



British Association of the Var

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October 2011

Newsletter

No 113

SUBSCRIPTIONS are DUE on Nov 1st

We tried to save money last year by not sending a renewal reminder by post to all households but it proved to be folly. A great deal of time had to be spent chasing up non-renewals, right up to the deadline for mailing the AGM papers. We even received renewals as late as May. So, this year a reminder is being sent by post to every household. If you receive your Newsletter by post then your reminder will be with this edition. If you receive an electronic Newsletter then you will receive your reminder under separate cover.

The basic subscription per household (up to three people) has been increased to 27.50€ thus the cost of subscription to include a Newsletter sent by post to a French address is now 37.50€ and 42.50€ if the Newsletter is to be sent to a UK address. You will have read the Treasurer's half year report which makes it clear that subscription income falls short of covering administrative costs, hence the need for an increase to attempt to make up some of that deficit.

We are looking into the possibility of subscription renewals being collected by direct debit and hope that, if it is feasible for BAV to join the scheme, the facility will be in place in time for the renewal of subscriptions in 2012. We are, therefore, asking you to **submit a RIB** with your renewal cheque this year if you wish to pay via the direct debit facility next year.

*Auriol Langen
Chairman*

Vendange Lunch

See page 5



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Forthcoming Events

for your diary

OCTOBER

Card Making Workshop

Monday 10 Oct - Montauroux

Financial Planning Seminar

Wednesday 12 Oct - La Motte

BAV/BSN Boules Competition

Thursday 13 October - Lorgues

Painting Group

Tuesday 18 October - Carces

Committee Meeting

Tuesday 18 October

Lunch at Le Grand Chêne

Thursday 27 October - Sillans-la-Cascade

Digital Photography Group

Contact: Mike Harper

Happy Boules

Contact: Rob Flanagan

Neighbourhood Network

See details opposite

NOVEMBER

Coffee Morning

Thursday 3 Nov - Bargemon

Quiz

Friday 18 November – Les Arcs

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 22 Nov - Draguignan

DECEMBER

Christmas Party

Monday 12 Dec - Lorgues



www.baofthevar.com

Don't forget –

see Forthcoming Events and Latest News on our BAV website

Reminder!

FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR

Wednesday, 12 October

Les Domaines Saint Endreol,
Route de Bagnols-en-Foret, 83920 La Motte

Registration from 9h00 onwards

For more information on this event please go to

www.mikelorimer.com

Contact: Mike Lorimer 04 93 74 73 35

info@mikelorimer.com

New Members

A big welcome to Gordon Pickett of Callian, and Brian and Barbara Grover in Frejus.

Neighbourhood Networks

La Motte and Le Muy Contact:

Alexandra Lewis-Smith 04*****
*****@bbox.fr

We held our La Motte/Le Muy Neighbourhood meeting on 13 September and had an incredible attendance of 19! Thanks to all full time and part time residents for your support.

In the September BAV Newsletter Auriol talked about the Welfare arm of BAV and how it might evolve so that the Neighbourhood Networks could take over some of the work. We discussed this and agreed that we could take this on for Members who live in our area - visits, shopping trips, etc. No monetary transactions and, hopefully, access to a person on the BAV Committee with information and contacts for other matters. We await guidance from BAV for ground rules for operation. We hope the other NNs can organise and take this on also.

Our next meeting will be **11 October** at Bar des Cascades in La Motte at 10h.

Les Arcs Contact:

Pauline North 04*****
*****@wanadoo.fr

Please get in touch with Jim for meeting details.

Les Issambres Contact:

Richard Tolaini 04*****
or 06 69 08 97 47 *****@aol.com

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

St Raphael & Frejus Contact:

Diane Jenkins 04*****
*****@wanadoo.fr

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Coffee Group of Frejus St Raphael will be on Friday 28 October, at 10h30 at the Excelsior Hotel St Raphael.

New!

Villecroze, Salernes and Tourtour Contact:

Ann & Maurice Mitchem 04*****
*****@hotmail.com

The first meeting for the Villecroze, Salernes and Tourtour Neighbourhood Network will be on **Thursday 29 September** 11h at Les Grottes bar in Villecroze. There should be about 8 of us there - great things come from small beginnings.

Lunch at Le Grand Chêne

Sillans-la-Cascade

Route de Barjols, D560, 83690

Jeudi 27 Octobre à Midi

28€ for Members and **30€** for non-members/guests

MENU

Apéritif

*Vin d'Orange ou Vin de Pamplemousse ou
Pastis ou Kir ou Jus de Fruit*

Assortiment d'Hors d'œuvres

*Terrine de Viande au poivre vert et Porto, Jambon
cru, Tomate – macédoine de légumes,
œuf Mimosa et salade mée*

Cuisse de Canard confit

*sauce – champignon
garni d'un gratin de pommes de terre et légumes*

ou

Darne de Saumon grillée

*avec une sauce au beurre blanc
garni d'un gratin de pommes de terre et légumes*

Assortiments de fromage sur plateau

Assiette Gourmande de 4 desserts

*eg parfait glacé à la frambois et Mangue, Brownie,
Salade de Fruits frais et*

Boule glacé à la pommer verte

Vin rouge, rosé et blanc

Café ou Infusion

Please send the completed Booking Form attached, along with your cheque made payable to the British Association of the Var, **to Ellis Brown, *******, **83670 Tavernes** by **Saturday 22 October**.

Directions: GPS 43.56731 6.15920

The Auberge is 8km north/west of Salernes. Take the Route de Verdon and turn left onto the D660 Route de Sillans la Cascade, then bear left on the Route de Barjols. There is a large car park with no access problems.

Please arrive early if you want to choose your seats.

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

Chairman's Letter

It was a delight to meet *M le Maire* Claude Alemagna, although briefly, at the *Vendange* lunch. He had had a busy morning at the *Jour d'Associations* in Lorgues so we were especially privileged that he made time for a '*petite verre de vin d'amitie*' with the British.



Many Congratulations to Hilary and Peter Rost of Montauroux who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary last month!

Auriol Langen 04*****
*****@aol.com

Secretary's Notes

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 18 October**. I usually circulate the Agenda to Committee Members about a week before the meeting. If you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to put to the Committee, will you please pass them to me by 10 October at the latest.

Clare Brown 04*****
secretary@baofthevar.com

British Association of the Var

Welfare Coordinator

Shirley Wigglesworth

06 43 86 49 01

welfare@baofthevar.com

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Debroussaillage

The Vendange over, the tourists gone (almost), already seasonal restaurants are closing, so it is now time to look at the garden and land and take stock of what needs doing in winter, the best time of year to plant and the annual cutting back, clearing out and bonfires.

We have been very lucky this summer in the Var, again no major fires. Is this due to the surprising unseasonal rain in July and August, to the lack of Mistral, or to the vigilance of the *Pompiers* and the competence of the *forestiers* in their nonstop work clearing along the sides of all roads and thinning out clumps of trees and the most flammable undergrowth. But all that is no reason for individual landowners and gardeners to get slack with their own precautions on their own land.

In 2003 the fires ran 25kms in 6 hours from Vidauban.

Land should be cleared for 50m around a dwelling. Trees should not overhang roofs. Bonfires may only be made from mid October (on a non windy day!) until the end of February,

unless you have permission from your *Mairie* or *Pompiers* (there may be slight variations in the dates in each commune).

And finally if you are thinking of planting new trees, Pine, Cyprus, Mimosa, Brush (*broussaille*) and Eucalyptus are the most dangerously flammable that you can invest in. **Remember: Care and prevention is better than evacuation and destruction.**

Put this date in your diary!
Monday 12 December

We will be throwing a Christmas Party for Members in the Espace Francois Mitterrand in Lorgues, including a hot lunch and a Christmas raffle. The Lorgues Municipality are kindly letting us use it **for free!**

The event will be limited to the first 100 Members, strictly on a first cheque received basis. More details and the Booking Form will be in the November Newsletter.

Auriol Langen



Your key to the French Riviera

If you are looking to buy or sell a property in this beautiful part of France, please contact Pat Toohey in our Var office on 06 60 73 29 48 or pat@rivierakeys.com. We are always seeking new properties for our international clientèle and would be delighted to hear from you.

2, allée des Ormes, 06270 VILLENEUVE LOUBET
Carte Professionnelle: 1347 www.rivierakeys.com

Christmas Cards and 2012 Calendar Sales



At the various events during September the sale of Christmas Cards raised 497€ and 400€ for the 2012 Calendars; all proceeds for the Welfare Fund.

Finger Lunch

Saturday 17 Sept – Grimaud



A big thank you to Auriol and Jan our hosts, for a lovely lunch enjoyed by 29 Members and friends. The food was exquisite and beautifully presented.

Our four new Members received a warm welcome and expressed their enjoyment. Being a small homely event, they had the opportunity to meet others from different areas of the Var and exchange their stories.

Thank you to all BAV Members who supported this event which was a great success. Special thanks go to Shirley Wrigglesworth for her help. The total raised was 232€ for the Welfare Fund. *Nikki Powell*

There will be more opportunities to purchase the 2012 Calendars and Christmas Cards at future events. Calendars are 10€ each, and cards 10€ per pack of 10 cards and envelopes, or 25€ for three packs. If you wish to see the designs and are unable to attend one of our events, please contact a member of the Committee or email pat@baofthevar.com.

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SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS OF BRITISH ASSOCIATION

A Mayor and Sainsbury Bag!

Never short of incidents are BAV picnic lunches; anything from washouts to torrential showers are the normal events that seem to dominate Newsletter reports. However, as the picture on the front page clearly shows, the weather for the 2011 *Vendange* was perfect.

Able to cater for 120 members comfortably, this year at the final count we had 164 members apply to attend, so 44 members were disappointed. It is not just a case of finding extra chairs and tables; there are the problems of cookies supplying the extra food, the area to accommodate an extra 44 people, 8 extra tables, and the comfort and safety for those attending.

Those lucky enough to attend were treated to the usual excellent food courtesy of BAV cookies. Anne Zutshi again cooked the hams, and Shirley Wrigglesworth and Pauline Barlow provided the poached salmon. All attending thought the food was the best yet for such an event and the "cookies puds" were splendid. Thank you to all the cookies.

As Auriol has mentioned, we had a visit from the mayor of Lorgues, a guest we had invited as we are now registered in his area. A surprise request was made by one of the Topham clan, "Who was the owner of the Sainsbury's shopping bag in the kitchen?" That resulted in a second bag being produced and pictures being taken to authenticate the bags and location. A potential prize for the Sainsbury employee who could find a bag whilst on holiday, the further from UK shores the better.

The 125€ van hire was sponsored by Currencies Direct and guest Jean Ives was the proud winner of the bottle of champagne they offered in a free-to-enter raffle. Finally, a big thank you to all the "table and chair squad members," who put everything in place on Friday then cleared and returned it late Saturday afternoon. Like the "cookies," they were the true heroes of the event.

Mike Milner

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90th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The Legion was founded in 1921 to provide support for ex-servicemen of World War I, many of whom were in dire straits. Since that time our servicemen and women have fought almost continuously, in World War II and onwards to today's Afghanistan campaign.

The Legion's role of providing essential welfare support for service people, ex-service people and their families who are in need, to augment what the state provides, is ever more necessary today. Facilities we provide include rehabilitation assistance for the disabled including a Battle Back Centre, a hospital wing, retirement homes, advice and welfare grants for needy families, assistance in finding employment and loans for starting enterprises. For all this we have to rely solely on voluntary contributions.

If many ex-service people, including amputees, can organise and participate in sports, walks and races to raise money for the Legion's welfare activities, which they do, all of us here who owe them so much should surely also contribute. So please give particularly generously this 90th Anniversary year to the Poppy Appeal or by donation. And, why not become a member of the Legion and participate in our activities – you do not need to be ex-service to join.

Poppies and collecting boxes will be available from mid-October until, and including Remembrance Sunday on 13th November.

Anyone who wishes to join the Royal British Legion or obtain a supply of poppies should contact:

Andrew Buchanan 04*****
*****@orange.fr

Cheap Telephone Calls from France and the UK

Skype is a wonderful way of keeping in touch but sometimes it is more convenient to use the telephone. Happily there is a very simple way of making cheap calls all over the world from both France and the UK. In France the connection is run by TeleRabais, in the UK by TeleDiscount.

This is how it works from France to a landline in England. From your normal phone in France you dial 0811 31 45 45 (the access number). An automated lady then tells you that calls will be charged at the tariff local and that you should compose your number using the international prefix (0044 for England) ending with the touché dièse (# key). There is a different access number for mobile numbers and for 0845 numbers (see below). Note that you do not have to sign up for anything, no prepayments and no credit card payment. The call appears on your bill as a local call.

If you are in England and wish to dial a number in France the system is very similar. The access number to call landlines in France is 0844 861 8686 and calls are charged at 1p per minute. The access number for mobiles in France is 0871 999 7373 and calls are charged at 10p per minute.

But it is not just calls from France to England and England to France; the system allows you to call anywhere in the world cheaply. I have put a table below with some common access numbers but if a country is not there you can get the access number from the internet on www.telerabais.fr and www.telediscount.co.uk respectively.

Good isn't it – simple, cheap and effective? But I have not been able to find any other countries where you can do it in this way.

Hamish Donaldson

From France		
Destination	c/min	N° d'accès
UK landlines	local	0811 31 45 45
UK mobile	12	0821 25 60 60
UK 0845	15	0826 851 851
USA/Canada all	local	0811 31 45 45
Oz landline	local	0811 31 45 45
Oz mobile	9	0821 15 90 90
New Zealand	local	0811 31 45 45
NZ mobile	22.5	0891 261 261
From England		
Destination	p/min	Access No.
France landline	1	0844 861 8686
France mobile	10	0871 999 7373
USA/Canada all	1	0844 861 8686
Oz landline	1	0844 861 8686
Oz mobile	13	0911 922 9595
New Zealand	2	0844 462 9595
NZ mobile	15	0911 501 2525

MEMBERS' GROUPS

Card Making Workshop



We had a great day at Maggie Singleton's making cards with Pat, with the assistance of her daughter Nikki. There were some who had already made cards before and some beginners, who during the course of the day became pretty nifty with their cards. We learnt how to use different punches to make pretty patterns on the cards, and managed to help each other with designs and ideas. A lovely relaxed day with our goody bag of 4 finished cards to take home.

A very big thank you to Pat for her patience and to Maggie for opening her house to us all.

Jane Emery

Digital Photography Group



Richard Alexander selling the 2012 Calendars at the *Vendange* Lunch.

For details concerning our next meeting or information about joining our Group **please contact:**

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

Silk Painting

Spend a day with Member Stella Reynolds in Montauroux and learn to paint on silk. For details contact:

Stella Reynolds 04*****
*****@yahoo.co.uk

Painting Group

Monday 12 September saw a line of cars heading into the wilds beyond Salernes, down a narrow country lane towards Jane Emery's lovely country cottage, complete with gypsy caravan in a large rambling garden. Warmly welcomed with coffee and cake, it didn't take long for a dozen or so amateur artists to find their 'spot', either up by the house, or tucked away by the lily pond.

Everyone was ready to share their efforts over a very pleasant bring & share lunch on Jane's shaded terrace, and some stayed on to continue into the afternoon. Inspired by talking to like minded people it will hopefully encourage us all to join in again for another lovely painting day - **thank you Jane!**

Mim Kay

The next painting session will be held on **Tuesday 18 October** at the home of Jane and Robert Bartlett in Carces. It is proposed that members **meet at the lake** so please contact Jane for details if you wish to come along:

Jane Bartlett *****@nordnet.fr

Happy Boules



At the end of August in the sweltering heat, and following the usual game of boules, 18 members of the 'Happy Boules' group held a barbeque at Robert & Esther Flanagan's home which continued into an impromptu swimming party for the full afternoon. The relaxed nature of the event, and the copious quantity of wine, resulted in a pool party with at least one member descending into the pool in his underpants (name and photographs withheld for decency).

Rob Flanagan 04*****
*****@hotmail.com

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Visit to Canebières

Bob and Dot West, **thank you** for again inviting me to meet the English Speaking residents before your Annual Meeting. It was lovely to see so many friends there and make new ones, most of whom have already joined the La Motte Neighbourhood Network led by Andrew and Alexandra. The 2012 Calendars and Christmas Cards were also eagerly pounced on and in 30 minutes before the meeting sold to the tune of 200€ - 11 calendars and 10 packs of cards, and this year we didn't even serve tea!

We were also invited to listen in on a presentation by the *Mairie* about *debroussaillage* where some interesting facts emerged - see the article elsewhere!

Auriol Langen

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MONTAUX CGA Prasada Church of England

You are very welcome to join us on the **1st and 3rd 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

~*~*~

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

1st Thursday of each month at 11h00

Ecumenical Service

Please ring 04 94 95 45 78 for details

www.sjavar.com

~*~*~

L' Oasis Fellowship, Lorgues every 2nd Sunday at 11h15

Arc-en Provence 1801 Chemin des Pailles

Bring and Share Lunch

and every 4th Sunday at 11h15

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For details and directions contact

Rev Peter or Shirley Massey at

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11th Oct. Marriott Hotel Cap d'Ail

12th Oct. Domaine St Endreol Var

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- Financial Market Update

To go to one of these events contact:

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e-mail: info@mikelorimer.com - www.mikelorimer.com

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Mike Lorimer - Orias No. 07032481



For next month's Newsletter

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

Thursday 20 October

All contributions to newsletter@baofthevar.com

or send to Mike Milner, Publicity,

*****, 83520 Roquebrune S/A