

Centre Le Page Newsletter March 2014



Since our last newsletter...we've been accepted by:

1. Education Nationale

Chris has been working on this since before Christmas and we've been inspected, detected but not neglected and finally achieved recognition from Madame Nôtre and Monsieur Révolte to go with our existing 'label' for Jeunesse et Sports. This gives us official approval to host educational trips for French junior schools groups based on the accommodation, kitchen and schoolroom facilities. We're well pleased and this enables us to work with partners who supply themed educational activities via the 'classe de découverte' concept.

2. Classes de Découverte

These are literally 'classes of discovery' – French schools usually send their children away for a few days each year where they can learn something new educationally and also learn about being away from home in a group environment. We can also shape these themes for English speakers in most cases with Chris liaising with the 'supplier' for a unique experience in a French environment. Themes that we will be able to offer are:

- Sports – water sports at Bétineuc Lake, sand yachting, equestrian activity
- History and design – medieval Dinan – exploration in groups based on "jeu de l'oie", snakes and ladders type game with model building of local buildings..
- History, Geology of our ancient sea, water cycle at Maison des Faluns.
- Natural History and environmental studies at Maison de la Rance
- Rance River barrage and of course...
- French studies led by our bilingual Christiane

The Weather

No different from the UK, Brittany has suffered incredible floods, especially in the west. The Rance valley has been transformed into the "Land o'Lakes" with vast amounts of farmland under water and sand bags used extensively. We had thunderstorms in summer 2013 and our gutters have had to cope with vast amounts of rain from every angle. It only rains twice in Brittany, we're told, in January...and in the rest of the year. Great contrast to last July and August, when we roasted!

Rance in Flood - Dinan Vieux Port



WHAT'S NEW IN LE QUIOU?

Well we had the new traffic scheme (google earth has not kept pace!) and Christmas lights and trees that got destroyed by the weather within a couple of days. We also had a rather novel rustic art nativity display in front of the church but sadly we didn't get a photo!

M le Maire Arnaud Carré is up for re-election shortly for another 6 years with his team of 12! And a committee is gearing up for 10,000 people visiting in 2015 as part of the festival of

burlesque – see inset box. To date the committee doesn't seem to have connected the word

'Burlesque' with 'humour' so we don't know what we're going to get.



BURLESQUE LE QUIOU!

Communes aux noms Burlesques

Le Quiou is a member of a small club of French communities with silly names such as:

- Vinsobres (sober wine)
- Andouillé (silly sausage)
- Corps-nuds (nude bodies)
- Bouzillé (knackered)

Of course to a Frenchman, Le Quiou sounds like a common word for one's backside. Perhaps twinning with 'Crinkly Bottom' is in order!

TRIPS

Combourg

Combourg has a beautiful big château in the middle of town, a typical French market on Mondays and lovely lakeside gardens with interpretive tours available.

Cycling from St Malo

For recreational cyclists (if you want the Alps they are a long way away!) we have some fab rides based at Le Quiou and the

from the canal path to Rennes and there's plenty of recreational cyclists going past in team uniform on the weekends all year round.

Round the corner is Calorguen, the village of 5 time Tour de France winner Bernard Hinault. You can even try the sprint section from the 100th TdF of 2013 in nearby Le Hinglé.

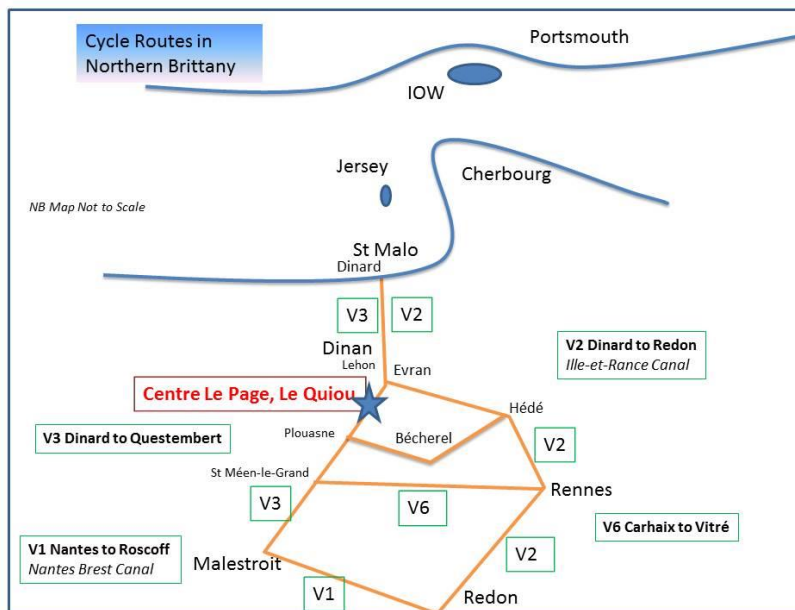
We've already sampled a few routes including a great 50 km round trip via Bécherel on V2 V3 and local roads.

of them for a slap up 7 course lunch. John Ferrier our chef fêted them with fish in puff pastry and chicken stuffed with black pudding and it went down a treat with some lovely Bordeaux.



The full menu:

- Potage du jour (légumes)
- Julienne en croûte, sauce à l'estragon
- Sorbet
- Suprême de poulet au jus, farci au boudin noir, enroulé de son lardon
- Fromage
- Fondant au chocolat et entremet caramel/poire
- Café



area. We're only a day away from the ferry at St Malo via a quick hop by 'navette' to Dinard and the voies vertes V2 and V3. You can stop off for lunch at the Old Port in Dinan or in medieval Léhon en route. We have secure storage and maintenance facilities for bikes and of course great food options in the restaurant including a 7 course meal by arrangement for larger groups and reunions.

Le Quiou is right on the V2, an old railway track, and 4.2 km

SECURITY

#2 - DOOR ALARMS!

Even though we're a quiet village, we're delighted to say our doors are fully alarmed. These get rather noisy if opened when the alarms are on! And we perform nightly door checks when groups are in to make sure everything's secure.

LE QUIOU - EVENTS

Repas des Aînés - 23rd November

The Parish' elders arrived all 70

The old folks and mayor danced and talked for hours: we washed and cleaned till dawn! And then Peter had to drive off to England to sell his Venetian Carnival Masks in Bristol's German (!) market. What fun!

2014 Voeux du Maire - 5th January

Our mayor made his speech summarising 2013 and looking forward to the New Year. Then everyone tucked into free

apéritifs and finger food and shuffled around to keep warm.

FAMILY GROUPS

This year we're aiming to host our first reunions with pride of place to a full 7 course banquet as required in our Old Forge, the restaurant. With log fires as necessary it will be cosy, filling and fun.



Rink/Roller Hockey

We'd never seen this sport before we came to Dinan. It's like ice hockey on roller skates with all the associated speed, skill and brutality and Quévert, our local team are national champions and great to watch!



Here's to our first anniversary at Centre Le Page on May 1st 2014 and to more people, more variety, more fun.

A bientôt!

Chris and Peter

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SPORTS NEWS

Equestrian Activities

Pony-fanciers are lucky round here – we have two friendly stables close by:

- Centre Equestre “Les Faluns” at Tréfumel
- Ecurie des Petits Sabots at Evran

They both offer good all round hands on training and could probably teach me which end of a horse is which!

Rugby

We're following Dinan who play in the Brittany league and hoping for lots of junior tours over the next few years in this warm and friendly atmosphere with our sports hall a great plus.

THE CENTRE - ACTIVITIES

FUTURE

Looking to do loads of things but the main ones on the agenda are offering more value-added services and getting schools here to Brittany from the UK and equally the French ones from the surrounding départements.

We're excited to welcome our first new school in 2014, Abbeyfield from England and also several new bookings from NST, the school trips agents in the UK. And we're looking to get a 'LABEL' from the French cycling authorities so we get lots of cyclists enjoying our lanes, pathways, voies vertes and byways.

