

JERSEY CAMPING & CARAVANNING CLUB. NEWSLETTER.

August 2011.

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Anne Perchard. 856629

Rally Liaison Officer.

Collette Willmet. 854875

DIARY DATES.

Friday 23rd September. 09.30. Visit to the Jersey Dairy followed by lunch at Beuvelande.

Wednesday 26th October. Photo Competition. Cheese and Wine. St John's Parish Hall.

Saturday October 29th. Invitation to join the Guernsey CCC at their Annual Dinner Dance. La Villette Hotel. Dave Ellis has details.

Wednesday 16th November. Theme Evening. "Tramps". St John's Parish Hall.

Sunday 4th December. Christmas Lunch. Red Rose Restaurant.

REMINDER !

The October and November meetings will be held at St John's Parish Hall
NOT Trinity.

The Meeting on the morning of Friday September 23rd will consist of a guided tour of the new Jersey Dairy near the States Farm, Trinity. There is adequate parking on site. As numbers that can be shown around at any one time are limited we may have to split into two groups. The first tour commencing at 9.30 and the next at 10.30. Perhaps the first group would care to go somewhere for coffee while the second group is being shown around? At 12pm those who wish to do so should drive to Beuvelande Campsite St Martin for a two course lunch costing £12.50 per head. Desserts and drinks will be extra. Another Reply Slip is included with this Newsletter. It should be returned ASAP to our Treasurer, Sheila Ecobichon. Please indicate whether you would prefer to be in the 9.30 or the 10.30 group, although, depending on numbers it may not be possible to accommodate you at the time that you would prefer.

As yet another summer slowly draws to a close, and the evenings start to draw in, it is time for us to start thinking about our Autumn meetings, the first of which, on Wednesday 26th of October. at 8pm, is the Annual Photo Competition. With almost everyone now owning a Digital camera, there really is no excuse for not entering some photos. And the more entries we have the better the show! Let us see some new faces winning the prizes this year. It really is not that difficult! There are four categories in which to enter: Campsite, Scenic, Humorous and Miscellaneous. Photos must be no larger than 10 x 15 cms. Enlargements will not be permitted. As usual an amusing photo will be chosen by our President for a Caption Competition. Prizes (usually liquid) will be awarded to the photo gaining the most ticks from the Members present on the evening. Cheese and wine, or soft drinks will be served and there will be plenty of time for a really good chat.

After spending the week following the Rally in Burgundy, Ruth and I decided that we would return to Port Punay near La Rochelle, the site of our 2009 Rally, but more importantly where, on the night of 27 / 28th February 2010, Hurricane "Xynthia", one of the most devastating storms in living memory, hit the area with horrifying results.

We knew that Angelique and her husband, Morgan, and his parents M & Mme Moreau had pulled out all the stops, and worked their socks off, to restore their campsite, and we were curious to find out how they had got on. We were greeted like long lost friends on our arrival, they even remembered our surname!



A cottage devastated in the storm.

We were introduced to the new member of the Moreau family, Jules, 7months old, and very bonny!

At least something good resulted from the storm !

Although Port Punay itself has been rebuilt and is, seemingly, as new, or better than new, if you looked closely there were signs around the campsite that things were not the same. Being on sandy soil, It was never a very grassy site, but there is now virtually no grass at all, due to the salt water that flooded the area, and some of the trees are either dead or dying. Many of the swimming pool tiles are also stained a mottled brown from all the mud that had been washed in on that fateful night when 56 people died across France, and almost 2 metres of seawater flooded Port Punay and the surrounding area, accompanied by winds of 159 kph. About half the campsite is now occupied by brand new O'Hara Mobile Homes, which as in many campsites around France, seems to be the way the industry is going. The Sanitaire has the new sliding roof that Morgan was planning when we last saw him. This makes for a far cosier wash block. It was, as ever, absolutely spotless, despite the camp being "Compleat" at the time of our visit, which I would say augurs well for a very successful and hopefully, profitable, season for this hard working and delightful family.



Jules Moreau 7 months old.
Photo: Roy le Plongeon.

Just a hundred yards or so to the left of the camp are the remains of cottages destroyed in the storm, still not yet rebuilt, with gaping windows, doors and block walls knocked down. No grass anywhere, although Tamarisk trees and Hollyhocks were flourishing, as were the Mulberry trees in the village square.

The Mulberries were ripe at the time of our visit, and we feasted daily on the delicious fruit!

It was obvious that the Authorities have spent millions of Euros on strengthening the sea defences with raised sea walls, flood gates, and by placing piles of huge boulders all around the vulnerable areas. That work is clearly on-going. I am glad to say that the boardwalk into nearby Chatelaillon Plage has been restored, and the walks and cycle tracks are as good or better than they were before. We cycled a fair way round towards La Rochelle on the designated cycle track, and noticed immediately that there was not one of the old drop-net fishing platforms remaining, although a start had been made on replacing two of them on the point near Angoulins.

The two Market days in Chatelaillon were just as good as ever, and the indoor Market flourishing and very attractive. It is one of the few markets we have come across in France where they will cook your Langoustines for you while you wait, at no extra charge.



A Langoustine Feast!

The Restaurant near the Camp site which used to be called "Platins" has been changed into an Italian

Restaurant,

"Mirko al Mare", very much more up market, but just right for a "Special Evening".

We were glad that we had come to Port Punay, and will not hesitate to stay there again, for the campsite, the area, the friendliness of Angelique and Morgan, and arguably the best freshly baked croissants and baguettes in France.

Don't take my word for it. Try them and see!

Late News.

Roy & Sylvia le Plongeon who visited Port Punay after us, report that steps have now been installed, from opposite the Office, up the tall bank at the side of the campsite, as a safety measure, in case of a repeat of the flooding. Hopefully it won't be needed for another fifty years - or ever!



Sunset over Chatelaillon Plage.

It was good to get some feedback from Daphne & Terry Bunting who recently stayed at the Marmotel Campsite in St Geniez d'Olt, in the Lot.

You may remember that I recommended the site in a recent Newsletter.

In an email to me, Daphne (I'm assuming it was Daphne, as the message ended with a kiss!) said: "It was absolutely marvellous, the site, the facilities and the area."

They actually stayed for four days, longer than they normally do.

They were not, unfortunately, there at the time of the "Transhumance", when herds of cattle, decorated with flowers and bells, are driven through the middle of the town from their winter quarters up to the high mountain pastures.

A spectacular and exciting sight which we happened upon, by chance, several years ago.

We have been back twice to St Geniez, and like Daphne & Terry, loved it.

I think it would make an excellent Rally site.

Taken from a recent Sunday Times.

Speeding Fines Abroad

British motorists are being advised to carry enough cash when driving in Europe to pay on-the-spot speeding fines - or face an embarrassing march to a cash point, or even their car being impounded. Although some traffic police on the Continent carry card - readers, speeding drivers in Italy, France, Spain and Germany have been asked to pay in cash, with Police escorting drivers to cash points if necessary, or in Belgium and Italy, even impounding vehicles while funds are raised.

The average fine for British drivers speeding in Europe was £53.33. According to the AA.

In France, which is the most popular destination for Britains driving abroad, the Police are currently cracking down on speeding motorists, especially foreigners. The maximum on-the-spot fine there is £1,471.

Although Britain last month refused to sign up to an EU cross border traffic agreement.

The AA warns that unpaid speeding fines, as well as toll charges and parking tickets, will follow you home, with your car possibly being impounded on your next visit to the country.

Some useful information from John Williams.

Police in France are targeting vehicles that come from Motorways on to slip roads, and fail to stop at the junction with a minor road.

Apparently you are supposed to stop for so many seconds before continuing on to the minor road.

John says that his son Mark has spoken to two people who have been caught.

In both cases the Police were out of sight and the Motorists were each fined €50.

A woman was rummaging through her husbands trouser pockets (as they do) when she came across a scrap of paper with "the words "Mary Jane. 2.30 Wednesday".

When her husband returned from work the woman clouted him around the ear with a rolled up newspaper, and demanded to know who "Mary Jane" was.

Her husband said: "You daft beggar, that's the name of a horse!".

A week later as the husband returned from work, his wife laid him out cold with a frying pan. When he recovered his senses, she said to him: "Your horse telephoned".



Quiz: Who is the well known owner of these lovely knees?
Answer on next page.

The Theme Evening this year to be held at St John's Parish Hall on Wednesday November 16th, will be "Tramps". So the male Members among us, who may be so inclined, have got plenty of time to cultivate luxuriant, dirty, smelly, beards! We are fortunate, in that once again, Terry Bunting has offered us his excellent catering and organisational skills to provide us with a suitably delicious meal on the evening, but perhaps someone would like to assist by catching a hedgehog or two to bake in clay, or some snails for us to roast on a shovel!

(I am told that they are an acquired taste, but can't be any worse than Moules!)

I know that many Members don't like Fancy Dress, or simply cannot be bothered to make the effort, which is a shame, because by dressing up, what is invariably an excellent evening can be made even more fun, making all the considerable amount of hard work put in by your Committee, not to mention their partners, worthwhile.

Don't be shy, make that little bit of extra effort, let your hair down, and really ENJOY your self.

Let's make it an evening to remember!

Ronald Cabot kindly sent me some children's thoughts on Grandparents. This is one of them.



A six year old was asked where his Grandmother lived.
"Oh" he said, "She lives at the Airport & when we want her, we just go and get her.
Then when we are done having her stay with us, we take her back to the Airport".



Many of you will have noticed my "deliberate" mistake in the July Newsletter when I added a "P" to Vaux le Vicomte, making it Vicompte. Don't ask me why.
I read, and re-read my copy, a hundred times, then get it "proof read" by someone else, and still these silly mistakes occur.
Sorry!
If anyone is saving these Newsletters, and would like a corrected version, please let me know and I will send you one.
Some Newsletters sent out individually to Members later, were corrected.

On reading through the June edition of this Newsletter about our "Shakedown Rally" at Les Capucines, I was reminded that David Perree's awning was damaged in a heavy shower of rain, when he neglected to put a slope on it.

Lo and behold! **Exactly** the same thing happened at La Belle Etoile, on the main Rally, when we were subject to a major thunderstorm and downpour of rain.

I wouldn't dream of passing any judgement or making further comment on the failings of my friend David, other than to express the hope that Dave Jacobs will have taken note of these occurrences for possible future use!

A contribution from Dave Ellis.

A passenger in a Taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the kerb and stopped just inches away from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then the still shaking driver said: "Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the living daylights out of me".

The badly shaken passenger apologised to the driver and said he didn't realise that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle the driver so badly.

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault.
Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a Hearse for 25 years.

I am very glad to report that there is no truth in the rumour that OUR Michel le Bihan has died, although sadly, a namesake Michel le Bihan has recently done so.

You wouldn't think it possible that there could have been TWO Michel le Bihans in Jersey.
I understand that Barbara received several "Condolence" cards, so Michel at least knows what some people think of him.

Must be a very strange feeling.
When I last saw him, Michel looked positively blooming - Thank goodness!

Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome, although inclusion cannot be guaranteed.
Please send to: Andrew Averty. Beechvale Farm. La Grande Route de St Jean. St John. JE3 4FL.
Tel: 863938. Mobile: 077977 12934.
E-mail: andrew.avery@jerseymail.co.uk

Quiz Answer: The knees belong to David le Marquand.

The visit to the Jersey Milk Marketing Board Dairy, Trinity on Friday 23rd September.
Each visit will take one hour.

We are limited to the number for each tour, so the first group will go in at 9.30, followed by a second group at 10.30. The first group may like to go for coffee at, perhaps, Bonne Nuit or nearby, Durrell in their lovely new Restaurant.

At 12 pm, those who wish to do so, will meet at Beuvelande Campsite, St Martin, for a two course lunch costing £12.50 per person. Puddings and drinks extra.

**Please note that our October and November meetings will be held at St John's Parish Hall, NOT at Trinity.
As always, the meetings start at 8pm.**

Lunch Menu.

Beuvelande Campsite. 12pm Friday 23rd September.
£12.50 per person.

Chicken and Liver Pate.
or
Homemade Vegetable Soup.

Roast Pork, crackling and all the trimmings.
or
Lasagne.
or
Shepherd's Pie.
or
Vegetarian Option.

Puddings available as an add-on option for £3.95.
Chocolate Fudge Cake.
Sticky Toffee Pudding.
Ice Cream.

Reply Slip for the Dairy visit on Friday 23rd September and lunch at Beuvelande Campsite.

I / We will / will not be attending the Dairy visit:

Name/s _____

I /we would prefer to visit at 09.30 / 10,30. (Please delete one)

I /We will / will not be attending the lunch at Beuvelande Campsite starting at 12pm. £12.50 per person.

I / We enclose a cheque made out to the JCCC for £ _____

Please send to The Hon Treasurer. Mrs Sheila Ecobichon.

13, Le Pre du Roi, La Rue de Jambart, St Clement. JE2 6LB. by September 15th please..