



JERSEY CAMPING & CARAVANNING CLUB.

NEWSLETTER.

July 2012

Officers of the Club.

President: Dave Ellis. 861848
Vice President: Glenda Killip. 864200.
Hon Secretary: Cynthia Warren. 736896.
Hon Treasurer: Sheila Ecobichon. 851660
Newsletter Editor: Andrew Averty. 863938

Hon Auditors:

David le Marquand. Dennis Ferbrache

DIARY DATES

September 28th. (Friday) Morning visit to the Orchid Farm followed by Lunch at Trinity Arms. Full details and reply slip in next Newsletter.

October 17th. Photo Competition.

November 3rd. Guernsey CCC Annual Dinner.

November 14th. Theme Evening.

Jubilee Year Party.

December 9th. Christmas Lunch. Red Rose.

Committee.

Ruth Perree . 861117
Paul Warren. 736896.
David Killip. 864200
Anne Perchard. 856629
Julia Hamon. 851840

Rally Liaison Officer.

Collette Willmet. 854875

*The June 2012 Rally to Les
Epeses and Puy du Fou.
(A personal view.)*



The 2012 Rally to Les Epesses and Puy du Fou got off to a very bad start with the saddest of sad news on the first day, just as we were about to start the Club Breakfast, when we had a phone call from Jersey to tell us that David Perree had just passed away.

The torrential rain that was falling at the time I know, masked many a tearful eye. Too late to turn back, the Rally had to go on, and I know that David would have wanted it that way.

We were fortunate in having three canvas Gazebos in which to shelter the electric barbecues to cook the bacon for the bacon baguettes, and to



keep the croissants dry. The alleyway between our 'vans was a sea of multi-coloured raincoats and umbrellas until, fortunately, the rain eased and we were able to get on with the draw for the Boules Competition, organised very efficiently by Brian Corbel. He did an excellent job, ably assisted by Anita



and John English.

We are lucky to be able to call on such expertise for what is quite a complicated and demanding job.

The Competition continued for the remainder of the day. As usual, I was knocked out in the first round, and Ruth and I were able to go for a long and much needed walk around the village and nearby fields.. As we got back, the final match was taking place with Dave Grover and Megan Gaudin playing against Sonia Godel and Richard Lennard. Dave and Megan eventually coming out on top.

Worthy winners after a long, hard day of bowling.

At 6.30 we gathered around the "Presidential Palace" (Dave Ellis's Trailer Tent) for Club Drinks. Dave asked us all to stand for a minutes silence in memory of David. It was a subdued group who sat around with the first glasses of wine of the Rally. We were unable to sit for long however, as once again it began pouring with rain .



"The Presidential Palace."

At 7.30, we went into the Campsite restaurant for a simple meal of salad, tuna vol-aux-vents, grilled ham and white beans followed by a dessert.

Dave Ellis made a short speech, After a gap of several years we were once again able to enjoy three more of Dave Jacob's "Oscar Presentations". This year the fortunate ,or unfortunate, recipients were Collette Willmett presented with a pair of Steel Toe-capped Crocs, after her mishap at St Emilion when she broke a toe. (She came close to doing the same thing this year !). Then it was Rosemary & Robin Dodkins turn to step into the limelight and be presented with a "Basket Full of Kittens", for the time at the Tredrez Shakedown Rally when they found a nest of kittens underneath their Caravan. The funny thing is that Rosemary says that she doesn't like Cats!



Rosemary Dodkins.

The final presentation of a model of a Rescue Helicopter, was to Jeannine and Tony Hume.

Having lost their possessions, Caravan, Range Rover, and almost their lives in the disastrous floods at Frejus when they had to be rescued by Helicopter from the roof of the campsite wash block.

I am not quite sure how much this presentation was appreciated, but they took it in good part.

All in all, an enjoyable evening.



Tony & Jeannine Hume and Dave Jacobs. taking control of a Rescue Helicopter.

Friday 8th June.

Rain in the night but bright and sunny when we got up.
Our first full day at Puy du Fou, for the Day Shows. All very entertaining and technically brilliant.

We especially enjoyed the **Falconry Display** with almost every imaginable type of Raptor flying around our heads, and sometimes landing on them!

Peregrine Falcons, Buzzards, Red and Black Kites, Eagles, Owls, Vultures and a Secretary Bird that did a very convincing job of killing a rubber snake! A superb display. I couldn't help admiring the enormous cages provided for these birds, in the grounds, large enough for them to fly around in. I am not a fan of caged animals but these birds at least seemed to have reasonable living conditions provided for them.

Then to the **Viking Display**.

Impossible to do justice in mere words to the amusing, exciting and magical special effects of this show.

How did a Viking Longboat rise out of the lake, complete with two live "Viking" crew members in the bow? And how did the "Archbishop" step dry and fully clothed from a trunk that had earlier been thrown into the lake and sunk? He then walked on the water to the shore, was then lead off over a bridge by two "villagers" where he simply disappeared, leaving a pile of his robes on the ground. Incredible!

Lots of bangs and spectacular belches of flame from the castle, the heat being felt from where we were sitting.



The **"Secret of the Lance"** an outstandingly spectacular display of horsemanship in front of a very convincing castle, surrounded by a high stone wall. Suddenly, as the story unfolded, the wall disappeared into the ground and the whole castle spun around to reveal a Chateau. Very impressive!. Again lots of flames and very loud bangs.

Exciting and visually brilliant.

Unfortunately it began to rain heavily, but the show went on regardless with us huddled under raincoats and

umbrellas. I was the recipient of about half a gallon of rainwater which suddenly cascaded from Mike Price's umbrella, all over my trousers!

After this show we sat at tables for a light lunch before once more braving the crowds heading for

The Gladiators, inside the enormous and very convincing Roman Coliseum, with its displays of mock fighting, between "Romans and Christians", a Chariot race and performing lions and tigers.

By this time after seven hours on my feet, my knees were aching, I was cold and damp, and ready to call it a day, so perhaps I didn't appreciate this show as much as it deserved to have been.

I have to admit that It was spectacular.

After leaving the Coliseum we just had time to walk through a reconstruction of a "Medieval Village" full of craft workers, complete with a funny little Green Gnome.

I'm not sure what he was supposed to be doing, but he looked the part!

Said his name was Labbit.



This wall simply disappeared into the ground!



This very solid looking castle turned round to reveal a Chateau.



The Rally Continued.

Saturday 9th June.

Most of us took the opportunity to visit Cholet for Market Day where we replenished our depleted stocks of "essentials". Others visited the nearby town of Les Herbiers for their Special Annual Market, which I am told was very good indeed.

After lunch there was a final opportunity to re-visit Le Puy du Fou to see whatever had been missed on the previous visit to the Day Show. My knees were still sore from the first visit, so we stayed around the Campsite.

In the evening we drove back to Puy du Fou for an excellent Buffet meal in the Orangerie Restaurant. Although it was obviously catering on a gigantic scale, the quality of the food was excellent, with unlimited wine. I am glad to report that none of our group took undue advantage of this facility. We must be getting more sensible - at last!

It was still too early to go into the main area for the evening show, so we spent the time looking around the gardens. The Rose garden in particular was absolutely beautiful.

As dusk began to fall we entered the stand for the Evening Show, This stand held 14,000 people and I would say that every single seat was occupied. We were entertained by the sight of a Microlight Plane flying around accompanied by a flock of, I think, Geese. I have seen this before in the Pyrenees when the plane was accompanied by a flock of Flamingos.

The ruins of the Chateau around which the show was based was / is, owned by the Maupillier family, and on our last visit with the Club in 2004, the evening show told the story of the family from their very beginning up to the present time. This new show concentrated more on the history of the Vendee region, with a considerably larger cast than last time and some equally dazzling effects. As I said all those years ago, it brought true meaning to the word SPECTACULAR!

We arrived back at Les Epesses just before 1am. I was so glad that we had made up our bed before we went out for this long, tiring, but very enjoyable evening.



The Rally. Continued **Sunday 10th June.**

Persistent heavy rain rather curtailed most activities although later we drove to Les Herbiers where we ate lunch before returning to Les Epesses to read and snooze the afternoon away.

Gluttons for punishment, more energetic (and younger!) than us, Mary Tonner and Graham Francis borrowed our bikes and cycled back to Puy du Fou for the afternoon.

At 6pm we set up our chairs and tables for a mass Barbecue, just managing to finish before the next heavy showers arrived to make us scurry for shelter. A great pity as we were having fun!

Monday 11th June.

Dry at last. Cloudy with sunny periods although later as we walked to the Supermarket at Les Epesses we got caught by a shower. A chance to try out our ponchos! We stopped off at the Hotel for a coffee before returning to Camp, where we enjoyed another cup of coffee and a chat with the Willmetts and the Warrens.

In the evening we all got together in the Camp Restaurant where we were offered glasses of Sangria before our meal.

Looking out of the windows we could see a rainstorm of almost Tropical intensity. I am sure that I was not the only one to think: Where is it all coming from? Where is it going? And more importantly, when is it going to stop?!

We enjoyed an excellent meal of Melon and Vendee'n Ham followed by a really tasty dish of Filet Mignon of Pork (second helpings too!) with French beans and some excellent Pommes Frites, and as a dessert a delicious creamy dessert.

Dave Ellis, after presenting the Boules Trophy to Megan Gaudin and Dave Grover, thanked Collette Willmett, Rob Hamon and Robin Perchard for the enormous amount of hard work they had put in to organise this excellent Rally, and presented them with gifts and cards signed by everyone attending the Rally,

It was unfortunate that the sad news from Jersey and the bad weather had cast rather a pall over the week for many of us, but it had been enjoyable none the less, and we look forward with anticipation to next year.



; Top.. Annette Price. sheltering from the storm. Carole & Alvaro Bernardini deep in conversation.
Bottom: Collette Willmett. in Viking Warrior mood. I bet she knows where she would like to stick those horns!
Dave Jacobs as his mates at Pallot Glass never saw him!

As I have a page to fill up I thought that I would tell you what Ruth & I did after the Rally. We left La Breteche at about 10.30 and drove straight down to Richard & Wendy Curtis at Navarrenx. We didn't intend to do it all in one go, but we did. Arriving at about 5.30.

A warm welcome, as usual, from Wendy & Richard, both of whom were looking very well. All the hard standing pitches were occupied so we parked on one of the grassy pitches at the top of the Site. I think I prefer it there. More space. The only downside being the lack of a water tap or drain near our pitch, but that was no great problem.

We spent a week there, just relaxing after a strenuous six months at home.

We got in several good walks, and cycle rides, finding some lovely tracks through the fields and villages nearby. We enjoyed a couple of excellent Pizzas cooked by Richard and a really good Sunday lunch of Mushroom Vol aux Vents and Paella in the Marquee. Perhaps the highlight of our visit, as usual, had to be our meal at L'Auberge du Bois, about 10 minutes walk away, where the owner Bernadette, cooks, serves and clears away perhaps some of the most quirky six course meals you will ever encounter in France for €10, including TWO bottles of wine.

I hasten to add, that on this occasion we only drank three quarters of one!

We were fortunate to enjoy four scorching hot days here and were able to make frequent use of the lovely pool.

Work has been completed on the new Hydro Electricity generator and the Fish Ladder down on the River and we spent some time there, although on this occasion saw no Salmon leaping, it is an interesting and beautiful place to visit.

After leaving Navarrenx we headed up to Port Punay for three days.

We were once more, warmly welcomed by Angelique and Morgan & his parents and saw baby Jules, now 20 months old, who was being looked after by Angelique's Mother, who, unusually for a Dutch lady, appears to speak no English.

There has obviously been an enormous amount of money spent in the area of Chatellaillon Plage following the terrible storm and it is now a bustling, vibrant and attractive little town with one of the best markets that we have come across for some time. Everywhere there were Hollyhocks of every colour in full bloom. The French ones always seem to stay upright while ours here in Jersey, invariably fall or get blown over.

Leaving Port Punay we drove to Merdrignac in Brittany, where we went to inspect progress, or lack of it, on our son James' very old house. We enjoyed a feast of Langoustines, bought in Port Punay, outside in the jungle that hopefully, one day, once again, will be a garden!

Leaving Merdrignac after our meal, we drove to Taden, near Dinan, and were just in time to meet up with Robin & Anne Perchard, David & Betty le Marquand and Dee & Barry Smith as they walked down to the River Rance to join in the fun and frolics at the Feu de St Jean with dancing, fireworks and a bonfire organised by the villagers.

Good fun and a good way to finish our very enjoyable annual three weeks in France .

Incidentally for those Camper Van owners who don't know it, there is a very convenient Aire just outside the Campsite at La Hallerais.

Nice and peaceful, with water and emptying out point ,and a shop nearby.



Richard and daughter Sophie, preparing our Pizzas.



Baby Jules Moreau.



Another welcome offering from John Williams.

Three sons left home. Went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together some years later they discussed the gifts they were able to give to their elderly Mother.

The first said: "I built a big house for our Mother".

The second said: "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver".

The third son smiled and said: "I've got you both beat. You remember how Mum enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well now. I sent her a remarkable Parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took Church elders 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mum just has to name the chapter and verse, and the Parrot recites it.

Soon afterwards Mum sent out letters of thanks: "Milton", she wrote to one son. "The house that you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house".

Gerald", she wrote to another son. "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude".

"Dearest Donald", she wrote to the third son. "You have the good sense to know what your Mother likes. The chicken was delicious".

Glenda Killip has managed to obtain, for those of us who requested them,

Randalls Discount Cards .

These offer a discount of 15% off meals at all Randall's Restaurants and Pubs.

We have tried it out at Les Fontaines Tavern and it worked perfectly, saving us over £25 on our meal.

Thanks Glenda.

Dennis Ferbrache recently told me of a problem that he had with the rubber seal on his Thetford Cassette Toilet.

On the way home from the Rally he happened to call into Bonjour Camping, near Rennes and was surprised to see the necessary part priced at €25, equivalent to about £20.83,, a bit steep.

On returning home to Jersey he contacted Premier Motor Homes in Chichester, with whom he has dealt before. They charged £9.16 (No VAT) and £3.25 postage, a total of £12.41 as opposed to the £20.83 quoted in France. It shows that it is wise to shop around!

Dennis recommends Premier Motor homes as an outstanding firm to deal with, super efficient, and friendly.

Just room to squeeze in a joke sent in by Roy le Plongeon.

On a golf tour in Ireland, Tiger Woods drives his BMW into a Filling Station in a remote corner of the Irish Countryside. The Pump Attendant, who knows nothing about golf, doesn't recognise Tiger, and greets him in typically Irish fashion."Top o' the mornin to ya, Sir" says the Attendant. Tiger, who is familiar with Irish customs, responds with: "And the rest of the day to you, Sir!" Tiger then bends forward to pick up the nozzle of the gasoline hose. As he does so, two golf tees fall out of his shirt pocket, onto the ground. "What are those?" says the Attendant. They're called tees", replied Tiger. "And what on the good earth are they for?"

Asks the Irishman.

"They're for resting my balls on when I'm driving", says Tiger.

"Feckin Hell", says the Irishman. "BMW thinks of everything!"

During the Rally someone was heard to say that Members of the Club were "cliquey". This is a hoary old chestnut that has been heard before, and makes me cross as it invariably comes from people who themselves make no effort at all to mix. They expect other people to come to them.

Of course it is always nice to sit with friends but It is up to all of us to make an effort to talk to and get to know different members. I know that many of us on the Committee have made a conscious effort to do this, and have found it to be very rewarding.

Everyone has a different and interesting story to tell.

As the saying goes, "Strangers are just friends that you have yet to meet", so I would say, don't wait to be invited into someone's awning for drinks, ask them into yours!

CHEERS!



Our dear friend and fellow Club Member David Perree, passed away on Thursday 7th June.

Although not unexpected, his death leaves all who knew him deeply shocked and saddened by its suddenness.

I first knew David over forty years ago when our younger son and his son became best friends at St John's School.

We met more frequently later, when I, as an Agricultural Inspector visited David and Ruth on their Farm at St John, to inspect their produce, I am glad to say that I rarely found anything wrong with their packing, which was fortunate for me as Ruth had a reputation for not liking Inspectors much and leaving them in no doubt about it!

Later, when David retired from Farming he became a Quality Control Inspector for the Produce Marketing Organisation J.P.M.O we met on an almost daily basis and got on really well. It was about this time that my wife and I joined the JCCC, and knowing that David and Ruth had been Caravanners for some time, persuaded them to join the Club.

It was immediately obvious to all of us that David, despite having a serious side to him, was full of the driest of dry humour and wonderful fun to be with. Over the years we have socialised more and more, and the pleasure that we gained from David's company just grew and grew.

He was an essential ingredient for the best of fun evenings! (and days for that matter)

One memory that stands out for me was when we were invited to lunch in the garden at Les Cornieres on a wonderfully hot, sunny day. As we sat outside on the lawn for lunch, David made great play of showing off an obviously very expensive bottle of Bordeaux wine, which he proceeded to pour out for us.

As the lunch progressed David made several trips across the lawn to his house for more wine. Eventually he decided that he had had enough walking and said: B****r It!" and brought out the box of "Vin de Table" from which he had been refilling his fancy bottle!

David will be missed greatly by all those who knew him and especially by those who were fortunate enough to call him " Friend".

No more will we hear his favourite, frequently used expression: "- I mean to say", invariably accompanied by the rubbing together of his hands and a beaming, infectious grin.

I will retain for ever the happiest of happy memories of David, and the saddest of sad thoughts that we will never see him again.

Thank you David, for the happy times that we shared together.

I hope that with the help of her wonderful family, and all her many friends, that in time, the sun will once again shine for Ruth, the devoted and loving wife of David for 52 years.

Andrew.

Once again, on behalf of us Campervan owners, I would like to say a big "Thank You" to those Caravan Owners who kindly gave us lifts in their cars during the Rally. As ever it was very much appreciated.

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.

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