

*La balade*  
**D'HARDINGHEN**

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## EDITORIAL



Dear readers,

After consultation with elected representative, residents, local partners, la Communauté de Communes Pays d'Opale adopted in December 2022 its territorial project for the next ten years aimed at planning and guiding its economic, social and environmental development.

“La Balade d’Hardinghen” that you are about to discover was created in this framework with the intention of preserving and promoting the sometimes well-hidden treasures found within our beautiful intermunicipal community. It is with a sense of wonder, as seen through the eyes of a child sharing a moment of complicity with their grandfather, that you will be guided along the paths of this commune.

I hope you will enjoy this interlude of well-being in the Pays d’Opale and that you will become wonderful ambassadors of it.

Happy discovery,

**Ludovic Loquet**  
**Président de la Communauté de Communes Pays d’Opale**

Dear readers,

Welcome to the heart of the Parc naturel régional des Caps et Marais d’Opale !

Discover Hardinghen in a new way through the comic book «la Balade d’Hardinghen» and embark on an adventure full of surprises, emotions, and discoveries. This is a unique opportunity to fall in love with our region over and over again and be amazed by the diversity of our natural, cultural, and geological heritage.

This project, shared with the Communauté de Communes Pays d’Opale, embodies our deep commitment to the UNESCO Global Geopark label application, aiming to showcase our territory, which rightfully deserves this recognition.

Enjoy the journey,

**Sophie Warot-Lemaire**  
**Conseillère départementale**  
**Présidente du Parc naturel régional des Caps et Marais d’Opale**



What geological treasure has made Hardinghen famous ?  
Which families have left a mark in the history of the village ?  
What elements make up the landscape and biodiversity?

This is what you will discover through this comic strip entitled Hardinghen’s walk which invites you to a beautiful immersion in the company of the protagonists : Léandre and Hermine.

Wish you a great adventure !

This work has been carried out by the Parc naturel régional des Caps et Marais d’Opale and the Communauté de Communes du Pays d’Opale as part of the “Cross-Channel Geopark”, a Franco-British project led by the PRNCMO and the Kent Downs AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to obtain the «UNESCO Global Geopark» label.

«UNESCO Global Geopark» label offers an international recognition of the geological heritage of the territory to enhance it and make it discover to the greatest number of people. Geology surrounds us, shapes our landscapes and conditions our daily lives : from hills to cliffs, from sand to building stones, from wet meadow flowers to bocage.



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
CROSS-CHANNEL GEOPARK**

# Les héros D'HARDINGHEN



## LÉANDRE

Hello, my name is Léandre. I have always lived in Hardingen, located between Marquise, Guînes et Licques. It is a discreet little place, with a lot of stories to tell !  
I have always been proud to live here in the heart of this beautiful and preserved nature. Like my grandparents before me, I am committed to passing on my granddaughter this wealth of memories and stories that are so dear to me.



## HERMINE

Hello ! My name is Hermine and I am 9 years old. Do you know what ? My grand-dad is the best in the whole world !  
He is super intelligent and he knows a lot of too cool things !  
When I go and visit him in his house in Hardingen, it is party time !  
He's always telling me such great stories.

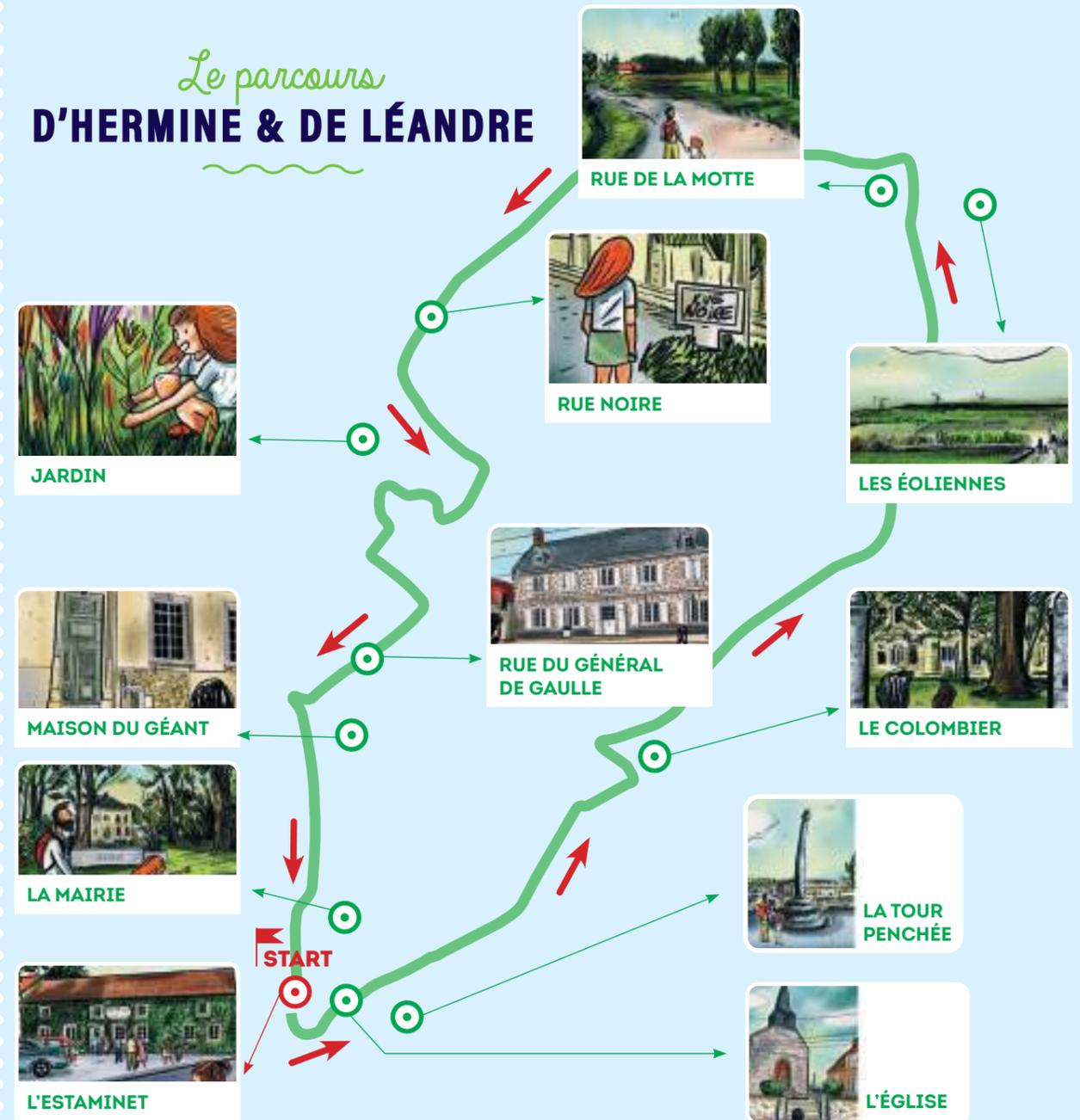


## OUR THREE WEASELS

Here are our three little weasels ! They will lead Hermine and her grandfather onto wonderful adventures through different landscapes of Hardingen. Keep your eyes open !  
They will be with you along the way. But watch out ! Sometimes, they do hide ! Will you find them ?

The characters are fictional, based on real events.

## Le parcours D'HERMINE & DE LÉANDRE



Approximately 5 km to cover, wear walking shoes.

How can I obtain the comic book  
« LA BALADE D'HARDINGHEN » ?

TO DOWNLOAD ON MY MOBILE :



OR HERE :

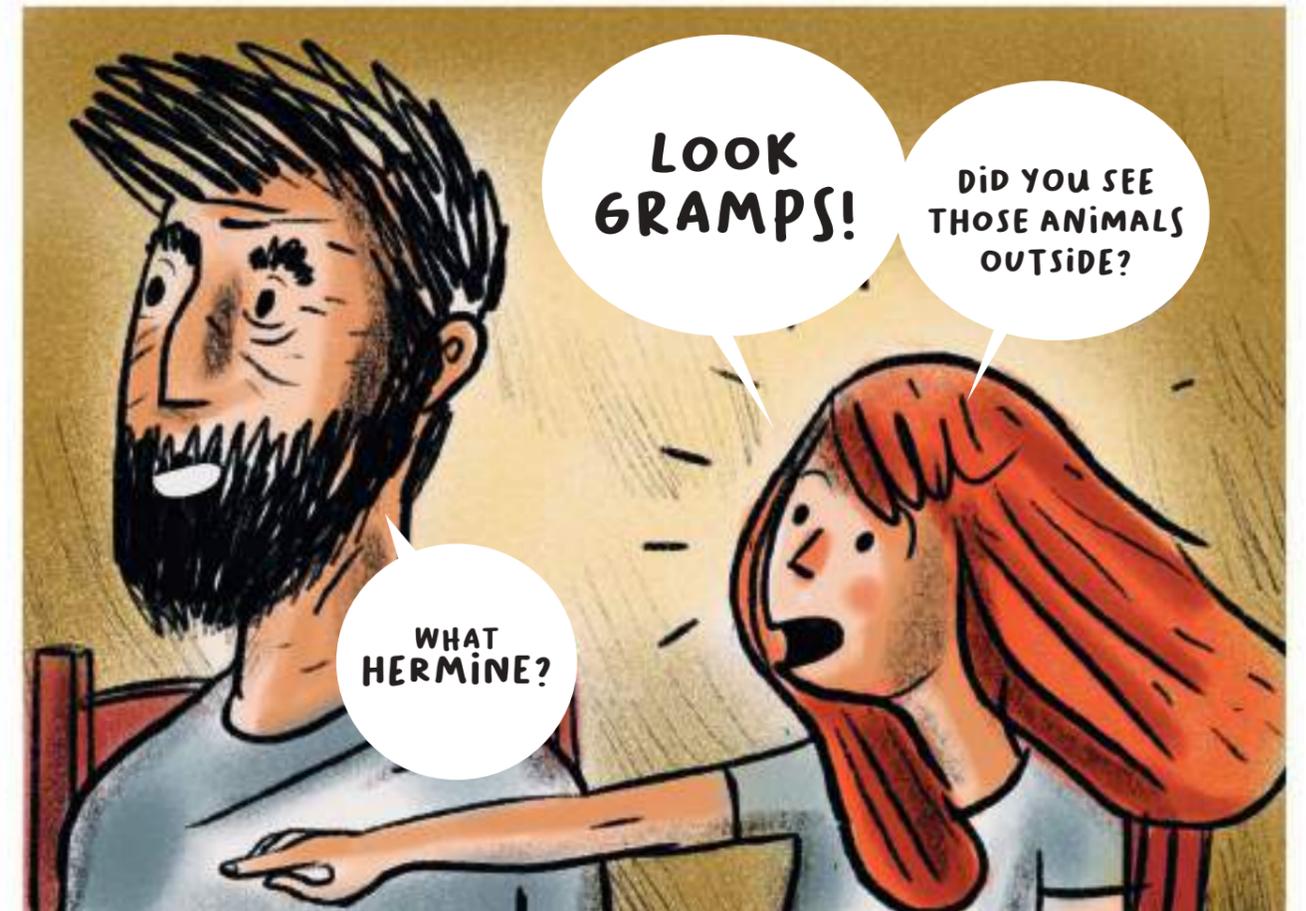
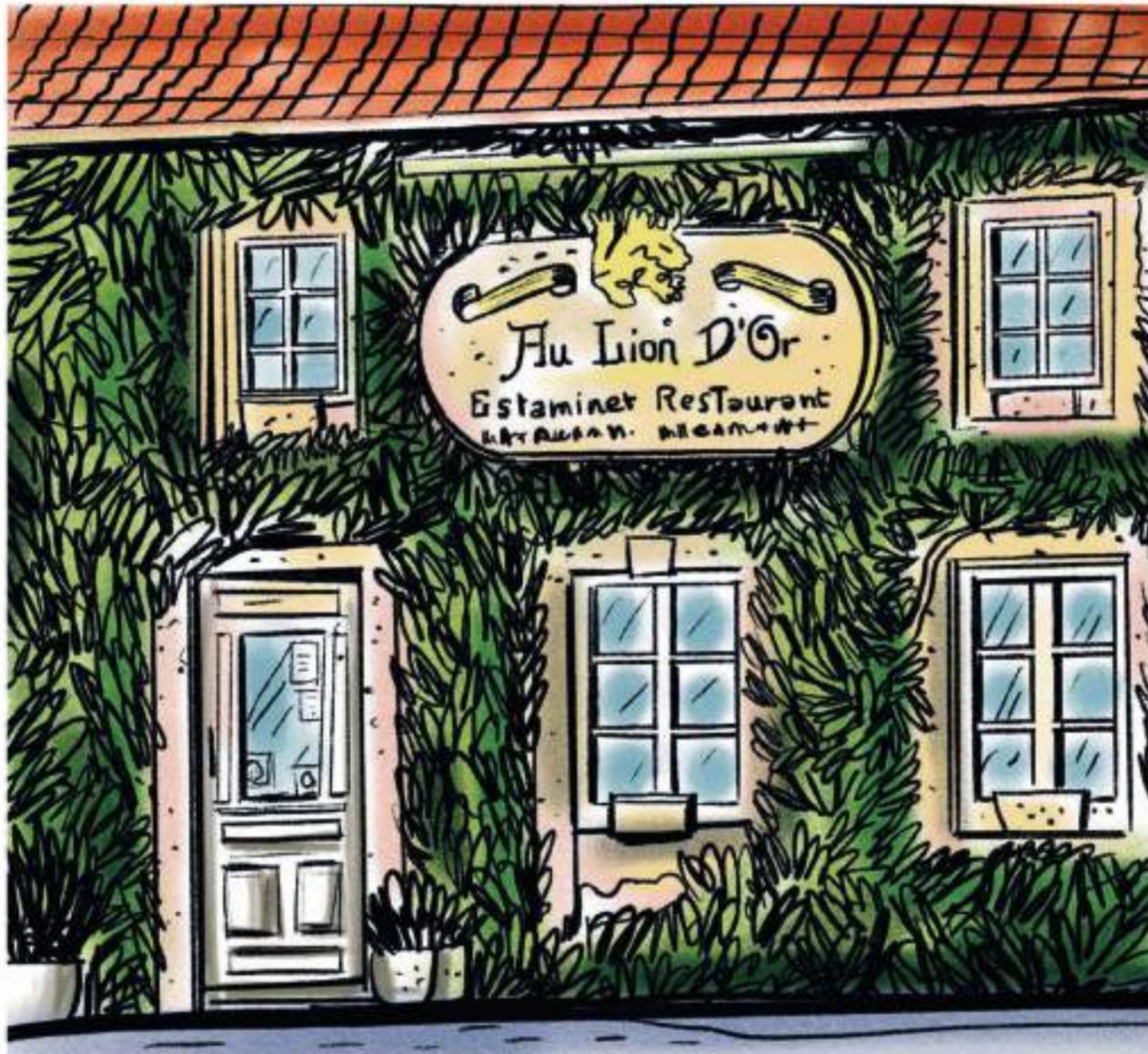
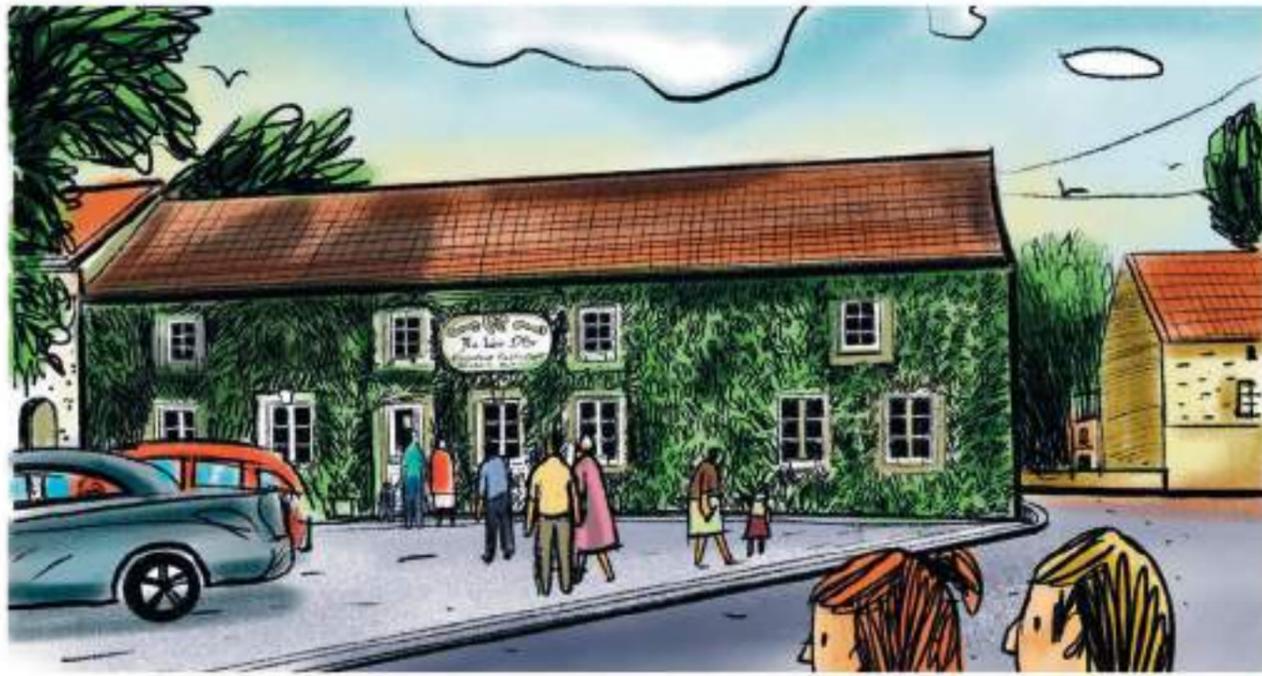
[www.parc-opale.fr](http://www.parc-opale.fr)  
[www.paysdopale.fr](http://www.paysdopale.fr)

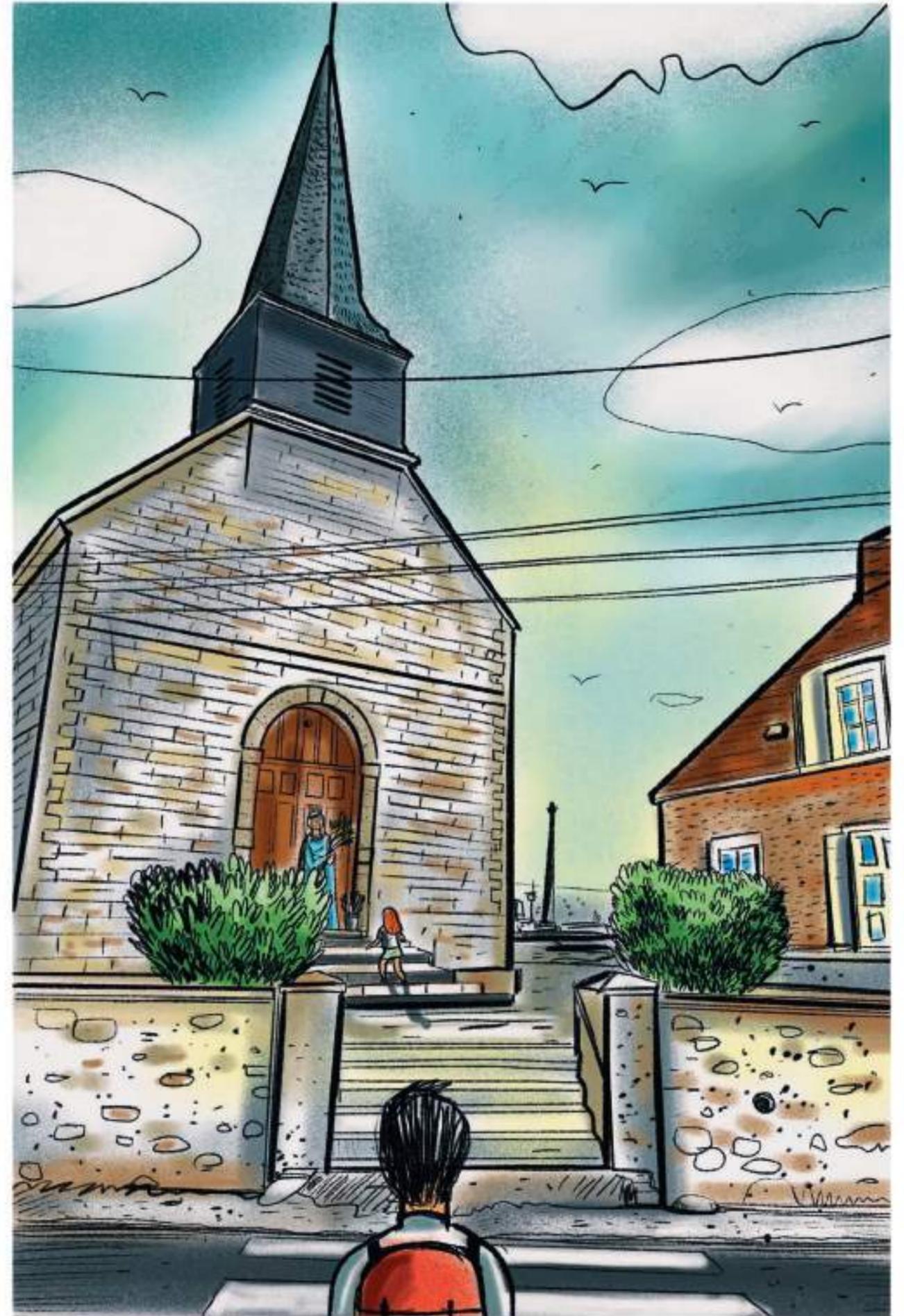
# *La balade* **D'HARDINGHEN**



Script :  
Parc naturel régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale,  
Communauté de Communes du Pays d'Opale and Emilie Frot

Illustrations, coloring, and layout by :  
Gregory Barek







EXCUSE-ME, HAVE YOU SEEN THREE LITTLE ANIMALS?

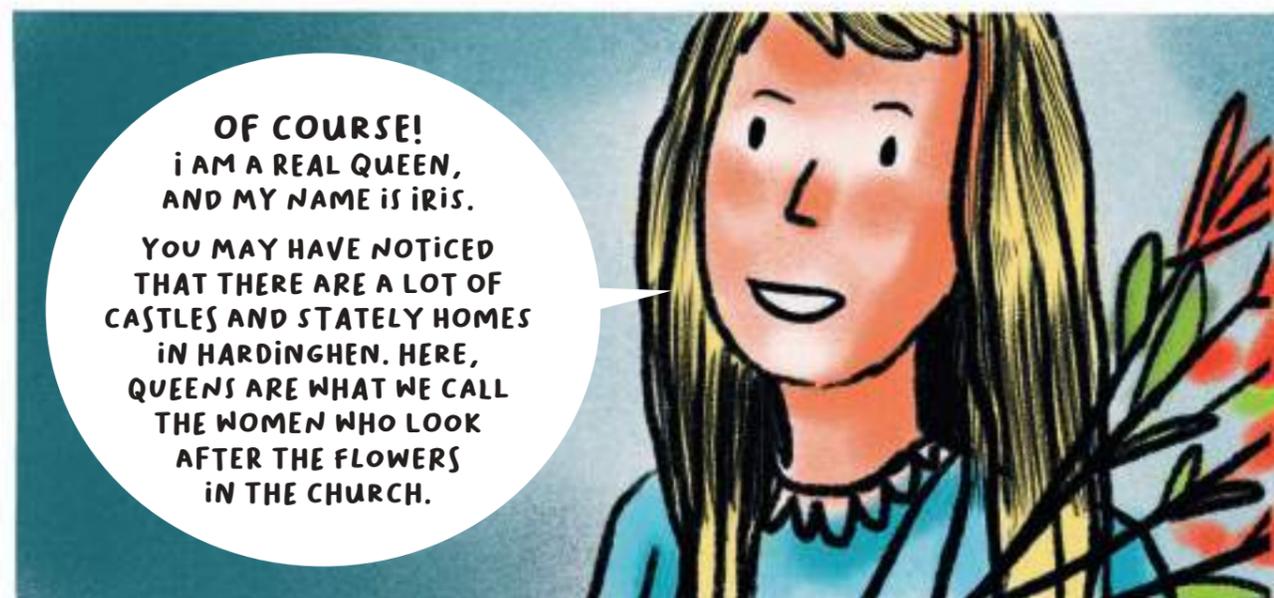
THEY MUST BE THE THREE LITTLE WEASELS...

OH, WE ARE USED TO SEEING THEM AROUND - THEY ARE OUR THREE LITTLE WEASELS! AND AS A QUEEN, I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY WILL BE.

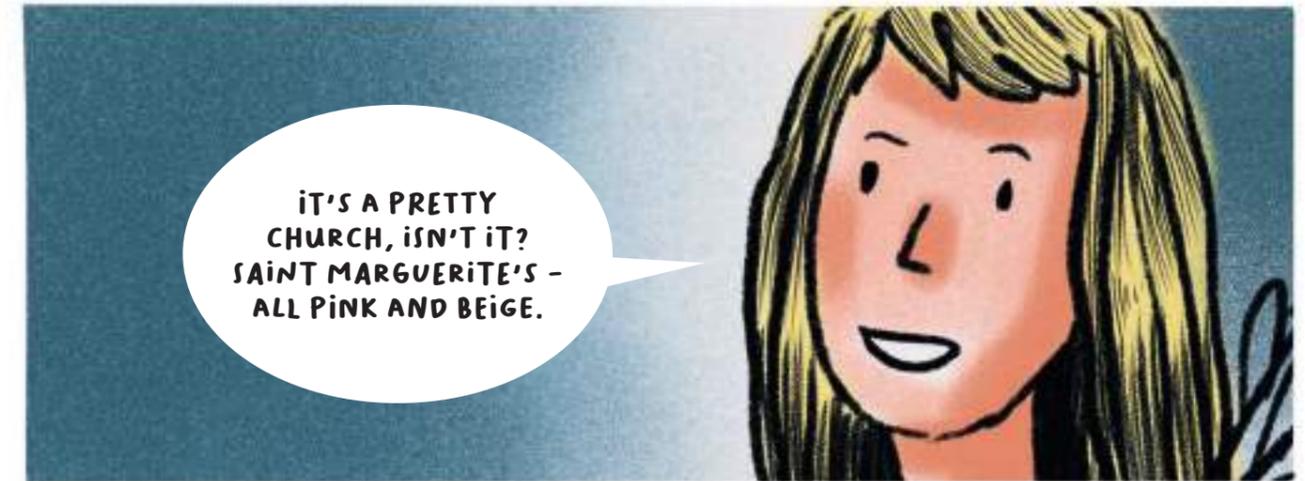


OOH, THAT'S GREAT!

ARE YOU REALLY A QUEEN?



OF COURSE! I AM A REAL QUEEN, AND MY NAME IS IRIS. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF CASTLES AND STATELY HOMES IN HARDINGEN. HERE, QUEENS ARE WHAT WE CALL THE WOMEN WHO LOOK AFTER THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH.

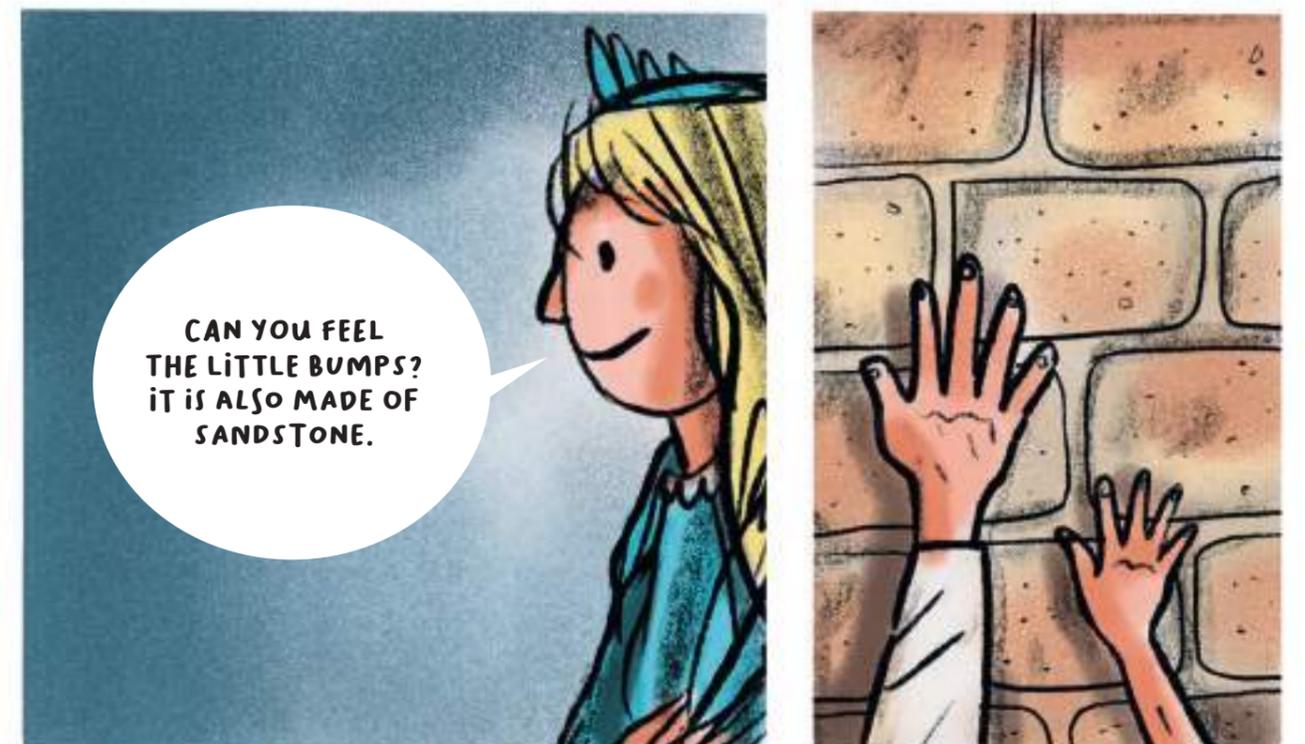


IT'S A PRETTY CHURCH, ISN'T IT? SAINT MARGUERITE'S - ALL PINK AND BEIGE.



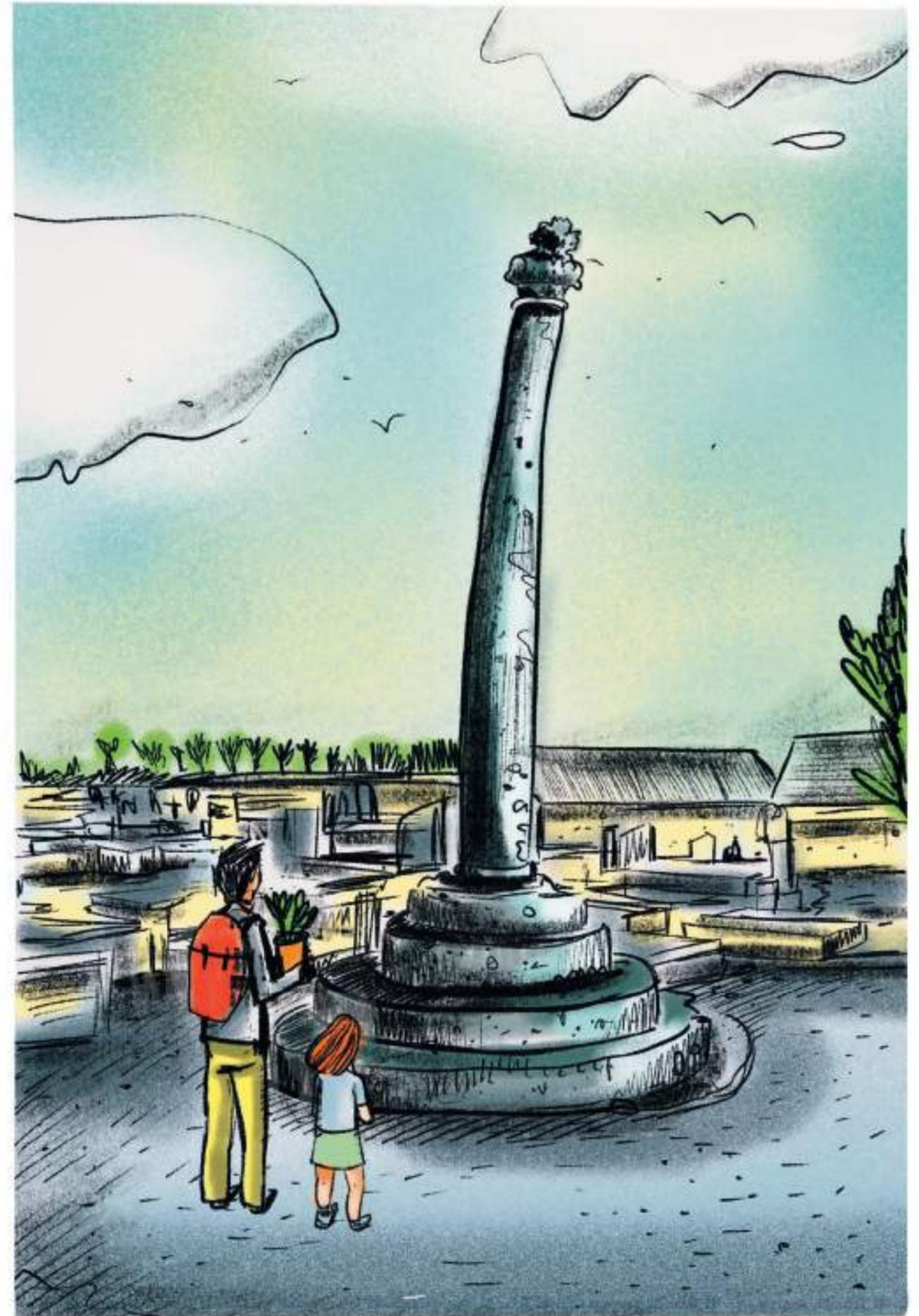
IT IS DELIGHTFUL! IS IT MADE OF MARQUISE STONE?

YES, BUT NOT ONLY. RUN YOUR HAND ALONG THE WALL!



CAN YOU FEEL THE LITTLE BUMPS? IT IS ALSO MADE OF SANDSTONE.







Take the lane to the left like Hermine and Léandre.



HERE WE GO GATHERING  
NUTS IN MAY...  
LALALA

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT  
THE DOVECOTE CASTLE. IT'S  
CALLED THAT BECAUSE THERE USED  
TO BE A BEAUTIFUL DOVECOTE  
THERE AND THE OWNERS  
WERE LICENSED TO BREED  
DOVES AND PIGEONS.



LOOK AT THOSE  
HUGE COLUMNS!



AND THAT ENORMOUS TREE, IT'S A COPPER BEECH.

OOH!  
I THINK SOME IMPORTANT PEOPLE MUST HAVE LIVED HERE!



BUT I CAN'T SEE THE WEASELS..  
WHERE CAN THEY BE?

AH, THERE THEY ARE, THE LITTLE RASCALS!

OVER THERE GRAMPS!  
THEY WENT ALONG THE ROAD TO THE RIGHT. LET'S FOLLOW THEM!



WHERE ARE THEY TAKING US NOW?

Turn right along Rue Verte

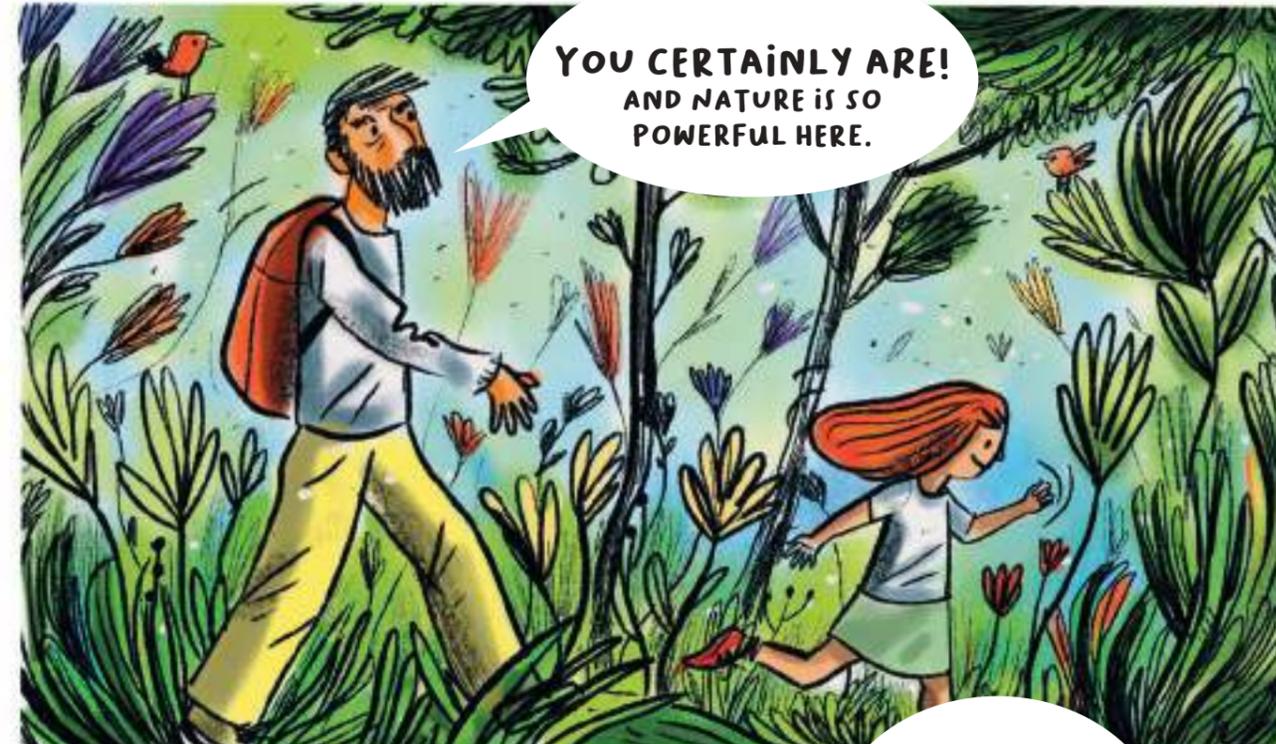


WE'RE GOING TOWARDS THE FIELDS AND THE RUE DE LA MOTTE!

WE SHOULD FIND THEM THERE!



OH, THE WIND FEELS NICE!  
LOOK GRAMPS! I'M DANCING LIKE THE TREES AND THE FLOWERS!



YOU CERTAINLY ARE!  
AND NATURE IS SO POWERFUL HERE.



HAVE YOU SEEN THE WINDMILLS?  
THEY ARE DANCING TOO!

At the end of the track, turn left like Léandre and Hermine and continue on to the first farmhouse.



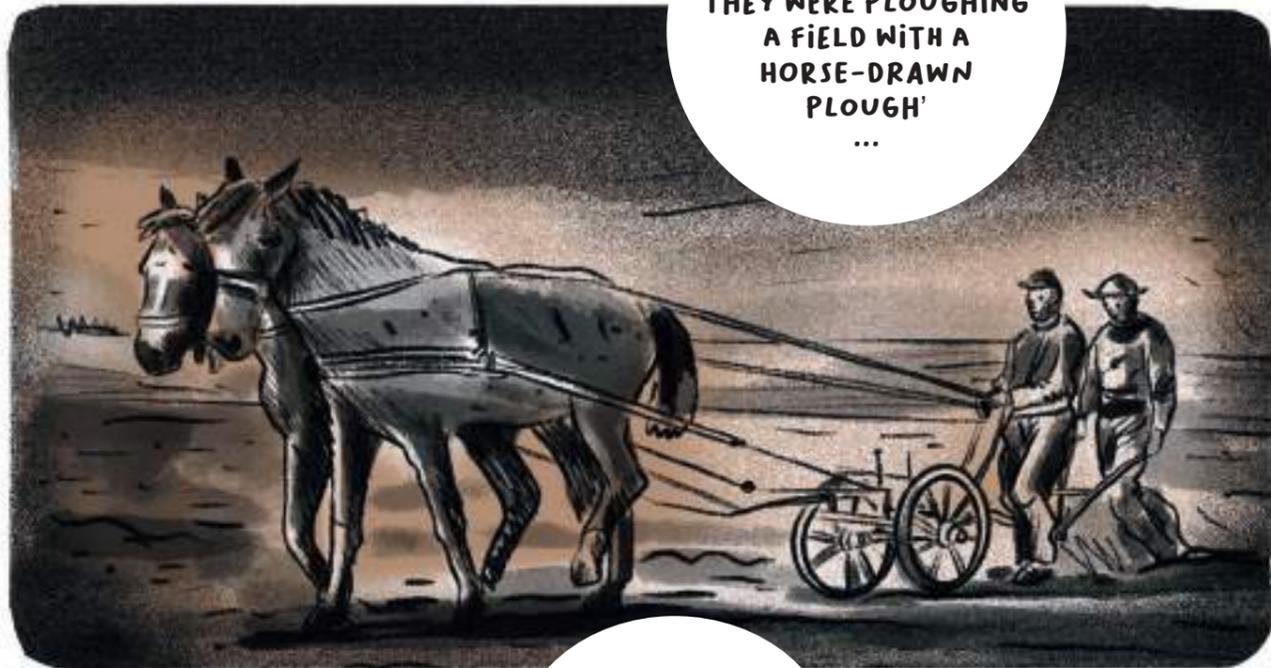
OOH, WHAT IS IT?

HAVE A LITTLE REST NOW.

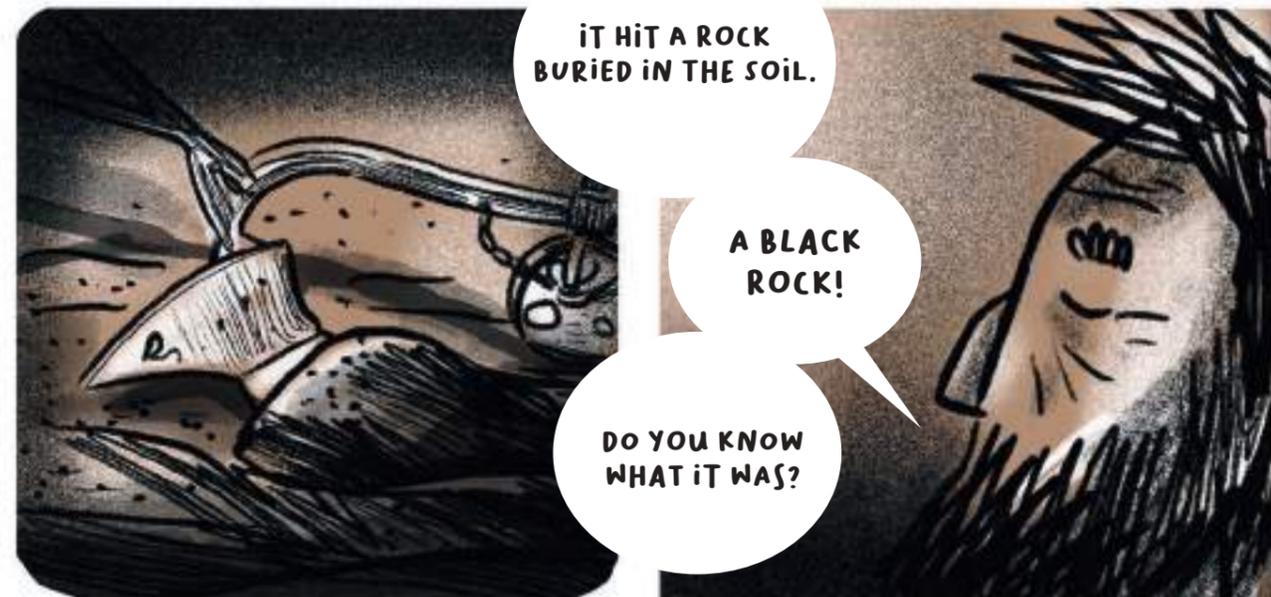
I THINK IT'S A GOOD TIME TO TELL YOU OUR SECRET, WHICH IS YOURS TOO. THE SECRET ABOUT OUR ANCESTORS...



IT'S A SECRET WE'VE KEPT IN THE FAMILY SINCE THE 17TH CENTURY. OUR ANCESTORS USED TO LIVE HERE, CULTIVATING THE LAND.



ONE DAY, THEY WERE PLOUGHING A FIELD WITH A HORSE-DRAWN PLOUGH' ...



IT HIT A ROCK BURIED IN THE SOIL.

A BLACK ROCK!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?



A PRECIOUS STONE?

IN A WAY YES. IT WAS COAL. WE USED IT BEFORE TO PRODUCE HEAT.

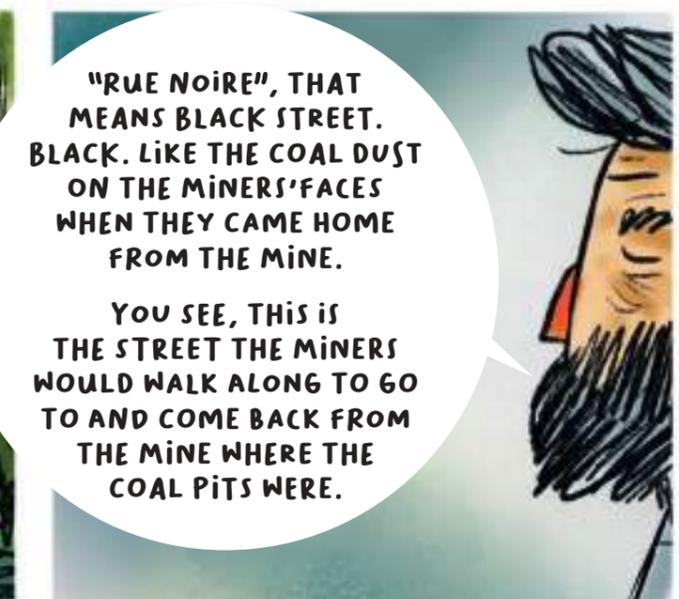
IT WAS THE FIRST COAL TO BE FOUND IN THE NORD-PAS DE CALAIS REGION!



AND IT WAS INDEED PRECIOUS, BECAUSE IT WAS THE START OF MANY YEARS OF PROSPERITY FOR OUR VILLAGE!

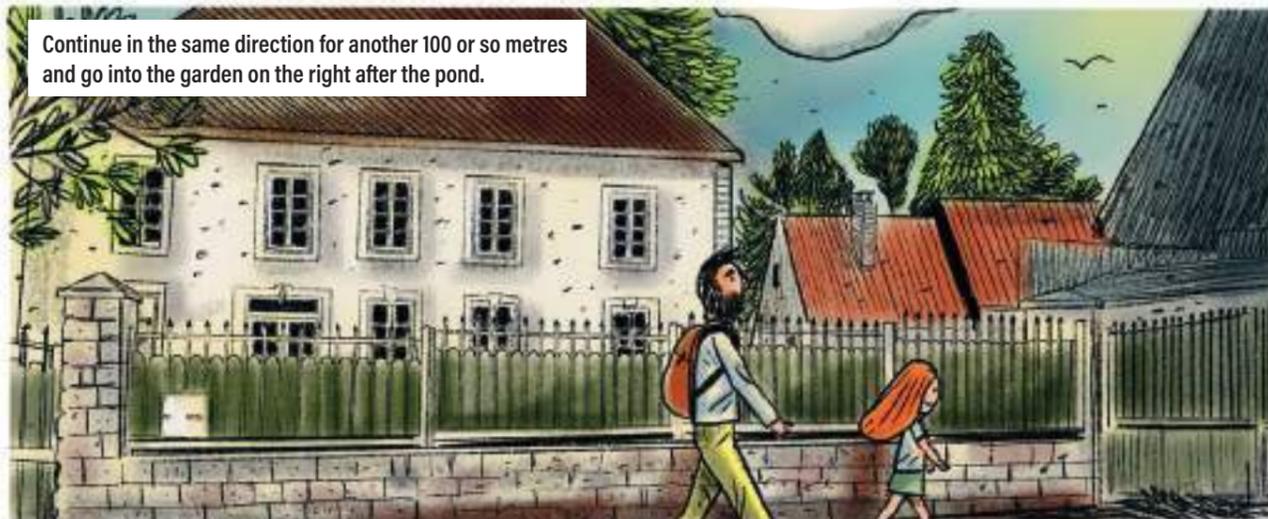
MR HÉNICHART WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO MINE THE COAL THEN EVERYTHING DEVELOPED WHEN THE DÉSANDROUIN FAMILY MOVED HERE.

THE VILLAGE BECAME RICHER, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME TO LIVE AND WORK HERE.





WE ARE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF THIS PART OF OUR REGION'S HISTORY. YOU KNOW, MINERS HAD VERY HARD LIVES. THEY USED TO HEW OUT THE COAL IN UNDERGROUND TUNNELS WHICH WERE VERY HOT AND DARK. NOW THE NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS COALFIELDS ARE A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE!



Continue in the same direction for another 100 or so metres and go into the garden on the right after the pond.



OOH! SO CUTE!

GRAMPS, THERE ARE SOME SHEEP OVER THERE. CAN I GO AND SEE THEM?

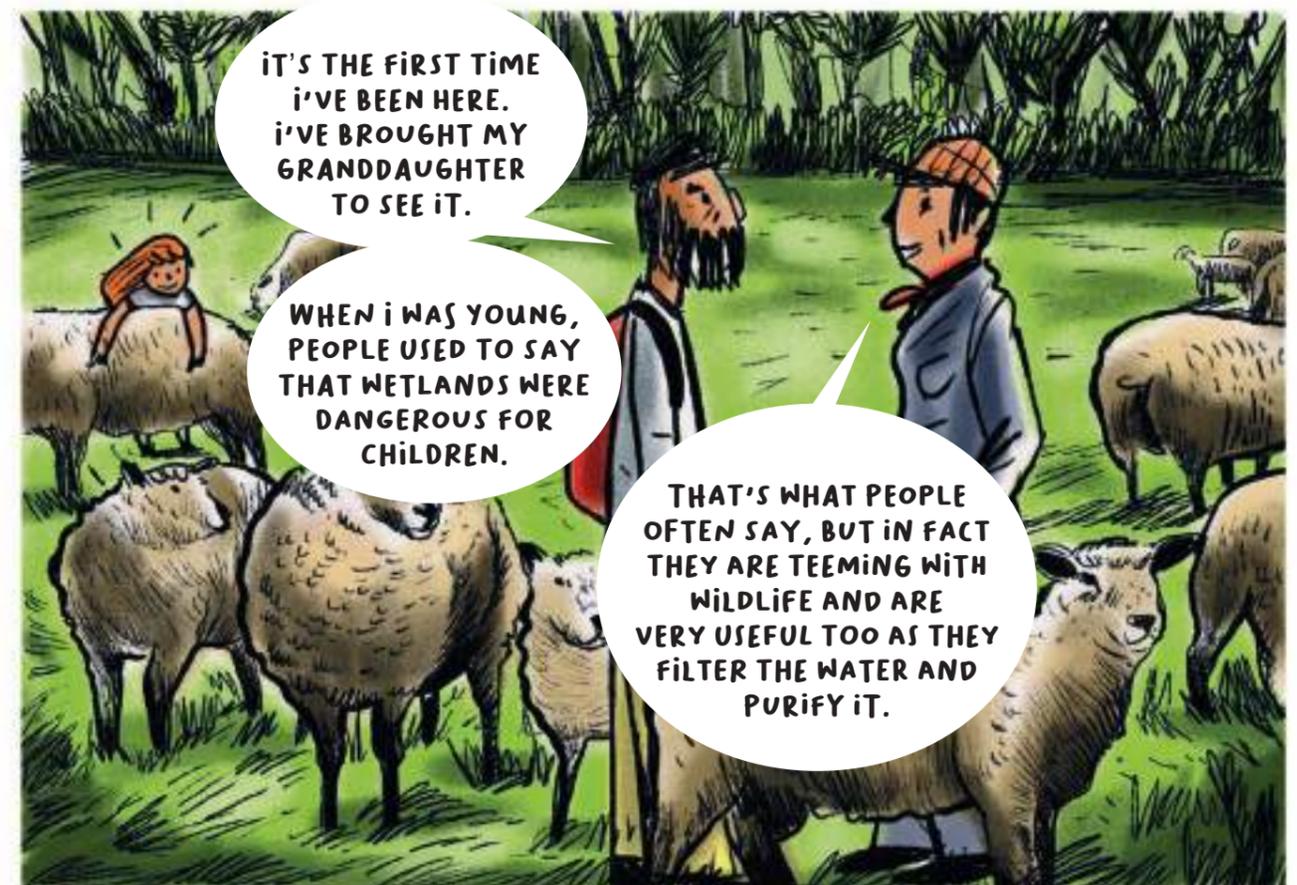
OF COURSE! COME ON THEN.



HELLO, WE'RE JUST ADMIRING YOUR SHEEP!

HELLO, YES, THEY ARE BOULONNAIS SHEEP. IT IS A BREED USED TO KEEP THE GRASS SHORT IN AREAS LIKE THIS AND MAINLY IN THE CHALK MEADOWS. THEY WERE BROUGHT HERE AS AN ECOLOGICAL WAY OF MAINTAINING THE LAND. THEY GRAZE ON THE GRASS AND FERTILIZE THE SOIL AT THE SAME TIME! THERE IS LOTS TO SEE HERE. IT IS CALLED A WETLAND CONSERVATION AREA.

DO YOU KNOW THE GARDEN?



IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN HERE. I'VE BROUGHT MY GRANDDAUGHTER TO SEE IT.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, PEOPLE USED TO SAY THAT WETLANDS WERE DANGEROUS FOR CHILDREN.

THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE OFTEN SAY, BUT IN FACT THEY ARE TEEMING WITH WILDLIFE AND ARE VERY USEFUL TOO AS THEY FILTER THE WATER AND PURIFY IT.





HELLO GRAMPS!



i'M INSIDE THE TREE!  
...



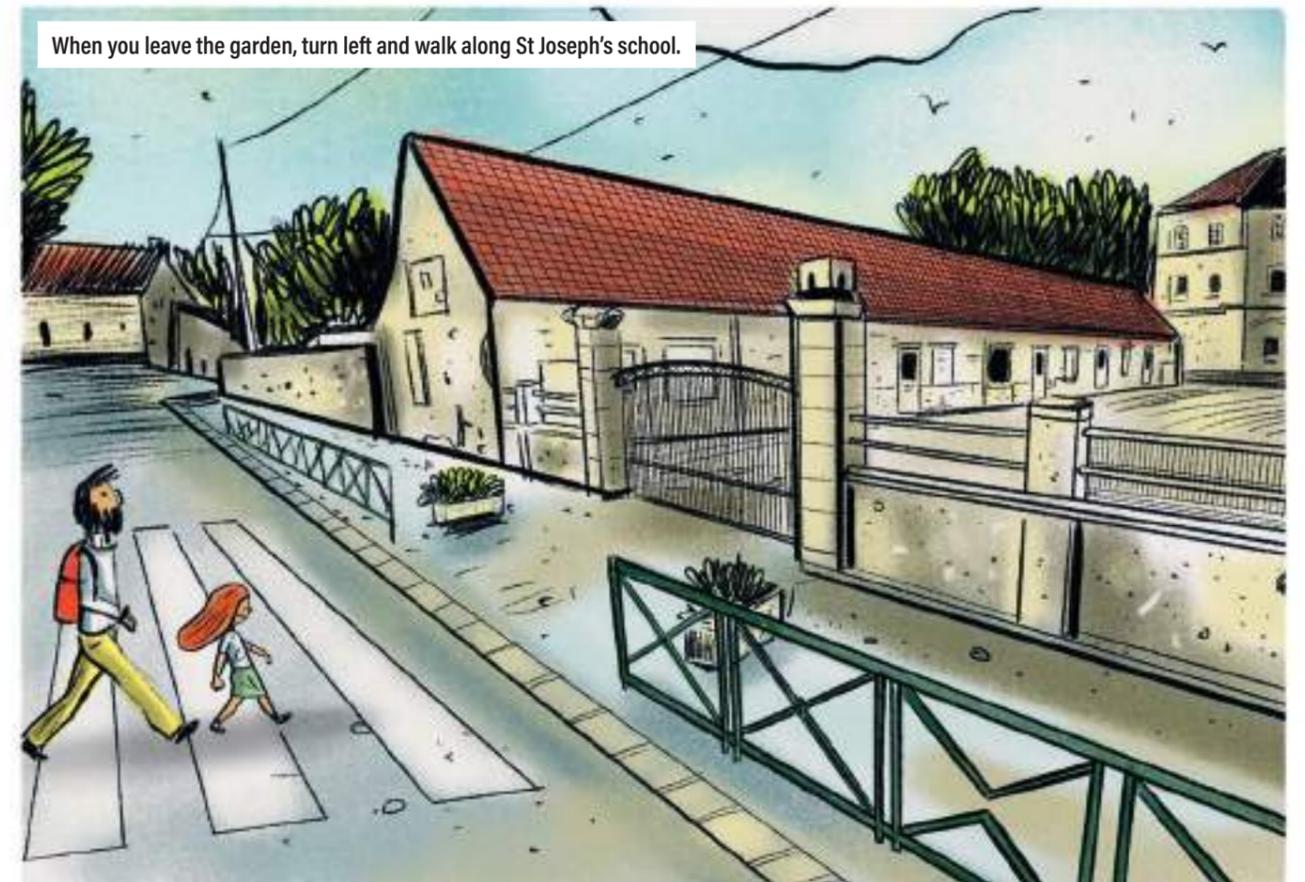
i'VE FOUND A HIDING PLACE. IT FEELS SO SAFE IN HERE!

HEY, MY LITTLE OWL!  
i'ALMOST DIDN'T SEE YOU IN YOUR POLLARDED WILLOW TREE!

THIS GARDEN IS FULL OF SURPRISES!  
COME ALONG NOW.



THAT GARDEN WAS GREAT!  
BUT NOW, WE HAVE TO FIND THE WEASELS.



When you leave the garden, turn left and walk along St Joseph's school.

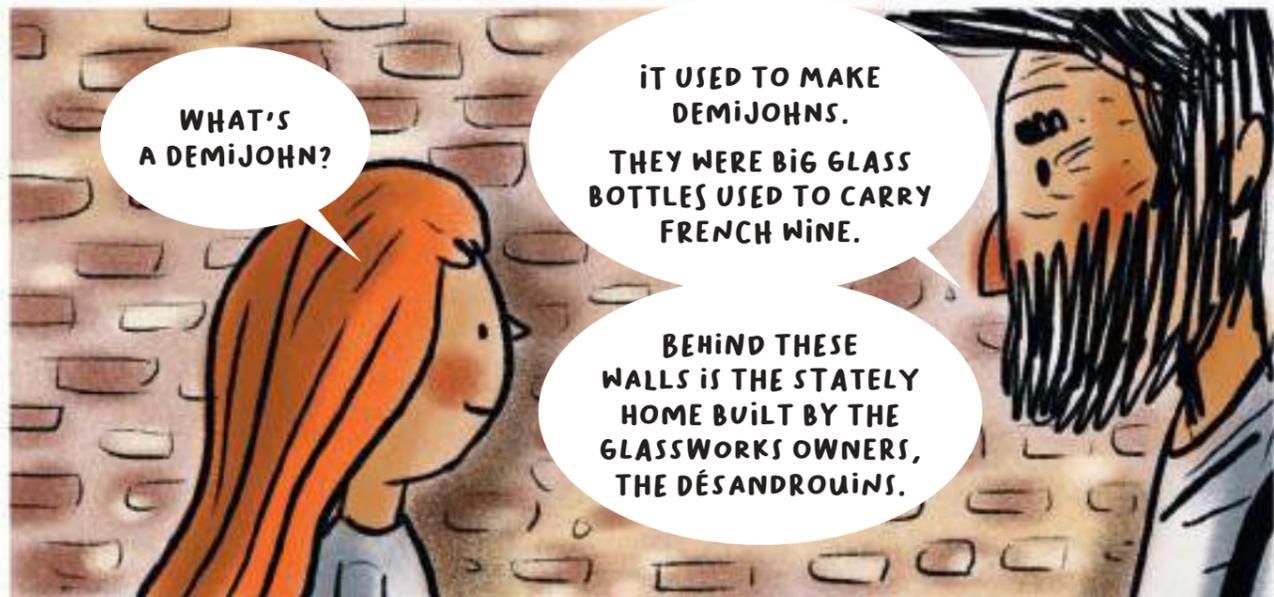


SO, MY LITTLE SWALLOW!  
DO YOU KNOW WHERE  
WE ARE?

"RUE DE LA VERRERIE".  
THAT HASN'T ANYTHING  
TO DO WITH OUR  
"PRECIOUS STONE!"



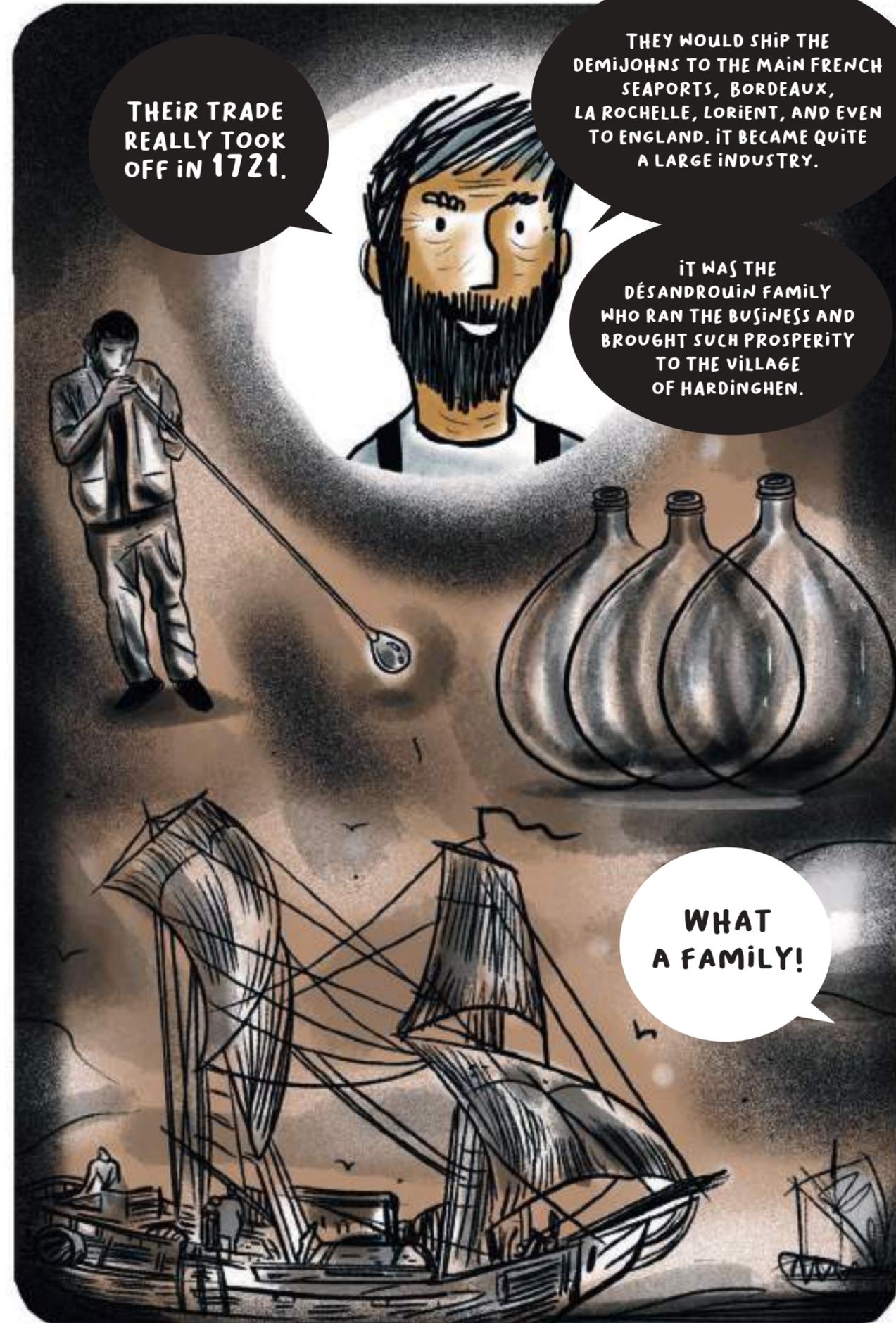
THAT'S WHERE  
YOU'RE WRONG! THE COAL  
FOUND UNDERGROUND WAS  
USED TO GENERATE HEAT WHICH  
COULD MELT GLASS. AND THERE  
USED TO BE A WELL-KNOWN  
GLASSWORKS AT THE END OF  
THE STREET. THEY SAID IT WAS  
ONE OF THE FINEST  
IN FRANCE!



WHAT'S  
A DEMIJOHN?

IT USED TO MAKE  
DEMIJOHNS.  
THEY WERE BIG GLASS  
BOTTLES USED TO CARRY  
FRENCH WINE.

BEHIND THESE  
WALLS IS THE STATELY  
HOME BUILT BY THE  
GLASSWORKS OWNERS,  
THE DÉSANDROUINS.



THEIR TRADE  
REALLY TOOK  
OFF IN 1721.

THEY WOULD SHIP THE  
DEMIJOHNS TO THE MAIN FRENCH  
SEAPORTS, BORDEAUX,  
LA ROCHELLE, LORIENT, AND EVEN  
TO ENGLAND. IT BECAME QUITE  
A LARGE INDUSTRY.

IT WAS THE  
DÉSANDROUIN FAMILY  
WHO RAN THE BUSINESS AND  
BROUGHT SUCH PROSPERITY  
TO THE VILLAGE  
OF HARDINGHEN.

WHAT  
A FAMILY!



BUT THERE WAS STRONG COMPETITION. THE LORD OF FIENNES HAD HIS OWN COAL MINES.

NOT SO LONG AGO THEY WERE MAKING LEMONADE THERE. BUT THE HOUSE ISN'T THERE ANYMORE. IT USED TO BELONG TO PIERRE CAZIN, THE FRIEND AND PARTNER OF THÉODORE DÉSANDROUAIN.



**GRAMPS!**  
THE WEASELS!  
OVER THERE!



ON THIS SIDE IT IS THE RUE GÉNÉRAL DE GAULLE WHICH USED TO BE KNOWN AS THE RUE DES RICHES (OR RICH-MAN'S ROAD). IT GOES ROUND THE CHÂTEAU ATTACHED TO THE GLASSWORKS. IN 1881, THE CHÂTEAU WAS OCCUPIED BY DOMINICAN NUNS. THEY SET UP A SCHOOL IN 1935 AND SOME OF THE CHILDREN THAT WENT THERE HAD FAMOUS RELATIVES!



LOOK AT THOSE FINE HOUSES! THIS STREET USED TO BE VERY BUSY, AND THE MARKET HELD HERE WOULD GO RIGHT ALONG ITS WHOLE LENGTH. YOU COULD BUY EVERYTHING THERE.



ANYWAY, HERE'S A CHALLENGE FOR YOU. THERE'S STILL A BASKET OF FRUIT HIDDEN SOMEWHERE!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND IT?





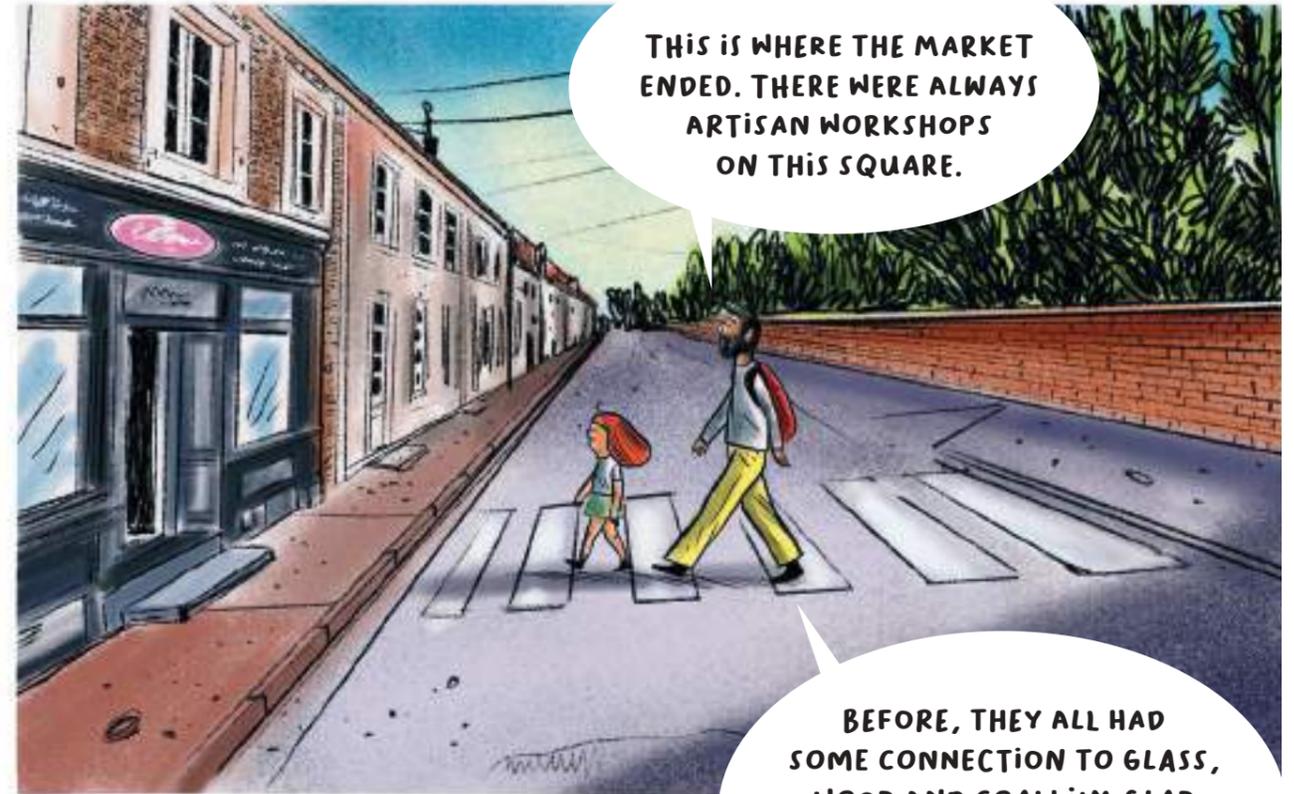
THERE GRAMPS!  
I'VE FOUND IT!!!  
APPLES, AND GRAPES!  
I LOVE GRAPES!



WELL DONE!  
YOU'VE GOT  
GOOD EYES!

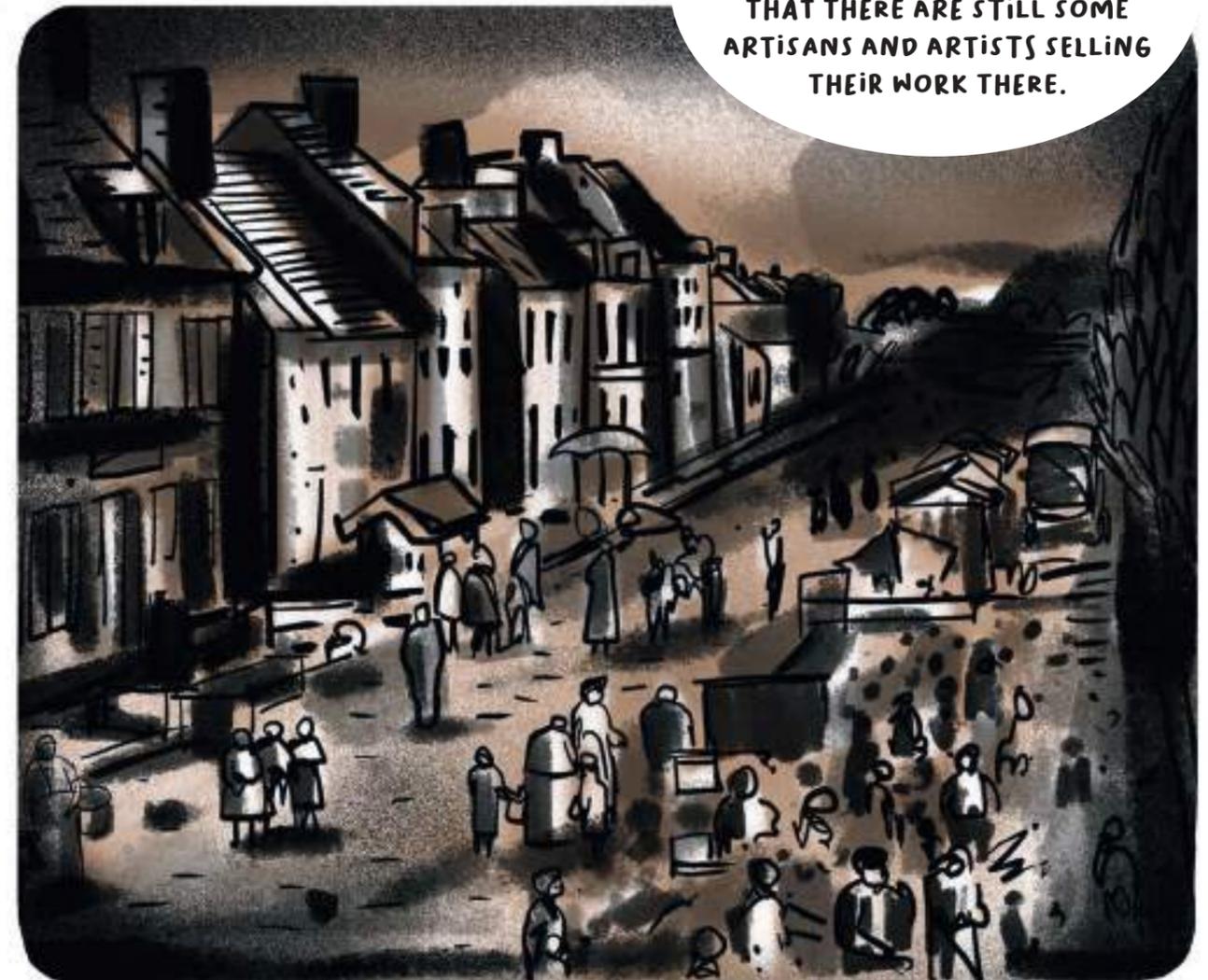


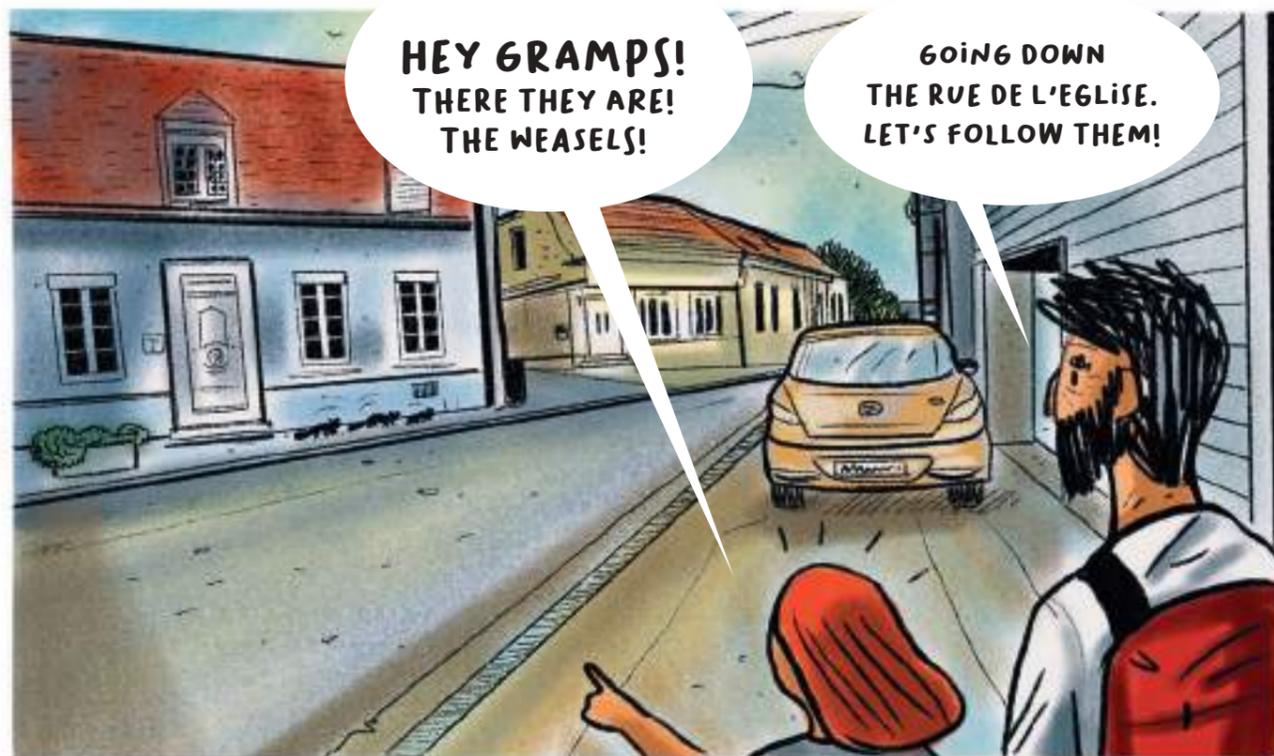
LET'S GO TO  
THE MARKET  
SQUARE NOW.



THIS IS WHERE THE MARKET  
ENDED. THERE WERE ALWAYS  
ARTISAN WORKSHOPS  
ON THIS SQUARE.

BEFORE, THEY ALL HAD  
SOME CONNECTION TO GLASS,  
WOOD AND COAL! I'M GLAD  
THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME  
ARTISANS AND ARTISTS SELLING  
THEIR WORK THERE.





**HEY GRAMPS!  
THERE THEY ARE!  
THE WEASELS!**

**GOING DOWN  
THE RUE DE L'ÉGLISE.  
LET'S FOLLOW THEM!**



**LET'S TAKE A SHORT  
CUT ALONG THE LANE  
ON THE RIGHT!**

**LOOK! THE WEASELS!  
THEY'RE GOING ALONG  
THE ROAD!**

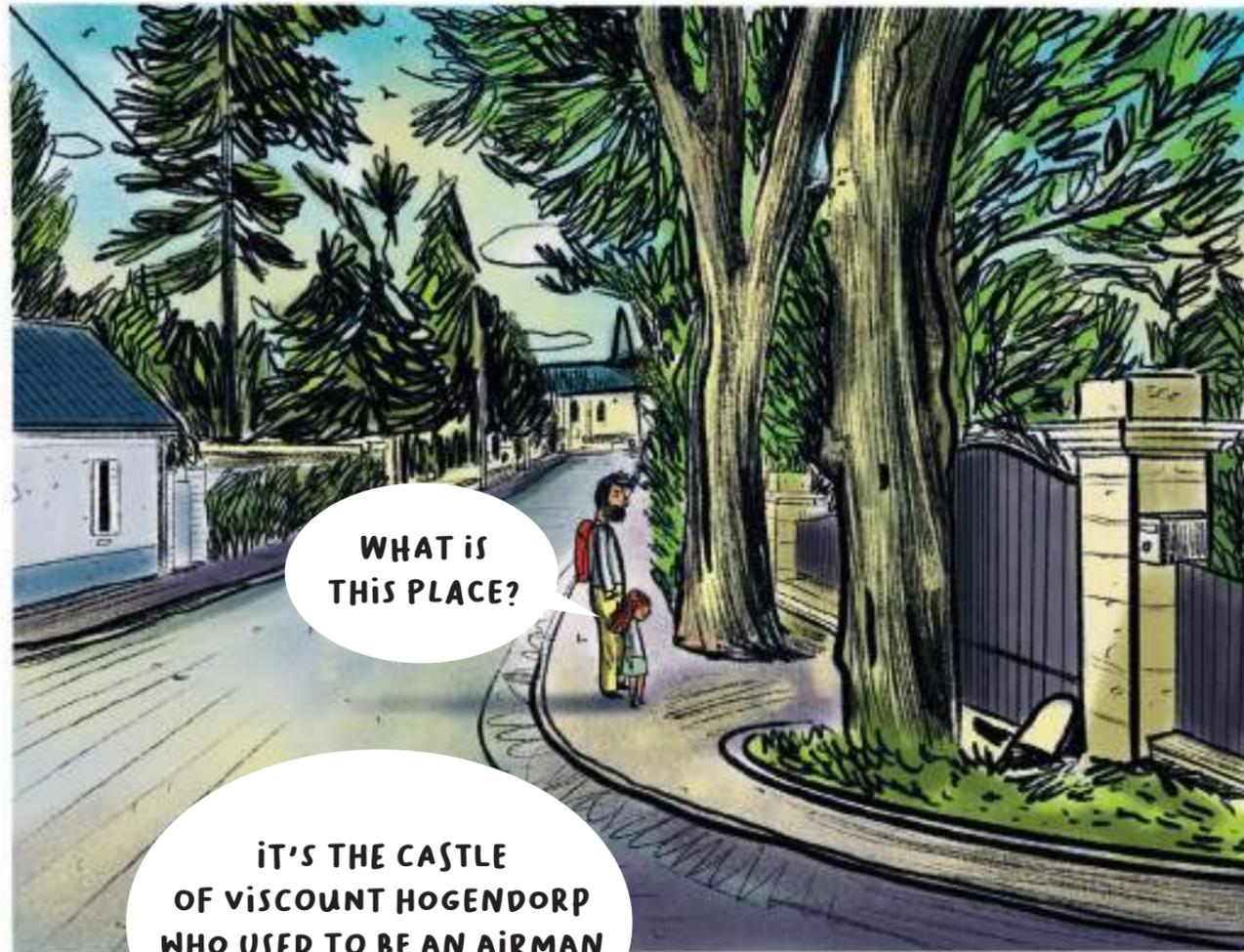


**YOU'RE RIGHT.  
IT IS IMPRESSIVE!  
I THINK A GIANT  
MUST LIVE THERE!**

**LOOK AT THAT ENORMOUS  
DOOR GRAMPS!  
THE WEASELS LOOK TINY  
IN COMPARISON.**



**WE'LL CATCH THEM  
ON THE OTHER SIDE!  
HURRY THOUGH!**



WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

IT'S THE CASTLE OF VISCOUNT HOGENDORP WHO USED TO BE AN AIRMAN DURING THE WAR.

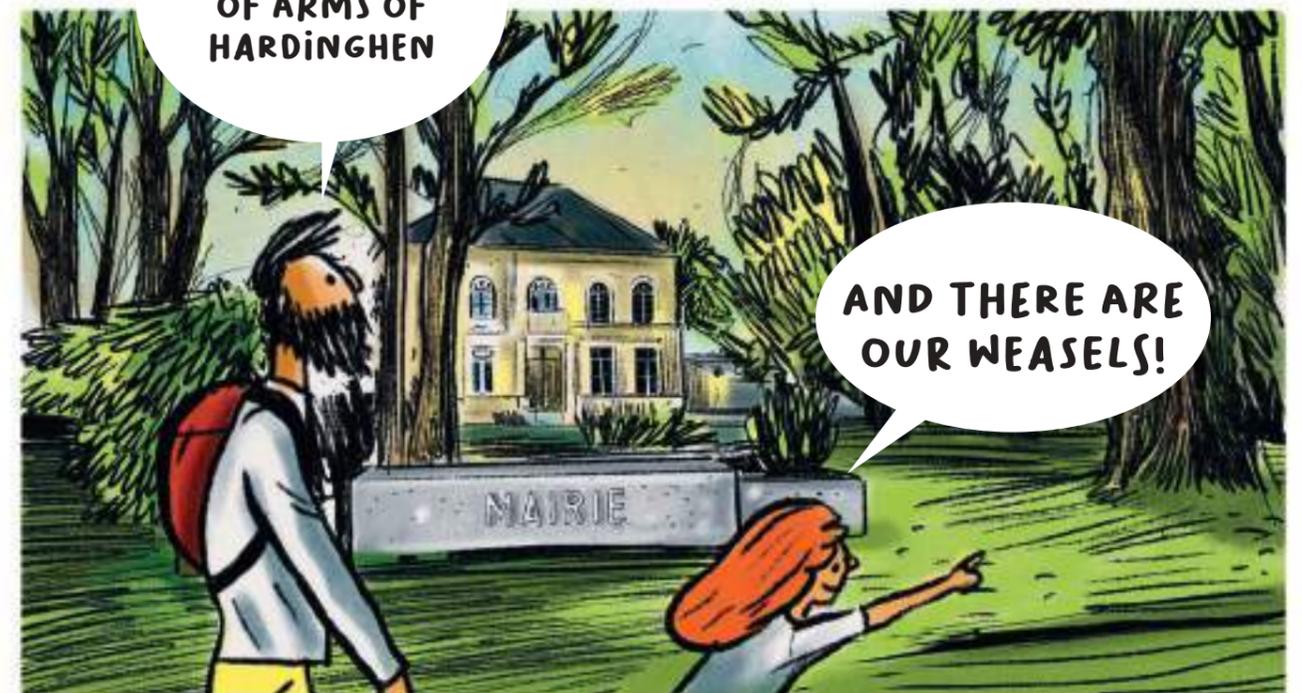


WOW!  
WHAT AN EXCITING PLACE THIS IS!



GRAMPS...  
LOOK AT THE SIGN!

IT'S THE COAT OF ARMS OF HARDINGHEN



AND THERE ARE OUR WEASELS!



YES, THEY ARE THE ARMS,  
THE SYMBOL OF THE GREAT  
DÉSANDROUÏNS FAMILY!



THEY STAND  
NEXT TO THE LION,  
THE ARMS OF THE  
LORD OF FIENNES!



SO THIS IS WHAT THEY  
WANTED ME TO SEE!  
THE HISTORY OF  
HARDINGHEN.



LET'S LEAVE THE WEASELS  
ALONE NOW. WE CAN HAVE  
A GLASS OF LEMONADE AT  
THE LION D'OR INN.  
WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?

OOH,  
YES!



THANK YOU,  
GRAMPS, FOR  
THIS LOVELY  
ADVENTURE!





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND MANDATORY CREDITS

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Thank you for your support and assistance in the creation of this comic book :

Danielle Nacry, Martial Herbert,  
Nathalie Telliez, mayor of Hardinghen

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Dialogue : Emilie Frot

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Illustrations, coloring, and layout by : Gregory Barek

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Translation of content into English : Jackie Eales

●  
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