



Seillans visit



There was a particularly large turnout of members arriving bright and early under threatening skies at Seillans, a village that many may have heard of, but is off the beaten track of the main roads of the Var, being between Fayence and Bargemon.



We were led around the village by Cathy, our guide from the village Tourist Office who gave an in-depth but humorous and knowledgeable presentation of the historic areas of the village and homes of Max Ernst, with the tour culminating in a visit to the museum of prints by the artist.



We then managed to relax, unfortunately indoors due to the weather, at the very accommodating La Gloire de Mon Père restaurant where we experienced excellent service and a superb all inclusive menu. So good was the food that everybody was comparing theirs with their partner's or neighbour's with the conclusion that it was all perfect, as was the day's visit.

Lunch at Trout Lake



Rumours had obviously spread about that secret restaurant at Entrecasteaux, as the BAV had one of the largest turnouts for an event other than the Vendange lunch or Jubilee lunch with 37 attending. However, those that did attend were not to be disappointed other than the occasional



concern about the amount of main course remaining uneaten due to the sheer quantity of food offered. Not one but four *amuse-bouches* were offered followed by a delicious seafood starter and then *filet mignon* of pork and cheese and dessert courses.



Once again an enormous cat fish was caught as if on schedule as last year, at exactly the same point in the lake adjacent the restaurant. Some thought that it was the same fish! Our thanks go to the Etang du Pêche for the service and quality of the food.



Forthcoming Events

**Summer Soiree & "Finger" Buffet
with Boules Tournament**
Wednesday 5 June - La Motte

Committee Meeting
Monday 17 June

English Theatre Live in the Var
'50 SHADES OF BATs'
Thursday 20 June - Puget sur Argens
and
Tuesday 25 June - Villecroze



www.baofthevar.com
See the Latest News and
Forthcoming Events on our BA
website

Reminder!

*Peter and Shirley Rowson invite you to
join them for a*

**Summer Soiree & "Finger" Buffet
with Boules Tournament**
(beginners welcome)

18h00 - Wednesday 5 June
10€

If possible, bring along your own boules if playing.

Books on sale weather permitting

Please see last month's Newsletter for a Booking Form. Please also indicate if you can bring a plate of "finger" food, as this means there is more profit for the BAV and less for Picard! However, you can claim reimbursement for the cost of the food on presentation of a receipt.

*****.

04 *****

*****@gmail.com

Abbaye de la Celle

This 11th century former Benedictine monastery near Brignoles is undergoing major restoration works, largely completed, and is available to visit this year between **13 April and 30 September** – guided visits only. There are archaeological finds on temporary display which will eventually be covered up again as the work progresses. Ring: 04 94 59 19 05 for details.

If you are looking for a special-occasion venue, part of the Abbaye is now a luxury hotel with restaurant run by Alan Ducasse.

Reminder!

**ENGLISH THEATRE
LIVE IN THE VAR**

BATs - British Association Thespians

For a fun, entertaining evening of Music + Dance, Poetry + Prose, Sketches + Songs, come along to one of BATs' summer shows saucily entitled

'50 SHADES OF BATs'

Thursday 20 June - Puget sur Argens
and
Tuesday 25 June - Villecroze

Drinks and nibbles served from 19h00
Curtain rises 20h00

Please bring your own picnic, table, chairs, cutlery etc for supper - Glyndebourne-style after the show. Candelabra optional! Directions will be given on receipt of Booking Form. Please see last month's Newsletter.

Still only **10€ pp**

Tour de France

The Tour de France cycle race starts in Corsica in 29 June and passes through the Var on **3 July**. According to our BAV cycling expert, Jim North, the race still has not yet been officially confirmed but when this has happened he will prepare an article for the July Newsletter with more details. This is a great opportunity to see an exciting national event close to home

UK Satellite TV changes – latest news

I have had telephone calls from Members concerned about the loss of UK TV reception here in the South of France. The latest news is that the next satellite to be launched, Astra2E, is not likely to go live until September this year.

The advice at the moment is to wait until after any channel changes have happened later in the year.

Rob Ward

Desperate to Stop?
call Alcoholics Anonymous
24 hour helpline –
08 20 20 02 57 aa-riviera.org

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

Cabasse, Carces, Correns, Cotignac, and Le Val

Meetings now take place on **the last Thursday of the month**, so the next one will be **27 June** at Cafe de Cour.

Michael Wharton

07 ***** *****@cam.ac.uk

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

We meet on the **second Friday of the month** at the Café de la Tour, Les Arcs at 10h30. You will find a warm welcome and interesting discussions if you care to attend. We make available a limited selection of popular English paperback novels.

Pauline and Jim North 04 *****

*****@wanadoo.fr

Entrecasteaux, Salernes, Tourtour and Villecroze

We meet on the **4th 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

La Motte and Le Muy

A very pleasant couple of hours passed at the Bar des Cascades in La Motte with half a dozen of us chatting, drinking coffee and eating croissants. Next meeting is planned for **Tuesday 11 June** at 10h00. All are very welcome.

Alexandra Lewis-Smith

04 ***** *****@bbox.fr

Les Issambres

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

Richard Tolaini

04 ***** 06 ***** *****@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 20 June** 10h30 onwards at the Cercle Philharmonique in St Maximin. There is plenty of parking within easy walking distance.

Diana Andre de la Porte

04 ***** *****@wanadoo.fr

Book Exchange

We are grateful to Ian and Pam Mackintosh for hosting a Book Exchange at their home in Entrecasteaux on 30 April. Despite the inclement weather, 136€ was raised towards the Welfare Fund.

New members

We welcome the following new members to the BAV: Frédérique & Allwyn Shaw of Gareoult and Roger & Janet Thomas of Flayosc.



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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.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman – Rob Flanagan

chairman@baofthevar.com 04 *****

Secretary – Michael Wharton

secretary@baofthevar.com 07 *****

Treasurer – Lesley Honeywell

treasurer@baofthevar.com 04 *****

Welfare Officer – Ann Mitchem

welfare@baofthevar.com

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

Events Secretary – Kevin Bell

events@baofthevar.com 04 *****

Publicity – publicity@baofthevar.com

webmaster@baofthevar.com

Member – John Collingwood

john@baofthevar.com 04 *****

Member – John Lloyd

john1@baofthevar.com 04 *****

Important non-Committee Members

Membership Secretary - Peter Rowson

membership@baofthevar.com 04 *****

Newsletter Editor - Shirley Rowson

newsletter@baofthevar.com 04 *****

"What's On" Guide

- 31 May – 2 June** St Tropez (and other towns), Château de la Moutte. Rendez-vous aux Jardins. National event celebrating 400 years since the birth of Le Nôtre. 10h00-12h30, 14h00-18h30. Free. 04 94 55 90 17.
- 31 May – 9 June** Gassin, Polo Club. 15th Anniversary St Tropez Polo Club – competition. 04 94 55 22 12.
- 1 Jun** St Maximin, La Croisée des Arts. Youn Sun Nah Quartet – jazz. 20h30. €15. 04 94 59 84 59.
- 1 Jun** La Motte, village centre. La Nuit des Vignerons – wine tasting and fete. 19h00. €5. 06 81 68 40 92.
- 2 Jun** Fréjus, Domaine Clos des Roses, Ste Brigitte. Musical picnic in vineyard. 04 94 52 80 51.
- 2 Jun** Lorgues, Château de Berne. Journée des Metiers d'Art. 04 94 60 43 60.
- 2 Jun** Lorgues, Point Info Tourisme. Guided visit of village. 10h30. €5. 04 94 73 92 37.
- 2 Jun** Les Arcs, Chapelle Ste Roseline. Guided visit. 14h00. €5. 04 94 73 37 30.
- 2 Jun** Trans en Provence, Chapelle Notre Dame. Guided visit. 15h30. €5. 04 94 73 37 30.
- 2 Jun** St Aygulf, Place de la Poste. St Aygulf en Fête.
- 6 Jun** St Raphaël, Espace Félix-Martin. Manu Dibango and Danny Doriz Big Band - jazz. 20h30. €26. 04 98 11 89 00.
- 6 Jun** St Tropez. Arrival of the Rallye des Princesses – all-female car rally from Paris. 08 92 68 48 28.
- 8 Jun** Brignoles, Eglise Saint Sauveur. Ensemble Chorale de Lorgues with Brignoles choir – Mozart Mass in C. 20h30. €15. 04 94 72 04 21.
- 8 Jun** Nice, Arènes de Cimiez. The Low Budget Men and "20 000 Vies" – charity concert. All proceeds of the concert going towards the charity organization "20 000 Vies" in order to offer Automated External Defibrillators to towns on the French Riviera and to organize training schemes to familiarize the public with life saving techniques. 20.30. €12.
<http://www.lowbudgetmen.com>
- 8 Jun** St Maximin, La Croisée des Arts. Natasha St Pier in concert – Canadian singer. 21h00. €25. 04 94 59 84 59.
- 8 Jun** Ramatuelle, Théâtre de Verdure. Fol' en Jazz. 19h30. 04 98 12 64 00.
- 8 Jun 15h00 and 21 Jun 19h30** St Raphaël, Port Santa Lucia. Water Jousting Tournament. 04 94 85 25 74.
- 8-9 Jun** Brignoles, UIISC7, Camp Couderc. Open day – forest fire fighting displays, etc. 04 94 77 53 83.
- 9 Jun** Lorgues, Château de Berne. Brocante .Professionnelle. All day. 04 94 60 43 60
- 9 Jun** Draguignan, Office de Tourisme. Guided visit. 10h30. €5. 04 98 10 51 05.
- 9 Jun** Les Adrets, Eglise. Homage to Francis Poulenc – concert. 20h30. 04 94 40 93 08.
- 9,16,23,30 Jun** Sainte Maxime, Eglise. Festival Magie des Orgues. 21h00. €5. 04 94 56 77 53.
- 11 and 15 Jun** La Motte, Domaine du Jas d'Esclans, Route de Callas. Guided visit of vineyard with tasting. 15h00. €3. 04 98 10 29 29.
- 12-16 Jun** Gassin, Polo Club, Route de Burrian. Ladies' Amateur Cup. 04 94 55 22 00.
- 13 Jun** Sainte Maxime, Cinema. Opera film. Nabucco - Verdi. 14h30 and 19h30. €18. 04 94 56 77 77.
- 13 Jun** Draguignan, Cinema. Opera film. Nabucco - Verdi. €19.
- 13-15 Jun** Draguignan, Rue Cisson. Fête des Vins. 10h00-19h00.
- 14 Jun** Grimaud, Chapelle des Penitents. Violin and piano. 21h00. €20. 04 94 55 43 83.
- 15 Jun** Bargemon, place St Etienne. Guided visit. 10h00. 04 94 47 81 73.
- 15 Jun** St Tropez, Rue de l'Eglise. Bravade des Espagnols. 9h00. 08 92 68 48 28.
- 15-16 Jun** Fayence, Eco Musée. La Fête des Médiévales. 8h00-17h00. 09 82 25 39 45.
- 15-19 Jun** St Tropez, Nouveau Port. Giraglia Rolex Cup – sailing. 04 94 97 30 54
- 16 Jun** La Motte, Château des Demoiselles, Route de Callas. Classic car display. 10h00. 04 94 70 28 28
- 16 Jun** Gréoux-les-Bains (Verdon National Park) Lions club of Draguignan Classic Car Rally from Draguignan to Gréoux-les-Bains – all day. Car and Driver €50 inc lunch. Passengers €40 inc lunch. Plus optional cruise on Lac d'Esparron €7 each – places limited. More info from Newsletter Editor.
- 16 Jun** Montauroux, Terrain Laroche. Fête de la Transhumance. 10h00. 04 94 47 75 90.
- 21 Jun** La Motte, Château des Demoiselles, Route de Callas. Apéritif musical. 18h00. 04 94 70 28 78.
- 21 Jun** All towns and villages – Fête de la Musique.
- 21 Jun** Salles-sur-Verdon, Eglise. Camerata Vocale – concert. 21h00. Free.
- 23 Jun** Lorgues, Château de Berne. Journée Médiévales. 04 94 60 43 60.
- 25 Jun** St Raphaël, Espace Felix Martin. The Low Budget Men and "20 000 Vies" – charity concert. All proceeds of the concert going towards the charity organization "20 000 Vies" in order to offer Automated External Defibrillators to towns on the French Riviera and to organize training schemes to familiarize the public with life saving techniques.
<http://www.lowbudgetmen.com>
- 28 Jun** Les Arcs, Café de la Tour. Fish and chips lunch. 12h00. €11. Booking essential, by preceding Tuesday. 04 94 73 30 56.
- 28 Jun** Lorgues, Château les Crostes, Chemin St Louis. Concert Classique – with symphony orchestra. 20h00. 04 94 73 98 40.
- 29 Jun** Montauroux, Chapelle St Barthélemy. Copenhagen choir singing opera. 20h00. €25. 04 94 50 41 07.
- 29 Jun** Sillans-la-Cascade, Bastidon. Camerata Vocale – concert. 21h00. €10.

29 Jun Cogolin, Les Marines de Cogolin. Festival de la Mer. Evening. Free. 04 94 55 01 10.

30 Jun Lorgues, centre ville. Marché Potier. 9h00-18h00. 04 94 73 92 37.

30 Jun Bargemon, Plateau de Favas. Foire Artisanale et Agricole. 9h00-18h00. 04 94 47 81 73.

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

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

Draguignan Theatre:

www.theatresendracenie.com 04 94 50 59 59

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

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.

UK Pensions Changes

Plans for a new flat-rate pension scheme in the UK announced in the Queen's Speech in May will withdraw the right for overseas spouses to get pensions based on their partner's National Insurance contributions – but will not affect the 220,000 overseas residents who already receive such state pensions.

From 2016 only an individual's own NI contributions will count towards state pension entitlement. It is intended to save hundreds of millions on the pensions bill. The present system recognises that historically one married partner did not work, but looked after the home. So spouses can use their partner's NI contributions to claim a "married person's allowance" of up to £66 a week – even if they have not paid into the UK system themselves. This will end for future claimants, to be replaced by plans for a single-tier pension – said to be worth £144 a week at today's prices – for anyone reaching retirement age after April 2016. The full pension will only be paid to those who have made NI contributions for at least 35 years. A reduced pension of £4.11 will be paid for every year worked above a threshold of seven to 10 years, but anyone without these years of NI contributions will no longer be entitled to a state pension.

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Bargain Basement

Sales and Wants printed **free** for members
email your ads to newsletter@baofthevar.com

House Contents Sale

Saturday 1 June and Sunday 2 June, 10h00-16h00. *****, Lorgues. For list of items and description, and directions please contact:

Carolyn 04 *****

or *Shirley* 04 *****

Extending pine table and 4 chairs, nearly new, €200. **Oak standard lamp** with shade, €30. **2 metal folding beds**, €20 the pair. Please contact: 06 ***** (Les Adrets)

3 Piece Cane Suite. 2 single high backed **arm chairs and matching 2 seater sofa**, cushions and backs in plain blue removable zip covers. In very good condition. Plus 3 sided cane **folding screen**. Bargain 50€. Could deliver. Mazauges. Contact: 04 *****

4ft 6in pine framed bed with spring firm mattress. Solid pine **coffee table** 75cm x 75cm x 75cm. Dark oak **bookcase** approx. 1mtr high x 1mtr wide. Round drop leaf **dining table** in dark oak approx 1 mtr diameter. Ladder 4 meters extendable to 7 meters. 2 x summer single duvets 4.5 tog. Offers invited.

Contact: *Ken Baynton* 04 *****
*****@baybreeze.info

Air conditioning unit Supraclimatics Blizair 2705 – freestanding on wheels (very heavy) Size: 33" high, 18" wide and 11" deep. Outlet pipe 4 feet long. Never used. Free, but buyer must collect and donation to BAV is expected. Address:- *****, Flassans sur Issole. Contact: 04 *****

MEMBERS' GROUPS

Chairman's Report

The Azur Photography Group



The group's decision for this meeting was 'Mono' and was not a particularly popular choice so it was interesting to find that it was, in fact, very enjoyable on two levels.

Firstly for those who chose to go out and take photographs in mono with a digital camera. You have to know or learn about the functions of your camera, a separate exercise on its own. Alternatively, when you start with a colour photograph, it is necessary to be able to pick a picture that will look as good or better in mono and then be able to use the computer software to manipulate the photo if required. We all agreed to revisit this subject again.

Anyone wishing to join us please contact:

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

Happy Boules

The Boules Group is continuing well, with members coming to 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

Painting Group

Our next meeting will be held at Jane Bartlett's home on Lake Carces on **Thursday 13th June**. Please contact her for more details:

Jane Bartlett 04 *****

I have received a comment from a former member that most of the social events of the BAV are related to restaurant meals and that with fixed menus this does not accommodate members with specific dietary requirements. There are, of course, many non-meal related activities that we offer as indicated by the 'special interest' groups referred to in this Newsletter but I should stress that we do try to respond positively to meal requirements outside of any fixed menu offered as most restaurants will accommodate this. This certainly applied at the Christmas lunch where two members did not wish to have the rich menu offered and received a simpler menu, and also at the Seillans lunch where my children received a children's menu. So, if you do not wish to have the menu offered due to specific dietary needs please contact us at events@baofthevar.com and we will see if we can offer something more suitable for you.

At the AGM a proposal was received by members that the Committee be allowed to claim expenses on BAV business. This has now been discussed in Committee and with the proposers and agreed that an allowance at a relatively modest 0,20€ per km be allowed, this being substantially less than the 0,50€ per km allowance given to welfare helpers and which reflects all car running costs.

The Committee, of course, are still responsible for the event/meal costs. We, as a Committee strive to have as many of the Committee attend events as possible in order to mix with members, particularly with single or new members, and we hope that this contribution towards the costs of travel will facilitate this. Furthermore it has been felt that the cost of attendance at Committee meetings may be causing members to hold back from offering to join the Committee so if you feel that you could contribute by joining the Committee then please contact me.

Finally, I am very pleased at last to confirm that the Children's Activity Booklet drawn up by Shirley Rowson is now in production and it has been agreed that Barclays Bank, Fréjus will partially sponsor this. We will be sending this out to all Members and it will also be available at some tourist offices, so if you have been at a loss as to what your or your friends' children, grandchildren, or tenant's children can do in the area then this certainly should no longer be the case.

Annual General Meeting Proposal Report on Outcome

At the recent AGM a proposal was made by Bill and Jean Naisbitt that Committee Members be able to claim 0.50€/km when travelling on BAV business. The concept gained general support from Members, and in particular from Alastair Ross, former chairman and co-founder of the BA.

The Internal Rules and Regulations of the Association determine that the Committee discusses any proposal made at the AGM, and with the Proposer, to reach an agreement. If no agreement is reached then the proposal is placed on the following AGM agenda. If agreement is reached then the result must be published in the Newsletter.

The Naisbitt's proposal concerning Committee Members' travelling expenses has been discussed in Committee and with the Proposers, and agreement reached that a reduced amount of 0.20€/km is a reasonable amount to cover fuel costs, and this rate may be claimed when Committee Members travel on any BAV business.

Michael Wharton, Hon Secretary

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.

British Association of the Var Welfare Coordinator Ann Mitchem

04 ***** or 06 43 86 49 01
welfare@baofthevar.com

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 15m² with access for a box van. Please reply to the Newsletter:

newsletter@baofthevar.com



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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.

Address Book corrections

Please note the following corrections to the 2013 Address Book:

Christian and Cheryl Curabet – email address should be *****@icloud.com

Geoffrey and Gabrielle Farr – email address should be *****@btinternet.com

Passport Application Changes

Changes are coming into force for passport applications for Britons in France as part of an efficiency drive. By 2014 people will send these directly to London, instead of to Paris as happens at present. All passports are already printed in the UK, after the paperwork has been sent from Paris, but this unit will close and all administration will be done from the UK. The turnaround time should remain the same – four weeks for renewal and six weeks for a new passport. Details of when this will begin are not yet available, but the UK Government's website can be checked for updates, as well as for full instructions on how to apply for, or renew, your passport. www.gov.uk/government/world/france

My Village – Puget sur Argens



What do you think of when somebody mentions Puget sur Argens? I suspect a string of car dealerships and furniture depots on the N7 between Junction 37 of the A8 and Fréjus. However, the old village is charming. In the centre is the church dedicated to St Jacques, where the Sunday mass has a real swing in the music, with saxophones, guitars and electric piano etc. and a really good choir – no organ! On the opposite side of the square is 'Le Tour de l'Horloge' which leads in to a network of narrow alleys. Next to the church is the Café de la Place, with an excellent buffet *formule* at 12€ or *plat de jour* at 9€. In the summer the tables are in the square shaded by parasols - think of the café in 'Allo, Allo'.

The *Mairie* is the largest building in Puget, probably as large as those in Fréjus or St Raphaël. Our entertainment complex – 'Espace Victor Hugo' - is really opulent for such a small village. It can be converted from a theatre to a venue for 'café concerts' and an exhibition centre, or even boxing matches. Both have been paid for by the business rates from the N7 light industry. Once a year, Bill Haley's pianist plays there. There is also a smaller centre in the old Mairie 'Espace Paul Cezanne' which is used for exhibitions of painting and photography by amateurs. Just behind is the War Memorial where the 'Vin d'Honneur' is served after the 8 May and 11 November Remembrance ceremonies.

Like many ancient villages, Puget is on a hill and in the floods of 2011 helicopters brought campers etc from the flood plain of the Argens to the football field behind our apartment. The adjacent 'Salle Polyvalente' was used by the commune and Red Cross to provide accommodation and food for those who had been rescued.

As Reed seems impossible for the French to pronounce or spell, we tend to just be known as 'Les Anglais'. When I went to the Mairie to say we

were now living in Puget, as the law demands, I was told "We know who you are and where you live"! Can't get away with anything! But we are on nodding terms with many of the villagers. Being seen at events like the turning on of the Christmas Lights helps us to integrate and not just be foreigners living in their village.

Stuart Reed

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.

2 June – 10h30. Celebration of Anniversary of Coronation of HM The Queen (with lunch)

Grimaud Village Church

1st Thursday of each month at 11h00

Please ring 04 94 60 87 05 for details

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

The Var Tuesday Club

meets every 3rd Tuesday

see www.vartuesdayclub.org for details

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

For next month's Newsletter

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

Saturday 15 June

All contributions to:

newsletter@baofthevar.com

or to Shirley Rowson, *****,

83920 La Motte.



British Association of the Var

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June 2013

Newsletter Supplement

Dog Friendly Beaches

WHILE dogs are mostly banned from French beaches, the animal charity "30 Millions d'Amis" has compiled a map of 167 beaches which welcome pets for at least for part of the day. The map was made in a bid to reduce the 60,000 cats and dogs that are dumped each year, often beside roads on the way to holiday resorts as families realise the problem of trying to find a space on a beach or park that is open to pets. The dumping of so many animals overwhelms animal shelters with thousands of animals arriving every week during summer. One refuge said that owners had even thrown a puppy over a high fence into its grounds.

The charity aims to show that people and their pets can enjoy a holiday together. The map also lists animal friendly hotels and restaurants. Gites are now obliged by law to allow pets to stay but they may charge extra for cleaning if a pet is included. There are, however, restrictions on taking a dog on a beach as they must be kept on a lead or face a €11 fine. Some beaches are open for dogs only at certain times – generally early morning or later when it is quieter. Few beaches will allow dogs in the water alongside bathers but you can ask the lifeguard in charge or check the signs. On the beach, think of the dog's comfort: keep it in the shade; if it goes in the water make sure to rinse off the seawater with clean fresh water to avoid any irritation from salt or sand.

Decisions on whether dogs are allowed on the beach or in the water are made by the local mayor and the main reason for objection is the risk to the European blue flag for clean water. Owners are asked to be on their best behaviour and make sure to clear up and not leave dog mess on the beach.

Find the map of dog-friendly beaches at www.30millionsdamis.fr. Click "Mon Animal et Moi" then the drop-down menu on the left "Carte-Vacances". See below for beaches in the Var:

SAINT AYGULF - Boundary Fréjus/St Aygulf
Information: near the naturist beach, dogs allowed, snack café on the beach.

SAINT CYR SUR MER - Port D'Alon
Information: Telephone: 04 94 26 73 73

SAINTE MAXIME - Beach with section reserved for animals. Information : Plage de la Garonnette and Plage des Elephants. Dogs must be on lead.
Telephone: 04 94 79 42 42

BANDOL - Beach with section reserved for animals. Information: Only allowed on the edges of pebble beaches. Telephone: 04 94 29 17 60

"Non au gaz de schiste!"

You may have seen this sign at the entrance to your village and wondered what it was about. "Gaz de schiste" is "shale gas" in English and is purported to be the next great answer to the world's ever-growing energy needs. It is formed from the decomposition of clay rich in organic matter and is trapped in porous rocks, which have to be broken in order to extract it. It is already being used widely in the USA, but is also of interest to governments in Canada, Asia, Australia and Europe. However, the risk of earthquakes (as happened recently off the Lancashire coast in the UK) and of air and water pollution, has caused environmental groups to lobby against this source of energy, and particularly against the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) method of extraction.

In Europe, the two countries with the largest resources of shale gas are France and Poland, with the south-east and north east being the richest areas in France, including large parts of the Var. In 2010, 64 exploration licences were issued in France of which 3 have since been revoked, but in 2011 France became the first country to outlaw hydraulic fracturing, and existing licences are for research purposes only at present. The concern of the environmental lobbies is that other methods of extracting the gas will be approved under these licences, which although not as potentially damaging as "fracking", may also have adverse effects on the environment. As a result, many local organisations (*collectifs*) have been formed in Var villages to monitor the progress of this threat.

More information at:

<http://docgazdeschiste83.org>.

Multimillion euro electric circuit for the PACA region

The new 'PACA Security Network' is well under construction, now boasting 50 kilometres of super electric lines. 225,000 voltage underground cables will eventually run 107 kilometres through the Var, providing the entire PACA region with a stable power supply and preventing mass black outs. The line is an extraordinary development – expensive, rare and uncommonly large. It will run between Boutre (south of Manosque), and Trans (south of Draguignan), securing the electricity network for the entire PACA region. The network is divided into three lines, each of which will be installed in protective sheath coverings and buried a metre and a half below the ground. 50 kilometres of the giant line have now been completed, as part of the 170 million euro project that will see a 225,000 voltage line installed in the Var.

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.

Roquebrune-sur-Argens

L'Aqueduc des 25 ponts and Notre Dame de Pitié

Easy circular walk taking in *Chapelle Saint Anne*, 18th century aqueduct, sanctuary *Notre Dame de Pitié*, ruined mill and panoramic views. 2h00, 150m climb (optional 350m climb). Map IGN 3544 ET.

Car access:

Take the D7 to Roquebrune-sur-Argens and turn off into the village centre, following the signs to the cemetery and *Chapelle Sainte Anne*, where you can park.

All the route is way-marked yellow on posts with lime green marks on stones. Take the path which climbs up behind the chapel from the left (wooden barriers). There are views and benches

at regular intervals. Cross the road and continue on the path opposite past the wooden barriers, or turn right onto the road to climb 350m to visit the *Chapelle Notre Dame de Pitié* (17th century Carmelite monastery) – 20 minutes extra. Return to the path and continue up to the aqueduct ruins (*les 25 ponts*). Several botanic information signs are at the bottom of the aqueduct. Take the left fork and follow this path as far as the track then follow this to the right (yellow way-marks). At the wooden barrier turn right towards *La Petite Maurette* where the path descends into and crosses a valley, then turn right by another wooden barrier and cross a stream. At the three-way junction take the middle path which leads to a wide track – follow this to the right. On the left is the ruined mill. Continue on this track which crosses the valley and returns towards to the village. The road becomes tarmac (GR51) and passes in front of apartment blocks *Le Pont des Pauses*. Follow the route to the right (*avenue Gibouin*) which leads back to the cemetery and chapel Ste Anne.

Information

Le Sanctuaire Notre Dame de Pitié – this Carmelite monastery was founded in the 13th century but the present building dates from the 17th century and has a gilded wooden provençal altarpiece and a Piéta. The monastic rite is celebrated daily.

L'Aqueduc des 25 ponts – built in the 18th century to bring water from a spring to the growing population of the village and was in use until the early 20th century.

Roquebrune-sur-Argens – a visit to the medieval village is highly recommended, with its charming arcades and ancient buildings.

