

# Central Brittany

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*Journal*

April 2007

1€

ISSUE 34

The Menhir of  
Kerloas

Woodpeckers

St Magloire

Wild  
Flowers  
of Brittany

SPECIAL Issue!  
3 Years of CBJ

## 2 Recipe: Coriander Chutney

# Coriander Chutney

This Indian chutney, which should be eaten fresh, is a very good way to enjoy the year's first coriander.

## Ingredients:

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 tablespoons cashew nuts         | 4 cloves garlic (optional)  |
| 1 teaspoon cumin seeds            | ½ inch fresh, grated ginger |
| 1 teaspoon sugar                  | 1 tablespoon lemon juice    |
| 1-2 large bunches fresh coriander | 1 teaspoon salt             |
| 3 sprigs fresh mint               |                             |

## Method:

1. Using a pestle and mortar, grind the cashew nuts, cumin seeds and sugar to a powder. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.
2. Add the coriander, mint, garlic, ginger, lemon juice and salt to the pestle and mortar, and pound to make a smooth paste.
3. Mix the coriander paste with the ground cashew nuts, and serve chilled. This fresh chutney will keep in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 days.

Growing Coriander  
page 47



## I-Spy in April: Nuthatch

Nuthatches are agile little birds that run up and down trees searching for insects in the wood and under the moss. They make a tapping noise like a woodpecker, and can often be heard before they are seen.



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## Teashop Review: **Brest** Macarons et Chocolats - Pierre le Petitcorps

This teashop specialises in chocolates and French-style macaroons. It is off the main street in the centre of Brest, and the beautifully displayed chocolates are very appealing to the passer by. Inside there are two glass counters and 6 marble-topped tables, surrounded by wood and rattan chairs. There are over 25 types of macaroon, including versions made entirely of chocolate, and almost 40 different chocolates. They are made by the owner, an award-winning chocolatier, and show great flair and creativity. There is a small selection of cakes and pastries, including one of the lightest, freshest pains au chocolat that we have tasted.

The red carpet and blue walls provide a pleasant setting in which to sample a cup of coffee, or one of the large range of speciality teas. The complimentary chocolates by the till were also appreciated.



41 rue de Lyon, Brest Tel 02 98 44 68 94

## Pictures of the Month



Above: Château de la Bretesche, sent in by Roy Holmes



Left and Below: photos taken around Locmalo near Guémené sur Scorff, sent in by Kath Dowdell



Please send pictures of the month to Wendy at [cbj222956@aol.com](mailto:cbj222956@aol.com)

[www.thebj.com](http://www.thebj.com)

## Editorial

Over the time that we have been doing the Journal I have discovered that anything to do with Nature is particularly appreciated by all our readers; and we have therefore dedicated this special 3-year anniversary issue to the subject of wild flowers. Helping to compile the various articles on the subject has helped me to look at wild flowers in a different way and to realise how incredibly beautiful they are, and has made me determined to make my garden as hospitable as possible for them in the future.

This is probably a good time to thank everyone who has supported the Journal since its creation - this includes the many advertisers who have kept their adverts running since the early issues as much out of a desire to see the Journal succeed as in the hope of getting extra business, and also our technology columnists, Graham and Malcolm, who have faithfully sent in copy month in and month out for no reward other than helping readers overcome the difficulties inherent in learning how to use new technology in a new country. Most of all I would like to thank all our readers, without whom the Journal would not exist, and in particular all the local people who have supported the Journal and have demonstrated such understanding of my attempts to present Breton culture through the medium of the English language: the experience has taught me, once again, to appreciate my good fortune in finding myself living in such a tolerant and good-natured community.

Looking back over the development of the Journal over the past three years, I do believe that it has made a positive contribution to that community by helping people to settle here and to make a living. Most of all, however, I hope that it has served to inform and entertain its readers, and that everyone enjoys this special anniversary issue.

GL

## Central Brittany Journal

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# Wild Flowers

Wild flowers are yet another reminder of the perfection of Nature, and Brittany is thankfully still blessed with an abundant and varied supply of them. Here are a selection of just a few of the ones that we see in Spring.



*Left and below:* Heartsease is a beautiful little wild flower that can often go unnoticed. It is the wild pansy and grows in clumps, often on turned soil that has been left for a few months. There seems to be infinite variety in the flower colours and size, ranging from tiny to large, and white and lilac, to yellows and strong purples.

*Page bottom:* greater stitchwort is one of the highlights of Spring, and never ceases to bring delight as it opens up once the harsher weather of Winter is over. The pearly, almost translucent white of its flowers can look stunning when they are seen in whole clumps.

*Clockwise from far left:* Bluebells flower early in the year, together with orchids. Forget-me-nots' dainty flowers seem to mirror the beauty of the sun in a pale blue sky. Honeysuckle comes out a little later in the year and can be seen on all the banks. We saw the gorse flowers at their peak in early March, but a few blooms can be found at every time of the year.



## Business Focus: Pin Francais



Arthur and Linda Cutler founded their Pine Furniture business in July last year; initially they sold furniture from their home and from a few selected outlets (including Le Chêne, nr Pontivy, which is popular with many readers) but demand has been such that they have now opened a showroom on the N164, on the Carhaix/Rostrenen road near the junction with the D3 to Glomel.

What makes their business distinctive is that they import pine furniture from a factory in the Far East, Vietnam, that exclusively uses recycled materials. The factory makes over five hundred different items of furniture and sources wood for recycling from all parts of Asia. It has a reputation for producing good quality furniture at a reasonable price.

The most popular lines so far have been tables, benches, beds, free-standing kitchen units, dressers, chairs, mirrors, and nests of tables.

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Above top: the new showroom near Glomel.

Above: Quality furniture from recycled materials: Pin Francais stocks a full range of bedroom furniture and dining room furniture and has access to a total of 500 different lines.

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### Sculpture, La Prenessaye



Sculpture, Leah Green, left, has now completed the conversion of the basement of her home in La Prenessaye, nr Loudéac, into a studio. Visitors are welcome. Please ring before calling. Tel: 02 96 25 77 08 panacea.green@wanadoo.fr

## Arts & Crafts

### The Clay Barn



The Clay Barn is an idea new to Central Brittany. Lisa Dockree has converted the barn beside her home in Kernascléden into a studio where people can come and hand-decorate ceramic items such as plates, bowls, mugs, jugs, vases, ornaments and money boxes. Lisa then fires the pieces, ready for collection a few days later, or posts them to visitors who cannot return to pick them up in person.

Lisa ran her first Clay Barn near Southampton, in the UK, where it proved to be very popular with all age groups - ranging from young children who booked it for their birthday parties, to adults who found it to be an excellent way to relax and to meet people.

Everything is provided, from the pieces of pottery to be painted, to the brushes and glazes (37 different colours), and even cups of tea and coffee. The studio can accommodate up to 12 people at a time and is available for group bookings, and Lisa also has a mobile unit that she can bring to your home or function.

For more info, contact Lisa on 02 97 28 27 99

The Clay Barn 18 rue de Pempou, 56540 Kernascléden (between Guerné and Le Faouët)



Left: Boxing hares  
Right: Golden Wedding  
Leah Green 2007



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# 3 Years of CBJ

April 2007 marks the third anniversary of the Central Brittany Journal. The magazine was started in April 2004; the first issue took just two weeks to prepare from start to finish, including finding advertisers, writing the articles, producing the artwork, laying out the pages, and running off the first 200 copies on home printers. Initially, the Journal was sponsored by the Callac-based association, Primrose Lane Association Educative, and volunteers from the association still provide most of the artwork, and many of the articles that give the Journal its distinctive character.

## Spot the Editorial Team:

In response to readers' requests, pictures of some of the editorial team can be found scattered throughout this issue (solution page 49):

*Samantha Lewis: graphic design, artist for Tim the Gardener*

*Wendy Lewis: proof reading, photography, illustrations, lay out*

*Bethan Lewis: sub-editor, local history, folk stories, graphic design*

*Lin Law: advertising, travel roundups, whorls on Cornish Lewis' album*



## News & Services

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### Water Purity

Following a break-in at the Brest offices of the environmental organisation, Eaux et Rivières, local politicians have rallied to offer the group their support. It is widely believed that the break-in and ransacking of the office was the work of disgruntled farmers angered by Eaux et Rivières' long campaign in the European courts against the French Government on the issue of water quality in Brittany. The government now stands condemned of failing to comply with a European directive on water quality that was approved in 1975. It has responded by drastically reducing the amount of nitrate fertilisers that farmers are allowed to spread on their land and many farmers believe that this will drive them out of business.

There is a general sense that farmers' organisations have not been strong enough in their condemnation of the violence and the threats made against Eaux et Rivières, and the Parti Breton has urged farmers to rediscover their place in Breton society, and to work to protect water quality and the environment.

### Peace Afternoon

To what extent is peace the responsibility of governments and is there anything that individuals can do to bring about peace?

An afternoon on the theme of peace will be held at Noz Vad hotel, Carhaix, sponsored by the Central Brittany Journal, featuring a DVD of a talk given by Prem Rawat in Tenerife in July 2006.

April 21<sup>st</sup> 3pm. Noz Vad Hotel Carhaix. Access via side entrance. Free entry.

### New Ferry Service: St Malo / Channel Islands

A new fast ferry operation, HD Lines, has started operating between St Malo and the Channel Islands. The company operates a fast catamaran, HD1, built in 1998, which has a top speed of 47 knots. It has a large garage height - 3.1m - and can accommodate larger vans and freight vehicles on an open deck area.

The company claims to offer a 'high speed, no frills, value for money service' and uses the WebRes reservation system to deliver demand-driven pricing. The service runs every day during summer and three times per week in the winter.  
[www.hdferries.com](http://www.hdferries.com)

## 12 Travel Survey

### Travel Survey Brittany / UK Conducted 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

Prices are for 1 person, no car, leaving on Tue. 4<sup>th</sup> April, and returning on Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> April.

	Company	Route	Price €
1.	SeaFrance	Calais/Dover	34.00
2.	P&O ferries	Calais/Dover	50.00
3.	LD lines	Le Havre/Portsmouth	50.00
4.	Ryan Air	Brest/Luton	56.98
5.	Brittany Ferries	Cherbourg/Poole	93.00
6.	Brittany Ferries	Cherbourg/Portsmouth	93.00
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8.	Brittany Ferries	Caen/Portsmouth	93.00
9.	Brittany Ferries	St Malo/Portsmouth	100.00
10.	Ryan Air	Brest/Luton	122.45
11.	Condor	St. Malo/Weymouth	124.50
12.	Ryan Air	Dinard/East Midlands	128.35
13.	Ryan Air	Dinard/Stanstead	139.62
14.	FlyBe	Brest/Exeter	178.91
15.	FlyBe	Brest/Southampton	193.27
16.	Ryan Air	Nantes/Stanstead	198.72
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18.	FlyBe	Rennes/Southampton	205.31
19.	FlyBe	Brest/Birmingham	208.41

Dover/Calais routes are included for purposes of comparison. Eurotunnel and Speed Ferries do not accept foot passengers. Best value operators on the Western routes over the course of 3 travel surveys have been LD lines and Ryan Air.

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## Letters

### Advertising Content CBJ

My wife, Liz, and I look forward to the regular arrival of the CBJ each month. It serves as a very useful reminder of all things Breton that we know we will enjoy when we move to Brittany, hopefully this summer. Reading your editorial column, I can understand your concerns about the balance between advertising content and the numerous articles and features that form the content of the Journal. I hope I speak for other readers of this excellent journal in saying that I believe you are right to extend the advertising content. Whilst this helps to defray ever increasing costs in publishing the CBJ, it also extends the range of services / products that are advertised, providing a very useful source of such information to your readers. Not only that, but the provision of advertising space also helps the wide range of local businesses, be they large or small, to promote their services to your increasing reader circulation, at a price they can afford. This keeps everybody happy, as local businesses are better able to thrive through the trade introduced by the advertising in the Journal and local readers are also content, because they can track down the services they need.

You have successfully achieved this without any adverse effect on the Journal itself, which abounds in very useful articles and information, as well as historic and cultural issues in which we are all interested. So, have no doubts about the content of the CBJ - your increasing readership is proof enough that you have struck the right formula and we are all pleased you have done so.

Two final points, one a request for information, the other a suggestion for the Journal.

We would like to know of any catteries (or boarding kennels that take cats) within say 15 kilometres of Gouarec.

How about a photograph in the Journal of yourself as editor (it's good to put a face to a name), or even of the editorial team, perhaps accompanied by an article on the team.

Alan Quantrell  
(info on the editorial team page 10, or come and meet us at the peace afternoon that we are sponsoring in Noz Vad Hotel, Carhaix, 21 April 3pm. Info about cattery near Gouarec send to info@thebj.com (see also new map of catteries and kennels, page 40 - Ed)

letters cont'd page 14

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## Telephone/Internet Services

Thanks a million for the regular copies of the CBJ, they are welcome, interesting and a helpful read during these cold and windy winter days. I'm sure I shall enjoy them equally as much when swinging in my hammock during the anticipated balmy summer to come!

Apart from the stories, recipes and news items, I notice that the Journal has been used by disgruntled in-comers as a forum for issuing warnings to those of us struggling to integrate and find our way around systems.

And in this regard, I would like to share my experience and hopefully advise those of you who are, like myself, not computer literate and who don't have a great command of telephone French but would still like to avail themselves of some internet service provision.

The name to fear and shun, in my opinion at least – but based on my experience with them – is Alice (Aargh!). Not the pretty young thing of looking-glass fame, who also had the temerity to drink the potion labelled 'Drink Me'. No, this particular Alice is a so-called internet service provider based in Marseille. I had the misfortune to try our their service, but was unable to gain access to the internet. When I rang to seek help nobody spoke English and no-one seemed in the slightest bit concerned about my problem. I subsequently sent a registered letter cancelling my subscription, only to be told some three months later that as I had signed up for a year, tough cookie matey, you'll have to keep paying for the privilege of not having our wonderful service.

Be warned. Save yourself time and money and do not go to the Mad Hatter's tea party....Alice might be there.

Tim Wheeler

## Travel Survey

My son came over last week via Flybe from Southampton into Brest, but because he wanted to fly back on Monday, he could not fly back from Brest and had to go from Rennes.

Booking on the website does not allow for using different airports, so you have to access the site twice. No problem with outward flight, but inward flight booking was impossible because he needed a French credit card. They won't accept Sterling cards for a flight starting in France. We checked this out from our end using our UK bank card, which we use anywhere here, but it was not accepted. We tried phoning Flybe without any success on any number. In the end we booked the Rennes flight from the Flybe desk at Brest Airport, which would have been a problem if the flight had been full by then. More importantly, it cost us more. Not very impressed.

Nick Bozman

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## Cheque Emploi Service Universel

I believe that information about CESU - the Cheque Emploi Service Universel - would be of great interest to readers. There seem to be a lot of people out there who would benefit by using it.

I am a qualified hairdresser with 27 years of experience, 15 of those working as a mobile hairdresser in people's homes.

I know it's hard to set a small business up here and the tax is high when you only wish to work a few hours a day to fit in between school times, so I spoke to the ANPE and the lady said use 'Cheque Emploi Service Universel'; it covers all sorts of small jobs (details found on angloinfo information pages) that can be done around the home. It will safeguard the employee and the employer against doing work on the black.

Talking to potential clients about CESU I found that hardly anyone knew what I was talking about, and those who had heard of it, didn't really understand how it worked.

It is easy to obtain the cheque book (from the bank) fill in the forms (at the bank) and send the tax payment to URSAAF.

Maybe in future issues there could be a cheque emploi service universals ads section.

Mrs C. Robinson

02 98 99 90 12 andrew.robinson2@niscali.fr

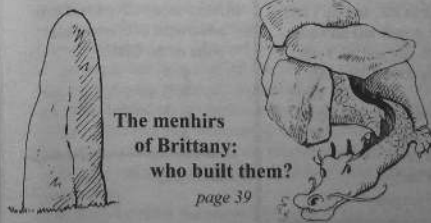
## Removal Firm

I wonder if you can recommend a local removal (English speaking) firm who can move our belongings from Loc Envel, near Belle Isle en Terre to Dolo near Jugon les Lacs.

Sandie Tibble

(Replies to info@thebj.com)

Please send letters to: Central Brittany Journal,  
BP 4, 22160 Callac or e-mail: info@thebj.com



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Quinzaine de Printemps, Callac p9

## Quiz: 3 Years of the CBJ

- Which modern Breton town is believed to stand on the site of the ancient Roman city of Vorgium? (issue 1, April 2004)
  - Rennes
  - Nantes
  - Brest
  - Carhaix
- Which of these insects help gardeners by eating aphids and caterpillars? (issue 3, July/August 2004)
  - bumblebees
  - butterflies
  - giant hornets
  - honeybees
- According to Tim the Gardener, what is one of the most underrated resources in the modern world? (issue 27, September 2006)
  - compost
  - wind power
  - coal deposits
  - Jerusalem artichokes
- Which blind Breton Saint used a wolf to draw his plough, and created the spring at the top of Menez Bré? (issue 12, May 2005)
  - St Malo
  - St Hervé
  - St Triphine
  - St Enora
- What is the Breton word for pancake? (issue 32, February 2007)
  - krampouez'h
  - kenavo
  - kouign-amann
  - pig
- According to Tim the Gardener, what is the best way to integrate? (issue 10, April 2005)
  - Join a French class
  - Go to a Fest Noz
  - Use local shops
  - Grow a crop of pumpkins
- Which saint helped young Prince Judwal to defeat the usurper, Conomor, and regain his Breton Kingdom? (issue 15, September 2005)
  - St Samson
  - St Briec
  - St Patrick
  - St Hervé
- According to a traditional story, what is the best thing to do when caught up in a tree surrounded by wolves? (issue 30, December 2006)
  - Call for help
  - Play the biniou (Breton bagpipes)
  - Sing a song that sends the wolves to sleep
  - Enlist support from the corrigans
- What is: 'As black as ink, and isn't ink, As white as milk and isn't milk, As soft as silk and isn't silk, And hops about like a filly foal?' (issue 29, Nov. 2006)
  - a zebra
  - a cat
  - a badger
  - a magpie
- Which well-known artist helped to make Pont Aven famous? (issue 27, September 2006)
  - Leonardo da Vinci
  - Gauguin
  - Picasso
  - Vermeer
- What is the French word for a foxglove? (issue 24, June 2006)
  - Achillée
  - Gants de renard
  - Digitale
  - Numerique
- What is the French equivalent of pancake day? (issue 32, February 2007)
  - Galettes des Rois
  - Epiphany
  - Chandeleur
  - Pâques
- Where is the biggest menhir in Europe (and perhaps the world)? (issue 34, April 2007)
  - Carnac, Brittany
  - Salisbury plain, UK
  - Northern Germany
  - near Brest, Brittany
- How many advertisers have advertised in every single issue of the CBJ?
  - 1
  - 3
  - 5
  - 7

Solutions page 46

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## St Magloire



Magloire was born in Glamorgan in Wales, and, according to tradition, was a young cousin of Saint Samson. Like his famous relation, he entered the school of Llanwit, and was taught by the renowned wiseman, Iltud. When Samson decided to sail to Brittany, Magloire accompanied him and disembarked at the mouth of the river where the town of Dol stands today.

St Samson established a centre of learning, which became the effective capital of Brittany, and Magloire was his constant friend and companion. Aided by local men and women, the two wise men spent many years helping the surrounding population, which included many newly-arrived immigrants from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

When Samson felt his death approaching, he named his cousin as his successor, but by that time Magloire was himself an old man of 70, and after three years he passed the responsibility onto a young student called Budoc. He longed for a quiet place in which to end his days, but his fame had spread far and wide, and crowds of people came every day to hear him speak, and to benefit from his advice.

Around this time Count Loïsecon, the owner of a neighbouring region, was struck by a crippling disease, and sought St Magloire's healing powers. After three days he was cured, and, filled with gratitude, he gave Magloire half of Sark (one of the modern-day Channel Islands). However, the half that he kept for himself included all the fish and the birds living on the island, which proved to be rather an unsatisfactory arrangement. Fortunately, the Count's wife persuaded her husband to give the whole island to Magloire, and he and seventy-two companions lived there for a time very happily.

After some years, a severe famine struck Sark, and Magloire distributed all his supplies amongst the inhabitants. There seems to have been no way of sending news to the mainland, and no one in Brittany was aware of the islanders' plight.

One day three boys, who had been sent to study with St Magloire, were playing in a little inlet where an old wreck had been washed up. The tide rose without their noticing, surrounded the wreck on which they were playing. Suddenly a particularly large wave lifted them up and carried them out into the open sea. They landed on the Breton coast, close to Cotentin, near St Briec, and they told the local people of the famine that was decimating the population of Sark. Soon a boat was laden with provisions, and three days later it sailed to Sark, accompanied by the boys who had been swept away. The inhabitants of Brittany had been very generous, and once the boat had arrived, it took six pairs of oxen to unload all the supplies.

St Magloire spent the remaining years of his life on the island, but his story continued to be told in Brittany for many hundreds of years.

# Wild Flowers of Brittany

*Central Brittany is an area that has always been particularly noted for the abundance of its wild flowers: the mild climate, prolific rainfall and wide range of different habitats are particularly suited to wild flowers, and, until recently, the way that people have managed the countryside has also encouraged the prolific growth of a wide range of flowering plants. Perhaps the ease with which flowers grow has led to this natural resource being taken for granted, and it is clear that their number and diversity have declined over recent years.*

In a sense the term 'wild flowers' is a little misleading. All the flowers covered by the term do occur naturally in Nature – but the profusion with which they have grown in the Breton countryside in the past was due, at least in part, to the way in which people farmed the countryside: if there had been no farming, more of Brittany would have been forested, and there would probably have been fewer flowers to be seen. An example of farming methods that favoured the prolific growth of flowers include the traditional techniques of hay production: hay meadows were seldom ploughed, and the hay was not cut until mid summer each year; this enabled a wide variety of flowering plants to become established in the field, and, in the early Summer, when they all came into bloom, hay meadows were a blaze of colour. Similarly, water meadows in the floor of the valleys were allowed to flood each Winter, and not cut for hay, or grazed, until late Summer, when they had had a chance to dry out; this system of management allowed water-loving plants to grow and flower in the early Summer. Traditional methods of cereal production encouraged plants such as poppies and cornflowers to grow amongst the crops, and flowers abounded in the hedgerows that

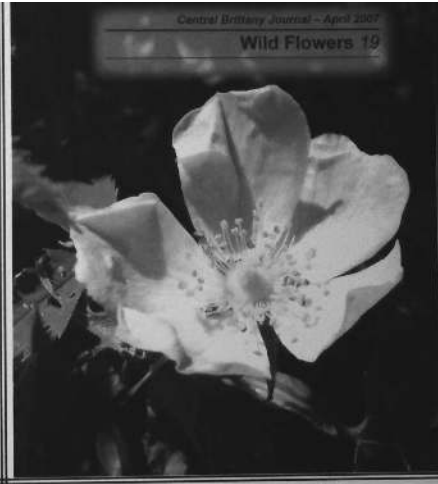
were not usually cut until the Autumn. The areas around houses and farm buildings tended to provide a wide range of different habitats – orchards, stone walls, vegetable gardens, paths, etc. – which provided suitable conditions for a wide range of different flowering plants, which could spread back and forth from the surrounding fields. Thus, even though people were not selecting and breeding flowers in the way that commercial gardening firms do today, they succeeded in creating a countryside, that was, in effect, one big garden, in which flowers abounded in every nook and cranny.

## The Decline of the Wild Flower Population

In historical terms, the decline of flower populations in the countryside has been quite rapid, but even so, farmers, botanists, and other 'experts' failed to notice that it was taking place, because it was not something that could be quantified from one year to the next. It was probably beekeepers who first became aware of the problem; they reported a steady decline in honey yields during the 1960s and 70s, which they assumed was due

*contd. page 21*

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One of the earliest flowers of the year is the celandine (below). They are a vivid gold, like buttercups and are a spectacular sight in March when growing together in large numbers. The blackthorn blossom (above left) can be expected in April, when it is at its peak for just a few days. The wild rose (above right) is the glory of June, and is arguably the most beautiful flower there is.





to a steady decline in the quantity and diversity of flowers in the countryside. Unfortunately, little notice was taken of the early warning provided by the beekeepers, and it is only relatively recently that people have started to take the problem seriously.

We now know more about the technical reasons for the decline in wild flower numbers, these include:

- **The use of nitrate fertilisers:** nitrates stimulate rapid vegetative growth which causes grass to choke out the wild flower plants that traditionally grew in fields and meadows.
- **Hedgerow destruction:** if you pull up a hedgerow, then wild flowers cannot grow in it any more. Hedgerows traditionally acted as a reservoir of plants enabling them to spread back into the fields after ploughing.
- **Herbicides:** It is now common practice to spray cereal fields with herbicides that kill all non-grasslike plants; this includes almost all of our wild flowers.
- **Destruction of woodland and coppices:** Coppicing creates a habitat particularly favourable to woodland plants because it replicates the conditions that occur in the forest clearings in which woodland plants would naturally flourish. At one time most people in Central Brittany would have maintained at least a small area of coppiced woodland.
- **Rural depopulation:** contrary to what one might imagine from modern reporting of environmental issues, people have traditionally been good for wild flowers. Wild flowers were always particularly abundant around the villages of Brittany;

when a village is abandoned, it tends to become overgrown with brambles and the diversity of wild flowers is reduced.

- **Commercially-produced garden plants:** in the past there was a constant exchange between plants growing in people's gardens and the plants growing wild in the countryside. Recent years have seen a trend for people to grow plants of foreign origin in their gardens, and also varieties of plants that are unable to propagate themselves in the wild, with the result that the countryside is not restocked from plants spreading from people's gardens.

### Does it Matter?

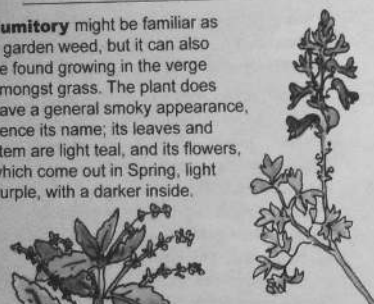
For a while people assumed that it did not matter that the flowers of the countryside were disappearing; perhaps they were seen as victims of the drive for progress, and it was assumed that if people wanted the benefits provided by modern civilisation, then they would also have to put up with the disadvantages, such as the loss of flowers in the countryside. There is now a growing sense that this represents muddled thinking: there are some things – such as water purity, air quality, etc. – that should never be compromised, and if one includes the basic human need to live in a harmonious and beautiful environment in this list, then wild flowers become very important.

### What is to be done?

One of the biggest obstacles to restoring flower populations to the countryside is the belief, widely held by ordinary people, that there are a group of experts who know more about wild flowers than they do. Most of us

*Top left: look out for the stunning, bright white wild cherry blossom, which bursts forth in Spring. Far left above: pretty purple scabious can be found peeking out of the grassy hedgerows. Far left bottom: dainty silverweed grows in short grass. Left above & below: Pussy willow is the star of Spring: the un-opened 'pussy' catkins break open the buds first, and later develop into the yellow, pollen-covered male catkins.*

**Fumitory** might be familiar as a garden weed, but it can also be found growing in the verge amongst grass. The plant does have a general smoky appearance, hence its name; its leaves and stem are light teal, and its flowers, which come out in Spring, light purple, with a darker inside.



**Dog's Mercury** is a peculiar plant which grows in woods and on banks. It is a perennial and throws up new shoots each year. Its flowers, which are small green sprays, can be seen at this time of year.



Everyone knows the **Dandelion**, with its brilliant, golden flowers which litter the verges and grassy fields. Its flowering season is very long and a happy yellow dandelion can found in most months.



cannot give a name to every flower that we see, we don't know what other flowers it is related to, how it propagates itself, what sort of insects pollinate it, or what its geographical distribution is likely to be. We don't know what sort of conditions different flowers prefer, or how specific flowers can be encouraged to grow in specific places. The truth is that none of this really matters: the profusion of wild flowers that previously existed in the countryside was brought about by people who had no technical knowledge of the subject, but who simply worked with nature in a pragmatic way from one day to the next. This is something that we are all still capable of doing today.

In many instances, management techniques that favour wild flowers, coincide with less-expensive and less time-consuming ways of looking after a garden or piece of land; examples include:

#### Lawns

- Avoiding the use of chemical products that interfere with natural growth patterns of the plants in the lawn i.e. fertilisers or selective herbicides. This allows a lawn to become rich in flowers such as daisies, buttercups, dandelions, and clover.

Another garden weed, the **Common Speedwell**, is a familiar sight of early Spring days. Its blue flowers are not very large, but very pretty when looked at a little closer.



- Scheduling the mowing to suit the flowering plants: not cutting the grass too short when the plants are flowering, and giving them time to set seed after flowering.
- Leaving part of the lawn to develop into a wild-flower meadow – not cutting it until mid Summer.
- Allowing some of the grass cuttings to stay on the lawn after cutting, to rot down and return some nutrients to the soil.

#### Hedges

- Allowing shrubs and trees in the hedge – gorse, broom, blackthorn, hawthorn, wild cherry, etc. – to flower before the hedge is trimmed.
- Cutting the banks beneath the hedges just once or twice a year which gives sun-loving plants, such as primroses, a chance to flourish.

#### Trees

- Allowing trees in the garden to develop to a size where they cast the sort of shade that is favourable to woodland flowers such as bluebells.
- Maintaining an orchard that contains all sorts of different varieties and types of trees – plums, apples, pears, cherry, etc. – including traditional varieties as well as modern ones.

#### Buildings

- Walls made of stone and earth are particularly suitable for flowering-plants that favour dry conditions.

#### Hand-held Tools

- Hand-held tools, such as sickles, scythes, etc. are much more sympathetic to flowers

than petrol-driven devices – possibly because the person using them is more able to see the flowering plants amongst the grass, and avoids cutting them down. Also, surprisingly little is ever said about the damage done to wild flowers by the use of mechanical diggers. When landscaping or building work is done with the aid of spades and shovels, the quantity and diversity of flowers growing in the affected area actually increases, but when the work is done by a digger, the subsoil is usually brought to the surface and it can be many, many years before the natural vegetation recovers.

When considering the issue of wild flowers, it is important to remember, that, in the past, people created an environment in which wild flowers flourished, not because they deliberately set out to grow or protect wild flowers, but because they worked from day to day to create an environment in which they themselves felt comfortable. It so happened that the wild flowers also found the small fields, the hedgerows, the sunken paths, the stone buildings, the gardens, the orchards and the meadows, ideally suited to their own needs.

The flowers in the countryside that we enjoy today are, to a large extent, a legacy left by these previous residents of Brittany. If we are to preserve that legacy, and pass it on to future generations, then we too have to find a way of managing the countryside so that it meets the needs of ordinary people, and offers them an environment in which they want to live and work.

Cover: Red campion © 2007 Wendy Lewis  
Wild flower photographs © 2007 Wendy Lewis  
Wild flower drawings page 22 © 2007 Samuel Lewis

# The Toad King and the Frog Queen

Once upon a time there was a miller at Moulin de la Mer, in the parish of Matignon. He could not live in the house beside his mill, because every night the frogs and toads fought with each other around the pool outside, and they made such a noise that the miller and his wife could not get a wink of sleep.

This went on for eighteen months, and people started to come from far and wide to see the battle between the frogs and toads.

Amongst the visitors to Moulin de la Mer, there was a man who understood the language of the birds and the beasts.

"If you like, I will rid you of these frogs and toads who will not let you sleep," he said.

"I would be very grateful to you," said the miller. "How much do you want in reward?"

"A hundred francs," said the man.

"If you can rid me of those frogs and toads," said the miller, "I will owe you far more than that."

The miller took the man to the mill, and when evening came, the frogs in the pool began to croak and the toads coming down from the mountain began to give forth their cry. They met and began to fight in the water, on the road, in the mill-yard, and even in the house.

The man who understood the language of the animals said nothing but listened. When the fight was over, he asked the miller:

"Do you know why they are fighting?"

"No."

"It is a war between the frogs and the toads. The Toad King has fallen in love with the Frog Queen and has made her an offer of marriage, but she has refused him, and that is the reason for this war. However, if you like, I will catch the Frog Queen tonight.

"But how can it be done?" asked the miller.



"Do not worry about that. Have you a little fishing net?"

The miller gave him a net the size of a carrelet\*, and the man who understood the language of the birds and the beasts greased it with ointment that he took from a little bottle. Then he spread the net and the Frog Queen was caught in it.

She had eyes as round and shining as pocket watches, and her webbed feet were the size of a big man's hands. Everyone was astonished when they saw her, and the miller was afraid.

The Frog Queen began to talk to the man who had set the trap.

"Oh fisherman, why have you caught me in your net?"

"Because I wanted you in my power," he replied.

"Who taught you how I could be caught?"

"It was Father Lampoudrie."

"Alas," cried the Frog Queen, "he is my great enemy. But take care; if you do not set me free, your mill will never again have water."

"Before you go," said the miller, who had not yet spoken, "you must promise to end this war; you have kept me awake at night for many months."

"Why won't you marry the Toad King?" asked the other man.

"Because he is so ugly," she cried. "I will never marry him."

"I will take you home with me then," said the miller.

"If you leave me for an hour without water I will die," said the Frog Queen, "and your mill will never turn again."

The miller brought a great vat full of water and put the frog in it.

When evening came, the frogs began to croak, and the toads came down from the mountain. As soon as the Frog Queen saw the Toad King she leapt ten feet into the air, out of the vat, and onto her enemy. There was a terrible battle, and the fighting only ended at daybreak.

The following day the man who understood the language of the birds and the beasts came back to the mill. As before, he greased his net, and once again he caught the Frog Queen.

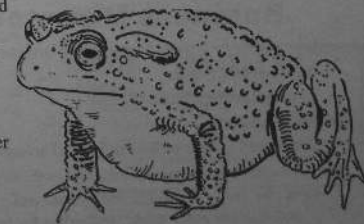
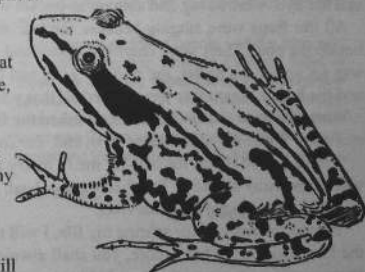
However, this time she was forced to promise to end the war and to marry the Toad King. The miller and the man found the toad, and he was overjoyed at the good news.

When the Frog Queen saw him she said:

"Oh Toad, how can you want me to marry you when you are so ugly?"

"I may be ugly," he replied, "but I draw poison from the earth and I purify the water that feeds you."

The Frog Queen promised to marry the Toad King the next day.



## 26 Breton Story: The Toad King and the Frog Queen

"Alas," she said, "since the war began, I have lost over 10,000 frogs."

"And I have lost over twenty thousand of my subjects," said the Toad King.

They invited the miller and his wife to the wedding, and they told them that afterwards they would receive a reward.

Next evening, the King was the first to arrive at the pool. He was accompanied by all his subjects, and he had made himself very handsome. His eyes were red, and his body was covered with warts the size of hens' eggs; these were his beauty, and he had put on his best suit.

The Frog Queen was also looking very beautiful; she had put on her prettiest green gown, and her eyes were as big and shining as pocket watches.

All the frogs were singing because the war was finally over, and the banquet took place beside the pool. There were countless dishes and delicacies for the frogs and toads, and a table was set up for the miller, the miller's wife, and the man who knew the language of the birds and the beasts. Upon this were placed all that was best to eat and drink.

When the meal was over, the toads asked the frogs to dance, and the festivities went on till morning. When the dance came to an end, the Toad King turned to the miller:

"I have you to thank for helping me to marry the Frog Queen," he said. "To reward you, I will chase away all the 'v'lins'\* from your land; I will stop them from eating your crops, and you will always have good harvests."

"And to reward you for sparing my life, I will make sure that your pool is always full," said the Frog Queen. "What's more, you shall always have corn to grind in your mill, and I will show you some treasure that was hidden two hundred years ago by another miller."

The Frog Queen and the Toad King showed the miller the treasure, then they left together. The miller was always prosperous, and he never again saw the Frog Queen and the Toad King.

*This traditional Breton story was collected in 1880 by Paul Sébillot, in the East of Brittany, where a language called Gallo was spoken. It was told to him by an old lady called Rose Renaud, living in the seaside village of St Cast. She had heard it from Marie-Jeanne Carfantan, the wife of a local farmer, and Marie-Jeanne had heard it from her grandfather. © CBJ 2007*

\*v'lins - reptiles

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Scheduled publication date: June 2007. Deadline for advertising copy: May 10<sup>th</sup> 2007

## Graxwarrior: F. A. Q. 31 27



## F. A. Q. 31

**Q.:** Following the advice in your articles I installed Mozilla Firefox. Whilst it seems to work okay most of the time, there are some web sites that appear all mixed up and others that tell me I should use Internet Explorer. Have I done something wrong?

**A.:** No, you've done nothing wrong. By installing Firefox you've provided yourself with better features and a faster, more manageable browser. When you get used to it you will find that it does work well.

What you are experiencing is the downside of bad web design. Many web site designers are lazy or just incompetent. They assume, wrongly, that everyone uses Internet Explorer so they write for that and only test their work with it.

Microsoft has never respected established or developed standards in anything. They're big enough to create their own and stuff anyone who disagrees! Internet Explorer has always been an example of this approach. Because Microsoft produces bloated and sloppy code they expect everyone else to do the same. The result is that I.E. is written to accommodate all sorts of errors in badly produced web sites. Other browsers don't work like this.

If you read the "Web Site Workshop" that Malcolm writes for CBJ you will have some idea of what one needs to know to create a web site. With new techniques coming along all the time it can be difficult to keep up, but that is the job of web site designers and browser developers. Poor implementation of things like Cascading Style Sheets can cause text to appear in the wrong places, often overwriting other text or graphics. If a designer tests in a variety of browsers these errors will show up and can be corrected. Many don't, with the results that you see.

Also, some technologies, like Active X, are peculiar to Microsoft. If you visit their web site you must use Internet Explorer with Active X installed. Just another example of what I've been saying.

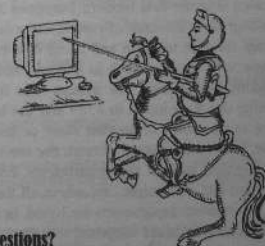
So, you may be thinking that it's easier just to use I.E. and forget anything else. That's what all those lazy web site designers do. It's called "taking the easy way out" by appealing to the lowest common denominator. If you like being treated as a door mat stop reading now!

If you prefer to be in control of your own life continue to use Firefox with all its functionality. When you find a page that doesn't work, try it with Internet Explorer. Then write to the owner of the site, reporting the "malfunction". If enough people complain they will start to listen. It worked with my bank!

An estimated 15% of people surf the Web with products other than Internet Explorer. Most of these folk are very experienced, knowledgeable specialists working in Information Technology, Graphic Design, Publishing and other high tech industries. These are smart people. Do they know something the rest of us don't? Not any more.

Safe surfing.

Grax Warrior



Any questions?  
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# Mr. Biznuz

## Business Review

To mark the third anniversary of the CBJ, I have been asked to present a review of business conditions in the region and how they might affect people planning to move here.

The question that puzzles most visitors to Brittany is why life appears to be so busy and prosperous around the coast, but as soon as one turns off the major coastal roads and drives ten miles inland, one comes across empty shops, deserted warehouses and roads that are almost devoid of cars; beside the main coastal roads one sees large-scale retail and industrial developments, new housing, and lots of traffic. Such a marked difference in economic activity in a relatively small geographical area is unknown to people coming from countries such as the UK but is quite common in France and can be traced back to the way that the country has been administered over the past two centuries.

France was the first modern European state to come up with the idea of raising large sums of money through taxation and using it to provide people with services such as schools, hospitals, pensions, roads, etc. The system was first set up after the Revolution in 1789 and has been in place in one form or another more or less ever since. It is administered through the medium of geographical regions and departments. Each department has a principle city where all the various government departments are based. In theory these departments are supposed to collect all the various taxes and to then re-distribute them fairly across the country. Over the course of time, however, there has been a steady trend for wealth to flow away from the provinces towards the centres of administration.

The reasons why this should happen are quite complex, but, basically, as the number



of people working for the government rises, and their salaries get bigger, taxes keep rising. This does not cause a problem for businesses in the city, because they get a large proportion of their business from government contracts and simply charge more to cover extra costs, but it makes life difficult for businesses in the country, where there are fewer government offices and less people on government salaries.

Thus, over the course of time, the wealth gap between Paris and the rest of France has widened, and in Brittany a divide has opened between the departmental capitals around the coast and the centre of Brittany, which has found itself increasingly impoverished.

Attempts have been made to redress the balance by funding large-scale public works - roads, telephone systems, etc. - and these have ensured that the region still has a surprisingly good infrastructure, quite capable of supporting modern businesses.

This, together with Brittany's convenient location on mainland Europe, means that the business outlook could still be good, particularly for businesses that are able to take advantage of new European regulations and the global market to ensure that their profits are not sucked out of the region towards administrative centres, as has happened in the past.

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## Website Workshop

Last month we looked at Firefox extensions, this month it's Cascading Style Sheets that are in the limelight.

### Q - What are Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)?

A - CSS is a way of controlling fonts, colours, images, etc on websites.

### Q - Does CSS do anything else?

A - Yes, quite a lot more but it is especially useful for the laying out of web pages allowing developers and users to have more control over how a web page looks and reacts.

### Q - So are they an important feature of web design?

A - Very much so. Most websites today use CSS and are considered an important part of the site's foundation. Developers are at last realising that layout and design are a very important part of the user experience and CSS is able to develop in that area. Go to [http://www.w3schools.com/css/demo\\_default.htm](http://www.w3schools.com/css/demo_default.htm) to see a good demo of how CSS works and how easily it can change the look and feel of a website. Click on the style links situated on the left hand side to see a range of styles that you apply to the site.

### Q - Why was CSS created?

A - More and more HTML tags were being created which made the task of separating content from

design more and more difficult. To solve this problem, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) - the non-profit, standard-setting group, responsible for standardizing HTML - created Styles in addition to HTML.

### Q - So in simple terms, what is the difference between CSS and HTML?

A - HTML is used to structure content. CSS is used for formatting structured content.

### Q - What are the main benefits to me if a website uses CSS?

- You will have quicker-loading web pages
- A CSS-based site is typically 60% smaller than one in just HTML
- With CSS you can control the order items are downloaded onto the screen.
- CSS is an external file that is cached on your computer, better than HTML having to be loaded each time a page is requested.
- Paper has different properties from a computer screen and the differences can be accounted for in a style sheet.
- CSS provides a framework for speech style-sheets - useful for visually impaired users

Malcolm Wearing

Next month: Broadband

Malcolm can be contacted on [malcolm@practicalnet.com](mailto:malcolm@practicalnet.com)  
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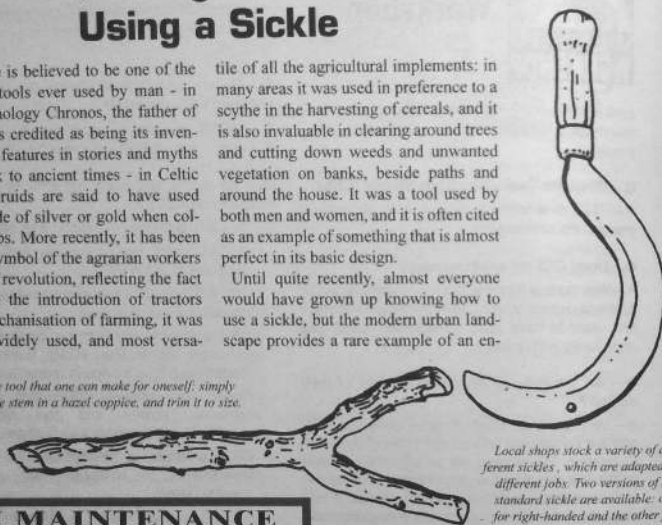
## Tim the Gardener: Using a Sickle

The sickle is believed to be one of the first metal tools ever used by man - in Greek mythology Chronos, the father of the Gods, is credited as being its inventor - and it features in stories and myths dating back to ancient times - in Celtic cultures, Druids are said to have used sickles made of silver or gold when collecting herbs. More recently, it has been used as a symbol of the agrarian workers in times of revolution, reflecting the fact that before the introduction of tractors and the mechanisation of farming, it was the most widely used, and most versa-

tile of all the agricultural implements: in many areas it was used in preference to a scythe in the harvesting of cereals, and it is also invaluable in clearing around trees and cutting down weeds and unwanted vegetation on banks, beside paths and around the house. It was a tool used by both men and women, and it is often cited as an example of something that is almost perfect in its basic design.

Until quite recently, almost everyone would have grown up knowing how to use a sickle, but the modern urban landscape provides a rare example of an en-

*The prog is one tool that one can make for oneself: simply select a suitable stem in a hazel coppice, and trim it to size.*



*Local shops stock a variety of different sickles, which are adapted to different jobs. Two versions of the standard sickle are available: one for right-handed and the other for left-handed use.*

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vironment that does not call for its regular use and, consequently, many people moving to the country from the city are unaware that one of their first purchases ought to be a sickle, and are, perhaps not familiar with its use.

The first thing to point out is that it is, potentially, quite a dangerous tool, particularly when working in wet and slippery conditions when there is a chance that it might slip out of one's hand. Also, it is not advisable to hold the vegetation to be cut with one hand whilst wielding the sickle with the other - this practice has resulted in countless injuries over the years. Experienced users of the sickle cut a forked stick - usually from a hazel tree - known in English as a 'prog', about two and a half foot long. The prog is used to hold the vegetation in place while a strong blow from the sickle is aimed at the base of the vegetation, as close to the ground as possible.

It is generally considered to be safer to use a sharp sickle than a blunt one - as well as being less tiring - and people often spend a considerable amount of time getting the required edge on their new sickle after purchase. This can be done with a grinding wheel or with a whetstone. When cutting a large area, it is customary to stop every half hour or so, to restore the edge on the sickle with a whet stone.

A good quality sickle costs between 20 and 30 euros and they are widely available in garden shops and do-it-yourself stores in the region. They need not be seen as an alternative to more modern grass-cutting machinery such as strimmers, brush cutters, mowers, etc., but a sickle does offer some remarkable advantages, particularly for small jobs: it produces no fumes, it makes no noise, it does not require the use of protective glasses or ear-muffs, it does not go wrong, it never needs to be taken in for servicing, there is no difficulty in getting it started, it is easy to store, and it provides excellent exercise: which explains why it is still such a popular tool today, in spite of its ancient origins.

New residents to Brittany should make sure that they are not long without a sickle. Brambles are some of the most troublesome weeds in this area, and a sickle is the perfect tool for cutting them down.



Tim the Gardener

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Classified cont'd page 33

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Building & Property Services cont'd page 34

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# 34 Classified

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continued from page 33

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Computers contd page 41

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# What's On 35

## What's On

**All April to the 15<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Exhibition of paintings,** sculptures and photographs in Noz Vad Hotel. See page 37.

**Every Wednesday**  
**English Book Exchange** at Carolann's, Carnoët. 10.30 - 4.30  
If you don't have books to swap, there are hundreds from 1€ each. Because of the success of the Wednesday opening, they will also be open Fridays 10 am - 2 pm from April 20<sup>th</sup>. Tea and coffee available. Carnoët village centre, diagonally opposite church. Tel: 02 96 21 54 62

**Second Friday in April**  
**Soirée Français** will continue to be held at the Hôtel Noz Vad, Carhaix, on the second Friday of each month. 8 pm. Contacts: George Turnbull or Pam Chapman. Tel: 02 98 99 48 90, e-mail: ghturnbull@fastmail.fm

**Wednesday nights**  
**Jamming sessions** at the Celtic Bar, Botaval, Cleden Poher. All musicians welcome. See main ad. Page 37.

**Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**3 trotting races and 4 steeplechases** at Penalan Hippodrome (racecourse), Plounévezel. 2 pm start. Plounévezel is 10 min. approx. from Carhaix. Directions: With Noz Vad hotel on your right, turn right at the next mini roundabout and then second left, (at the next mini roundabout) - and along rue de l'Abattoir for about 2 km.

**Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Celebrate Spring** with the annual Fest Deiz and Fest Noz at the Ar Sterren hall, Châteauneuf du Faou. 3 pm start, 3 am finish.

**Monday April 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Easter Fayre** organised by Association Integration Kreiz Breizh (AIKB) at the Salle Municipale, Saint Gelven 11 am - 5 pm. Second hand books, Bric a Brac, crafts and much more. All welcome for a snack at lunchtime or just a cup of tea. If you are interested in having your own stall please contact them straight away on 02 96 24 87 90 (Weekdays 2 pm - 6 pm) Entrance Free.

**Monday April 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Garage Sale.** Dozens of new and secondhand items. Everything from furniture to garden tools. 10 am - 6 pm. Landizes Bihan. Rte D5 Gouarec - St Nicolas du Pelem. Tel: 02 96 24 80 59

**Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wild Walks - guided walks** around Finistère and east Côtes d'Armor. **Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup>** Huelgoat - meet car-park by Mairie at 2 p.m. (just off main square). **Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup>** Château de Tonquédec (11 km SE of Lannion). 2.00 pm 3€ per person. Full details on www.brittanywalks.com or phone 02 98 24 15 19.

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See the 14<sup>th</sup> April What's On  
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**Le Lodge du Croisty**  
Le Lodge du Croisty is now permanently closed. The proprietors would like to thank everyone for their patronage and kind words.

What's On Continued page 36

www.thebaj.com

# 36 What's On continued

**Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> - Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tous au Golf - Everyone for Golf.** 7 days of free lessons and practice for Beginners. Just turn up at Carhaix Golf course - between 9 am to noon or 2 pm - 6 pm on any of these days and lessons, club hire and practice games are free to all beginners. Two teachers are available for free instruction. English spoken. Reservations not necessary. A great night of live music. Free entry. Tel 02 97 27 61 12 for info.  
 For directions see: www.carhaixgolf.com

**Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 Another exclusive evening with "Big Al" playing **ROCK & ROLL, BLUES & MORE** at Riks Bar, Ste. Brigitte. An excellent British pianist, singer and entertainer. A great night of live music. Free entry. Tel 02 97 27 61 12 for info.

**Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Garage sale/ Vide grenier.** 10 am - 3 pm. All household items etc. Everything must go.  
 4 rue du Justicou, 29246 Poullaouen

**Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 The popular Anglo French band, "Good Time Jazz" play at the Bar "Tal Ar Pont" just next to the bridge in Châteauneuf du Faou. Good lively music and a great atmosphere!  
 4pm - 7pm Admission 6€/3€ (students).

**Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> & Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANGEL** a film by François Ozon at Callac cinema, in the English language, 8.30 p.m. start. The rise and fall of a young eccentric British writer, in the early 20th century. 134min, starring Romola Garai, Sam Neill, Lucy Russell, Michael Fassbender & Charlotte Rampling.

**Friday April 20<sup>th</sup> & Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**The Last King of Scotland.** Oscar-winning film in the English language, based on the events of the Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's régime as seen by his personal physician during the 1970s. Starring Forest Whitaker and James McAvoy. Callac cinema, 8.30 p.m. start. 121 min.  
 Rated R in the UK.

**Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Attention all Soul fans.** You are invited to an evening of Northern Soul and Motown at Bar Ty-Mad, St Mayeux (22) on 8 p.m. till late. Contact Maic on 02 96 24 09 88 for more information.

**Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**'PEACE IS POSSIBLE': DVD of Prem Rawat speaking at Tenerife this year.** Noz Vad Hotel, Carhaix (please use entrance at side of hotel). 3 pm start. Lasts approx. 1 hour. Teas, cakes & music. 02 96 21 55 97

**Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 10.30 am. Holy Communion with hymns (The Revd Michael Grainger) All welcome. Refreshments served after each service. For further information contact Robin or Laura Hillman, tel 02 97 51 74 26, e-mail: kermoran@wanadoo.fr

## Manoir de Loguevel April

### Wednesday Morning Exercises 10-12

A lively morning with exercises to promote well being. Biscuits, tea & chat afterwards. 8€ per person

### Easter Sunday Brunch

11.30 am start, with Children's Easter Egg Hunt afterwards.

Thai Massage private sessions with Gilles le Picard

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am to 18.30pm 1, 2 or 3 hours sessions available.

Please call : 02 96 36 68 98

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## RENDEZVOUS CAFÉ & BAR

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- Dartboard
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- 6ft screen for sports
- New stock of books
- Snacks, Jacket potatoes, toasties, etc

Mon: 7pm-11pm; Tues-Thur: 9am-11pm  
 Fri, Sat 10am-1am; Sun 12-10.30pm

### Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>

The Ragamuffins Jazz group play old-time jazz at L'Homme au Chapeau, town square, Huelgoat. Please note earlier times: 7pm - 10pm. Admission free. More information call Regis: 02 98 99 78 81.

### Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>

The Pardon of St George will be celebrated at Lanvéneq and everyone is invited to attend the celebration. If you would like to help prepare for the Pardon, please contact Pierre on 02 97 34 41 55.

### Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> & Monday April 30<sup>th</sup>

The Golden Door - film at Callac cinema. 8.30 p.m. start. The film is in Italian, with English subtitles. Set at the beginning of twentieth century in Sicily. Salvatore, a very poor farmer, widower, decides to emigrate to US with all his family...  
 Rated PG-13 120 min.

## Places to Eat see also:

Le Moulin Blanc p. 2  
 La Girelle p. 13

For a free entry in the What's On column, please send details to [cbj222956@aol.com](mailto:cbj222956@aol.com)  
 CBJ, BP 4, 22160 Callac

[www.thebj.com](http://www.thebj.com)

# What's On / Places to Eat 37



## Places to Eat



## celtic BAR

### Le Fournil

### Resto Rapid

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 Hot food all day, every day  
 After Sunday 10h bar  
 4-course traditional  
 Sunday roast 15€  
 Bookings please  
 Tel: 02 96 30 41 15



## Doppies

### Home-cooked food to eat in or take away.

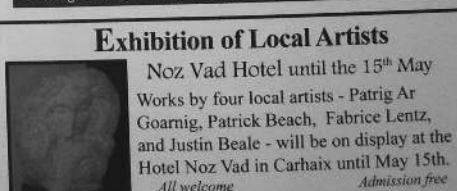
Plat de Jour served daily 11€  
 Sunday lunches - 2 courses incl. wine 11€  
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 (closed Mon.) Outside parties catered for  
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 phone: 02 96 21 52 32  
 email: [orson@les-fous.com](mailto:orson@les-fous.com)



## Exhibition of Local Artists

Noz Vad Hotel until the 15<sup>th</sup> May  
 Works by four local artists - Patrig Ar Goarnig, Patrick Beach, Fabrice Lentz, and Justin Beale - will be on display at the Hotel Noz Vad in Carhaix until May 15<sup>th</sup>.  
 All welcome Admission free



## RENDEZVOUS CAFÉ & BAR

- \* Snacks
- \* Sunny courtyard
- \* Internet / Wifi
- \* English books
- \* Sports TV

10 rue de Treguier, Callac 02 96 45 92 24



Above: Works by Fabrice Lentz and Justin Beale.  
 Right: the artists at the opening of the exhibition. Far right: the opening

## The Menhir of Kerloas

The menhir of Kerloas is probably the tallest standing menhir in the world. At 9.5m (30 feet) it is a magnificent sight, and a couple of hundred years ago it was even taller, before the top two metres of stone were struck off by lightning. It is thought to be between six and seven thousand years old, which would make it two millennia older than the pyramids, and nobody knows who put it there, or why, or how. The stone seems to have been brought from at least two and a half kilometres away and must have been dragged uphill from there! The menhir is on the top of a ridge of land and is said to be visible from the city of Brest, thirty kilometres away.



The menhir has obviously been shaped. It is thin from one side, and very wide from another, tapering as it goes upwards. There is a hollow towards the top and two lumps at the bottom directly opposite each other.

Couples have traditionally gone there and rubbed themselves against the lumps. The men did so in hope of having a son, and the women in hope of becoming head of the house.

**Directions:** From Brest head west towards St. Renan and from here find the road to Plouarzel. After a few km the menhir is signposted to the left. Follow the road for a couple of km to a parking space where a path leads to the menhir.



## How did they get there?



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## Central Brittany Journal - April 2007 Classified Advertising

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For Sale cont'd. page 42

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## 42 Building & Property Services

For Sale cont'd. from page 41

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For Sale cont'd. page 44

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## 44 Building & Property Services

For Sale contd. from page 43

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Gardening contd. page 45

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## Building & Property Services 45

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Health & Beauty contd. page 46

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## 46 Building & Property Services

Health & Beauty *contd. from page 45*

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*Classified contd. page 48*

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Solution: CBJ 3 year Quiz page 16

- |      |       |        |
|------|-------|--------|
| 1. d | 7. a  | 13. d  |
| 2. c | 8. b  | 14. d* |
| 3. a | 9. d  |        |
| 4. b | 10. b |        |
| 5. b | 11. c |        |
| 6. d | 12. c |        |

\* La Louve, Collias; Saviane-Louise & Collias;  
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## Growing Coriander

Despite its use in exotic and oriental cuisine, coriander is a hardy, annual herb, which will grow happily in your garden, and even cast its own seed.

The one problem which faces the coriander grower, is that it bolts so quickly which the plant runs to seed. Seeds will be sown in flower most quickly, so it is advised to sow seeds in Spring (end of March to June) or in late February if you have a poly-tunnel,



and Autumn; if the right time is chosen the plants will not bolt before the Winter comes but will do so in the following Spring, making lots of fresh leaves. Once you have grown coriander in your garden a few times, the plants will start self-seeding themselves, and, as always, Nature knowing best, these will probably be the most productive plants.

Once growing, coriander does not mind being picked very hard, and, although the leaves change their shape when flowering, they are just as edible.

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## 50 Property & New Build

### Houses for Sale

**Plérin, Les Rosaires.** Close to the beach, flat (about 29 m<sup>2</sup>), 1 bedroom, 1 living room with kitchen. Beautiful sea view. 100,000€. Tel: 06 09 73 27 99.

**Breton cottage with 3 bedrooms**  
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### Houses to Let

**Long let April onwards. Traditional Breton Cottage.** Detached, recently refurbished. Comfortable and warm. Sleeps 5. Rural position, country views. Close to Callac and Carhaix. Tel: 02 96 45 04 31

**2 bedroom cottage, sleeps 4/6,** newly renovated to a very high standard. Region 22. Now taking bookings for holidays and longer lets. 02 96 21 42 59 [www.freewebs.com/keraffret](http://www.freewebs.com/keraffret)

### Classified Stop Press

#### Wanted

**Accommodation to rent.** 1-2 bed house with garden, must be in or close to Tréguier, for working couple. Tel: 02 96 13 42 20 evenings.

**Loving temporary home for totally obedient mother (8) and daughter (5).** German short-haired pointers. Impeccably behaved and good with children/animals etc. For 8 months until we get them back to the UK. Please leave message for Ray/ Yvonne. Tel: 02 96 45 78 46

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**Pony for sale.** 1m-45. Great hack. Calm, obedient, well-mannered. Ideal beginner. Reluctant sale due to lack of time. 950€. Tel: Sharon: 02 98 99 67 44

**2-bedroomed stone cottage.** Sleeps 4. Large granite fireplace. Located at Kerdaniel 2kms St Nicolas-du-Peleum in a woodland setting. Weekly from 200€ or longer rentals 450€ pm. Contact e-mail: -maggie.parr@btinternet.com tel. France: 02 96 29 78 89 England: 0161 620 5423

**Pont Melvez. Large Breton, stone village house.** 7 bedrooms - can sleep 10. Pool in season. Rent from 30€ p/person p/week, incl. towels and linen. Bookings now taken for May 1st onwards. Tel: 02 96 13 42 20 or more details: sharon@brittanybreaks.co.uk

**Huelgoat lakeside house sleeps 7.** Fully equipped. Ideal holidays or househunting. 340€ week. 800€ month. Tel: England 01288356675 or 07967901367 [www.rentalinbrittany.com](http://www.rentalinbrittany.com)

### Holiday Lets

**Mobile home to rent.** In quiet orchard between Quimper and Benodet. Fully fitted, sleeps 6-8, shower/wc, decking, BBQ. Long or short stays considered. April to mid October. Janet Bozman 02 97 34 16 28 or bozzies@free.fr

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### Land for Sale

**Land at Scaër:** 2 plots approx 1000 and 1500 sq. m with Certificat d'Urbanisme. Situated on edge of village, good access. Contact Nick Bozman 02 97 34 16 28

### Wanted

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## Property & New Build 51

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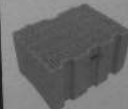
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## 52 Building Services

Translation & French Courses  
cont'd. from page 49

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**Massey-Ferguson 820D Poney tractor.** Red, good condition 1958. 950€ ono. Tel: 02 96 56 18 08 (dept 22) jeffrey.newman@wanadoo.fr

**Pilote Atlantis.** Peugeot chassis, 2.5 Turbo diesel. 130,000km. 1992. 6-berth. Shower, w.c. Heating, fridge, microwave, CD player, satellite, solar panel, Ormister awning, cycle rack. 18,000€ Tel: 02 96 35 76 99

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Wanted contd. page 54

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## Building Services 53

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## Building Services 55

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# Woodpeckers

The drumming of woodpeckers is a regular sound in Spring, and when the noise is followed a woodpecker can often be found hammering away at a tree.

Most often it is the Great Spotted woodpecker (*right*), a large black and white bird with a vivid splash of red under its tail and at the back of its head.

How woodpeckers manage to use their beaks like hammers without seriously hurting their heads is something which puzzles everyone who sees them, and it is put down to the clever design of their skull.

Another common woodpecker is the green woodpecker (below), a very fine looking, green-coloured bird with a crimson head. It makes a loud cackling noise, which sounds like harsh laughter, and is often seen on lawns eating ants.

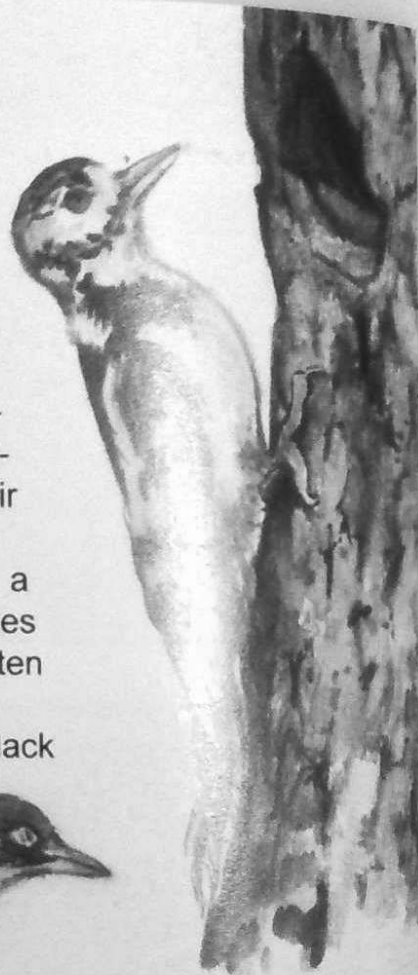
In the past twenty years Brittany has also been inhabited by the black woodpecker, pictured below. It is by far the biggest woodpecker in Europe and has been spreading westward for the past fifty years, its range now extending all the way to to Finistère.



**Black Woodpecker**  
(*Dryocopus martius*)  
French: *Pic noir*  
Breton: *Poker Du*

**Green woodpecker**  
(*Picus viridis*)

French: *Pic vert* (or *pivert*)  
Breton: *Kazeg Koad* (Wood mare) or *Eubeul Koad* (wood foal) because its call sounds like a neighing horse!



**Great spotted woodpecker**  
(*Dendrocopos major*)  
French: *Pic épeiche*  
Breton: *Poker Koad* or *Spæg*.

"Why did the owl 'owl?  
Because the woodpecker  
would peck 'er."

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