

Visits 1940s

Esperanto Group Visit to France (Barbezieux) in 1947. The first School Journey after the Second World War.



The image comes from Betty Dracup. Some names have come from Geoff Govier. Thank you.

Back Row L-R: 1, 2, Betty Dracup, Betty Johnson, 5, Muriel Hirst, Rita Clatworthy, Marion Roberts, Graham Hamilton, Bob Lumb

Fourth Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, Dennis Baddeley, 5, Russell Allbrook, 7, 8, 9, 10, Geoff Manning

Third Row L-R: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Doris Richardson, Florence Crossley, Barbara Hamilton, 9, 10

Second Row L-R: 1, 2, Janet Thorley, 4, 5, Pat Atkinson, Doreen Worsfold, 8, 9 Front Row L-R: Mr. Leonard, 2, Mr. Hamilton, Miss. Smith, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

A-Z of the group, excluding the Staff.

1. Russell Allbrook, 2. Pat Atkinson, 3. Dennis Baddeley, 4. Mary Boot, 5. Mary Charnock, 6. Rita Clatworthy, 7. Florence Crossley, 8. Betty Dracup, 9. Barbara Hamilton, 10. Graham Hamilton, 11. Joan Herbert, 12. Gwen Hickling, 13. Muriel Hirst, 14. B. Johnson, 15. Robert Lumb, 16. Geoffrey Manning, 17. Doris Richardson, 18. June Roberts, 19. Marion Roberts, 20. Janet Thorley, 21. Elaine Whiston, 22. Kathleen Woodward, 23. Doreen Worsfold

Esperanto Club 1947:

This year has been a very busy one for the Esperanto Club. We have held very enjoyable weekly meetings at which we have had sing-songs, played games and told stories. We have 60-70 members who all show great interest in our work, the lower part of the school being especially enthusiastic and helpful. We have had two very interesting and amusing talks given to us by Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Lock, who spoke on the International Congress. The club has supported the Correspondence Movement in School. We correspond with seventeen countries in Esperanto. Most of our members have pen-friends abroad and we have received some very interesting and amusing letters. *One of the outstanding events of this year is the **Esperanto trip to France in August**. Many wished to take part in this trip but numbers were limited. The members of the group are waiting patiently for August to come when they will spend three weeks in Barbezieux (near Bordeaux). During the morning we shall take lessons from French teachers. The rest of the day will be filled with rambles, sight seeing, visits to places of interest, and concerts.*

On behalf of the Esperanto Club I should like to thank the members of Staff who have helped us so much. We appreciate their work very much and hope they will continue it.

Elaine Whiston. 4A. Talbot.

Geoff Manning, who was on the visit, sent us his memories of the trip.

"I remember the trip well as it was the first trip abroad for most of us and it was just after the war. Boulogne harbour was a mass of rubble with only a small area cleared where the Ferry docked. Much of Northern France was badly damaged but by the time we got to Paris there was little sign of war. We had a meal in Paris where among other things we were served a dish of fried chicken legs (or so we thought) which were very tasty and were then found to be frog's legs!! A couple of the girls who had enjoyed them were immediately sick! While we were in Barbezieux, the Tour de France came through - nothing like as massive as it is today but it still took over an hour to get through the town. Anouk Aimee was a young French film actress who joined us, I think, to improve her English and came later to Hemsworth and attended a school dance where I acquired some 'street cred' by dancing with her! She went on to become quite famous, known simply as 'Anouk'."

Practical Esperanto?

When I started at H.G.S. we took Esperanto for the first two years. (Deviation here - we took French too but for the first year we learned it phonetically.) I still have my Esperanto dictionary and three simple text books which were sent to me by a male Dutch teacher who was a pen-pal. I didn't know that he was either male or adult when I was given his name and address. There was no problem at all in those days, but it couldn't happen today, could it?

I remember well the words to Lilli Marlene and will write them out at the end of this letter. Apart from that the only thing that comes readily to mind is 'Mi dankas vin' but no doubt more will surface. I went to Barbezieux in 1947 with a group from school. We stayed at what we were told was a boy's boarding school. Of course, in August they were not in residence. Joining us in this Esperanto Colonio was a small group of 4 boys from London, a group of French boys and a separate group of French girls, all with their attendant teachers. We were all instructed to speak in Esperanto when in their company. Our English group were by far the best 'Esperantists'. We ate together and drank coffee from bowls. We went for a communal walk every afternoon to the woods, and I think we even attempted to collect snails on one occasion. We had a rest in the dormitory each afternoon. We needed it as Mr. Leonard woke us all at an unearthly hour every morning by bouncing a big ball into the dormitory at which point we had to go down to have gymnastics 'en la Korto'. We kept a diary, each of us writing the events of the day in turn. I still have it.

There were lots of photos too. One in particular I remember of Anouk Aimee. I'm not sure, but I think she is still around. She was a young French 'film star' who, having heard that a group of English children and teachers were in residence at the 'college', came to look for us because she wanted to practise her English. She has been in many films since that time. She also joined us in Paris as we made our way home. We were accompanied by Mr. Hamilton, Miss. Smith, Miss. Davies and Mr. Leonard. As we got to know all the other boys and girls we had great fun. I remember that we played a sort of ring game 'en la korto' that resembled our 'Lucy Locket'. It was called 'Chantelle'. It sounds very tame now but we did enjoy it all so much. **It was the first School journey following the war.** The concert that we rehearsed for daily was one of the highlights of the trip. We also had lessons of a sort each morning though I remember very little of them so they can't have amounted to much. We went to the seaside one day by coach and one of our girls hurt herself on the rocks. I believe it was at St. Palais. We also went to the cinema in Barbezieux and to a visiting fair and to the Cognac distilleries. Of course we did a lot of shopping in the town too

I don't remember any of us causing any trouble at all though I believe some of the French boys shocked us by smoking from time to time and obviously when away from any adult. After we arrived home those of us who had taken cameras (Remember, this was just after the war and cameras were not so commonplace then. I was lucky that my mother had a little Kodak Brownie which I borrowed.) were asked to show our photographs to Mr. Leonard who acquired copies and produced a Diary and Photos for each person who had been in the group. That is how I got mine and I'm sure there must be others around somewhere.



Doris Richardson sends us this group photo. Thank you, Doris.

Back Row L-R: June Roberts, Muriel Hirst, Rita Clatworthy, Graham Hamilton, Robert Lumb

Middle Row L-R: Baddeley, Richard Allbrook, Betty Johnson, Betty Dracup, Marion Roberts, Doreen Worsfold, Janet Thorley, Geoff Manning

Front Row L-R: Joan Herbert, Kathleen Woodward, Mary Boot, Mary Charnock, Florence Crossley, Barbara Hamilton, Doris Richardson, Elaine Whiston, Pat Atkinson, Gwen Hickling

Mr. Hamilton's son Graham and his daughter Barbara also came along on the trip. Graham went to H.G.S. His mate when we were in France was Bob Lumb. Barbara went to a school in Wakefield. She was about a year younger than me. I kept in touch with her for a short time after the trip. She asked me to a Christmas party at her home in the school grounds. Mr. Hamilton was there, of course, and Mrs. Hamilton. I knew her as she had at one time taken us for P.E. I think, as we awaited a permanent member of staff. Mr. Leonard

was also there with his wife. Unfortunately I lost touch with Barbara after that but a couple of years later when I was doing a bit of uncertificated supply work I was sent to a school at Grimethorpe and found Mrs. Hamilton teaching there. I think I had better finish this now so for the time being and to the strains of Lilli Marlene I'll sign myself off.

Sub la lampo lumas, ce la kazerna pord, Lumas gi fidele, en ciutage ord, Sub, trotuara ston eben, rakontas min, mi dum promen, Kun vi, Lili Marlana, Kun vi, Lili Marlen.
Remember: 'ce' has the 'ch' sound; 'ston' has the 'sh' sound.

Very sincerely,



Doris Richardson