

Stephen Clarke lives in Paris, where he divides his time between writing and not writing.

His first novel, *A Year in the Merde*, originally became a word of mouth hit in Paris in 2004, and is now published all over the world. Since then he has published three more bestselling Merde novels, as well as *Talk to the Snail*, an indispensable guide to understanding the French.



**Was The Battle of Hastings a French victory?**

*Non!* William the Conqueror was Norman and hated the French.

**Were the Brits really responsible for the death of Joan of Arc?**

*Non!* The French sentenced her to death for wearing trousers.

**Was the guillotine a French invention?**

*Non!* It was invented in Yorkshire.

Ten centuries worth of French historical ‘facts’ bite the dust as Stephen Clarke looks at what *really* been going on ever since 1066...

1000 YEARS  
OF  
ANNNOYING  
THE  
FRENCH

STEPHEN CLARKE  
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
*A YEAR IN THE MERDE*

# 1000 YEARS OF ANNNOYING THE FRENCH



The English Channel may be only 20 miles wide, but it's 1,000 years deep.

Stephen Clarke takes a penetrating look into those murky depths, guiding us through all the times when Britain and France have been at war – or at least glowering at each other across what we Brits provocatively call The English Channel.

Along the way he also explodes a few myths that French historians have been trying to pass off as ‘la verité’. Ten centuries’ worth of French historical ‘facts’ bite the dust as he proves that the French did not invent the baguette, or the croissant, or even the guillotine, and would have taken the bubbles out of bubbly if the Brits hadn’t created a fashion for fizzy champagne.

Starting with the Norman (not French) Conquest and going right up to the supposedly more peaceful present, when a state visit by the French President becomes a series of hilarious historical insults, it is a light-hearted - but impeccably researched – account of all our great fallings-out.

In short, the French are quite right to suspect that the last 1,000 years have been one long British campaign to infuriate them. And it's not over yet...