



# British Association of the Var

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

May 2013

Newsletter

No 132

## May – a month of "Jours Fériés" and "Fêtes"

May is the month for celebrations in France as you will see from the following information. There are 4 national holidays in May this year, as Easter was early, with two of them on consecutive days followed by a Friday, so there will be many absences from work that day as people "faire le pont" and take an extra unofficial day off. National holidays: 1 May *Fête du Travail*; 8 May *Victoire 1945*; 9 May *Ascension*; 20 May *lundi de Pentecôte*.

As for the *Fêtes* and special events, take your pick from the following:

*Festival de Cannes* 15–26 May, at the Palais des Festivals. The famous Film Festival which attracts stars and "wanabees" from all over the world to pose on the Croisette and any yacht to which they can gain access. Traffic chaos in the centre of Cannes, but worth a visit if you are a film star groupie. [www.festival-cannes.fr](http://www.festival-cannes.fr)

*Nuit Européenne des Musées* 18 May, 700 museums throughout France. Check with your tourist office for local participants. The chance to visit museums all over Europe between the hours of 19h00 and 01h00, free of charge. Special exhibitions, concerts, dances, torch-lit visits, etc. [www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr](http://www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr)

*Pique-nique chez le vigneron indépendant en France* 18-20 May, 6 venues in the Var (see below).

Take a picnic lunch to one of the participating vineyards and they will supply the outdoor furniture and the wine for your meal. Special events and games in some venues.

1. Chateau Giroud, Cabasse. Saturday 18 May, 10h30.
2. Domaine de Nestuby, Cotignac. Sunday 19 May, 11h30.
3. Domaine des Fouques, Hyères. Sunday 19 May, 11h00.
4. Domaine des Roches Blanches, Pontèves. Saturday, Sunday and Monday 18-20 May, 11h00-18h00.
5. Domaine Gavoty, Cabasse. Sunday 19 May.
6. Domaine de laTour des Vidoux, Pierrefeu. Monday 20 May. [www.vigneron-independant.com/pique-nique](http://www.vigneron-independant.com/pique-nique)

*Fête de la nature en France* 22-26 May, 3 venues in the Var (see below). Free guided visits to nature trails and protected areas organised by professionals and volunteers.

1. Hyères, Vieux Salins d'Hyères (salt flats) 25-26 May, 9h00-18h30.
2. St Zacharie, Pont du Coulomb, D560. 25 May. Nature walk.
3. Collobrières, village centre. 24-26 May. Nature walk. [www.fetedelanature.com](http://www.fetedelanature.com)

*Grand Prix de Formule 1 à Monaco* 23-26 May. The world-famous race through the streets of Monaco. Prices vary from astronomical for a seat on the Sunday to more affordable for a standing place on the practice days. [www.grand-prix-monaco.info](http://www.grand-prix-monaco.info)

*Fête Nationale du Nautisme* 25-26 May, 4 venues in the Var. The chance to try different water-sports and watch competitions and demonstrations by experts. Events in: Sainte Maxime, Cavalaire-sur-Mer, St-Cyr-sur-Mer, St Raphaël. See tourist offices for programmes. [www.fetedunautisme.com](http://www.fetedunautisme.com)

*Fête des Voisins* 31 May. A national event to encourage you to meet your neighbours by organising or attending an event in your apartment block, street or hamlet. Check with your tourist office or *Mairie* for a list of events, or start one yourself. [www.immeublesenfete.com](http://www.immeublesenfete.com)

*Rendez-vous aux Jardins en France* 1-3 June. 2,200 parks and gardens both private and public are open to visit, with a special celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the famous French garden designer, Le Nôtre. There are participating gardens in Fréjus, Gassin, Hyères, Le Lavandou, La Londe-les Maures, Lorgues, Pierrefeu, Puget-Ville, Le Rayol-Canadel-sur-Mer, Le Roquebrussanne, St Raphaël, St Tropez, La Seyne-sur-Mer, Tourrettes, Tourtour and La Valette-du-Var. Further details can be found on the link below – a long one, but worth it. (Copy and paste it into your browser.) [www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Regions/Drac-Paca/Politique-culturelle/Conservation-regionale-des-monuments-historiques/Jardins/Var](http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Regions/Drac-Paca/Politique-culturelle/Conservation-regionale-des-monuments-historiques/Jardins/Var)

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## Forthcoming Events

### Lakeside Gourmet Lunch

Friday 10 May - Entrecasteaux/Carces

### Committee Meeting

Monday 13 May

### Bring and Share Lunch

Tuesday 21 May – Villecroze

### Quiz Lunch

Thursday 30 May – Saint Antonin

### Summer Soiree & "Finger" Buffet with Boules Tournament

Wednesday 5 June - La Motte

### English Theatre Live in the Var '50 SHADES OF BATs'

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



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

See the Latest News and  
Forthcoming Events on our BA  
website

### Reminder!

### Lakeside Gourmet Lunch



On **Friday 10 May at 12h00** at the Trout Lake Please see last month's Newsletter for more details and a Booking form.

#### Menu - 30€

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

*Accompagné de ses 4 verrines*

*Vol au Vent aux fruits de mer et*

*sa langoustine grillée*

*Filet Mignon sauce aux poivre vert et ses legumes*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

*une verrine de fruit rouge et le fromage blanc,*

*une crêpe à la fleur d'oranger)*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Vin et café compris*

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

### Reminder!

### Bring and share Lunch

at the Chairman's house in Villecroze

**Tuesday 21 May – noon**

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

#### A selection of books will be available

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

Please bring parasols and bases if you prefer shade.

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

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

**\*\*\*\*\*,**

**83690 Villecroze**

### Quiz Lunch

on **Thursday 30 May** at 12h00

(not 1 June as previously advertised)  
at Lou Cigaloun at Saint Antonin

#### Menu

*Lentil salad*

*Tagine de poulet*

*Chocolate cake*

Price **15€ per head** (including coffee)  
+ **5€** for participation in the Quiz

The famous BAV Quiz Lunch is back! Come and join us in the beautiful village of St Antonin near Lorgues to try out the new-style Quiz under the direction of Shirley Rowson. Following in the footsteps of Mike Milner is no easy task but Shirley has organised quiz lunches for St John's Church in St Raphaël for the past 10 years, so has served her apprenticeship! Try to come as a team of 4 but if not we can make up teams on the day.

#### Directions:

*From the north* (Aups, Tourtour etc) go towards Lorgues and go straight across the first roundabout. Turn right at the second roundabout with the large stone in the middle. Go straight on through a small hamlet and continue until a junction signed St Antonin left 1km. Turn here and continue 200m to the edge of the built up area and turn left into a car park. The hotel is just up the road 100m on the left.

*From the south* go north at the 'Carcès' roundabout on the ring road (by the Chinese restaurant) towards Salernes and turn left at the next roundabout towards St Antonin, and follow directions as above.

*From Entrecasteaux* go direct to the centre of St Antonin.

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 complete the Booking Form and return to Shirley and Peter **by 31 May** at the latest - indicating if you are taking part. Directions will be given on receipt of the 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

83920 La Motte. 04 94 50 38 46

\*\*\*\*\*@gmail.com

## 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**

**Tuesday 25 June - Villecroze**

Drinks and nibbles served from 19h00

Curtain rises 20h00

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

Still only **10€ pp**

## "What's On" Guide

**1-8 May** Grimaud, Place du Marché. Marché Artisanale. 9h00-18h00. 04 94 55 43 83

**1-12 May** Fayence, Grand Jardin. Salon des Antiquaires. 8h00-17h00. 04 94 76 11 11

**2-5 May** Sainte Maxime and surrounding villages. Eurofestival Harley Davidson. 08 26 20 83 83

**3 May** Les Arcs, Café de la Tour. English Pub Quiz and lunch. 12h00. €10. 04 94 85 22 06  
[quizdelatour@gmail.com](mailto:quizdelatour@gmail.com)

**3 and 10 May** Roquebrune sur Argens, Les Orchidées de Michel Vacherot, CD7. Guided visit. 10h00. €4. 04 94 45 48 59

**4 May** Fayence, Espace Culturel. Folk Concert. 21h00. €12. 04 94 76 58 15

**4 May** Lorgues, Chapelle St Ferréol. Festival de Musique des Chapelles. Concert - soprano, cello, harp. 20h30. €10. 06 60 90 17 23

**4-5 May** Pourrières, village centre. Fête Gallo-Romaine. All day. Free. 04 98 05 11 70

**5 May** Carcès, village centre. Fête du Printemps. 9h00-18h00. 04 94 04 59 76

**5 May** Lorgues, Château de Berne. Classic Car Exhibition. 04 94 60 43 58

**5 May** Callas, Chapelle St Auxile. Festival de Musique des Chapelles. Concert - soprano, cello, harp. 16h00. €10. 06 60 90 17 23

**7 May** Vidauban, Eglise St-Jean-Baptiste. Concert - Ad Libitum orchestra. 20h30. Free. 04 94 73 10 28

**8 May** Lorgues, Château de Berne. Astronomy Day and Evening - star viewing from 22h00. 04 94 60 43 60

**8 May** All towns and villages - ceremonies at war memorials to commemorate the end of the Second World War. Usually 11h00.

**8-12 May** Sainte Maxime. Fest'Italia with Marché Italien. 9h30-22h30. 0826 20 83 83



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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.

**10 May** St Raphaël, Théâtre Félix Martin. Gregory Porter – soul, R&B. 20h30. €18. 04 98 11 89 03

**11 May** Montauroux, Chapelle St Barthélemy. Piano recital – classic meets jazz. 17h00. €20. 04 94 47 75 90

**11 May** Les Arcs, Cellier des Archers, av des Laurons. Fête de la Vigne et du Vin. 9h00-17h00. 04 94 73 30 29

**12 May** Montauroux, cinema. Ballet film – Romeo and Juliet. 17h00. €25. 04 94 50 40 30

**12 May** Lorgues, Château de Berne. Brocante Professionnelle. All day. 04 94 60 43 60

**12 May** Les Arcs, Chapelle St Pierre du Parage. Festival de Musique des Chapelles. Concert – soprano, string quartet. 16h00. €10. 06 60 90 17 23

**12 May** Le Muy, Ancienne Route de Sainte Maxime. Course de Côte des Planettes – car race. 13h30. (Practice runs in morning.)

**12 May** Fréjus, Cathedral. Organ recital. 16h00.

**13 May** St Tropez, cinema. Opera film. Gioconda – Ponchielli. 19h15. €18. 04 94 55 90 54

**14 May** Fréjus, Forum Theatre. Così Fan Tutti – opera by Mozart. 14h30 and 20h30. €26. 04 94 95 55 55

**15-26 May** Cannes, Palais des Festivals. Film Festival.

**16-18 May** St Tropez, town centre. 455<sup>th</sup> Bravade. Check tourist office website for times and events. 08 92 68 48 28

**17 May** St Antonin, 458 chemin de la Tuvelière. Bereavement Support Network of the Var – coffee morning. 10.30am. Ring for directions. 04 94 04 45 69

**17 May** Vidauban, Domaine Equestre des Grands Pins, chemin des Grands. Dressage Competition. 8h00-20h00. Free. 04 94 73 48 85

**18 May** Various towns and villages. Nuit Européenne des Musées. European-wide evening opening of museums, mostly free. Check with your tourist office or Mairie.

**18-19 May** Fayence, Aérodrome. Salon Auto Moto Cyclo. 11h00-18h00. 06 11 04 41 13

**18-20 May** Various vineyards. Pique-nique chez le vigneron indépendant en France. Check with your tourist office.

**18-20 May** Les Arcs, Château Ste Roseline. Salon de la Rose et du Jardinage. 10h00-18h00. €14. 04 94 99 50 30

**19 May** Les Arcs, Collège Jacques Prevert. The Indépendante – band concert. 16h00. Free. 04 94 67 12 51

**19 May** Les Issambres, Salle Robert Manuel. Concert by Esterelencos choir – film music. 17h00. 04 93 69 33 10

**21 May** Les Arcs, Chapelle St Pierre du Parage. Concert – wind ensemble. 15h00. €7.50. 04 94 73 37 30

**22-26 May** Fête de la Nature – national event with nature walks and visits. Check at your tourist office.

**23 May** Draguignan, Cinema. Opera film. Donna del Lago - Donizetti. 20h15

**23 May** Sainte Maxime, Cinema. Opera film. Rigoletto - Verdi. 14h30 and 19h30. €18. 04 94 56 77 77

**23 May** Fréjus, Cathedral. Concert by Esterelencos choir – sacred music. 20h30. 04 93 69 33 10

**23-26 May** Monaco, Grand Prix.

**23-26 May** St Tropez, port. Les Voiles Latines – classic sailing boat regatta. 04 94 97 30 54

**24 May** Hyères, Casino. Nice Jazz Orchestra. 21.00 €22 04 94 00 82 41

**24 May** Grimaud, Chapelle des Penitents. Violin and piano. 21h00. €20. 04 94 55 43 83

**25-26 May** Coastal towns. Fête National du Nautisme – sailing, watersports.

**26 May** St Raphaël, Port Santa Lucia. Water Jousting Tournament. 15h00. 04 94 85 25 74

**26 May** Lorgues, Château de Berne. Garden Fair. All day. 04 94 60 43 60

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

**31 May** All over France. Fête National des Voisins – get together with your neighbours.

**31 May – 2 June** St Tropez, Château de la Moutte (and other towns). 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. 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St Tropez Polo Club – competition. 04 94 55 22 12

**Zenith Oméga**, Toulon: [www.zenith-omega-toulon.com](http://www.zenith-omega-toulon.com) 0892 700 840

**Opera House**, Toulon: [www.operadetoulon.fr](http://www.operadetoulon.fr) 04 94 93 03 76

**Draguignan Theatre:**

[www.theatresendracenie.com](http://www.theatresendracenie.com) 04 94 50 59 99

Forum Theatre, Fréjus and Centre Culturel, St Raphaël: [www.aggloscenes.com](http://www.aggloscenes.com) 04 94 95 55 55

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Mike Lorimer - Orias No. 07032481



## Chairman's Report

Despite the gloomy weather at the time with the odd exception, Easter, at least for us, has seen the start of the tourist season, not least with visitors descending but also with the usual influx of snail powered camper vans on the roads. It is always a difficult decision of what to do and where to go, but you may be able to get good ideas of little known places to visit from others at the Neighbourhood Networks.

We also have a publication due to be printed, produced by Shirley Rowson, of virtually every conceivable activity for children in the area and so if you need some ideas for your children, grandchildren, or friends' children in a specific area please either wait for the publication to be announced or contact [events@baofthevar](mailto:events@baofthevar) and we will try to give you some ideas.

We are delighted to see that BATS are to hold two performances again this year at Puget-sur-Argens and Villecroze with some original members, some new faces and all new sketches, so make a note of the dates in June advertised in the Newsletter and look out for the Booking Form.

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## Income Tax deadlines

TAX officials have revealed this year's income tax declaration deadlines -the dates have been moved forward compared to what has been usual, with the deadline for paper declarations being May 27 at midnight. Forms are going out from April 15 and the website [www.impots.gouv.fr](http://www.impots.gouv.fr) will accept online declarations from April 19. The dates for online submissions depend on your department, the date for the Var being June 11. Non-residents with a French declaration to make have until June 17 at midnight (either by paper or online) for people living in Europe, the Mediterranean, North

America and Africa, and July 1 for other countries. The date for this year's top bracket wealth tax declarations has also been given – June 17 (as last year, people not falling into the higher bracket declare their wealth at the same time as their income).

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

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

Please try to make the next meeting on **Friday 31 May** at Cafe de Cour. I am considering changing the day we meet and need your opinions please.

*Michael Wharton*

07 6\*\*\*\*\* [\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@cam.ac.uk](mailto:*****@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](mailto:*****@wanadoo.fr)

### Entrecasteaux, Salernes, Tourtour and Villecroze

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

*Ann & Maurice Mitchem*

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

### La Motte and Le Muy

A dozen of us enjoyed coffee, croissants and conversation in downtown La Motte on a sunny spring morning. We were happy to welcome back friends Stella and Tony and Jenny and Mel from the UK and Sue from La Motte. Our next get-together is **Tuesday 14 May** at 10h00 at the Bar des Cascades opposite the Mairie in La Motte.

*Alexandra Lewis-Smith*

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

### Les Issambres

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

*Richard Tolaini*

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

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

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 16 May**, 10.30 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](mailto:*****@wanadoo.fr)

## Bargain Basement

Sales and Wants printed **free** for members - email your ads to [newsletter@baofthevar.com](mailto:newsletter@baofthevar.com)

**Russell Hobbs Mini kitchen** (36 cms high x 58 cms wide x 36 cms deep). Perfect for small apartment/gite etc: 23 litre oven with roasting rack. Twin hot plates. Full size grill. Thermostat and power on lights. Used for 1 week, still in its box. Absolute bargain 35€.

**3 piece Cane Conservatory Suite** complete with cushions and backs, removable plain blue zip covers. 2 single high back arm chairs and 1 matching 2-seater sofa. In very good condition. Plus 3 sided cane folding screen. Another bargain 60€. Mazaugues. **Contact:** 04 \*\*\*\*\*

**Bosch washing machine, dishwasher, fridge/freezer**, all around 3 years old. Glass fronted dark **oak dresser. Armchairs, dining chairs, garden furniture, fridge, household items and tools.** Sensible prices to clear.

**Enquiries:** *Ruby Stamp* 04 \*\*\*\*\*

## Storage needed

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

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

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## For next month's Newsletter

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

**Friday 15 May**

**All contributions to:**  
[newsletter@baofthevar.com](mailto:newsletter@baofthevar.com)

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

## "Benefits to Members" Request

You may have noticed that in the Newsletter and on the website we publish a list of businesses offering reduced prices or other offers to Members. To date these are largely in the Central Var area and we should like to expand this list throughout the area. If therefore you have a favourite restaurant, garden centre or other business in your area where you may have a good relationship with the proprietors, would you please see if a benefit such as free aperitif or coffee, or reduced prices may be offered to BAV members? In return the business will benefit from publicity to our 420 members. We will be issuing membership cards to Members in order to prove membership. If you do agree anything please advise a member of the Committee.

## MEMBERS' GROUPS

### The Azur Photography Group

The subject of skies and sunsets was chosen for the latest meeting of the Photography Group. Several unusual colourful photos were shown and the following one was chosen for the Newsletter.



*Photograph taken by Sandie Docherty*

For more details please contact: [Mike Harper \\*\\*\\*\\*\\*@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:*****@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](mailto:*****@hotmail.com)

### Painting Group

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15 May at the home of Maggie Singleton in Salernes, Please contact Maggie to let her know if you will be coming and for directions.

[Maggie Singleton \\*\\*\\*\\*\\*](mailto:*****)  
04 \*\*\*\*\*

## My Village – Figanières

(Situated off the D54, NE of Draguignan)



The name derives from 950 when it was called Figa Néra (black fig), when the Saracens were driven from the area by local residents, but there are Dolmens dating back to pre-history – *Le Cabre d’Or* and *St Val*. There are Gallo-Roman remains: a road and a bridge. Cistercian monks built the chapel *Notre Dame des Oliviers* in the 12<sup>th</sup> century which can be viewed by appointment. The name, of course, gives a clue to the main industry of the village, which is the cultivation of olives, but wine production is also important and good.

The ancient village is hidden from the main road and dominated by the *Église St Michel*, a church built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the ruins of the old *château* which belonged to the Count of Ventimiglia, of which remains a tower and the lovely *Jardin des Senteurs* where over 300 species of plants can be viewed by visitors from May to September. An old *Lavoir* still exists and a number of water fountains, three of which have excellent drinking water. The central route through the village (D154) remains unspoilt by modernisation, but we do have a good working village which has 3 bakers, a Proxy store, a petit Casino, *Presse*, two hairdressers, beauticians, Post Office, chemist, 2 GPs, Physiotherapists, Nurses, Dentist, Pizzeria, central Bar/Cafe, a very good restaurant *Le Moulin de Mon Grand Pere*, Delicatessen and many more commercial attractions.

The population, at present, stands at 2623 – mainly French, but there are a few other Europeans who have settled in retirement. There is a strong connection with the Military, being so close to the Artillery School at Draguignan and the camp at Conjuers. Military personnel live, commute and also retire here. There is a thriving Retirement Home in the centre of the village as

well as two rehabilitation centres. On the outskirts of the village, there is a Holiday complex with sporting facilities.

The surprise, if you visit, is the huge modern complex to the North of the village, which contains the college which educates nearly 600 pupils from surrounding villages – aged 11 -16. There is a separate Library, Gymnasium (which hosts many Dances etc) and other buildings which are used by various village associations. Our *Foyer Rural* is well supported with many activities on offer at a very reasonable price. Like many Provençal villages, we have fairs four times a year, Christmas, May, July and a large agricultural fair, which draws artisans from all over the Var on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of July.

Life in this village is very good, the locals are friendly and helpful.

*Anne Zutshi*

### 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.

### New members

We welcome Medhat and Jane El-Safy from Anthéor, Peter Robinson and Miriam Parry from Villecroze, Avril Turton from La Bastide and Beverley Howell Burns from Sainte-Anastasie-sur-Issole to membership of the British Association of the Var.

### Desperate to Stop?

call **Alcoholics Anonymous**

24 hour helpline –

08 20 20 02 57 [aa-riviera.org](http://aa-riviera.org)

## The ARK, LORGUES

L'Oasis Christian Fellowship

Every 2nd Sunday at 11h45 at

Arc-en-Provence, 1801 Chemin des Pailles

and every 4th Sunday at 11h45 at

**Notre Dames des Anges Maison de Retraite**

We have a Bring and Share lunch afterwards.

For details or directions **please contact**

Rev Peter or Shirley Massey 04 94 73 93 37 or

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

## The Var Tuesday Club

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

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

## CALLIAN

**Le Pradon Anglican Church**

Fellowship of the Ascension

You are very welcome to join us in

our new church home at

**Le Pradon Maison de Retraite Callian.**

We meet on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of

the month at **10h30** for Family Communion

or Morning Prayer.

We also have a Bring and Share lunch afterwards.

**Please ring** Hilary 04 94 47 70 67 for details

or visit our website

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

## St John's for the Var

**St John the Evangelist**

**Ave Paul Doumer, St Raphaël**

Rev Keith Bretel

Holy Communion is held **every Sunday at 10h30**

followed by refreshments and a monthly lunch.

## Grimaud Village Church

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

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

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

## Radar checks in the Var

There is a useful website showing all the different types of radar checks in the Var – speed checks, traffic light checks, etc:

[www.radars-auto.com/emplacements/var/](http://www.radars-auto.com/emplacements/var/)

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

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

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

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

for further information.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**Member – John Lloyd**

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## Important non-Committee Members

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

**Newsletter Editor - Shirley Rowson**

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

## Mobile speed traps

The first 20 undetectable mobile speed traps using unmarked police cars came into operation on March in the following departments: Paris, Alpes-Maritimes, Bouches-du-Rhône, Calvados, Essonne, Gironde, Haute-Garonne, Ille-et-Vilaine, Loir-et-Cher, Loire-Atlantique, Loiret, Moselle, Nord, Oise, Pyrénées-Orientales, Rhône, Somme and Vaucluse.

They are fitted to Renault Meganas and carry a radar speed detector hidden behind the number-plate and an infra-red camera on the dashboard. There will eventually be 300 units introduced over the next three years, used principally to target high-speed motorists and set to catch drivers overtaking the police car and speeding at more than 10% above the road's limit.

Although a photograph of the speeding vehicle is taken it does not show the face of the driver, so if the driver is not identified then the car owner would have to pay the fine but would not lose points off their licence.



# British Association of the Var

Putting people and social needs together since 1998

Association Loi 1901 No: W831001750

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

## May 2013 Newsletter Supplement

### The Les Arcs Wind Band "The Indépendante"

Every Tuesday evening at Les Arcs more than 20 wind instrumentalists come together for a band practice. Two hours of rehearsal is followed by the open bar, with beer, rosé and nibbles to relax after a strenuous practice. The *Indépendante* is lucky to have Tony Bagwell as its musical director. Tony is English and has had a brilliant musical career. He has played with the great musicians of our time in many European countries including Monaco where he worked at the Sporting Club in the summer and the Cabaret for the rest of the year as musical director. He played, conducted and arranged music for the Cabaret Shows – a new show every three months. Tony is also a member of the Glen Miller Memorial orchestra and is often on tour with them throughout Europe.

Our band has a fascinating history. It was started in 1865, and when in 1873 it took part in an international band contest at Cannes, Jacques Offenbach gave the *Indépendante* a banner - a high honour indeed. The *Indépendante* was the motivating force behind the construction of the band stand in Les Arcs in 1932 and Les Arcs is one of the only towns in the Var which still has a bandstand.

During the last 20 years our band has come up to date with a program of light music to please a wide variety of tastes. Our band has a modern repertoire from the classical jazz of Duke Ellington and Dixie time, French variety with Jacques Dutonc and Serge Lama, US pop with the Beach Boys and right up to date with Rolling in the Deep by Adele.

We are always on the look out for new members: flute, clarinet, baritone sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, etc. Membership costs 3 euros per year. Language is no problem because the band has several English members. **Come and see us at the Salle Oiseau Lyre, Collège Jacques Prévert, Les Arcs on the 19th May at 16h00. Free concert.**

For information in English: Tel Sue Jones 04 \*\*\*\*\* / Gareth Thomas 04 \*\*\*\*\* email \*\*\*\*\*@wanadoo.fr Contact us to be on our mailing list to receive the dates of all our concerts.

### Prefecture Palace now open to public

The beautiful Prefecture Palace in Nice which was the one-time residence of the Dukes of Savoy, and was declared an historical monument in 1996, will for the first time be opened to the public every Tuesday, starting from 8th January 2013. Located in the heart of old Nice, the Prefecture Palace has played a leading role in local administrative and political history since the 17th century and the history of this building is matched only by its extraordinary décor. Renovations over the years have preserved the grandeur and the many spectacular aspects of the building, from the winter garden to the music room and the hall of mirrors to the main staircase. Until now, the Palace was closed to the public except on annual heritage days. Now, a reservation with the Heritage Centre is all that is necessary to arrange a free visit to this amazing building. 04 92 00 41 90

### 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.

#### Flassans-sur-Issole – Château de Pontèves

Walk around village, including the medieval fortress Pontèves which became a Catholic stronghold during the religious wars of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and using ancient trails from the middle ages. 3.7km, 1h15, 113m climb, yellow way-marking and numbered signposts. Map: IGN 3444OT

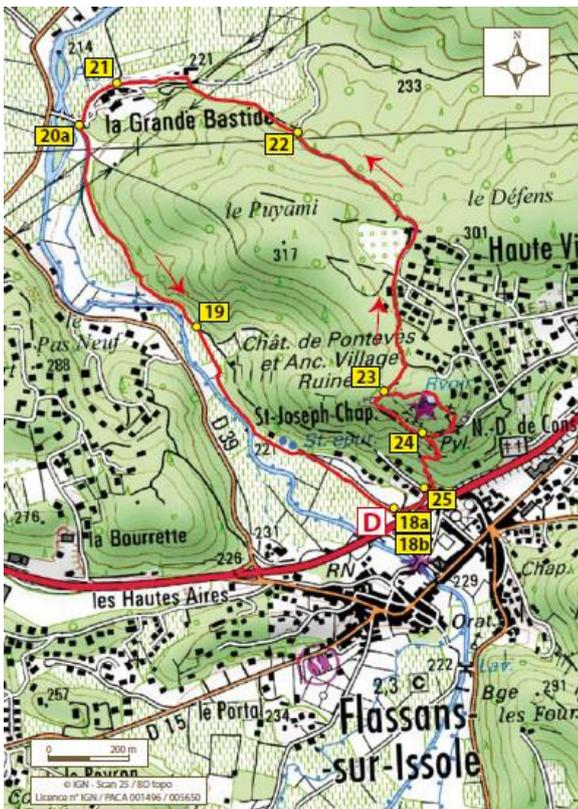
*Car access:* From the N7 going west take the right turn to Flassans. In the village centre turn right between the church and the school and park in Les Grands Prés – go under the DN7 after Salle Gavoty.

## Flassans-sur-Issole – Les Clèdes

From the car park (18b) go up the slope to *Le Pigeonnier* (25 – 100m) then leave the small square to the right, taking a stony path to the sharp left (*Chemin de Croix*, 19<sup>th</sup> century) which winds upwards to *La Calade* (24 – 300m) where there are two choices in old Flassans:

1. Turn left onto the path which follows the ruins of the old village, passing the *Chapelle St Joseph* and crossing a threshing area. To the east the ruins of the *Château de Pontèves* can be seen on the peak.
2. Go right to find the *Chapelle Notre Dame de la Consolation* then climb to the left on a steep concrete path to the château ruins. There are traces of the dungeon, the water tank, the bread oven and the courtyard, plus a panoramic 360 degree view of the village, the Issole valley, the Maures mountains and the Alps.

Then follow a woodland path signposted *Le Puyami* (23 – 500m). At the edge of the wood, near large rocks and a barrier, turn left into the residential area of Haute Ville. Keep on until you come to an unmade track, go through the gate and descend to *Le Puyami* (22 – 1.4km). Take the grassy path on the left towards the *Grande Bastide*. This comes out opposite a former mill now converted to an art gallery. Continue on the path to the left, skirting round the hamlet of the *Grande Bastide* (21 – 2km) to reach the *Pont de l'Issole* (20a – 2.2km). Turn left before the bridge and go south along a stream towards *La Fourche des Grands Prés* (19 – 2.9km). Continue to the bottom of the valley, ignoring the left-hand fork, to find your starting point.



Easy level walk around the village area, 2.5km, 40min. Way-marked yellow, numbered signposts. Map IGN 34440T

Car access: From the N7 going west turn right towards Flassans. On the main street turn right between the church and the school and park in in Les Grands Prés – go under the DN7 after Salle Gavoty.

From the car park (18b) go back under the N7 south-east towards the school (26 – 100m) then right towards the *Pont Vieux* (27 – 200m). After crossing the bridge go past a former olive mill and a “bio garden”. Take *Rue Source St Michel* on the left then the steps on the right to come out onto *Place Pasteur*. Cross this to find the *Chemin des Clèdes* and follow this to *Clèdes* (28 – 1.2km). Here there are two choices:

1. Turn left towards the *Lavoir de la Roquette* (30b – 1.9km)
2. Follow the right bank of the Issole, cross the bridge and go left eastwards along the bank to the *Rivière Neuve* (29 – 1.7km). Continue along the bank on a pretty path until you get to the *Lavoir de la Roquette* (30a – 2.2km). Before the bridge look at the dam controlling the water, then the *lavoir* on the right and turn left at the signpost to cross the river.

At the *Lavoir de la Roquette* signpost (30b – see 1) follow the river for a short distance then turn left onto a grassy path between gardens and cross a foot bridge which joins the former bed of the Issole to the Colombier spring. Continue along the *Rue Source de Colombier* to the *Avenue Général de Gaulle* and turn right onto this avenue to the *Pont Vieux* (27 – 2.3km) then the school (26 – 2.4km) to return to the *Grands Prés* (18b – 2.5km).

