



## Annual General Meeting Report

For the second year the AGM was held at La Pinède. There were 66 members present and 52 apologies for absence. The Secretary explained the reason for sending out a revised Agenda and a Proxy Form for the election of Chairman. A previous member of the Committee had contacted him and declared the Chairman must be elected every year. This was not the Secretary's view of the *Statut*, however, and it was agreed that the *Statut* was ambiguous and advice was sought from consultants specialising in Associations Loi 1901. It was thought prudent to re-issue the Agenda and a proxy form for the re-election of the Chairman. The advice that followed declared the meaning of the *Statut* was that the Chairman was elected for 3 years. As there was no need to re-elect the Chairman the item was withdrawn from the revised Agenda

The Chairman gave his report including an apology to BATS for not mentioning in the AGM papers their two performances and the 1,000.40€ donation they made to BAV. He thanked two retiring Members of Committee, Shirley Wrigglesworth, long time Welfare Coordinator, and Ian Mackintosh who had assisted Lesley Honeywell get to grips with the account package.

He expressed his appreciation for the new look Newsletter and thanked Peter and Shirley Rowson and Ian and Pat Powell. Pat is standing down after several years from the Newsletter team. He commented on the Neighborhood Networks, the brainchild of the previous Chairman, Auriol Langen. He asked Members to support the Networks. He said we would try to arrange events that cover the Var and hoped Members would come forward to arrange Coffee Mornings to help achieve this. Ann Mitchem introduced herself and explained the welfare work undertaken this past year. The Treasurer gave her report and described how much work was entailed in entering the 74 column spread sheet and that she was considering reducing the entries. Michael Avery said he appreciated the detail entered for Events and Lesley said these would be continued. The Financial Report was accepted.

The Secretary had received 12 written questions, 8 from Terry Joyce and 4 from Jim North. The questions raised by the two Members were printed with answers which were handed to Members. Two questions referred to a repair item shown in the Financial Report as administrative costs of 1040€. This was explained as the costs incurred when the van hired for the *Vendange* lunch hit and damaged a car. Another question related to large donations and the possible need to ask the *Prefecture* for permission to accept them. The consultants, mentioned previously, advised there was no limit for donations but they must be used to fulfill the purposes of the Association.

John Collingwood was elected as an Honorary Member after many years helping welfare cases and Alastair Ross spoke movingly of John's achievements, and the Chairman gave John a presentation case of wine.

Kevin Bell and John Lloyd were voted onto the Committee and Ann Mitchem and Michael Wharton re-elected. Unfortunately Diana André de la Porte had to withdraw her nomination.

A proposal was made concerning the Committee to receive travel expenses, which gained some approval.

Selwyn Glick paid tribute to the late Jim Blythe and the Chairman closed the meeting.



## Forthcoming Events

### Village tour and Lunch

**Tuesday 23 April – Seillans**

### Committee Meeting

**Thursday 25 April**

### English Book Exchange

**Tuesday 30 April – Entrecasteaux**

### Lakeside Gourmet Lunch

**Friday 10 May - Entrecasteaux/Carces**

### Bring and Share Lunch

**Tuesday 21 May - Villecroze**

We are sorry that the Bring and Share lunch at Tavernes on 24 May will not now take place

### Quiz

**Saturday 1 June – Draguignan**

### Summer Soirée

**Wednesday 5 June - La Motte**



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

See the Latest News and Forthcoming Events on our BA website

## English Book Exchange

**Tuesday 30 April – 10h00 to 15h00**

\*\*\*\*\*

Entrecasteaux

04 \*\*\*\*\* or 06 \*\*\*\*\*

[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@wanadoo.fr](mailto:*****@wanadoo.fr)

D50 from Entrecasteaux to crossroads marked Les Colles then follow balloons.

GPS: \*\*\*\*\*

Coffee, tea and biscuits provided. If weather suitable, bring a picnic lunch.

### Reminder!

### Guided tour of Seillans and Lunch at La Gloire de Mon Père

**Tuesday 23 April**

**9h30** at the Tourist Office

Place Thouron - €3 (Directions on request)

### 12h00 – Lunch at “La Gloire de Mon Père”

This excellent restaurant is offering BAV visitors a special inclusive menu at €27

#### Menu

*Cannellonis d'aubergine à la mousseline de chèvre  
ou*

*Rillette de saumon à l'aneth*

*Croustillant de Morue au pistou et tomates confites  
sur un risestti au parmesan*

*ou*

*Filet mignon de porc sauce moutarde à l'ancienne et gratin dauphinois*

*Mille feuilles aux fraises*

*ou*

*Crème brûlée maison*

*Café*

*Vin en pichet rosé et rouge*

**Please complete** the Reservation Slip and return to Michael Wharton **before 8 April**.

### The Bereavement Support Network of the Var (BSN)

This organisation exists to support not only the bereaved but also those who are terminally ill, and their families and friends. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from our confidential, free support, then please contact:

Sandra - 04 94 84 64 89 or 06 32 35 31 24

[info@bsnvar.org](mailto:info@bsnvar.org) or [www.bsnvar.org](http://www.bsnvar.org)

for further information.

## Lakeside Gourmet Lunch



On **Friday 10 May at 12.00** we will be returning to an unusual venue for lunch at the Trout Lake about 3km west of Entrecasteaux towards Carcès. Members who went last year were impressed with the gourmet standard of the food served and the peaceful surroundings overlooking the trout lake. You can even pay to go fishing for the afternoon. Places are limited so please book as early as possible and **not later than 30 April**. The Booking form is with this Newsletter.

### Menu - 30€

*Kir à la pêche de vigne et sa méthode champenoise*

*Accompagné de ses 4 verrines*

*Vol au Vent aux fruits de mer et sa langoustine grillée*

*Filet Mignon sauce aux poivre vert et ses legumes*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Assortiment de 3 Fromages et son miel d'acacia*

\*\*\*\*\*

*La farandole de dessert (une verrine de fruit frais parfumé à la liqueur de banane,*

*une verrine de fruit rouge et le fromage blanc, une crêpe à la fleur d'oranger)*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Vin et café compris*

**Directions:** On the road towards Carces to the south of the village. After 3 km there is a pronounced bend in the road to the left and a sign on the left saying “Etang du Peche”, about 200m from Domaine Campagnaud. Follow this track for several hundred metres until the road opens out into a car park with the trout lake on the right.

## Bring and share Lunch at the Chairman's house in Villecroze

**Tuesday 21 May - noon**

Couples should bring a dish that will make 6-8 good servings, and a single person a dish of 3-4 servings. Everything goes on the table, and everyone has a choice of lots of different dishes.

A selection of books will be available at the usual bargain price of 1€.

A "cover charge" of 7.50€ per person provides wine and bread for all.

Please bring parasols and bases if you prefer shade.

**Please let Rob and Esther know in advance what you are bringing:** starter, main course, vegetable dish, salad or pudding.

**Phone: 04 \*\*\*\*\*** for directions.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**83690 Villecroze**

## Tour of Roman Fréjus and lunch at Les Micocouliers restaurant

After unusual deep snowfalls over the preceding weekend, the proposed tour of Fréjus was looking uncertain, to say the least, but 27 February dawned bright and sunny on 24 BAV members and guests who gathered outside the Tourist Office in Fréjus to meet their delightful English-speaking guide, Sandrine. A fascinating tour of Roman Fréjus followed, including access to the newly renovated amphitheatre with its controversial cement cladding. We were told that this is necessary for protection against the weather to prevent further deterioration but that it was impossible to do a proper restoration of the Roman remains due to their bad condition. 19 stalwarts completed the 2 hour walking tour and were ready for lunch to replenish the calories used, along with those who had had to give in to "anno domini" part way through.



Les Micocouliers made us very welcome and produced an excellent Provençal menu at a reasonable price. New friendships were made and potential new BAV members identified amongst the guests.

## Lorgues Speed Limits

Please note that the speed limits in Lorgues have changed so that all roads are now limited to no more than 50km / hour. This corrects an anomaly whereby the southern ring road (scene of numerous accidents) and road to Draguignan was 70km / hour. At the time of writing there is no local warning of these changes. You have now been warned!

## Storage needed

The BAV needs storage facilities for its equipment, including tables and chairs – **can you help PLEASE?** Requirements: Garage space, room or dry outbuilding 15m<sup>2</sup> with access for a box van. Please reply to the Newsletter:

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



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Zone Artisanale "les Esparrus", 83690 Villecroze

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## "What's On" Guide

**4-7 Apr** Sainte Maxime, Promenade Aymeric Simon-Lorière. Var Automobile Randonnées - classic car rally, parade 14h30 Sunday. 0826 20 83 83

**5 Apr** Les Arcs, Café de la Tour. English Pub Quiz and lunch. 12h00. €10. 04 94 85 22 06

[quizdelatour@gmail.com](mailto:quizdelatour@gmail.com)

**5 Apr** Fayence, Espace Culturel. Cantabile – British male quartet. 20h30. €18. 04 94 85 00 35

**5-7 Apr** Fréjus, Villa Aurélienne. Fête des Plantes. 04 94 51 83 83

**6 Apr** Les Arcs, Lycée Agricole Les Magnanarelles, Route de Draguignan. Salon Gourmand – regional products, wine tasting, pony rides. 9h00-16h00. Free. 04 98 10 40 10

**6-7 Apr** St Tropez, Place des Lices. Classic Motorbike rally. 06 09 72 33 90

**6-13 Apr** Brignoles, Complexe du Vabre. Foire de Brignoles. 9h30-19h00. €4. 04 04 69 10 88

**7 Apr** Gassin, village centre. Granfondo Colnago cycle race. 11h00-17h00. 04 94 55 22 00

**7 Apr** Grimaud, Chapelle Notre Dame de la Queste. Cello concert. 16h00. 04 94 35 43 83

**7 Apr** Fréjus, Cathedral. Organ recital. 16h00.

**9 Apr** Fréjus, Forum Theatre. Nabucco – opera by Verdi. 20h00. €32. 04 94 95 55 55

**11 Apr** Sainte Maxime, Cinema. Opera film. Don Carlos - Verdi. 14h30 and 19h30. €18. 04 94 56 77 77

**11 Apr** Draguignan, Cinema. Opera film. Don Carlos - Verdi. €19

**12 Apr** Flayosc, Eglise. Adoramus – concert. 21h00. 04 94 70 41 31

**12-14 Apr** Vidauban, Domaine Equestre des Grands Pins, chemin de la Galante. Show jumping competition. 8h00-20h00. Free. 04 94 73 48 85

**13 Apr** Villecroze, Hotel Les Esparrus, RD560. Literary Lunch with speaker Bill Colegrave. 12h00. €26.

[clarissajane.emery@nordnet.fr](mailto:clarissajane.emery@nordnet.fr).

**13 Apr** Draguignan Camerata Vocale concert: Eglise Notre Dame du Peuple. 20h30. €10.

**13 Apr** Sainte Maxime, Théâtre Le Carré. Mozart Ellington, Raphael Imbert - jazz and classical concert. 20h30. €15. 04 94 56 77 77

**13 Apr** Bagnols-en-Forêt, village centre. Foire aux Plantes. 04 94 40 64 68

**13 Apr** Draguignan. Camerata Vocale – concert in Play Bach Festival.

**13-14 Apr** St Maximin la St Baume, Parvis de la Basilique. Foire Médiévale. Free. 04 94 59 84 59

**13-15 Apr** Fréjus, Le Clos des Roses, Qtr Ste Brigitte. Salon de la Gourmandise. 04 94 52 80 51

**14 Apr** Lorgues, Chateau de Berne. Brocante Professionnelle. 04 94 60 43 60

**18-26 Apr** Fréjus, Villa Aurélienne, av du Général Calliès. Guided tour of grounds. 14h00-16h00. €5. 06 37 67 73 73

**19 Apr** Sainte Maxime, Théâtre Le Carré. Duo Varnerin - guitar and soprano. 20h30. €6. 04 94 56 77 77

**19 Apr** Grimaud, Eglise St Michel. Soloistes de Monte

Carlo – string quartet and flute. *See next column* - 21h00. €20. 04 94 55 43 83

**19-21 Apr** Vidauban, Domaine Equestre des Grands Pins, chemin de la Galante. Dressage competition. 8h00-20h00. Free. 04 94 73 48 85

**19-22 Apr** Fréjus, centre ville. Bravade de Fréjus. 04 94 52 90 27

**19 and 24 Apr** Roquebrune sur Argens, Les Orchidées de Michel Vacherot, CD7. Guided visit. 10h00 19<sup>th</sup> and 14h00 24<sup>th</sup>. €4. 04 94 45 48 59

**20 Apr** Les Arcs, Chapelle St Pierre du Parage, Place du Micocoulier. Trio guitar, cello, flute. 20h30. €10. 06 60 90 17 23

**20-21 Apr** Plan de la Tour, village centre. Foire aux Plantes et à l'Huile d'Olive. 04 94 55 20 57

**21 Apr** Callian, Place Honoré Bourguignon. Plant Fair. 10h00-18h00.

**21 Apr** Seillans, Salle Polyvalente, Rte de Bargemon. Thé Dansant. 15h00. €10.

**21 Apr** Figanières, Chapelle Notre Dame de l'Olivier. Concert - trio guitar, cello, flute. 20h30. €10. 06 60 90 17 23

**22 Apr** St Tropez, cinema. Opera film. Hansel and Gretel – Humperdinck. 19h15. €18. 04 94 55 90 54

**25 Apr** Montauroux, Maison pour Tous. Opera film – German Romantic opera. 18h00. €5. 04 94 50 40 30

**26 Apr** Les Arcs, Café de la Tour. Fish and chips lunch. 12h00. €11. Booking essential, by preceding Tuesday. 04 94 73 30 56

**26 Apr** Taradeau, Chapelle St Martin. Concert - trio guitar, cello, flute. 20h30. €10. 06 60 90 17 23

**26-28 Apr** Ste Maxime, Théâtre de la Mer. Salon Maison-Decoration. 10h00-19h00. Free. 08 26 20 83 83

**27 Apr** Fréjus, Forum Theatre. Mozart evening – St Raphaël Chamber Orchestra. 20h30. €26. 04 94 95 55 55

**27 Apr** Fréjus, cinema. Opera film. Julius Caesar – Handel. 18h00. €21. 04 94 40 14 54

**27 Apr** Montauroux, Maison pour Tous. Opera film. Julius Caesar – Handel. 18h00. €21. 04 94 47 75 90

**28 Apr** Vidauban, Chapelle Ste Brigitte. Concert -two cellos. 20h30. €10. 06 60 90 17 23

**28 Apr** Les Adrets, Eglise. Piano duets concert. 16h30. 04 94 40 93 08

**28 Apr** Plan de la Tour. Classic Car Rally. 9h00-18h00. 04 94 55 07 55

**28 Apr** Ste Maxime, Place Jean Mermoz. Foire Annuelle. 9h00-19h00. 08 26 20 83 83

**28 Apr** Villecroze, Parc Municipal. Bourse aux Plantes. Free. 04 94 70 63 06

**30 Apr** Fayence, Eglise St Jean Baptiste. Requiem de Fauré – Choeur Régional Vocal Côte d'Azur. 21h00. €15. 04 94 76 20 08

**British Association of the Var  
Welfare Coordinator  
Ann Mitchem**

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

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

## Barclay's Bank Wine Tasting

Barclays Bank at Fréjus hosted a wonderful Open Day of wine tasting for members of the BAV on 7 March at their offices, which was extended to also serving charcuterie and cheeses all from highly regarded local suppliers. The day was extremely convivial and our thanks go to the staff of Barclays for making this available to us and for the relaxed atmosphere.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

### Cabasse, Carces, Correns, Cotignac, and Le Val

The next coffee and chat session will be held at the Cafe de Cour in Cotignac on **Friday 26 April**.

*Michael Wharton*

07 \*\*\*\*\* [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@cam.ac.uk](mailto:*****@cam.ac.uk)

### Draguignan, Le Cannet des Maures, Les Arcs, Le Luc, Taradeau and Vidauban

We meet on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month** at the Café de la Tour, Les Arcs at 10h30.

*Jim North*

04 \*\*\*\*\* [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@wanadoo.fr](mailto:*****@wanadoo.fr)

### Entrecasteaux, Salernes, Tourtour and Villecroze

We meet on the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month** at 10h30 at the bar Cercle de l'Avenir in Villecroze. Please check the venue as we may rotate to another village.

*Ann & Maurice Mitchem*

04 \*\*\*\*\* [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@hotmail.com](mailto:*****@hotmail.com)

### La Motte and Le Muy

Our next meeting will be held, as usual, in the Bar des Cascades, in the centre of La Motte on **Tuesday 9 April** at 10h00. All are very welcome.

*Alexandra Lewis-Smith*

04 \*\*\*\*\* [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@bbox.fr](mailto:*****@bbox.fr)

### Les Issambres

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

*Richard Tolaini*

04 \*\*\*\*\* or 06 \*\*\*\*\* [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@aol.com](mailto:*****@aol.com)

### St Maximin la Ste Baume, Brignoles, Brue Auriac, Mazaugues, Meounes, Neoules, Ollieres, Pourcieux, Pourrieres, Seillon Source d'Argens and Tourves

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 18 April** at the Cercle Philharmonique in St Maximin at 10h30. Please join us so we can get to know more people who live nearby. There is plenty of parking within easy walking distance.

*Diana Andre de la Porte*

04 \*\*\*\*\* [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@wanadoo.fr](mailto:*****@wanadoo.fr)

## Have Fun Fundraising - BATS Show 2013

For some years BATS, (British Association Thespians) have held summer shows of live English theatre in the Var. The participants are amateurs creating a show that appeals to all, and raises a large amount of money for BAV welfare funds. This year we have an active group of players keen to present a variety show including sketches, music and dance – serious and silly, naughty but nice – hence the title **"50 Shades of BATS"**!

Both shows will be at the end of June, one in Villecroze and the other at a yet unspecified venue near the coast. If you can suggest a suitable location such as a village hall or large garden with parking, **please contact** Ivan Rose on

06 \*\*\*\*\* or 0044 \*\*\*\*\*  
[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@notimetolook.eu](mailto:*****@notimetolook.eu)

## Chairman's Report

We have, of course, held the AGM and a report on this is in this Newsletter. On a positive front the weather is showing distinct improvement and now is the time that local festivals commence in the many villages and towns of the Var. Do contact your local Tourist Bureau to see what is taking place near you or check in the What's On section of the Newsletter.

We, ourselves, have a very interesting day coming up on 23 April (St George's Day) with a tour of Seillans followed by lunch and then on 30 April there is a Book Exchange at the home of Pam and Ian Mackintosh in Entrecasteaux. On 10 May we are lunching again at the Etang du Peche in Entrecasteaux which last year was a total surprise to those attending, being a meal of such high quality eaten in a shack at the side of a lake. We already have a good number of places taken before being advertised. Finally, there is a Bring and Share lunch at our home in Villecroze on 21 May. There is therefore something for everyone so please do try to come along to support one of these events.

## Wind turbine project

Residents in the Var have voiced their disapproval of plans to create a wind farm in the hills around Fayence and Mons. Despite a national commitment to provide 23 per cent renewable energy by 2020, people in the Var are objecting to a proposal for several blocks of 5-6 turbines measuring 100 metres high. While some municipalities have welcomed the turbines because of the money they bring, the PACA region remains well behind the national push for renewable energy.

## My Village – Aups



Aups, the capital of the Haut Var, is a truly authentic provençal village, steeped in history. Situated at 500m above sea level, in the foothills of the Alps, it is 60km from the sea and 80km from the snow fields. Aups is situated within the natural regional park of the Verdon, and as the southern gateway to the Gorges Du Verdon, the village is close to the spectacular scenery of the canyon and the sporting opportunities it provides. Close to the Lac Sainte Croix and the Valensole lavender plateau, Aups provides an ideal location from which to visit the beauty of the surrounding countryside.

Aups is one of the " *villages de caractère*" of the Var, which has preserved its history, but at the same time provides all the amenities of a modern town, from banks and shops to medical facilities, and during the holiday season, various events are organised for the summer visitors or " *estivants*". A stroll through the old village reveals many old buildings of historic importance, from the Cistercian convent dating back to the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries, the 12<sup>th</sup> century ramparts and a 16th clock-tower, to fountains and wash-houses. There is also an art museum and resistance museum. Such is the wealth of history within the old streets that it is not hard to imagine life as it was in the past.

Aups has had its battles, being at the centre of the revolt against Bonaparte. Those who fell are commemorated at the Insurrection monument along with the resistance fighters from Aups, who were collectively awarded the military " *croix de guerre avec palmes*" for their fight against German occupation during the second world war. There are still some wartime Jeeps in the possession of the locals and at times the village, its characters and ambience are reminiscent of a scene from "Allo, allo"!

Sixty-nine plane trees, all over a hundred years old, shade the Place Frédéric Mistral, which hosts

the twice-weekly, provençal market, and the Place Martin Bidaure, where the clinking of the boules can be heard in casual games of *petanque*, and also the serious summer competitions.

Street cafés are a wonderful place to watch the world go by, meet friends and catch up on the local "gossip", and in Aups this is no exception, with several cafés, bars and good restaurants to choose from.

The morning stroll for a " *baguette*" is an ideal opportunity to see how a medieval village adapts to modern life. The quaint original doorways are open for business and everywhere is bustling. However, all that ends at noon, when everything grinds to a halt and tradition takes over, for the celebration of a long lunch.

Aups and its surroundings provide not only wine, honey and olive oil, a variety of cheeses and an abundance of fruit and vegetables, but more importantly the coveted black truffle or " *Diamant Noir*". The winter truffle market is one of the most important in France. Restaurateurs, chefs and foodies come to Aups on Thursday mornings to negotiate for the *melanosporum* fungus. The annual truffle festival provides an opportunity to learn more about the black truffle, sample " *brouillade*", experience lectures on *trufficulture* and demonstrations of the art of "truffle hunting". Aups provides us with many surprises and keeps us smiling. We are glad that we moved here.

*Sandra Bingham-Wallis*

**Desperate to Stop?**  
**call Alcoholics Anonymous**  
24 hour helpline –  
08 20 20 02 57 [aa-riviera.org](http://aa-riviera.org)

## New Water Supply

You may have noticed major pipe-laying works alongside the RN7 between Tourves and Roquebrune-sur-Argens, which is part of a 70€ million scheme to supply more water to the eastern Var by means of a new 75km pipeline from the Verdon network via the Canal de Provence near Tourves to the Lac St Cassien network at Roquebrune-sur-Argens, plus a spur to Sainte Maxime. This has involved the construction of an aqueduct across the River Argens adjacent to the motorway bridge.

It will be ready for use in spring 2013, and will also supply fire-fighting needs along its route.

## MEMBERS' GROUPS

### The Azur Photography Group

'If you go down in the woods today . . . ' well the Azur Photography Group did just that and they were more than a little surprised and probably intrigued and charmed as well. For our latest visit we met up at La Colle sur Loup for a coffee and introductory chat from our host for the day, Spencer Byles. Spencer, a local artist, has a small tranche of land in the forest behind the village where he meticulously builds his green sculptures from whatever organic material is available. The strange and fascinating shapes he constructs blend in well with the landscape and provided the group with many photographic opportunities and challenges.

In all, a very different kind of day from our more usual outings but one to reflect on and it will certainly be interesting to see how members present their selection of photos when we meet next later in the month. For more details please contact:

*Mike Harper*

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

### Happy Boules

The hardy boules group are continuing through the winter and spring with members coming to the meetings at several central Var bouledromes from as far away as Le Val, Roquebrune sur Argens, Montmeyan and Aups. Come and join us! For more information please contact:

*Rob Flanagan*

[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@hotmail.com](mailto:*****@hotmail.com)

### Painting Group

The next painting session will be on the lakeside at Roquebrune sur Argens, no date as yet arranged, enquiries to me please:

*Pauline North*

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

### BAV Walking Group

With regret, it has become necessary to discontinue the BAV Walking Group. The Committee need more reassurance on the insurance cover we have with AVIVA. Jim North discovered, in a conversation with member Andrew Buchanan who is a qualified walk leader, the serious consequences that would follow if whilst out walking with the BAV Walking Group someone had an accident. Some doubts were raised concerning our insurance cover. We had been assured that as long as certain formalities were undertaken then accidents to Members and their guests would be covered by our policy. Jim, quite sensibly, decided he was not willing to continue to lead the group until the situation was clarified and put the walking group activity on hold.

The Committee will be seeking further advice and until it is able to be certain Members are insured against accident whilst walking in a BAV group, and to protect BAV from liability, there will be no BAV Walking Group. Information is provided in the Newsletter of various walks that Members might wish to try. These are for personal leisure pursuits and are not part of a BAV activity.

*Michael Wharton, Hon Secretary BAV*

### Cotignac Coffee Morning

Our thanks go to Billy and Jean Naisbitt who hosted a very well attended coffee morning sponsored by Siddalls on 22 February. Despite, or perhaps because of, the inclement weather over 30 members and non-members gathered in this delightful home full of interesting features just outside of Cotignac.



A good selection of books was available for purchase, together with games and puzzles donated by John Searle. The hosts did us proud with a delicious range of home-made cakes, biscuits, and scones etc which were much appreciated by those attending.

Simon Eveleigh of Siddalls gave informal financial advice to those who requested it during the course of the morning. A total of 236.90€ was donated on the morning for the Welfare Fund.

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Mike Lorimer - Orias No. 07032481

**Please Note:** We appreciate the support of our advertisers and encourage members to consider using their services; however, BAV cannot take responsibility for the quality of goods and services. Before taking action in response to articles about law and finance in the Newsletter, please take advice from a suitable qualified person.

## Connexion Helpguides

The Connexion newspaper has released the latest edition of its help-guide called "Moving to France". This title is misleading as it also includes guidance on **living in France**. If you have used any of the Connexion's previous guides you will know that they are of a high standard. It costs 9.50€ either as a paper edition (plus postage) or in PDF, where you can opt for the whole guide or just sections that are of interest to you.

**French income tax** forms will be sent to homes in April and must be completed by the end of May or early June, dependent if filed online or on paper. Then Connexion Newspaper publishes a full helpguide with the 2013 information needed to make your declaration. The guide is specifically aimed at Britons living in France and will be available, as a printed or downloadable version, from April 15, 2013. The guide will be sold from April 1, 2013 for €9.50 but all orders received before that date benefit from their early-bird offer of €7.50 (plus P&P).

Contact: [sales@connexionfrance.com](mailto:sales@connexionfrance.com)  
0800 91 77 56 from France and  
0844 256 9881 from UK, or see their website:  
[www.connexionfrance.com](http://www.connexionfrance.com)

## New Members

We welcome David and Susan Kean of Fréjus and Christian and Cheryl Curabet of Flassans-sur-Issole to membership of the British Association of the Var.

### Benefits for BAV Members:

Cigalon, Grand Rue, Flayosc 04 94 70 45 85 - Offer complementary coffee at this fine dining restaurant.

Flayosc Co-operative - 5% discount available with the special BAV fidelity card. Full range of wines and sparkling wine available together with fresh cheeses, wine accessories etc.

Le Petit Romain, opposite Casino, Salernes 04 94 67 54 11 - Offer complementary coffee at this popular restaurant with a menu de jour at 14.50€.

Lei Cigales, Route de Draguignan, Villecroze 04 98 53 02 88 - Offer complementary coffee in this restaurant specialising in galettes and crepes with a separate menu du jour at 13.50€.

Nathalie and Fabrice Alric Antiquities, Place de l'église, Villecroze - Offer 10% discount on a range of antique style household furnishings and a larger discount on antiques.

|                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Assurance et Epargne long terme                                                    | Luc de Bardonnèche<br>Agent général<br>VIDAUBAN<br>04 94 73 00 11          |
| <b>Car insurance</b><br><b>Health top-up</b><br><b>Professional insurance</b>                                                                                            | <b>House insurance</b><br><b>Travel insurance</b><br><b>Life insurance</b> |
| <b>Local agency - Friendly advice - English fluent</b>                                                                                                                   |                                                                            |
| <a href="http://www.aviva-vidauban.fr">www.aviva-vidauban.fr</a><br><a href="mailto:de-bardonneche-luc@aviva-assurances.com">de-bardonneche-luc@aviva-assurances.com</a> |                                                                            |

### CALLIAN

#### Le Pradon Anglican Church

Fellowship of the Ascension

You are very welcome to join us in our new church home at

#### Le Pradon Maison de Retraite Callian.

We meet on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of the month at **10h30** for Family Communion or Morning Prayer.

We also have a Bring and Share lunch afterwards.

**Please ring** Hilary 04 94 47 70 67 for details or visit our website

[www.lepradonanglican.org](http://www.lepradonanglican.org)

### St John's for the Var

#### St John the Evangelist

**Ave Paul Doumer, St Raphaël**

Rev Keith Bretel

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

14 April - AGM, 11h45

### Grimaud Village Church

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

**Please ring** 04 94 60 87 05 for details

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

### The ARK, LORGUES

L'Oasis Christian Fellowship

**Every 2nd Sunday at 11h45** at

Arc-en-Provence, 1801 Chemin des Pailles

and **every 4th Sunday at 11h45** at

**Notre Dames des Anges Maison de Retraite**

We have a Bring and Share lunch afterwards.

For details or directions **please contact**

Rev Peter or Shirley Massey 04 94 73 93 37 or

06 87 94 04 83 [www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis](http://www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis)

### The Var Tuesday Club

meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

see [www.vartuesdayclub.org](http://www.vartuesdayclub.org) for details

## For next month's Newsletter

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

**Monday 15 April**

**All contributions to:**

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

or to Shirley Rowson, \*\*\*\*\*,  
83920 La Motte.



# British Association of the Var

Putting people and social needs together since 1998

Association Loi 1901 No: W831001750

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

April 2013

## Newsletter Supplement

### Information Technology in France - Update

#### British Satellite TV

As mentioned in last November's Newsletter, some UK Satellite TV channels have been transferred to the new Astra2F satellite. To date only the channel 5 range of channels plus channel 4 HD and 4Seven have moved so you may be experiencing poor reception on these especially in bad weather. A new satellite Astra2E is expected to be launched in May this year when further changes may occur.

#### French Mobile Phones

Until FREE entered the marketplace, there were three main players in France - Orange, SFR and Bouygues - and charges were about the same. In the last year things have changed rapidly with competition from FREE forcing price reductions. It is possible now to get 2 hours of calls to virtually anywhere in the world and unlimited texts for between 2 and 5 Euros per month with or without a contract or on Pay as You Go. Between 10 and 20 Euros a month will buy a comprehensive package including all calls and internet for the very latest smartphones. If you wish to buy a new phone and include it in the price of a contract it will cost you more but if you like me are just happy to use your old mobile for occasional use then there are some very good deals around.

A very good comparison website in French but easy to use is:-

<http://www.lebonforfait.fr/comparateur.html>

You can normally keep your mobile number when you change between operators.

As always, check the details of any offer carefully to see if it suits your needs. It may not be generally known but it is now possible to get a mobile phone that takes two different SIM cards instead of the usual one. Thus you can make and receive calls on, say, a UK mobile number and a French mobile number on the same phone. This may be useful if you spend time both here and in the UK or require a separate work and personal number.

#### French Home Internet and TV

Similarly to the mobile phone market, again since FREE entered the Internet market, prices have fallen. Providers now offer free inclusive unlimited phone calls to worldwide landlines and in some cases mobiles via your home internet box instead of the traditional landline. You can normally keep the same number and, if you wish, save 16 euros a month by cancelling the traditional landline. Usually French TV is included as part of the package so you can brush up on your French! Note that some programmes on French TV channels originally made in the English language can now be heard in English automatically if your TV is set to English. This is especially useful for films and UK- made drama series.

*Rob Ward*

### Working with a local builder

*Practical advice from Luc de Bardonnèche, an insurance expert who advertises in our Newsletter:*

#### 1. Registration

Check that the builder is registered – if not he will be working "on the black" and there will be no guarantee. Go to the website [www.societe.com](http://www.societe.com) and put in his SIREN number to make sure the business exists and is registered.

#### 2. Quote

Always ask for a written quote and check that the following information is included:

Name; Commercial Name; SIREN (9 figures); Full Address; TVA number.

It should include details of materials, labour and travel costs.

NB. An Auto-Entrepreneur does not have to charge TVA, but they should not be doing major building work.

#### 3. Insurance

A professional builder must be able to show his up-to-date insurance policies which list the type of work for which he is insured. This is obligatory in France for building work. There are two types required: "assurance décennale" – for the 10 year guarantee, and "assurance de responsabilité civile" for public liability. If he is not insured you will not be

able to claim if faults occur, or if he causes any damage or injury.

#### 4. Payment

The builder can ask you for a down-payment ("acompte") which will cover a percentage of the full amount, paid by cheque made out to the builder and accompanied by the accepted quote.

#### Advice

For a large building or renovation project it is safer to choose a professional local builder who comes personally recommended, although you may have to wait as the good ones are always busy. Only use an Auto-Entrepreneur for small jobs.

### Driving Licences

A new credit-card style driving licence has been introduced across Europe but the launch in France has been delayed until 16 September due to computer problems. The French licences will have to be renewed every 15 years to update the photograph, whereas the current ones are valid for life. At first they will only be issued to new drivers or those whose licences have been stolen and a transitional document will be given to those needing a licence before 16 September. There are some changes to the categories for those who tow caravans, HGV drivers, drivers of low-powered micro-cars and some riders of two-wheelers. Holders of old licences dated before 19 January 2013 do not need to change them until 2033.

Those with UK licences are also not required to change until 2033. Pre-2013 UK licences are no longer valid after the age of 70 without renewal, which cannot be done from France. The new UK licences are valid for 10 years. You are only obliged to change to a French licence if you incur a penalty that would involve loss of points from a French licence or suspension.

### Walks

Over the next few months we will be including some short walks for those who are unable to manage longer walks but still like to enjoy the great outdoors in the Var. As this guide is intended for your own use, you are responsible for your own safety. Please take sensible precautions: have your mobile phone charged, with the international emergency number in the memory (112); wear strong footwear and suitable protection against the weather; take a bottle of

water especially in the summer. Respect the countryside – no smoking or camp fires, close gates, don't damage crops. Distances and times are approximate and are for guidance.

#### LOGUES - Dolmen de Peycervier

Easy walk on stony paths through vines and forest to a restored dolmen. 1h30, 4km, 100m climb. Map: IGN 3543 OT

#### Car access:

*From the roundabout Jean Moulin at the end of the bypass in Logues, take the Carcès road and after 100m turn right into the Chemin des Combes just after a petrol station. Follow this winding road for about 2km, continuing straight on at the sign "La Douce". Park at the junction "Traverse de la Douce" and there is a sign to the dolmen.*

Follow the track on the edge of the vines then fork right and left through a sparse forest, way-marked yellow. Follow the dolmen signs on the trees. Don't leave this track and after two steady climbs you will reach the water tank LGS 4. Go to the left, taking the road to *Le Palet* area and from now on there are more yellow way-marks than dolmen signs. A cross means to avoid that path. After the last climb the path splits – continue straight on following a narrow way-marked path to a large signpost explaining the dolmen. Turn left and follow the path for 5 mins and after a final turn to the right you will find the dolmen. Retrace your steps to the parking area.

#### Information

**Dolmen** – the best kept of three in the Logues area which was a burial chamber around 3000-2200 BC, restored in 1990. Human bones and teeth were found in 1962, together with artefacts, which are now in the Archaeological Museum in St Raphaël.

