



British Association of the Var

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March 2015

Newsletter

No 154

Important AGM details - Wednesday 18 March 2015

It is **very important** that those members intending to attend the AGM return the Booking Form accompanying this Newsletter.

Location: Les Jonquières, Le Muy

On the bypass (1005 Boulevard de la Liberation) at Le Muy. From the east, pass Casino on left then restaurant is after the Vet on the right. From the west, after Dia on left pass through 3 sets of traffic lights and the restaurant is on the left. More parking in side-road.

Schedule for the morning

10h30 - Registration

with coffee, orange juice and croissants available for members

11h00 AGM commences

AGM documents, which will be distributed 14 days prior to the meeting, will include the Agenda and proxy voting slips for members unable to attend.

Nominations for committee must be with the secretary by **18 February**.

Members who receive electronic Newsletters will receive their AGM documentation electronically and proxy voting slips will be attached in the same manner as event booking forms.

12h00 approx end of the meeting

Members can then stay for lunch if they wish. The venue has a good value selection of self-service buffet, pizzas, menu du jour, etc.

Please indicate on the reservation slip whether you are staying for lunch.

Will members who do stay note that all meals and drinks after the AGM are their responsibility and the restaurant will provide individual bills. BAV is **not** responsible for any food or drink costs.

ALL MEMBERS must complete the Registration Form prior to the Meeting.

ONLY MEMBERS can attend and no membership subscription renewals or membership applications will be accepted on the morning of the AGM.

Annual General Meeting 18 March 2015 - RULE 6: General Meetings

I hope you will be able to attend the AGM. It is an important meeting in the life of our Association. You will very soon be getting the papers and then you will have the opportunity to ask questions on any item on the agenda but only if you send your question to me 7 days before the AGM. Members may participate in any discussion following the disclosure of written questions and the committee members' answer. Members may also make proposals but these cannot be voted upon at this meeting. A decision on proposals cannot be made until the next AGM or general meeting. There is also an opportunity to contribute to the meeting without written questions during the agenda item "Matters of General Interest". The rules that govern the procedures to be followed at a general meeting are printed below.

"Questions concerning the minutes and reports can only be made in writing and lodged with the Secretary not less than 7 days before the AGM. That is by 11 March. An appropriate person will answer. Any proposals from Members cannot be put to the vote. The Committee will discuss with the proposer and determine if the proposal can be put to the next general meeting. The purpose is to safeguard the association from passing illegal or unworkable solutions. Ideas for improving the effectiveness towards meeting our objectives may be discussed under "Matters of Interest"

Michael Wharton, secretary@bavofthevar.com



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Forthcoming Events

Committee Meeting
9 March

Coffee Morning in Cotignac
13 March

AGM in Le Muy
18 March

Lunch in St Maximin
23 April

Trout Lake Lunch in Entrecasteaux
22 May

Summer Soirée in La Motte
9 June

Vendange Lunch in Lorgues
12 September

Quiz Lunch in Flayosc
16 October

Christmas Lunch in St Aygulf
5 December

St George's Day lunch

This will be held on **23 April** at midday at Relais de Bonaparte, RN7 Place Malherbe, 83470 St Maximin la Sainte Baume. 04 94 86 52 40. The maximum number is 30 members and bookings will be required to be confirmed to Kevin by 13 April. The price is 25€ and 27€ for non-members.

The price includes: three courses, bottle of wine between 4 people and coffee. Extra bottles of wine at 15,50€ each.

Velouté d'asperges au lard croustillant
Ou

Terrine de foie de volaille « maison »,
confiture d'échalotes

Paleron confit (beef), purée de pomme de
terre et jus réduit

Ou

Pavé de saumon rôti dur peau, légumes
printaniers et infusion basilic

Crumble aux fruits de saisons
Ou

Mi-cuit au chocolat, crème d'amande

Lakeside Gourmet Lunch

On Friday **22 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 have been before 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 to 60 so please book as early as possible and not later than 12 May. The booking form is in this newsletter.

Menu – 30€ members, 32€ non-members

Gambas à l'ail et au persil flambées aux
cognac

Entrecôte aux cèpes à la crème avec ses
legumes

Assortiments de 3 fromages et son miel
d'acacia

Profiteroles au chocolat et ses fruits frais

Apéritif, vin et café compris

Directions

On the road towards Carcès 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.

Coffee Morning

Bill and Jean Naisbitt will be holding a Coffee Morning on **Friday 13th March**, at *****

83570, Cotignac. A very popular event given Jean's reputation for her beautiful cakes and Bill's gardening advice. Books will be on sale as usual for the Welfare fund. Please come along for a chat.

British Association of the Var
Welfare Coordinator
Ann Mitchem

04 94 70 74 55 or 06 43 86 49 01
welfare@baofthevar.com

“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

March 2015

27 Feb-2 Mar St Raphaël, Palais de Congrès.

Salon de l’Habitat. 10h00-19h00. Free.

28 Feb-1 Mar Sillans-la-Cascade, Salle du Bastidon. Salon des Orchidées. 10h00-18h00.

1 Mar Seillans, Place Varlat. Marché Gourmand. 9h00-18h00. 04 94 76 85 91

1 Mar Flayosc, Eglise St Laurent. Choeur du Sud – gospel concert. 16h00. 04 94 70 40 03

4 Mar St Tropez, Salle Louis Blanc. Architecture – illustrated talk by Carl Thompson. 19h30. €10 inc aperitifs.

4-8 Mar and 11-15 Mar Vidauban, Domaine Equestre des Grands Pins. Dressage Festival. Free. 04 94 73 48 85

8 Mar Fayence, Espace Culturel. Roméo et Juliette – ballet film. 16h00. €20. 04 94 85 00 35

8 Mar St Tropez, cinema. Roméo et Juliette – ballet film. 16h00. €19.

14 Mar Lorgues, Espace Mitterand. Orpheus in the Underworld – Offenbach. 20h45. €10. 04 98 10 27 76

14 Mar Flayosc, Espace d’Activités. Irish music concert. 20h00. 04 94 70 40 03

14-15 Mar Brignoles, Complexe du Vabre. Salon de l’Outil Ancien. 9h00-18h00. 04 94 86 22 14

15 Mar Grimaud, Eglise St Michel. Soirées Musicales de Grimaud – Violin and viola concert. 18h00. €22. 04 94 55 43 83

15 Mar Les Adrets de l’Esterel, Eglise Notre Dame des Maures. Piano and string trio. 16h30. €18. 04 94 40 93 08

17 Mar Draguignan, cinéma Chabran. Swan Lake, Pepita – ballet film. 20h15. €20

18-22 Mar Draguignan, Espace des Collettes. Foire de Printemps. €3

19 Mar St Raphaël, Salle Félix Martin. Jazz concert. 20h30. €13. 04 98 11 89 00

20-22 Mar Grimaud, Complexe sportif les Blaquières. Salon la Vie Autrement – everything organic. 10h00-19h00. €5

21 Mar Ste Maxime, Carré Léon Gaumont. Lux and Glory – ballet. 20h30. 04 94 56 77 77

21-22 Mar Port Fréjus. Regatta

22 Mar Flayosc, Eglise St Laurent. Misa Tango concert– CD Vocale. 16h30

22 Mar Rayol Canadel, Jardin des Méditerranées. Fête du Printemps.

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

27-29 Mar Ste Maxime, Théâtre de la Mer. Salon des Vignerons et de la Gastronomie. 10h00-19h00. Free. 08 26 20 83 83

29 Mar Les Arcs, Café de la Tour. Thé Tango – learn to tango. 14h30. Free. (Optional lunch.) 04 94 73 30 56

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

Desperate to Stop? call Alcoholics Anonymous

24 hour helpline –
08 20 20 02 57 aa-riviere.org



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Chairman's Report

The 5th AGM is again upon us this month. Enough has been said about the procedures but I wish to touch on the Proxy Votes. This is an issue that I have been pushing for for many years with earlier Committees and I have experienced considerable resistance to having Proxy Votes. I eventually succeeded in having it accepted that there should be Proxy votes a few years ago. My argument has been that being an Association of largely British people, by definition some of us will not be in the Var at the time of the AGM. Equally, some members may be on holiday, away, hospitalised, or due to the size of the Var itself, simply may not be able to get to the AGM. We strive to be a democratic Association and therefore it is simply not equitable to exclude the votes of these members and all should have the right to vote.

However, one argument against having Proxy Votes is that the individual is not present at the AGM and cannot react to a change of decision resulting from discussion at the AGM. If, therefore, a detailed discussion ensues at the AGM with a solid and clear argument made against the way the Proxy has been given then it is too late to change the Proxy Vote. It is therefore essential that those making a Proxy Vote should be satisfied that their vote would not change even after a detailed discussion or that the person being given the Proxy holds similar views to theirs. Whilst this argument against having Proxy Votes is well founded it seems to me that the analogy is that there is always going to be a percentage of votes cast in the event of a General Election or other major vote that are probably made without a complete knowledge of the issues involved but the individual nevertheless has a right to vote.

I therefore wish to reaffirm my wish to continue with Proxy Votes but would ask members to ensure that they are well aware of the issues concerned and have a definite view in favour or against the issue or person being voted for. Having said that, I believe that there are no contentious issues at this year's AGM and, in any event, we look forward to seeing you there.

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.

Benefits for BAV members

(Please show your membership card)

Cigalon, Grand Rue, Flayosc 04 94 70 45 85. Offer: complementary espresso 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 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.

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Faux Amis (False Friends)

More in our series of French verbal traps.

Blanket/Blanquette

Don't be surprised if, after asking your neighbour to lend you a "*blanquette*", he or she turns up on your doorstep with a ready-cooked meal. "*Blanquette*" is a much-loved veal stew (*Blanquette de veau*) which has little to do with keeping you warm at night. But "*une couverture*" will help you cover up.

Terrible/Terrible

This is a tough one, because although the word can have the same meaning in French as it has in English, it is often used to express just the opposite, i.e. that something is "great". And it all depends on your tone of voice. Your safest bet to convey that something is terrible in the Anglo-saxon sense of the word is to use the word "*horrible*".

Tongue/Tong(s)

This false friend will hardly get you into any trouble, but it sure could cause some confusion with almost any French listener who might wonder where exactly this conversation is going. Tongue will most likely sound like "*tongs*" (pronounced with a silent s) which means thongs, or flip-flops. If you want to stick to discussing your tongue, say "*langue*".

Introduce/s'Introduire

As if an introduction in France wasn't a fraught experience already, one of the most two-faced of 'false friends' in French is the verb "*s'introduire*". Naturally, you would think it means 'to introduce'. It actually means to penetrate, insert or enter. So next time you meet a group of French people and you want to suggest you should all introduce each other, the verb you're looking for is "*se présenter*".

Luxurious/luxurieux

This one is particularly nasty because even though "*de luxe*" means luxury, as you would imagine, if you want to say "luxurious" don't try to say it with a French accent, because it will probably come out as "*luxurieux*" which means "lustful". If you want to say "you went to a luxurious hotel at the weekend" your French guests might start thinking you spent the last few days in the company of DSK.

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.

MEMBERS' GROUPS

The Azur Photography Group



Our last two meetings have been devoted to the use of video. Thanks to the patience and in-depth knowledge of David Rowe, one of our members, the group was able to learn about the mysteries of this powerful technique.

Having shot a number of short videos, members were able to address the post-shooting process and, with the help and encouragement of David, examine the various ways in which the original material could be enhanced by the creative use of editing software.

At the end of these sessions, we felt a lot more confident about the use of this form of photography and hopefully we will be able re-visit this technique at one of our later meetings to see how it has been taken up within the group.

For more details, please contact Mike Harper:

*****@yahoo.co.uk

Boules / Lunching / Golf Group



For the moment the boules group continues to meet each Monday afternoon but please 'watch this space' for the change to the mornings

around the time of the clocks changing in order to benefit from the cooler mornings

Contact [Rob Flanagan](mailto:Rob.Flanagan@baofthevar.com) chairman@baofthevar.com

Painting Group



Maggie Green is holding a painting day on **21 April** at 10.30 in St Aygulf. There will be a "bring a plate" shared lunch afterwards. Please contact Maggie for details.

0668*****

*****@gmail.com

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

Sunday 15 March

All contributions to:

newsletter@baofthevar.com

or to Shirley Rowson,

***** 83920 La Motte

Bad French service targeted in campaign



The notoriously bad customer service being provided in France could one day become a thing of the past.

With an ever-growing government scheme geared towards recognising and celebrating good customer service, French businesses seem to be taking the lead from their European neighbours, adopting the motto 'service with a smile'. The initiative, entitled 'Preferential Trade', was introduced two years ago by the Chamber of Commerce (CCI) and has just signed its one thousandth business to the scheme. It allows customers to easily identify businesses which they can be sure will offer friendly service, with the presence of a sign outside the shop front denoting its involvement.

Growing interest in the programme serves to highlight the discontent that the French themselves, and not only foreigners, feel towards the notoriously poor service that the country's businesses have to offer. This echoes the findings of the study, conducted in August this year by the French Institute of Public Opinion (IFOP), which found that it is not only tourists that are forced to bear the brunt of grumpy waiters. The results noted that 9 in 10 French people are also afraid of arrogant staff and are equally annoyed at the bad attitude they are faced with when frequenting restaurants and cafes.

Bargain Basement

Touring Caravan – English but French registered. Abbey Vogue GTS 215, year 2002. Fridge hob, gas oven, hot and cold water system, chemical toilet (cassette), electric mover. 3000€ plus accessories. Contact Fred Carpenter for more details: 04 94 *****

Patio Umbrella - Cuzco Sombrero by Pompeii Casual Furniture Co. Mahogany wood. Canopy is UV and water resistant with air vents. Height: 2.8m, diameter 3.5m. Base: steel plate 58cm x 58cm. €100. Contact Tony Barlow on mobile: 06 46 *****

Time change

Please note that the clocks go forward one hour on 29 March.

Smoke detectors

The law comes into effect on 8 March 2015 and it requires smoke detectors to be fitted in corridors or hallways that lead to rooms that are regularly used (sitting rooms and bedrooms). France has traditionally lagged behind in using such detectors in private property, with under 5% of properties in France being equipped with a detector, compared to 90% in England. All houses will need at least one smoke detector fitted. There is no mention – yet – that this must be done by an electrician.

The law can be found at <http://www.service-public.fr/actualites/001544.html> and again at <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000027169390>. You'll see that property owners will need to fit smoke alarms in rented property (including second homes). Long-term tenants will be responsible for the upkeep of alarms, their testing and battery renewal, whereas all this will need to be done by owners of holiday rental property.

What sort of smoke detector is required? The device required is a smoke detector (*détecteur / avertisseur de fumée* or *alarme de fumée* and must conform to NF EN 14604. That should be all you need to look for. Prices vary tremendously.

Monopoly windfall

To celebrate the 80th birthday of the French edition of Monopoly, there are special boxes of the 2015 edition on sale with an added bonus: 69 boxes containing €150 in real notes, 10 with €300, and 1 with all real notes – over €20,000. So, to improve your language skills, buy the French version of Monopoly and take a gamble on a windfall.



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VISIT PROVENCE – places to go in the Var and beyond.

Moustiers-Sainte-Marie



Moustiers-Sainte-Marie, or simply Moustiers, is a commune in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence department and is considered one of the "most beautiful villages of

France". It lies at the western entrance to the Gorges du Verdon. The village has been a centre of the pottery trade, especially *faïence*, for centuries. A spring flows out of the cliff and creates a waterfall in town, providing water power. The village was built on platform terraces a hundred or so metres up the side of a limestone cliff. At twilight when the sun on a clear day strikes the south-facing cliff, a diffuse pink light glows across the village.



Above the town, a gold-painted star hangs on a 225m-long chain

suspended between two cliffs. Its origin, according to a legend popularised by Provençal poet Frédéric Mistral, lies in the 10th century; the original star and chain have been replaced several times since then. The current star is about 50 years old. Ten years ago it fell after the chain snapped, and was rehung using a helicopter. According to the legend, during the Crusades the knight Bozon de Blacas was held prisoner by the Saracens; he vowed to hang a star over his village if he was able to return. No one knows how the star was originally hung there.

As well as the ancient parish church of Notre Dame, there is a chapel high on the mountain overlooking the village, Notre Dame de Beauvoir, which can be reached by steps cut in the rock. This is not for the faint-hearted, but the views are rewarding. There is a pottery museum, various pottery workshops, and retail shops selling the distinctive ware, plus many charming restaurants and craft shops. Parking can be difficult at busy times but there are several car parks on the outskirts of the village. See www.moustiers.eu for more information.



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"Quotes"

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it. Bob Hope

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Winter Fuel Payment - latest

A bid to have new regulations removing the Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) from expats in France has failed – but the MP behind it says he is still hopeful the UK government may change its mind. The 'prayer' against the regulations, which restricts WFP to people in named 'cold' countries, not including France, did not give rise to a debate on annulling them within the period of 40 working days that was open for this. Conservative MP Roger Gale, who tabled the motion to annul the regulations, said that, despite the fact 19 other MPs supported the bid, DWP Minister Iain Duncan Smith was not obliged to offer the topic for debate. "There was never going to be one unless the government called for it – and they haven't responded," he said. The bid was a long shot as it is uncommon that the government allows time for such a debate to be held, but the more support such a 'prayer' gets the more likely it is. The regulations are now law, but they state that they "come into force" on September 21 – in time to block applications for WFP for winter 2015/16.

The European Commission, which previously said that the WFP should be paid to all eligible people in the EU, says it is now waiting for that date before it can comment further, for example on whether it will initiate infringement action. This is because technically the regulations will not be implemented until then and the commission cannot oppose something that has not happened yet.

New Members

We welcome the following people to membership of the British Association of the Var: Lorraine Chekir from Juan-les-Pins, Chris and Alison Walley from Taradeau and Ian, Euan and Laura Ferguson from Draguignan.

Marseille to Milan by train

ItaliaRail is now selling tickets for the new Marseille to Milan route on the Thello train. This new daytime route travels along the French and Italian Rivières with stops at numerous stations along the way, including Toulon, Les Arcs and St Raphaël in the Var. More details on www.italiarail.com

Soup recipes

SQUASH AND APPLE SOUP



2 medium Golden Delicious apples
800g butternut squash or pumpkin
2 tbsp vegetable oil
1 small onion, chopped
400ml vegetable stock
1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme
Salt and pepper
225ml single cream
Parsley to garnish

1. Fry onion in oil until tender.
2. Peel, quarter and core apples and cut into 2cm chunks.
3. Peel squash and cut into 2cm chunks, removing any seeds.
4. Add apples, squash, stock, thyme and 350ml water to pan and bring to the boil.
5. Season and simmer for 20-25 mins, stirring frequently, until squash is tender.
6. Blend, stir in cream and heat through over medium heat, stirring occasionally.
7. Garnish with parsley.

SERVES 8

Michelin stars

Good news for food lovers in the Var as three more Michelin stars were awarded in the 2015 list - La Voile in Ramatuelle, L'Archange in St Raphaël and Le Castelleras in Fayence.

Draguignan's new prison

The new prison for Draguignan has started the construction phase. Earthmovers moved in to the site in the Nouradons quarter of Draguignan on 21st January, and the construction phase has now started and is due to be finished by spring 2017, when 250 employees will start work, five months before the arrival of the 504 inmates.

"Quotes"

Dogs have masters. Cats have staff. *Anonymous*



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

Quiz Lunch



The BAV again hosted a quiz on 12 February, this time at the Lou Cigaloun Hotel, St Antonin. 29 members attended a

very pleasant lunch which was followed by the Quiz. Shirley Rowson kindly offered to act as Quiz Mistress once again, and once more produced a diverse range of challenging questions. After all, nobody wants it too easy and they were not disappointed.



Questions ranged from Sport, Art, Music to France. The prize of four bottles of wine was won by Stuart and Norma Reed and John and Gillian Watson with 40.5 out of 50, followed in second place with 37.5 by Ian and Pam Mackintosh, Brian Cooper and your Chairman, Robert Flanagan who won 2 bottles.



Our thanks go to Lou Cigaloun for hosting the event and to all of those who took part.

Tell-tale signs you've gone native in France

Qwerty Quandary. Are you constantly mixing up your Qs and As on a non-French keyboard? Are your Ms being replaced by semi-colons? If you've worked out how to get an "@" sign on a French keyboard then chances are you'd struggle with an English one now. If you speak fluent "Azerty", and curse at your former friend "Qwerty", you are well and truly French-ified.

Baaaah..oui. It all starts as a bit of a joke when you first arrive: hearing French noises like "Oop la," "bof" and "baah" just make you giggle. Then you let slip the odd "baah" when you really mean "emm". One day you make the noise "hup" when you bend over to pick something up. Pretty soon you're peppering all your conversations with Gallic shrugs and sounds. Often accompanied by waving your hands wildly as you talk.

Winning. When it comes to the infamous French bureaucracy, expats often feel like no matter how long they stand in line or how politely they argue their point, they'll be back to square one before they can say "excusez-moi". But a day will come

when you can enter a French administrative building and show no fear as you argue your point, and win. On that day, you've gone native.

You can't bis-erious. The urge to "faire la bise" (cheek-kiss acquaintances) is a sign that will catch you out when you return to less lip-friendly cultures. While in the UK a brisk handshake or hug between family members will do just fine, thank you very much, but for any seasoned expat in France, the gesture can start to feel cold. If you're a man, and you leave your male friends back home wet on both cheeks every time, you've crossed over into native French territory.

Culinary customs. Any tourist in France will enjoy a glass of *rouge* and a slice of *camembert*, but when you catch yourself getting upset when bread doesn't automatically arrive at the table in a restaurant back home, congratulations – you've gone native. Other food-related symptoms? You've gone from ordering a steak "bien cuit" (well done) to "saignant" (bloody), and you wouldn't dream of having dessert before cheese.

Queue? No thank you. At the *Gare du Nord* Eurostar terminal, for example, it's immediately possible to identify which passengers are British and which are French. Those from the UK form an orderly queue. Once the boarding announcement is made, however, French passengers will simply walk to the front of the line and go through the gate. Once you start following the French to the front, you know you've adopted the indigenous queuing etiquette.

Café dismay. You know you've gone native when you start declining offers of coffee in your friends' houses back home for fear of being handed a steamy mug of powdery instant coffee. The truth is that it just doesn't come close to the caffeine hit of strong, tarmac-textured French *café*. When you catch yourself scoffing at tourists walking out of a Starbucks in France, it's time to get your passport changed.

5 French words difficult to pronounce

Mille-feuille (custard slice)
Brouilly (Beaujolais wine)
Rouen (Normandy town)
Bouilloire (kettle)
Pneu (tyre)

Send your favourites to

newsletter@baofthevar.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

Cabasse, Carces, Correns Cotinac and Le Val

We will meet on the last Friday of the month, **March 27**, at 10.30 in our new venue Hostellerie du Cotignac.

Michael Wharton

07 61 *****@cam.ac.uk

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

04 94 *****@hotmail.com

La Motte and Le Muy

La Motte/Le Muy Neighbourhood Network - Our two "wounded soldiers", and their faithful carers, managed to meet with us again last month despite still undergoing treatment, so we were ten. The next meeting is on **Thursday 12 March** at the Bar des Cascades in La Motte at 10am.

Alexandra Lewis-Smith

04 94 *****@bbox.fr

Les Issambres

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

Richard Tolaini

04 94 ***** or 06 69 *****@aol.com

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, **19 March** 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

04 94 *****@wanadoo.fr

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.
Good Friday meditation – 3 April, 11h00
Easter Sunday communion – 5 April, 10h30

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.
Easter Sunday communion – 5 April, 17h00
Please ring 04 94 60 87 05 for details
www.sjevar.com

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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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When booking multiple Events at the same time, please attach separate cheques for each booking in order to facilitate the banking procedures.

British Association of the Var Reservation Slip

AGM AND LUNCH 18 March 2015

Venue: Les Jonquières, 1005 Boulevard de la Libération, 83490 Le Muy. 10.30

Names of those attending	Lunch Y/N	Member Y/N	Value €
			N/A
Donation to BAV Welfare Fund			
Total value of cheque enclosed			

Additional names overleaf **Please add contact details below as an acknowledgement will be issued.**

Email address:

Phone No:

Please return this slip with your cheque made payable to **BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF THE VAR**

To: Kevin Bell, ***83570 COTIGNAC by 28 February.**

British Association of the Var Reservation Slip

ST GEORGE'S DAY LUNCH IN ST MAXIMIN LA STE BAUME

€25 members, €27 non-members. 23 April 2015

Venue: Relais de Bonaparte, RN7 Place Malherbe, 83470 St Maximin. 12 noon

Names of those attending	Velouté	Terrine	Paleron	Saumon	Crumble	Chocolat	Member Y/N	Value €
Donation to BAV Welfare Fund								
Total value of cheque enclosed								

Additional names overleaf **Please add contact details below as an acknowledgement will be issued.**

Email address:

Phone No:

Please return this slip with your cheque made payable to **BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF THE VAR**

To: Kevin Bell, *** 83570 COTIGNAC by 13 April.**

British Association of the Var Reservation Slip

TROUT LAKE GOURMET LUNCH

€30 members, €32 non-members. 22 May 2015

Venue: Etang de Pêche, 83570 Entrecasteaux 12 noon

Names of those attending	Lunch Y/N	Member Y/N	Value €
Donation to BAV Welfare Fund			
Total value of cheque enclosed			

Additional names overleaf **Please add contact details below as an acknowledgement will be issued.**

Email address:

Phone No:

Please return this slip with your cheque made payable to **BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF THE VAR**

To: Kevin Bell, *** 83570 COTIGNAC by 12 May.**