



Diamond Jubilee of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II

Even the die-hard anti-monarchists must concede that the British Association of the Var should recognise this remarkable achievement by a hard-working monarch – 60 years of serving her country, as she promised at her Coronation on 2 June 1953, having ascended to the throne in February 1952 after the death of her father. Although she has lived a privileged life, her public duties have always had a high priority and she still has a full diary as she progresses through her eighties. She also sets the example of public service to younger members of the royal family, as they continue the family tradition with worldwide visits and patronage of charities. The specially designed emblem, designed by a Blue Peter viewer, can be seen at the top of the page.

There are many special events planned in the UK, and those with access to British television will be able to watch on 3 June the "Big Lunch" – street parties all over the country, followed by the "Pageant" - a flotilla of 1000 boats on the Thames including the royal family in the royal barge. On 4 June outside Buckingham Palace there will be a concert organised by Gary Barlow with artists such as Shirley Bassey, Cliff Richard and Elton John for the more mature boppers and Jessie J and JLS for the younger contingent.

The British Association of the Var will be holding their own "Big Lunch" on **Friday 31 May**, and details can be found on page 4.

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Forthcoming Events for your diary

May

Committee Meeting

14 May at 13.30

Painting Group

17 May - Salernes

Bring and share Lunch

Saturday 19 May – Tavernes

Queen's Jubilee Lunch and Royal Quiz

Thursday 31 May – Roquebrune

Digital Photography Group

Contact: *****@yahoo.co.uk

Happy Boules

Contact: *****@hotmail.com

Neighbourhood Networks

See details on page 7

June

Summer Soiree & Finger Supper with Boules Tournament

Wednesday 13 June – La Motte

BATs show "Keep Smiling"

Thursday 21 June - Villecroze

Friday 29 June - Plage de Gigaro

"What's On"

2 May - Ollioules - Guided visit (on reservation 2€)
around the orchid greenhouses 04 94 41 04 01

13 May - Les Arcs sur Argens - Plant Fair

13 May - Puget Ville - Vide grenier

13 May - Villecroze Vide grenier

17 May - Lorgues - Vide grenier

18 May - Gassin - 2CV rally

19 & 20 May - Le Lavandou - Fete de la Lavande

20 May - Callas - Vide grenier

20 May - Cotignac - Vide grenier

20 May - La Motte - Vide grenier

26 to 28 May - Draguignan - Floral Procession

9 June - Cogolin - Vide grenier

BATs Have a Whole New Show!

If you missed last month's announcement, now is the time to make a note in your diary that BATs will be back - on **21 June at Villecroze** and on **29 June at Gigaro** - with a brand new programme, entitled 'Keep Smiling', some new cast members, a new keyboard and promises of plenty of fun for a summer evening's entertainment. **Don't miss it!**

Bring and share Lunch

Chez Jane and Terry Joyce in Tavernes

Saturday 19 May - noon

This is an excellent opportunity to explore the outer reaches of the Var in the beautiful countryside with hilltop views.

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

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

A "cover charge" of 7.50€ per person provides wine and bread for all. **Please let Jane know** in advance what you are bringing: starter, main course, vegetable dish, salad or pudding.

Phone: 04 *****

Directions from the east: from Sillans La Cascade take the D32 towards Fox-Amphoux (see signs for Tavernes) stay on D32. Arrive at D71 junction and turn left towards Tavernes. As you come into village ***** directly after the restaurant (this is Chemin de *****).

From the south: At Barjols follow the signs to Tavernes D554 in Tavernes after passing a car park on your right turn right to go through the village (don't blink) La Poste on the corner. Take the ***** just before the restaurant (this is Chemin de *****).

From the west: Follow the D554 to Tavernes, turn left to go through the village (don't blink) La Poste on the corner. Take the ***** just before the restaurant (this is Chemin de *****).

Chemin de ***:** Past the car park then about 100 metres there is a small chemin on the left (big ***** ***** on corner, (GPS *****)) take that road. When tarmac runs out (**** metres) there is a concrete road on left and it is the house at the top of the hill (**** metres).

British Association of the Var new Welfare Coordinator

Ann Mitchem

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

welfare@baofthevar.com

Chairman's Report

Within days of the AGM we held the first Committee meeting hoping for a gentle start only to find that Shirley had 5 new potential welfare cases.

The meeting re-confirmed the Committee positions as proposed last month and set to work organising interesting events for the year ahead.

You will see that we are immediately proposing a Royal Jubilee celebration meal overlooking the lake at Roquebrune Sur Argens. This is combined with a raffle sponsored by Barclays Bank together with additional prizes of wine provided by Lindsay Phillips and Quiz, details of which are given in this Newsletter. You may ask why the date is in advance of the actual date of the Queen's Jubilee and this is because you may want to watch the actual celebrations on television on the day.

There is also a wonderful summer soirée and boules match at the home of Peter and Shirley Rowson.

We are planning a finance seminar in July and for August a trip around the chateau at Entrecasteaux which lies in a beautiful setting overlooking the valley with lunch afterwards in the village. There are a number of other events and ideas in the pipeline including the popular Vendange lunch as usual.

You should start to notice gradual changes to the Newsletter in that we are now permitting 'homes for sale' advertisements for members and hopefully there will be more general information content as to what is happening in the Var.

We are also encouraging comment from members by having a 'letters' section in the Newsletter, the content of which, subject to the editor's control, will be open to most topics (not political or religious please) or comment including criticism of the BAV.

BAV is your organisation and the Newsletter is your publication and we feel that it is critical to receive feedback from members. Please send us emails giving your thoughts on the BAV with any positive or negative comments, or indeed, ideas for events. Please feel free to post any anonymous comments to me directly. My address is in the Address Book.

We are very much in need of additional Committee members. This need not be a particularly onerous position, taking a few hours each month, but it does give you an opportunity to have your say and understand the problems experienced from time to time. Again, please contact me if this is of interest to you.

We also need volunteers to host a garden party, coffee morning, evening soiree or similar. If you are

happy to host an event then the Committee can assist and support you with this.

Finally, I should like to give thanks to those on the former Committee and to Clare, Terry and Mike who facilitated a smooth transition. My thanks also to Tricia for her work as Membership Secretary, to Clare, Mike, Ian and Pat for producing the Address Books and the April Newsletter, and to Peter and Shirley Rowson who will join the Newsletter team instead of Mike from now on.

CAD Vocal Concerts

This choir is made up of the cream of singers from other choirs in the Draguignan area, so the standard is very high, and they prepare a series of concerts each year. This year the programme is based on two major works "Lumières", a jazz mass by Jacques Loussier (of "Play Bach" fame), and a jazz arrangement of Handel's "Messiah". The dates are as follows:

11 May, 21h, village church in Le Val – "Lumières"
23 June, Les Issambres – "Messiah"
11 July, Tourtour – "Lumières"
22 July, Bagnols-en-Foret- "Messiah"
4 August, Pourrières – "Messiah"
11 August, Correns – "Lumières"

Times and venues to follow in future Newsletters. Don't miss the concert near you!



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Queen's 60th Jubilee Celebration Lunch, Royal Quiz and Raffle

Sponsored by Barclays Bank Plc

Thursday 31 May at midday

25€ to include Quiz and
Raffle (additional tickets at 2€)
Guests **28€**

Restaurant Du Lac

Chemin du Lac, Roquebrune-Sur-Argens

Menu

Croustillant de Chèvre A La Figue

Filet Mignon du Porc Sauce Forestière
or

Pavé de Saumon avec riz basmati

Tarte aux Fruit

or

Frais Givre de Fruit

or

Fromage

Booking: Please complete the **Booking Form** and return no later than **14 May** to the Secretary, Michael Wharton, ***** 83570 Cotignac

Directions: Take the RN7 between Le Muy and Puget-sur-Argens. Take the turning south at the roundabout on to the D7 towards Roquebrune-sur-Argens and St Aygulf. Pass under the railway bridge and turn right onto Chemin du Lac.

Property for Sale

The property market is extremely calm at present and can be a stressful time trying to sell a house. We have therefore decided to allow a limited number of advertisements of houses for sale (not to let) in the Newsletter. Details should be kept to a minimum giving the village, square metres, land area, a brief description (village house, villa, chateau etc), price (not obligatory), and point of contact (agent or vendor's contact details).

This facility is strictly available to members only and is subject to space availability. Please let us have any proposed advertisement by 15th of each month.

Of course, should you achieve a successful sale through the Newsletter then we should be pleased to receive a donation to the Welfare Fund.

Page 4

(Please note that if you are selling a property privately (without an agent) you must still involve the *Notaire*.)

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Edwin Cottey BA, NP, Solicitor & Estate Agent.
Tel: 0033 494 997 200 Fax: 0033 494 997 201
Email: info@ejcfrenchproperty.com
www.ejcfrenchproperty.com

Contrôle Technique (MOT)

This takes place when the car is four years old and then every two years after that. The test now looks at more aspects than before, will last about 10 minutes longer and cost about 10€ more. The penalty for an outdated CT is 135€ and results in confiscation of the vehicle. If you do not have a valid CT and have an accident you could be held responsible even if it was not entirely your fault.

Entrecasteaux Cricket Club

Did you know that there is a little bit of England in the Var in the form of a picturesque and beautifully situated cricket pitch in the shadows of the chateau at Entrecasteaux? There is little more incongruous than looking down upon a pitch of cricketers in white in France!

The cricket club was formed in 1999 and presently has about 60 members either 'social' or 'playing'.

The club has about 20 fixtures a year throughout the summer starting in April, competing with teams from all over Europe. Matches start at midday until early evening. Whilst some matches are serious there are a number of family days and picnics.

The club is keen to see new members with membership starting at 16€ for social members. For a full list of fixtures please look at <http://www.entrecasteauxcc.eu/fixtures2012ecc.htm> and for membership enquiries please contact Andy Fife on 04 *****. Alternatively you are welcome to just come along and watch but please make yourself known.

New Members

A big welcome to four new members - Michael Joinson and Deborah Moss of Montaroux; and John and Margaret Berkin of Rayol Canadel.

Breathalyser kits

Further to last month's article about these becoming an obligatory addition to the ever-increasing list of essentials to be carried in your car in France, our researchers have not yet found them available at their local pharmacies but they are available at car accessory shops such as Feu Vert at 1.25€. However, some early birds keen to get kitted out in advance of the July deadline have sourced suitable breathalyzers for sale on Amazon – there must be a mention that they conform to the *norme française* (NF) – so on Amazon UK you can search for "French NF approved breathalyser" which start at £2.99 plus £1.50 delivery to Europe (or free delivery in the UK) or on Amazon France there is an "*Ethylotest chimique le ballon NF*" at 4.15€ with free delivery in France. These are the very basic and cheapest available – you will find a long list of various kinds and quantities to suit all requirements, if you are so inclined.

Peter and Shirley Rowson invite you to join them for a

Summer Soiree & Finger Supper with Boules Tournament

(beginners welcome)

18h00 - Wednesday 13 June

10€

If possible, bring along your own boules if playing.

Books on sale weather permitting

Please complete the **Booking Form** and return to Shirley and Peter **by 4 June** at the latest - indicating if you are taking part. Directions will be sent on receipt of the Booking Form.

*****@gmail.com

83920 La Motte 04 *****

RIP

We are sorry to have to report the death of the Reverend Paul Topham, a faithful member of the British Association of the Var and a valued member of the ministerial team at St John's Church during his visits to the Var over the years. We send our condolences to his sons Alasdair, Dominic and Antony.

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- 4-5 large picture boxes

Please contact:

Richard Eliot Tourtour 04 *****

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Please contact:

Shirley Wrigglesworth 04 *****

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Michael Wharton - Secretary



I have taken over the post of secretary so ably filled by Clare Brown, a hard act to follow. Fortunately all the hard work of setting up the new Association has been done by Clare.

After being involved in Agriculture Engineering research, I turned to teaching and later became a local government school inspector. One of my duties was to support a politician on The European Assembly of Regions. In both cases I have had administrative experience. Before I retired I was involved in teacher training at the University of Cambridge and directed a number of courses for teachers from all over Europe funded by the European Union.

My experience in voluntary work was as General Secretary of a national youth organization, in later years as Chairman of a an organization providing housing for 16-18 year olds, considered at risk.

I have lived permanently in Cotignac for 7 years and my involvement with BAV has been with the "Happy Boules" group where I have made some really good friends and extended my social life.

I firmly believe that BAV fulfills an important role in the Var by helping Brits encountering difficult situations and providing social contact. Since joining the committee I have been surprised by the number of new welfare cases.

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Jim Blythe

Many of you will have heard with great sadness of the death of Jim Blythe on 4 April at the age of 81. He died in Draguignan hospital after a long and brave fight against cancer.

Jim, together with his wife Audrey, was a founder member of the BA committee in 1998 and from the outset, Jim was appointed Treasurer of the new branch. It proved to be an inspired choice. The financial controls and disciplines he set up were matched with detailed monthly management accounts. There can have been very few committees or organisations such as ours which were so well informed and in such control of their finances. His budgets were legendary and, if the committee was amused at the precise detail of his budgeting for a function, we could only admire the accuracy of his forecasts.

Jim also was the inspiration behind a number of events and longer-serving members will remember with pleasure the very successful Burns night celebrations and Jim's bloodthirsty rendering of the Ode to the Haggis. In addition, he was the original cookie, organising and preparing dishes for the annual picnics at Aups and Lorgues. During the early years, he also looked after membership subscriptions and wrote a number of the early Information Sheets which the Association used to publish, advising members on a variety of matters.

In addition to all he did for the Var, Jim served as Treasurer of the Central Committee of the Association and it will come as no surprise to members to learn that he revolutionised the accounts of the Association and brought to the members of the committee a much greater understanding of the implications of its finances.

It is no exaggeration to say that no-one in the Association did more to ensure the success of the Var Branch. It was very sad that Audrey died early in 2005 and it speaks volumes for Jim's dedication and professionalism that we never missed a set of



www.baofthevar.com

Also see Forthcoming Events
and Latest News on our BA website

accounts during that sad period. Above all, my memories are not just of a fantastic treasurer, but of someone I was proud to have called a friend.

Bereavement Support Network in the Var (BSN)

supports English speaking people who are going through bereavement. For help please contact:

Sandra on 04 94 84 64 89

or 06 32 35 31 24

info@bsnvar.org www.bsnvar.org

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

Cabasse, Carces, Correns, Cotignac, and Le Val

There were not so many of us at this month's meeting as seven people were away but seven of us enjoyed the sunshine and found the time spent valuable. One of the advantages of the network is the exchange of information. Apart from local information about a wine club there was an interesting discussion about conflicts of interest between the various social support groups and the French Authorities. It was explained that there were limits to home help due to the possibility of taking work away from those French organisations supported by CPAM. An active member of the Oasis Fellowship and the Ark in Lorgues explained they always made it clear they were a Christian group when providing assistance.

It was pointed out that BAV was legally constituted as a secular society but did not see any reason why, in order to help needy Brits, the voluntary welfare organisations should not co-operate with each other and the French Authorities.

The next meeting will take place on **Friday 27 April** at 10h30.

Contact: *Michael Wharton*
07 ***** *****@cam.ac.uk

Grimaud/Cogolin

We meet twice monthly, 10h30-11h50. This latter time is to enable the cafes to set up tables for lunchtime customers. **2nd Tuesday** - Clem Bar, Grimaud: **4th Tuesday** - Brasserie Leclerc, Cogolin.

Contact: *Pat Heal*
04 ***** *****@vol.lu

La Motte and Le Muy

We are delighted to announce that the La Motte/Le Muy Neighbourhood Network has celebrated its first anniversary! We have a wonderful group of residents and visitors - anywhere between eight and

twenty in number - who meet on the **2nd Tuesday** of each month at our friendly Bar des Cascades in La Motte at 10h00 where we exchange news, information about living in France and social and health updates. A very big thank you to all our members and those who support our group: we look forward to another year of coffee, congenial conversation and community!

Contact: *Alexandra Lewis-Smith*
04 ***** *****@bbox.fr

Les Arcs, Le Luc, Taradeau and Vidauban

We meet on the **2nd Friday** of the month at the Café de la Tour, Les Arcs at 10h30 till noon.

Contact: *Jim North*
04 ***** *****@wanadoo.fr

Please be aware that a new radar speed camera has been placed on the RN 7, 250 meters to the west of Hyper U, in the direction of Vidauban, facing west, before the dangerous cross roads and turn off to Les Arcs (D91), Taradeau and Lorgues (D10).

Les Issambres

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

Contact: *Richard Tolaini* 04 *****
or 06 ***** *****@aol.com

Roquebrune-sur-Argens - Village & La Bouverie

We will continue to meet at the L'Auberge d'Argens on the **1st Tuesday** of each month at 10h30-12h00.

Contact: *Lesley Honeywell*
04 ***** *****@wanadoo.fr

St Raphael & Frejus

The St Raphael/Frejus coffee morning will be held on **Friday 25 May** at the Beau Sejour Hotel, St Raphael, at 10h30. Hope to see you and your friends.

Contact: *Diane Jenkins*
04 ***** *****@wanadoo.fr

Villecroze, Salernes, Tourtour and Entrecasteaux

We meet on the **4th Tuesday of the month** at 10h30 at the bar "Cercle de l'Avenir" in the square at Villecroze. Please check the venue as they may rotate to another village.

Contact: *Ann & Maurice Mitchem*
04 ***** *****@hotmail.com

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Happy Boules



Come along and try your hand at boules. We meet at a number of different venues around the central Var every Monday morning now at 10h00 and play to 12h00 and then this is followed by lunch if required. There is a complete range of levels and so don't be embarrassed to have a go. Please feel free to bring along your visitors, children, grandchildren etc. For more details of the venues **please contact:**

Rob Flanagan
06 ***** *****@hotmail.com

Digital Photography Group



Photograph taken by Richard Alexander

A group visit to Cannes provided plenty of photographic opportunities last month. The views from the old town overlooking the bay were spectacular on the sunny day we chose for the visit, while the harbour and street scenes offered a more intimate glimpse of this glitzy resort.

By popular request, on 23 April we welcome back John Wyatt to give another of his talks. He plans to devote his time to the subject of 'lighting' as well as more reminiscing about his stint at the BBC. Or more details about our group, **please contact:**

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

Painting Group

For information about the group and details of where and when we will next meet **please contact:**

Pauline North
*****@orange.fr



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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.
3 June 10h30 - Special service to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
Port Grimaud Church
Holy Communion at 17h00
Easter Sunday and 1st Sunday July and August
Grimaud Village Church
1st Thursday of each month at 11h00 except July and August.
Please ring 04 94 60 87 05 for details
www.sjevar.com

PRASADA - FROM MONTAUROUX to CALLIAN Church on the Move
You are very welcome to join Cecile and Jean, for their last service at Prasada on the 6 May at 11h00.
From the 20 May our church fellowship moves to La Pradon Maison de Retraite in Callian and meets on the first and third Sundays. Holy Communion at 11h00 followed by a bring and share lunch. **Full details and directions from Hilary at 04 94 47 70 67.**

L' Oasis Fellowship, Lorgues
every 2nd Sunday at 11h15
Arc-en Provence 1801 Chemin des Pailles
Bring and Share Lunch
and every 4th Sunday at 11h15
Notre Dame des Anges - Bring your own Picnic
For details and directions contact
Rev Peter or Shirley Massey at
04 94 73 93 37 06 87 94 04 83
www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis

For next month's Newsletter

Please let us have your thoughts on the BAV - positive or negative, ideas for events, comments, items Wanted or For Sale, and Neighbourhood Network reports for the June issue by

Saturday 19 May

Please send to:
newsletter@baofthevar.com