



British Association of the Var

Putting people and social needs together since 1998

Association loi 1901

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September 2011

Newsletter

No 112

Operation Dragoon remembered

For the majority of you reading this, August in the Var conjures up a vision of hoards of holidaymakers filling the roads with their vehicles, swamping our favourite restaurants, emptying our large retail outlets' shelves quicker than staff can restock, especially on a Monday, so that some stores look like they're operating in a war zone governed by rationing. Prices are quietly raised on goods available to take advantage of the visitors' generally bulging wallets. Thinking about what to put on this front page I was rescued from my dilemma by a poignant email that arrived on Wednesday 17th from John Collingwood. I reproduce it exactly as he sent it to me, it was a reality check.

"Hello Mike and All, for the Newsletter - from Sunday onwards, Andrew Buchanan, Selwyn Glick, and "self" attended all of the ceremonies, some even all day affairs. Thus, The Royal British Legion, Royal Navy, and the BAV were represented. Andrew placed a Poppy wreath for the RBL but this time "I" did not place a wreath. Auriol authorised a sum of 40-60 Euros for the purchase, quite honestly, this year, what they were offering for even 60 Euros, in the form of a small posy - even smaller than last year!! Thus I think it would have been a joke for us to consider a floral tribute, considering all the other associations 'gigantic gerbe' wreaths. I stood with the "veterans", the "Paras Pathfinders" who jumped into the forest of Mitan (La Motte) where they placed radio beacons for the following para regiments.

"I took part in the sea operation Mine sweeping before the landings. All of this in 1944 August. (I had hair then!!) Hope this will be sufficient for the Newsletter.

"PS. The ceremonies were at La Motte, Le Muy, Draguignan, and Salernes, there were also ceremonies on the beaches Frejus, St Raphael etc. The RN was better represented at these places."

A subsequent chat with John revealed that for the first time that he could recall, the British National Anthem was played at all the venues he attended. What a debt we owe those paratroopers who flew in from Rome in their gliders. Operation Dragoon is not well known and most people recall just Overlord the invasion of the beaches of northern France. As we drive around in our efficient modern motor cars, imagine how those paratroopers felt, in their engineless honeycombed plywood vehicle. Knowing that they were to be dropped behind enemy lines, in fact to deliberately crash land and then go out and fight as combat infantrymen. Unlike the modern visitor, armed with a Michelin Guide, Sat Nav, towel and factor 30 to claim their place on the beach, those brave soldiers came to provide us with what we now accept as the norm for the Var and surrounding regions.

Thank you John, Selwyn and Andrew for being the public face, the conscience of the majority of British residents and tourists in the area who annually fail to realise that the month of August they so enjoy, was not the picnic of today back then in 1944. Inside this Newsletter there is an item about the British Legion on page 4, as we admire our tans we ought to remember why the Var vitamin D is so easily available, even if perhaps it's not as good for us as we would wish.

Mike Milner

Financial Solutions for your life in France

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Siddalls

Forthcoming Events

for your diary

SEPTEMBER

Committee Meeting

Monday 5 September

Vendange Lunch

Saturday 10 Sept - Lorgues

Painting Group

Monday 12 Sept - Salernes

Finger Lunch

Saturday 17 Sept - Grimaud

Morning Book Sale

Friday 30 Sept - Les Arcs

Digital Photography Group

Contact: Mike Harper

*****@yahoo.co.uk

Happy Boules

Contact: Rob Flanagan

rob@baofthevar.com

Neighbourhood Network

See details on page 2

OCTOBER

Financial Planning Seminar

Wednesday 12 October - La Motte

BAV / BSN Boules Competition

Thursday 13 October - Lorgues

Lunch at Le Grand Chêne

Thursday 27 October - Sillans-la-Cascade



www.baofthevar.com

Don't forget –

see Forthcoming Events and Latest News on our BAV website

Jan & Auriol Langen

invite you to a

Finger Lunch

in the garden of their home in

Grimaud (*golfe de St Tropez*)

Saturday 17 September

at 12 noon

10€ per person

Christmas Cards and Calendars

will be on sale

RSVP and for details of address and directions:

04 ***** or *****@aol.com

Vendange Lunch

at the kind invitation of Lindsay Phillips
Domaine St Marc des Omèdes

Fully Booked

Saturday 10 September - Lorgues
at 12 noon

Sponsored by **Currencies Direct** who will be
inviting you all to enter a

FREE CHAMPAGNE PRIZE DRAW

Reminder - PLEASE remember to bring your
own **plates, cutlery, glasses, parasols and
umbrellas!** Please also bring along some
pocket money –

**2012 BAV Calendars and Christmas Cards
available for the first time.**

Directions: GPS coordinates N 43.48485 and E
6.38797. From Draguignan on the D562, first
traffic island on outskirts of Lorgues turn left.
BAV directions will be there. From the
north/south/west on to Lorgues by-pass D562
and follow directions for Draguignan. At last
traffic island you will see BAV directions and
you turn right. Approx distance down the lane
3km, follow BAV teddy direction arrows.

Jim and Pauline North invite you to a

Morning Book Sale with Coffee & Biscuits

at their home in

Les Arcs sur Argens

10h30 - 12 noon

Friday 30 September

Christmas Cards and Calendars
will also be on sale

For details of address and directions:

04 ***** or j*****@wanadoo.fr

For next month's Newsletter

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

Tuesday 20 September

All contributions to

newsletter@baofthevar.com

A New Neighbourhood Network!

Friday 30 September at 10h30

The first meeting of the St Raphael & Frejus Network is planned to take place at the **Excelsior Hotel at 10h30**. Hopefully we can sit outside on the huge terrace, but in the case of bad weather and throughout winter there is a large inside cafe/bar.

If you live in St Raphael or Frejus, this is your chance to get to know your local BAV Members, make new friends, exchange useful tips on living here, what goes on locally, and who does what – where do you find local plumbers, electricians, service the lawnmower, fix your computer . . . ? all the things that your neighbours may know.

If you know single, lonely or new “Brits” near you, please bring them along to meet new people! It is not exclusively for Members, and the only cost is for your own coffee or refreshment.

St Raphael & Frejus Contact:

Diane Jenkins 04 *****

*****@wanadoo.fr

Neighbourhood Networks

La Motte and Le Muy Contact:

Alexandra Lewis-Smith 04 *****

*****@bbox.fr

The next meeting of the Le Muy/La Motte group will be **Tuesday 13 September** at 10h00 at the Bar des Cascades in the centre of La Motte.

Les Arcs Contact:

Jim or Pauline North, 04 *****

*****@wanadoo.fr

Please get in touch with Jim for meeting details.

Les Issambres Contact:

Richard Tolaini, 04 *****

or 06 ***** *****@aol.com

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

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At first glance, it would appear that we have no shortage of competition, however, if you look closely, you will realise that we are the only company based here in the Var. You may also notice we are one of the very few British “certifié” (French qualified) advisers in the whole country.

If you are looking for the very best financial advice, why look any further?


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Emergency Calls from Mobile Telephones

Emergency calls -

You must use 112 the standard European Emergency number, irrespective of the service required.

15 for Ambulance

17 for Police

18 for Fire

do not work from a French mobile telephone.

The Royal British Legion in the Var

A Royal British Legion presence is being established in the Var and it is hoped that this will be of interest to many living in the area who wish to support serving and former members of the British Armed Forces. Anyone may join the Royal British Legion, whether or not they have any connection with the Armed Forces.

The Royal British Legion safeguards the welfare, interests and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces by providing them with support and practical assistance. Our mission is to be the leading provider of welfare, comradeship, representation and remembrance for the Armed Forces community.

As the 'Custodians of Remembrance', we raise money to fund our work through the annual Poppy Appeal and participate in remembrance ceremonies globally, including France. Anyone who would like to join the Royal British Legion group in the Var or would like further information about the Legion should contact:

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

Christmas Cards at *Vendange*

This year 7 members of the BAV Painting Group submitted artwork for the Christmas Card Competition. Last year only four of the submissions could be chosen, but this year after a discussion with Ciais the printer, they agreed to accommodate all the designs being printed within their quotation.

So, a big thank you to Ciais for allowing us to print all the cards in shorter quantity runs. All painters will now be able to view their handiwork professionally printed.

The cards make their first public appearance at the *Vendange* Lunch where Members will be able to buy them. As per last year, they will be offered for sale in pre-packed quantities of 10 cards, all one design and complete with envelopes, for 10€. The cards are A6 size so if posted in the UK, small card postage.

Please support this major annual Christmas Card fund raiser for the BAV Welfare Fund.

Mike Milner

Chairman's Letter

I am absolutely delighted that the *Vendange* Lunch is not only fully booked, but was by 8 August. Once again this is the most popular event of the year. Many, many apologies to all those who could not get in, but we have to limit numbers so we can keep up the standard of catering and also provide chairs and tables!

However, so as not to disappoint the late-comers totally, I suggest a '**Finger Lunch**' *chez moi* the following Saturday (open to all of course). For more details see the notice on page 2.

As usual, September sees the launch of the Christmas Cards and 2012 Calendars. All the artwork and photography has been supplied by talented Members of the Painting Group and Digital Photography Group. I think everyone will be very impressed with their efforts. Thanks also go to Mike Milner and the printers for the artistic layout and presentation work. Once again, Mike organised sponsors who will cover the cost of the materials and printing. 100% of what you spend goes directly to the Welfare Fund.

Since last month there are a couple of things to report to you about: The major disappointment is that we are still searching for a Welfare Co-ordinator. I am most grateful to the two couples who came forward, but who came to realise that the job was too big for them to tackle. We are in this respect grateful that Shirley's operation has been postponed until October, when she will be '*hors de combat*' for 6 weeks.

Perhaps we need to think of dividing the Var up into several regions so that the mileage and distances are not so onerous. Would you be more interested in taking on a smaller area?

Could the **Neighbourhood Networks** fulfil the function? The ones that exist are happy to think that they can cope with local problems, but what about the rest of the Var?

I am delighted that two new **Neighbourhood Networks** are being launched in September, in St Raphael and in the Villecroze area. Would anyone else be prepared to take on a social gathering, once or twice a month, covering their and perhaps 2 or 3 neighbouring villages?

My `phone and email are unchanged and they still work, but they are very under-utilised by wanabe volunteers!

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

FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR

Wednesday, 12 October

Les Domaines Saint Endreol,
Route de Bagnols-en-Forêt, 83920 La Motte
Registration from 9h00 onwards

Mike Lorimer, a member of the Spectrum IFA Group, will once again be holding his very popular Financial Seminar, in conjunction with the **British Association of the Var**.

Among the interesting topics, **French Tax Lawyer, Stephanie Glasper** will give an update on the recent tax changes and how these will impact on people living in France.

Currencies Direct will show you how to get institutional rates to ensure you beat bank exchange rates.

Two major International Life Companies will outline the many **tax benefits** of using **Assurance Vie** policies for investments for both French residents and potential residents.

QROPS (Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes) came into existence following changes to UK pension legislation on 5 April, 2006. These schemes have been specifically designed to enable non-UK resident individuals who have accrued pension benefits in the UK, to transfer these away from the UK. **The significant tax advantages of QROPS transfer** will be explained.

Alan Lawrence, a Director of the World's largest asset manager, **Blackrock**, will review the benefits of **Capital Protected Funds** and will also provide a **market update**.

The presentations will be followed by wine and canapés, when the visitors can relax and ask questions of all the respective speakers.

For more information on this event please go to www.mikelorimer.com
or contact **Mike Lorimer** on **04 93 74 73 35**
or via e-mail at info@mikelorimer.com

Please remember that if you are proposing to attend this Finance Seminar it is important that you **contact Mike Lorimer** advising him of that intention to enable correct catering numbers.

The Spectrum IFA Group Partner
MIKE LORIMER SARL
Financial Planning Seminars
For expatriates living in France
11th Oct. Marriott Hotel Cap d'Ail
12th Oct. Domaine St Endreol Var

- French tax changes update
- Tax benefits of using assurance vie
- The significant tax advantages of QROPS
- Currencies direct: how to get institutional rates to beat the bank
- Financial Market Update

To go to one of these events contact:
Tel: +33 (0)6 21 85 84 42 / +33 (0)4 93 74 73 35
e-mail: info@mikelorimer.com - www.mikelorimer.com

TSG Insurances Services SARL - Courtier d'Assurances. Siege Social: 34 Bd des Italiens, 75009 Paris R.C.S. Paris 8 447 609 108 (2003804384).
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Found after Helpers Day

Did you attend the Helpers Day at Shirley's on 30 June? If so please read the following plea from Shirley:-

During the clear up after the lunch on 30 June a number of items were found. If you are missing a shopping bag, a cake/pie slice, a large melamine bowl, a pair of shallow dishes, a serving spoon or a Perspex cup from a thermos, please contact:

*Shirley Wigglesworth 04 ******

She is obviously keen to reunite the items with their rightful owners if possible, before considering throwing them away.

Mike Milner

**British Association of the Var
Welfare Coordinator
Shirley Wigglesworth**
06 43 86 49 01
welfare@baofthevar.com

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SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS OF BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Winter Fuel Payments

Are BAV Members who have in the past been entitled to the UK's Winter Fuel Payments aware that for the winter of 2011/12 there have been major reductions in payment levels?

If last year you received, as an individual living on your own, £250, then, this coming winter, you will receive a reduced amount of £200. Last year, if you were over 80, or, during this year you become 80 on or before 25 September, instead of the £400 allowance for over 80's, if they live on their own, you will receive only £300.

There are corresponding reductions for couples living together so that your joint payments match the above figures. If you have access to a computer or a relative who has access then, to confirm your precise entitlement, visit this link, http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Pensionsandretirementplanning/Benefits/BenefitsInRetirement/DG_179916

However, if you don't have a computer please contact the Welfare Team who will discuss how the changes affect your entitlement. Please remember if you are not now a UK resident or

were not in receipt of the benefit when you left the UK, you are not able to claim the allowance.

Shirley Wrigglesworth
Welfare Team



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.

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Fake speeding and parking fine website

By the time you read this the situation should have been resolved, but just in case please be aware that if you just type *amendes* into your search engine to pay your French motoring fines, instead of www.amendes.gouv.fr you could find yourself directed to a website which is a scam. The website is www.amendes-france.org set up by some enterprising individual tracked down to Switzerland who asks for the fine reference number then your debit/credit card details.

Having just tried to access the incorrect website the onscreen message seems to imply that the authorities have successfully put a block on the link. However, if you are paying your fines online make sure that you are at the correct website.

Mike Milner

Bereavement Support Network in the Var (BSN)

If you are going through bereavement or need pre-bereavement support as a Carer, or for yourself, we can help. **Contact:**

Sandra 04 94 84 64 89 or Sue 06 48 46 93 21
email: info@bsnvar.org
website: www.bsnvar.org

Please note, the telephone number in the current BAV Address Book, page 36, is incorrect – please change to **06 48 46 93 21**.

MEMBERS' GROUPS

Digital Photography Group

In what seems likely to become a BA of the Var tradition, we have now agreed the design and all important content of the 2012 Calendar. Very many thanks to all of you associated with the venture this year and in particular Sandie Docherty and Mike Milner for their expertise and commercial links respectively.

For next year's calendar, there will only be the one version in order to keep costs down. With the help of HiFX sponsorship again, we hope to maximise the income generating potential the calendar affords. However, this does mean that some excellent photos did not make the cut to use a golfing term.

In selecting the photos to go into the calendar, we drew on the individual choices of the group members, which made the unenviable task of choosing the best 13 a little easier, so commiserations to those who were not successful this time. We hope to have the calendars on sale in September with a cover price of 10€.

Finally and perhaps another tradition in the making, the Group enjoyed a 'Bring and Share Lunch' as their 'end of term' get together. Many thanks to Noelle Chichester for hosting this delightful, relaxed and well attended occasion.

For more details about joining our Group **please contact:**

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

Make your own Greeting Cards

More Card Making Workshops are planned for September. Beginners and the more advanced members are all welcome - materials for the cards will be supplied at a nominal cost.

Please get in touch with me if you are interested – it's great fun.

Pat Powell ****@****.co.uk

Painting Group

The next painting session will be held on **Monday 12 September** at the home of Jane Emery in Salernes, please let Jane know if you are coming.

Pauline North

Thank You from Rob & Family

I wish to thank everybody, especially the Boules Group, for their support and offers of assistance regarding my recent operation. I am now back to virtually 100% fitness and look forward to beating the BSN in the bi-annual Boules Competition on 13 October.

Rob Flanagan

Happy Boules



The now bi-annual **Boules Competition** between BAV and the BSN is to be held at Lorgues on **Thursday 13 October** followed by lunch at the Hotel Du Parc.

BAV is in need of additional players, so if you wish to play **please contact *****@hotmail.com**. Having lost the last 2 competitions the pressure is on, but equally, the standard is not that high! Entry to play is 5€ payable to the BAV/BSN funds.

Rob Flanagan 04 *****

TEXTING for seniors

The kids have all their little SMS codes, eg BFF, LOL etc. So here are some codes for the seniors:

- ATD - At the Doctor's
- BFF - Best Friends Funeral
- BTW - Bring the Wheelchair
- FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
- GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- GHA - Got Heartburn Again
- HGBM - Had Good Bowel Movement
- IMHO - Is My Hearing-Aid On?
- TTYL - Talk to You Louder
- WAITT - Who Am I Talking To?
- GGLKI - Gotta Go, Laxative Kickin In
- LMTA - Lost my teeth again!
- WU - Wrinklies unite!
- GGISAL - Gotta go, I've sprung a leak!

Committee Members

Chairman - Auriol Langen

04 ***** chairman@baofthevar.com

Secretary - Clare Brown

04 ***** secretary@baofthevar.com

Treasurer - Terry Joyce

04 ***** treasurer@baofthevar.com

**Welfare Co-ordinator –
Shirley Wrigglesworth**

06 43 86 49 01 welfare@baofthevar.com

Events Secretary

events@baofthevar.com

Publicity - Mike Milner

04 ***** publicity@baofthevar.com

newsletter@baofthevar.com

webmaster@baofthevar.com

Member - John Collingwood

04 ***** john@baofthevar.com

Member - Rob Flanagan

04 ***** rob@baofthevar.com

MONTAUROUX 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

Eccumenical Service

Please ring 04 94 95 45 78 for details

www.sjevar.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

Notre Dame des Anges - Bring your own Picnic

For details and directions contact

Rev Peter or Shirley Massey at

04 94 73 93 37 06 87 94 04 83

www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis



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Bargain Basement

Sales and Wants

printed free for members

Email your ads to newsletter@baofthevar.com

For Sale:

The BAV are unable to store medical equipment and therefore are unable to use the items listed below:

Bed Vilgo 3000LM (guaranteed for 10 years).
1.2 metre wide electric bed which plugs directly
into a wall socket - no electricians needed.
Special foam mattress to prevent bed sores and
oak headboards (original cost 2800€). Height
and top of bed adjustable.

Bath walk-in Premium sit down bath, with
shower (originally 4500€). Premier brand, size
120cm x 70, height 100cms, in perfect
condition. It will be unplumbed and free
standing ready for removal.

Wall Bars, (free, some are still in boxes) for
helping in and out of the loo and bath.

Commode, Walker, and Wheelchair

Transport can be organised by the seller if
needed. If you are interested in making an
offer for any or all of the above items, **please
contact:**

Shirley Wrigglesworth 04 *****

Two single beds, metal framed, complete
with mattresses (all in good condition). **Best
offer** for Welfare Fund. **Contact:**

Ellis or Clare Brown 04 *****

*****@orange.fr

Designer 'FIAM Italia' **All-Glass Dining Table**,
Ultra modern, extending. One year old,
excellent condition, 132cm x 145cm extending
to 132cm x 225cm. Cost 4.990€- Bargain
2.750€. **Contact:**

*****@gmail.com 04 *****