

## May Day Fete and Balloon Race Competition 2009

On Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2009, we attended our local May Day fete in St Neots, Cambridgeshire where we held a stall along with a balloon release competition.

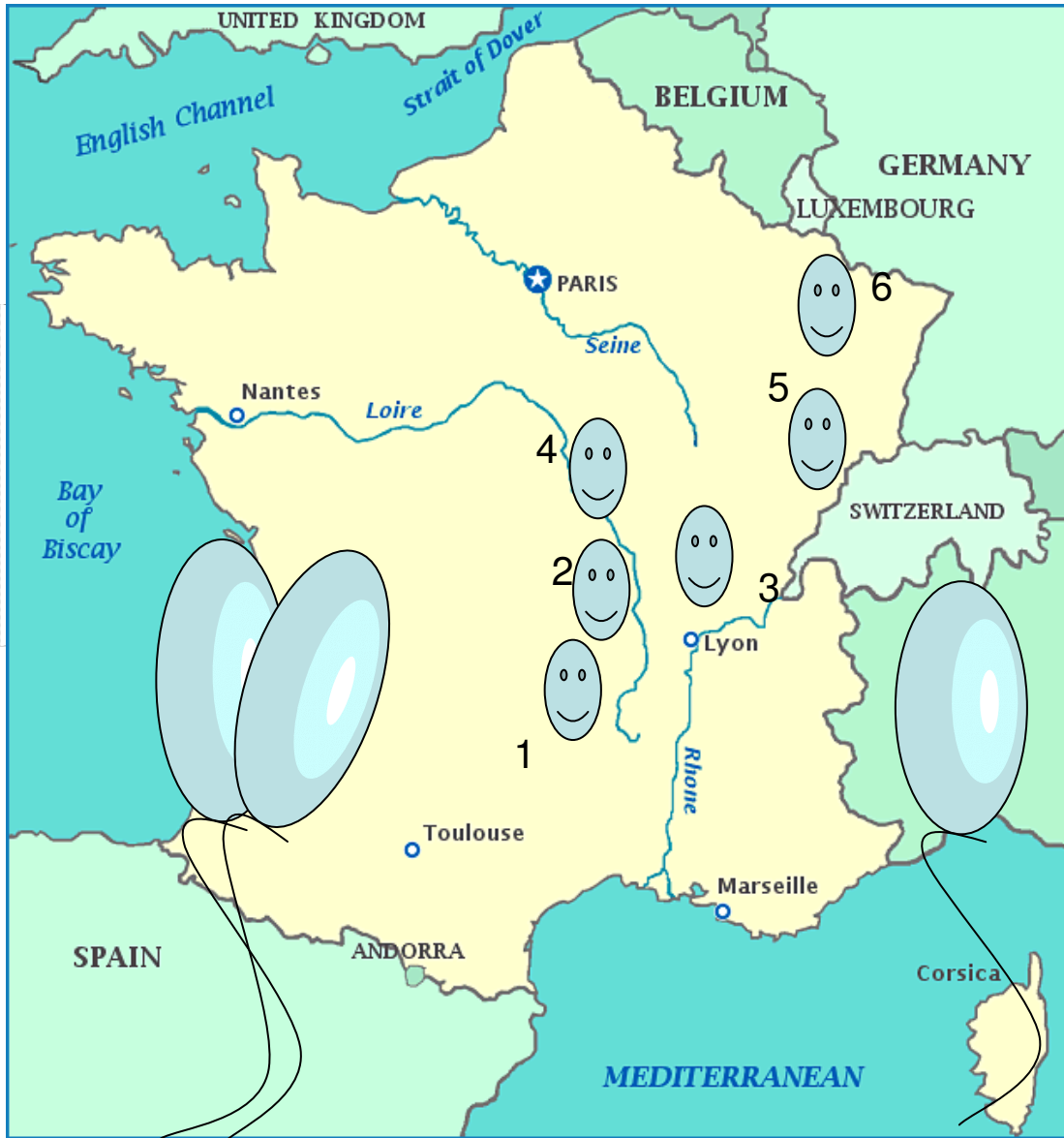
Despite cold, wet, windy weather along with trees surrounding the area, we managed to successfully release a total of **437 balloons** on the day.

Combined with additional sales from our stall, we managed to raise a total of **£635.21**. A **HUGE** heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in helping us raise this amount. The Balloon Race Label returns deadline occurred 30th June 2009 and details of all those received follows:



### Balloon Race - Found Labels

In total, we received notification back regarding the find of **23** balloon labels (numbers 24401, 24418, 24450, 24463, 24466, 24487, 24498, 24523, 24547, 24596, 24603, 24608, 24623, 24647, 24654, 24657, 24659, 24670, 24673, 24674, 24713, 24716 and 24845). These included 6 balloons which managed to reach France. Huge thanks to the finders for taking the trouble to notify us. Please see the following page for more information.



**FRANCE - A Total of 6 Labels Found.** 1st place label to date is 24659 - found the farthest away. Located in the PONTAUMUR, Auvergne region of France, well below and to the West of Clermont-Ferrand, almost bordering Limousin,

deep in CENTRAL FRANCE. The owner of this label is Simon Carter, Havebury Housing Association, Suffolk.

2nd place label is 24713 - again, located in deep CENTRAL FRANCE, in the Auvergne region, this time above Clermont Ferrand - in a place called Borots, Combronde. The owner of this label is Darren Pettitt of DHL-Exel, Inside Track, St Neots.

3rd place label is 24845 and belongs to Neil Carrington of St Neots. This balloon was found in Cruzille, in the deep south edge of Saone et Loire, Bourgogne (Burgundy) region.

4th place is 24654 found again in Bourgogne, this time on the West side in a place called Guerigny, Nièvre just under Nevers. Owner is Paul Garland of Havebury Housing Association.

5th place is label 24547 - found in EASTERN FRANCE - in a garden in Haute Saône, Franche Comté region which borders Switzerland. The label Tanya Clark, Class 4, Crosshall Infant School, St Neots.

6th place 24498 found in Bayon, Meurthe-et-Moselle, North East France, just underneath Nancy belongs to Neel from Siblings Childcare in St Neots. The balloon label was found in a park in Mohring Guillaume, A route de Luneville.

### **Dover, UK**

24716 located in Dover City with postcode CT17 0AR belongs to Emma McIlwrath, DHL-Exel, Inside Track, St Neots

24647 found in Whitfield, Dover belongs to Dave Tims, Havebury Housing Association

24596 with only 0.44 miles difference to where above label landed also in Dover city belongs to Tia Thorne, Class 10, Crosshall Infant School.

24608 was located in the West Langden area of Dover in Kent and belongs to Steve Arbon of Havebury Housing Association based in Suffolk.

24623 was located also in Dover, Kent but in the Eythorne area and belongs to Simon Bryon of DHL-Exel, Inside Track, St Neots.

24603 belongs to Steve Arbon and was found in Elms Vale, Dover, Kent.

### **Canterbury, UK**

24418 was found in a cows field in Upstreet near Canterbury, Kent and belongs to Mr White's neighbour who lives in Southoe, St Neots.

24523 and a very exciting find just 0.24 miles from above by a little girl called Izzy Simmonds in Class 2 of Hoath Primary School in Hoath, Canterbury CT3 4LA found this label in the playground. That Pesky Rat was very pleased with this so he has decided to send Izzy a very special gift in return for being so clever! Thank you very much Izzy! The balloon label belongs to the family Wilkinson who live in the Eaton Ford area of St Neots, Cambs.

24401 was a very close call to the above (by a matter of less than a mile (0.89 approx.) found at The Manor House, Ford, Hoath, Canterbury CT3 4LS and

belongs to Crosshall Infant School's recent MacMillan Cancer Support Day raffle winner.

24674 found in Bunnington, Goodnestone, Canterbury 24674 belonging to Derek Brett at Havebury Housing in Suffolk.

#### **Braintree, Essex**

24450 was found in the work's yard of C.F.E. Hill at Pattiswick Hall and belongs to Andrew Saint.

#### **Herne Bay, UK**

24673 was found on the finder's driveway in Herne Bay, Kent and belongs to Steve Hurrell, Havebury Housing Association, Suffolk.

#### **Luton, UK**

24657 found in Luton, Bedfordshire is owned by Paul Garland, Havebury Housing Association, Suffolk.

#### **Burnham on Crouch, UK**

24487 belongs to Pikul Magee, London and was located in Burnham on Crouch, Essex

#### **St Neots, UK**

24463 found at St Neots Caravan Park by Neil Hodgkinson who was holidaying there from Burntwood in Staffordshire and belongs to Will Abacar.

24670 belongs to Steve Hurrell, Havebury, Suffolk which didn't get very far from the fete and was located by Constable Photography shop in Eaton Socon, St Neots.

#### **Diss, Norfolk, UK**

24466. Not quite sure how this one managed it's way North wards when the rest of the finds headed south. Label was found in a place called Gassthorpe in Diss and is owned by Heidi & Yan.

Close date for th balloon race competition is 30th June for any more label returns and we'll advise you as more finds are made. If you'd like more information about the balloon release, please click on the following link [balloon-race-competition-details](#)

## THANK YOU!

We'd like to extend our special thanks to our friends and family who made this event possible for us to do - to Alan, Margaret and Nannette for helping with a whopping 110 balloon pre-sales, to Dympna, Sue, Peter, Lynne, Sharon, Laura, Daniel, Kirsty, James, Kate, Stevie and Dan Dan for all preparation and help on the day. Special love and thanks of course goes to our own two children Jessica and AJ who put up with parental neglect, tiredness and utter madness in the hectic run-up - fundraising although great fun is incredibly hard work between work, school, children and other responsibilities! Jess and AJ did have a ball on the day though and had a great time. Finally, a huge big thank you to those who contributed by buying something from us - whether balloon or stall purchases.

*Muchos Gracias everyone!*