



# Newsletter

## Autumn 2010

[www.ententecordiale-creuse.org](http://www.ententecordiale-creuse.org)

### From the President

Mother Nature is now within her resting period as we will be in ours. We'll have log fires in the fireplace during the long evenings, a treat of hot toddies etc. to keep out the cold, a time to rest to regain our energy for the new year to come. Entente Cordiale will also adopt its winter format after a very full year of activities. As the weather during January and February is often bad, our first event will be organised in March.

But we do still have our year end festivities to help you get into the "Christmas Spirit". Our pantomime 'Aladdin', held on the Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December, is the result of the incredible work realised by a multitude of people who have given their all towards the success of this project. May I thank all those concerned for their hard work.

Our annual "Christmas Carol Concert" is at 16.00 hrs. on the 19<sup>th</sup> December in the church of Dun le Palestel (more information in the newsletter). Please invite your friends and neighbours to these two events, I look forward to seeing you there.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2011.

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



### From the Editor

My wife and I have just completed our third year living in the Creuse and I don't know where the time has gone. Of course like many Brits we have spent a lot of time getting both the house and the garden to our liking and getting to know the area we live in. The Creuse and the Limousin in general are still fairly sparsely populated and unspoilt and that is what I find so wonderful.

Before we came here we lived and worked for several years in the beautiful British Channel Island of Guernsey, indeed my wife is a native of that island, and the contrast could not be greater. There is very little traffic here compared to almost anywhere in Britain, and the climate is more stable in that you know it is going to be very cold in the Winter and very hot in the Summer.

This means that when Autumn comes the display given by nature, as a final fling before Winter arrives, is spectacular. I have spent the last few weeks walking or driving around being dazzled by the colours of the trees and the countryside. Yes! There are Autumn colours in Britain, but it is rare to have quite the spectacle that we have here in the Creuse.

I am by nature an optimist and, whilst I am slightly sad that Winter is on its way I am already looking forward to seeing our garden, and the surrounding countryside, burst into bloom next Spring. My wife and I have also promised ourselves that we will get out and about and see a lot more of our lovely departement next year.

In the meantime, **don't forget** that the Pantomime is on in Dun-le-Palestel during the first week in December.

On that seasonal note I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

*Leon Durbridge, Editor*  
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## The Clos Brégeot Vineyard

Last year we had some success, and this year is even better, thanks to all those hard workers who turned up on Monday mornings to trim, mow and pick out the weeds which compete with the vines for nutrients, and also pruning excess growth and tying up fruit-bearing branches. Another important job is spraying to protect against mildew. If this gets a hold on the vines, it can wipe out the entire crop.

### **The 2010 October Vendange**



The number of vines loaded with grapes this year was about 600. We harvested the grapes at the end of September and the beginning of October. The wine bubbling away in the fermentation vats is about 200 litres, a doubling of the yield from last year.

It seems the Clos Bregéot wine takes much longer than we thought before it's fit to drink, at least 12 months and probably longer. In fact the wine from 2009 could do with another month or two to mature. However, for all those Parrains out there who have not yet had their quota of two bottles of the 2009 vintage. Please let me know and I'll arrange for you to pick them up.



So, next year the crop could be greater, depending on the weather and health of the vines. This means we have to step up a gear and have a proper Cave in which to process our wine.

It must be based in Dun le Palestel so that our Monday 'vineyard work' mornings could continue during the winter months to look after the wine making process. As yet we haven't got a firm venue, but there are one or two ideas!

*Robert Bates*

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***Just one of the many tubs of  
grapes picked this year***

## Celtic Connections

The annual open air concert at the Sedelle Arboretum this year was a feast of hummable, foot-tapping traditional Celtic music that made your heart sing and your hands sore from clapping in time to the melodies. France is of course a Celtic nation, which means that there is a strong musical bond between here and Ireland and on a beautiful summer evening that connection met in a glorious concert given by the multi-national group **Fingal**.

The group was made up of Irish, French and German members and this was reflected in the variety of music played. The reels and jigs brought many of the audience to their feet to dance in front of the bandstand, and the mixture of ages joining in was amazing. I did not join in the dancing, and anybody who has seen me dancing will tell you why, but, as a lover of traditional music, I knew a lot of the songs and joined in with them.

The Arboretum at Sedelle is a wonderful setting for any theatrical event, with its natural amphitheatre leading down to the performing area in front of the pond. This meant that wherever you sat the sound was marvellous, and it could still be heard quite clearly up in the car park.

To sit on the grass on a warm summer night, among a collection of beautiful trees with your picnic and a bottle of chilled wine, listening to a group of talented musicians playing the songs and tunes of the Celtic Nations of Europe, aah, I tell you, life doesn't get much better than that!

I wonder what's on next year?

Leon Durbridge



**A bumper Harvest ?**

## The Theatre Group



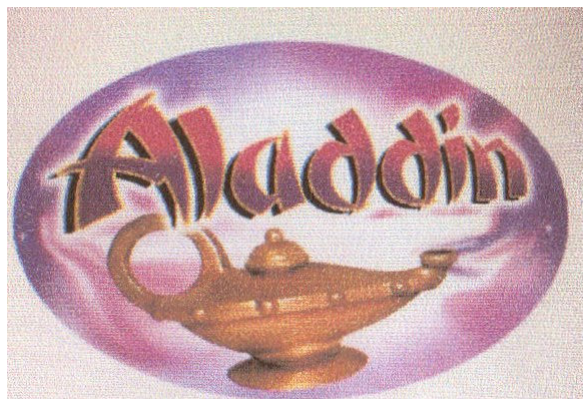
The first production under the banner of the newly formed Entente Cordiale Theatre Group was a Medieval Pageant at Crozant's annual Medieval Day, back in August. Robert Bates wrote a factually correct, but highly amusing story about Isabelle D'Angouleme and her connection with Crozant.

Directed by Bruce Veness it had a large cast who mimed the action to the French and English narration spoken by Vincent Catelain and Susi Richards.

The main advantage of miming was that the less experienced members of the cast could exercise their acting skills without having to remember any words, and many proved to be very good actors indeed. The show was performed three times during the afternoon and attracted large crowds who thoroughly enjoyed themselves and applauded the cast with enthusiasm. It was great fun to do and was such a success that we have already been asked to take part in next year's Medieval Day at Crozant.



Rehearsals for this year's pantomime, to be performed at the Salle Apollo at Dun-le-Palestel, are in the final stages. The story is '**Aladdin**', written and directed by Bruce Veness and, once again, it will be performed in French and English but with a narration in French.



This year we have gone for a Rock musical style of performance with many well-known songs including 'In the Summertime' and 'Rocking all over the World'. There will, of course, be plenty of opportunity for audience participation, so get your lungs in trim for a bit of singing and shouting.

Last year we had a problem in that we had more people wanting to see the show than we had seats, so this year we are putting on an extra performance on Saturday 5th December with an afternoon show and an evening show.

All the details on ticket prices, performance times etc. can be found in the Events Diary on the back page of this newsletter. The tickets are going fast, so I suggest that you don't delay and purchase them sooner rather than later.

We are hoping to make the pantomime an annual event, so we are asking if anyone is interested in producing/directing next year's show. Of course, whoever takes it on must have experience of working in live theatre, but I am sure that there are many talented people out there who would like to give it a go. You don't have to be a member of Entente Cordiale or even British, so if you are interested contact me on the addresses given on page one of this newsletter.

See you at the Apollo. **Oh, yes I will!**

Leon Durbridge

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## Repas Gastronomique

Our traditional 'repas gastronomique' took place on Friday the 12th of November at the **Auberge de la Vallée** in Crozant.

The chef was M. Roux who won a star in the Michelin guide while working at the Chateau de la Cazine

We were a group of thirty-two people and I think that everyone appreciated the food and had a good evening. The warm welcome of the proprietors, the excellent wines, the pleasing décor, the professional service – everything was there to create a convivial atmosphere.



**A good address that can be recommended to all!**



## 'Noël sing we !'

On Sunday 19 December at 16.00 hrs we hope to see you with your family and friends in the church of Dun le Palestel. The traditional concert performed by the choir 'Vocalise', the singing group La Paillolle du Pays folklorique Dunois and, for the first time, an ensemble of young trumpet players, will lead us into the "Christmas Spirit".

To continue the tradition we call once more on the generosity of our British friends to allow the French community discover all the typical English Specialities of this Season. The French are also invited to bring along something to share!

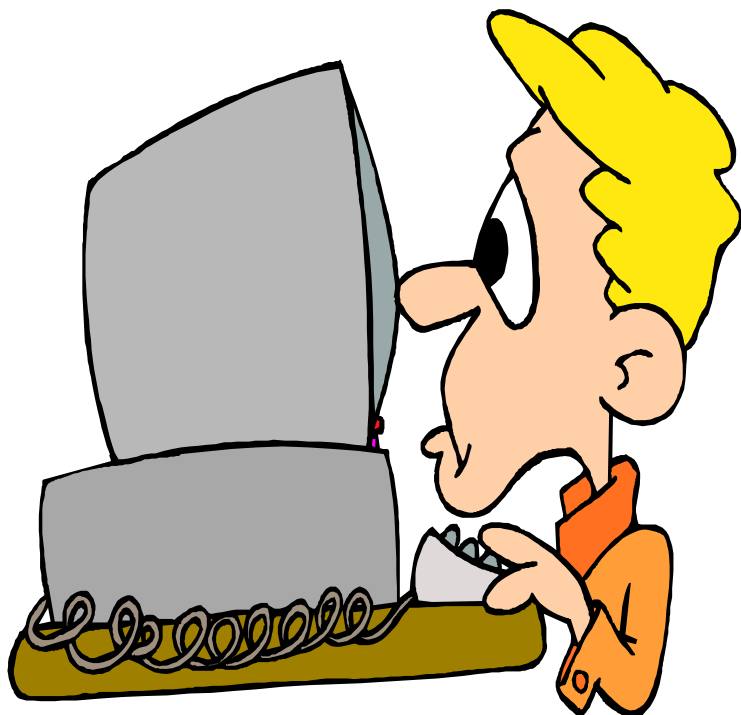


You will be able to leave your cakes, mince pies etc. on a table next to the church entrance. At the end of the concert mulled wine will be offered to all by the two associations, "Vocalise" and "Entente Cordiale" - a nice afternoon to look forward to.

**N.B.** Exceptionally the "Commission des Fêtes" will use this newsletter as the SOLE METHOD to inform you and request your support as, to avoid postal charges, you will not be sent a 'yellow paper' inviting you to this Christmas concert.

*Dominique Johnson*

## PC Tips – Spoof and Spam E-mails



There are millions of both these types of annoying and dangerous E-mails being sent out by unscrupulous people.

**Spoof mail** is potentially the most dangerous as they attempt to imitate your bank's website or method of payment for online goods, such as Paypal.

These E-mails try to convince you that there is a problem or update necessary for your account or membership, and ask you to click on a link within the E-mail. This takes you to a false website, often looking identical to the real one, where you are encouraged to fill in your account number and other details which will enable these criminals to access that account and filter money out of it.

Even more seriously, identity details can be stolen to impersonate you. If they succeed in doing that, you may get some very nasty bills for goods or services you know nothing about.

The rule of thumb is: **NEVER, EVER** click on a link within an E-mail from someone you don't know or from a bank, credit card company or Paypal. **Those organizations do not send out E-mails asking you to do this.** Delete this type of E-mail immediately.

**Spam mail** is more annoying than anything as they only want you to buy from the company they represent. BUT, they can and often do contain malware or cookies that track your online purchasing habits. More seriously some may contain a nasty virus called a 'key logger' which will follow all your computer key strokes, including passwords. The result will be the same account theft crime as in Spoof mail. Delete Spam mail immediately without opening it.

Some very sophisticated spam mail will infect your PC just by opening it. All webmail companies such as Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo and most Internet Service Providers such as Orange, have very good Spam filters which are automatic. Also, you can add in any mail addresses you don't want to receive mail from.

A good rule is, ***if you don't recognize who it's from, don't open it!***

So, learn more about spoof and spam mail by accessing a search engine like Google. This will keep you up-to-date with what's out there. Criminals are using more and more sophisticated software to fleece you.

So, be warned! Keep on your guard and always have a good regularly updated Antivirus suite on your PC. Oh yes, and **regularly** backup your data!!

Happy mailing!

Robert Bates

[communications@ententecordiale-creuse.org](mailto:communications@ententecordiale-creuse.org)



## Forthcoming Events

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> ' Aladdin ' Pantomime for the Téléthon  
December

19th December Christmas Carol Concert at Dun-le-Palestel Church

At 16h00



### MEMBERSHIP OF ENTENTE CORDIALE

[www.ententecordiale-creuse.org](http://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

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or 05 55 89 14 61

E-mail: [information@ententecordiale-creuse.fr](mailto:information@ententecordiale-creuse.fr)

