



Newsletter

Spring 2011

www.ententecordiale-creuse.org

From the President

Catastrophes are multiplying on our planet and we are all affected by the sorry state of the world. But life carries on and the will of the members of our association to propose a better world gives me hope and drive. All the commissions have established their programmes for the year and choosing among all the proposed activities will be difficult! Thank you all for your dynamism and positive attitudes.

This is the last newsletter edited by Leon Durbridge as he is engaged in new personal projects this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him warmly from all of us for the enormous work he has done: producing really interesting newsletters is a very hard and time-consuming task. Thank you Leon as, thanks to you, many memories will be brought back to life when we read of them again.

Another page is turning: it is an immense regret to know that our treasurer and faithful friend Barry Yates, due to his serious ill health, cannot continue to hold this post of high responsibility. Since my election Barry has always been with me, and has accomplished an incredibly good job, for keeping the accounts of such a large association is a real challenge

Barry, in the name of the members of Entente Cordiale and in my own name, please accept our many, many thanks. Because of your exactness, our accountability is irreproachable and in "good health". You have been a really 'super' Treasurer, and you will be missed, but I know that I can always rely on your advice. Once again, thank you.

David Johnson, President, Entente Cordiale
20 rue des Sabots, 23800 Dun le Palestel 05.55.89.14.61

From the Editor

I took over as Editor of the Entente Cordiale Newsletter two years ago and I have enjoyed the job very much.

I feel that it is now time to step down and let someone else take over the reins, so this will be my last edition.

In the past two years I have met many of you and made many friends among the membership of Entente Cordiale, and I fully intend staying actively involved in the association and perhaps contributing to future newsletters.

I would like to thank all the people who have provided articles in the past and hope that they will continue their valuable contributions under a new editor.

Thanks must also go to Christian Durieux for his hard work and skilful translations for the French edition.

And last, but not least, my thanks to David Johnson, and of course Dominique, for all their help and support.

A bientôt.



Leon Durbridge, Editor
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The Clos Brégeot Vineyard

The vineyard is in a dormant state at the moment, but will soon be waking up to the frenzied activity of a new season. In March the vines have to be pruned, unsteady posts replaced, and lines repaired. The grass in between the rows and plants must be mown and trimmed.

The wine from the 2010 crop of grapes is still in the vats after a second racking (the wine is put into fresh containers). The wine will be left for another 6 months or so to soften and be ready for bottling or further maturation.

Robert Bates

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PC Tips - A Slow Computer?

If you've had your computer for more than 6 months, you may have noticed that it's running slower than when new. If so, then one or more of the solutions below may solve the problem.

However, before you do any maintenance on you computer, **BACK UP ALL YOUR DATA!!!**



1. Do you leave your computer switched on for days or weeks at a time? If so, temporary files will build up on your hard disk, taking up space in your computer's memory and clogging up other resources. By rebooting, or restarting your computer, you can clear out these temporary files and improve your PC's performance. It's good practice to turn off the power to your PC every time you have finished with it for the day.

2. Have you installed any new software or drivers for Printers, graphics cards, games or downloads from the internet? Try removing any newly installed software and see if that makes a difference. You can always reinstall them later. Also, make sure that your computer meets the minimum requirements recommended by the hardware manufacturer or software publisher before installing anything new. Also make sure your hard disk isn't getting filled up with clutter. Music and videos are notorious for eating up disk space. To see how much space you have on your hard disk: go to 'My Computer' and in the menu bar click on 'View'. If it's over half full, uninstall as much as you can after backing it up to an external hard disk or CD/DVD.

3. A good clean up of other unwanted files:

- Uninstall any software you don't need. Look in the 'Control Panel', click on the 'Programs and Features' icon and delete what you don't need.
- Go to START, Programs and click on Accessories, then System Tools, then Disk Cleanup. Follow on screen instructions. It's a great little tool for getting rid of clutter.
- Defragging the hard drive is a good idea. Files are installed all over the hard drive, so tidying bits of files will speed up the time taken to access them. The defragmenter tool can be found in System Tools.
- A third party PC clean up program is sometimes useful as it examines all of the PC and recommends/performs actions. e.g. 'Disk Clean Security' from www.diskcleaners.com

4. Of course, you have a very good antivirus and anti malware such as Kaspersky or Trend Micro, to name the two best ones, or AVG, the best free one. Viruses, Trojans, spyware, and worms infect your computer's resources and do all sorts of nasty things to it, including causing it to slow down. One of the most important aspects of the antivirus scan is its ability to check your PC for malicious software. Of course, you set the antivirus to automatic update or manually update it EVERY DAY!

How long the scan will take varies, and depends on your processor speed, the amount of memory your computer has, and how many issues the scanner finds. Generally, a complete scan will take anywhere from 10 - 20 minutes.

Ideally, you should run the full service scanner at least once a week, but if your computer is running more slowly than normal or programs don't seem to be behaving the way they should, run a scan at once. Happy computing.

Robert Bates

information@ententecordiale-creuse.org

The English Library

Membership

This year again is one of growth in all areas.

We welcomed 33 new members this year with Mr & Mrs Dunse being given a jar of our delicious Clos Brégeot honey as a reward for becoming our 200th member. We have 108 active paid up members at the moment who come from all over the area.

Librarians

The Number of Librarians has grown recently to 23 and they are a very supportive group who bring a versatile variety of talents with them. We are grateful for all their help and the fun they bring to the place. We are always pleased to add more to the list. Training is given by Chris Hardy and there is always someone experienced on hand.

The Collection and DVDs

There are many new titles in our collection some being donations but a number of brand new titles have been added, especially recently published and also books and media specially requested.

More shelving has again been added by Bill Dyer but we still look for ways to consolidate our collection. As very few members borrow the Videos, it was decided to remove these from the library and donate them to those who like to use them. Instead we would like to increase our DVD collection so if anyone has any they wish to donate, please pass them on to us.

Roger's Memorial

Members have donated generously towards a park bench to commemorate the life of Roger Feugère, who was a founder member of Entente Cordiale. It has been purchased and it is hoped to install it in April on the first anniversary of his death.

Café Club Français

Café Club Français continues to flourish and meets on the first Tuesday morning of the month. Please come and join us, any time between 10 and 12. Both French and English are welcome and you don't have to speak any language other than your mother tongue if you wish. There are delicious cakes to eat and it's a lovely way to make new friends.

Craft Group

Chris Hardy has put the group on hold at the present but is planning to organise various specific sessions. If you are interested in painting, knitting, sewing, patchwork or any other craft please contact Chris on 05 55 81 08 07.

Activities Room

Adjacent to the Library is a very useful activities room which has been tidied and organised.

Dancing

There is a thriving English Country Dance Group, which not only provide excellent entertainment for our delight but keeps the members fit and supple as well. This meets on Monday afternoons. For more details, contact Carole Sayle on 02 54 47 37 52.

Scrabble and Belote Club

This meets one Monday per month under the direction of Mme Charmion. Both French and English games are played and much amusement is had as well as a nice cup of coffee. Mme Charmion can be contacted on 05 55 89 24 51.

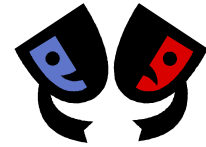
Café Philo

If spirited discussion on various subjects gets your brain cells working, this is a group you will enjoy. Led by Mme Brel, the group meets on one Saturday per month from 16.00h to 18.00h.. The dates are available in the Library or on the Entente Cordiale website.

For any more information about the English Library and its activities, please contact Linda Ward 05 55 89 69 65 or see the website, www.ententecordiale-creuse.org.



Théâtre d'Entente Cordiale



Aladdin the Pantomime

Who would have thought it?

First Cinderella followed by Aladdin, the second most popular of that insane and intrinsically British institution the Panto, produced here in deepest, mystical France. The mixed cast of English and French actors switched from English to French at the drop of a hat for audiences comprised of both nationalities. As if Panto isn't crazy enough without adding these extra ingredients!

After three and a half months of continual rehearsing and, after surmounting innumerable obstacles, the production finally opened during the worst December weather imaginable. It really was touch and go whether we opened or not. Sadly, the appalling conditions seriously affected our audience numbers, but the show carried on in true showbiz fashion. The more stoic members of the community who were determined to attend were richly rewarded with a vibrant spectacle of sumptuous costumes, striking stage sets, great song and dance routines, outrageous humour and good all-round performances from a dedicated cast, not to mention the highly professional sound and lighting design.

The success of the production was due mainly to the hard work, enthusiasm and vitality of the cast and crew who, in many cases travelled long distances in order to attend the numerous rehearsals essential for a show of this quality. I am truly grateful for all the sacrifices made.

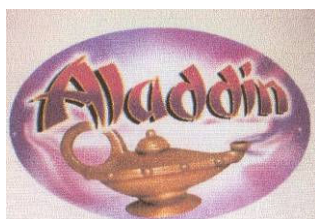
Feedback from audience members has been most rewarding. It seems that the majority were truly delighted and happily I continue to meet people who are still talking about 'Aladdin'.

We are all thankful for the use of the Apollo both as a rehearsal and performance space; however, transforming it into a suitable but temporary theatre was no mean feat. With some TLC and some much needed financial investment, Dun le Palestel could have a Salle de Fete/Theatre to be proud of. Perhaps now that members of the Municipality have witnessed what can be achieved they may be prepared to commence with some sort of improvement project.

The Théâtre Entente Cordiale goes from strength to strength. It now has a good solid base to build upon and I wish it luck with any future productions.

Bruce Veness

Director of Aladdin

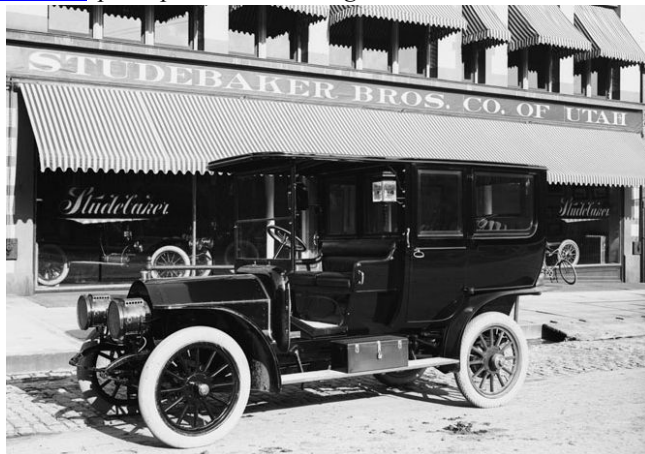


Limousine or – limousine?

I wanted to know how a Rolls Royce saloon car could have the same name as a breed of cattle - Limousine. Thanks to Wikipedia and the worldwide net I was able to satisfy my curiosity.....

To most English speakers worldwide a limousine is a [luxury vehicle](#), perhaps one with a lengthened wheelbase or driven by a chauffeur. The first automobile limousine, built in 1902, was designed so the driver sat outside under a covered compartment.

The word *limousine* is said to be derived from the name of the French region [Limousin](#), because the covered compartment apparently physically resembled the cloak hood worn by the shepherds of the area. An alternate [etymology](#) says that the chauffeur wearing a Limousin-style cloak in the open driver's compartment, for protection from the weather gives rise to the name.



Studebaker Brothers Limo - Auto, 1908



A black Lincoln Town Car 'stretch limousine' at a car show in Bristol, England

So there you have it.

And now for something completely different.....

Limousin cattle are a breed of [beef cattle](#) originally bred in the [Limousin](#) and Marche regions of [France](#). They are recognisable by their distinctive golden-red colouring. The first herd book was established in 1886 for the improvement of the breed by natural selection.

However, the breed may be as old as the history of Europe itself. Cattle found in cave drawings known to be 20,000 years old in the [Lascaux](#) Cave near [Montignac](#), France, have a striking resemblance to today's Limousin cattle. Within the beef cattle fraternity Limousins are known for their muscular build, feed efficiency, ease of management and comparable calving ease to other breeds. They also produce the leaner cuts of [beef](#) that are so desirable in the modern market. This has resulted in the cattle being bred worldwide and renowned and appreciated for all the qualities mentioned above.

And **these** Limousines often don't have horns, unlike the other variety!



Limousine cow and calf

photo by Kerlavic

Miriam Durbridge

The Annual Christmas Concert

The church of Dun was full for our traditional Christmas concert! The programme consisted of beautiful carols interpreted by the choir "Vocalise", music and traditional songs proposed by our friends of "La Paillole Dunoise" and a few pieces played by the Ensemble de trompettes de l'école de musique de Bussiére Dunoise."



The public joined in the singing of a few classics: "Silent Night", "Les anges dans nos campagnes"etc..... Mulled wine and biscuits were served, at the Apollo to conclude this very pleasant and convivial afternoon. However, next year we will have to provide **more** mince pies as, within minutes, everything had gone!!!!!!

Delicious (and healthy)French bottled water

Not long after coming to France, we fitted a water filter system to the mains water inlet pipe into our home. I have long been a believer in drinking plenty of water, and so I thought that this was an ideal opportunity to give up carrying heavy packs of bottled water from the supermarkets.

This was in the summer of 2008, and I drank the water flowing from our newly installed filtering system all that season. But, by the time we went back to the UK for Christmas, I had a terrible cough and had also suffered regular bouts of indigestion. Coarse textured food that I ate I could **feel** as it was going down my throat, which was most uncomfortable.

Whilst in UK I consulted my doctor and he suggested that I see a specialist. So I went to the specialist who carried out an endoscopy the following week. This proved to be a very expensive Christmas! However, the day before Christmas he telephoned me to say that all was well with my throat, and suggested that I made another appointment in a few months' time when I next returned to the UK.

Whilst back in France in the New Year, I was relating my experience to a friend who said that she too had suffered similar symptoms. She felt that it may have been due to a PH imbalance in the tap water. I immediately forsook the **filtered** water and instead began to drink **bottled** water again. The result was that in a short time my symptoms had disappeared as mysteriously as they had started!

Within a few months I was back to normal, but not before I had tried and tested various bottled waters. For me the cheaper eau de source was not as beneficial as some of the branded waters so, having found one that suits me, I have settled on Vittel.

When I returned to the UK I went to see the specialist to explain how the symptoms had gone. He was mystified and seemed quite incredulous that something as simple as a change of water could have such a dramatic effect on someone's health. All he could say was to come back and see him if the symptoms return!



Luckily for me, so far, the change in water has had a sustained beneficial effect on my life.

Ann Clayton

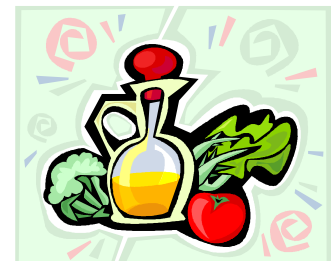
Forthcoming Events for 2011

Date and Time	Activity	Venue & Details
14 April 19.30	Assemblée generale (Un 'pot de l'amitié ' will be served at the end of the meeting)	Salle l'Apollo Dun le Palestel
14 & 15 May	Participation in the Expo Anglophone organised by Mrs Julia Dunbar	La Grande Salle de la Mairie Guéret
20 May	Brass Band Concert given by La Philharmonie de la Souterraine Repertoire dedicated to La chanson française	L'Eglise de Dun le Palestel
29 May	Visit to the superb garden belonging to Maria Sperring	4Ha of permaculture A vegetarian meal will be offered to visitors
6 July	English Fete and B.B.Q. Joint venture with the English Library and Théâtre Entente Cordiale	Parc Benjamin Bord
16 July	' Randonnée littéraire ' organised by the association ' Brézentine- Environnement	Readings and poems given along the walk
17 July	Concert with the group Kaiman Swing	Arboretum de la Sédelle
4 August	Fete Médiévale de Crozant Including a pageant given by the Théâtre Entente Cordiale	Crozant
14 August	Concert de Rock à l'Apollo (Depending on the ripening of the grapes)	
End of September / beginning of October	Fête de la vigne	
November	Repas Gastronomique	
December	Participation in the Téléthon Concert de Noel	

And finally.....

a little story that I heard recently.
Having some experience of Americans, as I lived near some of the American
airbases in eastern England for several years, I think this might well be true.

The classic French dressing, mayonnaise, is known by the shortened name of
mayo in the U.S.A. It would appear that an American lady turned up at a tourist
office in **County Mayo** in Ireland and asked if there was an exhibition that she
could visit concerning the origin of her favourite salad dressing.



Leon Durbridge

MEMBERSHIP OF ENTENTE CORDIALE

www.ententecordiale-creuse.org

***Our part of France is le Pays Dunois in beautiful northern
Creuse (Limousin)***

- *Like to join in our social activities and outings?*
- *Want to find out more about the local area?*
- *Interested in getting involved in projects*
- *Like to meet new friends?*

Join Entente Cordiale!

*Our **aim** is to help people of all nationalities integrate into French society by organising activities, projects and social outings.*

Annual membership fees are 15€ (single) or 20€ per couple

Want to find out more?

Contact David Johnson, President

**Tel: 05 55 89 16 54
or 05 55 89 14 61**

E-mail: information@ententecordiale-creuse.fr

