



# British Association of the Var

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May 2015

Newsletter

No 156

## Social Charge Revolution for UK Expats ... but you might have to wait!

If you are a retired UK expat living in France, you will be used to not paying French social charges (CSG/CRDS) on your UK pensions, which is excellent news. This is courtesy of EU law, stating that these charges may not be taken on pensions where the beneficiary is under the cover of another country for its healthcare. Social charges are not applied to UK rental property either, thanks to the UK / France tax treaty offering a 100% credit. The oddity is that there has been no such law covering the application of social charges for other income, such as from savings and investments, thus expat retirees are paying 15.5% of this income to the French government. This is now being put right.

26th February this year the European Court of Justice made a ruling, published in the *communiqué de presse* 22/15 623/13. This is being applied in law by a modification of European law 1408/71, dated 14th June 1971. It essentially says that where an individual is covered under the social security of another state, France may not collect the social charge on "*revenus du patrimoine*", or savings and investment income. Of course, life is never quite as simple as this. This was a preliminary decision and the French government responded via the "*conseil d'Etat*" that it would wait for a definitive decision and more precise rules before acting.

This rule change will create several complications for the French state both fiscally and administration wise. Social charges from previous years may impact the level of income tax applied, creating headaches if people wish to claim for the last three years' payments, which logically would be their right. Clearly it would also serve to widen the hole in the French budget, which is clearly not attractive for the French government, who will have little interest in ensuring rapid compliance. Some are suggesting that people make an immediate claim on 2012 and 2013. Given the current decision is preliminary, this would be a waste of time, as any request is very likely to be immediately rejected. Claims should never be left until the last minute, however, but we have until the end of the year for the situation to become clearer.

But what to do about the tax declarations being made in May this year for 2014? The system in France is one of local tax offices, each making their own decisions in the absence of any guidance from central government. I consider that there would be no harm in attaching a letter, and even a copy of the ruling, to your French income tax declaration, attempting to persuade the tax office not to take the social charges. In most cases, however, it is not likely to be effective (unless we have a firm ruling and acceptance from the French government soon). Unless the preliminary ruling is overturned, which is unlikely, this is great news and the removal of social charges for UK retirees will be at an end. It just might not happen as quickly and as simply as we would like.

**Robert Kent, Kentingtons**  
(see advert page 3)



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## Forthcoming Events

### Committee Meeting

11 May

### 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

### Tax planning lunch in Villecroze

5 November

### Christmas Lunch in St Aygulf

5 December

Peter and Shirley Rowson invite you to join them for a

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

(beginners welcome)

18h00 – Tuesday 9 June  
10€

If possible, bring along your own boules if playing.

### Books on sale weather permitting.

Directions will be given on request. Please bring a plate of "finger food", savoury or sweet.

Numbers limited to 60 – book early!

\*\*\*\*\*, 83920 La Motte. 04 94 \*\* \*\* \*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*@gmail.com

## 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 légumes*

*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.

## English garden party in aid of cancer research

9 May - at the home of Maggie Green, \*\*\*\*\*, 83370 St Aygulf, in memory of her son.

10.30-12.00

Coffee, tea, homemade cakes. €5

12.00-14.30

Ploughman's Lunch with wine €9.50

14.30-17.00

Cream tea €7.50

Raffle and stalls.

In aid of **cogs4cancer** – see

[www.cogs4cancer.org](http://www.cogs4cancer.org)

Details: 04 94\*\* \*\* \*\*, 06 \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\*.

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

## 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

### British Association of the Var Welfare Coordinators

**Ann Mitchem and Miriam Robinson**

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

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

## "What's On" Guide

Zenith Oméga, Toulon: 0892 700 840

[www.zenith-omega-toulon.com](http://www.zenith-omega-toulon.com)

Opera House, Toulon: 04 94 93 03 76

[www.operadetoulon.fr](http://www.operadetoulon.fr)

Draguignan Theatre: 04 94 50 59 59

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

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

### May 2015

**1 May Lorgues**, Chapelle Ste Anne. Musique des Chapelles – cello concert. 16h00. €15.  
06 60 90 17 23

**1-3 May Port Fréjus**, Regatta.

**1-11 May Fayence**, Le Grand Jardin. Salon des Antiquaires. 8h00-17h00. €6. 04 94 76 11 11

**3 May Callas**, Chapelle St Auxile. Musique des Chapelles – Spanish theme. 16h00. €10.  
06 60 90 17 23

**5 May Lorgues**, Chapelle St Ferréol. Musique des Chapelles – Spanish theme. 18h30. €10.  
06 60 90 17 23

**5 May Draguignan**, cinéma Chabran. La Fille Mal Gardée, Ashton – ballet film. 20h15. €20

**6-10 May Ste Maxime**, Promenade Simon Lorière. Fest'Italia. 10h00-12h00. 08 26 20 83 83

**7 May Les Arcs**, Maison des Vins. Wine tasting lesson. 10h30-11h30. €10. 04 94 99 50 20

**7-10 May Port Grimaud**, Prairies de la Mer campsite - Harley Davidson Festival.  
04 94 55 43 83

**8 May**, war memorials all areas. Cérémonie du 8 mai – liberation of Europe.

**9 May Lorgues**, Château de Berne. Nuit de l'Astronomie. 04 94 60 43 60

**9 May Draguignan**, Pôle Culturel Chabran. Soirée Mozart – Clarinet Concerto and Coronation Mass. 20h30. €20. 04 83 08 30 30

**10 May Fréjus**, Cathédrale. Organ recital. 16h00. Free.

**10 May Les Arcs**, Chapelle Ste Roseline. Musique des Chapelles – Rossini. 16h00. €10  
06 60 90 17 23

**10 May Flayosc**, Eglise St Laurent. Concert – organ and guitar. 16h00. €10.

**16-17 May Les Arcs**, Château Ste Roseline. Salon de la Rose et du Jardinage. 10h00-18h00.  
04 94 99 50 30

**16-17 May Fréjus**, Base Nature. Fête des Anes.

**17 May Plan de la Tour**. Fête de l'Ane.  
04 94 55 20 57

**17 May Fayence**, Parking de la Brèche. Classic car rally. 9h00-12h00. Free. 06 22 43 27 49

**17 May Lorgues**, Château de Berne. Journée Chocolat et Gourmandises. 10h00-18h00.

04 94 60 43 60

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

**19 May, all areas**. Nuit des Musées. Special events in museums.

**22 May Grimaud**, Eglise St Michel. Soirées Musicales de Grimaud. String quartet – Bach. 21h00. €22. 04 94 55 43 83

**22-25 May Montauroux**, Terrain Laroche. Salon Habitat et Jardin. 10h00-19h00.  
06 80 62 95 43

**23 May Callian**, Salle des Sports. Concert – Carmen. 06 75 20 71 88

**24 May La Motte**, Château des Demoiselles. Pique-nique chez le vigneron. Bring your picnic, taste the wine. Guided visit 11h30.  
04 94 70 28 78

**29 May St Maximin-la-Ste-Baume**, La Croisée des Arts. Jazz concert. 20h30. €15. 04 94 86 18 90

**29 May, all areas**. Fête des Voisins. Join in your local celebration or hold one yourself.

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

**31 May St Tropez**, parish church. Organ recital. 17h00. Free

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## Chairman's Report

Happily all of those that were proposed for election to the Committee at the AGM were voted for at the meeting. This then gave us a full quota on Committee for the first time in many years.

It was then for me, as Chairman, to decide on the appointments at the Committee meeting following the AGM and for this purpose we convened a meeting shortly after the AGM. These decisions then have to be reported to the Prefecture. At this meeting it was decided that Michael Wharton would continue as Secretary and Kevin Bell as Events Secretary. Sandie Docherty was appointed in charge of Publicity entailing the website, publicity documents, possible Facebook page / Twitter and liaison with other websites. Lesley Honeywell had resigned as Treasurer and therefore until such time as Blake Long becomes fiscally resident in France I also took on the rôle as Treasurer with Blake supporting this position as book-keeper. The consequence of this is that I, as Chairman, will control issue of cheques and *virement* (money transfers) in future. The position regarding the Welfare Co-ordinator is less clear in that, although Ann Mitchem had resigned as Welfare Co-ordinator, she decided that, for the time being, she will continue to formally hold this rôle although Miriam Robinson is to act as 'understudy' and to manage the Welfare telephone. This therefore leaves John Lloyd and Lesley Honeywell who remain as 'Members' on the Committee.

We therefore look forward to an active year offering the Welfare facilities that we have available and a good range of supporting social events. Despite this enhanced Committee we will still very much be in need of further assistance at certain events and particularly the Vendange Lunch as this does require a considerable number of hands and so we will, from time to time, be making requests for assistance. Please make the offer of assistance to us directly if you are able to rather than wait to the request. In the case of the Vendange lunch Kevin Bell will act as coordinator so please contact him with any offer of assistance.



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## 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.

JF-Assurances. [www.jf-assurances.com](http://www.jf-assurances.com), e-mail [jf@jf-assurances.com](mailto:jf@jf-assurances.com). Tel. 04 94 40 60 94. 10% discount against detailed quotations.

## Golden Wedding

We are delighted to report that Fred and Sylvia Carpenter of Aups celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 3 April. All at the BAV offer them our heartiest congratulations on this momentous occasion.

## New Members

We welcome Clive and Corinne Ballard from Villecroze to membership of the British Association of the Var.

## Vendange Lunch

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

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

**If you are willing to be on the team of "Cookies" for this event, please contact Kevin Bell**

**04 94 \*\*\*\*\*  
or [events@baofthevar.com](mailto:events@baofthevar.com)**

## UK exit checks started in April

Travellers leaving the UK face new exit checks that will see each person having to produce passport or identity cards. Airlines already ask passengers to give passport information in advance of travel and ferry companies will now scan all passports. The companies fear immense disruption at Dover, which sees up to 50 sailings a day and which handles 60% of UK continental ferry traffic. Coach passengers are the major source of worry with several dozen people to be checked on each vehicle. Eurotunnel has asked passengers to complete API data before their journey and to have their passports ready as they approach the checkpoints. It and the ferry companies say that arriving excessively early for travelling will not ease delays but that passengers should arrive at least 30 minutes before departure time.

These exit checks will give important information on whether people had overstayed visas or entered the UK illegally.

## Ferries to St Tropez

For the first time there will be a 24 hour service by boat from Ste Maxime to St Tropez during July and August, running every hour during the night. So if you, or your summer visitors, like to party late with the stars in St Tropez, you only need to drive to Ste Maxime then take the boat.

## MEMBERS' GROUPS

### The Azur Photography Group



The richness and diversity of Spring in the Var was celebrated by the Photography Group at our last meeting. The theme was interpreted in a variety of ways by the members, from the natural landscapes provided at this time of year in the Var to the carefully lit and meticulously

arranged studio settings of Spring flowers favoured by some of the group. With a subject such as this, it enables both the creative and technical side of digital photography to be explored.



For more details, please contact Mike Harper: \*\*\*\*\*@yahoo.co.uk

### Boules / Lunching / Golf Group



From April the group will meet at 10am followed by lunch at 12 noon. All welcome.

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

### Painting Group



Hilary Rost is holding a painting day on **12 May** at 10.30 in Montauroux. There will be a "bring a plate" shared lunch afterwards. Please contact Hilary for details.

**06\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*@gmail.com**



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

### Le Domaine de la Moutte, St Tropez



Up to now the Château de la Moutte and its wonderful gardens were only accessible to the public on special occasions such as the *Journées de Patrimoine*, garden festivals and musical evenings in summer, but it is now to be opened more often on a trial basis.



Until 1 July the gardens can be visited free on Mondays and Wednesdays, with information plaques, and the château will be open for guided visits on Tuesdays at a cost of €3 each over 12 years old – groups limited to 12. Apart from this, there will be special events such as the *Fête de la Nature* on 20-24 May and *Rendez-vous au Jardin* on 5-7 June, both of which promote the "flora and fauna" of the gardens.



If the extended opening is a success, it may be repeated in the autumn.

Address: 133, chemin de la Moutte, 83990 St Tropez. More details from: 04 94 55 90 17 [culturel@ville-sainttropez.fr](mailto:culturel@ville-sainttropez.fr)

### **Carte Grise**

Did you know that you can obtain the *Certificat d'immatriculation*, the replacement for the *Carte Grise*, from many garages in the Var? In addition to the charges for tax and registration the garage will make a charge, which varies from garage to garage. The issue of the certificate is immediate and as they can also make the plates and fix them, it can all be done immediately - 'one stop shop'.

Alternatively, this can be done on-line at [www.cartegrisefrance.fr](http://www.cartegrisefrance.fr) for the following reasons: a used car bought in France; change of address; lost or stolen *carte grise*; change of matrimonial status, fraudulent use of your registration plate.

### **New committee**

**Chairman - Rob Flanagan**

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

**Secretary - Michael Wharton**

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

**Acting Treasurer – Rob Flanagan**

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

**Welfare Coordinators – Miriam Robinson & Ann Mitchem**

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

**Events Secretary - Kevin Bell**

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

**Publicity – Sandie Docherty**

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

**Webmaster – Sandie Docherty**

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

**Book-keeper – Blake Long**

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

**John Lloyd**

[john1@baofthevar.com](mailto:john1@baofthevar.com)

**Lesley Honeywell**

[\\*\\*\\*@wanadoo.fr](mailto:***@wanadoo.fr)

### **Important non-Committee Members**

**Membership Secretary - Peter Rowson**

[membership@baofthevar.com](mailto:membership@baofthevar.com) 04 94 50 38 46

**Newsletter Editor – Shirley Rowson**

[newsletter@baofthevar.com](mailto:newsletter@baofthevar.com) 04 94 50 38 46

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NATIONAL DATABASE OF ENGLISH SPEAKING BUSINESSES IN FRANCE

## Tax deadlines are earlier this year

This year's French income tax declaration deadlines are much earlier than last year for some categories of people. The dates, for online and paper declarations, show that people sending in paper declarations from more distant parts of the world now have to do so six weeks earlier than last year.

Anyone who is not a resident of France must declare, by paper, by midnight on May 19, or on the internet by June 9. For people living in France and declaring by paper this year's deadline is the same as for non-residents – May 19. Internet declarations for French residents have also come forward by one day to: May 26 (departments 1-19), June 2 (departments 20-49), and June 9 (departments 50+).

## Possible trading laws change in France

Late night shopping could soon become a reality in tourist zones like Nice and Cannes, after government ministers voted in favour of the move. The new initiative would also see a relaxation of laws inhibiting Sunday trading.

Currently, stores in around 500 towns throughout the country are classified as of "tourist interest" and are allowed to open for a limited time on Sundays. Under the new system, shops in specific zones throughout cities including Nice, Cannes, Paris and Deauville would be permitted to open every Sunday of the year. Retailers in other areas will be able to open for a maximum of 12 Sundays per year.

Also under consideration have been opening hours, which are deemed too restrictive in France's major shopping districts. The new bill will make it possible for retailers to open until midnight every day, a major change in lifestyle. Businesses will be required to pay double-time to employees who work between the hours of 9pm and midnight, and also offer some form of childcare.

The law will now be passed to the Senate, France's upper parliamentary house, for a review in April.

**Desperate to Stop?**  
**call Alcoholics Anonymous**  
24 hour helpline –  
08 20 20 02 57 [aa-riviere.org](http://aa-riviere.org)

## Invitation from the Swedish Club of the Riviera

The Swedish Club on the French Riviera is celebrating its 40th anniversary on Monday 4th of May. Joe Labero, four-times Merlin Award Winner - the equivalent of the Oscars of the magic world - is coming to Cannes to perform for The Swedish Club. He is internationally famous not only for large-scale illusions but also for close-up magical acts.

We invite all the members of the British Association of the Var to celebrate with us. The show is in English! Ticket Price: 55 euros.

Joe Labero Show, Monday 4th of May at 19h. Espace Miramar, Rue Pasteur (just around the corner from La Croisette), 06400 Cannes.

For more information please call: The Swedish Club - Svenska Rivieraklubben.

Monday to Friday 9h - 12h - [Tel 04 92 13 15 34](tel:0492131534)  
. [E-mail: labero@rivieraklubben.com](mailto:labero@rivieraklubben.com)

We wish you a warm welcome to a magical evening in Cannes

**Katherine Tillotson**  
**0615145193**

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**Aromatherapy**  
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**SIRET: 45 26 26 38 50 0028**

## Nice airport unveils new restaurant line-up

Passengers waiting to board flights at Nice airport will soon be treated to Michelin star dining. Also forming part of the new catering options following the airport refurbishment will be Jamie's Italian, Burger King, and, for a little local touch, socca from Chez Pippo.

Restaurants in Terminal One will welcome renowned chefs Thierry Marx and Mauro Colagreco, who each hold two Michelin stars. Marx has been a member of the judging panel on French TV programme 'Top Chef' since 2010, and owns three restaurants of Paris, while Colagreco is a chef at the famous Mirazur restaurant in Menton. Eateries serving local specialities will also be on offer with a branch of Chez Pippo, a popular socca restaurant in Vieux Nice, opening in April this year. A Starbucks is also expected to arrive in 2017.

And Terminal Two passengers won't miss out. Jamie's Italian – a restaurant owned by British chef Jamie Oliver, which boasts more than 30 branches worldwide – will eventually be welcomed alongside Burger King, Joe & the Juice, and luxury caviar shop Petrossian.

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## British TV in France

The new Astra2G satellite has been launched and it is expected that further changes to the satellite TV channels may occur June/July this year once testing is finished. Astra2A has now been removed from service with all its Sky channels being moved. Some of you with Sky boxes may already have noticed these changes as the old Astra2A satellite channels could be picked up on smaller dishes. Scottish viewers on both Sky and Freesat (Scottish postcode) will now find ITV Border Scotland has commenced on Channel 103. This may affect any series scheduling that you may already have in place. The Astra satellite signals continue to be very strong down here and thankfully many of you can still get some British TV on your smaller dishes.

Rob Ward



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

See the Latest News and Forthcoming Events on our BA website

## Organisation "Chat libre" in Draguignan area



The aim of this charity is to sterilise, feed and find homes for the many stray cats in the communes of Salernes, Villecroze, Sillans-la-Cascade, Tourtour, Flayosc, Entrecasteaux

and the northern parts of Draguignan. They arrange for around 30 cats a year to be sterilised and feed about 60 twice a week at pre-arranged points. Sadly, many of these cats were once pets but their owners did not have them sterilised and left them behind when they moved house.

They are asking for help in several ways:

- Money to buy food.
- A temporary home for the cats after their operation until they can be released into the wild again.
- Even better, they are seeking to re-home those cats that will fit into a domestic situation again.

Please send donations to: Catherine Bernardi, secrétaire de l'association Chat libre, 3 rue de l'Hubac 83780 Flayosc. For more detailed information contact the President Magali Sappa on 06 03 16 75 20.

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## Salad recipes

### Fruity Chicken salad

500g chicken fillets  
3 kiwi fruits  
2 small melons  
Lettuce or salad leaves  
Spring onions  
Chives  
2 tbsp sesame seeds  
6 tbsp peanut oil  
2 tbsp cider vinegar  
Salt and pepper



Steam the chicken fillets for 10 minutes, drain and leave to cool (or buy ready cooked), then slice. Peel the melons and cut into large cubes. Peel the kiwis and slice. Slice the spring onions. Arrange the above ingredients on a bed of lettuce and garnish with chives and sesame seeds. Mix the oil, vinegar and seasoning and pour over.

SERVES: 6



## HOLLYWOOD COMES TO THE VAR ON JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>



Move over Beckham and Brangelina the weekend of June 6th/7th Entrecasteaux Cricket Club will host an all-star party of players and celebrities for two days of cricket, comestibles, champagne and more! Sir Tim

Rice, author and lyricist of some of the greatest-ever musicals, including *Evita*, *The Lion King* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* is bringing his 'Heartaches' to the Var. They are a team of stars from the worlds of showbiz and cricket including several England test match and county regulars of yesteryear. Mark Nicholas, who played for Hampshire from 1978 to 1995 and now commentates for Channel 4 and Sky, is believed to be coming; David Gower, who played 117 tests for England will be there. Mike d'Abo, lead singer of Manfred Mann, who had hits including *Just Like a Woman*, will be donning his whites.

There's a warm-up game on Saturday 6th June and the clash of giants on the Sunday - both kicking off at 12 noon. Entrecasteaux will be reinforced by leading players from Provence/Riviera and elsewhere in France - including several French Internationals. There will be a bar, where beer, wine, soft drinks and sandwiches can be bought, and with the chance to talk and mingle with Hollywood and cricketing greats it is a date you must put in the diary. The village has several fine bars and restaurants or you can picnic by the river and make a real day out of it. *Venez nombreux!*

For further information please ring Andy Fife 04 94 60 03 25 or look at our website: [www.entrecasteauxcc.eu](http://www.entrecasteauxcc.eu) and follow the link to news

### **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.

## Var bakery adopts 'pay it forward' scheme

A Saint Raphaël bakery has introduced a new scheme which allows customers to purchase items for those in need while enjoying their mid-morning coffee. Following in the footsteps of cafes in Italy, the idea is already proving a success. The 'pay it forward'-style system encourages customers of Maître Julien bakery, 171 avenue Général Leclerc, Saint Raphaël to buy an extra 'pending' item at the same time as their own order, which can later be collected by people in need.

Since the charitable scheme was introduced the bakery has seen heart-warming results. As increasing numbers of customers become acquainted with the 'pay it forward' idea, more and more pending items are bought. These range from sandwiches to full breakfasts, although coffees are the most common. Then, homeless people, struggling families, or anyone going through hard times can come into the bakery and ask if there are any pending items.

While the concept is new to the Var, it is in fact a Neapolitan tradition. The *café sospeso* - or 'suspended coffee' - scheme is one that has been adopted by cafes in Naples for many years, giving local businesses the chance to get involved with helping the community, in a direct and easy way.

## Using a UK driving licence in France

French law says that any driving licence obtained in an EU country and that is still valid can be used for driving in France. This is stated in article R222-1 of the Code de la Route, which you can find on [www.legifrance.gouv.fr](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr) British licences remain valid for driving until age 70. The final expiry date is shown on the back of the licence card, said a spokesman for the DVLA. This will not change after June 8 when new British licences will no longer have the paper counterpart to the plastic card. This change also does not affect old style paper driving licences which will continue to be valid.

After this, details that appeared on the paper section (such as endorsements and which vehicles you can drive) will have to be consulted online, which can be done at: [www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence) Note, however, that French law states you should swap your licence for a French one if you commit a driving offence that would normally involve a loss of licence points. The French system is that you lose points rather than gain them as you do in the UK.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

### **Cabasse, Carces, Correns Cotinac and Le Val**

We will meet on the last Friday of the month,  
**May 29**, at 10.30 in the new Café de Cour.

*Michael Wharton*

07 \*\*\*\*\*@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](mailto: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 - -  
Nine of us met at the Bar des Cascades this month, two back from the UK, and seven of us locals. Next meeting is Friday **8 May** at 10 am when we look forward to seeing you all again.

*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 \*\*\*\*\*@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, **21 May** from 10.30 onwards at the Cercle Philharmonique in the main square of St. Maximin la Ste. Baume. We have become a friendly group of regulars, but there is always room for more.

*Diana Andre de la Porte*

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.lorqueswithfayence.org](http://www.lorqueswithfayence.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.

### **Grimaud Village Church**

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

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

**Please ring** 04 94 60 87 05 for details  
[www.sjevar.com](http://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.lorqueswithfayence.org](http://www.lorqueswithfayence.org)

**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

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