

THE FUNNY FRENCH WEEKEND –other recollections from 1993 to 2007

OCTOBER 1993

Organised by Niel Robinson and to be held at Montreuil near le Touquet. Options include Folkestone to Boulogne by Seacat (1 hour crossing, then 30 minutes drive), or Newhaven to Dieppe (4 hour crossing and 1+3/4 hour drive). Niel has full times and cost details. There is a high chance that the ferries will have a number of hashers on board as this is also the weekend for the annual camping hash this year in the Dordogne, so be quick to the bar!

From #9 – Mike Morris reflections 2nd and 3rd October 1993

FUNNY FRENCH WEEKEND – AN ARTISTS IMPRESSION

Saturday dawned to the now normal sound of rain drumming on the roof. Through breakfast showers continued intermittently but we were able to leave for the airfield in bright but breezy weather. Formalities completed we were able to take off on time at 1100 with the promise of a bumpy flight, but with a good met report from Le Touquet. However, keeping beneath the cloud it was a comfortable flight, only meeting rain again crossing the French coast.

After securing the Tobago on the apron, we left the terminal building at noon to rendezvous with Niel. 5 - 10 - 15 minutes elapsed but no sign of our host! I had just begun to question my organising abilities when round the corner came our man. A dreaded 'deviation' had almost tripled the journey from Montreuil!

Approaching Montreuil, even in the rain, is most impressive. The town is built on a hill and totally surrounded by massive walls. Niel lives in the centre of this gem and once there, we found Chris, Ann, Tony and family enjoying the Robinson hospitality. Introductions completed we were soon tasting 'funny French beers', wine or coffee, shortly followed by a fine lunch provided by Candy. The clouds had moved on and bright sun lit the Robinson garden.

As time passed by discussion began to centre on the Dieppe party. Had the ferry been delayed? How long would the journey reasonably take? In short, where were they? As 4pm, the proposed time for our hash, came and went we decided to wait until 5pm. Still no reinforcements so quite unabashed, 6 hashers set out along the rue Pierre Ledent, much to the amusement of a few French spectators. We were soon led down to a picturesque cobbled street, which tested Les's knees somewhat, and then to a check outside the walls.

Yours truly - possibly the second oldest hasher - felt obliged to support the two greyhounds, Chris and Tony, with the checking. Naturally I got it wrong first time but I was not abandoned! More running below the walls past allotments (crops looked in good order!) brought us through, and then to the top of the walls and another check. What a spectacular view! I was so absorbed I forgot all about checking! However, we were soon 'on' along the heights.

We did have some discussion about what should be the correct call. 'Sur-sur did not sound quite right and 'allez-allez' is normally associated with wheels! Descending from our lofty circuit to the west of the town we came upon a tranquil river scene and encountered our first French mud -much like ours really. Disturbing the odd angler, we followed the water, ending our excursion near the railway station.

Climbing again through the outskirts of the town, we regained the dizzy heights. A brief meeting with my wife, Maureen, and friends confirmed that the Dieppe party of Lin, Elaine, Liliana, Don and Simon were in hot pursuit so we decided on one more complete circuit of the walls to round off a splendid run.

At Niels house we were again treated to 'funny French beers' (his description) and an assortment of goodies. Time flew by until we realised we must return to our hotel to prepare for dinner. The walk was little more than 100m so it wasn't long before we assembled in the hotel bar prior to the meal. The evening drifted by most pleasantly, with lager – then wine – plenty of food (eventually) and a nightcap from the proprietor. I must have been a good customer!

Sunday dawned bright and sunny and I awoke to the pitter-patter of running shoes, worn by our two greyhounds, passing by the hotel. After this spur I felt I should at least take a walk. Feeling on top of the world I soon met other hashers taking the morning air so we returned together to breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast my feeling of well-being evaporated to be replaced by one of nausea as the variety of drink consumed on Saturday night finally overtook me!

We spent the morning exploring the town with our airborne friends and took our leave of Candy and family as Niel took us to the airfield. I was a silent passenger as I tried to contain my stomach – successfully I am glad to say! All nausea disappeared as we flew off to Shoreham.

What a magnificent weekend – our hearty thanks to Niel, Candy and family!

#15 - FRANCE 1994

Well I promised you further details about the French trip organised by Niel, but as he has yet to finalise things, here they aren't.

The idea is that everyone going chips in to decide on drivers and we catch the Ferry Saturday morning Newhaven to Dieppe, before driving on to Montreuil-sur-Mer. The run is scheduled for about 4-ish in the apresnoon but as last year will obviously depend on the arrival of the majority. Le Grub is being arranged by Niel at a reasonable cost (er.. that is right isn't it Niel?), and he will also help with accommodation arrangements which are provisionally at the Shakespeare Hotel. Cost about 14 pounds per room (that's B sans other B so a couple of quid extra for that).

Sunday will have more funny French beers and sport such as tennis and boules before we lurch our way back across the Channel. Full details available from Robbo nearer the time.



LE FUNNY FRENCH WEEKEND

27th & 28th September 1997

The general plan.

Get to Montreuil in time for the Funny French Hash

Starting 4pm on Saturday

Dinner and Accomodation at the Hotel Bellevue

Price Guide: Dinner 110-126 Fr.plus drinks

Accom: 3 beds – 350Fr, 4 beds – 420Fr, 2 beds 290Fr,

Double beds 250 – 290 Fr.

Breakfast 35 Fr.

**If you are interested please put your name on the list. Please also make it clear if you require
'Veggy' food.**

ONCE AGAIN & COURTESY OF NIEL WE ARE HITTING
FRANCE FOR THE AWAY HASH. THIS YEAR NIEL WILL BE
UNABLE TO JOIN US BUT HAS LENT HIS HOUSE AS H.Q.
FULL INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW EX-TRASH BUT FOR NOW:-

DATE: 26/27TH SEPTEMBER '98

LOCATION: MONTREUIL, FRANCE

WOT? BH7 LA MONDE COUPE



HASH



DETAILS / GREYHOUNDS-

COSTS: CHRIS 01273 554148

TONY 01273 385755

HOTEL : DAVE EVANS 01273 473622

HASHES @ SATURDAY 4PM; SUNDAY 11AM.

ON ON ON @ HOTEL SATURDAY NIGHT

Allez Allez!



1999

From #48: our annual soiree to Niels place in Montreuil France is on 25/26th September – see Greyhounds for details (that's Niel, Chris and Tony not Pete and Nigel who are a separate entity known as the Mudlarks, Don).

From #49: There will be a list floating round somewhere this evening for anyone interested in the trip to Montreuil, France on 25/26th September. See the Greyhounds Niel, Tony or Chris for info. Always a great weekend the format the last couple of times has been roughly: arrive Montreuil Saturday a.m.; take advantage of Candy's always superb hospitality with a few funny French beers and grub in Niels garden (small kitty); run about 4-ish in some of the excellent hashing terrain hereabouts; back to the hotel for beers and to change for the meal. For the extra keen there is usually a group doing a hangover run in the early hours of Sunday; possibly followed by the Petanque challenge before a booze run to the shops, then home.

From #50: Niel is also responsible for one of the most durable and anticipated events in the hash year – our annual bash to Montreuil in France. This years event is one of many that has taken place since the last edition and as usual was very well attended (I counted almost 60 at the meal so there must have been 30 or so!). Most chose cars but a few decided to bike from Boulogne which made an entertaining start to the weekend. The hash co-hared by Greyhounds Niel and Tony was as usual superb, with only a few drops of rain to cool us down, the meal at Belle Vue superb, and the Sunday boules a washout. The rain had me, Ian & Brenda pledging to get the train back whilst Angel Gabrielle, recognising that she was a typical unbalanced pregnant female, thought we should bike. No trains so off we went and by all accounts got away with it. Thanks to everyone involved in this especially Niel and Candy, Tony and Spreadsheet, for another great trip.

2000

#53: Niels Montreuil bash is tentatively scheduled for 30th September so pencil that in your diaries.

Date confirmed in issue 54

2001 From #61 date advised as 29th September

2003

From # 77: Time now to start thinking seriously about the annual French hash. This year's event takes place on the weekend of 4th and 5th October, slightly later than usual as Bellevue, our usual hotel, has now ferme'd their portes. The choice this year is the spanking Hermitage (see picture), which represents a step up in class. At the moment the price is €50 (euros) pp B&B but depending on numbers we may be able to bring this down. Dinner will be at Taverne L'Ecu, where further accommodation can be found.



For newcomers the format of the weekend is roughly:

- Arrive by 12-1pm local time Saturday and congregate at chez Robinson for some funny French lagers, breads, cheeses, cold meats, and salad type buffet (small contribution to cost).
- Amble off on hash about 4ish, usually involving a stroll round the ramparts suitable for the knitting circle, plus a lovely country loop for anyone who didn't hit the beer too hard too soon.
- Return to Niels for fluid replenishment, uh, beer again.
- Head off to tart ourselves up for the evening meal at a Taverne L'Ecu

- Sunday morning may consist of a bit of petanque, shopping, or for the particularly keen, even a pre-breakfast run, and if your driver is up for it, Le Touquet is only about 10 miles away.
- Depending on ferry/shuttle times a chance for one more beer plus a spot of lunch before heading off home and there's a high chance many will be found supping from a Giraffe. Now you'll have to come to find out!

2004 - 12th year - 10th anniversary!

From #88 Once again we're rushing across the wet to France for the Montreuil hash. Following a conversation last year which suggested we must be close to the 10th anniversary of our annual trip, it came to light that this year's was going to be the 12th r*nnng of it! So this year's trip will slightly belatedly celebrate the 10th anniversary. This is a great trip as anyone who's been in the past will tell you and as an anniversary r*n should be attended at least by anyone who has ever been before, if not the whole hash!

In the hash genealogy any run is eligible for inclusion once it has achieved 3 runs. As the Montreuil r*ns aren't numbered as part of the Brighton Hash it's about time it was recognised as Brighton offspring. Despite our age we are only parent to one other club (Cheshire since you asked) and it would be good for the club to produce more young. Accordingly I was going to send details off to the hashtorians but I'm looking for ideas for the name of the French hash: i.e. GIT (Greyhounds Indulgence Training) H3; BARMYH3 (Brighton Annual Ramparts de Montreuil Yomp) etc. Ideas anyone?

We are also planning a new bit of kit to coincide, probably long sleeve running shirt. Again any ideas?

From #90

BARMY H3 (*Brighton Annual Ramparts de Montreuil Yomp*) **10th anniversary r*n**

Notes for Hashers – (the cultural bit) - Montreuil-sur -Mer

On a chalk promontory some 40m above the estuary of the Canche, stands the town of Montreuil. Once called Montreuil-on-Sea, it controlled the communication links, one on land connecting Normandy with Flanders and the other by sea since the Canche estuary and port were accessible to seagoing vessels.

The settlement was founded in the 10th C by Helgaud, Count of Ponthieu, around a monastery, which was even older. The name of Montreuil probably comes from *monasteriolum*, which means 'little monastery'. Hugues Capet later annexed the town to the kingdom of France and Montreuil's importance, as a centre of commerce exporting cloth to Champagne, Italy and England, developed around this period. It appears that the town was protected by a wall from the beginning, with a quarter reserved for the textile industry, called the Garenne. During the 13th C, Philippe Auguste had the walls considerably strengthened and flanked by towers, and a new castle was built which commanded both town and river.

After an interval of two centuries the town became a key pawn in the kingdom's defence against the Hapsburgs. Although a siege mounted in 1522 by a combined army from England and the Habsburg Empire failed, the town fell as a result of the 1537 siege. François I ordered the strengthening of defences and the work lasted until 1549 the construction of a new wall around the upper town and five irregular bastions, with multicoloured facings of flint, chalk, brick and sandstone, provided solid, cover defence on the town's most threatened side, the north-east. This wall was updated in three stages: in 1634 earth was packed against the back of the wall; forty years later, three demi-lunes were added at the foot of the walls; the Porte de Boulogne was modified at the beginning of the 19th C, taking on its present appearance.

Philippe Auguste's castle was transformed into a citadel in the last third of the 16th C. Vauban had a demi-lune added on the town side and a powder magazine and an arsenal inside. The military rôle of Montreuil started to decline from 1677 when the final conquest of Artois had

pushed back France's frontier 100km to the north and east. With its perimeter wall, 3,400m in length, Montreuil has preserved an impressive range of fortifications dating from the Middle Ages through to the 19th C.

Monday, 30 August 2004

Background information

Second World War

V1 & V2 "vengeance weapons"

Operation Fortitude South

.Location: **Fortresse de Mimoyecques, 62250**

LANDRETHUN-LE-NORD.

Directions: **Exit 7 from Calais-Boulogne autoroute; follow D231 to Landrethun, then signs to Mimoyecques.**

Rough guide to opening: **1 Apr- 11Nov: every day 11.00-18.00 (incl.Suns and holidays); 1 Jul-30 Aug: 10.00-19.00.**

Information/ reservations:

Tel: 00 33 (0)3 21 87 10 34 - Fax: 00 33 (0)3 21 83 33 10

Email: Mimoyecques@wanadoo.fr

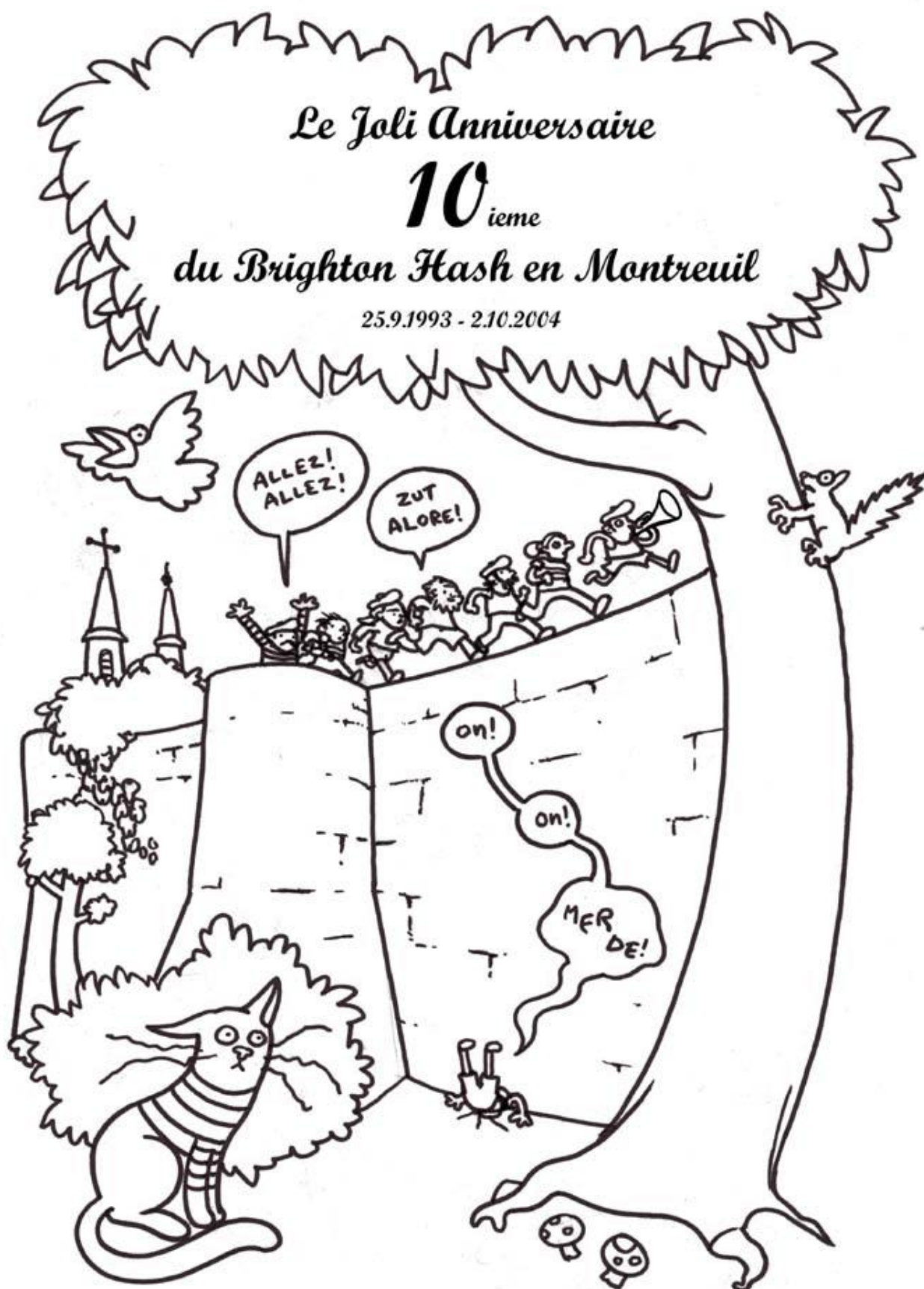
Long sleeve shirts have now been ordered with an exclusive design by our resident artist, Lawrence Elwick, and should be available at the bargain price of just £10 each, hopefully in time for our trip! Get your name down for one of these exclusive limited* edition items, in time for those cold winter r*ns. They've got footprints on, you know! * not really.



At the time of going to press I'm afraid I've managed to delete David's e-mail with all the information you need so this is from memory:

- Make own way over to Montreuil (don't follow Wiggy). If early enough take a stroll round the Saturday market.
- Meet at Niels for a contributory French lunch buffet with funny French lagers etc. lovingly prepared by the hash widows.
- Hash kicks off about 2.30 -3pm. Beer belt will be present for sinners!
- Finish back at Niels for more funny French liquid replenishments.
- Off to hotels to change for scoff, this year at Le Vauban, where the beer and wine will flow. Oh..., and grub!
- Sunday - recover at own pace, bit of boules, bit of duty free, bit of beer and chips, who knows what else?

From #91: Well the Montreuil trip was again a sparkling success thanks to the many involved but most especially to Spreadsheet who put in a lot of work even though he couldn't attend. All the first run of shirts have now gone, however, if any past attendees would like one I'm sure we could get more run off now the screens are in place - long sleeves a tenner, artwork to the left, just let Don or myself know. The jury is still very much out on whether this 10th anniversary celebration was 2, 3 or 4 years late!



From #100: 8th - 9th October -The 2nd BARMY Hash Run. OR 13th r*unning of le Jolie Francais weekend en Montreuil. Contact Coops, Spreads or Greyhounds!

From #101 In advance of the main event we are sending over some of our stalwarts to remind our nearest continental neighbours who's boss on 8th October 2005 - the BARMY (Brighton Annual Ramparts de Montreuil Yomp) Hash run. If you haven't yet declared your interest contact Grahame Cooper or Dave Evans on Monday.

From #112: Saturday 30th September - French hash in Montreuil.

Various folk are involved with the organisation. Choose from Don, Chris, Tony or Niel for hotel options etc. Evening meal allegedly as last year t Le Coquempot.

Location

This picturesque medieval town is still sometimes known as "Montreuil-sur-Mer", a reminder of its nearness to the sea before the silting up of the Canche estuary.

Restaurant

The restaurant Le Cocquempot has been run by the Pousset family for 13 years and is in a picturesque bourgeois mansion dating back to the 1870s on place de la Poissonnerie, in the centre of the town. The dining room (non-smoking) is of the period and is typically French, with a parquet floor, corniced ceilings, and fireplaces. The restaurant is closed on Mondays (huh!) all year round, and on Wednesdays out of season. A little apart from the restaurant, on the right as you enter the building is a well-stocked, wood-panelled bar (cool!).

From #124: 29th to 30th September

2007

MONTREUIL-SUR-MER

The 11th, 12th or 13th BARMY Hash

From #164 Mike Morris memorial edition:

When the hash met annually in Montreuil, Mike and Maureen would be flown over to France by his friend "John"Biggles"Woodroffe. Many hashers will remember the year that that one of the local dogs decided that he would join in on the hash ,as we got further away from the centre of Montreuil the dog started to flag and ignored all efforts to get him to return home . Eventually it was decided that someone would have to take him back into town, Mike volunteered and with the aid of a make shift lead (Jo's running top) he set off. The rest of us finished the hash, not knowing what a nightmare Mike was going through. The dog dragged Mike in any direction but the right one, sat down for a rest in every other garden that they passed .Mike eventually got it back to the point where it had joined us . On reaching Neil's house, some considerable time after the rest of us had returned poor Mike discovered that we had drunk all the beer !!!!!!!!!!!