

# Why Don't You?

by Martin and Sue Hulme

Get the kids off TECH...a major project for many parents. Do something different. But what? Here are a few fun activities we did when our grandchildren came to stay. With the summer holidays just round the corner, it is essential to book ahead.

Horseback riding can be for anyone, in any weather. Sarah Pugh is the patronne of the family run, bilingual, *Les Ecuries du Saumort*, near Secondigny. She offers teaching for the serious rider (working to pass Galop exams) and riding from the age of five. There are dressage and jumping competitions, picnic rides, *Own a Pony* days, bareback days, even sleepovers. The big accent is on FUN.



For my nervous grandchildren it is the best part of French holidays, greeting the ponies and enjoying whatever Sarah has to offer. Hats and boots can be borrowed. Costs are from 11€ for the under tens, for an hour. A day is 20€ or 25€. Check out facebook: [www.facebook.com/LesEcuriesDuSaumort/](http://www.facebook.com/LesEcuriesDuSaumort/) for photos and events, and contact: [sarah@saumort.com](mailto:sarah@saumort.com)



Ceramics are fun. Cover unglazed pottery with different glazes and, after firing, it will be a masterpiece. Linda of *Ceramique de Linda* (check facebook) runs regular ceramic sessions in *Café Civray* (just inside Vienne) and *Café Tante Mabel* in Pers (on D15 between Lezay and

Sauzé-Vaussais). Or, get a group together (six to ten people) within 25km of Melle and Linda will come to you. A session is usually around two hours, including a piece of pottery, glazes, paintbrushes and Linda's help and encouragement. Also, a final firing and ready for collection in a week. Children from three years are welcome. The basic cost is 7€, rising for larger pieces, or if you paint several. Plates, mugs, bowls and money boxes all make excellent personalised gifts. Look up her facebook page or contact Linda on: [lesceramiquedelinda@yahoo.fr](mailto:lesceramiquedelinda@yahoo.fr)

What about clay modelling? A serious sculptor, Colin Underhay, has a studio in Fontenay-le-Comte ((just inside Vendée). He has regular classes and courses for adults, but is happy to organise workshops for children, to suit their ages. With grandchildren of six, ten and thirteen, we did a three hour session, making lions heads. Clay, tools, tuition and a final firing (collection in three weeks) for 25€ each.



Colin is a brilliant teacher. After a brief 'demo' they were soon cutting and rolling clay. He kept the youngest one focused, and tactfully prevented a teenage 'meltdown' when her lion went wrong! The lions were all different, and the kids loved it. Check out [www.colins.studio](http://www.colins.studio) and contact Colin on: [hello@colins.studio](mailto:hello@colins.studio)



## 79'S FISHING GROUP



The 79's Fishing Group started meeting just before Christmas at Simon and Julie Tee's lake at their property at La Germondière, Secondigny. Our regular get-togethers take the form of friendly competitions. We are fully inclusive and count two lady members in our group; one recently scoring a first place and a second the following week, the other, a third.

Our early fishing outings proved to be difficult during the cold winter months, but now that the weather is warming up, conditions are vastly improving and the fishing is getting much better. Several individual weights over 20 pounds are being recorded and in one recent match a member managed a weight of 45 pounds.

We meet most Sundays and welcome new members to the group. You do not have to be an expert angler to partake as help and advice is willingly given.



For further information contact John Remington: [remi79@wanadoo.fr](mailto:remi79@wanadoo.fr) or Simon Tee: [simon@tiler79.fr](mailto:simon@tiler79.fr)

## Walking For Violet



You may have seen in last month's issue the article 'Walking for Violet' by Suzette Jeapes. Her husband, David, will be walking from Saint-Pardoux, France to Hastings, East Sussex over 30 days, to fundraise for their four-year-old granddaughter. Violet has cerebral palsy, and complex medical needs. She needs round-the-clock care, daily medication and equipment to walk, play and stand.

As part of the fundraising effort, Suzette has recently been raffling hampers of UK goodies (chocolate and store cupboard products). They have proved to be very popular, particularly the chocolate hampers! So much so, that Suzette has created a Facebook page as there will be more hampers to come. For the chance to enter a raffle and possibly win some UK goodies, 'like' and 'follow' the Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/English-Hampers-wwwwalkingforvioletcom-1278686985621979/](http://www.facebook.com/English-Hampers-wwwwalkingforvioletcom-1278686985621979/)

Various other events are being held in the area from bingo nights, to pamper days, fishing events, etc. If you would like to help by organising a fundraising event, contact Suzette and David via the website (below).



To receive updates, subscribe via the website: [walkingforviolet.com](http://walkingforviolet.com)