

Centre Le Page – Newsletter Spring 2015

Latest News

Previously the season didn't start until May but this year we started in March and have hardly stopped since. Already we've hosted thirteen new groups, both French and English, starting with a full house of Jersey Rugby under 11's on a gloriously sunny Breton day in March, followed by two French schools.



What it means to us



Last year we moved on from the previous reliance on a few regular English customers who returned year after year and now aim to tap into the vast French market both via schools and with various sporting groups and events, more of which later. In parallel we aim to keep in with our traditional market of English educational groups, dealing direct and through agents while expanding into sporting and scouting parties too. Amongst our *British schools* we happily welcome back one from Sheffield from our first year in the saddle and another from Somerset; also a group of Kent scouts. However we have had to disappoint a couple of our previous schools who found their preferred slots already booked.

The Weather



It's been much kinder since the autumn – We've had no nasty floods and noted some very picturesque scenes when picking up the baguettes for breakfast.

INSPECTIONS and DETECTIONS

In 2014, we passed our health and safety inspection of the kitchen with thanks to a massive documentation exercise. 2015 saw the three-yearly fire safety inspection. For our first, we were nervous but optimistic. The Sous-préfet, Police chief and of course the Mayor were directed by the Fire Chief. Once again Chris' detail won the day and we were passed by the committee for our full complement of guests and facilities.

Burlesque Le Quiou! Three!



Although we don't hear very much, the various committees for the Festival of Villages with Burlesque names which Le Quiou hosts in July are probably very busy behind closed doors.

Centre Le Page is also planning to serve and supply the throng with a few surprises, as well as hosting 40 plus festival-goers from Vatan and Nouvoitou in the Centre itself.

*We will be launching **Café Q**, our new venture!*

CENTRE LE PAGE – EVENTS

Christmas Market 2014

Organised by Chantelle, our donkey-fancier, the event was a great success.

EuroPoussins Football Part 1



Four of the all-France teams stayed, hoping to qualify for the three places in the finals in June. While they didn't qualify, ASSOA (Ile de France), la Mos (Caen), US Lognes, SFC Neuilly all did well in this under 10's tournament.

We're hosting again during the international finals on June 5-7th.

Junior Football Tournament Trelivan – May 1st

Ecole de Foot 'ASMF' from the far side of Paris filled the centre & their under 13's won the tournament!



Inter-villages Race – May 8th

Here the local villages run off against each other with teams of all ages, this time starting in St Judoce. It's a nice communal thing and brings the wider populace together.



17th May - Tour d'Arguenon

Coming from the African coast, the island of La Réunion's (which simply happens to be a Département of France) 'national' under 18 cycling team stayed. The boys did well despite their lead racer taking a puncture and the sacrifice of one of the other lads having to give his wheel for the team. 120km and 6 times up a steep hill to finish in Jugon-Les-Lacs is not my idea of a picnic!



24th May - TOUR de RANCE - Randonnée Vintage

In its second year the hub has moved from the home of Bernard Hinault (Calorguen) to Dinan to reflect the anticipated growth. We hosted a



number of Tour-goers including this great-looking family.

TRIP

Cherrueix - Sand yachting

Very windy at times on a sandy beach near Mont St Michel it looks

awesome for youngsters.

Just one of the activities we can help customers in.



SPORTS NEWS

Rink/Roller Hockey

Dinan-Quévert, our local team are national champions again though they were thrashed by Barcelona home and away in the European Cup!

Rugby Club juniors



In the 2014-15 season we've hosted separate weekends of under 10's and 11's in a small tournament each time. The players seem to like the ambiance and our games hall and the adults our 'clubhouse' bar. We're looking forward to their return in the autumn and next end of season 2016!

Bikes for Hire!



We've got together with the local Gites and Chambres d'Hôtes to offer bikes for rent. They are nifty German things with allegedly undetachable chains, puncture-proof tyres and their own security system. Since we are less than a day's easy ride from St Malo/ Dinard we are looking forward to plenty of action this summer

Dinan Rugby

After winning on tour at Avonvale in Bath, Dinan had a storming end to the season. The Dinan boys first knocked the Breton Level 3 league leaders, Vitré in the playoffs. In the final they met Landivisiau who had beaten them twice in the regular season and Dinan triumphed 17-3. Champions of Brittany at this level, Dinan played in the last 32 in the national knockout and after a scare,



having been pegged back after winning most of the game, won 19-17. In the last 16 Dinan met its match with a strong southwest side, eventually losing 69-14. But what a season!

Cycling

Already we have had touring groups, some doing the Voie Vertes (green ways) routes between St Malo/Dinard and Rennes. This group had 4 girls under 6 and managed St Malo to Le Quiou (38 km) in a day on their own bikes!



Palets

Another Breton game, based on the rules of boules. This time you have to throw heavy coin-shaped weights with sharpened edges onto a metre square pitch of wood.



FUTURE

The Fête des Villages aux noms Burlesques is almost upon us and we are looking forward to the delegations of VATAN and NOUVOITOU. These are sandwiched by a number of UK schools and scouts groups staying. In addition to this we are now on booking.com so who knows who else will show?

A bientôt!

Chris and Peter