



Issue 6 : January 2016

## Happy New Year !

**Meilleurs Vœux** from all of us in Meluzien as we start 2016 full of news that we are eager to share with you.



On a personal and somewhat understated note, we have been rather busy. Perhaps the biggest news is that we got married on New Years eve timed to coincide with Mark's 50th birthday. It was obviously a very special day for us and we were lucky enough to be married by our friend Philippe the mayor of Magny who conducted the ceremony in both French and English for the benefit of our non French speaking friends. Of course it enabled him to show us all what a great student he has been of the English lessons we have given him over the last year.



Just 10 days before the wedding we completed on the purchase of a house, or "project for Mark" as Alex likes to call it, in Avallon. Not having been lived in for 6 years and having been rented out for at least 30 years before that, its fair to say we have some work to do to bring the house up to being habitable. We are looking forward to sharing the fun of doing this with any who are brave enough to listen.



We love being here and are so lucky to be able to share it with so many visitors both young and old. We are determined to keep that enthusiasm for the language and culture of this most special place at the forefront of our efforts. Running MCF has always been deeply personal for us and that has only become more evident through what has transpired in the last rather hectic month. Life here is ever evolving and we can now really and truly call it home.

So with all that personal news imparted we wish you all the very best of health and happiness for 2016 and hope like us you are full of optimism for the coming year. Please read on for news of our more professional endeavours recently undertaken and yet to come.



A bientôt !

Alex and Mark

## Other News



After the dramatic opening of the roof that filled our newsletter last year we find we do not have a great deal of news on any major developments for the facilities at the Meluzien site. We are however very proud of our new sign which matches the new logo and we hope will welcome schools for many years to come.

Of course now all has calmed down after the wedding and subsequent party we go back to painting the dormitories and bathrooms ready for another busy season. Our friends had the full MCF experience with over 60 staying on site for the main event but thankfully they were gentle with the facilities as we of course hope that the children will also be in the coming year.

In terms of educational developments we would like to share one additional activity with you. Martine Brunott lives locally and is a qualified instructor of Vietnamese martial arts. She has developed a session of self-defense specifically designed for our groups focussing on the French words for body parts and relevant actions. She ran a particularly successful session for Channing school in 2015 and we are keen to run further sessions in 2016 for schools who are interested. Please do contact us if it is something you would like to know more about.



Self defense at  
Lac Sauvain



The stunning  
Burgundian  
architecture at the  
Hospices de  
Beaune

Beaune and Dijon have now become very popular destinations for our older groups. In Beaune we include a visit to the fabulous Hospices de Beaune as well as a tour of La Moutarderie Fallot and a tasting of Dijon mustards. Beaune itself gives pupils the opportunity to visit a very beautiful Burgundian town with a good variety of shops and cafes.

We also organised our first very successful *Dijon chasse au trésor* to help year 10 pupils from Rickmansworth school explore the centre of Burgundy's capital.

Although we always believe the children should win (!! ) congratulations must go to the Rickmansworth teachers: Richard, Lynn and Fiona for completing all the challenges and sprinting around Dijon at record pace !



The first winners of  
our Dijon  
chasse au trésor



## Une expérience vraiment anglaise dans l'Yonne



After a successful trial of our English experience days for French schools in 2014 we decided to extend our offer in 2015. We found a number of enthusiastic local schools who came to visit us at the start of our season in February. The focus of our teaching seems to be around food which proves popular with the French pupils. The day starts with an English breakfast,

followed by a cooking activity making scones, a lesson and then fish 'n' chips for lunch. The afternoon includes some songs, games and lessons including 'pass the parcel' - a great English classic ! Of course we finish the afternoon by eating our scones as part of an English cream tea.



We have since been inundated with further requests for English teaching and have run additional days in the holidays where we have had some gaps. Alex also visited a number of

schools in December to present an English Christmas with christmas crackers, mince pies and sausage rolls. She also took part in the local Christmas concert in Cussy-les-forges and taught the pupils *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.



We are really enjoying the contacts we are making with local schools and already have 2 full weeks of similar experiences to begin the Spring season in February 2016. We may also be hosting our first French school for full week of English activities in 2017.



## STAFFING NEWS



After a term teaching at Papplewick School last winter we are pleased to say that Elodie has returned to MCF as our centre manager and will be with us until the end of this summer season. Joining Elodie as part of the teaching team from February will be Blandine and Estelle. Blandine joins us from Crevant-Laveine in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. Estelle is from Basse Goulaine in the region of Pays de la Loire. All the team are keen and enthusiastic and ready to welcome your pupils to us in 2016 !



Sadly for Lac Sauvain schools Fadila will not be with us this year. However, the good news is that she is enjoying the teaching at her new school which is based in Wembley in North West London. We certainly hope that we will be welcoming her back soon but perhaps this time as a visiting teacher with a school group !



Some of you may remember Amelie, our local handball expert. We are pleased to say that she is now a fully fledged teacher in the French system and in addition has managed to be allocated to a school in the Morvan region not too far away from us here in Meluzien. We are really pleased that she has returned to the Burgundy area and plans are afoot for her pupils to be the first French group to have a residential 'English experience' in Meluzien. Watch this space ...



## GAP YEAR STUDENTS WANTED



Our gap year students continue to be a success and we welcomed the return of Ollie, Andrew and Lissa in the summer after their first year at University. Some of you may also remember Matt and Charlie from a couple of years ago who came to relive their experience with a visit to us in the holidays. Charlie is now in his first year as a fully qualified primary school teacher and is hoping he may be able to return with his own school in the near future...

We are currently fully staffed for the forthcoming spring and summer seasons but are recruiting for September 2016. As now is the time when (organised !) students are thinking about life after A levels, please do suggest us to any 6th formers you may know who are thinking about a gap year before studying French at University.



## Puzzlemania ...



Incredibly the puzzle competition went down to the last school of 2015.

Well done to **Maddie, Celia and Alicia** from **Cheam School** who topped the table with a time of 27 minutes and 45 seconds.

Fantastique !

## Tir à l'arc...

The archery board hasn't changed a great deal this year as the winners are again from **Sandroyd School**. It was Theo and Archie in 2014 but **Tommy and Hugh** in 2015. Amazingly they achieved exactly the same high score : **49 points** !

Maybe they have sneaky archery lessons back at school before they come here ?!! Sandroyd are the school to beat in 2016.



**Who will top the tables for 2016 and can you beat your school record ..... we look forward to helping you try !**

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DIARY DATES

January 16th : ALL London  
January Event at SOAS



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