

## News from France *from Alison Stott*

Several members of HMG who travelled to France some years ago, to spend a week looking at mills in the Vendée region, will remember Marie-Christine Chapalan. She had kindly invited us to stay with her and we had a most enjoyable and interesting week there.

She asked me to send her very best wishes and good health to members of HMG for 2022.

Marie-Christine has remained an honorary member of HMG; she recently telephoned me because she had a 'Google' translation of notes on a film *Arrêt de la destruction des moulins* about stopping the destruction of mills. This is a hot topic in France where the authorities are determined to remove all dams and barrages on rivers in the name of 'ecology' – thus destroying the ability of mills to function and leading to rivers drying up in the summer. Google's translation was helpful but the English was at times a bit weird.

**Editor:** The 35 minute film is available for anyone who wants to see it at <https://www.moulinsdefrance.org/arret-de-la-destruction-des-moulins/>.

The commentary and dialogue are in French, of course, but I have a translation if you want it; unfortunately, it does not include translations of the captions or diagrams.

It has some good footage of mills and gives examples of the arguments for and against retaining or removing dams. It makes an interesting comparison with dams built by beavers. It finishes with the discussion in parliament which resulted in a brake being put on the wholesale removal of mills and dams.

A report of the Vendée visit appeared in newsletter 133. This is *Moulin du Pont* at Gourgé on the River Thouet.

