

# Central Brittany

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*Journal*

Oct. 2007

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ISSUE 40



# Les Frères Morvan

## Veg. Boxes – A new service in Callac

A new service was launched in Callac in August, allowing people to collect weekly boxes of locally-produced vegetables, bread, dairy products, eggs, etc. from the grocery shop in the town square.

The scheme owes its origins to a meeting held in the local cinema, in which local producers discussed ways in which they could help to foster the development of a sustainable agriculture.

They came up with the idea of making weekly deliveries of pre-ordered products to Callac's new grocery shop – 'Epicerie, Fruits & Légumes' – which customers could then pick up at their own convenience. There are already a dozen local producers participating in the scheme – including La Baleine which provides organic bread, Christelle



Carnus, who grows organic vegetables, and Daniel Le Maitre, a local producer of cider and apple juice, plus producers of crêpes, goats' cheese, pâté, eggs, milk and yoghurt.

Customers can place orders over the internet or by calling into the shop and filling in a pre-printed form that lists the products available that week. Forms must be completed and handed in by mid-day Wednesday, and the boxes are ready for collection on Saturday morning. Madame Yger, owner of the shop, welcomes English-speaking customers and is ready to lend a hand in completing the order forms.

More info: Epicerie Fruits et Légumes, 2 Place du 9 avril 1944, 22160 CALLAC. 02 96 43 96 73, or from Bruno Le Breton, 06 81 90 82 99, (organiser of the scheme). Association Appétit: [www.reseau-appetit.org](http://www.reseau-appetit.org) (click on the basket to place an order)



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## Pictures of the Month



Spiders' webs, John R. Wood



Morning fishing at Glomel, Richard Scamell - Herdud



Above: Huelgoat, Glenn Weaver

Right: Nantes-Brest Canal, Doreen Marshall



Hay bales, Dawn Guiver



The stones at Carnac, Anna Jardine

Please send photos for pictures of the month to Wendy at: [info@thebj.com](mailto:info@thebj.com) or to: CBJ, BP4, 22160 Callac

### Autumn Fair: Callac

The Central Brittany Harvest Fayre held in the Salle des Fêtes, Callac on September 16<sup>th</sup> proved to be a great success, giving French, English, and Breton-speaking residents of the area a chance to meet each other, share a cup of tea, and swap plants and produce.

There are plans to hold a Winter fair at the end of November, perhaps in Carhaix. For more information, telephone Wendy: 02 96 21 55 97



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## Editorial

Welcome to the October issue of the Journal. The principle topic of conversation over the past month has continued to be the weather and even the oldest residents of the region say that they cannot remember such a cold, wet Summer. The main feature in this issue is about the local singing legends, Les Frères Morvan (Ar Vreudeur Morvan, in their native Breton), and we made a special trip out to see them perform at the Fête du Beurre in St Herbot. Unfortunately this was one of the days when it chose to rain incessantly, and we, along with all the other festival-goers, were soaked to the skin. In a funny way the occasion was just as enjoyable as day out in glorious sunshine – somehow such experiences all add to the warp and weft of life in Brittany.

You may notice that space is short this month due to the fact that we have squeezed in the whole of the second part of the story of 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight'. I am often asked why we sell such a high quality journal for such a low price. I think that part of the answer is that when I was a child the Arthurian legends made a great impression on me and made me think that people in positions of authority ought to do as good a job as they possibly can, no matter what the obstacles – although hopefully few of us will have to deal with the sorts of trials that Gawain has to endure in this story!

Finally, we have now been able to negotiate a good rate for sending out the Journal by post, and are able to re-introduce our subscription service - for more details please see page 39.

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### Advertising:

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Tel: 02 98 99 33 85 (Closed Sundays and Mondays)

# Les Frères Morvan



This October marks the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Frères Morvan's first public performance – which took place in St Servais in 1958. Since then, they have sung at thousands of musical events ranging from small family gatherings to the huge annual rock festival, les Vieilles Charrues, at Carhaix, and are recognised as having played a major role in helping to preserve the centuries-old tradition of Breton music and dance.

What is perhaps even more remarkable, given the nature of the music business, is that the Frères Morvan command almost universal love and respect in their local community and throughout the whole of Brittany.

Over the course of their lives, the three

brothers, François, Henri, and Yvon, have seen many changes, and their biography reads like a history of Brittany in the twentieth century.

Like many Bretons, their father, Fanch Morvan, was an unwilling conscript in the 1914-18 war: he spent four full years at the front, leaving his young bride, Augustine, to look after their farm in St Nicodème. One of Fanch's brothers was killed in combat, and another only managed to avoid conscription by feigning imbecility to the French authorities.

*Above & cover: from left to right, Yvon, François and Henri Morvan.*

*Facing page: Yvon and Henri singing at the 'Fête du Beurre', St Herbot, in September this year.*

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

After the War a time of relative peace and prosperity returned to Brittany, and Fanch and Augustine had five children – four sons and a daughter. Henri recalls this as being a time of great happiness: 'People sang while they worked in the fields, and it was common for people to gather together in the evenings to sing and dance together'.

The occupation of Brittany by German forces in 1939 saw a return to harsh conditions. The Morvan brothers managed to avoid deportation to Germany – a fate which befell many other young men in the area – but life was perilous throughout the six years of occupation, taxes were high, farm equipment was requisitioned for the German war effort, and any sign of non-co-operation with the authorities was potentially fatal.

Little relief was experienced after Liberation. Yvon was conscripted to serve in the war in Algeria, while, at home, the Breton countryside started to experience an 'exodus' that soon left whole villages empty and falling into ruin: young people across Brittany became convinced



## Where to see the Frères Morvan:

- 7<sup>th</sup> October 3pm Fête de Blé Noir, Village Gaullois, Pleumeur-Bodou
- 20<sup>th</sup> October 9pm Plémet, nr Loudéac
- 31<sup>st</sup> October 9pm Paimpol



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# 8 Les Frères Morvan

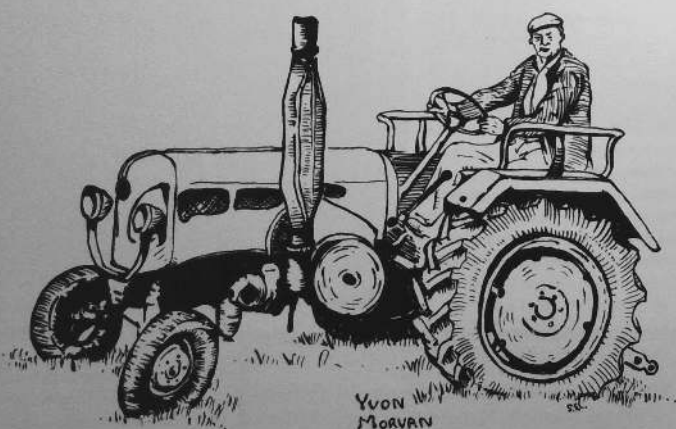
that there was no future for them in their place of birth and set off to find work in the big cities, most notably Paris.

The Morvan brothers resisted the temptation to follow the general trend, and remained on the family farm, working with their parents, and learning to adapt to the changing times. In 1958 the farm was connected to the electricity supply, and in 1959 the family bought its first tractor. However, the brothers never lost touch with the traditional way of life, and, in particular, they developed a reputation for their singing and their range of songs.

When the 'Circle Celtique de Callac' organised its first 'Fest-noz' in St Servais it was therefore natural for 'Les Frères Morvan' to be invited to sing – and this was their first official public performance.



Les Frères Morvan have recorded two CDs, *Ar Vreudeur Morvan* and *Fest-Noz à Botcol*, both of which are available from Amazon, France



Despite their popularity, les Frères Morvan never became professional musicians, preferring instead to sing for pleasure, and to earn their living through farming. In the early days, they sometimes travelled to singing engagements on the farm tractor.

# Les Frères Morvan 9

The brothers were soon invited to sing at more events and rapidly became a popular feature of Brittany's emerging musical folk-culture. They sing without musical accompaniment, and, as is traditional in Brittany, many of their songs are danced to, whilst others are ballads, dating back to the nineteenth century. They sing in Breton, and all their songs were learnt from their parents: their mother had learnt an exceptionally large number of songs from her father, and once her sons started to become more well-known, she took pains to pass the whole collection on to them – the entire repertoire of 78 songs has now



Below: over the years, the brothers have become famous for the welcome given to visitors to the family farm: from left to right, Yvon, François and Henri.



been transcribed and was published in book form in 2002.

Throughout their musical careers the brothers continued to run the family farm. As far as possible, they still accept every invitation that they receive, and they have never asked for an appearance fee; moreover, they have never signed a contract. In recent years François, who is now 83, has made fewer public appearances, but Henri and Yvon are still familiar figures at Fest-noz and fêtes across the region.



Illustrations: Cover by Wendy Lewis, black and white drawings of the Frères Morvan, Samuel Lewis. ©2007 CBJ.



**More Information:**  
A biography of the Frères Morvan by Alan le Nédélec - Les Frères Morvan, Hommes de Bretagne - available from local libraries.

*Teñzor ar Botkol*, the complete repertoire of Les Frères Morvan, transcribed by Guy and Yvonne Berthou, and published by Coop Breizh in 2002.

ISBN: 2-84346-154-5

**A Wet Year...** It seems that 2007 has been the wettest year in living memory. Springs have never left Wintertime levels, the ground has remained damp, and in some places continuously boggy. Below are some pictures of the extraordinary growth that trees have made throughout the Spring and Summer.



www.theobj.com

## News & Services

### Hospital Visits & Support for People in Ill Health 'The British Volunteer Network'



Lynn Marlow, President of the new association

A group of local volunteers has created a new association - the BRITISH VOLUNTEER NETWORK - to help English-speaking people in times of illness and distress.

Its principal aim is to provide practical support for people when they are in hospital: experience shows that a stay in hospital, whether it be due to an accident or illness, can be a lonely experience,

especially for people who have difficulty in communicating with the staff due to the fact that they speak a different language. It can also be a particularly stressful time for a partner who is unable to drive and finds themselves unable to visit their loved one. The association aims to help both by visiting people in hospital and by providing transport.

The volunteer network also aims to provide continuing support after someone returns home from hospital, particularly for people who live alone.

There are also plans to set up an additional network to provide support for new mums, which will enable those who have had babies in France to help others, either by email, telephone or through personal visits.

Lynn Marlow, who is President of the association, says that 'There is a role for everyone. It is not necessary for all volunteers to be hospital visitors and assist with sick people. There are lots of ways in which you can support the British Volunteer Network' and she looks forward to hearing from as many people as possible who would like to help make the association a success.

The Network hopes to cover departments 22, 29, 35 and 56 and will have a database of all the hospitals and clinics in the region, together with details of volunteers in each area.

Lynn says that she would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to support this initiative, either as a hospital visitor, as an administrator, or in any other way.

More info: Lynn Marlow, President, British Voluntary Network  
lynn.labella@wanadoo.fr 02 96 26 30 97 / 06 86 74 06 06

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**Breton Riddle:**  
Duvun a dreuz ann dour hep skeut?  
What passes over the water without making a shadow?  
Solution overleaf

## Dogs Available for Adoption

Dogs are available for adoption from the 'SPA du Penthievre et du Méné', situated in the village of La Ville Pierre between Moncontour and Lamballe in Côtes d'Armor. There are currently 43 dogs between the ages of 1 to 12, and it is always the older or larger breeds that are more difficult to re-home. Madame Boulbin, who is in her seventies, has run the refuge for about 50 years with no government funding. She is open every afternoon from Monday to Saturday from 2 to 5pm. It is advisable to ring first for an appointment. The refuge number is 02 96 42 01 13, or alternatively call Melissa (English) on 06 07 19 92 09. Photos of the dogs can be found at: <http://www.geocities.com/teddy766393/stardogs.html>.

## Acer Autumn Colour Weekend 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> October

Readers are invited to enjoy a glass of wine and cheese with Gary and Sue Lewis at the 'Garden Japonais' in Le Sourn, whilst absorbing the spectacular Autumn colours of their collection of Acer Palmatum varieties and their arboretum. There will be a 25% discount on all plants sold over the weekend. *Le Sourn, nr Pontivy (D2 to Melrand); In Le Sourn follow signs for Iris Japonais.* Gary and Sue Lewis 02 97 25 23 86

## Village Fete: Duault

This year the 'Fête du Rosaire' in Duault will take place on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October. It will take the form of a traditional village festival to which everyone is invited, both from within the commune, which is one of the oldest in Brittany, and from elsewhere. The programme starts with a boules competition on Saturday afternoon - registration 2pm - followed by a dinner with live cabaret (jazz/ blues, humour provided by 'les Trimarantes'). Reservations can be made at the Maison de la Presse in Callac or at the bar in Duault, price 17€ per person. Sunday starts with the mass for the 'Pardon du Rosaire' followed by a procession, and a picnic. There is a doubles boules competition in the afternoon, together with children's games and afternoon tea. A final boules match will take place on Monday afternoon.

## English Bookshop, Josselin

From October 1<sup>st</sup> opening hours of the English Bookshop in Josselin will change to 11 - 5 Tuesday to Saturday. The shop will be closed on Mondays.

Solution to riddle page 11

puno -  
uuuz JV -

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## Gosto da Goa: Guémené sur Scorff

The 'Gosto da Goa' restaurant will cease business from October 1<sup>st</sup>. The owners, Bobby & Ralina, plan to start a takeaway restaurant in Guémené, in the near future. They would like to thank all their customers for their support and good wishes.

## New Conference Centre Carhaix

The new conference centre in Carhaix is now open. It is an extension of the 'The Espace Glenmor' and can accommodate a range of different events including exhibitions and concerts. The forthcoming season includes the China Circus from Shandong on December 9th; Tuareg women singers from Mali on January 27th; and a troupe of Shaolin monks performing feats of physical stamina and expertise on February 10th. For more information, call 02 98 99 37 50, or call in, to book.

## Hunting Season Restarts

The hunting season restarted at the end of September. This means that special care should be taken when out walking in the countryside: sensible measures include not walking in close proximity to hunters; wearing bright clothes, and not walking too close to banks and hedgerows - in Winter it is generally advisable to cut across the middle of fields, where one is clearly visible, rather than walking round the edge. However, it is important to remember that hunting accidents involving the general public are very rare - most of the incidents that do take place involve hunters shooting each other by mistake. Hunting with guns is not allowed close to where people live, or close to roads and pathways that are in regular use.

## Breton Riddle:

Duvun duvunétes:

Diwar goad, na koad na n-e ;  
Rond 'vel boul, na boul na n-e.

What comes from wood, but isn't wood,  
Round as a ball, but isn't a ball?

Solution overleaf

# Letters

## Poppy Appeal

The ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Central Brittany Branch has regular social gatherings in Central Brittany and Membership is open to all French and British citizens who support the aims of the Legion. The internationally known POPPY APPEAL centres around the 11 November. Acts of Remembrance and wreaths and poppies are available from our Poppy Appeal Organiser. For further information about Membership, or poppies, please contact the Branch Secretary: [secretaryrblbrittany@wanadoo.fr](mailto:secretaryrblbrittany@wanadoo.fr)

Many thanks  
David J Glossop  
Branch Chairman

For more information see the British Legion website:  
<http://rblbrittany.free.fr> 02 96 31 79 22

## Satisfied Customers

Although we live on the outskirts of your main catchment area my wife and I have become regular readers of the CBJ for over a year. I thought you and your readers may be interested in some feedback on two of your advertisers that I/we now use.

Firstly, through your pages I discovered Rémi Hamel based near Lannion who teaches French using the 'communicative method'. Rémi turns out to be not only a very skilful teacher but he also has the patience of a saint. Trying to make this old dog understand even the most basic language principles is proving to be quite a challenge, but one that Rémi is clearly used to and which he takes in his stride. Moreover, he makes the lessons interesting and fun.

Secondly and more recently we have discovered and sampled the delights of 'The Curry Walla' (aka Paul Napier). Paul is clearly a man of significant culinary skill and I beg your readers to support his business. I promise they will not be disappointed. This man must continue with his art or I will be forced to move back to the UK to find a decent curry, just as I am becoming somewhere near competent in the French Language. Help! Please! You can find Paul at [www.currywalla.com](http://www.currywalla.com) Bon appetit!

Mick Howell  
Ponmerit-Jaudy

## What's On Section

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## Breton Courses

Tues. Evras. Callac 7.30-9.00  
48€ for the year + 30€ for course book  
Come along for a free trial lesson  
1<sup>st</sup> flr, Salle des Fêtes, Callac  
Tel: Ronan Remel 02 96 45 94 38

## Woodburners

Further to your article in the September issue on trees - and we are all looking forward to firing up our woodburners - we wondered if readers would be interested in the following:

We enjoy reading the magazine - so very interesting.  
Yours sincerely,

Richard and Anne Fletcher

## Wood

Beechwood fire burns bright and clear  
If the logs are kept a year.  
Store you beech for Christmastide  
With New Year holly cut beside.  
Chestnut's only good they say  
If for years 'tis stored away.  
Birch and firwood burn too fast  
Burn too bright and do not last.  
Flames from larch will shoot up high,  
Dangerously the sparks will fly.  
But ashwood green and ashwood brown,  
Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown.  
Oak logs if dry and old,  
Keep away the Winter cold.  
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,  
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.  
Elmwood burns like churchyard mould,  
E'en the very flames are cold.  
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread,  
So it is in Ireland said.  
Applewood will scent the room,  
Pearwood smells like flowers in bloom.  
But ashwood wet and ashwood dry,  
A King may warm his slippers by.

Please send letters to:  
Central Brittany Journal, BP 4,  
22160 Callac  
or e-mail: [info@thebcj.com](mailto:info@thebcj.com)

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## Breton Riddle:

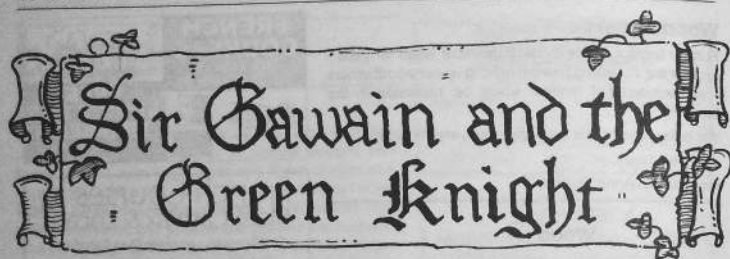
Divin d'id divinadenn:

Petra dreuzo ar ster hep bea glebet?

What goes through the river without getting wet?

Solution overleaf





**Part 2** In part 1 of the story, a mysterious green knight appeared at the court of King Arthur and challenged the assembly to a trial of courage. The knight had the proportions of a giant and struck fear into the hearts of everyone present - until Sir Gawain came to King Arthur's aid and accepted the challenge. He delivered a blow to the Green Knight, but it left him unharmed. Under the terms of the agreement, Sir Gawain had to seek out the Green Knight at the Green Chapel, in a year's time, and receive a blow in return.

Winter changed to Spring and as the days grew longer, the season of Summer arrived. This in turn gave way to Autumn, and when Winter once more came to the island of Britain, Sir Gawain began to think of his engagement with the Green Knight.

In November, when a month remained until the day he had promised to meet and receive a blow from the giant, Sir Gawain went to his uncle, King Arthur.

"My Lord," he said, "I must ask leave to set out in search of the Green Chapel. It is there that I have promised to meet with the Green Knight, and I cannot delay any longer."

The King and all the lords and ladies of the court were greatly saddened when they learnt of Gawain's decision.

They offered him what counsel they could, and wished him success, but their hearts were heavy when late that night they bade him farewell.

Early the next day, Gawain awoke and called for his armour to be brought to him. It was gilded, and sparkled in the candle light, and his attendants fastened the polished knee pieces to his knees with knots of gold, and encased his legs with steel greaves. The costly doublet of silk they covered in a mail shirt of many rings, and his sword was fastened about his waist by a silken belt.

Next, his horse Gringolet was led in, ready fitted with a saddle hung with golden fringes, and with trappings, saddle skirts, crupper and horse cloth all brilliant red, covered with golden studs. Gawain lifted up his helmet and set it on his head, and his attendants gave him his famous shield, which bore in its centre the mystic sign of the pentangle.

The knight and his horse shone like the sun in the morning light, and the attendants watched him ride away, and whispered to each other that it was a great shame that such a noble man should give up his life.

Gawain rode throughout the realm of England, across the North of Wales, over the fords at Holyhead to the Isles of Anglesey, and then ashore again at the wilderness of Wirral. Often he

slept outdoors, and went without food, and he had no other company but his horse. Wherever he went he asked about the Giant and the Green Chapel, but no one could tell him anything about them.

Wild men and animals lived in the hills, and Gawain often had to defend himself from their attacks, but this concerned him less than the bitter cold which froze the streams coming down among the rocks, and formed icicles above his head where he slept.

Thus he rode on until only a little while remained until the New Year.

One morning he found himself in a forest, with high slopes on either side. Great oak trees stood close together and hazel and hawthorn grew tangled with briar, and hung with shaggy moss.

In a clearing in this forest, stood a castle, surrounded by a moat, and a spiked palisade. Its turrets and towers rose high into the air and the battlements were fitted with loopholes and watch towers.

"Here I could spend a few days in comfort," thought Sir Gawain. "I am weary with travel, and perhaps the master of this place can help me in my quest for the Green Knight."

He rode to the foot of the castle wall, and shouted up to the porter stationed on the battlements.

"Good sir, will you ask the master of this house if I may have lodging here for a little while? I have ridden for many days, and I and my horse are in need of rest."

"Yes indeed," called back the porter. "And I can promise you that you will receive a warm welcome."

He hastened away, and soon he and other attendants returned to lower the drawbridge, and escort Gawain into the castle courtyard.

Some helped him to dismount, while others led away his horse, and they accompanied him to the hall, where a fire was burning in the hearth.

News of the stranger's arrival was carried to the lord of the castle, and he came down to welcome Sir Gawain. He was a tall man, with a thick, reddish-brown beard falling onto his chest, and a fierce face; however, he greeted Sir Gawain with great hospitality.

"You are welcome here, Sir Knight," he said. "Let my servants take you to your room, and provide you with fresh clothes, and then I invite you to dine with us."

Gawain thanked him, and followed the attendants to the bedchamber that had been made ready for him. Here he removed his armour, and the servants helped him to don handsome robes, and fastened a rich, fur-lined cloak about his shoulders.

The lord was awaiting him before the fire in the hall, and soon the trestles were carried in, and the table set up, and laid with many sorts of dishes.

"Tell me my friend, from whence have you come?" said the lord of the castle. "And why do you ride abroad at such a time?"

"I am from the court of King Arthur," said Gawain. "He is the great king whom I serve, and he is the lord of the Round Table."

"And may I ask you your name?" said his host. "I guess from your manner and appearance that you are Sir Gawain himself, whose fame has spread far and wide."

"I confess, that Gawain is my name," said the knight.

"Why, then you are doubly welcome here," cried the lord. "I hold it a high honour to receive you, for you are known as the noblest and most perfect knight on earth."

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The other guests were also overjoyed when they learnt that Gawain was amongst them, and they whispered to each other:

"Now we shall enjoy a display of good manners, and noble speech. Truly, God has been gracious in giving us such a companion."

When word reached the ears of the lady of the castle that Sir Gawain had become her husband's guest, she expressed a desire to meet him. Her husband led her into the hall, and she greeted Sir Gawain with many sweet words.

"My husband has told me who you are," she said, smiling up at him, "and I long to see if you are all that hearsay makes you. Many women talk of Sir Gawain, and I have heard that no one is so gallant and so agreeable."

Gawain replied courteously, for the lady was young and very beautiful. They continued to talk together for the rest of the evening, and she was delighted with her guest.

The lord of the castle had prepared many festivities to welcome in the New Year, and for three days Gawain enjoyed the feasting and merrymaking. On the evening of the third day, the lord accompanied him to his bedchamber when he retired for the night.

"This happy time has been made the happier by your presence amongst us," he said. "Pray, stay here a little longer; my lady wife has never found so delightful a companion, and she too earnestly presses you to remain amongst us."

"I thank you for your hospitality," said Sir Gawain. "But grave business awaits me, and I cannot delay."

The lord of the castle endeavoured to dissuade him, but Gawain was intractable.

"Tell me then, friend, what is this business that calls you away from us?" said the lord at last.

"You are right to wonder," replied the knight. "An urgent task sent me wandering in the wild, and I still cannot discover the information I sought. I have engaged to meet a certain person in a certain place, and try as I might, I can find no news of it. Tell me, do you know aught of the 'Green Chapel', and the Green Knight who dwells there?"

The lord began to laugh.

"I have gained my point," he exclaimed. "Now you must remain with us some days more. The Green Chapel is not two miles from here, and you shall continue to take your ease until the day of your meeting arrives."

Gawain was overjoyed, and accepted the lord's invitation. The lady and her serving women were sent for, and they also expressed their delight on hearing the happy tidings. The lord himself grew more merry than ever, and turning to Sir Gawain, exclaimed: "My friend, you have promised to do whatever you can to oblige me. Will you grant me a request?"

"Yes sir, assuredly," said the knight.

"Well, you have wearied yourself with travelling, and with late-night revels with myself and my companions," said the lord. "Now you shall lie abed until midday while I and my companions ride out hunting. You shall dine with my wife, who will be your companion until I return at night."

The conditions were not hard, and Gawain accepted them with a graceful bow.

"Furthermore," the lord continued, "let us make an agreement that whatever I catch in the wood shall be yours, and whatever befalls you, you shall give me in exchange. Swear to me,

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dear sir, that you agree to this exchange of whatever we receive."

"I am pleased by your love of amusement," laughed Sir Gawain, "and I agree to the conditions."

Then they sealed the agreement with wine, and each retired to his room.

Early the next morning, the lord of the castle arose, and he and the other guests set out with many attendants for the forest.

Gawain remained in his bedchamber, and lay asleep until the daylight shone on the walls above him.

He was awoken by a little noise and he raised a corner of the bed curtains and looked out into the room.

To his surprise he saw the lady of the castle. She had opened the door, and closed it silently behind her. Gawain felt confused, and hastily let the curtain fall back into its place. He closed his eyes and pretended to be asleep, but he heard the lady tip-toe up to the bed, and gently raise the curtains. She sat down beside him, and stayed quite still, waiting for him to awake.

The knight pretended to be asleep for a long while, but at last he thought to himself that he would do better to ask the lady why she was there. He opened his eyes, and looked at her in pretended surprise.

The lady blushed, and smiled.

"Good morning, Sir Gawain," she said. "You are certainly a sound sleeper, for I have been here this long while. Now you are my captive, and you must stay here conversing with me."

"Good morning, dear lady," said Gawain merrily. "I confess myself your captive, and you shall do with me what you will. However, first give me leave to arise and put on proper dress, then I shall take more pleasure in talking to you."

"Nay, Sir Gawain," said the lady. "Now I have caught you, you shall talk with me here, away from other company. You are the famous Sir Gawain, who is revered wherever he goes, and whose good name and courtesy are spoken of by all men."

"I have found you everything that rumour paints you, and I count myself the most fortunate of women to have you all to myself. My husband is away, the servants and my waiting women still abed, and I am your true servant, and will give you whatever you desire."

"I thank you," said Sir Gawain, "although I am not such a man as you describe. The honour is all





*"Good heavens," he thought, "can this be the Green Chapel?"  
It seemed a fitting home for the man dressed in green, and Gawain clambered to its summit.*

yours, for you can think nothing but good. I am proud of the esteem you feel for me, and I trust God will reward you for your generosity."

The lady smiled and thanked him, and they talked together until late in the morning. Her tone and manner were very affectionate, but Gawain continued to give cautious replies. To speak true, he had little heart for such banter, for the meeting with the Green Knight was always in his thoughts, and he could not forget the blow he was soon to receive.

At last, the lady spoke of leaving, and the knight immediately agreed.

"Very well, I wish you 'good morning' then Sir Knight," she said. "However, I confess that I do not believe that you are in truth Sir Gawain."

"Why is that?" said the knight quickly.

"Because I cannot believe that so good and courteous a knight could have spent so long with a lady without begging a kiss – for the sake of politeness."

"Indeed, let it be as you wish," said Sir Gawain. "I would do much rather than displease you."

The lady bent low and kissed him, and then they bade each other goodbye, and she left the room.

Sir Gawain arose and dressed, and he spent the day pleasantly in the company of the lady, and the old woman who accompanied her.

Late at night, the lord returned, and he joyfully greeted his guest, and showed him the animals he had killed in the forest.

"I give them all to you, Gawain," he cried. "For that is what we agreed."

"Aye, and by the same compact, I give you what I have honourably won today in this castle," said Sir Gawain, and he embraced his host and kissed him, with all the good will he could muster.

"Many thanks," said the lord. "I would be even better pleased were you to tell me where you won this prize."

"Nay," said the other. "That was not in our agreement, and I shall give you nothing more."

The lord laughed and invited Gawain to join him at the feast. Later, when they were sitting facing each other before the fire, the lord suggested that they agree upon the same arrangement as before, and that next day he would again give Gawain whatever he won during the hunt, while the knight should give him whatever he won during another day in the castle.

When the cockerel crowed, early the next morning, the lord and his men arose, and set out with their hounds into the wilderness.

Gawain remained in bed, and he was fast asleep when the door softly opened, and the lady once more entered the room.

He awoke, and she sat down beside him, and said with a laugh:

"For shame, Sir Gawain. Have you forgotten the lesson I taught you so soon?"

"What lesson was that?" asked the knight.

"Why, what I told you about kissing?" the lady replied. "You know that even if any woman were ill-natured enough to refuse you, you are strong enough to force your will."

"What you say is true," said Sir Gawain. "However, in my country, force is considered dishonourable, and a gift is not a gift unless it is given freely. I will not take any liberties, but you may kiss me whenever you choose."

The lady bent and kissed him, and they talked together for a long time. She was as loving as before, and seemed bent on leading him into mischief, but the knight defended himself so skilfully that no harm was done on either side, and they took great pleasure in their conversation.

At last she gave him a second kiss, and once more left him to himself.

When she had gone, Gawain arose and dressed and then joined the other inmates of the castle.

The day passed as pleasantly as before, and late in the evening the lord and his companions returned.

"I trust you have passed your time pleasantly," he exclaimed when he entered the hall. "Let us call down the ladies, and I will show you the beasts I took in today's sport."

As before, he made Sir Gawain a gift of all he had slain, and in return Gawain gave him two kisses.

The lord was well pleased, and the tables were laid on top of the trestles, the cloths spread over them, and the attendants carried in waxen torches and many excellent dishes.

The lady sat close to Sir Gawain and she behaved so lovingly towards him that he was amazed; and began to grow displeased. However, he could not in all courtesy rebuff her, and he continued to treat her politely, even though he feared the assembly would misconstrue his actions.

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Late at night, when the revels has gone on a long time, the lord took Gawain to his room, and they sat down before the fire, and began to speak of the Green Knight, and Gawain's forthcoming encounter. He begged leave to depart the next day, but the lord insisted that he remain, until the day of the New Year.

"I promise you, dear friend," he said, "you shall be at the Green Chapel on New Year's Day, before nine. Tomorrow lie here at your ease while I hunt in the woods, and let us keep the same pact as before. I have tested you twice and found you trustworthy, so let us be merry, for a man may find sorrow wherever he please."

Gawain consented and next morning he remained asleep in bed, while the lord rode out to the woods.

The lady arose early, and dressed herself with especial care. Clad in a long mantle trimmed with fur, and with head and neck ornamented with jewels, she hastened along to the knight's chamber, and opened the door.

Gawain lay asleep, and she saw him murmur to himself, as if troubled by anxious dreams. He was thinking of the Green Chapel, and the blow he was to receive from the Green Knight, but he awoke when the lady threw open the window and cried out in merry tones:

"Indeed sir, how can you sleep on so fine a morning?"

"I beg pardon, I did not know you were present," Gawain replied.

The lady smiled, and sat down close beside him. She was more affectionate than ever, and Gawain strove to remain polite, without openly rejecting her advances.

"God forbid I betray my kind host, the lord of the castle," he thought to himself, and he continued to put to one side the lady's loving words, until she exclaimed:

"Truly, sir knight, you are worthy of rebuke. Why cannot you return my love? You could not be so hard hearted unless you had plighted troth with another."

"I swear to you, lady," said Gawain, with a smile, "I have no one, nor do I seek anyone."

"Alas," she said, "I could not receive a worse reply. I will kiss you once and then depart."

So saying, she bent and kissed him, and then began to move away towards the door.

"Before I leave you," she said, "give me some thing of yours, so that I can remember you, and lessen my grief."

"Nay dear lady," said Gawain, "I have no gift that would be worthy of you, for I travel alone, and have no bags of precious things. I grieve to have nothing to give you, but a man must do as fate decrees, and I beg you to take no offence."

"No, most honoured sir," said the lady. "But though I get no gift from you, pray accept this ring from me."

She took a precious ring from her finger and held it out to him, but the knight remained steadfast and would not accept it.

"Perhaps it is too precious a gift," said the lady. "Instead, accept this girdle I wear around my waist. See, it is woven with green silk, and trimmed with gold."

Gawain would not take the girdle, although she pressed it upon him, and at

*Nay, hende of hyghe honours,  
Quoth that lufsum under lyne,  
'Thagh I had noght of pourez,  
Yet schulde ye have of myne.'*

## Sir Gawain and the Green Knight 23

last he declared that he would never agree to take gold or keepsake, until he had finished the task he had undertaken.

"No doubt you refuse this belt because you think it worth so little," said the lady. "However, although its worth is slight, its power is great, for so long as a man wears it tightly about his waist, no man on earth can strike him down."

"Such a belt would serve me well when I meet with the knight at the Green Chapel," thought Sir Gawain. "Perhaps it may even enable me to escape with my life."

The lady pleaded with him to accept it, and Gawain gave way, and allowed her to press it into his hands. She made him promise to hide it from her husband, and he gave his word that no one should know of it but themselves.

She bent and kissed him for a third time, and then left. Sir Gawain arose and hid the girdle before dressing, now with a lighter heart.

When the lord returned, Gawain met him in the hall, and gave him three kisses.

"In truth," cried the lord, merrily, "you have done better today than I, friend Gawain. I had small success in the woods, and can give you very little in return."

Gawain replied in pleasant words, and their last evening together passed away.

Late at night, the knight bade his host farewell, for he would rise betimes on the morrow, and he thanked him for all his hospitality.

"As you know, I am compelled to rise early tomorrow," he said, "and I must beg to recall your promise to provide me with a servant to show me the way."

"A servant you shall have," said the lord, "and whatever else I have promised you."

Gawain thanked him, and after taking leave of the ladies, and the other members of the company, he returned to his room.

When the sky was still dark, and the wind still howled about the castle walls, the knight arose. He called his chamberlain, and the man fetched his clothes, and he donned his armour, and ordered his horse to be brought.

He did not forget the lady's gift, but wrapped it twice about his waist. The green silk showed fine against his red surcote, but he did not wear it for its costliness; he trusted that it would protect him when the time came and that it would have the power to save his life.

Gringolet was soon waiting in the courtyard, and guided by a servant who rode beside him, the knight passed over the castle drawbridge, and set out into the hills.

Snow covered the upper slopes, and when the sun arose, he could see the ground lying frozen and white around them.

The servant bade Gawain draw rein and began to speak:

"You are not far now, sir, from the place you seek. However, I must tell you truly – for I know who you are, and love you well – that if you go on, you will certainly meet with death. There dwells a man yonder who is powerful and grim, and no man can pass by that place alive. He never shows mercy to any, and no one is strong enough to resist him. Take my advice, dear Sir Gawain, and leave him be. Ride in some other country, and I swear that I will return home and tell no one that you took flight from the man you had engaged to meet."

"Many thanks," said Sir Gawain, "but I cannot take flight as you suggest. I will ride on to the chapel, and meet with the man who awaits me."

"If you are determined to harm yourself, then I shall not hinder you," said the man. "Ride down the track beside the rock yonder, until it brings you out into a wild valley. Look to your



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left, and some way off in the glade you will see a chapel, and the giant man who dwells there. In God's name, noble Gawain, fare well. I would not go with you for all the wealth in the world."

He struck his horse with his heels, and rode away, and Sir Gawain went on alone.

After some time he entered a deep, rocky valley, and he began to stop and look about him for the chapel, for it seemed strange that he had not espied it.

At the end of the glade there was a grassy mound on the bank of a stream, and close to this, Gawain dismounted and tethered his horse to a tree.

He crossed over to the mound and walked around it, wondering to himself what it could be. It had holes at one end and on two of the sides, and seemed to be hollowed out inside.

"Good heavens," he thought, "can this be the Green Chapel?"

It seemed a fitting home for the man dressed in green, and Gawain clambered to its summit. Suddenly, there came a great whirring from behind a rock high up the hillside, and the noise rumbled on and on, as if the cliffs themselves would burst apart, or someone were sharpening a scythe on a grindstone.

"No doubt these doings are done to frighten me," thought Sir Gawain. "However, noise cannot make me afraid," and he cried aloud in ringing tones:

"Where is the master of this place? Good Gawain awaits him, and let him come to settle his affairs."

"Wait," said someone on the hillside above him. "You shall soon receive all I have promised you."

Nevertheless, the thunderous roaring went on for some time, and it seemed that the noise was indeed a weapon against a whetstone, for when the man appeared he was brandishing a newly-made axe. As before, he was clad all in green, and his hair, flesh and beard were also green. He walked on foot across the snow, and stopped before Sir Gawain.

"I see a man may trust your vow," he exclaimed. "Gawain you are welcome to my abode. Twelve months ago you promised to receive a blow from me at the New Year, and now the time has come for me to repay my debt. Remove your helmet, and receive your pay, without further argument."

"Very well," said Gawain, "and I shall bear you no grudge for whatever harm you do me. Limit yourself to one blow, and I shall stand still and make no resistance."

With these words, he bent his head, showing his bare neck, and stood quite still, awaiting the knight's blow.

The man dressed in green raised his axe, swung it round above his head, and then let it fall. If it had struck Sir Gawain, he would certainly have been slain, but as the axe came down he glanced at it out of the corner of his eye, and hunched his shoulders a little to resist the sharp blade.

The other man checked the axe and exclaimed:

"You cannot be the Gawain of whom all men speak! They say he never quailed in fight, and I see you flinching away from the blow. I neither flinched nor fled, sir, when you aimed at me, in the house of King Arthur, and I count myself the better man in consequence."

"I shall not flinch again," said Sir Gawain. "This time I will stand still, although if my head falls to the ground, I shall not be able to set it back on my shoulders."

"Have at you then," said the man in green, and once more he raised his axe, and swung it as

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if preparing to deal a mighty blow. The knight remained still, but before the axe could fall, the man in green checked himself and exclaimed:

"So, at last you have found your courage! Now I shall strike, and let us see if the order of knighthood given to you by Arthur has the power to save your life!"

"Strike away, and waste no more time in threats," cried Gawain. "I think that you have frightened yourself with your fierce words."

"You speak so angrily, I shall no longer delay the business," said the man. He once more raised the axe above his head, and brought it down straight onto Gawain's neck. Although he struck so fiercely, the blade only broke the skin, and a little blood fell down onto the snow.

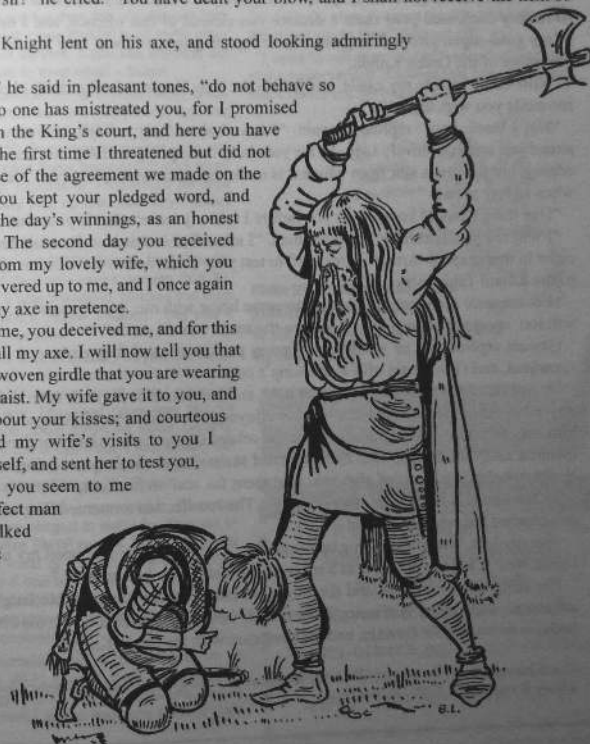
When he saw this, Gawain leapt forward, snatched up his helmet, and drew out his gleaming sword.

"That is all sir!" he cried. "You have dealt your blow, and I shall not receive the next so quietly."

The Green Knight lent on his axe, and stood looking admiringly towards him.

"Brave sir," he said in pleasant tones, "do not behave so wrathfully. No one has mistreated you, for I promised you a blow in the King's court, and here you have received it. The first time I threatened but did not strike, because of the agreement we made on the first night. You kept your pledged word, and gave me all the day's winnings, as an honest man should. The second day you received two kisses from my lovely wife, which you faithfully delivered up to me, and I once again only raised my axe in pretence.

The third time, you deceived me, and for this reason I let fall my axe. I will now tell you that it is my own woven girdle that you are wearing about your waist. My wife gave it to you, and I know all about your kisses; and courteous manners, and my wife's visits to you I arranged myself, and sent her to test you, and in truth, you seem to me the most perfect man who ever walked the earth. As



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pearls are more valuable than white peas, so is Gawain before all other knights. Only in the matter of this girdle, sir, did you fall short, and this was not through faithlessness, nor for love of fair things, but because you wanted to preserve your life, and for this I blame you the less."

Gawain stood speechless for a long while, and the hot blood of shame rushed to his face. At last he cried: "A curse upon cowardice and covetousness! They breed all the vices that ruin virtue!"

He took off the girdle and flung it violently towards the man.

"There is the false thing, and may the devil take it! Fear of your blow taught me cowardice, and made me false to my nature, and to the generosity and fidelity expected of knights. Now I am faithless and unworthy, and my good name is marred."

The other man laughed, and replied: "I forgive you the wrong you did me because you have so readily confessed your fault. I declare you cleared of that offence, and I make you a gift of my gold-edged girdle. It is green like my green gown, and will help you to remember the adventure of the Green Knight."

"Now come back to my castle, and join in the New Year revels. We shall, I know, be able to reconcile you with my wife."

"No, I thank you," replied Gawain. "I have stayed long enough, and may good fortune attend you and your lovely lady. As for your belt, I accept it gratefully. Not because of its gold edging, nor the green silk from which it is made, but because it will remind me of my failings when I grow proud."

"One thing I would know from you before I take my leave: what is your true name?"

"I will tell you faithfully," said the man. "I am called in this land Bertilak de Hautdesert. I came in this shape to Arthur's great hall to test your pride, and to see whether all I have heard of the Round Table is true."

"Let me once more entreat you, sir, to come home with me; my servants all love you, and I will too, upon my honour, for I hold you the truest man on earth."

Gawain replied that he would not, for any persuasion, and they embraced each other and separated, and Gawain set off for the King's court.

He had far to travel, but his heart was light, and the wound on his neck soon healed. When he arrived at the castle, the courtiers were overjoyed to see him, and the King and Queen kissed him, and asked to learn of his adventure. He related the marvellous story, and told how he had endured many hardships, what had happened at the chapel, the lady's wooing, and the Green Knight's behaviour. Last of all he showed them the scar on his neck, which he had received from the lord as a reproof for his dishonesty. The recollection tormented him, and he groaned and blushed red when he related it.

"See my lord," he said, holding up the girdle. "This caused the scar upon my neck, and now I shall wear it as long as I live, as a token of the dishonesty I committed."

The King comforted him and the lords and ladies of the Round Table laughed over the adventure, and vowed that henceforward each would wear such a belt crosswise across the body, in honour of Sir Gawain, and his adventure with the Green Knight.

*This re-telling of one of the most popular Arthurian legends is based upon the fourteenth-century poem, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. ©2007 Bethan Lewis*

## F. A. Q. #36



**Q: My ISP is Orange but recently I cannot send emails through any other server. What's going on?**

A.: I've been trying to get the Editor to be more topical. Well, in a monthly publication you cannot get much more topical than this. On August 28th Orange decided to close Port 25 to all traffic other than to their own servers. If you use anything but an Orange server to send email – tough!

Let's get technical for a minute. Most email comes to you from servers (computers) that use the Post Office Protocol (POP) and, by default they use Port 110. Because you need a login and password to access these servers with your email client – Outlook Express or Thunderbird perhaps – you can usually pick up mail from any Internet connection.

Sending email typically requires a connection to a server that uses SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol). By default this works through Port 25. Orange, when it was Wanadoo, blocked this from anywhere but one's "Home" location. They said it was a security measure.

Now I'm all for a bit of security as you well know but this was all rather inconvenient. Wanadoo subscribers could receive email whilst travelling but not send any. The good news was that for €6 a month one could forget all about security. Whoopee! Call me a cynic but it just looked like another way of raising more money. In technical parlance we call that A Nice Little Earner.

The result was that parsimonious Wanadoo subscribers were obliged to settle for Webmail or find an alternative SMTP service. There are plenty out there but most of them require a payment. Not a problem if one has a web site. Indeed, any business site should have its own servers so that email addresses show the address of the business. It looks more professional.

A further consideration is that if you try to connect to a Wi-Fi Access Point that connects through Orange you'll suffer the same fate. I know of several Foneros and at least one Internet Café

where this is the case.

This latest effort by Orange effectively shuts out all these legitimate, paying customers. The reason: Security! Orange apparently want to stop all those nasty people who send vast amounts of spam. Whilst I have no sympathy with spammers, I have some sad news for Orange. There's a very simple work-around and if I can figure it out you can bet your sweet life that the bad-hats can too!

Most SMTP servers will allow access through different ports. Ask your provider. Gmail actually defaults to Port 587 so was not affected at all. I dare say that Orange will eventually figure this out for themselves. For all I know they may even read CBJ! That's when I expect them to block all ports. What can we do then? Change ISP!

I used to call them "DON'T Wanadoo" because of the lousy service. It seems that one can change one's colour but not one's spots.



Please send technology questions to:  
graxwarrior@wanadoo.fr  
or leave a message at the CBJ office  
02 96 21 52 21

Technology Services  
pages 35 & 48

## Breton Riddle:

Pa 'n em zastum ar re all en ho  
zillet evit tremen ar goan,  
me a dol va re holl.  
Lavarit d'in piou ez onn?

When others put more clothes  
on for Winter, I throw all mine  
away. Tell me, what am I?

Solution overleaf

# Mr. Biznuz

## UK Registered Limited Companies

One of the questions that I get asked most often is whether or not it is legal to set up a UK limited company, and to use it as a means of getting round French employment laws. And if it is legal whether it works as a means of avoiding paying the high French social charges and taxes.

Under European legislation it is perfectly permissible for a company registered in one EU member state to trade in all or any of the other states.

Many French businesses have taken advantage of this rule and have registered their businesses in the UK, instead of in France, and the main reason for doing this is to reduce the amount of social charges that they have to pay.

It is not a simple procedure, however, because, in principle, every worker in the EU is covered by the employment legislation of the country in which they work, not by the legislation of the country where the company they work for is registered. This means that if someone sets up a UK company but works for most of the year in France, then they are subject to French employment laws, and they will have to pay both employers' and employees' pension and social security payments on any money that the company pays them.

The way that people get round this is to work for their UK company without taking a wage. They then pay themselves a dividend out of the company profits. Sometimes they also rent out premises and equipment to their UK company - rental income is not subject to social charges.

Of course, the company would be liable to corporation tax on its profits, in the UK, and the owners would have to pay income tax on both dividend, and rental income in France - if they are French residents - meaning that such a scheme may involve paying more tax in total rather than less.



What is remarkable is that social charges are so high in France at the moment, that business people find that they can afford to pay the extra taxes and fees incurred by setting up an overseas company, and pay for private medical and pensions cover, and still save money.

There is a disadvantage to complex financial arrangements of this sort, however, and that is that they serve to undermine the local economy, and therefore the foundation upon which a business is built. Tax paid by a company is, in theory, meant to be used by government authorities to provide a stable framework within which business can operate. If a business opts to pay its tax to a foreign government, then it is effectively siphoning money off from the local economy and sending it overseas, where it may even be used to subsidize competitors.

One of the great hopes of the business community in France is that the new president will take steps to reduce the burden of social charges, which are widely perceived to have reached such a level that it is impossible to run a business in France without the help of government subsidies, but, so far, there is no sign of this happening.

In Ancient Greece, one sixth of total income was the maximum that a government could take in taxation. If this was surpassed, it was considered that criminals had taken control of the state.



## Website Workshop

Last month we looked at Podcasting and this month we have a quick tour of the BBC website which is really just a peek at the tip of the iceberg.

**Q - What is so special about the BBC website?**

A - Of the major websites, [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) is one of the most respected. It has continuously been one of the best designed sites on the Internet, successfully combining usability with aesthetics. Also, the volume of information it contains is staggering; so much so that you would be very hard pushed to find any bigger website - in the whole of the Internet, let alone the UK.

Their directory listing ([www.bbc.co.uk/directory](http://www.bbc.co.uk/directory)) gives you some idea of how big this site actually is. Currently standing at a staggering 241 categories, the wealth of coverage is enormous and incredibly diverse. Aside from the usual news, television and radio, subjects range from the World Service to history & learning, music to lifestyle, business & money to health and even society & culture.

It's important to note that the BBC website is not only concerned with the UK, its information is relevant to a worldwide audience - so much so that it produces content (i.e. text, audio and video) in no less than 33 languages.

**Q - With a site so big, can I find information that is personal to me?**

A - Absolutely - for those who like to keep in touch with what is happening in their old hometown, just click 'Where I Live' on the top menu and then select your county from the map (or from a list). Here you will find information about traffic, current weather conditions, your local BBC radio station and of course up to date local news, to name but a few.

**Q - Is it possible to listen to old radio shows again, for example?**

A - Yes, I was chatting about the very same thing with a friend and after navigating to the 'Radio' section, we were soon laughing our socks off at an old episode of the Goon Show from 1955!

**Q - Does it cost anything to access content on the BBC website?**

A - No, one of the main factors of the site's success is that it is forbidden from advertising or charging, meaning that they only have to worry about generating visitors; not how to turn those visitors into revenue. One of the best ways to keep visitors returning is to constantly generate new and fresh information, which the BBC does well.

**Q - Does the site cater for disabled users as well?**

A - It's probably one of the premium websites with regard to accessibility for the physically impaired. They are exceptionally effective in addressing their support for the visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing as well as those with motor or cognitive disabilities.

Go to [www.bbc.co.uk/accessibility](http://www.bbc.co.uk/accessibility) for more information on 'My Web, My Way' - a new website aiming to help with the tools and understanding which will enable people to make the most of the world wide web (not just [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)), whatever your ability or disability.

Malcolm Wearing

Next month: Newsgroups

Malcolm can be contacted on:  
[malcolm@practicalnet.com](mailto:malcolm@practicalnet.com)  
[www.practicalnet.com](http://www.practicalnet.com)

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Peach stones can also be planted, as well as apple and pear pips. The area where they are planted should be kept free of weeds, and wire netting or rings cut out of plastic bottles should be put around the seeds to protect them from hungry mice and birds. Signs of life should appear next Spring, in the form of tender shoots pushing up through the earth. The saplings can be left in place for their first two years, but after the second year they should be transplanted, either to their final destination, or to another nursery area, to wait a further year before being moved to their permanent home.



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More  
Gardening  
Ads  
pages 33, 46 & 47

## Classified Advertising 3€ 25 words

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Classified contd  
page 32

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*Building & Property Management cont'd page 33*

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*Building & Property Maintenance cont'd page 34*

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## 34 Classified

### Building & Property Maintenance cont. from page 33

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**3-day-workshop - upholstery - soft furnishings - caning.** Mon, Tues & Wed, Oct 8, 9, 10. Pleyber Christ (nr Géant, Morlaix.) Bring your favourite chair to restore, make curtains, cushion covers, table runners etc. 50€ / 3 days or 20€ per day. (a single day is possible) Tel: 02 98 78 59 09.

### Food

**English sausage, bacon, ham & pork** (with crackling). From free range rare breed pigs. 95€/kg sausage, 9€ / kilo bacon/pork. No minimum order size. Based near Carhaix, central Finistère. Tel: 02 98 99 54 65 or email: Melanie.gray@orange.fr

**Homemade pies and Pasties.** Christmas Puddings and mince pies. Gite or home meals within 15 km radius of Plouneour-Menez. Tel: 02 98 78 00 61 or email: heather.cummings@wanadoo.fr www.bonapetite.meals.com

### For Sale

**Firewood - Oak and beech.** Cut to size. From 170€/cord delivered. From pruning and sustainable forests. Green wood from 130€ per cord. Tel: 02 96 13 40 05

**Firewood for sale.** Mainly oak and chestnut, seasoned wood. 170€ per cord. Delivery within 25 km of Plouray. Tel: 02 97 38 44 37.

**SKY VIEWING CARD FOR SALE.** "Yellow House", Fully Active to receive CH4 & CH5, Sky 3 etc. Pop it into your Sky digibox. Collect/Post. 06-76-74-98-77.

**Unused Lapeyre reinforced pine window shutters** with all fittings. Size: 138 x 160. 120€. Current price approx. 230€. Tel: 02 96 45 84 13.

**Beautiful Graco pram, blue check,** weathershield and basket. Britax car seat, grey check. Both excellent condition. 50€ each. Photos available. Phone: 02 96 26 35 46.

**Cards, individually hand-crafted.** All occasions, including Christmas. Sue Bailey, Clégüerac, nr. Pontivy. Tel: 02 97 25 40 74. email: les-and-sue.bailley@wanadoo.fr

**40 ft long trailer ex freezer unit.** Double lined, on wheels. Great storage. Removals etc. Fits on Artic or large tractor. Buyer collects. 600€. Good condition. Tel: 02 96 24 29 08.





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www.infotechfrance.com

See also: Computers, page 48

**Cabin bed.** Suitable for young child or teenager. Well made and in good condition. Single quality mattress available. 200€ ono. Tel: 02 96 24 96 37.

**4' bed.** Excellent condition. Storage drawers. Selling due to house move. 350€ ono. Tel: 02 96 24 96 37.

**Grandfather clock, 10 years old.** Unwanted gift. Cost 3000€ new. Must see. 950€ ono. Tel: 02 96 24 96 37.

**Reclaimed building materials.** Oak beams, planks, lintels, granite door/window surrounds, flagstones, cornerstones and facestones. Also some terracotta flooring. Tel: Allan: 06 88 29 51 67.

**Suite bed settee 70€.** Cottage suite 50€. Four mahogany shutters, nearly new, 60€. Open staircase 65 cm x 3m 40€. Oak settle 130 cm long 150€. Tel: 02 96 21 56 61.


**Boat / semi-rigid inflatable Avon SR4 / 4.2m / with Yamaha 50HP + trailer.** 3800€. Tel: 02 98 54 69 10.

**Walkabout telephone 14€;** Mower Mr Bricolage 46 cm 18 months guarantee 140€; Circular saw 14€; Folding picnic table 7€; Black & Decker Steps/ladder 20€, electric strimmer 20€. Tel: 02 97 39 44 35.

**Rangemaster cooker.** Dual fuel. Model 110. Dark green. VGC. 975€ ono. Tel: 02 96 24 99 63 or 067 631 7498. edward.gilbert@orange.fr

for sale contd. page 41

## Technology Services 35



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### Volunteer Opportunity

**Volunteer Opportunity with the British Volunteer Network** (see p. 11)  
IT Specialist to look after the website in 2008.

**Skills required:**  
Languages: Java (including Struts, Spring, Hibernate or at least JDBC), HTML, DHTML, CSS, JavaScript, AJAX  
Web Servers: Apache HTTP Server, Tomcat  
Databases: MySQL Operating Systems: Linux  
Please contact: Lynn Marlow  
02 96 26 30 97 / 06 86 74 06 06

### French Lessons

#### FRENCH LESSONS!

AIKB in association with AREPCOB are providing French classes in Côtes d'Armor, Morbihan and Finistère at Gouarec, Rostrenen, Sainte Brigitte, Guénès sur Scorff, Ploerdut, Gourin and Morlaix.

There are various levels including Débutantes, Faux Débutantes, Intermédiaire and Advanced. Classes are led by qualified French teachers.

For further information about times and places, please contact the AIKB office on 02 96 24 87 90.

### Food

#### Pork

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All his pigs are raised outdoors at Plouyé, running around as nature intended, not even artificially inseminated. That's done by Idris. A real pig and a real boar.

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**Tel: 06 850 850 77**  
www.peterspigs.com

No pigs were harmed in the making of this ad

# What's On

## English Book & Video exchange

Mon & Tues 9.30-2.30; Wed 10.30-4.30; Fri 10-2; Sat 9.30-2.30 at Carolann's, Carnoet. (Diagonally opposite Carnoet church) see new opening hours in box on this page Tel: Carol or Paul on 02 96 21 54 62

**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP home group**, meeting regularly in the Cotes d'Armor / Finistère area. All welcome. For more details contact Darren and Petra Franklin on 02.96.43.06.85 or Roy & Melanie Johnson on: 02.98.78.11.01.

## Every Sunday afternoon in October

**Art and Sculpture exhibition** at the Chateau de Kerminaouet, between Tregunc and Pont Aven. Gardens, park and tea room all open. Free entry. More info: [www.chateaubretagne.info](http://www.chateaubretagne.info) or tel: 02 98 50 19 68. First Sunday of the month there is a free concert of classical music there, starting at 4.30 p.m. Followed by afternoon tea.

## Second Friday of every month

"Soirée Français" evenings Come and join us (8 pm) in a relaxed atmosphere at the Hotel Noz Vad, Carhaix. Contacts: George Turnbull & Pam Chapman. Tel.: 02 98 99 48 90. e-mail [ghturnbull@fastmail.fm](mailto:ghturnbull@fastmail.fm)

**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Three-day-workshop - upholstery - soft furnishings - caning. At Pleyber Christ, (near Géant, Morlaix.) Bring your favourite chair, and restore it, or make curtains, cushion covers, table runners etc. 50€ for the three days or 20€ per day (a single day is possible) Tel: 02 98 78 59 09.

## Tuesdays October 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

Brittany Wild walks. October schedule. **Tuesday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>** NB Earlier start 2 pm. Huelgoat - Arthur's Camp Meet in Mairie car-park (behind church in main square). **Tuesday Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>** - NB Earlier start 2 pm Châteauneuf-du-Faou - Nantes-Brest canal Meeting in parking on access to Centre des Vacances (by river, just over bridge on D36). All welcome. 3€ per person (includes refreshments). Full details [www.brittanywalks.com](http://www.brittanywalks.com) or phone 02 98 24 15 19.

## Friday October 12<sup>th</sup>

Film in the English language. Calliac cinema "Made in Jamaica" is a powerful portrait of the leaders of the reggae music movement, and how Reggae has become a worldwide phenomenon. It is the story of how a small island nation of only three million people took their pain and misery and turned those emotions into songs that resonate around the world. Reggae is Jamaica's blues: a music of both desperation and hope. 8.30 pm.

What's On Continued page 37

## RENDEZVOUS CAFE BAR CALLAC

Sky Sports 6ft Screen  
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Quiz night: 1st Wed. of every month.

Happy Hour: 7pm - 8pm Fri + Sat

Open Tue- Thurs 0900 - 2300hrs  
Fri - Sat 1000 - 0100hrs, Sun 1200 - 2230hrs

## ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

France Nord Branch has regular social gatherings in Brittany and Normandy. French and British non RN/RM citizens welcomed as Associate Members.

Further information from Membership

Secretary: [snorman@wanadoo.fr](mailto:snorman@wanadoo.fr)

02 96 31 79 22

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Monday & Tuesday 08:30-17:30

Wednesday 12:00-17:30

Thursday Closed

Friday 08:30-17:30

Saturday 11:00-17:30

Sunday 11:00-14:30

[info@thematique.net](mailto:info@thematique.net)

0296260135



## Places to Eat

What's On Continued from page 36

### Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>

Indoor boot sale at the Salle Polyvalente, Carnoët. 10.30 - 4.30. see box advert overleaf

### Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>

Concert at Espace Glenmor, Carhaix with the world famous Ilene Barnes, the 6ft 2" African American singer, singing folk/rock. Tickets from Espace Glenmor or more info: 02 98 99 37 50.

### Friday October 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>

Central Brittany Writing Festival at the Café Bookshop L'Autre Rivière, Berrien (near Huelgoat). Lots of events - literary and cultural - happening in Berrien and Huelgoat over the 3 days, based on the travels and writings of Victor Segalen, a Breton doctor who travelled to China around 1910 and studied and wrote poetry about Chinese sculpture and archaeology. Exhibitions at the Arboretum, Huelgoat, and poetry recitals in Berrien and Huelgoat. More information from Marc Ledret or Tania Dupin on 02 98 99 72 58 or 06 74 21 54 07, or the Huelgoat tourist office or the Maine.

### Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup> and Monday October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Calliac cinema. Film in English and French "Sicko". Writer/producer Michael Moore interviews Americans who have been denied treatment by their health care insurance companies - companies who sacrifice essential health services in order to maximize profits... 8.30 pm start

### Tuesday October 23<sup>rd</sup>

AIKB organised - Discover the Napoleonic History of Pontivy - an exploration of the town discovering Napoleon's influence. Meet at La Place de la Plaine, opposite La Tribunal at 2.30 pm.

What's On Continued page 38

**Auberge de la Vieille Tour**  
22330 Langourla  
Sunday lunches every week  
Hot food all day, every day  
4 courses traditional Sunday roast  
Bookings please  
Tel: 02 96 30 41 15

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[arson@les-fous.com](mailto:arson@les-fous.com)

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What's On cont. from page 37

#### Friday October 26<sup>th</sup>

Les Fous Pub Restaurant, Carnoët. Music evening with Wayward featuring Ken and Dave, guitar, vocals and drums. Popular songs ranging from Elvis and the Beatles to REM and Wendle Poons. Entry free. 9 pm kick off. Further information call Don or Tricia on 02 96 21 52 32.

#### Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup>

10.30 am. Christ Church Brittany Bonen. Bring nr Rostrenen. Harvest Thanksgiving followed by Brunch and Share lunch in the Salle Paroissiale at Rostrenen. Church cleaning and decorating on Saturday Oct 27<sup>th</sup> between 3 pm & 4 pm. Please bring gifts of flowers, fruit and veg. Collection of tinned and canned goods for the Restos du Cœur. NB This is the LAST service we hold in Bonen Church.

From November onwards we shall be meeting in the Chapel of the Collège de Campostal in Rostrenen. For further information contact Robin or Laura Hillman, 02 97 51 74 26, kermoran@wanadoo.fr

#### Wednesday October 31<sup>st</sup>

Hallowe'en at Le Fourmi Rouge, 20 rue Portz en Haie, 56320 Le Faouët. Every Hallowe'en, Thierry creates a wonderful, spooky atmosphere in his bar, with gothic decor. Come in disguise or just for the fun. From 9 pm onwards. Live music.

#### Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Halloween Party Night from 7pm, Music, Bonfire, Fireworks, Mulled wine and Pumpkin soup FREE ENTRY. Fleur de Bretagne (on the D31 Rostrenen to Silfiac). Tel 02 96 29 15 45 for more info.

#### Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup>

The Annual Christmas market which is normally at Le Faouët is this year at the Salle Polyvalente La Chapelle Neuve, due to demand. Tables are free and cancer will be the charity we will be supporting again. please ring to book your table Tel: 02 96 21 63 81

For a free entry in the What's On column, please send details to: cbj222956@aol.com 02 96 21 52 21 (Mon-Fri 9-12) CBJ BP 4, 22160 Callac

#### Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>

**Indoor Boot Sale**

Salle polyvalente, Carnoët.

10.30 - 4.30

3€ per table.

Light refreshments. Plenty of parking.

Up to 30 tables available.

Tel. Carol on 02 96 21 54 62.

## Property Page

see also pages 50 & 51

### Business for sale

Licensed restaurant with 2-bedroom house and 2-bedroom apartment and sitting room. 2000 sq. m of field. Country position on busy crossroads. Rights for camping, brocante, car boot sales etc. 170,000€. Serious offers considered. Tel: 02 97 38 05 11

### Property for Sale

Renovated Breton farmhouse. Guénin (56). Peaceful rural location. Views. Close to amenities. 2/3 beds. More land for sale if required. 197,500€ + notaire (c. 7K). Tel: 02 97 51 06 83 email: bobmayhew@wanadoo.fr

Spacious, attractive, neo-Breton, 3-bedroom house on edge of village, near Rostrenen. Large living room/diner. Fully-fitted kitchen, with white goods. 1000m<sup>2</sup> well-maintained garden. Garage, laundry, workshop, study, cave, patio. All very well maintained. 150,000€. Tel: 02 96 36 01 61

Brand new house, close to Pontivy. 225,000€. 4 Bedrooms, (1 ensuite), family bathroom, spacious living area, conforms to new bldg. regs. 10-year guarantees. Legal fees only 3% Tel: 02 97 28 04 37

Modernised bungalow in countryside near Caulnes. Large diner/living room, American kitchen, 3 double bedrooms, large bathroom, utility room, cloakroom 3660m<sup>2</sup> land. Dinan 20 min. Airport 40 min., Broons 6 km. Motorway 5 min. €139,945 including all fees. Reason for sale. Tel: 02 96 83 82 45.

Dept. 29. Lovely neo-Breton house 2000 sq. m. Tranquil setting in country. Near Trevarez castle. 10 min from Châteauneuf du Faou. 1 hr from Concarneau, with beach and sea. Offers 250,000€. More info: 06 07 82 30 35

Lakeside cottage in Armorique National Park. Completely refurbished 3 bedroom. Beautiful setting. 50m lake Saint Michel, Finistère. Excellent fishing. 114,600€ incl. fees Tel: 02 96 21 55 81.

### Houses to Let

Near Guerlesquin. Long let. October - April. 2 bedroom beautiful barn conversion in 8-acre plot. 4 min drive to N12. Wood burning stove and electric heaters. 500€ pcm incl. Services. Tel: 02 96 38 79 36. www.coat-ar-roux.eu

Beautiful stone gite adjoining owners' home. Sleeps 2 - 8 km St Nicolas du Péle. Equipped to a high standard. Ideal for couples househunting, short stay or long let. Minimum 1 month. From October onwards. Tel: 02 96 24 39 13.

Winter let lovely cottage maximum 3 months. 550€ pcm including electricity. Langoula 22320. Tel Dee and Alan 02 98 72 58 08 email: manoikeruce@wanadoo.fr

Breton stone cottage to let. 2 bedrooms, sleeps 4 - 6. Lovely surroundings close to Gorge du Corong. Available for short breaks or long-term. For information or to book please contact Carole or Patrick tel: +33 (0)296 457346 e-mail: kertouet@wanadoo.fr

### Mobile home to rent

Mobile home at La Pouldu, Finistère. 2 bedroom, all mod cons, decking, heated pools, ideal for home hunting. From €150 per week. Tel: 02 97 38 88 46 / 02 96 26 05 48 www.brittanybreaks.com

### Mobile homes for Sale

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### Wanted

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## Central Brittany Journal - October 2007 Animal Welfare

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for sale contd. from page 35

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Qi Gong-Tai Chi Central Brittany. Ring Heather 02 96 246 315

## BED & BREAKFAST 41

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Health & Beauty contd. page 43

## 42 Building & Property Services

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## Building & Property Services 43



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Health & Beauty contd. from page 41

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Classified contd  
page 44

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to water?

Solution overleaf

## 44 Building & Property Services

Classified contd. from page 43

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Services contd. from page 44

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Services contd. page 46

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## 46 Building & Property Services

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see page 32

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## 50 Property

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## Property & New Build 51



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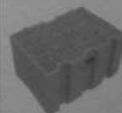
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# Hedgehog

French: le Hérisson

Breton: Avalaouer

No animal is quite so welcome in the garden as a hedgehog; not only are they a delight to see, but every night they will consume large amounts of garden pests, chiefly slugs and snails, making them the ideal garden resident.

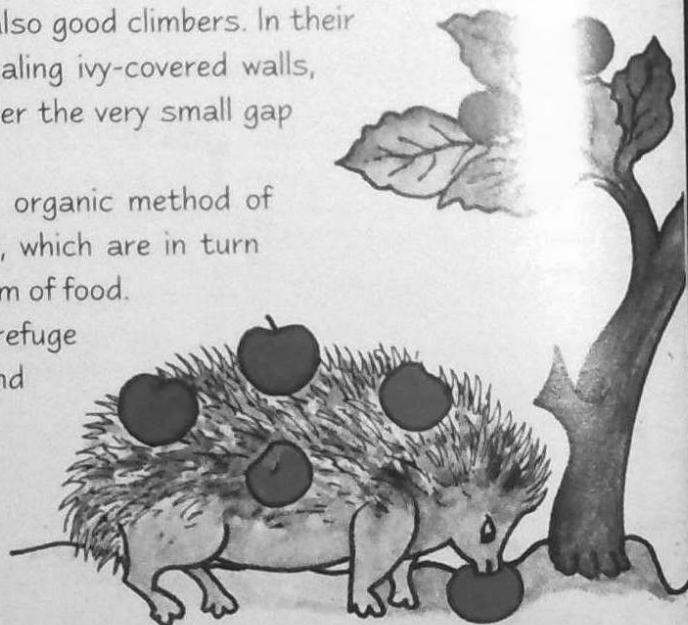
Unfortunately, it is only rarely that one ever sees a hedgehog, because they are nocturnal animals and spend the day hidden in a nest of leaves, under an old log or in thick vegetation.

Hedgehogs can dig well, run fast, swim easily and are also good climbers. In their efforts to get into a garden, they have been seen scaling ivy-covered walls, climbing up chain-linked fences and even squeezing under the very small gap between the bottom of a gate and the ground.

If hedgehogs are to be welcomed onto your land, an organic method of gardening is essential. The chemicals eaten by pests, which are in turn eaten by hedgehogs, will poison them, as well as rob them of food.

An organic garden, on the other hand, makes a perfect refuge for a hedgehog, providing it with enough insects for it and its family to survive a long hibernation throughout a cold Winter.

*Below: this hedgehog started its hunt for food earlier than usual, when it was still daylight. Photograph provided by Geoff Stemp.*



*The Breton word for a hedgehog has the word 'aval' in it, meaning apple. Perhaps this comes from the old belief that a hedgehog, when he finds fallen apples, 'rolleth on them until he hath filled up all his prickles, and then carrieth them home to his den,' as depicted in a 13th century picture above.*

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