



# British Association of the Var

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**March 2011**

**Newsletter**

**No 106**



## **1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting** **of the British Association of the Var**

**Saturday 26 March**  
Salle de Fêtes, La Motte

Coffee served from 10h15  
**11h Meeting**

followed by a Finger Buffet and a glass of wine

## **AGM Meeting Saturday 26 March**

If everything follows Plan A, at the same time as this Newsletter is posted to Members we shall be posting detailed papers for the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM of the new British Association of the Var. Obviously members who receive this Newsletter electronically will have to wait a day or two for the posted papers to arrive.

Last month's Newsletter carried quite a lengthy article on the AGM procedure and the information that would be contained for you to digest. As I write this I think you will have a 28 page document to read which I am sure you will assimilate with enthusiasm, perhaps one or two may find it the perfect cure for insomnia.

This AGM is being held in the **Salle de Fêtes at La Motte**. Please see the **direction instructions on page 3** which are repeated in the AGM document. Members attending will find the start time for the meeting is 11h and that from 10h15 the "cookies" will have a supply of coffee and tea available. After the meeting the same "cookies" will provide a Finger Buffet which will include a glass of wine or other drink. Members who are staying to partake of the wine and/or the buffet will be asked to contribute 5€ each to cover the cost of the drinks and food.

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## Forthcoming Events

for your diary

### March

#### Digital Photography Group

Wed 2 March - Montauroux  
Wed 9 March - Sanary-sur-Mer  
Wed 23 March - Montauroux

#### Painting Group

Thur 10 March - Draguignan

#### Committee Meeting

Tuesday 15 March

#### BSN/BAV Boules Competition

Mon 21 March - Flayosc Bouledrome

#### Buffet Lunch

Thursday 24 March - Montferrat

#### Annual General Meeting

Saturday 26 March - La Motte

#### Happy Boules

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

#### Neighbourhood Network

see details in next column

### April

#### Finance Seminar

Thur 7 April - Villecroze

#### Lunch and Quiz

Friday 8 April - Les Arcs

#### Haute Cuisine Soirée with the Zutshi's

Sat 9 April - Figanieres



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## Buffet Lunch

Noon

Thursday 24 March - Montferrat

#### La Bastide des Moines

56 Rte de Draguignan, 83131 Montferrat

25€ per person

The format commences with an array of starters from a Buffet which you can visit as often as you wish. Prior to the starter you order your hot or cold main course. After the main the format returns to buffet style choice of cheeses and deserts. You will not be disappointed. The price includes choice of the house rouge/blanc/rosé wine. The only extras are your pre-meal *aperitif*, your final *digestif* and your coffee.

Please complete the attached reservation slip and send it with your cheque payable to the 'British Association of the Var' to: Jim North, \*\*\*\*\*

83460 Les Arcs by **Monday 14 March**.

Remember that the D955 towards Châteaudouble is permanently closed, you need to by-pass that road closure.

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### Neighbourhood Network

#### Les Arcs:

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

Meeting details – please get in touch with Jim.

#### Les Issambres:

Contact: Joan or Brian Taylor, \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*@aol.com

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

## Haute Cuisine Soirée with the Zutshi's

Most Members who have attended a BA picnic will know that Anne Zutshi is the "cookie" responsible for those succulent moreish hams. Anne and her husband Trevor have offered to provide an *haute cuisine* dining experience at their home in Figanieres on **Saturday 9 April** at 19h. However, this opportunity to sample Anne's culinary talents is restricted to just eight members.

### The Menu

*Sparkling Saumur, nuts & olives*

~~~~

*Soupe de Tomate et Orange\**

~~~~

*Fillet de Limande Fourée\**

~~~~

*Canard aux Pommes\**

*Pomme de terre nouvelle*

*Mousse d'Épinard*

~~~~

*Assiette de fromage et Mesclun\**

~~~~

*Gâteau de Mousse Citron*

*Coulis des Framboises*

~~~~

*Café ou Thé*

All courses marked \* will be served with a glass of an excellent appropriate wine from the Zutshi cellar.

To take advantage of this special evening which will cost **40€ per head** please contact the Zutshi's directly on \*\*\*\*\*. Following your phone call your cheque must be received within **four days** and then directions to the Zutshi home will be provided by email, phone or snail mail if necessary.

Anne is donating all monies, after her costs, to the BAV Welfare Fund.

An opportunity for you to have a very special evening and the BAV Committee thank Anne and Trevor for providing their home for the occasion.

Mike Milner



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See the Latest News and  
Forthcoming Events on our BA  
website

## Important Direction Instructions for the AGM Venue

This year the AGM is being held for the first time at Salle de Fêtes in La Motte. It is an excellent venue with adequate free car parking. For those of you with Sat Nav the important coordinates you require are 43.491775 & 6.53699.

However, following last year's floods, the river bridges in La Motte are now undergoing major repairs. Anyone approaching from Draguignan south on the N555 or intending to travel north along the same road from either junction 36 on the A8 or from the RN7 just north of the auto route junction, should be aware that the roads to La Motte centre are inaccessible due to the bridge work.

You are redirected down the back roads to Le Muy. It would be advisable to travel around the Le Muy by-pass in the direction of Frejus, until you get to the traffic lights at the D25 signposted La Motte and St Endréol. They are the traffic lights after the large builders' merchants on the left as you drive down the hill.

Follow the D25 for approximately 3km and at the first traffic island turn left onto the D47 which is clearly signed La Motte. Ignore the *route barré* sign, the AGM location is before that. There will be clear BA teddy directions from that point.

Mike Milner

**British Association of the Var**

**Welfare Coordinator**

**Shirley Wrigglesworth**

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

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

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## Chairman's' Letter

I hope you all enjoy reading every word of the 'bumper pack' AGM documents which will shortly be in the post to you. We once again decided this year to mail it to all Members as we fear that many 'electronic Newsletter' members may have difficulty downloading such a monster of a document!

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM at the end of the month. I hope it is late enough this year that many faithful supporters don't find themselves 'snowed in' again. For a small donation, we will be providing a glass (or two) of wine with a Finger Buffet afterwards.

Many congratulations go to **Ken and Joan Dewar** who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this month. Sixty years with never a harsh word!?

Ken is a major contributor to the Christmas cards, and last year he donated the original of his card for raffle at the September lunch.

*Auriol Langen*

## Important Event booking procedure change

The Committee have implemented an important change in respect of all future event booking procedures. It has been successfully trialled for both the recent *gourmet* meal and quiz event.

Members may well have noticed that the reservation slips now carry the wording below the reservation box, "Additional names can be added overleaf **please add contact email/phone as acknowledgements will be issued.**"

On receipt of your reservation slip and cheque you will receive either an email confirming its receipt, or a 'phone call if you don't have email. Therefore, will Members who provide their contact details on the slip, **please contact** the member it was sent to if they do not receive confirmation within FOUR DAYS of posting. For the majority of events this will be Jim North.

So far, this change has been well received by members. It will also avoid the embarrassment of members having to be turned away from events due to their reservation not being received.

*The Committee*



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## Lunch at La Cousteline Grimaud

We drank the quota of 1/4 bottle of wine per head before the main course was served - do the Brits ever change - but there was plenty more available on a strictly COD basis. Every dish arrived artistically presented, almost too beautiful to eat, but far too delicious not to finish every morsel. Conversation flourished deafeningly, and the overall consensus was -

'please let's come back!'

*Auriol Langen*

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## Foil 'Phone Thieves

So we all, well some of us, possess very clever and expensive mobile 'phones. One of the biggest growth areas of crime is the theft of our treasured "state of the art" mobile.

You can tell your 'phone company that it has been stolen but the thief just gets a new SIM card and off they go with a saleable item.

Panic not, try this exercise and you can foil the thief, this method cannot be unblocked. Whatever it's make or value your mobile has a unique serial number. To discover it press \*#06# on your keypad and your phone will then display its unique serial number. It will say IMEI and then the number. Make a note of that number and if you are unfortunate to lose your 'phone, quote the number when you report it to your 'phone company. They can block the telephone totally rendering it useless to the thief or any potential buyer.

*Mike Milner (owner of a brick mobile)*

### **Bereavement Support Network in the Var (BSN)**

For help please contact: Sandra  
04 94 84 64 89 or Sue 06 48 46 93 21  
email: [info@bsnvar.org](mailto:info@bsnvar.org)  
website: [www.bsnvar.org](http://www.bsnvar.org)

### **Services at St John's for the Var**

**St John the Evangelist - Ave Paul Doumer,  
St Raphaël**

Holy Communion is held **every Sunday at 10h30**  
followed by refreshments and a monthly lunch.

#### **Grimaud Village Church**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** of each month at 11h00  
Eccumenical Service

**Please ring 04 94 95 45 78 for details**

[www.sjevar.com](http://www.sjevar.com)

~ ~ ~

### **MONTAUROUX CGA Prasada**

**Church of England**

You are very welcome to join us on the  
**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

## Successful Quiz at Lorgues

The upper dining room of Brasserie le Marine in Lorgues was the splendid venue on Friday 18 February for a three course luncheon, followed by a nine round Quiz session. There were 38 budding "Eggheads" who took part under team names as dubious as Spring Chickens, so very far from their age bracket, Flat pack, whose bodily appearance looked nothing like an IKEA box, and the eventual winners with a splendid score of 32 correct answers from 45 questions - Archie's Mates. Anyone of the name Archie would probably not really want to acknowledge them as mates.



Once again, the winning team generously returned their prize money of 57€, making the total raised at the event 114€ for the Welfare fund. At the end of the Quiz the scores of all were only separated by 9 points. There will be another Quiz on the 8 April and this time in Les Arcs. Check elsewhere in this Newsletter for details. After which your quiz master will take a rest until October/November time.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and especially Pam and Roy Corless and their Lorgues friends who helped to organise the restaurant and menu, as well as handle the bookings.

*Mike Milner*

## For next month's Newsletter

Please let us have your advertisements, articles and reports for the April issue by

**Sunday 20 March**

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

or send to Mike Milner, Publicity,  
\*\*\*\*\*, 83520 Roquebrune S/A

## MEMBERS' GROUPS

### Painting Group

This is a photo of our last Painting Group meeting at *chez moi*. There were 14 of us including a new group member, Maureen Greenwood from Callas. She has been a BA member for several years but now lives here all year round.



The group have been invited to paint *chez* Sheila Glick which has been arranged for **Thursday 10 March**. Please bring along a dish to share for lunch and **ring** me or Sheila Glick \*\*\*\*\* for directions.

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

### Happy Boules

We have a dilemma - do we now call the Boules Group SPAM as it has turned into a 'lunch 'n' meet' with such a large turnout for the regular Monday lunches before the game?

On a more serious note we have a fund raising Competition against the BSN (Bereavement Support Network) again on **Monday 21 March** to be held at 10h30 prompt at the Flayosc Bouledrome, followed by a 2 course 15€ lunch and coffee at Le Cigalon Restaurant next door.

There will be 12 or 14 players on each side paying a 5€ entry fee and the Competition will be for the doubles and singles cup both of which were won last year by the BSN. So, this year we have all to play for!

We are happy to welcome any cheer leaders or indeed any potential new players, so **please contact** [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@hotmail.com](mailto:*****@hotmail.com) for any more information or to attend the lunch and meet the players.

*Rob Flanagan*

## Digital Photography Group

The historic setting of Grimaud provided the focal point for our last two meetings. For the first of these, on a brilliantly sunny day, we met up for coffee at this hilltop village before setting off in search of inspiration amongst the narrow streets.

The strong sunshine and harsh shadows threw up a number of challenges, even for the most technically sophisticated cameras. However, this scenario did provide many opportunities to experiment with some of the techniques we discussed previously as a group, enabling us to exploit the prevailing conditions to achieve something original.

The second meeting allowed us to see how even within the limited geographical confines of a small community, considerable variety of themes and view-points emerged. For example, everybody tackled the historic '*moulin*' but the end results revealed multiple interpretations and some unusual perspectives.



*Photograph taken by Alastair Ross*

For our next meeting on **2 March**, we have decided to have an 'open theme' session. All those lovingly crafted photos which we have archived but have been unable to fit into any of the previously chosen themes can now be given an airing. Creativity mixed with a little quirkiness and a dash of individuality is all we ask for.

For more details **please contact:**

*Mike Harper*  
[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:*****@yahoo.co.uk)

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All the above proceeds given to my Mother's  
retirement home.

South African dining table size with Acanthus  
carved legs and extending leaf, 107 wide x 114  
long. 4 individual carved chairs upholstered in  
brocade, **350€.**

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BBQ gas 3 burners 140 cm long **20€.**

**Free to a good home** - Gizmo, a grey and white  
furry cat. Spayed, chipped and all injections up to  
date, 5 years old and house trained.

*Brian & Joan Taylor*

\*\*\*\*\* or Mob. \*\*\*\*\*

## The Curse of Scotland!!!



One of the questions asked at the last Quiz was  
"What playing card is known as the curse of  
Scotland?" The answer is, the Nine of Diamonds.

This prompted a question from a Scottish  
member as to why this was. So, as promised I  
have researched the topic and can provide the  
following information.

**1.** It was the playing card used by Sir John  
Dalrymple, the Earl of Stair, to cryptically  
authorise the Glencoe Massacre. Certainly there is  
a resemblance between the nine of diamonds and  
his coat of arms.

**2.** The Duke of Cumberland is supposed to have  
scribbled the order for "no quarter" to be given  
after the Battle of Culloden on a nine of diamonds  
playing card.

**3.** It has also been suggested that it is a  
misreading of the "Corse of Scotland" ie the  
"Cross of Scotland" or St Andrew's Saltire. There  
is a resemblance between the pattern of the nine  
of diamonds and the Saltire.

**4.** Nine diamonds were at one time stolen from  
the crown of Scotland and a tax was levied on the  
Scottish people to pay for them - the tax got the  
nickname "The Curse of Scotland".

The first two are the most commonly used  
explanations. So to all of those who attended the  
Quiz I trust this answers the question. For us all it  
should suitably muddy the waters of reason!

*Mike Milner*

## For next month's Newsletter

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**Sunday 20 March**

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Mike Lorimer - Orias No. 07032481

## Pre-Easter Quiz in Les Arcs

Before the summer heat fries the Eggheads' brains, a final luncheon and Quiz has been organised for **Friday 8 April** at the newly decorated Cafe de la Tour in Les Arcs. The usual format, meal at **noon** with the Quiz starting at **14h**. Teams of 4 are best, but just as we make up the questions, on the day we will accommodate couples and singles into the event.

Entry fee will be **3€** per team member, collected in cash by the quiz master on the day. The entry money is divided 50/50 between the winning team and the BAV Welfare Fund. We hope to see plenty of the regular "Eggheads" and always welcome new ones. A good time is assured and questions are not 'rocket science' standard. This will be the last quiz until the autumn.

*Mike Milner*

### Lunch & Quiz

#### Café de la Tour

35 Bd Gambetta, Les Arcs

**Friday 8 April at Noon**

**Menu - 10€ per person**

*Civet de Porcelet  
or*

*Salade Niçoise*

*Dessert, wine and coffee  
may be ordered and paid for on the day*

**Please send** the enclosed reservation slip and cheque to: Jim North, \*\*\*\*\*  
83460 Les Arcs, by **Saturday 2 April**.

**Directions:** GPS 43,462862 6,477988 Drive to the centre of the village and opposite the bandstand is the Cafe de la Tour.

### Emergency calls from mobiles

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