

Church of All Saints in the Vendée

"To know and to share Jesus Christ"

The Grapevine

November 2015

CONTACTS:

Priest: Reverend Caroline Sackley:

Vicarage: 27, rue de Malvoisine, 85110 St Vincent Sterlanges:

Phone no: 02 51 46 39 51 mobile: 06 73 94 40 01

e-mail addresses: revcarosack1@gmail.com and allsaintsvendee@gmail.com

In Revd Caroline's absence and/or in case of emergency, please contact any of the following:

Church Wardens: Barbara Kenyon: Phone no: 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr

Doug Green: 05 49 72 18 46, email: greensinfrance@yahoo.co.uk

Reader: John Matthews: Phone no: 05 49 75 29 71, e-mail: matthewsj@wanadoo.fr

Website: www.allsaintsvendee.fr



Preface



Dear Friends,

As I prepare this piece for Grapevine I feel a bit like Paul, saying I am sorry I can't be with you but I send my greetings and pray for you all the time. This is not getting above myself but is a strong feeling as I battle with this illness at home in Mayenne. I am improving and hope to be with you all soon. Thank you for all your prayers for me and a big thank you to all who have kept the services going in my absence, especially as so many were also away on holiday and the work force was considerably reduced.

The Daily Office from the Church of England may not be for everyone but it does ensure (as does using the Lectionary for our services) that we get a rich variety of Bible readings. I use the online facility so for Morning Prayer have been working through the book of Ecclesiasticus and yes, I have spelt that right! Which in part seems a bit like Proverbs full of ways to live godly lives. This morning there was also that wonderful passage from the Gospel of John chapter 14 verse 15 to the end, where Jesus tries to explain what is about to happen and that he is not submitting to death as a weakness but in the strength of obedience to God the Father, and because of this all will be well. Not only will we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit but he also says: "Because I live, you also will live" (v19). Two wonderful promises to those who believe; we will have eternal life because Jesus conquered sin and death and we will have the power of the Holy Spirit within us who will teach us and guide us. The Holy Spirit who will enable us to do great things in Jesus' name. Going on from these verses I had to read the rest of these wonderful words of hope and inspiration that continue through to the end of chapter 17, that is the plus side of being sick! If you can make the time re-read in their entirety, something we don't get a chance to do in church, it is beautiful.

Bob has delivered the donations for the refugees to our local hub here, thank you all very much. We have taken tents, blow up mattresses, bedding, winter clothes, shoes and food which I hope will all be put to good use. I have tried sifting through the reports with a critical eye to spot bias, hyperbole etc but taking all that into consideration the situation is dire in many places. Of course the refugees are arriving tired, sick, frightened, unable to understand the language, and full of expectations so that is a recipe for disaster, and also many of the hosts, volunteers, workers are struggling to cope with the amount of work and very real needs. I am certain that all resources, particularly medical ones are stretched really thinly, and our prayers are needed for everyone caught up in this situation in whatever capacity. Prayers also for ourselves, we need to be able to answer the question (and sing the hymn in sincerity), when did we see you Lord starving, homeless, sick, imprisoned? How are we treating our 'neighbours'? Our very genuine fears, concerns and issues about refugees, our own finances and situations need to be prayed through, to ensure we are hearing God's will for our lives.

.../...

.../...

.../...
 The dogs are loving being back here, with the large grounds and an outdoor life with the wood burner to lie in front of after a busy day, I'm not sure how much James is enjoying it however! We have shattered his peace and quiet, but it is our house! We are enjoying the fruits of his labour quite literally though along with the veg from the garden. Beccy and Jo are both well, but Beccy of course has missed her autumn break with us. Thank God for the love and care of the staff working with her.

And so God bless you all and I hope to be back with you all soon.

Caroline

NOVEMBER into DECEMBER CHURCH SERVICES WITH BIBLE READINGS

All Services start at 11am except where indicated

[We have also included the Psalms for each week, as they may inform your own reading at home]

November 1st	11.00 am	LCP	MW	All Saints' Day
Isaiah 25:6-9	<i>Psalm 24 1-6</i>	Revelation 21:1-6a		John 11:32-44
Please Note	1500	LCP	All Souls'	This service has been cancelled
 November 8th	10.50 am	PDS	MW	Remembrance Sunday 
Jonah 3:1-5, 10	<i>Psalm 62:5-end</i>	Hebrews 9:24- end		Mark 1:14-20
 November 11th (Wednesday)	2.30pm	Crash Site then Angles Cemetery. Memorial Service 		
November 15th	11.00am	LCA	HC(Revd Gareth Randall)	2nd before Advent
Daniel 12:1-3	<i>Psalm 16</i>	Hebrews 10:11-25		Mark 13:1-8
November 22nd	11.00am	PDS	HC(*Revd Brian Streeter)	Christ the King
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	<i>Psalm 93</i>	Revelation 1:4-8		
November 29th	10.00 for 10.30	Maison du Diocese	Advent Sunday - Workshop	
	Bring and Share Lunch,			
	3pm	Worship		
December 6th.	11.00am	LCP	Lessons and Carols	2nd in Advent
	4.00pm	PDS.	Christingle Service.	
December 13th		PDS	Lessons and Carols	
December 20th		LCA	MW	
December 24th		LCP	MW	
December 24th		PDS	Evensong	

(*Our Preacher on the 22nd November is The Reverend Brian Streeter, who serves in a Parish in the Lake District and also oversees and supports Filling Station/Faites Le Plein in France. He will be leading two teaching days as well on the Monday and Tuesday. Further details later in this Grapevine)

(There may be last-minute changes to the readings so please check with Revd Caroline or the Worship Leader if you are a Reader)

LCA = La Chapelle Achard; PDS = Puy de Serre; LCP = La Chapelle Palluau,
 MW=Morning Worship; HC(CW)=Holy Communion (Common Worship); BCP=Book of Common Prayer;



PLEASE JOIN US

for Tea, Coffee & Biscuits after our services, followed by a Bring & Share Lunch.

Everyone is welcome to join us

- even if you have not brought anything, there is always enough to go round!

(Unfortunately, when there is a service on the fifth Sunday in the month, the hall is not always available).





Dates for your Diary



- 2nd November** Monday –(and every Monday) - **Deux-Sèvres Bible Study Group** at the home of Bill and Carole Socking (Please phone: 05 49 06 05 85)
- 6th November** Friday “**Last Quiz of the Year**” at Puy de Serre (Contact Polly : 02 28 13 01 93)
-  **11th November** Wednesday 2,30pm **Memorial Service at Halifax Crash Site & Cemetery**, Angles followed by **Tea at Sally’s** house in Longeville-sur-Mer. (See page 6)
- 12th November** Thursday **Coex Home Group** 2.30pm (Contact:Suzanne: 02 44 36 62 90 or email: SiSuPatter@neuf.fr)
- 23rd & 24th November** (Monday & Tuesday) **Two Training Days** organised by Faites le Plein/Filling Station (For more information see page7)
- 26th November** Thursday Ladies Circle, 2.30pm Mouilleron-en-Pareds Cake decorations with Dot. Cakes Sandie (Contact Joan Stewart 0251 00 34 70)
- 29th November** Sunday :“**Advent Sunday Away-Day**” at the Maison du Diocese in La Roche sur Yon

...and planning ahead...

16th December Parish Christmas Lunch 12 noon at L’Auberge du Donjon, Bazoges. 24 euro per person including drinks and gratuities. Menu and forms from Mike Mylod and website (See page 6)



A Thousand Gifts, a Thousand Blessings!



Don't forget your gifts on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
Bill and Carole will collect them and pass them on to Restos du Coeur in Coulonges-sur-l'Autize.

For more details and updates of all these events, please visit our Website: www.AllSaintsVendee.fr

FORWARD PLANNING FOR NOVEMBER INTO DECEMBER

This Forward Planning Rota displays those essential responsibilities which make our Services and Refreshments afterwards possible.
If you feel able to "fill in the blanks", please contact the Organiser concerned.

Responsibility (Organiser)	1st November LCP	8th November PdS 	15th November LCA	22nd November PDS	29th November LRsY
Welcomers (Polly Ward)					
Salle Setup/ Clearing away (Chris Green at PdS)		Marian & Richard/ Doug & Chris		Doug and Chris/ David and Pat	
Refreshments after the service (Jenny Wilkinson at PdS)					
Musicians +/-Organist (Polly Ward)		Stuart		Stuart	



Names on our Prayer List.....

Please remember in your prayers:

- Caroline and Bob Sackley
 - Peter Hutchinson
 - Jean Mylod and Mike
 - Paul Brechet and Anne
 - Tony Carlton and Maggie
 - Joëlle Gosselin and Bernard
 - Des Vine and Elizabeth
 - Tamsin Webb and her husband.
- (Tamsin is the daughter of Jack and Val Goadby)*

And please continue to remember all those whom we know and whose names do not appear here, who are in need of prayerful support at this time.

Our Prayer Co-ordinator is David Pearson.

Please let him have details of any folk you become aware of who need our prayers. ☎ 02 51 61 05 04 📧 david.sally@orange.fr

"Thank you all for your continuing prayers"

You may sometimes hear of members or friends of our congregations who do not want to go on our Prayer List, but who are ill or in need.

In these cases, please let David Pearson, our Pastoral Organiser, know.

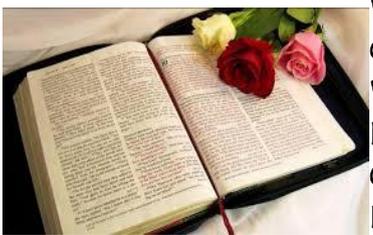
COËX HOMEGROUP



All are welcome to the next meeting at 2.30PM on Thursday 12 November 2015, Chez Suzanne, 109 La Maigrière, 85220 COËX, where we shall continue our study of the BOOK OF ACTS. If you would like to come and need directions, please call Suzanne on: 0244366290 or email: SiSuPatter@neuf.fr.

SEE YOU THERE!

Deux-Sèvres BIBLE STUDY GROUP



We have recently finished an interesting and enjoyable study of JOHN'S GOSPEL and are now studying MATTHEW AND BECOMING A DISCIPLE. We meet each Monday afternoon at 2.30pm at our house at La Barangerie, La Chapelle Thireuil (79). Our phone number is 05 49 06 05 85. .
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Please give us a ring if you would like to join us and we will give you directions to the house if you don't already know where we are.

Carole and Bill Stocking.



NOTES FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS

Just a short note this month as most details are elsewhere in this edition of Grapevine.

Caroline is feeling a little better but it is important that she does not return too early. In view of this the Ministry Team have looked at the future services and they will be Morning Worship when there is no priest available. We will have Holy Communion at LCA on the 15th November with the Rev Gareth Randall and on the 22nd at PDS with the Rev Brian Streeter. All future arrangements are

flexible and will be changed as soon as Caroline is better. We wish her a speedy recovery and ask you all to continue to remember her in your prayers.

Please can we encourage you to support the following events - the Remembrance services at the crash site and cemetery at Angles on the 11th - the workshop on the 29th November - and, looking ahead, the Christmas meal being organised by Mike Mylod.

MUSICIANS - Music is an essential part of our worship ! We are so grateful to our existing musicians but we are sure there are more members of our congregations who do have some musical ability (we are not seeking concert pianists !) Please don't be shy, come forward and offer to play for our services on occasions. This will give existing musicians a rest and provide cover when they are away. Again, please don't be shy !

With our best wishes,

Barbara and Doug

Do you **pay** French taxes?



If so, did you know that for every 100 euros that you give to our Church the taxman will reduce your tax bill by 60 euros thus a 100 euro donation will only cost you 40 euros (and you will be able to increase your donation!!!)

You simply need to make your donation in a recordable manner.

You can put your donation in numbered envelopes in the collection box, set up a standing order (virement) or send money to the planned giving officer (Mike Mylod) giving your name and address. At the end of the year your contributions will be totted up and a certificate issued. You enter this amount on your tax return (no need to send proof, just

keep your certificate in case you are asked for it) and the taxman will reduce your tax bill by a figure equal to 60% of your donations.

Donations to the vicarage renovation can also qualify for tax relief if made through A S V.

Start planned giving now and let the taxman help our Church!

Contact..... Mike Mylod 02 51 51 07 36 (joseph.mylod@wanadoo.fr)
or..... Colin Grimshaw 02 51 98 67 91 (colingrimshaw@orange.fr)

.....**To find out how easy it is!!!**

HALIFAX BOMBER CRASH SITE 11TH NOVEMBER.

We will again be holding a short Act of Remembrance at the crash site of a Halifax bomber at Angles in the Vendée at 2.30 pm followed by a short service at the cemetery where the airmen are buried in a dedicated plot.

Sally Mills has kindly offered refreshments at her house afterwards.

We have purchased one of the poppies from the Tower of London Moat and we will be placing this at the burial plot during the service.

If you do not know the location of the Crash Site, please contact me or ask anyone at the next church service.

Doug Green

**Hopefully, once again, British Legion Poppies
will be available to purchase
after Sunday services in November"**

CHRISTMAS
LUNCH



**Wednesday 16th December at 12 noon
at L'Auberge du Donjon, Bazoges.**

24 euro per person including drinks and gratuities.

Menu and Booking Forms from Mike Mylod
02 51 51 07 36 (joseph.mylod@wanadoo.fr)
and the website (www.allsaintsvendee.fr)



See website



The Revd Martyn Crompton led the Harvest Festival Service at the beautifully decorated church at Puy de Serre.



You are warmly invited

to our next "Faites le Plein" meeting which will be held
in La Roche sur Yon
on Wednesday 4th November.

We are pleased to welcome as a speaker,
Nicolas Gaschignard.

Nicolas is a surgeon at the hospital in La Roche sur Yon.
He is married, with a family
and with his wife Pascale has been responsible for
several Alpha courses taking place in the parish.
Nicolas will be sharing on his experience of working as
a Christian in the secular workplace.

The evening starts at 7pm with refreshments followed
at 7.30pm by a time of sung worship,
then Nicolas will speak to us.
Anyone who would like personal prayer ministry,
offered by a qualified team,
can receive that at the end of the meeting.

The meeting is held at the Maison du Diocèse,
62 rue Maréchal Joffre
(the entrance to this site is opposite the Boulangerie
Potier which has a red frontage,
through the large gateway, into the car park).
Look out for the "Faites le Plein" signs directing you
towards the restaurant.



Brian Streeter.....

who is an Anglican priest from the Lake District and
who is preaching at Puy de Serre on
Sunday 22nd November, as arranged by Caroline,
will now be offering **two training days**, as follows :

Monday 23rd November

hosted by the Rendez-Vous :
'The Gospel: The Good News'.
A clear presentation of the Gospel
and an appeal to turn to Christ.

*The exact location should be finalised in a few days, please
email Chris & Julie on christopher.taylor85@orange.fr for
details.*

Tuesday 24th November

hosted by ASV :
'Prophecy'.
at, La Maison du Diocèse,
62 rue Maréchal JOFFRE. La Roche sur Yon
10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm.
Lunch can be taken in the Maison du Diocèse
restaurant if booked in advance
(please see or e-mail Liz JOND for details)
or
a picnic lunch may be brought and eaten in a room
which will be made available, otherwise there is a
crêperie and a pizza place very nearby.

Refreshments will be provided on both days
(tea, coffee, biscuits).

Hoping that you may join us!

Liz JOND

for the "Faites le Plein" team. (liz.jond@wanadoo.fr)

Sunday Club

Sunday Club takes place at Puy de Serre.
If you know of any children who would like to join our Sunday Club
please bring them along at 11a.m.
They will be most welcome.

Barbara

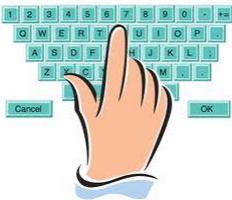
*[Please contact Barbara if you require more information:
Phone 02 51 40 51 59, email: bandrkenyon@orange.fr]*

I hope you have enjoyed this November edition of "Grapevine".

*Thank you to all the Contributors and
I look forward to hearing from you next time*

SO.....

**send your contributions and comments
for the December "Grapevine" to:
Jacqui at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com
before 15th November, please**



*Requests to be included on the emailing list should be addressed to:
Jacqui Stainton-James at: sjfamily66@hotmail.com*

And, "FINALLY", this is the "LAST" word,...just to make you smile....

No dictionary has ever been able to satisfactorily define the difference between "COMPLETE" and "FINISHED." However, during a linguistic conference, held in London, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world, Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese linguist, was the presenter when he was asked to make that very distinction. The question put to him by a colleague in the erudite audience was this:

"Some say there is no difference between 'COMPLETE' and 'FINISHED'. Please explain the difference in a way that is easy to understand."

Mr. Balgobin's response:

"When you marry the right woman, you are 'COMPLETE'. If you marry the wrong woman, you are 'FINISHED' and, if the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are

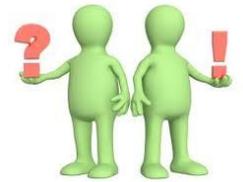
'COMPLETELY FINISHED!'

His answer received a five minute standing ovation.

....and now it's YOUR TURN....



Questions and Answers



These are YOUR pages.....

Once again, my thanks to all the Contributors of notices and articles for this month's "Grapevine" so, read on, and see what you can discover:

***Here you will find two differing articles with "Food" in their titles;
AND 4 more items from Michael this time with a local twist!
But, first of all, Marian has suggestions on how we can all become involved in the
preparation for the Non-Annual Plant Sale next Spring.
Finally, don't miss the photos of the very successful Autumn Bazaar***

*Have you a question to ask or information to share?
Suggestions or an announcement to make?
Praise or criticism of anything affecting All Saints Vendée?
Maybe you can solve another reader's problem.....*

*Send your questions...and answers....and comments
to me, Jacqui, at : sjfamily66@hotmail.com*



Seeds for thoughts!

As many of you know, our coffee morning is a "Non Annual" one!

At this moment in time we feel quite fit and able to produce one next year, but last spring I spent ten

weeks, almost all day every day, potting on over a thousand begonias and almost as many other seedlings and found it just too time consuming, and expensive in compost costs.

We have four daughters and the youngest was two pounds lighter than her sisters at birth, but we nourished and nurtured her and she is now amongst the tallest and strongest! For this reason I hate to throw away weak seedlings. They all need to be given a chance in my eyes!

Two very good friends who are not church goers gave me many hours of their time in the spring and when I said, "Never again," one came up with the following suggestion:-

Why not ask friends if anyone will assume responsibility for just one packet of seeds, and bring the plants a few days before the Coffee Morning.

This really appealed to us as we know that we now have a reputation for having the plant stall, and attract many customers because of this. I will no doubt have the usual surplus to requirements of tomatoes, courgettes etc. but in recent years have sown many flowers specifically for "giving away for a donation please".

We are more than happy to buy a variety of flower seeds and distribute them to anyone game to have a go.

Are you willing to try this please? At this stage we are just sowing the idea, but in early spring we will need to know if we have support, and if so, how much so that we can purchase seeds accordingly.

Please will you give this proposition some serious thought.

Marian and Richard

Xxx

*(Suggestions and offers of help, please, to Marian and Richard who can be contacted at:
richard.rackham@cegetel.net)*





*Photos of the **Autumn Bazaar**
Over 960 euro was made!!! How wonderful is that!!*



I recommend being 80 years old to everyone...



to everyone who gave me birthday cards.

Thank you Mike and Sheila for the wonderful party with so many cards and presents.

The church.....the family.....the joy.....the wonderful joy.

It's sad that I can't have my 80th birthday again

but I am looking forward to celebrating my 90th!

For Carole and me it was such a joyous and memorable occasion

when the happiness was truly très bon.

Thank you and lots of love to you all.

Bill

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES AND POEM, TOGETHER WITH YOUR REPLIES, HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION IN GRAPEVINE BY OUR READERS, SO PLEASE, READ ON.....

Food pt2

One of the real delights about living in France is the food! But where do you go to buy it? Are you lazy, as I'm tempted to be, and take the easy option of going to a supermarket? There, it's dead simple to pick up the fruit and veg of choice, weighing just what you want without the hassle of knowing the French for whatever you're buying or knowing the quantity you need to buy.

But sometimes I do feel adventurous and go to the market in Dinard. Three times a week - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday - the market square fills with all sorts of stalls from food to clothing. Then in the centre of the square, Les Halles, open most days in the morning, where there are the regular stalls undercover: fish, meat, cheese, wines, delis, fruit and veg. What delight, what choice, what skill as the butcher slices and trims four slices of calves liver for me.

So, in a way, I feel I'm in heaven here, spoilt for choice and for quality. If only my French were as good! So when shopping, what do you love to buy and what gives you grief when trying to buy it? I'm sure Jacqui would love to know.

Gareth Randall, Priest-in-charge,

St Bartholomew's

Dinard



Please Note: If you would like to meet Revd Gareth come to the service at Puy de Serre on the 15th November when he will be preaching

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*A poem by a Food Bank client
(submitted by Bill Stocking)*

I know what it's like to use the same teabag twice,
To cut the mould from the bread to rescue a slice.
I didn't ever think I would be in such a mess
While working fulltime for a living, while suffering from illness and stress.

I choose to work to pay my own way
But have no spare money at the end of the day.
The cupboards and fridge are empty, what else can I do
Throwing my three elderly pets on the street? – It just wouldn't do.

I don't have a partner for support, the children have grown and left home;
No luxuries do I have that I can call my own.;
I do not have a plasma TV ,
No tumble drier here for me,
No plush leather sofa or latest mobile phone,
No holiday do I take or house do I own.

So swallow my pride I know I must do, so I visited the food bank who welcomed me within
As I wiped the tears from my face rolling down my chin.
Food Bank volunteers greeted me with a smile,
sat me down with a cup of tea.

I began to chat and told of my dismay
At finding myself at the Food Bank today,
Not a penny in my purse that I could offer to pay
What more could I say
"It's alright" the lady said as I was handed a tissue
"Don't look at being here as such an issue"
So privileged and grateful I felt as I was provided with food as if heaven sent.

To have food on the table this cold winter's day
Is very much appreciated, I'm humbled to say.
Food Bank, I thank you for helping me today.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing your French-based research which is particularly significant this month of remembrance.

Jacqui

“Thanks also to the several contributors: you have pulled together a good lot and a very good read. Particularly the ‘story’ about Lt Elliott and his early and sad death.
Thank you Mike for your research into his life.
Ever onward with such readable ‘news’.. ! Xx Peter” *(Somerville)*



Rene Hardy



Rene Hardy who died in April 1987 at the age of 75 was a WW2 resistance leader whose reputation was besmirched by charges he betrayed French hero Jean Moulin. M. Hardy led a reclusive life for many years had been in hospital for the last three years of his life.

He was acquitted of informing on several resistance fighters including Moulin, he never lived down suspicions by some resistance members and historians that he provided the gestapo with information leading to Moulin’s capture, torture and eventual death.

A prolific author, M. Hardy was awarded the deux magots literary prize for his 1956 book *Amere Victoire*, (Bitter Victory) His later book *Derniers Mots*, (Last Words) published in 1984 revived charges and counter charges about M. Hardy's role in the resistance.

In 1940 he organised a resistance called Iron Resistance which specialised in sabotaging railroads during the Nazi occupation. He was imprisoned in Toulon by the Vichy authorities from 1941 to 1942 but resumed his resistance work when freed.

He was arrested again in June 1943 on a train trip, allegedly he was betrayed by Moulin who was head of the resistance and was at that time being interrogated by Lyon gestapo chief Klaus Barbie. Barbie later claimed that M. Hardy agreed to collaborate with the Germans. After his release M. Hardy was wounded and escaped from a hospital in Lyon and spent the rest of the war in Algiers. On his return to France he was arrested and at two trials, 1947 and 1950 he was acquitted of being a collaborator.

Mike Knight



Niort celebrates its liberation



On August 13, 1944, Colonel Edmond Proust (Chaumette) succeeded with much difficult to unify the forces of the Resistance in Deux -Sèvres. With the support of armaments supplied by the British Major Edward Whitty (Jedburgh mission) by large air drops, the FFI (Secret Army and Franc-shooters Partisans), was engaged in the battle of sabotage and constant skirmishes, (especially in the southern department) with German troops who mostly retreated to the "pockets" of Saint-Nazaire and La Rochelle.

At Niort, General Täglichsbeck was commanding the 64th Armeekorps, on August 26th he received the order to withdraw to the Loire and to try to reach Germany via Burgundy. On Sunday, August 27, the Germans destroyed weapons depots, equipment, archives (those of Feldkommandantur 651) and that night, all the Nazi occupiers services withdrew except for some small sabotage units.

From 29 August, the Deux-Sèvres prefecture is free, The new French authorities led by Chaumette organise an intervention of local leaders of the F.F.I. To calm the crowd which is spreading on the streets, ransacking the premises recently vacated by the occupying forces. Indeed, the retreating German columns are not far away and neither is the pocket at La Rochelle either. A poster from the Departmental Committee of Liberation (CDL) signed by its President Joseph Pineau does little to prevent the rise in unrest, including among different groups of guerrillas. On Sunday, September 3, the C.D.L. decided to relax the controls a little bit and even though there were still Germans in Deux Sevres they organised liberation ceremonies throughout the county for Wednesday 6th September.

Several thousand Niortais attended this gigantic party where heroes paraded from the barracks Dugesclin to downtown in a procession of vehicles of all types.

At the head, Colonel Edmond Proust, this was his first public appearance for more than six months, with him was Rene Hudeley. Also with him was Emile Spade who had been given the mission to reorganize the resistance throughout the Midwest under the pseudo of "Bourguignon". Constantly threatened by the Gestapo, he escaped narrowly December 13, 1943 but his wife and daughter were arrested and then released. His son John was a member of the Free French Forces (FFL). So it was only natural that Emile was appointed by the CDL to be the mayor of Niort. It is equally natural that he worked alongside his friend Jean Meunier on the birth of La Nouvelle République du Centre-Ouest, the first copy came out in Deux-Sèvres on 8th September. Then, on the steps of City Hall, Emile Spade, former deputy SFIO, also a member of "Libération-Nord", was installed as mayor of Liberation with his council.

At Place de la Breche, Nazi banners in swastikas burned amid the jubilation and six German prisoners, captured in the day Mauzé-sur-le-Mignon by men of the "Triangle XVII", were paraded on a truck to the jeers of the crowd. Many resistance fighters want to continue the fight quickly by integrating into the 114th Infantry Regiment, which at the end of September, is sent to the "pocket" of La Rochelle.

Mike Knight



France's Munitions Legacy.



Over 100 years have passed since the outbreak of WW1. The war toll was one of the worst in history, due in part to the emergence of a massive weapons industry. At the end of the war in 1918, huge amounts of unused munitions, including highly toxic ordnance, were hurriedly disposed of in France, buried or sunk in natural sites, while former battlefields which contained unexploded and abandoned munitions were simply sealed off. Many of these remain scattered around France today, where the corroding arsenals pose a serious threat to the health and safety of local populations and surrounding environments. Here are the top 10 contaminated sites in France, surprisingly two of them are in Deux Sevres.

Verdun national forest, in the Lorraine region of north-east France. The forest covers 10,000 hectares, and was partly replanted after a ten-year operation to remove ordnance. However, it is still today littered with unexploded shells, millions of pieces of lead shot and bullets. The gradually-corroding munitions buried here contain toxic metals and explosives, including fulminate of mercury used in percussion caps. In 2004, France's national forestry office, the ONF, carried out a study of the livers of wild boar hunted in the forest and found that 10% were highly contaminated by lead and cadmium poisoning. The forest contains several natural water sources that are collected and used for the supply of tap water. There has been no study of the effects these may have had on the health of the local population.

The Red Zone, north-east France. The Red Zone, or *Zone Rouge*, is the name given to about 1,200 square kilometres of land decimated by WWI battlefields, and which form a rough semi-circle from Verdun, north-west to Compiègne, then north to Lille. Agricultural use and the reconstruction of housing were forbidden by law after the war because of the presence on the land of thousands of human corpses and unexploded munitions. In 2012, the local authorities in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region ordered a ban on consumption of tap water in 544 municipalities after the discovery that it contained a dangerously excessive amount of perchlorate, a chemical used in the production of explosives. The tap water ban concerned areas that are situated on the sites of the 1914-18 battlefields. Some parts of the Red Zone were never, or only partially, cleaned up. Among these are patches of land that were reforested, such as around Verdun and Vimy. During the winter period between 2005 and 2006, a test search for explosives in an area near the Vimy Canadian National Memorial, and which had never been the object of explosive ordnance clearance, found about 300 unexploded bombs lying no more than 15 centimetres below ground. In this photograph of a Red Zone site, a reminder of the danger that lurks below this bucolic scene is a sign reading 'Entry forbidden, unexploded munitions'.

Gouffre de Jardel, near the village of Chaffois, in the Franche-Comté region of eastern France. Below the vegetation here is a natural chasm, 128 metres deep, below which runs an underground water course. In 1923, the French army sank 3,000 tonnes of munitions here. The water course hidden below is a source of the river Loue which provides tap water to parts of the local Doubs *département* (county). The chasm is under regular monitoring by the Regional Health Agency and Civil Security authorities (the *Agence régionale de santé* and the *Sécurité civile*) both of which say that until now there has been no health or ecological danger caused by the stock of munitions.

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The Blue Lake (Lac bleu), near the town of Avrillé (13,000 inhabitants), in the Maine-et-Loire department of western France. This lake was formed by the flooding of a former slate quarry and contains an estimated several thousand tonnes of munitions sunk below the surface, and its blue-green colour is reportedly the result of their corrosion. Shortly after the end of WWI, unused stock from a munitions factory in nearby Montreuil-Joigné was placed here, followed by other munitions hidden here by the French army after the German invasion of France in 1940. Yet more, from German, US and French forces, were placed here at the end of WWII. Beginning in 2006, bomb disposal experts dive every year to remove part of the stock and, little by little, empty the site of its enormous arsenal.

The Gérardmer Lake, Gérardmer (8 500 inhabitants), in the Vosges département in eastern France. Beginning in 1980 and until 1995, bomb disposal experts removed some 15 tonnes of explosives every year from this 36-metre-deep lake, where munitions were dumped at the end of WWI, notably phosphorous grenades. As was also the case with the Blue Lake close to Avrillé (see above), yet more munitions were sunk here during the German invasion of France in 1940 and also at the end of WWII. Since the emptying of the ordnance in 1995, there has been no study to determine the possible contamination of the water, despite the fact that it provides a source for local tap water and that angling is allowed.

The Place-à-gaz, Spincourt national forest, in the Meuse department, north-east France. This clearing in the forest near Verdun is where 200,000 unexploded WWI chemical bombs were destroyed. Until this highly-toxic site was officially identified in 2004 as having served that purpose, it was regularly used by forest keepers, who built the hut pictured here (*sorry no picture available JSJ*), as a place to have lunch and by hunters as a spot to skin their prey. In 2005, German researchers Tobias Bausinger and Johannes Preuß, from the University of Mayence, carried out a study of the site. They discovered levels of arsenic that reached 17% of the weight of the earth and also high levels of cadmium, mercury and lead. Seepage water contained levels of arsenic that were 300 times above the tolerated amount. The local authorities finally prohibited public access to the site in 2012. The forestry workers and hunters who used to visit the spot have never been the subject of any medical study and there are no plans to clean up the site which has become dubbed as the Place-à-gaz.

Former French army munitions dump, near Thouars (9,600 inhabitants) and Saint-Léger-de-Montbrun (1 200 inhabitants), in the Deux-Sèvres department in western France. The problem continues: since the launch in 2010 of a de-pollution operation at this former military site of 70 hectares, some 5,500 munitions of different types, including chemical weapons, have been discovered. There remain 17 hectares to clear, which are estimated to contain a further 12,000 munitions. Once the operation is completed, the land is to be used as a solar power park.

Former munitions destruction site, near Pierrefitte (333 inhabitants), Deux-Sèvres. Another example: over a period of 30 years, the French Munitions Recovery Company (SFRM) used this site to destroy French army ordnance. The 20-hectare spot was abandoned in 2006 after the company went bankrupt. It is estimated that 190 tonnes of unexploded bombs remain here, including still-active phosphorous munitions. There is every probability that the land, which slopes down to a stream, is contaminated, but no study has been made. A project to build a solar power park has been under discussion, but as yet no company has been appointed to clean up the site

Mike Knight



The Resistance in North Deux-Sèvres - Memorial at Neuvy-Bouin

Poitou-Charentes was occupied during WWII and there are many small memorials tucked away on side roads throughout the regions, dedicated to remembering the small bands of resistance workers who gave their lives to fight for freedom in France.

One such pocket which so far does not have a memorial was in the triangle Thouars-Bressuire-Parthenay. This was the group based at Neuvy-Bouin and Moncoutant. They were among many resistance fighters in 79 who organised the reception of parachutes of munitions, arms and radio transmitters. 52 men in this group were eventually arrested, imprisoned at Poitiers and finally transported to concentration camps in Germany. On Saturday, 25th September 2010, a memorial to these men was unveiled in Villeneuve.

This is the story behind the memorial:

In the Spring of 1943, the Resistance Organisation Civile et Militaire, created in Paris in December 1940, formed active groups in the Poitou-Charentes, Vendée and Anjou regions, for the purpose of receiving arms, munitions and radio material by parachute, ensuring their transport and organising hiding them.

In the Bocage Bressuirais, the team at La Chapelle St Laurent formed around Frederic Faucon, another cell joined up at Moncoutant. In turn they were organised under the authority of Frederic Jouffrault (second in command to Didier Delahaye - regional organiser of OCM from March 1943) and Roger Helier (in charge of aerial operations for north Deux-Sevres). These men had families, worked as farmers, tradesmen...yet they were part of a vast mouvement which stretched into Maine-et-Loire, Vienne and Vendée.

Listening to an announcement on the BBC Radio on 11th March 1943, there was a coded message stating that the first aerial operation was arranged for the following night.

It was a clear moonlit night, the team prepared the land with beacons marking the landing area, ensuring the pilot could see where to land the six arms and munitions containers which would be concealed in the moat of the Chateau at Bressuire. This was the pathfinder flight marking the beginning of a long series of similar landings in the triangle of Thouars-Bressuire-Parthenay.

The sky was filled with parachutes and boxes. On land, the team worked quickly without stopping to collect them all and organiser their transport and hiding.

After being reassured of the success of this first exercise, four further aerial operations were carried out using this team, on the nights of 13th April, 3rd and 4th May and 14th June.

Besides the moat around the chateau, other hiding places included a family vault in a cemetery, a workshop in La Chapelle St Laurent, a farm at La Berderie de la Rond; no less than 45 containers were parachuted into Villeneuve at Neuvy-Bouin, comprising many tons of arms, munitions and radio transmitters, which were then dispersed to other groups.

In the summer and autumn of 1943, the German and French authorities tracked down this Resistance movement; arrests followed across the north of Deux-Sèvres; 52 men were arrested and interned at the prison Pierre Levee at Poitiers. Amongst these were the teams from La Chapelle St Laurent and Moncoutant; Didier Delahaye, Roger Helier, Jean Turpault, Calixte Vende, Constant Votion, Rene Brossard, Marcel Labbe, Maurice Clisson, Jean Daguise, Louis Gourdon, Marcel Baliseau, Theophane Paynot. Only Fernand Gilbert, Frederic Faucon and his son, A Votion and Yves Legoupil escaped, hiding where they were not found.

In January 1944, 41 members of the OCM in north Deux-Sèvres were deported, 24 sent to the Nazi concentration camps.

The Resistance Conservatoire of Deporation of Deux-Sèvres erected memorials at a number of sites used by the Resistance in both Deux-Sèvres and Vienne, wishing to commemorate the work of the members of the communes.

Mike Knight



Dear Friends

Our Christmas Lunch is now organised at the **Auberge de Donjon Bazoges** on **Wednesday 16th December 2015 12:00**.

The cost of the lunch is **€24** per person including drinks. The menu choice is as follows:

Kir ou Cocktail de fruit
Feuilleté pomme boudin blanc
Vol au vent de la mer
Assiette de Noel (Duo de terrine maison)

Sauté de Kangourou au vin
Dinde Rôti, Trio de légumes
Pavé de Saumon à l'oseille

Assiette de Fromages

Tarte Amandine au poire
Ananas Roti, et sa Glace Vanille
Tarte Tatin du Donjon

Café ou Thé
Vin de table

I would be grateful if you could complete the bottom half of the form indicating your choice so that I may make the necessary arrangements with the restaurant. Would you return it to me by post, accompanied by payment by cheque.

Reservations should reach me by **9th December 2015 at the latest**. It will prove to be a most enjoyable event.

Mike Mylod



Please detach this section and return with your remittance by 9th December 2015 to:

M.J. Mylod Rue de la Fontaine 6 Mouilleron en Pareds 85390

Please reserve places at the Christmas Lunch at €24 each.

Diner 1

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Diner 2

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Diner 3

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Diner 4

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Name

Tel.

I enclose cheque for € payable to M.J. Mylod