



# British Association of the Var

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April 2011

Newsletter

No 107

## ...and one unsucked mint!



At noon on a splendid sundrenched Var spring morning 40 members of the British Association of the Var gathered for a Buffet Lunch at La Bastide des Moines on the edge of Montferrat. The XVII century hotel and restaurant is just 20km short of the *Gorges du Verdon* and offered those attending a lunch with a difference. The BAV members were located in the dining room with a log fire flickering behind the large hog roasting spit. The format for the meal saw the diners initially visiting the excellent buffet starters' bar. It would be fair to say that the vast majority of the members visited the starters' buffet more than once. The mains, ordered on arrival, were then served and the expression "not skimmed on quality or quantity" could be heard. Then came the desert buffet, some of us wisely were wearing elasticised waistbands because, just like the

starters, a second trip to the trough was a must. The expression "diet starts tomorrow" was also heard.

One of the members present was former Chairman of the original Var Branch of the British Association of the Alpes-Maritimes and the Var, Alastair Ross, who at the invitation of the new BAV Chairman Auriol Langen, said a few words. What many of us attending did not realise was that our chosen venue was actually the one chosen back in 1998 on 3 June for the very first meeting and luncheon of that newly formed Var Branch, so it seemed very appropriate that two days prior to the AGM of the new BAV it should fall to the same location to host such an historic landmark meeting.



Alastair was on fine form as he retold the tale of that inaugural meeting. Those attending were then reminded by Auriol that Saturday at Le Motte was the location of the BAV AGM. A report on that will appear inside this Newsletter. As the members had been only charged cost price, with no addition to donate to the welfare fund, a collection taken that raised 65.20€ and an unsucked mint! A kindly donated indigestion cure! This, when added to 30€ voluntary donations added to the booking cheques made a grand total of 95.20€ - and not forgetting that mint!

*Mike Milner*

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## Forthcoming Events for your diary

### April

**Lunch and Quiz**  
Friday 8 April - Les Arcs

**Painting Group**  
Tuesday 12 April - Montauroux

**Book & Clearance Sale**  
Thursday 14 April - Montauroux

**Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday 19 April

**Digital Photography Group**  
Contact: Mike Harper [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:*****@yahoo.co.uk)

**Good Friday - 22 April**  
**Easter Sunday/Monday 24/25 April**

**Happy Boules**  
Contact: Rob Flanagan [rob@baofthevar.com](mailto:rob@baofthevar.com)

**Neighbourhood Network**  
see details page 7

### May

**1 May Labour Day**

**Rescheduled Finance Seminar**  
Thursday 5 May - Villecroze  
See details opposite

**Book Sale and Coffee Morning**  
Wednesday 11 May - La Motte

**Coffee Morning**  
19 May - St Maximin

**Bring and share luncheon**  
Saturday 21 May - Tavernes

**Coffee Morning**  
22 May - Salernes

### JUNE

**GIANT BOOK SALE**  
22 June - Lorgues

### For next month's Newsletter

Please let us have your Advertisements, Articles and Reports for the May issue by

**Sunday 17 April**

All contributions to  
[newsletter@baofthevar.com](mailto:newsletter@baofthevar.com)

## FINANCE SEMINAR REARRANGED

The Kentingtons Finance Seminar, originally scheduled for 7 April at Villecroze, has been rescheduled for Thursday 5 May at Kentingtons' new office complex. The change of date has been made due to the number of people who indicated an interest but said that the original date was not convenient.

Most members by then will have had their latest tax declaration forms, so will have them as a prompt to ask questions about what and how to fill in the boxes. Kentingtons will have the usual team of specialised guest speakers who will be available for the Q&A's after the event whilst members enjoy an *aperitif* and *amuse-bouches*.

To confirm your intention of attending and obtain directions to Kentingtons' new location, please contact Rob Kent:-

**04 98 10 12 55** or email  
[info@kentingtons.com](mailto:info@kentingtons.com)

*Mike Milner*

### Lunch and Quiz

A final reminder for the BAV Eggheads that on **Friday 8 April** at Cafe de la Tour in Les Arcs there will be our final Lunch and Quiz before the autumn.

Usual format, a *plat du jour* for 10€; full details were in the March Newsletter along with the reservation slip. The menu choice this time is either *Civet de Porcelet* or *Salad Niçoise*. Please contact Jim North who is handling the bookings and he will make the appropriate arrangements and organise payment details with you.

Contact Jim on \*\*\*\*\* or email him at [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@wanadoo.fr](mailto:*****@wanadoo.fr) before **Monday 4 April**.

Entry to the Quiz is **3€** per team member collected on the day in cash. Entry money split 50/50 with winning team and BAV welfare fund.

*Mike Milner*

### New Members

This month we welcome two new members – David and Marie-France Parkes, Lorgues



## Book & Clearance Sale

Boat Supply Company closing down

An opportunity to buy short dated UK products such as Dettol, Wash & Go, Gillette products, Tate & Lyle, Alpen. PG Tips and Branston products plus many more UK brands.

Members are invited to buy the short dated stock at a substantial discount on supermarket prices and then have their pick from out-of-date stock, making a donation to the BAV Welfare fund.

To add to the attraction of this event there will be a selection of the **BA Books on sale, plus Coffee and Tea** available on the day.

WHEN?

**Thursday April 14 10h30** until 12h30

WHERE?

\*\*\*\*\*

83440 MONTAROUX

7 minutes from A8 Jt 39 or 1 minute from the D562 at Montauroux

**Contact:** Sandie Doherty \*\*\*\*\*  
[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*.com](mailto:*****@baofthevar.com) for further details

## SHORT AGM REPORT

The AGM was certainly not a roller coast ride for the Committee, but some of the Members attending were disappointed to discover that the Dodgem Car fairground ride outside the entrance door was not available for some pre-meeting thrills and spills.

There will be a much fuller account of the proceedings in the May Newsletter. However, 74 apologies and 47 proxy voting slips were received, and including six of the Committee, 48 Members attended the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM meeting of the independent British Association of the Var.

The Chairman Auriol Langen opened the meeting at 11h on the dot and welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. 62 minutes later saw the close of the meeting during which the Chairman and current Committee were, at the appropriate point on the agenda, all re-elected for the coming year.

Two members asked related questions about the proposed rule which would require members to submit AGM questions in writing. They agreed to write to the Secretary to clarify the point they wished to make. Clare will report the exchange in a future Newsletter.

After the meeting 42 of those attending stayed for the finger buffet provided by Teresa Watson and the cookies, with wine provided from Member Lindsay Phillips' local vineyard. More details next month.

### NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chairman - Auriol Langen**

\*\*\*\*\* [chairman@baofthevar.com](mailto:chairman@baofthevar.com)

**Secretary - Clare Brown**

\*\*\*\*\* [secretary@baofthevar.com](mailto:secretary@baofthevar.com)

**Treasurer - Terry Joyce**

\*\*\*\*\* [treasurer@baofthevar.com](mailto:treasurer@baofthevar.com)

**Welfare Coordinator –**

**Shirley Wrigglesworth**

\*\*\*\*\* or 06 43 86 49 01

[welfare@baofthevar.com](mailto:welfare@baofthevar.com)

**Publicity - Mike Milner**

[newsletter@baofthevar.com](mailto:newsletter@baofthevar.com)

**Member - John Collingwood**

\*\*\*\*\* [john@baofthevar.com](mailto:john@baofthevar.com)

**Member - Rob Flanagan**

\*\*\*\*\* [rob@baofthevar.com](mailto:rob@baofthevar.com)



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## Chairman's' Letter

I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming Rev Keith Bretel and his wife Sherlie to St John's Church in St Raphael. I am sure they will be welcomed and quickly absorbed into the English speaking community in the Var.

Unfortunately his induction took place at the same time as our AGM which is why many notable members were absent.

The AGM is fully reported on elsewhere, so I wish you all a very happy holiday weekend for Easter. We have not arranged anything for St George's Day this year – it falls on Easter Saturday and I am sure there are many family get-togethers planned. Let's hope with Easter being so late this year that the weather may be a bit kinder.

*Auriol Langen*

## Help Wanted

I am looking for help at the Lorgues "Brocante" on Thursday 2 June. Please contact me on 04 94 47 57 70 as soon as possible. My initial request is for some muscle at the start and end of the event to help set up and finally clear away.

Secondly, I will be looking for volunteers who can spare an hour or two during the day to help man the store. There will be more information in next month's Newsletter about the items that will be required for the stall and details of how to get them to us. We will not be taking or selling any items of clothing.

Please remember that ALL PROCEEDS from the stall are for the British Association of the Var Welfare Fund.

*Shirley Wrigglesworth*

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## Keeping our Association within the law

In the UK, as many of you will know, there is an agency which controls information held by companies and organisations on computers. The original act of 1984 set up the Data Protection Agency which has been replaced by the Information Commissioner's Office. As someone who was working with computers at the time of the original act, I was not happy with all the extra work. However, now I see that it is a necessary evil, or perhaps to stop further evil.

In France, which is much stricter on the control of personal data, an organisation was set up in 1978 called the "Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés" (CNIL), and all businesses and organisations must be registered with them if they hold information on computers. The CNIL is operating under the 6 January 1978 act so it is a legal data protection agency of the French state.

The mission of the CNIL is to ensure that the development of information technology remains at the service of citizens and does not breach human identity, human rights, privacy or personal or public liberties. The organisation has wide ranging powers and also the penalties to match.

For instance (a rough translation):

Articles 226-21 and 226-20 of the Criminal Code: using personal data for purposes other than those justifying their collection, or storing them beyond a date necessary for the purpose of the process, is punished, respectively, by 5 years' imprisonment and a 300.000€ fine and 3 years' imprisonment and a 45.000€ fine.

In March 2007 the CNIL refused to authorise the creation of a centralised credit record by Experian, which is why Experian do not operate in France. This shows its power. It gave a general observation and 3 main reasons for its decision, which begs the question as to what the UK authorised and what controls are in place.

Observation:

It is considered that the lawmaker alone has competence to decide on the social usefulness of a "positive record" related to credit issues, and to define the purposes and contents of such a database.

## Main Reasons:

1. Data covered under legally protected confidentiality, i.e. banking secrecy, could have been totally transferred, without any legal protection framework, to a service provider not bound by banking law and whose business is not bound by the French rule of banking secrecy.

2. Clients would not have been properly informed of the consequences of signing a release clause waiving banking secrecy. (In the UK is this in the small print? If so I did not know I was giving up my rights).

3. The transmission, to a centralised record of member institutions, of data relating to an individual for the purpose of processing a loan application, would be supplied in the form of a highly detailed report listing outstanding loans or loans repaid within at least the past three years, and would permit the economic profiling of the private individuals concerned. Such data is liable to be retained in the computer files of the recipient credit institutions and could therefore end up being used for reasons other than processing a loan application, in particular for commercial purposes.

As you can see from the above examples, it was essential that the British Association of the Var conforms with French Law. We wrote to the CNIL and received a reference number and an exemption from registration as a non profit making charity providing we adhered to the regulations within the exemption directive.

One of those regulations is that we inform our members of the information held and why we hold it.

1. The information held is from your initial membership application form, which members have the opportunity to update every membership renewal.
2. To enable us to send information to our members, Newsletters/AGM papers/etc.
3. To hold a list of current and past members, past members are deleted in accordance with our regulations after a specific time.

We hope that this explains why we took the time to register and to ensure that our Association remains within the law. Also, to inform our members that in France, there is a body which is concerned about information held on computers.

*Terry Joyce*

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Mike Lorimer - Orias No. 07032481

**British Association of the Var  
Welfare Coordinator**  
*Shirley Wrigglesworth*  
\*\*\*\*\* or 06 43 86 49 01  
[welfare@baofthevar.com](mailto:welfare@baofthevar.com)

## In for a penny . . .

"In for a penny . . ." as the old saying goes 'if you look after the pennies the pounds look after themselves'. I am sure that the currency exchange rate has little bearing on this and that the same applies to centimes and euros - it just takes a few more of them.

Many people don't like small change wearing a hole in their pockets and empty them each evening. We would therefore like to offer a home for this small change and would like to encourage you to put it to one side, save it in a suitable container and bring it along as a donation to one of our events.

*Rob Flanagan*

## BATs "the show can't go on"

BATs deeply regret that there will not be a show this year due to sudden and unexpected developments. A lot of preparatory work had gone into what would have been our 6th show - dates had been agreed, venues arranged and an amusing and topical script had been compiled. We are all sorry that "the show can't go on" but we will be back next year.

*Peter Mainwaring*



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## Making a Spectacle of Yourself

If you are one of the many glasses wearers then I am sure that you will be frustrated by the unusually long delays in France in being able to have an eye test, and depressed by the cost of prescription glasses, especially 'varifocal'. Furthermore, there is little financial assistance from the CPAM/ CMU and Mutuelles. To this end, a friend said that he actually found it cheaper to fly to the UK, have his eyes tested, fly back on the same day and order new glasses on-line.

I put this to the test and looked up a UK optician in Yellow Pages before I last went to the UK and made an appointment so that I would not be disappointed when I got there. It is important to

have a full eye test and obtain a copy of the prescription, and also obtain the PD or distance between the pupils. Armed with this prescription I then searched the internet for various suppliers of glasses, selected a frame that I wanted (if you are in the UK for long enough then you can have up to 4 frames sent to you to try out) and placed the order. A few weeks later (plain lenses are faster) I received my glasses which fitted perfectly and were of excellent quality.

The only possible risk that I can see in this is that in ordering on-line you have to hope that the frame fits your face properly.

However, the good news is that my glasses, with a free second pair, were about a third of the cost of my previous glasses!

*Rob Flanagan*

## Bargain Basement

### Sales and Wants printed free

Email your ads to [newsletter@baofthevar.com](mailto:newsletter@baofthevar.com)

**FOR SALE:** I have magazines for "Living France" Nos 33 to 151, and also "France Magazine" from Winter 1994 to Sept/Oct 2002. These are all in mint condition but now have to go. Anybody interested, **please email or**

**'phone:**

*Richard Alexander*

\*\*\*\*\* @free.fr

African Orinoco **Wooden Table** (suitable interior/exterior) **35€**, Dark **oak Standard Lamp**, 2 shades - 1 yellow, 1 blue **35€**, 2 **Folding Beds 10€** each, Small wooden **Table 5€**, Small wooden **Cabinet 2 doors 1 drawer 20€**. **Contact:** *Stuart Cameron*, Les Adrets

\*\*\*\*\*

**Hyundai 2.5 TDL Van**, white 2004, 132k Km GOOD CONDITION **6,600€** (owner returned to UK) **Contact:** *Reg Molineaux* \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* @aol.com

**Spode china** full 8 place dinner service "Stafford Flowers" design, perfect condition **600€**, also 2 Dimplex slim line oil filled electric radiators **50€** each. **Contact:** *Peter Read* \*\*\*\*\*

### WANTED:

A single width **Chest of Drawers**, preferably white, with three, four or five drawers. **Please contact:** *Norma* \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* @orange.fr

For welfare situation - Large 3-seat sofa. Able to pay small amount if required. **Please contact:**

*Shirley Wrigglesworth*  
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## Neighbourhood Network

### Les Issambres:

Contact: Joan or Brian Taylor, \*\*\*\*\*  
[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@aol.com](mailto:*****@aol.com)

Meeting details – every other Tuesday 11h at  
L'Arpillon café next to the Casino on the main  
road.

### Les Arcs:

Contact: Jim or Pauline North, \*\*\*\*\*  
[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@wanadoo.fr](mailto:*****@wanadoo.fr)

Meeting details – please get in touch with Jim.

## Services at St John's for the Var

**St John the Evangelist - Ave Paul Doumer,  
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Holy Communion is held **every Sunday at 10h30**  
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### Grimaud Village Church

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## MONTAUROUX CGA Prasada

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**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 11h00**  
for a service of Holy Communion

We also have a Bring and Share Lunch afterwards  
For further details about this or  
any other pastoral needs

Please ring **Cécile or Jean 04 94 47 74 26**  
Prasada, 294, RD37, 83440 Montauroux

~ ~ ~

## L' Oasis Fellowship, Lorgues

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Bring and Share Lunch

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04 94 73 93 37 06 87 94 04 83**

[www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis](http://www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis)

## NEW BAV ADDRESS BOOK

Twelve months ago we distributed the first  
Address Book that had been issued for 3 years. It  
was a product of our new database and more  
importantly it was professionally printed.

The new BAV Address Book will arrive in  
member's post boxes in early April. On behalf of  
you all I must thank Tricia Steel, Clare Brown and  
Ian Powell for the time and effort they have  
contributed towards compiling this sixth edition.

The personal contact details are obviously what  
you furnish us with, if you change email contact  
details or mobile numbers and don't tell us, then  
we just carry that incorrect information forward  
from one year to the next.

We have retained the same font size hopefully  
making use of the book easier. Please read  
carefully the Foreword and the Condition of Use  
sections, they explain the layout and very  
importantly the use of the book by Members.

Finally, we have to thank the sponsors, whose  
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*Mike Milner*

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## MEMBERS' GROUPS

### Painting Group

The Group met at the Glicks' home last month. There were 15 of us - we seem to go from strength to strength! Sheila and Selwyn went to enormous trouble to welcome the group and we thank them for their wonderful hospitality, they even managed to order us some rare sunshine and we all painted outdoors without feeling cold!

The next painting session is scheduled for **Tuesday 12 April** at the home of Stella Reynolds at Montauroux.

For more information **please contact:**

*Pauline North* \*\*\*\*\*  
[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@orange.fr](mailto:*****@orange.fr)

### Happy Boules BSN/BAV Boules Competition

The BA Boules Group met under bright sunny skies to meet with the Friends of the BSN for the now bi-annual Boules Competition which was held at Flayosc on 21 March.



A total of 29 players met up for this charity match and contributed 75€ to each of the BA and BSN funds. Despite the good humour there was a sense of tension as the BA wanted to improve upon the performance of last year and to this end we succeeded by narrowly losing 3-4 in the doubles match and 4-6 in the singles.

The morning was concluded by 30 of us assembling for a delicious meal at the nearby Cigalon Restaurant. Our thanks therefore go to the BSN for their organisation of the event; to the Cigalon for the meal and to the Members for their contribution towards welfare funds.

The Boules Group is ever expanding and we now have approaching 30 members with a regular contingent of lunchers/boulistes of 16-20 players. Some are not always available to play due to being non-resident but one couple said: "We are both enjoying the Boules Group, the *bonhomie* and the lunches; so look forward to rejoining in May if there is still room. I am worried that word may get around and the whole BA will want to join!

*Rob Flanagan* \*\*\*\*\*

### Digital Photography Group



The weather forecast was being watched avidly as on 9th of March the photo club were going to take some photos of the pretty port town of Sanary sur Mer, on the west side of Toulon. We decided to meet for lunch and take afternoon "photos" to try and avoid the strong light of the morning sun. On the journey there, it looked like the sun was going to stay behind the clouds but by the time we had eaten, the light was bright but soft and perfect for taking pictures without harsh shadows. As we arrived there was a reasonably large busy market which would have been a different subject to photo but thankfully had been cleared away by the time we were armed and ready to shoot.

Two weeks later we were looking at the fruits of our labour. Sanary was a good subject, the pretty harbour with many different types of colourful boats and lack of "flashy yachts" and "gin palaces" proved to be very photographic. The town itself was pleasantly relaxed with groups of people around the harbour boules area and cafes giving it a lived in atmosphere.

Despite the numerous photos of the lighthouse, boats and the town, it was Alan's colourful photo of flowers with the sea as a backdrop that took our eye and vote this month.

*Sandie Docherty*