



British Association of the Var

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www.baofthevar.com

August 2015

Newsletter

No 159


SEMI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT – SIX MONTHS TO 30TH JUNE 2015

Key Data – in Euros	30/06/15	31/12/14	30/06/14
Cash + Banks	171,624	174,864	173,886
Net Loans after Provisions	1,230	3,230	2,105
Reserves	170,478	173,284	175,077
Subscriptions less Prepayments	3,564		3,395
Administration Expenses	5,720		6,097
Sponsorship + Other Income	4,645		2,877
Welfare Costs	5,296		1,862
Net Deficit	2,806		1,687


Net income from subscriptions shows a healthy E169 or 5% increase over the same period last year. The savings in total administration expenses of E377 (6%) derives mainly from address book costs E448 and general office and web site expenses E417 offset by increases in AGM costs of E274 and essential travel costs of E200. The newsletter and address book sponsorships were only recognised when they were actually received last year explaining the significant positive increase of E1,768 this year – this sponsorship income of E3,640 matching the related expense outgoing of E2,791 in 2015. Function income shows a net benefit of E912 as all events have made positive contributions especially the Summer Soiree and the coffee morning. The function income appears to be well down on last year by E860 but this is because of the timing on last year's Trout Lake costs of E960 which had not then been paid. Because of the European and French overall economic situation, interest receipts will be minimal this year compared with a total of E2,238 in 2014.

Welfare costs totalling E5,296 are E3,434 or 3x higher than the same period last year, partly because in 2014 the major donation of E5,000 to the Royal British Legion took place in the final six months although a subsidy to French lessons of E990 had already been made and this is not likely to be repeated this year. In 2015 a ban to an individual of E1,830 was deemed unrecoverable and written off. Not long afterwards, that person died penniless and without immediate family, so the BAV assumed the non-recoverable funeral and related costs of E1,990. It is always very difficult to anticipate these types of exceptional expenses which are very much part of the key objectives of the BAV. At the moment it appears that by the end of the year total Welfare costs will be in line with 2014.

Following on from the above and assuming similar contributions from the September Vendange Lunch, the December Christmas Lunch and another coffee morning, it is likely that overall results for 2015 will be very similar to 2014 with a consequent E3,000 reduction in reserves and a related reduction in bank balances - so your help and contributions to this year's remaining events will be very warmly welcomed.

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Forthcoming Events

Committee Meeting
05 August

Vendange Lunch in Lorgues
12 September

Quiz Lunch in Flayosc
16 October

Tax planning lunch in Villecroze
5 November

Coffee morning in Montauroux
10 November

Christmas Lunch in St Aygulf
5 December

Quiz Lunch in Flayosc

Another quiz lunch, but with a different quizmaster – Stuart Reed – will take place at 12 noon on 16 October at Le Cigalon, 5 boulevard Grand Chemin, 83780 Flayosc. (Drive into the village from the south and take the left turn signed "Notaire". The restaurant is on the left.) Maximum 30 people. As Stuart usually wins the quizzes, this will give the rest of you a chance!

Menu - €20

Fish and chips

Apple tart

Coffee

Wine extra - 25cl €5.50

Emergency contacts:

Medical help/SAMU	15
Police/Police Nationale	17
Fire and accident/Sapeurs Pompiers	18
SOS – all services (calling from a mobile)	112
BAV Welfare phone	06 42 86 49 01
EDF English speaking number	05 62 16 49 08
Orange English speaking No	09 69 36 39 00

Vendange Lunch

The annual Vendange Lunch will take place on **12 September** at 13h00 at Domaine St Marc des Omèdes, Chemin de Vaussiers, 83510 Lorgues and will cost €25 for members and €27 for non-members. The usual delicious buffet will be on offer and there will be Christmas cards and books available.

The menu will be as follows:

Kir apero

Prawn Cocktail

Shredded pork with rissole potatoes and oriental sauce
Salmon with cream cheese and chive sauce
Variety of salads

Range of homemade desserts.

This is always a popular event and numbers are strictly limited to 100, so book early to secure a place. A booking confirmation form will be sent out in response to the booking form, which must be brought to the event to gain entry.

If you are willing to be on the team of "Cookies" for this event, please contact Kevin Bell - Tel: 04 94 ***** or email: events@baofthevar.com

Please bring crockery, cutlery, and a parasol if you need shade. If you have any special dietary requirements please contact Rob, as above.

GPS coordinates: N 43.48485 and E 6.38797. From Draguignan on the D562 at the first roundabout on the outskirts of Lorgues turn left. BAV directions will be there. From the north/south/west go on to the D562 Lorgues by-pass to the roundabout after the Salles des Fetes and then follow directions as for Draguignan ie. Turn right at the roundabout. After approx 3km look out for 2222 Chemin de Vaussiers on the right and **new parking area** will be 100m further on your right, with BAV signs to Vendange Lunch.

Disabled access only – turn left into main drive to Domaine St Marc, opposite 2222 Chemin de Vaussiers

"What's On" Guide

Zenith Oméga, Toulon: 0892 700 840
www.zenith-omega-toulon.com

Opera House, Toulon: 04 94 93 03 76
www.operadetoulon.fr

Draguignan Theatre: 04 94 50 59 59
www.theatresendracenie.com

Forum Theatre, Fréjus and Centre Culturel, St Raphaël: 04 94 95 55 55 www.aggloscenes.com

August 2015

1 Aug Mazaugues, Théâtre de Verdure. Viennese waltzes – Orchestre Régional de Cannes PACA. 21h00. €25. 04 94 72 04 71

1 Aug Brignoles, Place Carami. Festival Jazz. 11h30 and 21h30. Free

1-15 Aug Seillans and area. Musique Cordiale festival – orchestral and choral concerts. Details and booking: www.musique-cordiale.com

2 Aug Cotignac, Eglise. Concert – lyric soprano, piano, cello. 21h00. Free. 04 94 04 61 87

2 Aug Fréjus, Cathédrale. Organ concert. 21h00. Free.

2-9 Aug La Celle, Eglise. Soirées Musicales de l'Abbaye. See www.soireesmusicales-lacelle.com for details.

4 Aug Brignoles, Château de Vins. Festival Jazz – big band. 21h30. €18

4 Aug St Maximin-la-Ste-Baume, Parvis Charles II d'Anjou. Chamber music and soprano. 21h30. Free. 04 94 59 84 59

4 Aug Vidauban, Eglise. Concert – jazz, gospel. 21h00. €10. 04 94 73 10 28

4 Aug Fréjus, Les Arènes de Fréjus. Bel Canto – Italian arias. 21h00. €40

4-6 Aug St Raphaël, Jardin Bonaparte. Chamber Orchestra of St Raphaël. 21h00. Free.

4, 11 and 18 Aug Grimaud, centre ville. "Les Grimaldines" – musiques du monde. 19h00. 04 94 55 43 83

4-13 Aug St Tropez, Château de la Moutte. "Les Nuits de Château de la Moutte". See www.lesnuitsdechateaudelamoutte.com for details.

6 Aug Lorgues, Château des Crostes. Soirée Jazz. 20h00. €20. 04 94 73 98 40

6-9 Aug Montauroux, various venues. Festival International de Guitare. See www.tourisme-montauroux.fr for details.

6-20 Aug Plan de la Tour, Théâtre des Etoiles. La Festival dans les Vignes. 6 Aug – Piano €15. 13 Aug – Big Band €18. 20 Aug – Gospel €15. 04 94 55 20 50

7 Aug St-Maximin-la-Ste-Baume, Jardin de l'Enclos. Pink Floyd tribute band. 21h30. Free. 04 94 86 18 90

7 Aug St Raphaël, St John's Anglican Church. Concert d'Été – chamber music. 18h30. Free. 04 94 95 27 53

7 Aug Draguignan, Eglise St Michel. So Gospel. 12h00. €13. 04 98 10 51 05

8 Aug Le Muy, Parking du Roucas. Guitar Festival – Shadows tribute band. 21h00. €5. 04 94 45 67 37

8-18 Aug Fayence, Grand Jardin. Salon des Antiquaires. 10h00-18h00. €6. 04 94 76 11 11

9 Aug Lorgues, Château de Berne. Harlem Fantasy Orchestra. 20h00. 04 94 60 43 60

9 Aug Flayosc, Eglise St Laurent. Soirée Opéra. 21h00. €10. 06 65 11 67 09

9 Aug Mazaugues, Théâtre de Verdure. Chamber music. 21h00. €25. 04 94 72 04 71

14 Aug Fayence, Théâtre de Verdure. Concert "Dragon Fly" – rock, Celtic. 21h00. €13. 04 94 85 20 35

14 Aug Fréjus, Les Arènes de Fréjus. Colors Summer Festival. 21h00. €20

14-16 Aug Brignoles, centre ville. Les Médiévales de Brignoles. 9h00-00h00. Free. 04 94 72 04 21

14-16 Aug Le Muy, La Motte and other towns. WWII Liberation celebrations.

15 Aug Cotignac, Théâtre du Rocher. Concert – opera singer. 21h00. Free. 04 94 04 61 87

16 Aug Salernes, Eglise St Pierre. Gregorian Voices. 21h00. €18.

19 Aug Fréjus, Cathédrale. Organ concert. 21h00. Free.

20-29 Aug Entrecasteaux and other villages. Festival de Musique de Chambre d'Entrecasteaux. See www.festivaldentrecasteaux.fr for details.

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21 Aug Fayence, Place de l'Eglise. Concert country music. 21h00. Free.

21-23 Aug Draguignan, Jardin Anglès. Festival Good Vibes – rock, reggae, etc. 19h00. Free. 06 11 57 26 25

23 Aug Lorgues, Château de Berne. Picnic Jazz Swing. 13h00. 04 94 60 43 60

23-24 Aug Cotignac, Théâtre du Rocher. Classical concerts – piano and guitar. 21h00. 04 94 04 61 87

28 Aug Les Arcs, Café de la Tour. Fish and chips - book by previous Monday please. 12h00. €12.50. 04 94 73 30 56

28-29 Aug Fréjus, Le Clos des Roses, RD37. Journées Portes Ouvertes "Special Vendanges".

28-31 Aug Montauroux, Stade du Defens. Salon Cheval Nature et Traditions. 9h30-00h00. Free. 06 68 74 54 09

29 Aug Claviers, Place du Village. Orchestre "L'Indépendente" – brass.

30 Aug Ste Maxime, Théâtre de la Mer. Country Music Day. 17h00-00h00. Free. 06 81 12 62 27

Committee

Chairman - Rob Flanagan

chairman@baofthevar.com

Secretary - Michael Wharton

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Acting Treasurer – Rob Flanagan

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**Welfare Coordinators – Miriam Robinson
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john1@baofthevar.com

Lesley Honeywell

Important non-Committee Members

Membership Secretary - Peter Rowson

membership@baofthevar.com 04 94 *****

Newsletter Editor – Shirley Rowson

newsletter@baofthevar.com 04 94 *****

New Members

We welcome Allan and Jennifer Rodd from Flayosc to membership of the British Association of the Var.

Chairman's Report

Every so often we feel that it is appropriate to emphasise to our members that the BAV has the welfare of British people in the Var at its core. On a basic level this can be as simple as giving the ability to members to get together in order to socialise and to discuss common issues and problems. This is facilitated by the regular events, the Neighbourhood Network coffee mornings and the various interest groups. From my own experience the Boules Group has grown like Topsy and offers a fun morning's informal *bouling* followed by lively lunches.

On a more serious level though we have recently assisted in providing a funeral for a British gentleman who was resident here and who was a welfare case. Unfortunately, after many years of living here he had no known relatives and was impecunious but had expressed a wish to be cremated.

Various other levels of assistance have been given both financially and by way of advice. This advice has recently involved at least two cases of problems with situations that have arisen between neighbours and one with the EDF. One involved assisting the member to gain the support of the *Mairie* and police in resolving the problem.

We have also been in correspondence with members relating to the inability for British residents who have been out of the UK for more than 15 years to vote. Please see more about this in this newsletter.

Aid has also been given towards transport to receive specialist medical care which is only available outside of the Var and where the cost could not be recovered from the CPAM.

Whilst we some time ago stopped the surcharge of a few euros added to the cost of events we do continue to need to raise funds for the purpose of welfare and do please think about donating a few euros with your event booking if you are able.

Ruby Wedding

The British Association of the Var committee and members send their congratulations to our Events Coordinator, Kevin Bell, and his wife Maria on the occasion of their recent Ruby Wedding celebrations.

Benefits for BAV members (Please show your membership card)

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 espresso 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 espresso 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.

La Provençal, Place Martin Bidoure, Aups. 04 94 70 00 24. Free espresso coffee with meal.

Le Grand Hotel, Place du Général Duchatel, Aups. 04 94 70 10 82. Free coffee or *digestif* with meal.

Les Trois Marches, 11 Cours Gambetta, Cotignac. 04 94 04 65 99. Pretty provençal restaurant. Free espresso coffee with meal.

Hotel and restaurant L'Orée du Bois, Quartier Ste Roseline, Le Muy. 04 98 11 12 40. Free coffee or tea with meal.

New York Break, 19 rue Picot, close to Place de la Liberté, Toulon. 04 94 98 69 14 or 06 42 65 08 21. Free drink with every meal.

Aviva Insurance, Vidauban. Luc de Bardonnèche offers various insurance discounts for BAV members – see his advert in the Newsletter.

JF-Assurances. www.jf-assurances.com, e-mail jf@jf-assurances.com. Tel. 04 94 40 60 94. 10% discount against detailed quotations.

MEMBERS' GROUPS

Boules / Lunching / Golf Group

A new record turnout was reached at the end of June with 29 *bouliste* members and friends playing on a Monday and 24 staying for lunch, and this growth continued into July when a new record of 31 was reached. Over the summer we have been joined by several 'first timers' who have apparently thoroughly enjoyed their experience. Spare boules are available by prior request. So please contact me if you wish to join us.

Rob Flanagan

The Azur Photography Group



It has been an unusually busy month for the Photographic Group as we have taken advantage of the fine weather to visit some of the photographically interesting sites this part of the world offers. The tranquil island of St Honorat lying just offshore from Cannes was the first of these visits and although small in size provided us with a variety of photographic opportunities. Dramatic seascapes contrasted with more sedate landscape scenes and with the famous Abbey also featuring prominently, there was no lack of suitable subjects for the camera.



Our most recent trip took us to the lavender fields near Riez. Our timing for this visit was perfect as the fields were at their best and hopefully we were able to do justice to this archetypal Var feature. In between these visits we enjoyed a magnificent 'end of term lunch' hosted by Sandra and David Shadrach. Many thanks to them for their hospitality, a great way to round things off before we break for the summer.

For more details, please contact Mike Harper:

Painting Group

This month the group met at the home of Auriol Langen in Grimaud where we were joined by a couple of other small groups of artists on the coast. In all we were 17 people sheltering in the shade looking at the house and garden from different angles. It was so interesting to see the garden interpreted in vibrant oils and delicate watercolours, the house in pastels and acrylics, and pots, plants and table ornaments in watercolour, pastels and oils.

Coffee, water and rosé disappeared in huge quantities and each artist contributed to a gourmet lunch. A most enjoyable (incredibly hot) day. No meeting has been planned for August.

British Association of the Var Welfare Coordinator

Ann Mitchem

04 94 ***** or 06 *****

welfare@baofthevar.com



New Inheritance law coming this summer

If you have not been hiding under a rock, you may have heard that a very important law is coming into force that will affect British people living in France and indeed those who just have property here. What is not clear to everybody is exactly what this means to them and how it all works. This new European law (known as 'Brussels IV'), was adopted 4th July 2012, (*EU 650/2012*). The law actually becomes effective 17th August 2015, so about now, which is why it has just become an interesting topic of discussion.

Article 22 of 'Brussels IV' states that "*a person may choose as the law to govern his succession, as a whole, the law of the state whose nationality he possesses at the time of making the choice or at the time of death.*"

What does this mean for you?

As a tax resident of France, you can make a French will with the same provisions as a UK will, requesting that UK law be applied to your estate. This would have the effect of UK inheritance law applying and thus avoiding forced French succession rules. This should also work for those with second homes in France. What it does not affect, and this is very important to understand, is inheritance tax. The new law merely overrides forced succession, allowing you to leave your estate to whoever you wish. It offers no control over the amount of tax payable and to whom, which remains firmly under French jurisdiction.

Will it work?

My reply to this would be yes maybe and eventually, maybe because the law was drafted in a bit of a hurry (set a long deadline and deal with the complications at the last minute) and because there are going to be many cross border issues that are currently unseen. For example, if an estate is contested and the estate in question belongs to a French resident, it would be dealt with by a French court, but this is complicated if the estate is being dealt with under English law. Of course, these and many other similar issues will be ironed out ... eventually!

Does this mean that it's useless?

No, not at all, this new law is great news, but it really is most useful for those with a particular set

of circumstances. Those who have children from former marriages, for example, will benefit greatly from this legal change. Prior to this change, getting around succession law had no simple single solution for those in these circumstances, but may have required a strategy of several solutions, none of which were perfect. This new EU law certainly makes life easier.

Should everyone be using this new law?

No, we don't think so. This is because, as already highlighted, we are very likely to see some complicated unforeseen problems, which is not easily avoidable with new international laws.

When it comes to financial planning, or indeed planning of any sort, it is best to deal with certainty as far as possible. As an example, for those couples who want to leave everything to each other, who do not have children from former marriages, we would often suggest a change of marriage regime, correctly written under community. This option will come at a price (generally around €600 to €1,000), but we can be absolutely sure that it will work (if written correctly), since it will be written under French law (integrated into the French civil code) and very importantly, this has been a solution that has been working well for many years, so it is well tested, whilst being backed up by significant jurisprudence and legal case history. A change of marriage regime, however, carries a great deal of risk for those with children from former marriages, so the new EU law is likely to be the more attractive option. The issue is that people are different and have varying objectives, so for a couple who do not wish to leave everything to each other, for example, there will be other solutions that are neither this new EU law or a marriage regime change, so it is absolutely imperative to get good advice before acting.

(See Kentingtons' advert on page 3 for contact details.)



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Tax Planning Seminar

The Committee is delighted to have arranged on your behalf a tax planning seminar to be conducted by Kentingtons and which will be followed by lunch largely sponsored by Kentingtons. We are giving you considerable advance notice in order to arrange your affairs to attend the seminar.

The event will be held on **5 November** at Hotel Les Esparrus, Route de Draguignan, 83690 Villecroze and will be designed to primarily cover the French tax forms and the completion of these together with a discussion on tax planning. This is a special event of importance to all of us who are resident in France and therefore the booking forms will be published several months in advance. The hotel is situated at the junction of the D557 and the D560 between Flayosc and Salernes.

The seminar will be followed by a 3 course lunch, wine and coffee, all for the heavily subsidised price of 10€.

Entrée: Velouté de Potimarron, Crème Fouettée,

Plat : Suprême de Volaille Sauce au Cidre, Ecrasé de Pommes de Terre et Légumes du jour,

Dessert: Tarte aux Pommes

Boissons : 1/4 de vin en pichet par personne rouge ou rosé (Domaine de l'Estello à Lorgues), café ou thé.

The Chapelle de Pennafort and the Tour Sarrazine



When travelling on the D25 between La Motte and Callas, having passed the Hostellerie les Gorges de Pennafort on the left, the

dome of this chapel can be seen on the hilltop towering above the hotel and surrounded by trees. The Saracen tower dates from the 11th century and the chapel from the 19th century.

The Association Callassienne de Rénovation du Patrimoine has been reactivated and is charged with the renovation project, but with an estimated cost of €480.000 to be raised solely from sponsorship and donations, this is no mean feat. In addition, the rockface which supports the two buildings has started to crumble, resulting in a protection order. It is possible to visit the exterior – from the large parking area by the river just after the hotel and the bridge, there is a path leading up through the trees but this is difficult for cars.

Salad recipes

Curried Chicken Salad with Mango



- 450g chicken fillets
- Salt
- 1 tsp curry powder
- 75g plain low-fat yoghurt
- 60g mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp mango chutney
- 2 tbsp fresh lime juice
- Black pepper
- 1 large ripe mango, peeled and diced
- 3 celery stalks, finely sliced
- 15g chopped coriander
- Lettuce leaves
- 2 tbsp sliced almonds (optional)

Steam or simmer chicken fillets for 10 minutes (or use ready-cooked) then leave to cool. Toast curry powder 1 min in saucepan over low heat. Whisk curry powder, yoghurt, mayonnaise, chutney, lime juice with pepper and salt to taste in large bowl. Dice chicken, then toss with mango, celery and coriander in dressing. Serve on a bed of lettuce, garnished with almonds, if using.

SERVES: 4 main, 6 starter.



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Water: a resource to be conserved



Water is a precious natural resource that is likely to become scarcer (and more expensive) as changes in the climate bring hotter, drier summers to some parts of the world. What is more, the pressures on water supplies all around the Mediterranean are getting steadily greater due to increased populations, changes in life style (e.g. swimming pools, dishwashers), and an influx of holiday-makers and second-home owners in the driest months. In some regions hosepipe bans and other restrictions on garden watering already apply, with fines for over-use, and these may well be implemented in other areas in the future. Boreholes might seem to provide plentiful water and to be an easy answer – but the underground water they draw on has often taken thousands of years to accumulate and is not infinite; moreover in some

Mediterranean coastal areas the pumping up of too much underground water for irrigation has led to penetration by seawater and irreversible salination. Thus all gardeners in regions with a Mediterranean climate, regardless of whether their water comes from a borehole or an urban supply, should be becoming increasingly aware of the need not to squander it. A water-wise garden is one that makes every single drop of water count. It employs appropriate irrigation and gardening techniques, which help reduce water consumption. Above all, it uses plants from Mediterranean climates that have low water requirements. Have gutters fixed to the house which drain rainwater into water butts and use this for watering pots with a watering can.

How can I reduce the amount of water I use in my garden?

- Get rid of your lawn. Lawns are the single largest guzzler of water in the garden. Indeed, it has been calculated that for a lawn to be a lush emerald green in the Mediterranean it will require about 1000 litres of water per square metre over the course of each summer. Lawns may be replaced by paving or gravel, both of which look good in Mediterranean gardens and have the additional advantage of providing a dry surface for sitting or eating in the garden during the winter months. Grass may also be replaced by carpet-forming plants such as *Dichondra repens*, *Phyla nodiflora* or some species of *Achillea*. If you cannot yet bring yourself to abolish your lawn, try at least to reduce its area as much as possible.

Bargain Basement

LP records

A selection of LPs of light classical music available free to a new home – do we have any collectors among our members? If so, please contact Harry Lewis in Flassans-sur-Issole to discuss further and arrange collection/delivery. 04 94 86 13 43 or harrylewis@alicedsl.fr

Sofas

Two Italian sofas in brown leather in good condition. One three seater 230 cms. wide by 110 deep and 60 high. Offers around € 250. One two seater 174 cms wide by 110 deep and 60 high. Offers around € 200. Must be collected. Phone 04 94 84 74 88 (Aups)

Professional picture framing equipment

Morso Mitre Cutter €1000, Excalibur 5000 glass and back board cutter €600, Cassesse Underpinner €400, Large Mount Cutter (approx. 180cm) €500.

Total €2500 but will negotiate for quick sale. caroline@lespapillons.eu or 04 94 59 88 14 (Néoules)

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Ex-pat voting in the UK

Many of you will be aware that there is a campaign to get rid of the 15 year limit on voting in the UK for ex-pats, especially in the light of the threatened referendum on UK membership of the European Union. We need to be able to make our views heard.

A BAV member has been in touch with Sir Roger Gale, MP, who is championing this campaign, to discover what progress has been made. Here is his reply:

"It is indeed the case that the Government intends to bring forward legislation to extend voting rights for ex-pat UK citizens in perpetuity. In conversation with the Leader of the House, Chris Grayling, I am led to believe that he hopes that this legislation will be brought forward within the current session of Parliament, which I take to mean before May 2016. If that is the case then it ought to be on the Statute Book in time to enable ex-pats whose rights to vote have expired to participate in any EU referendum, although I cannot of course personally guarantee that

It is worth noting, sadly, that of nearly two million ex-pats living within the European Union – mostly in France – still only one hundred thousand of those actually currently eligible to register bothered to do so in time to participate in the last General Election! That of course hardly strengthens our case."

Regarding his last paragraph, when we first moved to France we registered to vote to keep an eye on what was happening to our pensions in the UK. The administration is so dire that the voting papers arrived the day of the election so there was no way we could respond in time. That put us off for future years and we have been here for 16 years now so our eligibility has elapsed. I have read letters recently in the Connexion and the Weekly Telegraph with the same complaint, so things have not improved.

Editor

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 or www.bsnvar.org for further information.

British TV in France



A month of changes in British TV satellite reception. The new satellite Astra2G is now in service and this has resulted in many channel changes between the Astra satellites at 28.2 degrees and in many cases a weaker signal. We now have finally the Astra2E/F/G in service, across which are spread the Freesat type and Sky channels for the UK and Europe. Each satellite has a UK beam and a European beam. The BBCs, ITVs, 4s and 5s etc are of course transmitted on the UK beams which "end" officially in the north of France. Sky News, for example, along with the Sky HD channels are on the European beam and should be receivable down here with a smaller dish. At this time of year the BBCs etc have marginal reception even with a larger (1.2M) dish. Reception can improve from September onwards so even if you have very few channels now it may be worth checking later in the year.

For those of you without satellite TV the only other option is British TV via the internet.

- a. You must have an internet connection and download speed of at least 2Mb. (Mo it is called here). Verify yours using the website www.speedtest.net.
- b. Check that your internet supplier does not have download data restrictions – usually 10Gb or 20Gb each month as internet TV uses a lot of data.
- c. You need a computer device of some sort – PC, Tablet, smart phone or IPTV box.
- d. A modern style TV with an HDMI data connection. Some of the latest TV's have an internet connection as well which may be useable.

Many members use the Filmon website for their TV reception. This is free for the basic service and the video and sound can be extended from the items in c) to your TV by HDMI cable, Wi-Fi, Chromecast, EzCast etc. An IPTV box is specifically designed to provide this type of service from your internet to your TV. Again, many companies offer just IPTV boxes or this service which ranges considerably in price – internet search for more information. If you are technically minded and would like to install this yourself I recommend searching the YouTube website as there are many videos showing how people have done these configurations successfully.

Rob Ward

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

Cabasse, Carces, Correns Cotignac and Le Val

There will be **no meeting** in August.

Michael Wharton

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

Jim and Pauline North have hosted this meeting since the inception of Neighbourhood Networks and have now decided to take a rest. We thank them for their contribution to the BAV in giving of their time and effort. As no-one has come forward to take their place, this group is in abeyance until further notice.

Offers to chairman@baofthevar.com

Entrecasteaux, Salernes, Tourtour and Villecroze

The Villecroze, Tourtour etc coffee morning will be on the **4th Tuesday of the month**, place to be announced later.

Ann & Maurice Mitchem

La Motte and Le Muy

La Motte/Le Muy Neighbourhood Network - -

Seven of us residents met on yet another blazingly hot morning for coffee and conversation. We plan next month's get together for **Friday 14 August**, same time, same place – Bar des Cascades, La Motte, 10am. All are always welcome.

Alexandra Lewis-Smith

Les Issambres

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

Richard Tolain

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

We shall meet on Thursday, **20 August** from 10.30 onwards at the Cercle Philharmonique in the main square of St. Maximin la Ste. Baume. We have become a friendly group of regulars, but there is always room for more.

Diana Andre de la Porte

Congregation of the Ascension MONTAUROUX

part of the Anglican Church of Lorgues with
Fayence in the Var

You are very welcome to join us at
**The Presbytery, 37 Rue Ste Brigitte,
Montauroux**

We meet on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of
The month at **11h00** for Family Communion
We also have a Bring and Share lunch afterwards.
Please ring Hilary Rost at 04 94 47 70 67 or
Rev Peter Massey at 04 94 73 93 37 for details

www.lorgueswithfayence.org

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**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.

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Grimaud Village Church

Ecumenical service at Grimaud village church on first
Thursday of the month at 11h00 from September to
June.

July and August, service at Port Grimaud church on
first Sunday of the month at 17h00.

Please ring 04 94 60 87 05 for details

www.sjevar.com

L'Oasis Christian fellowship LORGUES part of the Anglican Church of Lorgues with Fayence in the Var

Every 2nd Sunday at 11h30 at

Arc-en-Provence, 1801 Chemin des Pailles

and **every 4th Sunday at 11h30** 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.lorgueswithfayence.org

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

Saturday 15 August

All contributions to: newsletter@baofthevar.com
or to Shirley Rowson, 83920 La Motte

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