

Central Brittany Journal

1€

April 2004

Roman Brittany

Carhaix, the ancient Vorgium.
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Traditional Building

Stone Walls

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The Great Property Debate

Is it true that British buyers are causing rampant inflation in the housing market?

Property prices in Central Brittany have been rising steadily for the past decade, and this process has accelerated over the past two years. It is over simplistic to blame this on an increased number of buyers from the UK. The real reasons are complex and closely related to the recent history of the region.

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A New Journal For Central Brittany

In recent years, the outstanding beauty of Central Brittany has served to attract people from all corners of the world to this unspoilt corner of France.

These newcomers have helped to reverse the long-standing process of rural depopulation, and have brought new life to towns and villages across the region. They also bring a new spirit of enterprise and a rich diversity of cultural traditions that are starting to make an impact on every area of local life.

The aim of this journal is to provide information and articles useful to people in the region whose principal, or whose second, language is English.

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What's On

Huelgoat

Bed & Breakfast

Rachel and David O'Brien's popular Bed & Breakfast is now entering its third season. It opened in July 2002 and its idyllic location in the centre of Huelgoat, overlooking both the lake and the 'Moulin du Chaos', combined with its proximity to the channel port at Roscoff, makes this an ideal stopping-off point at the beginning or the end of a holiday. The refurbishment of the property has been done to the highest standard: accommodation comprises 4 en-suite, luxury bedrooms, including 1 room suitable for a family of up to 5. The fixed price per room includes a full continental breakfast buffet, and tea and coffee is available during the day. Contact Rachel and David: 02 98 99 82 73

Dancing Lessons

Have you ever wished that you could dance the Salsa or waltz gracefully round the dance floor keeping time with the music? This is your opportunity to learn. Melvyn Wingfield has a specially converted dance studio in which he offers lessons in tap dancing, ballroom, Latin American, and Jazz dancing. Melvyn is a dancer of many years' experience. Contact him for more information about rates and availability on 02 98 99 70 03.

The Tropical Café

Run by a partnership of an Englishman and a Frenchman, the Tropical Café, in the centre of Huelgoat offers a convivial atmosphere and a friendly welcome to all. From mid-April, the Brasserie/Restaurant will be reopening serving

lunches and evening meals with a new chef specializing in fish dishes.

Rostrenen

Internet Access

Rostrenen public library and multimedia centre offers exceptionally good internet access. There are 14 internet posts and the centre is open to everyone - membership of the library is not necessary. Place du Général de Gaulle Open Tues. Wed. & Sat. am. and every afternoon except Thurs. Charges with a card - 8 Euros/ 2 hrs. inc. 1 print per half hour.

French Courses

Madame Le Nagard runs a series of well-established French courses in the Collège, Lycée Campostal in Rostrenen. There are three courses: one for beginners, one for intermediate level, and one for advanced students. Courses are based on conversation but time is spent during each two-hour session (which often runs over time!) in studying French Grammar and conjugation - essential for written French. A recent innovation is a mid-morning break for tea and biscuits, which allows time for informal discussion on the issues of the day. A lively and friendly atmosphere pervades. 10 hours 56€. Phone: 02 96 24 82 39

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Editorial

Editorial

We moved to Brittany just over ten years ago and since then have often thought how useful a local, English-language newspaper would be - especially in view of the diversity and range of skills of the people who are moving to the area.

Since moving to France, my main source of income has been from writing and, two years ago, we started a small publishing company which produces educational books that sell in the UK and the US. It occurred to me that as a result we probably have the skills required to produce a paper for the English speaking community, and we have decided to go ahead with this first issue of the Central Brittany Journal.

As is inevitably the case with any venture of this sort, this is very much a work in progress and I would welcome feedback, news items, letters, and information from readers. My aim is to fill the Journal with a balanced mixture of informative articles, interesting features, and advertisements which provide information about useful products and services.

Gareth Lewis

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Roman Brittany

Roman Brittany

Central Brittany played a significant role in the Roman Empire. Carhaix appears to have been a major city, founded by the Romans and maintained as the administrative and military centre of the region.

The first written accounts that we have of Brittany come from the notebooks of Julius Caesar. He describes a highly-organised and well-regulated society, that practised agriculture and conducted trade – most notably with Britain. Brittany was occupied by the Gallic tribes of the Osismi, the Veneti, the Curiosolites, the Namnetes, and the Redones, and although Caesar had no particular quarrel with any of these peoples, it is clear that he had set himself the task of reducing the whole of Gaul to such a state of submission that no Gallic tribe would ever be able to aid an invasion of Italy, similar to those that had taken place in previous centuries. His policy of

subjugating the region brought him into open conflict with the Veneti tribe of South Brittany; the wealthiest and most powerful tribe of the region.

The Veneti lived in well-defended forts built on peninsulas projecting into the sea around Quiberon, Vannes, and Lorient; they also possessed strong, ocean-going ships constructed out of oak.

Caesar besieged their forts and attempted to starve them into submission by damming up the sea around them, but the Veneti were always able to move their families and possessions from fort to fort with the aid of their ships. Caesar responded by constructing warships in the Loire estuary and recruiting crews for them in Provence.

Caesar appears to have been fortunate in the ensuing naval battle; his ships were built to a Mediterranean design and were not suited to ocean conditions, but the sea was calm around the bay of Quiberon when the main battle was fought. On that particular day, the Roman ships had the advantage because they possessed oars as well as sails, while the ships of the

"The Gauls' ships were built entirely of oak; the cross-beams, of timbers a foot thick, were fastened with iron bolts as thick as a man's thumb; and the anchors were held firm with iron chains instead of ropes. They used sails made of hides or soft leather, either because flax was scarce, or, more probably, because they thought that cloth sails would not be able to withstand the force of violent Atlantic gales.

When we encountered these vessels, our only advantage lay in the speed and power of our oars; in every other respect their ships were better adapted to the storms and other conditions along the coast. They were so solidly built that our ships could not damage them with rams, and their height made it hard to use missiles against them or seize them with grappling irons. Not only that; when a gale blew up and they ran before it, they could weather the storm more easily and heave to more safely in shallow water, and if left aground by the tide, they had nothing to fear from rocks and reefs. To our ships, on the other hand, all these situations were a source of terror."

Commentaries, Julius Caesar

Roman Brittany

Veneti had only sails. The wind suddenly failed in the middle of the battle and the Roman ships were able to disable the Gallic ships one at a time as they lay becalmed; this effectively ended all opposition to Roman administration in the region.

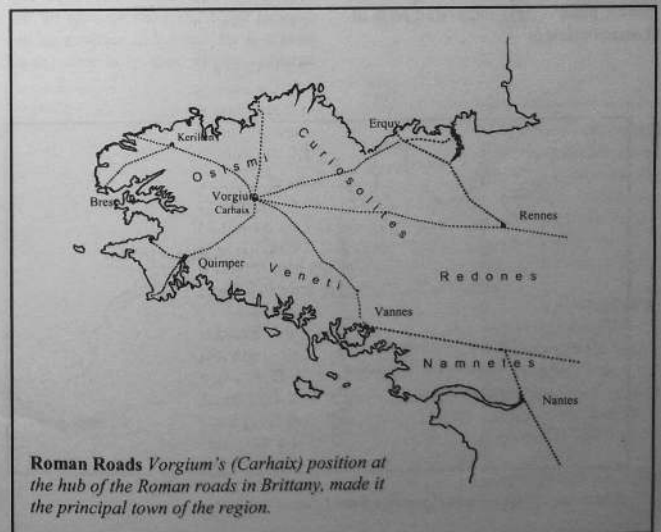
Vorgium

Whereas the Gauls of the region had derived their wealth from the sea, Roman power relied upon the strength of the army. Roman provinces were organised in such a way as to facilitate the movement of army detachments from one place to another in as short a time as possible. Administrative centres were therefore established in central locations.

In Brittany, the selected site for such a centre was Vorgium – modern day Carhaix. There had been no significant Gallic settlement on the site, but its position on a promontory of rock overlooking the Hyères valley makes it an easily defensible position and its central location makes it an ideal meeting point for roads leading to all parts of the Breton coast.

It would seem that Vorgium was the principal Roman city of the region – bigger than Rennes (*Condate*), Vannes (*Dariorotum*), Quimper, or Brest.

In many ways this seems to be a reversal of the natural order of Breton life and even though Carhaix was probably a major city throughout the time of the



Roman Brittany

Roman Empire, once Roman civilisation collapsed it was soon abandoned and all its fine Roman buildings were plundered for their stones by local people.

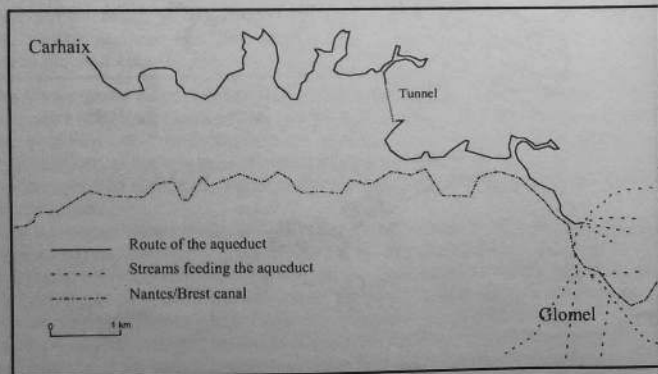
This means that there are fewer visible remains in Carhaix than in many Roman cities of comparable size, but foundations and evidence of Roman life are discovered almost every time a major building operation is undertaken. These provide evidence that in its heyday it must have been a magnificent city comprising a forum, law courts, villas, public baths, army headquarters, shops, and market places. Remains of a substantial Roman villa have been uncovered beside the hospital, and recent excavations in the centre of the town – in the car park beside the post office and in the market place – have uncovered parts of Roman buildings.

The Aqueduct

By far the most significant archaeological remains from Roman times – and the ones that give the clearest indication of the significance of Carhaix as a regional centre are those of the old Roman aqueduct.

Little of the overground parts of Carhaix's aqueduct can now be traced, but extensive stretches of its underground portion, including a 900 metre long tunnel, still remain intact.

The aqueduct carried water from the area around Glomel by a route which followed the natural contours of the hills into the city of Carhaix. It is believed to have been 27 kilometres long and to have been capable of delivering 6000m³ of water to the town each day. The original route has been severed by the Nantes-Brest canal, but sections of the aqueduct can be seen at at least ten or



The route of the Roman Aqueduct from Glomel to Carhaix.

Roman Brittany

eleven points along its route.

It was built in a trench approximately 2 m by 1.80 m and constructed out of local stones, lined with a mixture of lime and clay – to make it waterproof – and then covered over with slabs of stone and a layer of soil.

The final stretch of the aqueduct is believed to have been carried on a bridge, which also carried the road to Rennes, but no trace of this bridge remains; presumably its stones are distributed amongst local houses.

The water itself would have been the life-blood of the city. In all probability, there would have been a system of reservoirs in the town which would have been used to store the water, and control its flow to the various outlets, but no trace of these remain. Water would have been carried by underground pipes from here to fountains at street corners, which

people could have used to collect water for drinking and cooking; public baths would have consumed large amounts of water; there would also have been public toilets that made use of water to carry away waste material. In addition, the villas of the wealthy citizens would have received sufficient water to operate fountains and running streams in their gardens.

It is interesting to reflect upon what life must have been like in Carhaix two thousand years ago. We know little about the living conditions of the ordinary people, but it does seem that everyone living in the town had access to an almost unlimited supply of pure, spring water, and that in those days the distinctive sound in the streets was the trickling of streams and fountains.



The Roman Aqueduct

The most accessible remains of the old Roman aqueduct are in Carhaix itself. This section of the aqueduct, which ran within the city, was actually constructed out of concrete rather than stone.

Directions: Park in the Market Place. Walk along Rue Raymond Poincaré, past Pressing des Arcades and the France Telecom (Orange) shop on your left. At the end of the road, at the T-junction, turn left onto

Rue de l'Aqueduc Romain.

After a hundred yards you will pass the Radiology Centre on your left and a hundred yards further, on the left, is the Roman aqueduct.

Total walking time: 5 minutes.

Places to Visit

Places to visit

Central Brittany is blessed with a wealth of natural beauty and there are countless unspoilt sites that can be visited for no cost and which afford unrestricted access to the region's natural heritage:

Saint Gildas - Carnoët

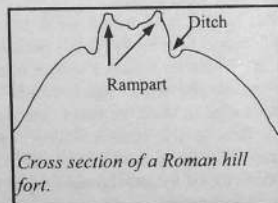
A nice walk in the Carnoët region goes from a 16th century church (Chapelle Saint Gildas) up the hill to a Roman Camp.

The Church: A fine example of local architecture. Beautiful granite doorway and steeple. There is a carved granite well, formerly used for watering horses, at the back of the church.

The Roman Camp: The path up the hill is steep but not rugged and should be manageable for most visitors. It takes just five minutes at a brisk walk. The Roman 'camp' was actually a

lookout post and is now overgrown with small oak trees, gorse and bracken. The site appears to have remained in use throughout the Middle Ages and it is therefore difficult to determine to what extent the current remains represent work actually dating back to Roman times.

There is a very clearly defined ditch and rampart surrounding a small area at the top of the hill. The most striking feature of the site is the uninterrupted, panoramic view that it affords over the countryside.



How to Get There:

Turn off the main road between Callac and Carhaix, up the D97 to Carnoët. Carry on to the town centre, 2 miles (3 km). Turn right at the church, following signs for Morlaix. Turn left at the signpost for 'Site de Saint-Gildas'. Take the first left and continue to the end, where there is a small car park and two picnic benches at the bottom of the hill.

Subscribe to the Central Brittany Journal 6 issues 9€

If you would like to receive the Central Brittany Journal by post, please complete the form below and return it with a cheque for 9€ made payable to P.L.A.E. to: P.L.A.E., Boite Postale 4, 22160 Callac de Bretagne. (The journal will be sent out by second class post to addresses in France and at brochure rate to other European countries, including the UK.)

Name: _____
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Locarn

The Heritage Centre (La Maison du Patrimoine)

Situated next to the mairie, the Heritage Centre is a large, eclectic collection of photos, words, utensils and artefacts from the area.

In French at present - translations in English and German are forthcoming - the history of slate mining in the Locarn / Mael Carhaix area is explained in a detailed photo montage. This and 2 short films (25 min and 12 min) make it a worthwhile visit.

Viewing time: approx 1½ hours.
 Admission: Adults 4.50 € Students 3 €

Carhaix

Les Vieilles Charrues

Plans are well advance for this year's Vieilles Charrues - a pop festival which has grown over the course of ten years from being an event held in the market place in the town centre to being one of the biggest pop festivals in France, with its own site on the edge of the town.

Last year the Vieilles Charrues was attended by 55 000 people each day, most of them camping on site.

This year the event will take place on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of July.

New Bypass

Work on the new by-pass around Carhaix is nearing completion and the road should be open for traffic before this year's Vieilles

Letters

Please send letters, news or information that would be of interest to readers of the Central Brittany Journal to: P.L.A.E., Boite Postale 4, 22160 Callac

Charrues festival, thereby reducing the disruption caused by the festival in previous years.

It is hoped that the new road will cut down the amount of traffic within the town, and in particular should drastically reduce the number of lorries using the current by-pass.

Callac:

Breton Costume 1920 - 1950

13 March - 13 April. Admission free. An exhibition in words, drawings and photographs. Callac library. 10h - 12h; 14h30 - 17h Wed & Sat 16h30 - 18h Mon

English Language Film

Callac Cinema 02 96 45 92 21 Wed. April 7th; Thurs April 8th; 21h

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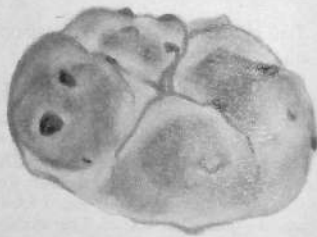
Recipe

Hot Cross Buns (makes 12)

These delicious sweet buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday.

Ingredients:

- 2 oz (50 g) brown sugar
- 1 oz (30 g) fresh yeast*
- 9 fl oz (275 ml) milk or water
- 1 lb (450 g) plain white bread flour (T 80)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground mixed spice
- ¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 2 oz (50 g) butter or margarine
- 4 oz (125 g) currants
- 2 oz (50 g) candied peel, chopped (optional)



Method:

1. Measure out the sugar and take out one teaspoonful. Add this to the yeast in a teacup, and stir until thick and creamy. Heat the water, and when lukewarm, remove from the heat and pour in the yeast mixture. Leave until frothy (about ten minutes.)
2. Sift the flour, salt and spices into a large mixing bowl and add the remaining sugar. Rub in the butter and then pour in the yeast. Stir with a wooden spoon until a soft dough is formed, and then turn out onto a floured board and knead for eight minutes. Add more flour if the dough seems sticky.
3. Return the dough to the bowl, cover with a tea towel, and leave to rise for an hour in a warm place.
4. Add the currants and peel to the dough, and knead until they are well mixed in. Divide the dough into thirds, then each third into half, and half again (making 12 pieces). Make each piece into a bun shape, flatten slightly, and place on greased baking sheets. Cover with tea towels and leave to rise another twenty minutes.
5. Set the oven 200°C (400°F, Gas Mark 6). Make a deep cross with the point of a sharp knife in the top of each bun. Bake for ten minutes, and then switch round the baking sheets. Bake for another ten minutes.
6. Meanwhile dissolve 2 tablespoons of sugar in 3 tablespoons water to make a glaze. Brush this glaze over the buns, and then return them to the oven. Bake for two minutes more, or until golden brown.
7. Brush with more glaze while still hot. Cool on a wire rack.

*Fresh yeast can be bought in blocks from local boulangeries.

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Tea Shops

Tea Shop Review

Brittany is famous for its cakes and teashops. For the first article of this series our reviewers visited the Salon de Thé in the centre of Callac.

Pâtisserie Chocolaterie Savidan-Lozac'h, Callac

The teashop in Callac is, in our opinion, one of the best in the region. It has a very nice, light tearoom from which you can see the customers coming in and out of the shop, and in summer there are tables outside.

The service is extremely pleasant, and the range of products unusually wide. Regionally produced jams, preserves, liqueurs, dragees (sugared almonds) are sold as well as chocolates, cakes, croissants, pains au chocolate, etc., all of which are made on the premises. The apple tart and the pear tart are particularly good.

It should also be said that the best Easter eggs, chocolate hens, etc. in the Callac/Carhaix region are made and sold here. The shop is in the town centre, beside the "Le Scanve" boulangerie, and is open Sunday mornings. It is closed all day Monday.



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Herbaceous Borders

Many people moving to Brittany, especially English people, make the mistake of planting an herbaceous border in the first year that they arrive, unaware of the special difficulties that affect perennial plants in this area.

In England, an herbaceous border can be one of the least labour-intensive areas of the garden, but in Brittany it can require more work than almost any other feature in the garden.

The principal problem is that the Breton winter is slightly warmer than the British winter, with the result that grasses, and, to a lesser extent, some other weeds such as dock, never really stop growing. Most traditional herbaceous border plants – such as lupins, red-hot poker, delphiniums, echinacea, yarrow, anemone, aquilegia, etc., enter a period of dormancy towards the end of the Autumn and only start to grow again once the soil warms up in the spring. This is a reasonably good survival strategy in Britain, but in Brittany flower beds become overrun and choked with grass over the Winter months and the roots of the herbaceous plants are unable to compete when they try to emerge from dormancy. The resulting plants are weak and often die during dry spells in the summer.

The solution is to keep herbaceous beds completely free of weeds; weed them in late Autumn and also at least once during the Winter months, and also in early Spring. In addition, it helps if they are covered with a thick mulch of organic material such as bracken or straw.

Most gardeners come to consider that this



high level of maintenance makes herbaceous perennials unsuitable for large areas of a garden. Instead, these plants are often reserved for a small bed near the house, where they can be seen and appreciated, and where they can be given the care and attention that they require.

April is a good month for reviewing your herbaceous perennial plants: remove any mulch, and weed round the plants, taking care to remove as much of the weed roots as possible. Plants that have prospered in previous years can be dug up and split into smaller clumps which are then replanted; this gives the plants room to grow and encourages more vigour and better flowers. Plants that have been choked by weeds, and look on the point of extinction, can be moved to a place in the garden that is kept weed-free, and there is every chance that they will recover.

The herbaceous perennials that tend to do best are those that are related to the naturally-occurring plants of the region – things such as yarrow, foxglove, globe thistle, lupin, mallow, etc. – but any plant with a strong root system will do well once it has become firmly established.

Tim the Gardener: time to plant Potatoes

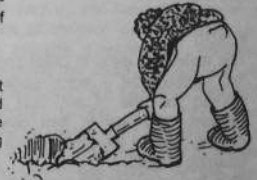
An unfortunate aspect of life in Britain, and other industrialised societies, is that the tradition of growing food for the Winter has been lost. This is not the case in Central Brittany, where the majority of people still either grow enough potatoes to last them for the whole year, or else have a friend or relative who grows potatoes for them.

Perhaps the original reasons for this were the greater availability of land or the strong rural traditions of the area, but they have led to an appreciation of how much better garden-produced potatoes are than those that are commercially produced and sold in supermarkets.

Anyone who has not experienced the difference for themselves, should not hesitate to go outside, dig up part of their garden and discover the joy of growing a potato crop.

Preparing the Ground

Clear the ground of weeds and dig trenches about two foot apart and one spade depth deep. Put any compost, old grass-cuttings, or organic material in the bottom of the trench and cover it over with some of the soil that you dug out.



Planting

Consult your neighbours about the best time to plant potatoes. The aim is to avoid the emerging shoots being caught by the last frosts, which can occur as late as the middle of May. Frost patterns vary from village to village and between one part of a village and another and it therefore takes time to get to understand the local conditions as they appertain to your garden.

Plant the potatoes about one foot apart in the trench and then cover over with the remainder of the earth that you dug out.

Protecting From Frost

When the potato shoots emerge, cover by carefully pulling earth over them with a draw hoe or similar tool.

When they get too big to be covered in this way, keep an eye on the weather, and if frost is forecast, cover over the potato plants with sheets of newspaper or fleece.

If you do fail to protect your plants from the frost, all is not lost; the plant regrows but will have lost a few weeks' growth.

Potato Blight

The reason why it is so important to get the potatoes in early, is because later in the year the plants will probably be attacked by potato blight. The bigger the plants are before this happens, the better your crop will be.

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Property

Traditional Building Techniques

Most people buying property in Brittany are often surprised to discover that it is still relatively common to find houses that have been built using traditional techniques.

In this area, such houses are typically composed of stone walls, oak timbers, and a slate roof.

Walls

The walls - at least in older properties in the countryside - were generally built without the use of any sort of lime or cement: they are in fact composed of stones packed together with a generous quantity of soil.

This fact may not be apparent when first viewing a house, because the joints between the stones have often been pointed with a strong mixture of sand and cement; but this pointing is, in practice, of little more than cosmetic value and does not do anything to alter the structural properties of the wall itself.

A modern builder would probably never consider building any sizable structure out of these materials, but providing their basic characteristics are respected, walls built in such a fashion are perfectly serviceable. The main consideration is to maintain a sound, waterproof roof over the whole structure: if large quantities of water fall on top of the wall, the soil is washed away and the wall collapses - this can happen over the course of a single wet winter.

The wall derives part of its stability from



The walls in many older houses are composed of uncut stones packed together with soil.

the presence of occasional large stones that span its width from one side to another. Care has to be taken not to remove too many such stones when making openings for windows and doors.

Corners

One of the deficiencies of soil as a packing material is that it does not bond the stones together. As a result, it cannot be used at the corners or round any openings. In most traditionally-built houses of this region, this problem was resolved by using large, cut granite stones that fitted together without the need for any packing material (either soil

Locally Sourced Building Materials The stones used in most houses in the country were sourced from the immediate vicinity - the entire Breton countryside is peppered with the remains of old stone quarries - and this means that buildings vary in their colour and the shape of their stones from one village to the next.

In order to preserve the distinctive character of a property it is necessary to use local stones during renovation. This need not be expensive, it is often possible to find appropriate stones close to the property, in derelict pig-sties, or simply buried under weeds and brambles.



Corners derive their strength from being made out of cut, granite stones which fit together without the need for cement.

or cement) at all. It is the careful positioning of these large stones that gives a building its structural strength, and they should not be moved without good cause.

Window Openings

Window openings are traditionally made with the aid of a large granite lintel above and below the window, and granite blocks lining the sides. The granite blocks used for doorways, corners and windows must have represented one of the largest expenses, in terms of money and also in terms of the labour involved in hauling them to the site. This may at least partly

explain why traditional houses tend not to have many windows, and why the windows that do exist are often be small.

There are advantages to this building technique; for example, if there is any subsidence or movement in the ground, the walls simply settle into a new shape. The walls also tend to be very thick, and although they do not have the insulating properties of modern building materials, they do provide a remarkably effective barrier against the conditions outside - in Winter they retain the heat that has built up indoors during the day, and consequently warm the room during the night. In the Summer they help to create a cool space in the middle of the day when the sun is at its fiercest.



Window openings are traditionally made with a large granite lintel above and below the window.



ets Lavenant Callac

Building Materials

Sand	Gravel	Cement	Wood
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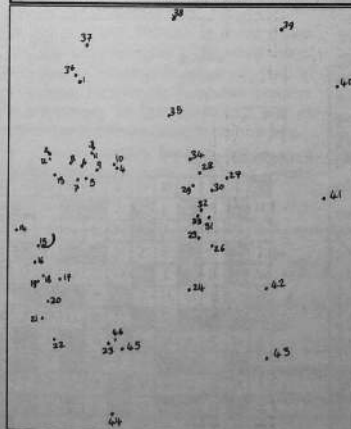
Herbs and Spices Word Search - Find the names of the herbs and spices. Words can run forwards, backwards, up, down, and diagonally. Letters can be used more than once.

P E P P E C I P S L L A Y R O V A S
 A S C F E F O T A D N I R A M A T A
 R D H D C P A P R I K A A B A S I L
 S I I L I R P E P P E R M I N T A S
 L L V T A L G E L L A C E L E R Y P
 E E E N E N L N R Y I P S M B A I E
 Y G I N I O M O A L R A O A R L L A
 A S M G A U F M R E A R R T E E I R
 E H O R S E R A D I S H U N V M V M
 G E M T U N G N S T A R N C N O R I
 H Y A B A N A N T A M E C L O V E N
 E R D I U I R I A E F E N E M Y H T
 D G R T R M N C R R F F A S E M C H
 A O A O C U M I M T A Y R E L A C Y
 C O C S O C C T A R R A G O N C O M
 M A R J O R A M K E E R G U N E F F

- ALLSPICE
- ASAFOETIDA
- BASIL
- BAY
- CARDAMOM
- CHERVIL
- CHIVE
- CELERY
- CINNAMON
- CLOVE
- CORIANDER
- CUMIN
- CURRY LEAF
- DILL
- FENNEL
- FENUGREEK
- GARLIC
- GINGER
- HORSERADISH
- LEMON VERBENA
- MACE
- MARJORAM
- MUSTARD
- NUTMEG
- PAPRIKA
- PARSLEY
- PEPPER
- PEPPERMINT
- ROSEMARY
- SAGE
- SAFFRON
- SAVORY
- SPEARMINT
- STAR ANISE
- TAMARIND
- TARRAGON
- THYME
- TURMERIC

Dot-to-Dot

Join the dots to make a picture.



European Capitals Quiz

Which city is the capital of each of these countries? Answers on page 18

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. England | Canterbury | London |
| 2. Spain | Madrid | Barcelona |
| 3. Portugal | Lisbon | Porto |
| 4. France | Rheims | Paris |
| 5. Germany | Hamburg | Berlin |
| 6. Italy | Milan | Rome |
| 7. Slovenia | Trieste | Ljubljana |
| 8. Greece | Thessaloniki | Athens |
| 9. Poland | Warsaw | Kraków |



Market Report

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Wed:	Callac	Sat:	Carhaix
Thurs:	Huelgoat		Saint Brieuc

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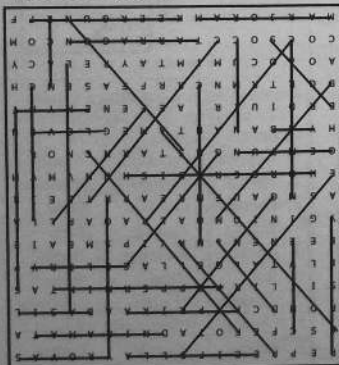
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Solutions

European Capitals page 17

Word search page 17



- | | | | |
|----|--------|----|-----------|
| 1. | London | 6. | Rome |
| 2. | Madrid | 7. | Ljubljana |
| 3. | Lisbon | 8. | Athens |
| 4. | Paris | 9. | Warsaw |
| 5. | Berlin | | |

Crossword page 19



The Great Property Debate

The Great Property Debate *Continued from front page*

The Common Agricultural Policy

Thanks to the Common Agricultural Policy, Breton farmers were able to continue using traditional farming techniques right up until the 1970s: most farms were less than ten acres in size, farmers typically had just four or five cows, milking was done by hand, and much of the work in the fields was done by horses.

These methods appeared increasingly anachronistic in the context of modern Europe, and when change came it came very swiftly: farms were amalgamated and intensive farming techniques were adopted everywhere.

Rural Depopulation

One of the consequences of this was rural depopulation. Young people left the countryside for work in the cities, and villages that had provided homes for dozens of people were abandoned. There had never been a tradition of paid employment in the countryside, so once peasant farming finished, there was nothing that people could do that would earn them a living.

Collapse of House Prices

This led to a total collapse in house prices. There was a period in the 1980s when houses in the Breton countryside effectively had no value: it was common for farmers to demolish a house simply so that they could sell its granite stones for a thousand pounds or less. The property market became caught in a negative spiral; as more and more houses

were standing empty, or falling down, it became more difficult for local businesses such as village bars and shops to survive. As businesses closed, there was less work and the slump in property prices spread from the countryside to villages, and then even to the medium-sized towns.

New Buyers

This process was reversed by buyers from other from other areas of France, from the UK and from other countries in the EU. These buyers established a market for traditional, stone-built houses and probably helped to reverse the trend of rural depopulation. People buying houses as second homes at least prevented them from falling into ruin and preserved them for future use, and people that moved to the area helped to arrest the decline in the local economy by providing trade for local businesses. The advent of buyers from outside the region has therefore been positive in almost every respect.

House Price Inflation Out of Control?

It is very unlikely that house price inflation will get out of control in the way that it has done in the UK. Planning rules are much more sensible in France than in the UK and there is no shortage of easily affordable building land. Once it becomes clear that the housing market really has recovered, builders will have confidence to build more new houses, and, as in any sensible market, prices will then be pegged to the cost of building a new house.

La Louve

Maison de la Presse - Callac

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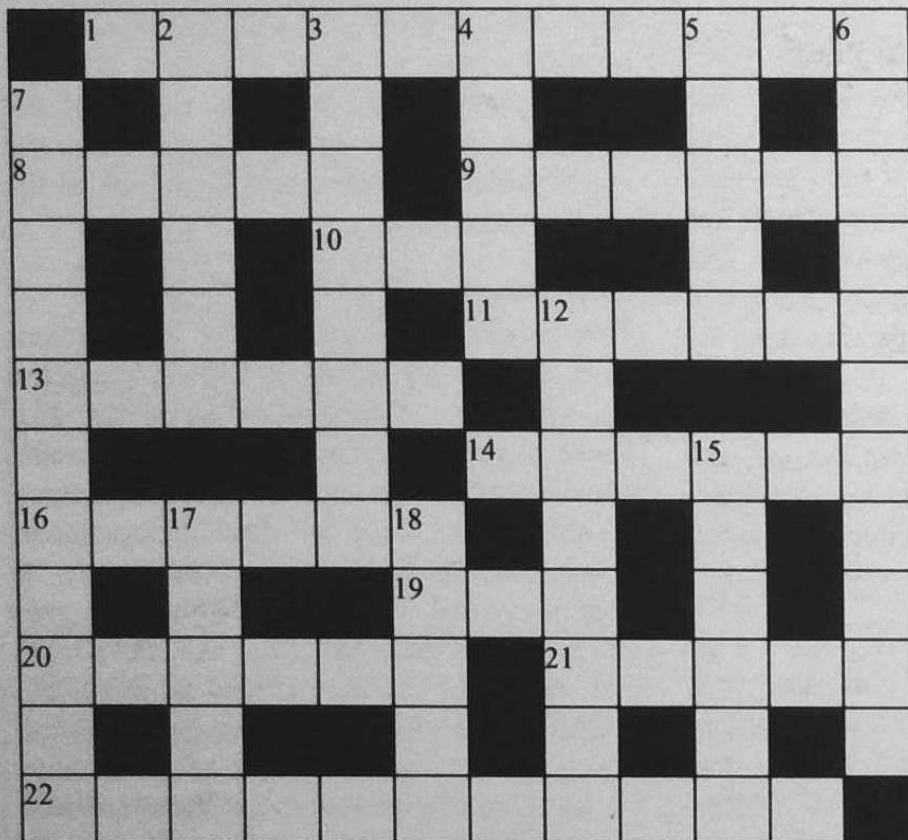
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English newspapers and books

12, pl 9 avril 1944 - Callac 02 96 45 50 40

Crossword

Crossword solution page 18



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Excellent – late (11)
8. Italian dish (5)
9. Passionate (6)
10. Man's (3)
11. Russian physiologist (6)
13. Persist (6)
14. Japanese ruler (6)
16. Weighed down (6)
19. Discernment (3)
20. Sand and stones (6)
21. Safe (5)
22. Tide rumbler (6-5, anag.)

Down

2. Unexpressed (6)
3. Hippocampus (8)
4. Showing astonishment (5)
5. Sublime (5)
6. Take revenge (3,4,4)
7. Rocket travel (5,6)
12. Successful activist (8)
15. Gripe (6)
17. Siren (5)
18. Search – dig (5)

Cryptic Clues

Across

1. Great work still to be done (11)
8. Over and done with an Italian dish (5)
9. Eager to meet hitchhiker who departs Thursday (6)
10. Man's sophistication is severely limited (3)
11. Dog trainer (6)
13. Last bear (6)
14. Present not finished, a weapon for Commander-in-Chief (6)
16. Rich using weighted dice, say (6)
19. Look both ways (3)
20. Serious learner needs grit (6)
21. Bound to be in the strongroom (5)
22. Fall by proficient rider puts outfits in a spin (6-5)

Down

2. Tacit support on which the sun never set (6)
3. As he rose to swim with fish ... (8)
4. ... dad sank down round gas bubble, with his mouth open in surprise (5)
5. In second-half decide goal is perfect (5)
6. Repay gent with Eve after sin (3,4,4)
7. Rocket travel reaches speed of light, initiated by Science Fiction (5,6)
12. A Greek letter always indicates one who gets results (8)
15. Protest for game-bird (6)
17. Panic after the manner of an upset mister (5)
18. Look into dwarves hint that elves are slightly shorter than normal (5)



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