elec not connected but at the front of house. Ideal blank canvas. Price reflects work done. 70,000€ ono 02 96 36 98 46.

St Gelven. 3 bed detached longère with double garage, garden, plus field. Two doubles, one twin room, sdb+ sep wc., kit/din, lounge, conservatory. Overlooks fields and forest. Separate Gite with PP for 2 bed accom. Existing rental income with potential. 175,000€ ono 02 96 36 98 46.

Breton cottage with smallholding. Rostrenen area. 3 bedrooms, 16 acres contained land. Streams. 1/4 acre trout pond. Sold fully furnished if required, incl. Tractor and equipment. 175,000€ (negotiable). Tel: 0044 (0)1803 392778 or email: 4halesatpaignton@blueyonder.co.uk

Readvertised due to time-wasters. 5-bedroom. 2-bathroom traditional double-fronted stone house. 5 min Bourbriac. Fully renovated. Attached longère & additional outbuildings for further renovation. Approx. 5000m² land. 185,000€ or offers. Tel: 02 96 43 47 04 / 01288 350044 (UK)

2 Breton Stone Cottages in need of renovation. 10 minutes from Carhaix, in countryside location. 55,000€ Tel: 06 98 67 56 51

Huelgoat. 2-bedroom house in village. 65,000€. For more information phone Mark 06 82 21 54 83

Houses to rent

Village near St Nicolas du Pelem. Lovingly-restored cottage, sleeps 6, electricity included, dishwasher, UK TV etc. from 300€ per week. maggie.parr@btinternet.com, or phone Irene & Roger (France) 02 96 29 78 89 or Maggie on 0161 620 5423

Typical Breton stone cottage to let. 2 bedrooms, sleeps 4. Lovely surroundings close to Gorge du Corong. For information or to book please contact Carole or Patrick tel: +33 (0)296 457346 e-mail: kerlouet@wanadoo.fr

For Sale

5 Stone Houses Ploezal town centre

5 stone houses in a quiet area of this popular tourist region. (4 km Pontrioux port de Plaisance, 20 km Perros-Guirec and Guingamp.) Surrounding a courtyard. Newly slated roofs, original beams. 20 rooms with communication between houses by 20 m veranda along the south-facing wall. 13 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 8 fireplaces. Electric heating. Enclosed, south-facing, paved courtyard with flowers and exotic trees, 2 garages. Several stone, tiled outbuildings. Private mature garden (500 m²) with well and ornamental lake. 335,400€.

Tel: 02 96 95 17 51 (French only spoken)

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Property 43



Property of the Month

Near Carhaix.

Three-bedroomed house on the edge of a village, recently renovated and offering wonderful family living. There is over 1 hectare of land and a small garden shed/veranda. A real chance to buy a quality house in a sought after area.

200,000€ plus notaire's fees
For more information contact Nick Ford at the La Forêt
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anne-yvonne.pasquier@wanadoo.fr

IMMOBILIERDIFFUSION.FR

The Internet Property Specialist

English/French/German spoken

7 rue Felix Faure Carhaix

(by tourist info office)

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Crosswort

Cruciata laevipes

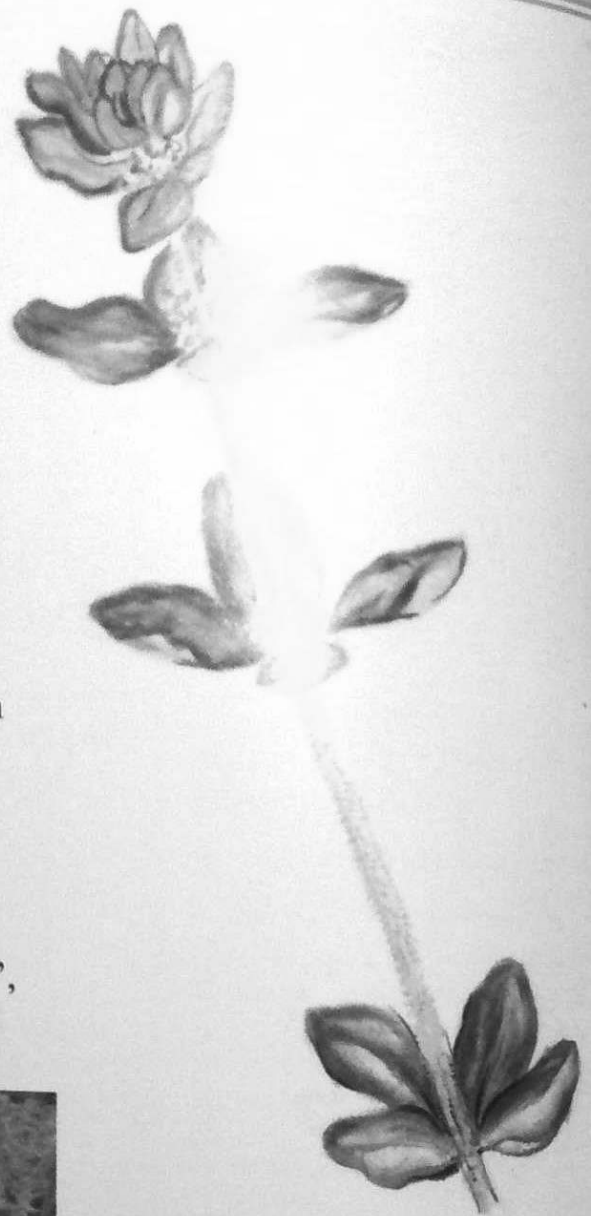
French: Gaillet Croisette

On a warm May day, when walking down a country lane or rambling over a wet meadow, you might have noticed a strong but pleasing smell, which added to the freshness of the air. Bend down, and take a closer sniff at the small hairy plant on the bank, and if the scent increases, you know that it is crosswort.

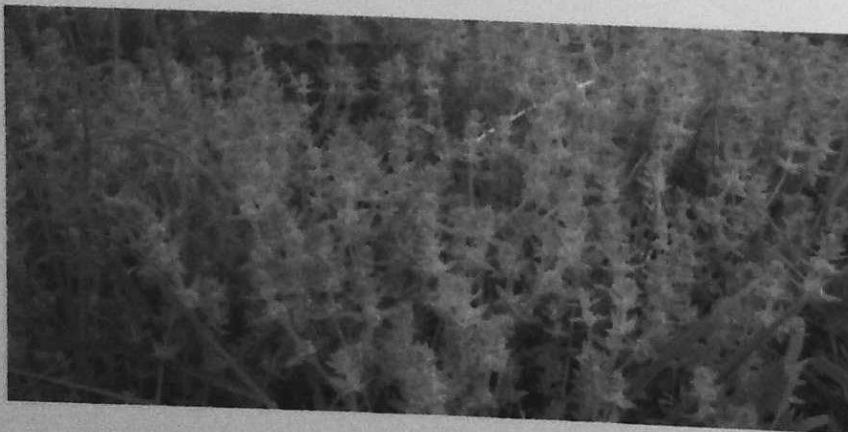
The four-petalled, inconspicuous little yellow flowers blooming in clusters in the leaf axils are responsible for the odour, and they are attracting insects to come and partake of their plentiful supply of nectar.

Crosswort is a creeping plant, with weak, straggling stems, like the other bedstraw plants, with which it can commonly be found growing alongside; however it can easily be distinguished from these by its hairiness, and the presence of only four leaves at each node, which make a cross shape - giving the plant its name.

Crosswort can be found in April, May, and June, trailing along in the hedgerows, before the grasses grow too large and crowd it out. Its little black 'berries', containing the seeds can be found later in the year.



Crosswort rambles in a bank, alongside grass and nettles



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