



Coat Meur: Jane and Bob's home in Brittany. Photo by Jane Revell

From Finchley to Finistere

THE ARCHER is still read by many people who've left East Finchley. We'd like to hear about where they are now and what they are doing. (Contact details are on page 2). Here's the story of former ARCHER writer and deliverer Jane Revell, now living in Brittany.

In 2002 Jane Revell and Bob Janes sold their flat in Park Hall Road and bought a house in the north-western corner of Brittany. Finistère means Land's End, the Breton rather than the Cornish variety.

Jane had fallen in love with the area in 1964 when she went to Ploudalmézeau as a 14-year-old, on the first of several exchanges. She never completely lost touch with friends she made then. One family especially, Genevieve and her parents, have welcomed Bob and Jane, which has helped them become accepted into the local community.

After looking at many houses that were tiny or damp or didn't

have a garden or were too near a road, they found *Coat Meur*, Breton for 'great wood'. The house is tucked into a rocky slope, surrounded by woodland, and halfway between the town and the sea, which are about a mile in either direction along the footpath.

Haven of peace

Brittany. The land of Astérix, pancakes and cider, bagpipes, oysters, stripey T-shirts and much more besides. Jane says the people are friendly and helpful, the pace of life is gentle and you can walk for miles without seeing anyone. There's no rush. At the supermarket checkout, people wait

patiently behind you if you're fumbling for your money. They don't puff and sigh as they might do in Budgens.

Priorities there are different too, says Jane, with eating and drinking high on the list. People take time talking about, choosing, preparing and enjoying their food. The market on Friday isn't a grab and go race. It's a leisurely, chatty, social event, with lots of kissing and hand shaking.

And then there's the sea. Jane describes glorious, almost empty, beaches and sand dunes; a stunning coastal footpath along a wild rocky coastline; sailing, surfing, windsurfing; delicious seafood, including scrumptious scampi. Pisces paradise!

Jane and Bob are offering B+B at Coat Meur and look forward to welcoming guests who want to get away from it all and give themselves some space. For further details visit www.coatmeur.com or email Jane at jane@janerevell.com or write to her at Coat Meur, 29830 Ploudalmézeau, France.

Focus on the community

By Daphne Chamberlain

It looks like being the start of another act for Community Focus drama. Director Alastair Reid said they had had to overcome some problems following their brilliant triumph in the end-of-year play in 2007.

Speaking to the audience before their annual production this summer, he described their season as "interesting". They had faced transport difficulties, and had to replace three regulars at very short notice.

This year's play, *A Tale of Two Families*, was a contemporary version of the Romeo and Juliet story. At the end, there were gifts for Alastair, who was leaving after 15 years.

Looking to the future

Community Focus drama is continuing, though. It provides a stage for performers with disabilities, and also for their helpers, when necessary. Classes are 2-4 pm on Thursdays at artsdepot in North Finchley, working towards the next production at Christmas.

Meanwhile, the Community Focus summer photography project for young people aged eight to 13 produced a display throughout September in the artsdepot gallery. Photos were based on the 263 bus route, and included Cherry Tree Wood.

To find out about CF's very varied programme of activities, contact caitrona.dunnet@communityfocus.co.uk or call 020

8369 5483/5484. If you would like a tour of the artsdepot facilities contact the office on 020 8369 5483 or pop in between Monday and Friday to have a chat with the staff. Group tours and taster sessions can also be arranged.

Canned fruit

Residents who recycle their aluminium cans have helped to plant more than 150 fruit trees in Malawi.

Barnet Council and Alupro run a scheme to plant trees according to the tonnage of aluminium cans recycled in the borough.

As residents recycled more than 150 tonnes between July 2007 and June 2008, Alupro, working with a British charity called Ripple Africa, planted the orange trees in specially created nurseries in the country's rural communities.

The nurseries are run by local garden clubs and schools, and are also used to grow guava, pawpaw and lemon rootstock.

How to give cold callers the cold shoulder

Why do they always call at the most inconvenient time? In fact, why do they call at all? Telephone sales people are only doing their job but sometimes we just want them to go away.

Paul Hammond, of the police's Barnet Boroughwatch, has some tips for dealing with any unwanted marketers.

First, try saying 'Hold on, please', then putting the phone down and walking off. The more of their time you can consume, the less time they have to call others. After a while, they will end the call and you can replace the receiver.

Secondly, those annoying

calls with no one on the other end are generated by machines and record the time of day when a person answers. This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a 'real' salesperson to call back and find someone at home. What can you do? If you realise there's no-one on the end of the line, immediately start hitting the # button on the phone six or seven times as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialled the call and it kicks your number out of their system and eliminates future calls from that source.

Junk that junk

Finally, when you receive junk mail for everything from credit cards to second mortgages, don't throw away the return envelope. Why not dispose of other junk mail by putting it in these postage-prepaid return envelopes? If you received nothing else that day, just send back the blank application form. If you want to remain anonymous, make sure your name or a reference number isn't on anything you return. You can even send the envelope back empty if you just want to keep them guessing. It still costs them and, after all, it's their envelope that you're returning.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
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Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

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