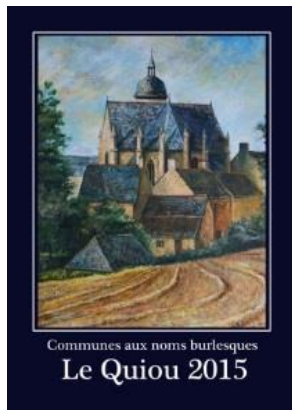


Centre Le Page Newsletter Autumn 2015

Latest News

Wow! It's the start of September and we've just finished our 'regular season' with a flurry of activity. And we're expecting more to come in the Autumn. The bad news was that we



found out only in April that our French archaeologists weren't coming after over 10 Augusts in Le Quiou. Reduced funds and fewer people meant they stayed elsewhere this year which was a concern to us.

So we joined booking.com for the first time and were inundated! Peter singlehandedly turned round 30 something guests one Friday and then 40 on the Saturday with 38 for breakfast and several dinners in between!



British guests.

We hosted people from Spain, Norway, Italy, Belgium, India and China (via Paris!) as well as the more familiar French and

What it means to us

In two years we've now pretty much reinvented the business we inherited, from hosting a couple of English schools and the archaeologists, to pretty much the full spectrum of customers wanting budget but value-for-money secure accommodation and good food and relaxed atmosphere. Client numbers have increased from only 6 or 7 in 2013 to over 90 in 2015 and we're not finished



French and British in 2014 and 2015 is starting to pay off and the feedback we get consistently emphasises that we provide a warm welcome and great food which is pretty pleasing.

yet this year! In addition we are already 25% up on the number of bed & breakfasts served when compared with 2014! It seems all that marketing effort to



IMPROVEMENTS

There's always something to do here at CLP. As well as the boring but necessary incremental replacement of bedding, we gave the front of the Centre a facelift, after the improvements of the bedrooms in 2014. And incidentally our hanging flower baskets and 'Le Café Quiou' sign and logo received good feedback!

Burlesques-Le-Quiou 4!

We had a busy but fun weekend with the launch of our Café Quiou.



The parade of the delegations was probably the highlight with a lot of good humour and banter, together with some great costumes.



The Weather

From April to July there was little sign of the traditional Breton weather!

But when we did get wet weather for our scouts we were able to suggest the local bowling alley and even get them a discount!

Unfortunately the last couple of weeks in August seemed to catch everyone unawares, but the general summer climate was very favourable and required continual watering of our lovely hanging baskets.



REQUESTS and REQUIREMENTS

2015 required as always close cooperation and preparation between group leaders and Peter and Christiane. We helped with special dietary requirements and also liaising and booking of side trips that make group



experiences so memorable:

- St Malo Aquarium
- Accrobranches
- Mont St Michel
- Tenpin bowling
- Sand Yachting
- Horse-riding
- Breton Boules
- Vélo-Rail
- Dinan detectives
- Rugby and football tournaments
- Le Quiou village quiz



Although we provide a French-style experience, especially where food is concerned, we can support clients who want some things to be a bit closer to home. It's all part of the detail we go through with clients to make their stay an enjoyable and memorable one.

TEARS and SOUVENIRS

With the wide spectrum of guests, we received a number of unexpected but welcome gifts including a lovely fuchsia. During the Europoussins qualifiers someone gave us a Paris St Germain pennant and then Agneaux FC of Caen filled the place and gave us one of their plaques. We received a bottle of Normandy cider from one guest whose great uncle was founder of the company. Peter even received a 2€ tip from one group of happy customers and has promised not to spend it all at once!

CENTRE LE PAGE – EVENTS

Fête des Burlesques July 9-11

Although there were only just over a thousand attendees for the weekend,



we had fun opening Le Café Quiou in front of the Centre, selling cream teas, tartiflette, Breton beer and Eric Elien's artisan Breton ice cream. We also had

a full house with charming delegations from Vatan and Nouvoitou and a few Corps-Nuds delegates and their mayor!

EuroPoussins Football Part 2 June 5-7 Pleudihen



Agneaux FC of Caen filled our Centre and gave a good account of themselves in the tournament finishing about midway, and ahead of the illustrious academies of Chelsea and Fulham. They even went goal for goal with eventual finalists A.S. Roma before succumbing 2-3! The later rounds, and especially the final, showcased some super football and young talent in this, the premier tournament in Europe for under 10s.

Well done Agneaux FC! Come again! Roma looked superb in their maroon retro kit and delightful touch and go football but Basle from Switzerland turned the tables and beat them in the final. A great tournament!



Family and Special Events

Although not everyone appears to know, we still have the only hall in the village that can hold 150 people



comfortably. After hosting Best Kept Village, the Old Folks' 7-course Christmas Meal and family get togethers in previous years, 2015 saw us hosting BIG birthday parties and we'll end this year with a private New Year party as a finale.

The Lone (never lonely) Piper



Present at the Burlesques and a BIG birthday event, our great friend the Lone Piper entertained us royally playing his traditional Scottish pipes

SPORT

It's been quiet over the summer but this item stood out:

Training Camp

At the end of August Dinan Rugby Club conducted a training camp that was competitive and fun to do. It was also a great opportunity for seniors and colts to bond before what will be a crucial season for the newly-promoted seniors where they also have to float or sink!



After boxing training and sparring exercises in nearby Léhon in the morning, they came to Bétineuc Lake

(Centre Le Page - 2 km) for a gruelling circuit by canoe with portage on the lake, the canal d'Ille et Vilaine, & rivers Linon and Rance.

By arrangement, Centre Le Page can host sporting camps for clubs of all sports in future! We also suggest Accrobranches (tree climbing and zipwires - Rennes) to complete the activities!



Cycling

We had lots of cycling groups to stay who used the voies vertes V2 and V3 to get between Dinard/



St Malo and St Méen-le-Grand or Rennes.



FUTURE

In addition to educational groups, we're looking to promote our centre for training camps with local, stimulating team spirit activities while secure in our base for sleep, meals and free time. Booking.com for the periods we don't have schools and sporting groups is clearly the way forward – in August just about everywhere else is full from St Malo to

Rennes. And via booking.com we received just the sort of customers



we like: friendly and easy-going, like the guys from the Canary Islands who got washed out at 'Route du Rock' festival in St Malo. Hopefully more of the same in 2016!

A bientôt!

Chris and Peter