



BAV/Friends of the BSN Boules Competition



The expectations were high; there was fighting talk beforehand and we had temporarily changed our persona from 'Happy Boules' to 'Revengeful Boules'. We had even entered the enemy territory a few days before to practice. Perhaps it was the fact that the ground was no longer a rock strewn moonscape and the Friends of the BSN had raked it, but it all went horribly wrong on the day of the Competition with the Friends of the BSN. The result: no wins out of 8 in the doubles competition and 4 out of 16 in the singles.

However, the happy result was that 80€ was passed to the BAV for its Welfare Fund and a similar amount to the BSN. Thank you to the Friends of the BSN for arranging such a pleasant day which culminated in 37 of us having a delightful meal in the attractive wooded gardens of the Hotel Du Parc, Lorgues.

The moral: More practice is needed and, to this end, please note that we are now changing the hour of playing to commence at 14h00 with lunch beforehand.

Rob Flanagan

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Forthcoming Events for your diary

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 1 Nov - All Saints

Digital Photography Group

Wednesday 2 Nov - Visit to Bargeme

Coffee Morning

Thursday 3 Nov - Bargemon

Friday 11 Nov - Armistice Day

Committee Meeting

Tuesday 15 Nov

Lunch and Quiz

Friday 18 Nov - Les Arcs

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 22 Nov - Draguignan

Happy Boules

Contact Rob Flanagan

Painting Group

Contact Pauline North

Neighbourhood Network

See details on page 4

DECEMBER

Christmas Luncheon

Monday 12 Dec - Lorgues

Lunch & Quiz

Café de la Tour

35 Bd Gambetta, Les Arcs

Friday 18 November at Noon

Menu - 10€ per person

Daube de Sanglier

or

Rôti de Porc

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

Please send the enclosed Reservation Slip and cheque to: Mike Milner, *****, 83520 Roquebrune sur Argens, by **Monday 14 November**.

Entry to Quiz **3€ per team member** and collected in cash on the day

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

Sheila and Selwyn Glick

invite you to a

Coffee Morning

at their home in Draguignan

10h30 - 12 noon

Tuesday 22 November

Calendars and Christmas Cards will be on sale

For details of address and directions:
04 ***** or *****@wanadoo.fr

New Members

A very big welcome to eight new members - Kevin & Frances Pearce of Le Muy, Sylviane & Yves Galland of Les Arcs, Graham & Gillian de Whalley of Le Muy and Kevin & Maria Bell of Cotignac.

Reminder!

Marion and Brendan Maguire

invite you to a

Coffee Morning

at their home in Bargemon

10h30 - 12 noon

Thursday 3 November

Christmas Cards and Calendars will be on sale plus a small **Book Sale** (weather permitting)

For details of address and directions:
04 ***** or *****@btinternet.com

VIAC Christmas Dinner Dance

The VIAC Association are holding their annual Christmas gathering at St Aygulf Hotel on **Friday 9 December**. It is 19h00 for aperitifs and 20h00 for the meal, the menu as follows.

Assiette Norwegienne

~~~

*Filet de boeuf aux Morilles*

~~~

Fromage salade

~~~

*Génoise Praline Framboise*

~~~

Café

Vin rouge et rose AOC, Un coup de pétillant

The price is 48€ per head and dancing is to "Blue Garden". If you are interested in dressing to kill, letting your hair down and finally dance the night away, please send a cheque and your contact details to Bob Pritchatt, 129 Chemin Font Salade, Domaine les Charles, 83490 Le Muy. For more info email treasurer@viac.fr or 04 94 45 18 44. Closing date is Saturday 3 December.

Christmas Luncheon

**Monday 12 December
Noon for 12h30**

Espace Francois Mitterand - Lorgues

An opportunity for just 100 BAV members only, no guests, to enjoy a convivial festive Christmas Luncheon

A team of BAV "cookies" will provide the following sumptuous menu for your delectation

*Homemade smoked salmon pate
Baguette*

~~~~~  
*Homemade Coq au vin  
Dauphinois potatoes  
Green beans*

~~~~~  
Selection of cheeses and Port

~~~~~  
*Two Homemade mince pies*

~~~~~  
Coffee

*Wine from the cellars of
Domaine St Marc des Omèdes included*

The "cookies" will use the kitchens at the venue, Espace Francois Mitterand, to produce this meal.

The cost will be 20€ per head and will include a raffle ticket for an opportunity to win a Ken Dewar framed original water colour, a hand knitted circular 42inch table cloth or a large tin of Quality Street chocolates.

Please send your cheque and completed reservation slip to Ellis Brown, as indicated on the slip.

Espace Mitterand is located on the D562 Draguignan route. First traffic island as you enter Lorgues from Draguignan, or last one on the ring road if coming from the west. Look for BAV signage. Sat Nav ref 43.492331,6.36824



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Vehicle Registration Reminder

Our Welfare Team have recently come across a case where a UK registered vehicle was being used in France, but insured through a Spanish address and insurance broker for 3 month periods. It was also discovered that since leaving the UK the vehicle had been the subject of a Statutory Off the Road Notification (SORN).

It is illegal to declare a vehicle SORN unless it is physically in the UK. If a traffic offence is committed or the police seek to verify ownership of the vehicle, Swansea will be contacted and repercussions could be serious. Their insurance is also probably only a short-term offering, if the small print is studied, to allow time for the vehicle to be re-registered in its country of use.

If you are in this situation, or know of such a case, please refer to our website www.baofthevar.com and check out the May 2011 Newsletter page 4, which deals with the situation in more detail.

Mike Milner

Neighbourhood Networks

La Motte and Le Muy:

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 8 November at Bar des Cascades in La Motte at 10h00.

Contact: [Alexandra Lewis-Smith](mailto:Alexandra.Lewis-Smith@bbox.fr)
04 ***** @bbox.fr

Les Arcs, Vidauban and Taradeau

We are extending to include Vidauban and Taradeau, as the boundaries of the three villages are confusing and inextricably mixed. Please get in touch with me for meeting details.

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

Les Issambres:

We meet **every other Tuesday** at 11h00 at L'Arpillon café next to the Casino.

Contact: [Richard Tolaini](mailto:Richard.Tolaini@aol.com) 04 *****
or 06 ***** @aol.com

St Raphael & Frejus:

This group got off to an enthusiastic start, and will meet regularly on the **4th Friday of the month** at 10h30 at the Excelsior Hotel in St Raphael.

Contact: [Diane Jenkins](mailto:Diane.Jenkins@wanadoo.fr)
04 ***** @wanadoo.fr

Villecroze, Salernes, Tourtour and Entrecasteaux:

We have now had two successful meetings and will continue on the **4th Tuesday of the month** at 10h30 at the bar "Cercle de l'Avenir" in the square at Villecroze. Please check the venue as they may rotate to another village.

Contact: [Ann & Maurice Mitchem](mailto:Ann.Maurice.Mitchem@hotmail.com)
04 ***** @hotmail.com

Plea from the Chairman

Are there any other members who would like to take on organising a coffee morning once or twice a month in a local cafe/bar, for members and others who live in the same or nearby villages or towns?

A **Neighbourhood Network** enables you to have a circle of people who live close by. They may not all become close friends, but you will have some things in common because you live in the same community, use the same bakery, electrician.... and particularly in a case of emergency you will know someone who lives near you and speaks English. Perhaps you can 'car-share' to BAV or other events, or even just have a chat and a coffee if you meet on market day! You may find other common interests – I heard two men chatting that they would like to join the Painting Group but it is always so far away – get together locally and start a new one!

[Auriol Langen](mailto:Auriol.Langen)

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Members always speak highly of the BAV cookies talents so for a new departure, having missed out in June on our Aups picnic, the cookies have come up with providing a hot meal on Monday 12 December at a venue most members will know, **Espace Francois Mitterrand**.

The venue is on the D562 and will have BAV teddy signage at the appropriate traffic island. See page 3 for the menu. The mince pies will be freshly made and the mincemeat has been especially brought over from the UK.

Members only, sorry no guests, as we are limiting numbers to 100, the first 100 who return slips. If you have not already returned your membership renewal slip with a cheque then as the slip states, return them with your Xmas reservation slip to Ellis Brown. **Two cheques please not one** as the membership cheques will be banked immediately, the cheques for the lunch not until the event.

There will be a raffle which includes an original framed water colour donated by Ken Dewar, a hand knitted circular 42inch table cloth shown in the pictures, plus a big tin of Quality Street donated by the Chairman. The raffle tickets will be distributed on the morning of the meal as you enter the venue.



The meal will be served hot, plated up and to your table. Please therefore just **bring cutlery and a glass for your wine**. Ellis Brown will confirm reservation as he receives booking slips, so remember it is first come first served, don't be disappointed.

The Committee

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The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2011

The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal takes place this year from Monday 24 October and lasts until Remembrance Sunday on 13 November.

The Legion's particular emphasis this year is on support for Forces personnel who have served in Afghanistan. There will be commemoration ceremonies in nearly all French towns on the morning of Armistice Day, Friday 11 November 2011, starting at 11h00. This marks the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 when the Armistice came into force which ended the hostilities of World War I.

This year is also the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the British Legion as this took place and the first Poppy Appeal was launched on 11 November 1921.

On the 11 November this year, the Royal British Legion will be represented at all of the ceremonies that take place in Draguignan, starting at the Rhone (United States) Military Cemetery and ending at the war memorial in the Jardin Anglès, near to the town centre, at 11h00. Why not come and join us? Contact Andrew Buchanan at his email address below for a full list of timings at the local war memorials.

The traditional two minute silence will serve to remember the dreadful casualties of the First World War and of all subsequent military operations. Observing it will express solidarity with our Military today.

The Legion's famous Poppy Factory in Richmond has made 45 million poppies for this year's Appeal and a target of £36 million has been set. This sum is badly needed because the Royal British Legion spends £200,000 per day in support and care of the Armed Forces Family. It has opened, in partnership with Help for Heroes, four Personnel Recovery Centres and a Battle Back Centre, offering expert medical care to our wounded and injured servicemen and women.

Poppies will be available from 22 October from various points in the Var and can also be obtained by post so that as many supporters as possible are wearing poppies during the time leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

For further information on where to obtain poppies or to order some by post please contact the following:

Michael Warne *****@wanadoo.fr
Andrew Buchanan *****@orange.fr

Morning Book Sale

It was standing room only in the delightful garden of Pauline and Jim North on Friday 30 September for anyone arriving after 10h30. What a wonderful turnout – members, and some welcome non-members, enjoyed a leisurely cup of coffee and a chance to catch up on all the latest news with friends.

The books on sale were ingeniously arranged around the pool. This enabled everyone to have a good look as they could move from one end of the display to the other in an orderly fashion. It was also gratifying to see that the books were all up-to-date with something for everyone and at 1€ each – eat your heart out Kindle!

Many of those attending the morning chose to continue conversations and the exchange of information by retiring to Les Arcs' market square for lunch at one of its many restaurants.

The sale of books, 2012 Calendars and Christmas cards, together with donations for coffee and buns raised **384€** for the BAV Welfare fund.

Thank you very much Pauline and Jim for your hospitality, together with your band of willing helpers, for making the morning such a success.

Rosemary Booth

Are you a Kindle or similar owner?

As we move the books around from event to event and have specific book sales, we have noticed that although still a popular part of the BAV fund raising process, this year has seen a drop in members buying as many books.

Could this be due to the explosion of Kindle sales or similar e-book readers that can carry hundreds of books in something weighing 170grms? We would love to discover just how tech' savvy our members are. **Please email us** at newsletter@baofthevar.com and let us know, and whether are you sold on the concept.

Perhaps there are other reasons that the books are not selling so well, maybe it is the financial constraints most of us are feeling. Please use the same email address to **let us know**, we are constantly trying to think of ways to improve our service to members and to that end your feedback is very important.

Mike Milner

Calling Eggheads Quiz at Les Arcs

Before the hectic run up to Christmas and the BAV Christmas Lunch, a chance to sit, relax perhaps but certainly stretch your grey matter with a 10 round BAV Quiz. This will follow a noon lunch at Cafe de la Tour, Les Arcs.

Cost as usual is 3€ per team member and ideally 4 members to a team.

All are welcome, don't worry about coming as a couple or a single as everyone will get allocated to a team.

The Quiz usually starts at about 14h00 and takes about an hour, then much laughter as the answers are revealed and a winning team established. All done and dusted by 16h00 so you can go on and do the Christmas shopping if you wish.

BAV Christmas cards and 2012 Calendars will be available and we look forward to a good turnout. There will be another Quiz in February or March in the Lorgues area if there is sufficient interest.

Mike Milner

Sign up to stop cold calling

A new service which promises to stop the majority of firms from cold-calling you has launched after a delay. You can now log on to www.pacitel.fr to list the numbers on which you do not want to receive cold marketing calls. However, the service will not be operational in terms of stopping calls until 1 December.



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Financial Planning Seminar

On a lovely October day over 70 people, including many BAV members, attended the 2nd Finance Seminar of the year. Mike Lorimer hosted the event at the St Endréol golf club near La Motte and this was his seventh seminar.

Mike opened proceedings and explained about the Spectrum IFA Group and the fact that it was a group of over 45 advisors based in Western Europe.

He then introduced each of the speakers, and requested that all questions be asked at the buffet lunch and wine, provided at the end of the presentations. As there were 7 presentations it was important to try to keep within a timetable.

We started with Stephanie Glasper talking about changes to tax law in France, followed by Jeremy Ferguson from Irish Life explaining about Assurance Vie, using the analogy of a shoe box. David Griffiths told us about QROPS (Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes) and then Zoe Duncombe-Wood from Currencies Direct explained how to save money when transferring funds across borders. John Hall of Standard Bank and Barry Honeyman from Prudential showed us the type of products you could invest in but from completely different viewpoints.

The final presentation by Mark Riggall from JP Morgan was an overview of how trends can effect investment decisions. He used demographics to show that a future stratagem can be effective if you use the right tools (that is well beyond most of us). He finished with a short film, enjoyed by all, which showed you can think of an excuse for anything.

We then had a very nice buffet lunch where you could ask the speakers questions. A big thank you to Mike Lorimer and the Spectrum IFA Group for organising such a good event.

Terry Joyce

Digital Photography Group

After what seemed like a very extended summer break, the group has already held two meetings with two more planned later this month and early next month.

At our initial planning meeting we heard from members of the group what sort of activities they were interested in and this discussion informed the drawing up of a programme for the months ahead. Three broad categories were identified: visits to sites of photographic interest, showing of members' photographs, usually incorporating a particular theme and tutorial type sessions. In addition, we hope from time to time to bring in expert practitioners from outside the group to draw on their particular expertise.

As well as current members, we hope that other aspiring digital photographers will give us a try.



For our second meeting, we drew on the extensive archives of the membership and asked each person to select a small number of their favourite photos and explain why in particular they took them. This resulted in a huge diversity of topics and range of approaches. It was generally agreed that the quality and variety of the photographs was of a high order.

For more details please contact:

Mike Harper
*****@yahoo.co.uk

Painting Group

Luckily, the weather turned out to be sunny which made our art day at Jane Bartlett's magical. The view from her house looking down to Lake Carces was breathtaking. There were

many of us and Jane and Bob looked after us so well and made us feel at home. A big thank you to both of them.

The next painting day is at the home of Jill Cunningham on Thursday 24 November. Please contact Pauline North to tell her if you are attending and to get directions:

04 ***** *****@orange.fr

Maggie Singleton

Silk Painting

I spent a day learning how to paint on silk, along with Ruby Stamp. Stella's teaching skills are excellent and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Our introduction to this fascinating hobby was to trace a pattern onto a piece of silk, followed by drawing the outline with Gutta. The design is then painted using water based paints and when finished, the silk is ironed to set the colours. For details of this rewarding past time please contact:

Stella Reynolds 04 *****

Pat Powell

Electronic distribution Newsletters

Always looking to get the Committee message to the membership especially in respect of events that are available, those of you who receive the Newsletter as an electronic package will have noticed that for the past two months we have changed the format of the email you receive.

Yes the website link is still there with links to the Newsletter and the reservation slips; however, **what are your views** on having "Forthcoming Events" made visible at that initial point of contact? Do you consider it a useful addition to that page? Does it prompt you to mark your diary or calendar with the options that appeal to you?

Your feedback on that change would be very interesting to us, so again using our email newsletter@baofthevar.com please **let us know** so we can try and provide the best service that a team of volunteers possibly can.

The BAV Newsletter Team

For next month's Newsletter

Many Members have enjoyed seeing more contributors in the Newsletter. We would like to encourage more of you to please consider writing an article for the next issue. Also, PLEASE submit any of your photos which you feel may be of interest to other readers.

The deadline for your articles, advertisements and reports for the November Newsletter is

Sunday 20 November

Please send your contributions to:
newsletter@baofthevar.com

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Canon Laser Shot Printer LBP-1120 black and white. 25€. For more details **please contact:** [Ian Powell ****@****.co.uk](mailto:Ian.Powell****@****.co.uk)

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[Mimi Ponsonby -04 *****](mailto:Mimi.Ponsonby-04*****)

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Christmas cards and Calendars

Since the end of last month 26 packs of Christmas Cards have been sold, raising 240€, and the sale of 16 2012 Calendars raised 160€. All proceeds for the Welfare Fund. Should you wish to see the designs please email pat@baofthevar.com.



www.baofthevar.com

Don't forget –
see Forthcoming Events and Latest News on our BAV website