

# THE RIVIERA REPORTER

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No 165 October/November 2014



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## In this issue ...

### The Insider

AN author, who took me under his wing years ago, repeatedly preached that to be a good writer one had to avoid using the word “interesting” at all times. “It’s nondescript,” he would insist, “and tells the reader nothing.”

So, when a few “interesting” stories popped up recently in my Inbox, I thought of my mentor – regrettably, he died in 2012 – and wondered what he would have said.

First, there was the story of Nice-based artist Alfred Head. One Sunday in July, Alfred, 91, went to his bank, inserted his card in the ATM and typed his code. As he was about to select “withdrawal”, a hand from behind him quickly pushed a button and the screen went blank; Albert’s card was not returned.

“You have to come back to get your card when the bank opens on Tuesday,” the man said in French.

Albert went home, and although his card was neither lost nor stolen, informed the bank (*faire opposition*) because he felt the circumstances strange.

When he returned to his branch Tuesday morning, his card was indeed there, cut in half

by the bank. Imagine Alfred’s shock when he then discovered two transactions in his account on that Sunday, a €1000 cash withdrawal and a €6300 purchase.

Was Alfred a victim of cloning? Fake ATM fronts made from 3D printers can copy your code and the card’s electronic strip, and even though the original card stays in the machine, a duplicate card with PIN code is ready for shopping; Alfred’s account was reimbursed in September.

Next year is the “Year of Russia” in Monaco and at a press conference earlier this month, the Principality’s Director of Education, Youth and Sports, Isabelle Bonnal, announced “the introduction of Russian language courses in the 6th, 4th and 2nd grades” for the 2014-15 school year.

And finally, the Église St Pierre d’Arène, on Rue de France in Nice, will be blessing cell phones and tablets. Yup, on Saturday October 4th, at 18h, all mobile devices will be blessed during Mass by Gabriel, the Patron Saint of transmissions.

Really, what could be more interesting than the *Reporter*?

*Nancy Heslin, Editor*

#### TOP STORIES

- 4 Riviera Reportage
- 5 France News
- 8 UK
- 10 US
- 14 Monaco

#### RIVIERA LIFE

- 7 Living in France
- 9 Finance
- 12 Health
- 15 Motoring
- 16 Yachting
- 17 Business
- 18 Education
- 22 Books
- 38 Food & Wine

#### YOU & YOURS

- 42 Marketplace
- 44 Letters
- 47 Events
- 49 Classifieds

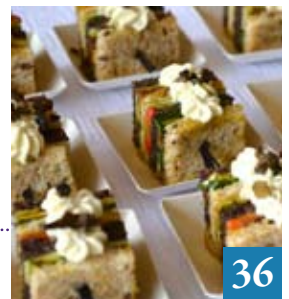
#### FEATURED

- 24 Home Style
- 26 Riviera Golfer
- 28 Property
- 32 Garden & Design
- 34 Antiques
- 36 Village Life
- 40 History

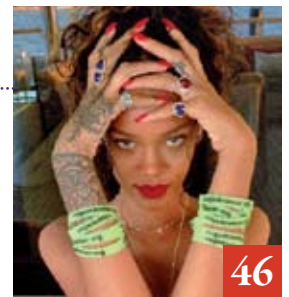
Cover photo: Eze-sur-Mer ©Riviera Reporter



16



36



46



### BRINGING UP BABY BILINGUAL P18



# riviera reportage

**FORMER** yachtie Andy Colgan, 40, has a real passion for beer: "Seeing the rest of the world take off with craft beer I felt it was essential for the Riviera to do the same."

So Aussie Andy and his brother Patrick set up Colgan's, the region's first micro-brewery, and are hosting the Official Launch Party on Fri Oct 17th from 19h for "the freshest Ales and Lagers on tap, brewed right here on the Côte d'Azur, with food and rock and roll".

Look for the marquee at 323 Chem des Plaines, Mouans-Sartoux or see [colgansbrewery.com](http://colgansbrewery.com)



## #ROCKSTAR

WHEN U2 released their album "Songs of Innocence" (Interscope) in September, there was *une surprise* in the credits.

Christian Estrosi, the popular mayor of Nice, is thanked alongside names like Noel Gallagher and Chris Martin from Coldplay. While Bono, pictured with Estrosi, and The Edge have owned seaside villas in Eze for over 20 years, the only recent connection to Nice is that the band filmed their latest music video at Nice Riviera studios. Estrosi however wasted no time in tweeting his response to thank U2 for ... thanks.

Oh, and everyone with an iTunes account (so half a billion people in 119 countries) will have found a digital version of the album already in their purchase library, available for free until October 13th.

## le FLASH



### WINE CHEERS THE LAST DAYS

A HOSPITAL in central France will be opening a wine bar this September as part of their palliative care service.

Created by Dr Virginie Guastella, head of the unit at Clermont-Ferrand University Hospital Center: "It's a way of rethinking the care of others, taking

into account the feelings and emotions that make them a human being." Even towards the end of life "patients have the right to enjoy themselves".

Families and friends can spend quality time with terminally ill loved ones doing what Dr Guastella says the French do best: "Maintaining a relationship with food and wine, synonymous with conviviality."

The medically supervised bar will also stock champagne and whisky; staff will be specially trained by Catherine Le Grand Sébille, a social anthropologist, whose study proves that wine and food can have a positive impact on someone's last days.

As patients could be in palliative care for six weeks or six months, Dr Guastella points out, "We hope this will brighten otherwise difficult days."

## AND THE WINNER IS ...



Co-founders of French film company Hypéria, Youcef Mahmoudi and July Allard in Hollywood.

KUDOS to Nice film director Youcef Mahmoudi, featured in *Reporter 163*. His short "Kosmodrome" won the "Best International" award at the HollyShorts Film Festival last month.

"Hollywood is the dream of the collective imagination," Youcef, 28, tells us, "and to come home with an award given in the same room where the first Oscar was presented, it's just surreal."



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## FRANCE IN THE NEWS



### Agency fees finally capped

FROM September 15th, those costly “agency fees” that renters in France have to pay when they go through a real estate agency will be set according to the size of the apartment and where it’s located. This is thanks to the rental access and urban planning law (ALUR).

The fee usually when you sign a lease as a *locataire* is about one month’s rent but there has never been a cap on the charge. Now, for those living in and around Paris, the fee will be €12 per square metre while in the other big cities, the rate drops to €10. Everywhere else in France, renters can count on €8 per square metre.

The good with the bad: with this regulation, agencies can now charge renters

for “move-in inspections”, which will cost you €3 per square metre anywhere in France.

So what does it all mean? Well, compare a 40sqm, €1100 a month, apartment in Paris, where fees would now be capped at €600 – that’s a 45% decrease – to a 45sqm, €543 a month unit in Bordeaux, which would now have to pay €585 in agency fees with the inspection costs.

France’s national union of real estate agents, FNAIM, claims that those in the nation’s capital have to spend three to four times more of their salary on a buying property than those living in other parts of the country. Really, have they ever been to the Côte d’Azur?

### Off days are numbered

ALSO in September, stepping away from their normally conservative stance, Medef, France’s largest union of employers, ignored old taboos and proposed several radical remedies to counter the country’s economic woes.

The first suggestion is to reduce the number of official holidays by 2 days, which Medef predicts would result in a 1% growth increase and create 100,000 jobs.

France ranks at the middle of the European scale for civil and religious holidays. Cyprus claims 17, Finland 14, Austria 13 and Belgium 12; Denmark, Luxembourg, Ireland and Italy all have 11, as does France. The Netherlands, Germany and Spain count 9 while the UK is at the low end of the scale with only 8.

Medef would also like to see a relaxation of the minimum wage requirement for certain categories of job seekers, saying that this would create between 50,000 and 100,000 new jobs within 5 years. The 35-hour workweek should also be reformed to allow companies to freely negotiate terms with their staff. The old Sunday opening can-of-worms should also be looked at.

The outcry on the Left was predictable with trade unions loudly denouncing “a return to sweatshop conditions” and “provocation” by Medef.

Medef president, Pierre Gattaz, has a straightforward reply: “Nothing else has worked in France **CONT PG 6** ➤





because we have only tried measures that can't work here or anywhere else. It's time we tried those that have been effective in other countries."

According to Gattaz, the French socioeconomic model is well past its sell-by date. "The system has created two parallel fears: that of employees who fear for their jobs and that of employers who fear hiring under such restrictive conditions. It's time to address these fears. There should be no more taboos about what reforms can be discussed."

**Looking for the latest in satellite dish news?**  
**See pg 30.**

## Museum sure to score

If you're a museum enthusiast, then you'll know the Riviera boasts many, ranging from modest village exhibits to the spectacular Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild at Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat.

While most of France's best-rated *musées* are in Paris, one local museum has made TripAdvisor's Top Ten: The Marc Chagall Museum on Ave Docteur Ménard in Nice rates 9th. One user on the travel website comments, "Plenty here for the Chagall enthusiast, and you can take photos too."

But there's a new museum that you'll quickly become a fan of. The Musée National du Sport ([museedusport.fr](http://museedusport.fr)) at Nice's Allianz Riviera Stadium was founded in 1963 and previously located in Paris before relocating late 2013 to Bd des Jardiniers in Nice. Over 5,860m<sup>2</sup> (and for €5), you can relive the country's "great moments in the history of sport" with 400,000 documents and 45,000 artefacts such as jerseys, trophies and photographs.

At a cost of €18 million, the museum (above) employs 19 people full-time, and was funded by a public-private partnership, including the city of Nice. "The National Sports Museum brings together a unique collection that traces the history of sport beautifully," said the mayor, Christian Estrosi, himself a former top athlete who donated one of his racing motorcycles. Take that, TripAdvisor.

That same travel-rating website also released its results on a tipping survey. The French did not score well, with 16% admitting they never leave a tip at a café or restaurant and only 15% claiming they always tip. Compare this to the Americans, "by far the most generous", with 60% saying they "always" leave something.

Not so with the case of our neighbouring Italians, who tip only 11% of the time.

## "I am French and I love to complain!"

SO declared a Frenchwoman in Sallanches, in the Haute-Savoie, who dumped 30 kilos of centime coins at her local tax office to pay off the final instalment of her tax bill.

Last year, the 28-year-old brought home €1,400 a month which earned her a €1,107

tax bill. Her gripe with the over-taxing French system began when she tried to pay the amount in cash, but was told she could only pay €300 per day in *liquide*.

"Audrey D" told the newspaper *Sud-Ouest*, "To pay my taxes on time, I had to sell my car."

With the help of a friend who works at a bank, for the fourth and last payment she paid the authorities €207 in rolls of one-, two- and five-centime coins.

## Just in ...

... REV Peter J E Jackson (right) has been appointed to Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Nice (with St Hugh's Church, Vence). Currently Vicar of Christ Church, Southgate, North London, Jackson will be welcomed by his new congregation in October.



... FORMER French President Nicolas Sarkozy took to social media September 19th to announce he would seek leadership of the opposition party, UMP, which will hold elections in November. "After a lengthy period of reflection, I have decided to offer the French people a new political choice," he wrote on his Facebook page. Seen as the first step toward running for presidency in 2017, Sarko is currently linked to half a dozen ongoing corruption cases.

... THE Ponts des Arts bridge in Paris (below) – famous for its 700,000 fastened "padlocks of love" – got a new look mid-September as some railings, damaged from the weight, were replaced with two thick glass panels, putting an end to the romantic ritual. "There are more beautiful ways of showing love than attaching locks," the city said. As a compromise, a Twitter campaign invites tourists to "digitally devote" themselves by posting selfies on the bridge at #lovewithoutlinks ■





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- Access to Sunny Bank's "The Grange" events, the English library and gardens
- Short-term stays available



On Sept 12th Eric Ciotti (third from right), President of the Conseil Général des Alpes-Maritimes, helped lay the first brick of Résidence Albert, due to open early 2016.

In partnership with EMERYS, a French management company specialising in providing rental apartments for independent seniors, Sunny Bank has negotiated the exclusivity for taking reservations from the Anglophone community in the period running up to the opening. In turn, EMERYS have committed to staffing the Albert facility with a team that speaks both English and French.

Brian Woolf tells us, "Our goal is to fill half of the available accommodation in Albert with English speakers. We believe that this enhances social interaction and the quality of life among residents."

Anyone wanting to learn more about Résidence Albert is invited to attend sessions at Victoria, 755 Chemin des Gourettes in Mouans-Sartoux, at 16h on Wed Oct 1st, Thurs Oct 9th and Mon Oct 13th. Refreshments will be provided. Please reserve with Helen Leiser on 04 93 47 94 20 or admin@sunny-bank.org ■

BEING an expat ain't easy. There are language challenges, cultural clashes and, as we age, the question of where to spend our later years. Brian Woolf, President of the Sunny Bank Association, puts it this way: "Do we go 'home' to be closer to an increasingly busy family, or do we stay here and continue to enjoy a better quality of life and climate, enhanced by the healthcare system?"

Sunny Bank, founded in 1892 in support of English-speaking residents and visitors to the South of France, may be able to help

with the decision. They are holding a series of informative events this fall to introduce "Albert", a Senior Residents facility in Mouans-Sartoux "for people who can still lead independent lives but seek the peace of mind of having ready access to services that are adapted to their needs".

Scheduled to open early 2016, the 33 luxury unit apartment building will be located next door to Victoria, the well-established retirement home for more dependant residents run by EMERA; some 40 Anglophones having resided there.



# VOTING RIGHTS AND WRONGS



Viviane Reding with Harry Shindler, campaigner for the right of British expats to vote.

AS the UK general election draws near, some expat Britons here remain unhappy with the fact that they still don't have a national vote anywhere – neither in Britain, if they'd lived overseas for more than 15 years, nor in France where they pay their taxes.

One solution is to take out French nationality, which at least gives the right to vote in France. Another might come with François Hollande's proposal to give the vote to resident foreigners, but the unpopular president has other priorities at the moment.

The 2015 UK election so far looks like a close race with no party set to win an outright majority. However marginal, an expat vote would carry some weight and the Conservatives – no doubt thinking that most expats are on their side – are talking about abolishing the 15-year expat rule. In September, Conservative party chairman Grant Shapps stated that all British citizens, wherever they live, should be given the right to vote "for life" because even overseas residents have "contributed to Britain".

This opportunistic turnaround won't come in time for the May 2015 vote so the party is promising the changes only if they come into power next year; potential coalition partners UKIP and LibDems are keeping mum for now.

As Britain becomes ever more Europhobic, it's ironic that the European Commission is an influential institution supporting this British expat cause. Denying many of Britain's 5 million expatriates the right to vote

is "punishing" them with "second-class citizenship", according to the former EU Justice Commissioner, Viviane Reding. The French-educated Luxembourgish has been outspoken in her praise of 93-year-old Harry Shindler, a British war veteran and expat living in Italy, who, according to Reding, "... has lost his voice in the nation for which he fought. And he is not alone. There are many EU citizens who are disenfranchised simply because they used their right to move to another EU member state."

British Justice Secretary Chris Grayling, however, is unimpressed. He says "interference in national matters" should be off limits to outsiders and not used to circumvent British national choices.

The In-or-Out referendum on EU membership promised by Cameron for 2017 concerns all expats, emphasises Graham Richards, a French-based campaigner whose Votes-For-Expats movement has attracted over 4,000 active supporters from 72 countries, 31% of them in France.

Richards is also active in lobbying against the non-indexation of British pensions in some countries and the abolition of the UK personal tax allowance for expats. Expat couples could one day find themselves £4,000 worse off if non-residents who own rental properties in Britain are deprived of the allowance. Currently, Treasury rules entitle EU nationals and British expats with UK income to offset tax on earnings against the £10,000 personal allowance. In the hope of attracting

another £400 million into the Exchequer, Chancellor George Osborne would like to change this – a move that could affect some 400,000 people including some expats drawing a UK pension.

The arbitrary closing of UK savings accounts for Britons living overseas is another area of contention for Richards, who keeps his thumb in many pies. His ire is understandable. *The Reporter* often receives euro cheques drawn on French accounts held by British citizens with a UK address. These citizens, many of whom have secondary residences in France, can easily open an account with a French bank using their UK address.

This is no longer the case at UK banks for expat principal residents who no longer have such an address. As many UK companies refuse to pay occupational pensions into a foreign account, some OAPs now find themselves with no bank that can receive their pensions.

Retiree Warwick Gibbons lives in Crete and is affected by this. He stresses that he is being refused the equal treatment that should be afforded to all EU citizens wherever they live within the union.

Richards recommends that expats who find themselves in a similar position write to the Competition and Markets Authority, which has opened a consultation on its website.

In an email to the *Reporter*, Graham Richards states, "It is quite obvious that the UK Government does not think very much of their 5,000,000+ expats now living abroad." So far we can't argue with that, but the rising uncertainty of future elections is a force for a salutary change in official attitudes. Expats are finally starting to matter. ■

## Yes, Americans can

WITH the US midterm elections approaching on Nov 4th, 2014, the Union of Overseas Voters reminds American expats that since 2009 overseas voters are required to file a new request for ballots every calendar year. For more see [WeVote.fr](http://WeVote.fr)



# Inside story of our top tax book

## Q&A WITH ROB KAY, BLEVINS FRANKS SENIOR PARTNER

**RR:** *What's in it for us?*

**RK:** The newly updated Edition 7 of *The Blevins Franks Guide to Living in France* examines the key tax and wealth management issues for a UK national planning to move to France, already living here or returning to the UK. The 26 chapters cover a range of topics from purchasing French property to foreign exchange, from French capital gains tax to French wealth tax and from succession tax to shedding UK residence.

**RR:** *So why is it essential for Brits in France?*

**RK:** The French tax regime is completely different to that of the UK, not to mention very detailed and complex, and anyone moving to France or recently arrived needs to be prepared for this. It is also a very useful reference book for those who have been here a while.

There are many tax traps for the unwary, and we often come across people who pay more tax than necessary or who have got their tax planning wrong. Often it is fixable, but of course it is better to get it right from the outset. The first step in your tax planning in France is to be armed with all the facts, and this is what this book aims to do. Once you understand the system,

you can then establish the most suitable tax planning for you. The tax burden in France is high, but it is not necessarily as bad as many expect if you use the right arrangements.

The book also covers the UK taxes that people need to consider when leaving the UK, which may continue to affect them when they are living in France.

**RR:** *What type of money management mistakes do you see?*

**RK:** The biggest mistake is not being informed enough about French taxation – too many people are unprepared for the impact of French taxation on their income and wealth. The rules of the game change when you cross the Channel, for example, many people presume that what was tax free in the UK is tax free here, but that is often not the case.

Research is all very well and good, but you may miss something important, something that changes everything. Everyone's situation is different, and even our book cannot explore all the solutions for all circumstances, so you do need to also take professional, personalised advice. Blevins Franks is therefore offering everyone who purchases the book a complimentary conversation with a local Blevins Franks Partner.

Many people continue to use their UK adviser after they have left the UK,

but you need an adviser based in France. They need to be living here to have in-depth knowledge of the local tax regime, keep up-to-date on all many tax and fiscal changes, and understand how this all actually affects people living here.

**RR:** *What will British residents in France learn from this guide?*

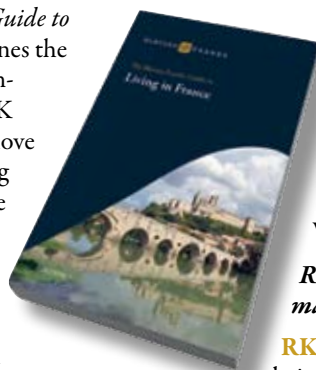
**RK:** They will have much better knowledge on the French tax regime. The guide goes into detail on all the various French taxes and the rules. The chapters on leaving the UK and UK taxation are equally important, since it is important for British expatriates to follow both tax regimes and the interaction between them. It also has useful chapters on pensions, the French healthcare system and French wills.

Hopefully the book will help readers understand how they are affected and where they need to take steps to make their tax and wealth management work well for their new life in France.

**RR:** *How can readers pick up a copy?*

**RK:** The *Blevins Franks Guide to Living in France* (€9) is on sale at local English book shops: the English Book Centre in Valbonne, Heidi's English Bookshop in Antibes and the Cannes English Bookshop. You can also order it from [blevinsfranks.com](http://blevinsfranks.com) ■

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# Team Monaco-US hits home run with Gene Budig

First in a series on the movers and shakers behind the Monaco US Business Roundtable

BY PJ HESLIN



American League President, Gene Budig, and George Brett, Hall of Fame player for the Kansas City Royals.

WE all have that moment. No matter how long you've lived abroad, when baseball's World Series rolls around in October (this year, the 21st), we can't help but relive our country's pastime. Whether it was Boston's long awaited pennant win in 2004 that broke the curse of the Bambino, or the fact that the Mets remain unwinnable, the late fall brings back memories even for those who don't follow Major League Baseball (or any sport for that matter) religiously.

For Gene Budig – a member of the Monaco US Business Roundtable – easily the most unforgettable World Series was in 1994. Four days after he accepted the post as President of the American League, Major League Baseball underwent the longest strike in its history, and the World Series was cancelled; this happened only once before, in 1904. For a man who is

least, frustrating. Besides offering opinion, Gene's role as President meant he could not participate in strike negotiations and so this man of action was benched.

When asked about the '94 World Series that never was, Gene tells me, "I was worried that baseball was being hurt badly by such uncertainty. I saw what the game meant to people, they saw something very special at risk and so did I."

With a PhD in Education – Gene had previously served as President of Illinois State, West Virginia University and then Chancellor of the University of Kansas – his involvement with the Major League was the culmination of a lifelong dream to be an integral part of professional baseball. Gene fondly recalls as a boy going with his father to see the semi-pro McCook Cats, a team he would later work for as batboy;



Gene Budig in his office with a statue of the Jayhawk, the Kansas University mascot. The mythical symbol dates back to the 1850s, when the Kansas Territory was the site of pre-Civil War battles between the anti-slavery abolitionists – who settled in Lawrence, founded the University and wanted Kansas to be admitted as a "free state" in the Union – and the forces in neighboring Missouri, who wanted Kansas to become a "slave state" as part of the Confederacy.

a self-described workaholic, the 232-day strike was, to say the

at one point he even hoped to play in the Majors. He would have to settle as part-owner of the minor league Charleston RiverDogs, the Class A baseball farm team of the New York Yankees; he co-owns with none other than Bill Murray.

While Gene, who lives with his wife Gretchen in Charleston, South Carolina, will be an avid follower of this year's World Series – he'll also be busy with the Monaco US Business Roundtable (see our website) co-founded by Mike Powers and Susan Feaster. Gene was introduced to the Roundtable by old friends from Omaha, Nebraska, Mike Yanney, Chairman Emeritus of Burlington Capital Group and Dr Jim Yanney, a well known American business investor and maxillofacial surgeon. Gene and Mike Yanney are longtime business partners of Warren Buffett.

This initiative aims to build stronger relations between the two countries in the realms of education, government, business, culture and sport. A quick look



at Gene's bio will tell you he could very well provide valuable insight into any of these areas.

In fact, Gene's resumé reminds me of the adage "they don't make 'em like that any more". A full-time student at university, he worked as a reporter and graduated with a degree in journalism in 1962. He picked up his Masters in English the following year – when he also served in the Nebraska Air National Guard and worked in the governor's office – then earned his Doctorate in Education in 1967, the same year he managed to become Illinois State University's youngest professor at the age of 34, before holding the top position at three American universities for twenty years.

I ask the retired Major General what drove him to such achievement at an early age. "I wanted my hometown to point to me with pride. I also wanted to emphasize the importance of a college education."

Gene Budig sees the potential of the Monaco US Business Roundtable to share his expertise in higher education.

He believes that study abroad programs are essential to holding sustained dialogues between American and foreign universities, and a way for American schools and corporations to attract foreign graduates. The fact that many overseas universities have accepted American programs as an educational model is not only a source of pride for Budig, but proof of the efficacy of American higher education.

Talking about the challenges for American universities today, the former chancellor has one word: "Relevancy. You have to offer young people opportunity. A degree must have a tangible advantage which is not easy in today's job market." He adds that university administrators have to meet these new challenges as well. "You are an employee of the taxpayer. Just as on a major league baseball team, the administrator must

provide a program that serves the interests and entertainment needs of millions."

When it comes to commitment to higher education, Gene is not just paying lip service. While serving as Chancellor of Kansas University (KU), he became the first state employee with a yearly salary over \$100,000 (he earned \$100,001). He donated a large portion of his pay to the KU Endowment Association for student scholarships. He did so because he believed in the mission of the institute and, as he tells me, he wanted to show other financially fortunate individuals that "one cannot have a distinguished university without private investment."

After serving the world of higher education for so many years, Gene seems an odd choice as a Major League President but he puts it in perspective in citing both institutions have huge operating budgets that must meet the public good. Also, all American universities have sports teams. While discussing the link between professional sports and education, Gene says, "What you need to do is find the most effective way to tie the public good through the institution. The most direct path to do that is through a well administered athletic program. Running a sports team and a university, you need academic and financial expertise with unusual creativity."

I ask Gene, 75, if he has any plans to slow down. "No. I'm more curious than ever. Plus, I want to share with others what I have learned."

With careers that have spanned journalism, higher education and professional sports, it seems that Gene Budig will be a heavy hitter at next year's Monaco US Business Roundtable Forum. ■

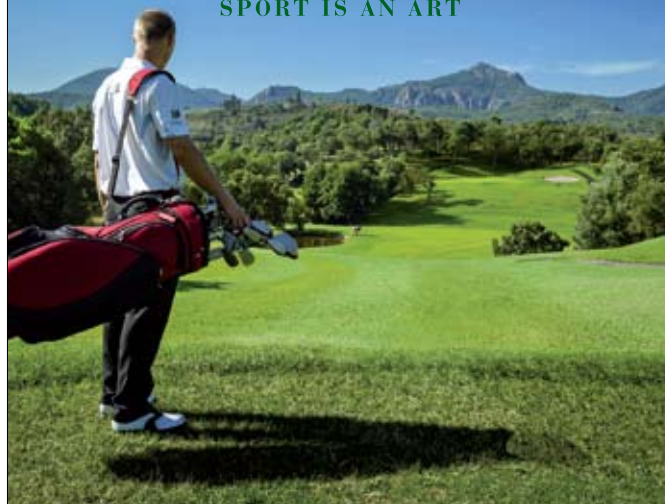
*The Forum will run June 9th-11th in Monaco. For more information on the Forum, contact Susan Feaster, President, Monaco US Business Roundtable at MonacoUS.BRT@gmail.com*

## THE DRIVE TO EXCELLENCE



# RIVIERA GOLF

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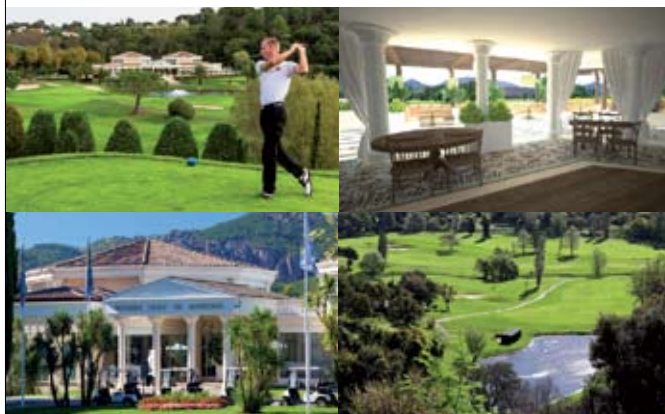


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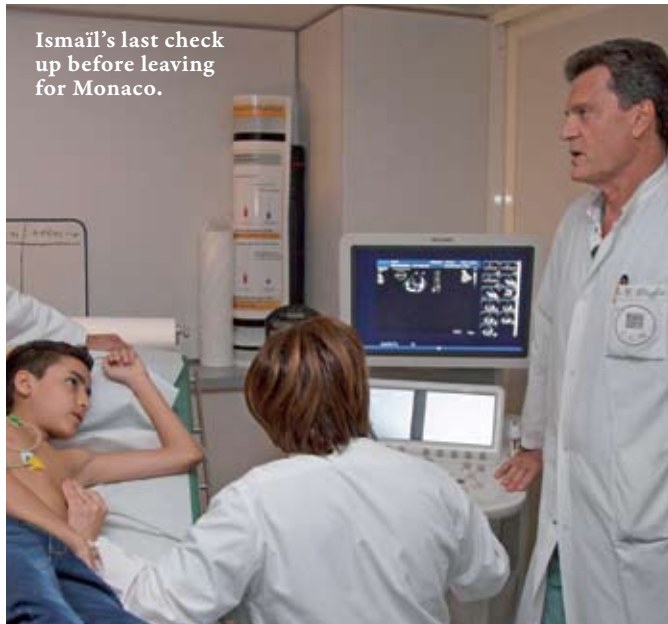
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# How Compassion Sans Frontières saved the life of little Ismail

BY NICK KENT



Ismail's last check up before leaving for Monaco.



Ismail was able to return to his school equipped with a tablet, a gift from Philippe Laïk, right.

PHILIPPE Laïk had just flown in from the US when he took the call in the back of a Parisian taxi.

His cook was calling from the Laïk mansion above Menton, her voice trembling as she passed on the bad news. Her 11-year-old nephew, Ismail Dlimi, lay close to death in a Moroccan hospital. His heart had failed, and he had already "died" and been resuscitated twice. The situation was desperate; the family of the young lad did not know where to turn for help.

Luckily Philippe did, and having decided to do all he could to save a young life, he

quickly went on the trail of Professor Gilles Dreyfus, the medical head of the renowned Cardio Thoracic Centre in Monaco. He called a radiologist on Dreyfus's team and spoke to him in Marbella.

Phillipe, a Monegasque businessman, takes up the story: "By an amazing stroke of luck, sitting opposite the radiologist was Mohammed Bendriouch, a recognised businessman from Rabat [the Moroccan town whose hospital Ismail Dlimi's life hung by the thinnest of threads]. On hearing the story, Mr Bendriouch was very moved and pledged

his support for Ismail – his financial contribution is much appreciated and he is instrumental in saving this young boy.

"Professor Dreyfus was contacted and immediately called the cardiac team looking after Ismail in Morocco. After detailed discussions he gave us the full picture."

Ismail was the victim of a rare illness, a form of myocardia, which prevented his heart from properly contracting. After his heart had twice failed, he had been put into an artificial coma.

The prognosis of Professor Dreyfus



**THE CHAIN OF COMPASSION.** In the private residence of the Princess in Rabat, left to right: Mme Irina Alekseeva, Mr Philippe Laïk, Her Royal Highness Lalla Fatima Zahra, Mr Bendriouch, Ismail Dlimi.



pulled no punches. The boy was heading towards almost certain death unless he could be moved safely to Europe, where doctors could be found who were equipped to deal with such a special and dangerous case.

Once there, three possible scenarios could play out:

1. The most pessimistic ... nothing could be done to save Ismaïl.
2. Putting the boy on a life support machine, waiting and hoping for a donor heart suitable for transplanting to become available.
3. Trying a highly specialised treatment that would lead to remission and eventual recovery.

Without hesitation, Philippe Laïk said he would pay for Ismaïl to be flown to Monaco for treatment, and that he would underwrite the medical expenses in the Principality. But he was soon to find out that waving the magic wand of money would not be enough on its own to make this come to pass.

"There were some obstacles to be overcome, and time was a luxury we did not have," says Philippe.

Before he could travel, Ismaïl needed a passport. Philippe was on the phone to Morocco, alerting the highest in the land to the urgency of the situation. "I reminded everybody I spoke to that the life of a boy was at stake," says Philippe.

His pleas fell on sympathetic royal ears, and the passport was delivered to the hospital in person by HRH Princess Lalla Fatima Zohra.

Meanwhile, Philippe and his wife Irina were seeking the help of ambassadors to rush through the visas that Ismaïl would need inside that precious passport. At the same time, they tracked down a private jet that could transport the boy with all the necessary medical support. The Monaco Croix

Rouge also provided assistance.

Ismaïl arrived in Monaco still in an artificial coma. His condition was stabilised, and there followed a month of intensive care and treatment. Then just after his 12th birthday potential disaster struck: Ismaïl developed tachycardia – an irregular heartbeat. Fortunately this was rapidly cured by a doctor at Monaco's Princess Grace Hospital.

Soon after this scare it started to emerge that Ismaïl was a lucky young man – it was the third of the options mentioned that worked, with no invasive surgery required.

Last December Ismaïl was able to return home, two big treats were waiting for him. The first an invitation to visit the Moroccan Royal Family, the second being able to return to his school, surrounded by friends and equipped with a *tablette* computer, a present from the Laïks.

Philippe confides that he doesn't want this happy ending to be a one-off.

"I was very moved and surprised at how, as the efforts to save Ismaïl progressed, more people became involved and it soon became what you might call a 'chain of compassion'. This 'chain' stretched across different nationalities, languages, religions and educational systems, to save the life of one boy. It was inspiring.

"People asked me at the time 'Why do you feel you have to do this? Are you Moroccan? Are you an Arab? Are you a Muslim?'

"I answered, 'No, no and no. Like Ismaïl, I am a human being.'

Could this be the birth of a movement to unite and bind caring people into an organisation which could be called "Compassion Sans Frontières"? Watch this space. ■



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# END OF AN ERA

BY MOLLY BROWN

WHILE the Yacht Show was the main event in September, Monaco's residents were preoccupied with the closure of the Principality's only cinema in the Sporting d'Hiver (see box), which is now sharing the Princess Grace Theatre until another location is found. A new cinema is planned for Fontvieille shopping centre when Prince Rainier's classic car museum moves to Port Hercule, but if the Princess Grace Theatre arrangement could be extended it would be a more suitable location, as Princess Grace herself was a star of both film and theatre; it is also much more accessible and in the centre of town. Or why not two cinemas and a Monte Carlo Film Festival?

All the boutiques in the Sporting d'Hiver are leaving at the end of September, some into the Pavillons des Merveilles in the casino gardens and some elsewhere, leaving this grand old building to die alone ... though no date for its demolition has been given. A big boom at midnight is not possible as it could rock the foundations of the Hôtel de Paris, not to mention the wine in its celebrated cellars, but both the Sporting d'Hiver and La Regence behind are to be torn down in the coming months and dust, drilling and traffic congestion are inevitable.

To distract us from this unwelcome upheaval, a little light music is on offer. The London musical "Cats" is at Grimaldi Forum (Oct 1-4) and Kylie Minogue is in concert at Sporting d'Été (Oct 11). L'Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo has appointed dynamic Japanese conductor Kazuki Yamada as its principal guest conductor and his brilliant performance at the Palais Princier concert in July was an instant success. Opera Monte Carlo opens the season with Gounod's tragic opera "Romeo and



Two grand old buildings are to go as Monaco soars ever upward and onward. The Belle Époque Palais de la Plage was the first building erected on the beach in 1908 while the Art Deco Sporting d'Hiver (below) was considered far too modern for the Belle Époque Place du Casino in 1932.



Le Sporting Club, paradis du plaisir.

The Sporting Club, paradise of enjoyment.

Juliet" (Nov 16, 19 & 22) for the Fête Nationale (Nov 19). Monaco is hoping that a new Grimaldi (or two) will have joined the Princely family in time for the celebrations, always marked by a colourful parade at the Palais Princier,

a concert by the band of the Prince's Carabinieri and a magnificent firework display on the port. Monaco's 10th Jazz Festival ends November with cool sounds by jazz greats in theatres in and around the Principality. ■



## LIGHTS OUT

THE Sporting d'Hiver cinema opened in the mid-1950s as a Cinéma Gaumont Pathé with a summer open air cinema in Larvotto ... also relocated for the building of Monte Carlo Bay Hotel, which opened in 2006. In 1975, Claude Trehet took over the concession and the very popular independent cinema was completely refurbished. In 1986, his son, Thierry (pictured centre), who had been working in Paris for Gaumont Pathé for six years,

joined him in Monaco, where they celebrated the official opening of the new 700-seat Salle 2 by Prince Rainier and Prince Albert.

The cinema has always been a success and, in 2011, Thierry installed 3D equipment and then brought ballet and opera films relayed direct from abroad to the cinema in 2012.

Sad to leave this very popular location, to see it destroyed, he is optimistic for the future as he tells the *Reporter*: "C'est un mal pour un bien."



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# Licenced to drive ... in English

**MOTORING**



Andrew Johnson is a member of the UK's Driving Instructors Association and has long been involved with road safety issues in France.

I HAVE very fond memories of my obligatory in-car driving lessons in France. When I moved here there was no licence exchange in place between France and Ontario, Canada and so there I was, a few times a week, behind the wheel getting told off by my French instructor. Was it stressful? *Mais oui!* When you've never used a clutch, never navigated a roundabout, and never learned French driving vocabulary, it's pretty intense when Pierre, my *moniteur d'auto école*, is yelling (that's right, yelling), "*Tout droit!*" as I'm looping the 4-exit roundabout, trying to process why his hand is pointing straight when my brain is registering "turn right".

"*Elle est totalement perdue,*" he would gasp, as if alone in the car.

"I am not lost," I'd clarify, "*je suis confuse!*"

Yup, fond memories indeed.

When I heard that Andrew C Johnson, an English driving instructor in Monaco, is the only *moniteur* in the region with a French equivalent diploma, I knew we had to talk.

Andrew works at the Auto-École Stop at 2 Rue de La Turbie and was brought on board six months ago by René Peslier to deal with the ever-increasing number of international drivers needing theory and in-car lessons in English.

This 47-year-old is a knowledgeable guy. Andrew is British but grew up in St-Rémy-de-Provence and Geneva with his English-Swiss parents and so is fluently bilingual. He belongs to the local British Association and British Legion, and I learned from him that while the Principality has fewer CCTV cameras than Nice, Monaco has face recognition software so, unlike in Nice, the screens don't have to be monitored. If a person arrives on the Rock and is wanted by, say, Interpol, within minutes authorities will be alerted.

Most of Andrew's clientele are English-speaking residents in Monaco, who for various reasons need a Monegasque driver's licence – which you must have in order to purchase a car with Monegasque plates. Not the case in France, where the origin of your licence is irrelevant when buying a vehicle. And, as there is no exchange

agreement between Monaco and the US, Americans are obliged to take the licence if they are resident. Brits opt for the licence because they want to hold on to their photo ID cards from home.

"Learning the Code is the most difficult part," explains Andrew. "The *Bureau de la Circulation* in Monaco has a program that allows you take the theory test in English."

The Monaco Highway Code is different from that of France – for example, wearing a seat belt in Monaco, oddly enough, is not law – although many of the signs and road markings are the same for the two countries.

Andrew holds theory classes in English at the driving school, Monday and Friday at 10h. In-car sessions are evaluated on an individual basis, but there is no longer a law dictating a fixed number of hours. "You could pass your exam in two weeks if you do the work," he says. Also, the driver's exam can be booked quickly in Monaco, unlike France where the waiting time is lengthy.

Getting behind the wheel with a trained instructor is a sure route to understanding the rules of the road in your new home country and to get practice at those roundabouts. After all, you wouldn't want to get *perdu*. ■ **N.H.**

For the English Driving School in Monaco, contact Andrew Johnson on +377 93 30 19 50.

**Ever been stuck in traffic and had "to go"? EezyPeezy may be the answer. See pg 33.**

# MEGAYACHTS, MIGRANTS & MOAS

BY MICHAEL HEALY



Regina Catrambone and *Phoenix*:  
“Like any idea, MOAS was not the  
product of a single event but rather a  
series of events,” she says. PHOTOS: MOAS

THE season on the Riviera is almost finished – the culmination is the Monaco Yacht Show and Les Voiles de St Tropez, especially for the classic and racing yachts. The big yachts and their hard-working crews usually settle into a winter refit here, or cross the Atlantic for Caribbean cruising.

Yet for one group of seafarers there is no closed season: the migrants fleeing Africa in search of a better life, or to avoid persecution. The problem is acute on the southern borders of Europe, with Italy and Malta taking the brunt of these unwelcome arrivals. In 2014, some 120,000 migrants have come to Italy alone, with rescue missions costing the Italian government €9 million a month.

The International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) is familiar to all yacht captains, having been launched in 1914 in response to the Titanic sinking. And the 1979 International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) lays responsibility on the Flag State (Britain and colonies in the case of most yachts) which “shall require the Master of any ship flying its flag to render assistance to any person found at sea in extreme danger ... and bring [them] to a place of safety.”

Well, there is no shortage of distress in the waters south of Malta and Pantelleria, in the Strait of Sicily, where many of these poor souls have died, some within sight of the coast. In October 2013, two boats packed with migrants capsized off the coast of the Italian island of Lampedusa, adding at least 400 people to the death toll; “More than 2,500 people have drowned or gone missing attempting the Mediterranean crossing this year alone, including over 2,200 since the start of June,” according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Italian and Maltese aid workers are used to bringing bodies ashore from the miserable unseaworthy overcrowded boats on which they embarked in Libya and Tunisia. And for the survivors, reception facilities are totally inadequate for the numbers. The lucky ones later arrive in Ventimiglia, then via Menton to Calais, trying desperately to get into Britain.

So, what can be done? Local authorities can’t handle any more arrivals, nor provide the funds necessary. But a philanthropic Italian/American couple have launched the world’s first privately funded vessel to help migrants in trouble at sea.

Living in Malta, Chris and Regina Catrambone have been aware of the migration phenomenon but, due to other commitments, they remained passive about the problem until last year when they chartered a boat travelling around Lampedusa, Sicily and Tunisia. Regina tells me, “My husband and I had an opportunity to learn about the issue more closely. Our captain was a retired Officer of the Armed Forces of Malta who used to work on search and rescue at sea. When I saw a winter jacket floating in the sea, he pointed out that this probably belonged to an immigrant who drowned. The Pope visited Lampedusa soon after our visit and launched an appeal on TV to citizens of the world to lend their contribution to this issue. We felt personally compelled to take heed of his message.”

The Catrambones invested \$4 million and bought a sturdy 40-metre ex-fishing boat and fitted it out with tenders and a flight deck with two state-of-the-art drones carrying night vision and thermal imaging cameras. When boats carrying immigrants are found, the *Phoenix* (registered Belize) informs the nearest national authority, which should send a vessel to transport them for landing in the nearest non-African island. On August 30th, under the direction of the Marine Rescue Coordination Centre in Rome, *Phoenix* rescued 227 Syrian and Palestinians from one boat, plus 96 Africans from another.

October will see completion of the first mission by their “Migrant Offshore Aid Station”, but the Catrambones are relying on crowdsource donations to continue their cause (see [moas.eu](http://moas.eu)).

Any large yacht could join the operation for a month or two, and the owner would get great satisfaction about being useful to humanity. Some might fear damage to their marble bathrooms but the more resources at sea, the fewer tragedies we will witness. Nobody deserves to die like that. ■

## NAUTY BITS

... the 2nd edition of the Cogs4Cancer charity cycle kicks off Oct 5th. Sixteen yachties will pedal 865km from Ancona, Italy to Antibes, France. See pg 46 about sponsorship, donations and how to join the Tribute Stage on Fri Oct 10th.

... looking for a fee earning opportunity in Occupational Maritime Medicine? See ad pg 17.





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# Going after the little guy

**BUSINESS**

BY PETER JOHNSON

IN 2013 there was massive debate in France on the future of the Auto-Entrepreneur regime, various lobby groups putting on the pressure, citing unfair competition, especially in the building trade.

A commission looked into the charges brought against the regime and for a while the 800,000 Auto-Entreprises felt threatened, with no certainty as to whether they would be allowed to continue.

People keep asking me: "What happened? Can we still set up as Auto-Entrepreneur? What changes have there been?" Here, then, is a brief review of the changes decided by French parliament in June 2014, which will come into force from January 1st, 2015.

*Cotisation foncière des entreprises* (CFE) is to be paid by all Auto-Entreprises, except for the first year. Previously the exemption had been three years. The CFE is a local business rate determined at municipal level and can vary from €200 in a small village to as much as €800 per year in a big city.

Compulsory registration for trading activities (commercial) with the *Registre du commerce et des sociétés* (RCS) and artisans with the *Répertoire des métiers* (RM). This will entail a small registration cost and reintroduce another layer of bureaucracy that we thought had been dispensed with. The idea being that the RCS and RM will somehow "vet" new businesses and weed out the cowboys and unqualified.

Those registered via the RCS and RM will have to pay a tax for joining these organizations; 0.15% of turnover for commercial activities at the RCS and 0.48% for artisans at the RM.

Artisans will have to attend a 5-day training course with the *Chambre de Métiers* at a cost of €180. This replaces the existing half-day course and reverts to the 5-day course that used to exist before the creation of the Auto-Entreprise system in 2009. A total waste of time, as anyone who has ever attended will tell you. "Just take a good book, sit at the back of the class, and make sure you get your attendance card stamped!"

Optional support for Auto-Entreprises reaching 50% of the turnover ceiling (€32,900 for artisans and white-collar professions, €82,200 for commercial activities). The objective being to provide



information for small businesses that are likely to exceed the thresholds. One imagines that this will be available at the RCS and RM, and – dare I say it! – sounds like another waste of time, as most Auto-Entreprises (by definition) want to stay within the thresholds and continue to juggle official work and cash payments.

Artisans in the building trade will be obliged to feature their "Décennale" insurance on their quotes and invoices.

The creation of a single status of *Entreprise Individuelle* (self-employed, sole trader), whereby the current micro-entreprise will in effect merge with the Auto-Entreprise system of "pay as you earn" for tax and social security.

The annual turnover limits will stay the same (as above, €32,900 and €82,200), but there will be a requirement to pay online (via *NetEntreprises.fr*) once you exceed 50% of these limits, rather than filling in the existing paper forms, *Déclaration trimestrielle des revenus*.

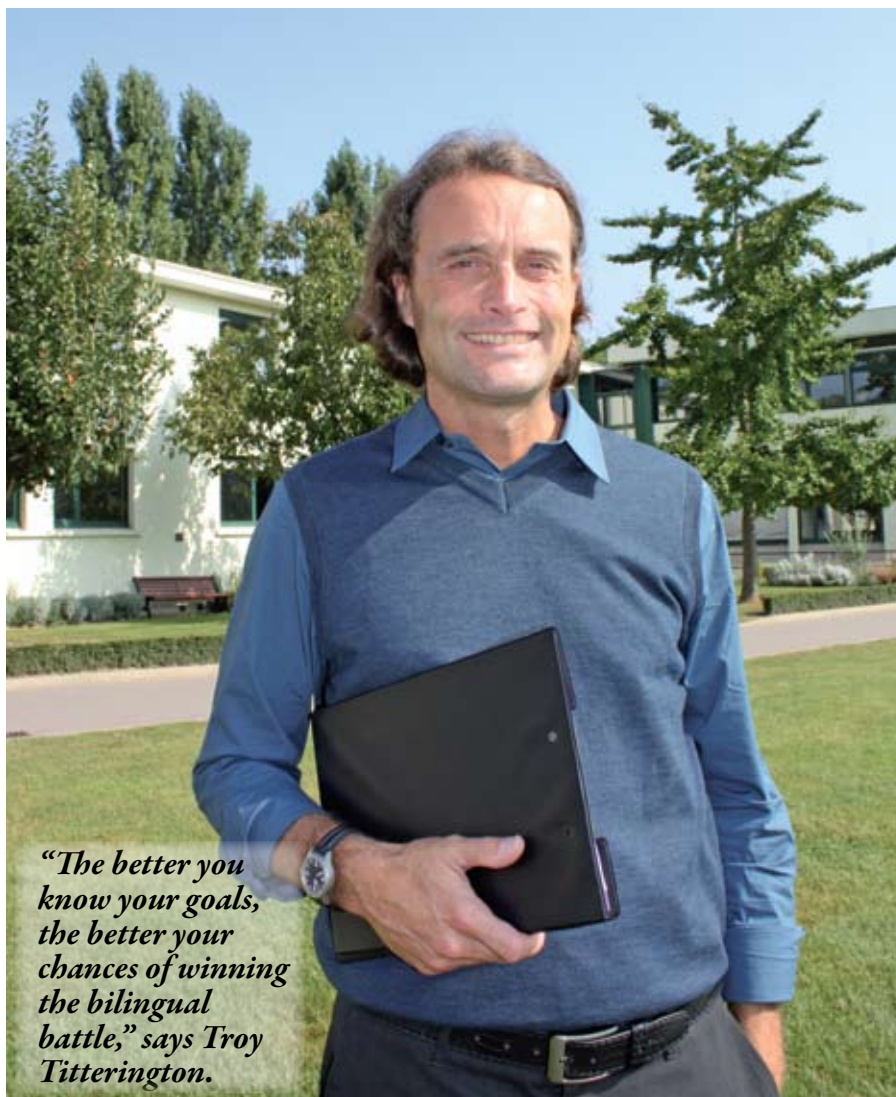
All in all, is this progress or a step backwards? It will no doubt calm the ardours of the anti-AE brigade, especially those in the building trade, but personally I just see it as more complication and bureaucracy, more "stealth taxes", more obfuscation, and no abatement of the massive cash economy that Hollande – with his 13% approval rate – and his government continue to encourage by imposing such high levels of social security contributions.

*Trop d'impôt tue l'impôt.* ■



# A BACKWARDS PLAN

**Linguistic expert Troy Titterington on making the most of a bilingual education**



*“The better you know your goals, the better your chances of winning the bilingual battle,” says Troy Titterington.*

WITH another school year underway, newly arrived expats may be feeling the impact from the decision to move to a foreign country and put their children into a local school where instruction is not in their mother tongue.

Research from Jim Cummins at the University of Toronto claims that it takes five to seven years “to become academically fluent in a foreign language”, and one to three years to become fluent in social contexts. However, to achieve this, 30%

of the student’s waking hours needs to be exposed to the other language.

Parents spend a lot of time weighing the pros and cons of a bilingual education, yet the difficult part is not the decision-making process but in setting realistic bilingual goals, both short and long-term, for your child.

American Troy Titterington, 52, is the English as an Additional Language Coordinator at the American School of Paris (ASP) where 47%

of the 800 enrolment do not speak English as a first language.

Although Troy was brought up in a monolingual household, he had powerful travel experiences in high school that set him off on a linguistic journey, resulting in a Masters of Applied Linguistics from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California, a graduate school of Middlebury College, plus 20 years abroad teaching at universities and schools in Japan, Mexico, the Czech Republic and Vietnam. He and his wife and two children came to Paris three years ago.

Troy assesses the proficiency of the ASP’s non-native English-speaking students and, coordinating with the admin, teachers and parents, helps lay out a plan pupils will need to successfully achieve a bilingual education.

“There are multiple factors to consider that involve family, environment and development,” says Troy. “It’s a big responsibility to bring your child up multilingually. These are critical years of education but, if you plan well, the benefits – the social gains, the professional gains, the cognitive gains – are well documented.”

So just what type of support system needs to be in place? Troy explains: “Well, you need a ‘backwards plan’. This takes some work, but essentially it’s the long-haul vision of your child’s education, what I refer to as a language acquisition plan: What do you want your child to be able to do in English? In French? Do you want your child to be socially French, with some literacy skills, or to eventually attend a French university? Will you be moving back to your home country, and if so, will your son or daughter be orally competent but lacking reading and writing skills? Maybe you want a balanced bilingual child? These are the key questions parents have to ask from the get go. From here, time frames – ‘milepost assessments’ – need to be developed.”

In Troy’s experience, the better you



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**ÉCOLES INTERNATIONALES BILINGUES** offer a fully bilingual – 50% English, 50% French – curriculum, from kindergarten to high school. With a multidisciplinary programme, they have 600 students in their schools in Nice, Cagnes and Pegomas and can organise individualised courses to facilitate the integration of foreign-language pupils. See <http://ecolesbilingues.fr>

know your goals, the better your chances of winning the bilingual battle. Here's what he suggests to get parents started:

- What resources do you have at home?
- What community resources are available? ("The parents' relationship with the community and the language is important," he stresses.)

- What actions do you need to take to have quantity input/output to achieve that 30% exposure to the new language?

Troy points out that you need to find out what motivates – not forces – your child, and make the intrinsic connection with who the child is and the journey he or she is embarking upon, making sure the child understands why a new language is important. If your child becomes submerged in a bilingual situation, even the best-laid plans will be ruined.

"The stress of learning a new language is frustrating and there needs to be a bridge of comprehension within the academic culture, meaning teachers who are trained to deal with an adjusting child. That being said, it's important to recognise that mistakes are going to be made and that no matter what the linguistic goals, children need downtime to play."

Language learning is a long process and parents play an active role. Lay out your plans, look at your resources within the community and at school, and adjust your goals accordingly. This journey needs to be fun and meaningful, and as a parent you can't fake your input: reflect on your own effort in meeting that 30% exposure, and your child will learn by example. ■ *N.H.*

IN 2012, Rita Rosenback, author of *Bringing up a Bilingual Child*, launched

*multilingualparenting.com*, to offer online "support and advice for families with more than one language".

Rosenback, who speaks Finnish, English, Swedish and German, and is a mother of two multilingual children, provides the e-tools for parents to get in touch with other families experiencing bilingual issues via blogs, user forums and the newly added Coaches section, where your questions will be answered directly by experts. Memberships allow access to resources like podcasts and family coaching.




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# DISTANCE LEARNING FOR THE TEACHER

BY JOE DZIEDZIAK



As part of the TAPIF program, American Joe Dziedziak spent seven months as a teaching assistant on France's Réunion island.

"ENSEIGNER, c'est apprendre deux fois." Though unbeknownst to 18th-century moralist Joseph Joubert, he has written perhaps the perfect maxim for TAPIF – the Teaching Assistant Program in France, created in 1993. Every year, the Higher Education Department of the French Embassy in the US sends some 1,000 Americans to metropolitan France and its tropical departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Réunion, to teach for seven months from October through April.

Though TAPIF's curriculum specifies the teaching of the English language, lessons go far beyond the course description. It's about promoting culture and circulating knowledge between the two countries. And as a recent alumnus of this international educational experience, I can testify to how personally rewarding TAPIF is for both teachers and students.

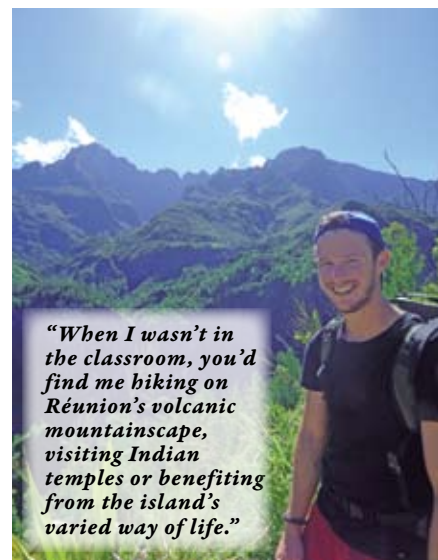
As a teaching assistant, you acclimate to a different way of life that allows you to discover a new cultural tableau while adding to it your own brushstrokes of

colour. The high school students I taught in my sun-soaked, mountain-peaked corner of Réunion offered everything from family recipes to local mythology in exchange for hearing about my American ethos.

For the students, having a foreign assistant in the classroom sparks a lively multicultural dialogue. For example, the Réunion Creole tradition of eating fried wasp larva, a humdrum appetizer for my students, became a fascinating aspect of their culture once they got to explain it to their sceptical, yet intrigued, English assistant. (I had my opportunity to drop their jaws by relating a fried alligator tail recipe of my own.)

Of course, the exchanges go far beyond food. With TAPIF, two corners of the world, two cultures, and two (sometimes more) languages start interacting to a point where the Eiffel tower, the Sears Tower, the cornfields of the Great Plains and the sugarcane fields of Réunion forget the seas of difference between them.

The job offers a chance to travel, improve French language skills, and gain



teaching experience working alongside French colleagues. One night I'd be at a co-worker's eating *rougail saucisse sans ustensiles* off banana leaves per Creole tradition; another night I'd run into my students at the movies catching an American film dubbed in French.

So how can you get your TAPIF experience started? Applications for the 2015-16 school year can be found at [highereducation.frenchculture.org/teach-in-france](http://highereducation.frenchculture.org/teach-in-france). There is no application or program fee, your plane ticket being the only out-of-pocket expense.

Once in France, teaching assistants are temporarily lodged by their *professeur référent*, usually the head of the English department at the assigned school, who also provides a 5-day orientation – everything from training to lesson plans to social security to pay are discussed (monthly salaries depend on the region but range from €900 to €1300, more than enough to cover all necessary expenses); you can repeat the program one time.

As anyone who has studied a foreign language knows, "You have to go to the country and *live* the language to really learn it." I cannot recommend TAPIF enough to those looking for a compounded cultural learning and teaching experience. As a teaching assistant, the more you share the more is shared with you. ■



## You speak French? That's Frantastique

THE French training website Frantastique was developed by its parent company A9 SAS, along with its sister, Gymglish, a professional English training that has been used in 5,236 organizations around the world, including IBM and BNP Paribas, and is also part of the curriculum in more than 40 universities across Europe and Latin America.

A9 used a team of English and French writers to develop pedagogical content for Frantastique's three main learning elements: an e-mail, a funstory and personalized corrections and explanations. The gang at Frantastique say it's as simple as 1-2-3:

1. Your daily lesson is sent by email every morning, and contains a selection of exercises, videos, texts, dialogues, conjugation tests,

and mini-lessons in French. After clicking the "Envoyer" button, you will receive a correction email with your daily score, explanations of your answers, the scripts of the dialogues or videos, the vocabulary you have requested and more.

2. Story-based lessons feature fun characters in a French-speaking context with plenty of culture and business elements.

3. Our artificial intelligence engine builds lessons based on your needs, your requests, and your level. You will discover professional scenarios, a wide variety of accents, and exercises and plenty of humour. 10 to 15 minutes daily is all it takes!

Instruction is available in English, Dutch, Portuguese and French. To try a free week of lessons, go to [frantastique.fr/en](http://frantastique.fr/en)

## Troy Titterington: Bilingual Kid Myth Buster

**Language confusion. MYTH:** In the beginning, your child will fragment sentences, and it's common to code-switch – go back and forth between two or more languages in a single conversation. Rest assured the languages will separate eventually.

**There's a slower rate of language learning with two languages. MYTH:** Vocabulary can be affected but when you look at both languages combined, the

development is normal. However, social linguistic competence – social correctness in a given situation, say, addressing a teacher or meeting a friend of the family – may be slower.

**You're child has to be intelligent. MYTH:** All kids can become bilingual.

**Kids won't feel at ease in two languages. MYTH:** There is no one model that suits all;

maybe one parent speaks the native tongue at home and the other, the target language, but not necessarily. Figure out which is the least stressful as a family and most safe and comfortable for your child. ■



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# Why bestselling Jenny's a write-off for the French

BY ELODIE PEYRANO



Photo: © Charlie Hookinon

BETWEEN the Scottish mist and the endless sun of the French Riviera, there is a thin line. Like her compatriot Robert Louis Stevenson, award-winning author Jenny Colgan (pictured) said goodbye to her beautiful native country to settle in the South of France, to pursue her career and raise her three children.

"My husband Andrew, a marine engineer, works in the yachting industry and there were three places in the world we could live. Palma doesn't really suit me; Florida is too far away from my family and France is ... perfect."

Having grown up in the UK, Jenny had basic school French. So when she arrived in France, she took a couple of courses, hired a teacher and practiced as much as possible, relying on her friends. "Many are parents of my children's friends and they were so patient and friendly, particularly when I was starting out. I still make loads of mistakes but I get by."

Moving suddenly from one country to another, with different cultures, languages, and way of life, can be difficult. For Jenny, this was not the case and, as many Brits before her, she fell in love with the

region. "I really love the weather. I enjoy the communal way of eating and being together, and then there's the beauty of the landscape. Plus I appreciate the school system, the children are well-behaved and eat well," she explains. Yet, she does admit the French way of life isn't perfect. "For every person who gives polite and helpful service at the post office or local shop, there is someone who, shall we say, does not!"

Nevertheless, if the reality is that people aren't nice, Jenny just has to grab her computer and escape to her chick-lit novels, which is what she did in 2013.

While literati tend to praise Paris as a beautiful, simple, romantic place, Jenny didn't have exactly the same experience. "I think Paris can be quite difficult for a newcomer. You're told it's going to be really fabulous, but it can also be confusing and a bit abrupt. With my 2013 book *The Loveliest Chocolate Shop In Paris* [UK: Sphere], I wanted to write about the city's charming side."

For Jenny Colgan, writing has always been a passion. Graduating from the University of Edinburgh, she found work in a hospital. But two years later, in 2000, she wrote her first novel, *Amanda's Wedding* (UK: HarpersCollins), and quit her job to become a full-time writer, a career she felt destined to do. "I think every writer was a reader first. At the age of about four, I was reading obsessively. So, it was just a natural progression from that really: writing is the closest thing you can do to reading full-time for a job."

In fourteen years, Jenny has been quite prolific. She has written more than fifteen books, nowadays at a rate of two novels a year. Don't expect to find a tricky plot with a philosophical, headache-inducing ending. Jenny's stories are about women suddenly facing a huge problem but instead of giving up, they find strength from within and work hard to succeed and find love. Yes, Jenny's novels are all about love. They're fun and entertaining ... the formula works.

Her novels are best sellers in UK. And as her well-adored characters attract a larger fan base, she is more quickly putting out



a sequel. "As long as people want to read my stories, I'll keep writing for them. I like going back and revisiting the characters. The only problem is that I keep forgetting how old the children are meant to be and how kids talk at different ages!"

In her latest book, *The Little Beach Street Bakery*

(UK: Sphere), published March 2014, a new character was introduced: Neil the puffin. This tiny, cute, Twitter-friendly bird immediately won people's hearts and has become such a phenomenon

that next year, he will be the hero of his own children's novel, out just in time for Mother's Day.

As a true fan of science fiction, Jenny is preparing for a new rendezvous with the world's most famous alien doctor, "Doctor Who". After the success of her 2012 tie-in novel, she published a follow-up last January and is now gearing up for a third book.

Surprisingly with all these projects on the pipeline, being translated into French is not one of them. When talking with Jenny, she admits she was in touch with a French publishing house a couple of years ago but in the end nothing happened because of the genre of her novels. "Literature is taken more

seriously in France and writers are treated as artists, which they aren't in the UK particularly," she shares. "I don't sell well in France because I write what they call here '*livres de gare*' – in the UK, chick-lit – and the genre isn't popular."

Jenny further observes: "There are lovely bookshops and books are much more expensive in

France. It's nice, but I don't see as many book clubs or as many people who share their reading, and I wonder why that is?"

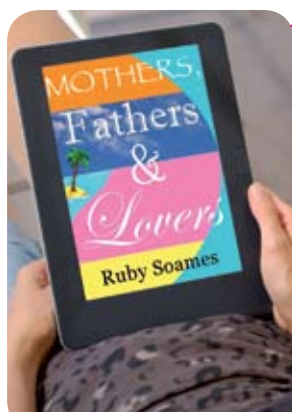
And, according to Jenny, it's not easy being a novelist in 2014. "It's hard to be a writer these days. Books are

being devalued, advances are down; reading itself is in danger of being annihilated by smartphones."

While cakes and sweets may be a theme in her recent novels, there are some Jenny doesn't like – even if they're virtual. "Candy Crush makes me sad. All those billions of human hours that could have been laughing or crying or gasping with a book, all flicked away." ■

Jenny Colgan won the 2012 Melissa Nathan Award for Comedy Romance with *Meet Me at the Cupcake Café* (also a *Sunday Times Top Ten Best Seller*). See [jennycolgan.com](http://jennycolgan.com)

Elodie Peyrano is a recent graduate of Nice's *École du Journalisme* and writes for <http://linfotoutcourt.com>. This is her first article in English.



**M**others, Fathers & Lovers (UK: Hookline Books) the e-book by Nice-based author, Ruby Soames, is now available in Kindle Edition at Amazon or from any online bookstore.

Her first book, *Seven Days to Tell You*, also from Hookline, won the People's Book Prize Winter Collection 2011 and was a finalist for the People's Book Prize Best Novel 2011-2012.

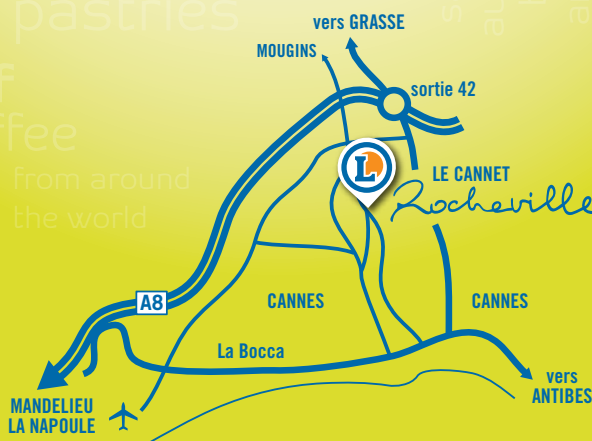
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# FANCY DRESSING

Great storage ideas come out of the closet



WHAT started out as cupboard love has turned into a full-blown passion when it comes to keeping our clothes neat and accessible.

Home storage is a very flat and boring way to describe the beautiful spaces now available in this specialist area. At Home Store you won't find too many ready-made wardrobes and cupboards. The recent trend has been towards the "made-to-measure" solution tailored to an individual's space and taste.

"It seems when it comes to creating the perfect *dressing*, no one is exactly the same," says Eric Guillermain, the man with all the answers in this area at Home Store.

"A businessman will want an efficient system so he can instantly select what is required from the various drawers and

cupboards, for instance, when he is called away suddenly to an overseas meeting and has to pack in the shortest possible time.

"The lady of the house may want a lot of hanging space in one area so that she can have the widest possible choice of outfits."

Eric proudly displays the alternatives available for the space-hunter. At the true luxury end are what seem like spare rooms converted into dressing spaces with any number of permutations of ingenious devices that hang, slide, rise and fall. Here you will find units made of the finest solid oak, complete with the very best of finishings, including drawers lined with leather.

These deluxe dressing rooms are in actuality smaller than they look; artful design maximising the appearance

of space, some of them with sliding doors in etched glass, giving a real touch of class. However, they would probably work best if incorporated in a new-build or an extension.

More accessible to the average family are the walk-in wardrobes that can be easily integrated into an existing home. Impressive space-saving technology abounds. A hanging space with just one rail will appear just so yesterday as you try out the double-decker track system that with a simple pull of a handle brings the out-of-reach upper level down to hand height. There's no more rummaging about in dark nooks and crannies for that missing sock – LEDs shed light when the drawer is opened.

For those customers with big ideas





but very limited space, Eric has some tips that will get you out of a tight corner.

"Say there is a deep alcove to be fitted out with wardrobes. If the ones nearest the entrance are at right-angles – which would inevitably happen if ready-made units were purchased – then the effect is to block the line of sight and to make the alcove area seem cramped and 'overcrowded'.

"Our solution is to construct units with subtle, corner-eliminating angles to guide the eye into the space available."

Something would be missing from this brave new world of what once we called "wardrobes" if the kids weren't catered for. Eric and his Home Store team break away from the grey and taupe currently so fashionable for grown-up *rangements* when it comes to kitting out a nursery or playroom.

It's a safe bet that the little 'uns will always want to put their toys away neatly in their own special, brightly-coloured draws and cupboards.

Just another way that modern furniture can enhance a better home life. ■

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# GRASSE IS GROWING

PERCHED on a mountain plateau high above Grasse, the Claux Amic golf club has one of the best sites of the Riviera courses. It winds its way through a superb natural backdrop of oak and pine forest, blazing here and there with yellow when the broom is in bloom, with stunning views of sea and mountain.

There are plenty of reasons why this highly individual course has long been one of my top choices for a day of chasing the little white ball. The welcome from the

staff is warm without fail, names and faces of even occasional visitors remembered.

What wasn't so welcoming was the sometimes impenetrable rough that bordered the forest-lined fairways. Often a shot that was only slightly off-line would lead to a lost ball, an unfair level of punishment in the eyes of many golfers.

That this is now less of a problem is due to a radical plan launched five years ago.

Golf Director Isabelle Leclercq has been in post at the reborn club since May







of last year, after moving from her job as Golf Operations Manager at Royal Mougins. She takes up the story of how the club, just a ten-minute drive from Grasse, is changing: “It was decided five years ago that Claux Amic should become a golfing ‘domaine’ where visiting players could have everything at hand for a perfect golfing break.

“They would stay in a four-star hotel, and eat, sleep and play in what effectively would be a golf resort.”

The course was closed for more than a year while the bulldozers moved in to level the original clubhouse. At this point the opportunity was taken to make improvements to some of the holes. The 18th was lengthened, and with its new green and bunkering, it is now an exceptional long and testing par-5 finishing hole. The 1st was turned into a more approachable, long par-4 thanks to some judicious earth moving. Other developments continue, notably to the par-3 3rd hole with its spectacular backdrop of

the Lerins islands set in a sparkling sea.

A sleek new clubhouse (pictured above) was the first building to grace the new-look Claux Amic. At some point in 2015 the hotel (visualised below) will come on stream and the first guests will arrive to enjoy a superb mountain location, a spa and swimming pool on hand to provide essential relaxation at the end of a hard golfing day.

The upgraded practice facility is home to the Essentiel Golf Academy, under the direction of François Morel and backed by TaylorMade. Here one of the most useful ways for getting a golfing boost is to take a “stage” – a teaching package which includes two 50-minute individual lessons, two hours taking the practice out on to the course itself accompanied by a pro, plus four group sessions on mastering the short game.

François and his team have at their disposal the latest high-tech aids for analysing the good and bad in every manner of swing.

The more work a golfer puts in to pitching, chipping and putting at Claux Amic, the better. The greens here are a challenge for the most experienced player. They are normally very fast and some are fiendishly hard to read; I’ve seen many a baffled expression from visitors who find themselves further away from the hole on their second putt than they were for the first.

Green fees at Claux Amic have long represented good value for money, ranging between €55 and €75 depending on the season. A *carnet* of 12 green fees brings the cost of play down further.

Isabelle Leclercq is determined to keep the affordability and quality of the golf at Grasse to the fore. Also on the agenda is the development of the competitions at the club.

“On October 24th and 25th the course is holding an International Pro-Am, which looks like it will be an exciting event.” ■ **N.K.**

*See claux-amic.com for all the latest info on the enjoyable and accessible golf course.*







# In the steps of an Olympian



HERE'S a chance to splash out on a property that's been the happy summer home of Britain's finest swimmer.

David Wilkie was a toddler when he took to the water for the first time in Sri Lanka, where his Scottish parents had been posted. At boarding school his talent developed quickly, although he hated the training involved. "If you're serious you have to put in four hours a day, it was laborious and I didn't enjoy it at all," says David (pictured above) as we chat on the terrace of his splendid villa above Vallauris.

The hard work paid off and, at just 16, he won Bronze at the Commonwealth Games. But it was at the Montreal Olympics in 1976 that David, now 60, became a household name in the UK, winning Gold in the 200m breaststroke.

World-class training in the USA had honed a natural talent into an athlete able to reach the highest pinnacle in sport.

"It was quite ironic at the time. I had won a four-year scholarship to Miami and the Americans had invested perhaps as much as \$50,000

in my training. The contribution from Edinburgh Corporation was £25."

Weekly?

"No, it was a one-off payment."

"My Gold at Montreal had scuppered a USA whitewash in the swimming, and when I returned to Miami there was a strongly held opinion in some quarters that I should be adopted as an American – they had paid my way after all."

In the mid-Seventies David swept the opposition aside, becoming the only swimmer to have held the British, USA, European, World and Olympic titles simultaneously. In his search for the ultimate streamlining in the pool, David pioneered the wearing of goggles and cap together.

"I had long hair back then – unlike today! – and I thought it would reduce drag to cover it. I pinched my mother's shower cap, ripped the plastic flowers off the side, and gave it a go. It worked."

David is not exactly nostalgic for the strictly amateur status of his day. "So much was expected from you

with nothing tangible in return.

"I'd love to be a professional swimmer now. It is acceptable to be paid, and a good swimmer can make a good living. On the other hand, the commercialism has become over-dominant, and I don't like the way countries have become obsessed with medal tallies at the expense of the true essence of the sport."

Since retiring from the swimming David has become a successful businessman, his development of a health products company, which he later sold, bringing very satisfying financial rewards.

David and his Swedish wife, Helen, disillusioned with Spain as a summer retreat, visited Cannes in 2004 and quickly decided the South of France was the place for them. In 2005 they bought an exceptional property on the peaceful heights between Vallauris and Cannes.

As one stands on the breeze-kissed terrace, what you look out upon is not so much a view as a great sweeping panorama taking in the *baous* behind Vence, the Mercantour, the hills of Nice





and the coast all the way down to Bordighera. To the south you look down the barrel of Cap d'Antibes to the sparkling sea.

"We've found the villa to be perfectly located," says David. "It's on a beautiful and quiet hillside, but just 20 minutes from the airport, beaches nearby, Antibes just down the road."

Helen's metier is interior designer, and elegant, clean and cool lines are hallmarks of every room. And of course there is a pool, newly installed, and although not of Olympic dimensions is what David calls a "proper" swimming pool – "No funny shapes" – where he can power up and down every day.

Why give up such a fabulous place, I ask David.

"It has been a great family summer house, but now our two children – Adam, 21, has just graduated from UCL and Natasha, 25, is established as a programme buyer with Hollywood & Vine – don't come down that often, we are just not here for that much of the year."

For the €2.8 million price the buyer gets the security advantages of a gated domaine, 440m<sup>2</sup> of living space, air-conditioning, open plan reception space and five bedrooms with ensuite facilities, most of which, like the main living area, have panoramic views. ■

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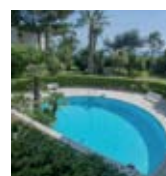


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# Sales of French property to UK buyers on the up

BY TIM CLARK, LEGGETT IMMOBILIER



AS PACA Area Manager of Leggett Immobilier, I can tell you that our half-year figures are in and it's clear that UK buyers are back in force. The first six months of 2014 show an overall increase in sales of 35% and our pipeline of "offers accepted" and "contracts exchanged" has doubled over this period. This gives us confidence that this is a clear trend in the market place, which will continue throughout the year.

Although the number of international buyers in PACA dropped by 16% last year, it's interesting to note that sales

## In 2013, the average price paid by international buyers in PACA was €565,000

to buyers from the UK actually rose quite substantially and we're seeing increasing demand across the country. In particular, our teams in the neighbouring Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées regions have seen sales rise sharply.

We're convinced that this increase in demand is due to three factors:

- Consumer confidence in the UK economy and property market (something that is not necessarily shared by all other European countries).
- Continued low interest rates allowing French property to be financed cheaply and relatively easily compared to previous years.
- The perennial desire of UK buyers to have a home in France where the weather, culture and simple way of living is seen as attractive compared to the stress of UK living.

Just how long the current interest rates will last for is uncertain. A small increase in the cost of borrowing over the second half of 2014 would have little or no effect on demand. However, if, as seems increasingly likely, interest rates were to rise dramatically then this could dampen things.

You can now get a fixed mortgage with 80% loan to value at around 3.25% or a variable rate with 80% loan to value at around 2.60%. With the overall fall in property prices we have seen over the last couple of years many of our buyers have said that they see this as a "window of opportunity".

A small word of caution though, "improving market" does not equal "increasing market": buyers are very much aware of market conditions and will be looking for value for money and correctly priced, well-presented properties. ■

Contact local expert Tim Clark of Leggett Immobilier at [tim@leggett.fr](mailto:tim@leggett.fr)

## Where have all the channels gone?

A NEW Astra 2G satellite will be coming on line at the end of this year or early 2015. Over the past six months, satellite changes have already weakened the signal to southern European areas. We consulted *Reporter* readers about their dish reception.

Feedback varies, but no one with the 80cm dish is receiving a satisfactory signal and those with an old model 100cm dish claim unreliable on-and-off reception. Most 120cm dishes seem to work well for the moment but are too big for some locations, especially apartment balconies.

Readers using HasEurope's new 1-metre Plus High Gain Dish are reporting a

much-improved signal and, in some cases, describe reception as "perfect".

Signal strength can vary independently of the dish, so 100% reception is less common than it was before the changes that were made earlier this year.

The verdict from HasEurope's Terry Sherlock is simple: "If it works on Monday but not Tuesday teatime, your dish is too small. With more signal margin you notice many fewer times when things don't work."

HasEurope claims to be the only company to offer publicly available, unbiased user feedback. At [HasEurope.com](http://HasEurope.com) there's a reliable resource of customer



testimonials coupled with Terry's expert advice and hints on how to keep watching.

"We admit there can be moments when people might not get 100% reception," Terry says, "but we also offer the best solutions."





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# UNBOUND INSPIRATION

BY JAMES BASSON, SCAPE DESIGN MONACO

SOMETIMES inspiration for a garden can come from some unlikely sources that can enrich and personalise an individual garden.

At the Singapore Garden Festival, we did a garden called “Tartarus”, based on the Greek mythological figures of the Titans who were banished into the abyss. Sisyphus was condemned to push a large rock up a hill for all eternity, only to see it roll back down daily; Tantalus was punished to stand in a pool of water with fruit tree branches just out of his reach and every time he bent his head to drink, the water level would fall, so again he would remain thirsty; Atlas holds up the heavens and Prometheus is bound!

Obviously in our garden we didn’t have plastic figures literally carrying out these tasks, but with subtle references that may even be unnoticed by the onlooker, the garden had different levels of depth and richness that went towards creating a unified end result. For example, to represent Cronos, who ate his children to prevent the prophecy that Zeus would

overthrow him, we used carnivorous plants that are native to Singapore. The iron root that separated the floor plane from the upper plane was representative of Atlas and the twisted nature a nod to Prometheus.

For Tantalus, we had a rock representing his head with glass orange lights hanging down to represent the fruit, in a pool of water. Again, a subtle depiction of a story perhaps not obvious to the visitor.

Often when people are considering what to do with their garden, they think about a flower bed around the outside, some lawn in the inside, and often in this part of the world, a pool stuck somewhere in the middle. These are all valid practical reasons for placing things in certain areas but something we particularly enjoy and like to encourage our clients to do is to add another layer to the garden with the introduction of a *raison d’être*.

Obviously in the realms of the show gardens like Singapore and Chelsea you can go to extremes with a really creative garden, but equally in a private domestic



garden the possibilities are endless.

Most of us have a book, a painting, a sculpture, or even a location that is close to our heart and by using this as stimulation, you can create a garden that has personal references that may be known only to you, but that will undoubtedly improve and strengthen your relationship with your garden. As well, you'll create an end result that will be more intriguing than the run of the mill solutions.

Using the colour tones or structure of a painting, a subtle map of a location laid over the shape of your garden with a river or road picked out to emphasise a pathway or a sensitive reference to a story, can all be incorporated into a garden design. Of course, subtlety is very important to avoid the "Disney" effect but you'll be more enthusiastic about your garden if there is a personal resonance within it.

And don't forget, now is when you should be thinking about that redesign, in time for all the essential autumnal planting to avoid having to irrigate, and reduce costs ensuring you get the maximum effect for your budget. So get your creative heads on and get designing – or give us a call.

For more information about Singapore or any of the gardens we've designed, please visit our website [scapedesign.com](http://scapedesign.com)

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# In the market with shabby chic

BY CAREN TRAFFORD



FOR most of us shopping is a chore. The same cannot be said for antiquing. When you're antiquing, you won't see those brand names that are found in high streets, airports and shopping malls the world over. In fact it's a breath of refreshing air to be in Provence with the added bonus of a French market, a daily and weekly delight, brimming with fresh local produce and handicrafts.

Markets? But those are just for food, I hear you cry. Although you will find a host of specialty foods, depending on the season, there are local farmers who offer honey, goat cheese, fruit and vegetables. But if you're looking for a bargain or something that won't be found in any of the high street shops, it's the *puce* (flea markets), the *brocante* (second-hand goods) and the *vide-greniers* (literally, empty attics,) which are the markets to seek out.

Some flea markets take place on a regular basis and the stallholders are mostly professional dealers, but the *brocante* and *vide-greniers* sales tend to be held only occasionally.

*Vide-greniers* normally attract private sellers who in the

UK might attend a car boot sale or in the US would hold a yard sale. The large scale *vide-greniers* may attract hundreds of sellers and thousands of bargain hunters looking to find collectables or pick up a good deal, something that you won't find at any retail outlet with an added bonus that it's probably pre-loved and in search of a new home.

And when you arrive at one of these markets, you'll discover that anything shabby chic has become the new black; nowadays, even top fashion houses are looking to combine shabby with chic.

The term shabby chic is a form of design where furniture or furnishings are chosen for their appearance of age and signs of wear and tear, or where new items are distressed to achieve the appearance of an antique. This style has become increasingly popular with those looking for a special piece of Provence to augment their homes and create interiors to replicate the typical French idyll in a cottagey appearance. And where better to find these treasures than at the local French antique markets.

The great news is, that if you're in Provence, there's one to be found every day of the week. ➤



# WEEKLY ANTIQUE MARKETS

## • SATURDAY

**Villeneuve-lès-Avignon.** One of my favourites, this is held every Saturday morning across the Rhône from Avignon. Moderate in size, it's held in the car park underneath the ancient fortress of Villeneuve. Between 80 and 100 vendors set up here, offering a wide range of items, many with a focus on Provence. Buyers who own shops in the nearby Isle-sur-la-Sorgue come here in search of a bargain. Provençal ceramics, pots, linens, agricultural tools and clocks ... a great market where you might well make an interesting discovery, and at a reasonable price.

*"Buy only because something excites you, not just for the simple act of shopping."*

KARL LAGERFELD

## • SUNDAY

**Carpentras ("Parking des Platanes").** Carpentras is approximately 30km north of Avignon. Late on a Sunday morning a delightful flea market unfolds along a lovely tree-lined parking area – Parking des Platanes. It starts around 10h and it's the preferred meeting place for some of the more serious collectors: those who are happy to do their own digging. Here you often have to rummage through boxes and crates to find your treasure. Between 130 to 150 vendors set up and often they are selling their own belongings, which fall more into the category of "second-hand" than "collectable". The variety in terms of wares and prices is huge, with an emphasis on the rustic and

everyday, rather than on upmarket decorative objects. This is the perfect flea market for someone to dig around and hunt for something unusual and affordable, but it takes some work.

## • ALSO ON SUNDAY

**Aubagne.** Antique market on the last Sunday of every month at the Marché de Gros, quartier de la Tourtelles.

**Isle sur-la-Sorgue.** Antique and flea market every Sunday all along the Avenue des Quatre Otages, in the village centre.

## • MONDAY

**Nice Cours Saleya.** There are about 200 vendors here until to mid-afternoon. Cours Saleya is just behind the Promenade des Anglais and it's a great place to rummage. The market is mostly high quality, but treasure hunters can often find a special something. Many items have also found their way here from across the Italian border which makes for an interesting mélange and some vendors speak English, as well as Italian. Lots of silver, vintage clothing, posters, nautical and travel items and ceramics.

## • TUESDAY & THURSDAY

**Aix en Provence.** In the mornings at Place de Verdun.

## • WEDNESDAY Pernes-les-Fontaines.

Antique market in the morning in the car park at the centre of the village

## • FRIDAY

**Toulon.** A *brocante* market at Place du Théâtre in the morning. ■

*Caren Trafford writes environmental books for kids – see planetkids.biz – and lives in Provence. She is happy to find architectural pieces of interest for you in Provence.*

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# WHAT'S ALL THE KERTRUFFLE?

BY THIERRY DE BUOUX



OVER here. You are supposed to be a hyper-sensitive sniffing machine and you're going the wrong way. That's better, now dig. Thank God I'm not going to rot here in this ground. I'm going to be eaten, savoured, perhaps married to an egg, or enveloped in some fluffy Italian rice. Not far away now, God I hope it's not a pig. Oh the ignominy to be wolfed down a smelly snout when one is so close to the plate.

Ah that's better, snug in an egg carton for protection, bumping along towards ... it's not, it couldn't be, it is! It's Édouard Loubet's place, the Bastide du Capelongue, a palace of perfumes, a tower of tastes, I couldn't have fallen into better hands. I'll be massaged, delicately sliced and served on bone china to a discerning palate, someone who can appreciate the subtle flavours of summer truffle.

"Pizza to take away."

What's this nonsense I hear coming from reception? No matter, who I am to tell Édouard he shouldn't run a pizza business on the side. Everyone has to make a dime.

What me? It's a mistake, can't you see what I am, I am a truffle, not some

cheap piece of pepperoni you can dice up, smother in mozzarella and shove in a takeaway carton. I said take your hands off me, get away ...

The idiot who ordered me has not even thought to bring a bag. I'm sliding around on the floor of his car, one more hairpin like the last and I'm done for. Still I have to say Eddie didn't do a bad job. Part of me feared he couldn't be as good as his reputation, but no, there's genius in those hands, it was a pleasure to be held by them. And the pizza base is so light and fluffy, but most of all I've got to thank him for the sauce, it's the only thing that's keeping me going. As I spin round these bends, I'm focusing on dissolving into a cheesy bliss. Slow down – idiot!

Where are we now? Avignon, judging by the smell of dogs, the distant sound of the river and the glint of gold that can only be the spire of the Palais des Papes. I'm beginning to think that this is no ordinary takeaway. Who orders pizza and then takes it to Avignon? I'm destined for great things after all, perhaps I'm the whim of a pop star. Oh,

to be slowly masticated by Christina Aguilera. We together, me and Christina, "are such stuff as dreams are made on". Now you wouldn't get a malodorous winter *tuber melanosporum* quoting Shakespeare. Black diamonds my a\*\*.

Oh my word, I can barely contain my excitement. Here we are in the Place de l'Horloge, and there are cameras. Sorry Christina, it wasn't meant to be. I'm going to be a star in my own right. Eat your black heart out *melanosporum*, the world is going to discover the joys of the summer truffle. Lights, camera, action, blusher, bring it on, bring it all on, right now.

So I've been put down in the corner of the outside broadcast truck to wait my turn. That's fine, truffles are patient, particularly summer ones, we sit for hours, days, weeks, underground, just hoping to be found.

"Someone order pizza?"

Get your filthy mitt off me, you unshaven, hippy, boom-wielding soundman. Even chorizo is too good for your ilk, stick to Hawaiian, oh God, somebody save me, he's got his hands



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around me, and I'm heading towards his mouth, it's dark and smelly and full of fillings. I guess this is it then, so close to stardom, "farewell fair cruelty" – yes that's more Shakespeare.

Salvation. The producer has arrived. My moment has come. We're heading towards the camera. Oh to be eaten live on air by a TV anchorman. I can't think of a better way to go, the world will never forget the moment when the summer truffle stepped into the limelight.

The stage lights gently warm the cheese sauce and some of my precious perfume escapes from the lid of the box which is slightly ajar. This is my time.

It can't be. Pigeons. Get away vermin. Somebody save me. I'm the star. I'm going to be pecked to death. You'll have no show, you self-centred egotistical meglo-maniac TV people. I thought Canadians

were supposed to be nice. Save me. One more peck and that dirty beak will be through the box.

"Shooh, get away .... so here we are, broadcasting live for Canada AM from Avignon, Provence, France, and today we are going to be tasting all sorts of Provençal delicacies including this delicious truffle pizza."

The warm hands of the anchor man envelope me in a cosy embrace. I strain my fungal glands to emit my sweet perfume. Let the wondrous darkness take me, I the fortunate one, the last of the summer truffles begin my descent, and as I do so I hear these last words:

"Let's get the clip of the chocolate pizza on the internet as soon as possible."

Heathens. ■  
*Jamie Ivey, author of Ten Trees and a Truffle Dog, returns next issue. To see Thierry de Buoux eaten live on Canadian television log onto [provenceguru.com](http://provenceguru.com)*

## AU CONTRAIRE

# Where are they now?



Photo: Scott Celja Photography

THE classic cast of characters as described 25 years ago in *A Year in Provence* have embraced modernity much in the way they approach a Sunday lunch, slowly and with moderation. Let me bring you up to speed.

**The Players.** The village's *boules* players assemble every Friday afternoon, wearing the ubiquitous navy and grey "uniform" with some sort of cap. What's just out of frame, though, is one of the players tipping his newsboy to his teammates and driving off in a big yellow Hummer, freeing up three French-sized parking spaces.

**The Town Gossip.** Every village has

one, and ours is named Simone. The only thing louder than Simone's shocking red lipstick is her voice, making it easy to catch up on local goings-on just by taking a seat in the café she frequents. These days, though, Simone's news often includes who said what to whom on *le Facebook* but her stories are often cut short as she runs home to Skype with her grandchildren.

**The Truffle Hunter.** We know one who still prevents theft by sleeping in a trailer out in his oak grove, shotgun in hand. But in his other hand is a pair of military grade night vision binoculars that cost him €13,000, along with an iPhone that's connected to the multitude of infrared cameras positioned around the property.

**The Annual Fête.** Let's not forget the couple that throw the Méchoui that we look forward to every summer. They roast a whole lamb on a spit for a party of 50 and serve side dishes made from scratch with vegetables from their organic garden ... you can see the iMovie of it on YouTube.

Lisa Pepin, [lespastras.com](http://lespastras.com)

# WINE MASTER'S CLASS IN A GLASS



LIKE the fine wines that he sells, Alex Ignatieff (pictured) has matured very well. Just nudging middle age, the quietly-spoken creator of L'Emporium du Vin in Mandelieu has brought a world of experience in the wine trade to enliven the palates of the South of France.

After schools in Scotland and Canada (he is the cousin of the Canadian polymath Michael Ignatieff, former head of the Liberal Party), he went to university in Sydney, and it was in Australia that his love of wine took root and turned into a career.

He landed a plum job – inaugural sommelier at the InterContinental Hotel in Sydney.

"There followed three years of tasting the world's finest wines, also plenty of

travelling. What a tough job!" says Alex.

Australian wine was just starting to make its mark outside its native land, and young Alex rode the wave.

"I got to know David Hohnen, who was putting Cape Mentelle [Western Australia] and Cloudy Bay [New Zealand] on the map, and he offered me a job at a London wine trade fair.

"In Australia I had enrolled for the Masters of Wine course, and the move to Europe was really essential to extend my study of wine and winemakers."

It was 1992, and plum job No 2 was just around the corner.

"Geoffrey Roberts, who was involved in bringing New World wines to the UK, put me in touch with Harvey Nichols, and I became their wine buyer at a period when the store was being completely overhauled.

"It was an exciting time. The old Harvey Nicks, which had the atmosphere of a staid London club, was transformed. The fifth floor became home to a restaurant and the 'wine shop', and it was great to put together a wine selection from scratch."

Eventually Alex decided to put his brilliant palate to work for himself, and then came the move to the South of France for "a better quality of life".

Home for Alex, his wife Melanie,

who handles the marketing side at the L'Emporium du Vin, and their two teenaged children, is near Grasse.

Much of Alex's business involves supplying top-of-the range wines to be sipped on posh yachts and villa terraces. But there are regular tasting sessions at L'Emporium du Vin where you will make discoveries that won't break the bank.

At these tastings Alex's passion comes to the fore.

"I get excited when I discover a wine that combines good quality with good value. It's important to me to get to know the wine producers individually, to get right inside the story of the wine."

Alex's experience and the connections built up over 30 years in the trade backs up the quiet confidence he has in the bottles he sells. Take his "house" champagne for example.

"Our own brand, Champagne Fourtin, is blended to our spec by the team that blended the Harvey Nichols Own Label range for me when I was buyer there."

Alex is more than happy to share his knowledge and give customers a realist's steer on their favourite wine. Bordeaux? "The 2013 vintage was a shocker, 2012 not much better. However, if you are looking for a wine to lay down, you can find the some excellent 2010s at below their release prices."

Where is Alex's nose leading him now for the best discoveries at the nicest prices?

"Languedoc. There's been a revolution in quality production there, and prices are generally reasonable for very good wines." ■

See [emporiumduvin.com](http://emporiumduvin.com) for more info and directions to L'Emporium du Vin.

**Château Miraval** is owned by Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. They have further developed the already renowned organic vineyard and, with the help of no less than the Famille Perrin of **Château de Beaucastel** in Chateauneuf-du-Pape, produce a very fine and highly sought-after rosé. In a previous life the Château was a recording studio, hence the wine's name, Pink Floyd rosé.

**Domaines Ott** are the big boys that really put Provence on the international wine map. They have three properties throughout Provence. We favour their Bandol property for the rosé. The white comes from their coastal property Clos Mireille. For the red, it's up to the heart of Provence at the Château de Selle near Lorgues.

**Domaine de Triennes** is the Provençal

estate of two greats from Burgundy – Jacques Seysses of Domaine Dujac and Aubert de Villaine of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti. Not a bad pedigree at all! Their rosé is wonderfully light and disappears at our table far too quickly. Their red is our favourite Provençal red and their white is a wonderfully southern spin on Chardonnay – it's the Viognier that adds the exotic edge.



# Cook d'Azur

## Ricotta Gnocchi with Mushrooms & Herbs



*With its autumnal notes and woody flavours, this gnocchi dish by Katie Bills is the perfect way to welcome the new season. Enjoy with a glass of this year's Beaujolais. Serves 4.*

### INGREDIENTS

250g fresh ricotta cheese  
250g "00" flour, plus  
extra for dusting  
1 free-range egg  
5ml olive oil  
20g salted butter  
1kg assorted mushrooms  
1 garlic clove  
Fresh sage, rosemary & thyme  
2 pints (1.1 litres) chicken or  
vegetable stock  
100g Parmesan cheese  
salt and pepper to season

In a mixing bowl, combine the ricotta, flour and eggs and mix by hand until it comes together; this should take a few minutes. Once combined, dust your worktop with flour and knead for a couple of minutes. This will make the gnocchi softer once it has cooked.

Next, split the mixture into 4 pieces and roll out into a sausage

shape about 2cm thick. Use the back of a knife to split the roll into bite size pieces. To make the gnocchi shape and lines, roll the pieces over the back of a fork, making sure it has some flour on it so they don't stick.

For the mushrooms, chop into varying sizes; finely slice some, cut others into cubes and leave smaller ones whole.

Heat olive oil in a large frying pan and gradually add mushrooms, waiting until the moisture has been cooked out of them before adding more, otherwise they will become watery. When the mushrooms turn slightly brown, add finely chopped garlic clove and chopped herbs. Mix together with the remaining butter and season with salt and pepper.

Bring the chicken or vegetable stock to boil and add gnocchi. When the gnocchi rise to the top, they will be cooked (about 2 minutes).

Drain and add to the mushrooms, then serve. Liberally sprinkle with grated Parmesan, and garnish with herbs to finish.

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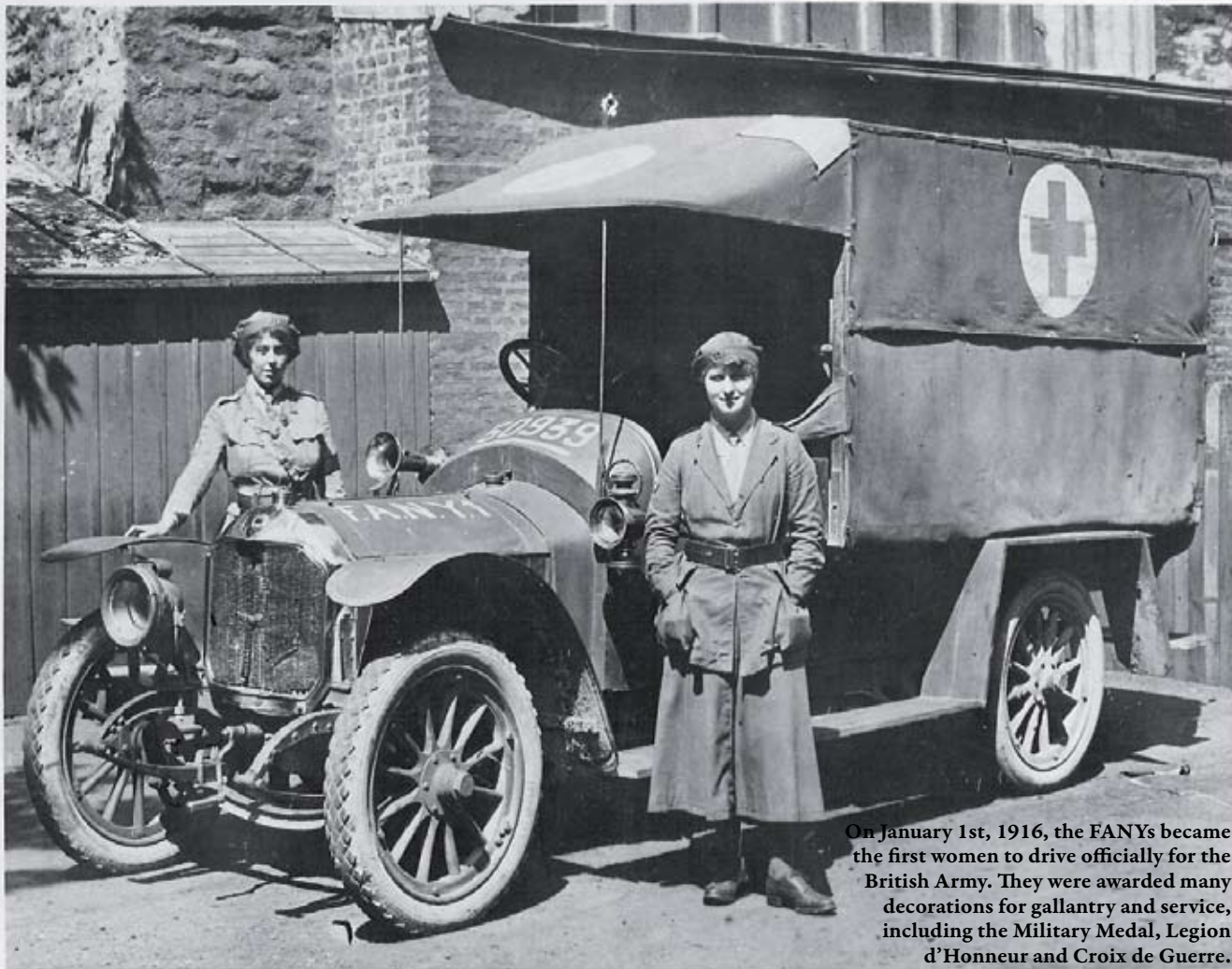
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# The women who drove to war



On January 1st, 1916, the FANYs became the first women to drive officially for the British Army. They were awarded many decorations for gallantry and service, including the Military Medal, Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre.

**BY LYNETTE BEARDWOOD**

WHEN the First World War was declared a hundred years ago on August 4th, 1914, one group of women was ready for the call. The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) came into being in 1907 as an all-women uniformed organisation, formed by a Boer War veteran, to provide the “missing link somewhere in the Ambulance Department ... so that [they] could ride onto the battlefield to attend the wounded who might otherwise have been left to a slow death.”

In spite of official resistance from the British War Office, the first group of FANYs arrived in Calais on October 27th, 1914. The Belgian Army, forced into retreat to the coast, welcomed them with open arms. In spite of often being met with hostility

and male opposition to women being so near to the Front, for the next four years FANY ran hospitals and convalescent homes and drove and maintained ambulances, supply lorries and staff cars for the Belgian and French Armies.

Meanwhile, as the fighting raged along the Western and the Eastern Fronts, in France the contrast between the north and the south could not have seemed greater. It was quickly recognised that arrangements needed to be made for convalescence and rest outside the war zone, and the British Red Cross authorities took on the task.

On the Riviera, philanthropic ladies and their husbands appropriated large houses and hotels to serve both as military convalescent homes and nurses' rest homes. The first convalescent home was in Cimiez.

Funded by Lord Michelham, it was opened at the end of 1914 with Lady Michelham initially occupying herself personally with the running of the hospital. However, it was soon brought under the control of the British authorities, as reported in *The Journal of Nursing*, January 1915:

*“The climate of Cimiez is an ideal one for patients on the road to recovery ... It is a happy arrangement, therefore, whereby the Grand Hotel has been opened as a Convalescent Home for British Officers, under the control of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society, and with the approval of the King it is to be known as ‘Queen Mary’s Convalescent Home for British Officers.’ The home, will accommodate 100 officers*



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*in separate rooms ... The hospital as described by a correspondent of the Times commands glorious views of Nice and the sweep of the coast border the Bay of Angels, those gardens, where the Bougainvillea will bloom, were the delight of Queen Victoria during her sojourns at the neighbouring Pavillon Victoria."*

From the start of the war, military nursing staff and VADs (Voluntary Aid Detachment) were only allowed to take leave in the UK or, if remaining in France, at appointed nurses' rest and convalescent centres. These were opened in the vicinity of the base hospitals and also in the South of France. Villa Roquebrune at Cap Martin was put at the disposal of the military nursing services each winter.

*"The generosity of Captain and Mrs Warre in placing their delightful villa and grounds so completely at the disposal of the nurses each year ... They left their beautiful villa with all its luxuries, the table appointments, and even their own*

*experienced servants for the benefit of the Sisters. Many thanks are due for the great kindness and consideration which has been shown to the nurses. Leave spent at Roquebrune has been one of the factors which has helped to maintain good health and good morale among the largest body of women in France. One felt truly grateful for being able to accord to so many this leave spent in such luxurious surroundings."*

Together with Casa del Mare, also in Roquebrune, and the Hotel de l'Esterel at Cannes, they provided a haven for rest for hundreds of women. The Grand Hotel du Cap Martin became the eighth Michelham Convalescent Home for British Officers:

*"Lady Michelham has taken over the hotel and pays all expenses for 200 officers, each staying for a fortnight or three weeks. It is run exactly like a hotel with civilian waiters."*

Muriel de Wend, attached to a FANY Convoy at St Omer, was one of the lucky ones sent down to Cap Martin to help. Letters home vividly convey her feelings:

December 27th 1917

Mother dearest,

*Off to Cap Martin! It will be a wonderful experience ... and we feel it will do us all good ... we are all tired & coughing & sneezing. The snow is lying here now & the thought of the sun & orange groves fill us with longing. I had to pick up a man I know the other night in a raid & he bled to death in my car. We had only gone about 5 miles when it began to hail & the wind was straight against us & I had no windscreen. It was most awfully painful & I had to slow up to about 4 miles per hour to be able to see at all. It got worse and worse until I thought my poor old face must be bleeding. Then the hail stopped & it came on to snow a blizzard so I stopped the car with the snow blowing into my eyes so I could not see at all. On the way to hospital he ... was conscious but dreadfully hit in the stomach, arms. I've got kind of numb at hearing people in agony but I think one hates seeing (these) dreadful sights more and more.*

Your loving daughter, Muriel

For recuperating soldiers of the Allied Armies and exhausted military medical personnel staff, being sent south must have seemed like paradise. John McCrae, the Canadian military surgeon turned poet, who wrote *In Flanders Field*, spent three weeks in 1916 at Cap Martin recovering from pleurisy. He died of pneumonia, complicated by meningitis, serving near the Front on January 28th, 1918, four days after being the first Canadian appointed as consulting physician to the First British Army. ■

For more information on women in WWI see [fany.org.uk](http://fany.org.uk) and [scarletfinders.co.uk](http://scarletfinders.co.uk)





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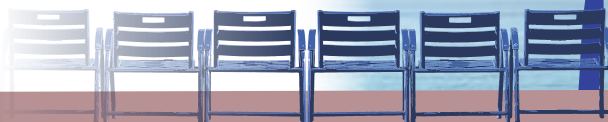
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- Guided tours of Nice and the region
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# we've got mail...



## ROAMING HOLIDAY

I HAVE a French mobile which I rarely use when I travel because it is so expensive to use overseas. I leave it turned on just in case my family needs to contact me urgently during my trips. For some reason I am getting unwanted marketing calls from France when I am away. It's bad enough when I'm in France, but answering one of these overseas is very expensive. Is it possible to prevent telemarketing calls to a UK mobile? I would be interested to know if you or another reader knows of a way to prevent these to a French mobile.

*Paul Forester, by email*

## SAVING NICE-MATIN

IT is wonderful that your English magazine pays attention to the *Nice-Matin* bankruptcy problem. You may know that the employees have started crowdfunding to help save the newspaper. Many people have contributed and it would be appreciated if our dear English and Nordic residents would donate also. There is all the information on Twitter hashtag #NMRésistance.

*Pierre-Luc Lafon, by email*

## FRIENDS OF BOMO

AS you may know, BOMO [the English Book Boutique of Monaco] closed at the end of July.

I am so grateful to all of you for your support, patronage and enthusiasm along the way.

*Siri Khalsa, owner, by email*

## IT FIGURES

READING your business column and website, it seems that you are not immune from a common peculiarity of human nature – that most of us see only what we choose to see and we listen only to what we agree with rather than consider the whole picture. I find this is the case with French taxation.

I have made some comparisons and decided that France is not as bad a “deal” at it seems after all.

In the UK, a couple earning around €50,000 with two dependent children (our case) would pay €7,700 income tax annually after deductions. In France we will only pay €1,300 until the children are “*majeur*”.

As for National Insurance (Social charges for health cover and pension), in the UK my employer would only be deducting about €5,500 for NI on my €50,000 gross salary. In France the deduction is a lot more – over €21,000.

All in all, the French system is more punitive because it taxes employment heavily but not income (except for very high incomes), but that is not the whole story.

With most things in life, you get what you pay for. If we lived in the UK we would have to pay for private health insurance to get the same quality and rapidity of healthcare for our family that we now have in France on the social security with a *mutuelle*. When we arrive at French retirement age and the children have flown the nest, we will get French quality care from the *Sécu* without paying anything except a modest *mutuelle* top-up insurance to cover extras. In the UK we would be paying increasingly more for private care of the quality we will get in France for free during our retirement years and for the rest of our lives.

So, from a value-for-money viewpoint the French healthcare system suddenly seems far more interesting than at first glance and certainly less black and white than many critics claim.

The UK basic pension is modest to say the least, so it is vital to save from an early age or to pay into a private pension plan (company or other) in order to top-up the

**Help Reporter readers raise money for cancer. To find out how you can support local charity events, see page 46.**



Photo: Cogs4Cancer

state offering. French pensions are better from the outset and are not prey to plundering, suffered by the employees of the late Robert Maxwell.

As Her Majesty said to the Scottish people before the referendum – think very carefully about the future before deciding the best way to go.

*Hamish Cromwell, by email*



## MIND THE GAP!

I DO find the Nice tramway cheap, clean and efficient but as a Londoner, I know that urban rail transport has its own dangers which people don't realise until it's too late. I have seen much irresponsible behaviour on the platforms and arrived in the aftermath of a recent accident in Nice which was one sad result of careless platform behaviour. So please everyone – Mind the Gap!

*William Justice, Nice*





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## LETTERS

### IT'S NOT QUITE AS BAD AS THEY SAY

OUR daughter kept a copy of your magazine when she visited Monaco for a boat show. Travelling through France for the first time by car on our way to visit her in Spain we expected the worst. We had read about French rudeness and dishonesty in the British papers so we decided to drive across the dreaded country as quickly as possible.

We arrived north of Lyon late on Sunday morning and left the motorway to look for a typical little restaurant to lunch on the famous local food we'd also read about. Driving through a small town, the car started making funny noises but luckily we were near a

service station, which had a garage bay and the owner was there sweeping the floor. He spoke almost no English but he saw (or rather heard) the problem right away. It needed a part that he didn't have so he called a mechanic friend who luckily had it and would bring it over – on a Sunday morning!

Within an hour the car was fixed and the bill was no more than it would have been in England. Luckily for us, our car is a Peugeot. The garage man refused a tip so we gave him two nice boxes of English biscuits we had brought as gifts for our grandchildren in Spain. He was delighted with the treat and he said his children would also enjoy them. At least that's what we think he said.

We had expected to get to the Spanish border in one go but the delay and fatigue meant that we had to stop in southwest France for the night. The motorway hotels were full so we again left the autoroute to look for a local one. When we saw a "Hotel de Ville" sign we thought we were in luck. A woman sitting outside

explained that it was the Town Hall but there was a small family hotel not far and her husband would be happy to guide us there. We didn't have any biscuits left to give him but he expected nothing anyway.

Very early the next morning we tried to fill up at a card-only petrol station but my pin number wouldn't work and there was no way to pay in cash. A French motorist offered to fill us up on his card and we gave him the cash. A very nice man he was too.

Next trip, we will certainly plan on spending more time in France. Don't believe everything you read in the English papers!

*Gina and Will Helmes, Essex*

### WRITE TO US

Letters to the Editor can be sent by post (see page 50) or email to [info@rivierareporter.com](mailto:info@rivierareporter.com). Unless specifically marked "not for publication", letters may be published in our Letters pages and may also be added to our website forum. Names are withheld when requested but please note anonymous letters will not be considered.

## One mot time

### Roumpi-cuou.

A very steep street in a village, steep stairs or a steep, dangerous path. From roumpre, to break, and cuou, backside.





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## Readers make an appeal in aid of cancer research



Jo-Ann and Alistair Howell with Roxy the Boxer, and Clare and Tim Stares, right, holding Ziggy.

A reminder that charity donations carry a favourable fiscal benefit in France; for a private individual 66% of the value of your donation is tax deductible, or 60% for a France-based business.

is undergoing six weeks of radiotherapy to treat the areas of the tumour bed to try to eliminate any cells from which more recurrences could grow.

Throughout all this Jo has stayed positive and tried to concentrate on her business *frenchadminsolutions.com*, where she donates €1 of every €60 subscription to French Brain Tumour Research (*artc.asso.fr*).

In support of their friend, Clare and Tim will be running their first half-marathons on November 9th as part of the Nice-Cannes Marathon to raise money for Brain Tumour Research UK.

Via their Just Giving page (see below), Clare and Tim are aiming to raise £2,740, the amount needed to fund a single day's brain tumour research at the Centre of Excellence at the University of Portsmouth. They hope to match the figure with funds donated to Pasteur Hospital in Nice (*fonds-aveni.fr*).

Any support will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be paid to *JustGiving.com/TimandClareStares* or by sending a cheque payable to "Fonds de dotation AVENI" to Clare Stares, Blevins Franks, 120 route des Macarons, 06560 Valbonne; a tax certificate for all donations from French-based businesses and individuals will be provided.

Contact: [jo-ann.howell@outlook.com](mailto:jo-ann.howell@outlook.com), [tim@amberdesign.fr](mailto:tim@amberdesign.fr); and [clare.stares@blevinsfranks.com](mailto:clare.stares@blevinsfranks.com)

### On the run

CLARE Stares and her husband Tim first met Jo-Ann and Alistair Howell in 2003. Like many expats, their friendship has developed into family. Over the years, both couples married: Clare and Tim have two kids and a dog; Jo and Ali have their Boxer, Roxy. Together they all gel quite nicely.

"We've gone through many stages," Clare tells us, "from carefree summers in Antibes and weekends at the local ski resorts to our slightly more responsible lifestyles now."

But everything changed when, after a number of months with intense headaches and investigation, Jo found out that she had a brain tumour.

Jo shares her story: "In January 2012, I was diagnosed with a large meningioma – a predominantly benign tumour found within the meninges, the protective layer of membrane around the brain. After successful surgery for removal in February at Pasteur Hospital in Nice, I was closely monitored with six monthly MRI exams because the pathology of my tumour was Grade 2, atypical in behaviour, neither benign nor malignant."

Unfortunately Jo's MRI in April 2014 showed a fast-growing tumour in her cavernous sinus, which was again successfully removed at Pasteur this June. Knowing that it was a regrowth, likely from a single cell of the first tumour, she

### Back in the saddle

AFTER the success of last year's inaugural Cogs4Cancer charity cycle, 16 riders from the yachting industry are at it again in aid of Cancer Research UK, Clinique Tzank in Mougins and the children's cancer unit at the Lenval Hospital in Nice.

The C4C team – who even have the support of pop star Rihanna (see pg 3) – will set off from Ancona, Italy on October 5th and cycle 850km over six days to Antibes via a special "Tribute Stage".

The Tribute Stage, from San Remo through Monaco, on Friday October 10th is open to all riders for a charitable fee of €350. See [cogs4cancer.org/tributeride.html](http://cogs4cancer.org/tributeride.html)

100% of funds raised will go direct to the charities, with riders providing their own funding for the ride and sustenance

en-route provided by Gourmet Deliveries.

Riders can be followed in real-time on the C4C website ([cogs4cancer.org](http://cogs4cancer.org)) thanks to satellite devices provided by Yellowbrick; Marine Medical will be providing first aid support.

C4C cyclist Steve Crowe, MD of the Yachting Pages, tells the *Reporter*, "Everyone has their own story as to why they're riding, but it is also an opportunity for the yachting community to give something back and to honour the memory of so many friends lost to this terrible disease."

Once again HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco is generously sponsoring Adrian Long who is participating for the second year running despite having a brain tumour.

To become a sponsor, make a donation or do the Tribute Ride, contact Ben on 06 13 07 58 77 or [info@cogs4cancer.org](mailto:info@cogs4cancer.org)



Alan Griffith, above, has no excuse not to train for 850km charity ride while at sea.



# october

## 15TH EDITION LES VOILES DE ST TROPEZ

Until Sun Oct 5: For info see  
[lesvoilesdesaint-tropez.fr/en](http://lesvoilesdesaint-tropez.fr/en)

## POLITICAL WINE

Wed Oct 1, 18:30h-20h: The Riviera Chapter of Democrats Abroad's monthly Political Wine event at La Canne à Sucre, 11 Promenade des Anglais, Nice. All Americans visiting or living here on the French Riviera are invited to a brief presentation by one of our members and to share in the opportunity to engage in thoughtful discussions. La Canne à Sucre does not impose a formal entry fee, but we ask that you support them by ordering at least one drink. Please RSVP (even "maybe") to [dafrance.riviera@gmail.com](mailto:dafrance.riviera@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

## POSH PARAPHERNALIA & OPEN HOUSE

First Thurs of the month for Posh Paraphernalia is Thurs Oct 2 & Nov 6. Quality 2nd hand clothes and accessories for women and men are also available. A light lunch will be served. On Sat Oct 18 & Sat Nov 22 it is Open House at the Grange with lunch served from 12h30-14h. You can sit and have a chat and a glass of wine with friends. While at the Grange, why not browse through our collection of 2nd hand books in English & French. We are open from 10h-15h, and also the library and bric-a-brac are open every Thurs. At 815 Chemin Gourettes, Mouans-Sartoux.

## GUIDED VISIT OF THE MAGINOT LINE FORT

Fri Oct 3: Guided visit of the Maginot Line Fort at Sainte Agnès, followed by lunch at local restaurant. Details on [commonwealthclubriviera.com](http://commonwealthclubriviera.com)

## BLESSING OF MOBILE PHONES AND TABLETS

Sat Oct 4, 18h: Église St Pierre d'Arène on rue de France in Nice will bless all mobile devices during Mass under Gabriel, the Patron Saint of transmissions. Info: 04 93 88 20 31- [eglisenicecentre.com](http://eglisenicecentre.com)

## UNICEF06 MOUANS-SARTOUX BOOK FESTIVAL



Fri Oct 3- Sun Oct 5: UNICEF traditionally starts off its winter campaign with the Book Festival in Mouans-Sartoux. Le Festival du Livre is mainly for French speakers and readers but does have foreign authors present. Also on the programme, feature concerts, films, conferences and book signings. This year it takes place in several locations in the centre of the town. At the UNICEF stand, schoolchildren can find lots of information on UNICEF's work all over the world, Christmas cards and gifts are on sale and new volunteers are welcome to help out in Antibes, Cagnes-sur-Mer, Cannes, Menton, Mouans-Sartoux, Nice and Vence. Further information on all UNICEF's activities in the Alpes-Maritimes may be obtained from the local shop in Nice. Tel: 04 93 80 89 39 or [unicef06@unicef.fr](mailto:unicef06@unicef.fr). See also [lefestivaldulivre.fr](http://lefestivaldulivre.fr)

## MUSEUM VISITS BA CANNES

Sat Oct 4, 11h: Visit to Fragonard L'Usine Historique & Musée du Costume et Bijou. Lunch in Grasse. For details & reservations: 04 92 99 09 37.

## AUTUMN VIDE- GRENIERS

Sun Oct 5, 8h-17h: In Colle-sur-Loup village. To register a stand (€24), visit the Tourist Office from Sept 25, 9h-17h. Rain date: Oct 12. Info: 04 93 32 68 36.

## OPEN DAY "VIVA ASSOCIATIONS"

Sun Oct 5, 9h-18h30: Association France-Grande-Bretagne Cannes will be present and welcomes everyone to come and see them on the l'esplande Pantiero in Cannes. Info: 04 93 97 86 32 or 04 93 49 37 01.

## FRANCE-ETATS-UNIS, NICE

Mon Oct 6, Nov 3 & Nov 17, 16h30-18h: English conversation with Jackie at the Hôtel Brice, Maréchal Joffre at Meyerbee. Language class with Andrew on Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 and Nov 4, 18 & 25, same venue, same time.

## THE ODD GROUP ARTISTS

Every Tues: Serious about Art? Come and join like-minded painters. All Media all Styles. Every Tuesday morning in Monaco. For further details call Jennifer 06 80 86 31 32.

## ENGLISH LIBRARY & KEEP-FIT

Every Wed, from 11h: English library and lunch (12h30). Every Thurs, 10h: Keep-Fit. Holy Trinity Church Cannes (Ave Branly). Contact: 04 93 94 54 61 or see [holytrinitycannes.org](http://holytrinitycannes.org).

## AMIA LUNCH

Wed Oct 8: Bleu Lavande Restaurant in Valbonne. To reserve please ring Douglas Goldin on 04 92 94 02 47.

## PWN'S 5-5-5 WORKSHOP

Thurs Oct 9: 5 business areas, 5 presenters, 5 tips all in one evening at "Key Building Blocks to Entrepreneurial Success" in Nice. Scaling Your Business; Branding and Communication; Marketing; Earnings; Resources and Investment. The event will finish off over a drink and nibbles where you can mix and mingle. A Tombola with some fabulous prizes will also be on offer. Please email [events@pwnnice.net](mailto:events@pwnnice.net) with questions about registration.

## BA OF THE VAR

Fri Oct 10: Joint with Royal British Legion, commemoration of the centenary of the Great War with visit to the Artillery museum at Draguignan with talk followed by a restaurant lunch. Sun Oct 19: Asian lunch in Frejus followed by 10 pin bowling. See [baofthevar.com](http://baofthevar.com) for more.

## COGS4CANCER TRIBUTE RIDE

Fri Oct 10: Last leg of the C4C 850km journey to raise money for cancer (see pg 46). The Tribute Stage, from San Remo through Monaco, is open to all riders for a charitable fee of €350. See [cogs4cancer.org/tributeride.html](http://cogs4cancer.org/tributeride.html)

## 1ST FRENCH RIVIERA CLASSIC MOTOR SHOW

Fri Oct 10-Sun Oct 12, 10h-18h: Collector cars, motorcycles and boats at the MIN Riviera Nice (2 mins from the A8 and airport with free parking). Nearly 120 exhibitors incl. "The Prince Collection" from Monaco and an exceptional Ferrari exhibition. Many events by Claude Jullian, official speaker of the F1 Grand Prix of Monaco on tap. €7/person on site or €5/person tickets online. See [fr-cms.com](http://fr-cms.com)

## CANADIAN THANKSGIVING

Mon Oct 13: The Canadian Club's Thanksgiving celebrations and annual General Assembly. Contact for details: [canadianclubmonaco@gmail.com](mailto:canadianclubmonaco@gmail.com)

**VIAC MUSEUM VISIT**

Thurs Oct 16: Visit museum in St Paul de Vence and lunch. See [viac.fr](http://viac.fr) for more info.

**RIVIERA'S FIRST MICRO-BREWERY OFFICIAL LAUNCH PARTY**

Fri Oct 17, 19h: The freshest Ales and Lagers on tap, brewed on the Côte d'Azur with food and rock & roll at Colgans Brewery (323 Chem des Plaines, Mouans-Sartoux). See pg 4; [colgansbrewery.com](http://colgansbrewery.com)

**LANGUAGES IN EUROPE**

Mon Oct 20, 14h: Second part of Dieter Burkle's illustrated lecture, "Languages in Europe, So Different yet so Similar" at the Maison des Associations Garibaldi, following a luncheon at noon, venue TBD. Contact Jacquie Berben-Masi at 06 08 36 67 58 or email [jacquie.berben@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jacquie.berben@wanadoo.fr)

**VISIT MATISSE CHAPEL**

Sat Oct 25: With the American Club of the Riviera, a private guided visit of the Matisse Chapel in Vence, with a screening of the film "A Model for Matisse" (presented by its producer, ACR member Barbara Freed), followed by lunch at the art-filled Michelin-starred Les Bacchanales Restaurant, just a few minutes walk from the Chapel. Information: Mr Burton Gintell 06 20 40 11 28. See: [americanclubriviera.com](http://americanclubriviera.com)

**RADA: RETURN OF THE GHOST TRAIN**

Thurs Oct 30, Fri Oct 31 & Sat Nov 1, 20h: The Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association presents a gothic horror mystery story very loosely based on the plot of "The Ghost Train" by Arnold Ridley written by RADA members Christine Williams, Patti-Ann McNeill & Justin Fuller, with the help of the RADA improvisation team. At Mougins School; admission: €10 (including a free drink). Three ways to book – phone 09 53 73 56 70, email: [bookings@rada.freesevers.com](mailto:bookings@rada.freesevers.com) or over the counter at the English Book Centre, 12 rue Alexis Julien, Valbonne.

**november****QUIZNIGHT  
BA CANNES**

Sat Nov 1, 19h: Quiz Night at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Cannes. €15 meal inclusive. For details & reservations: 04 92 99 09 37.

**LINDA NISSEN  
SAMUELS EXHIBIT**

Until Nov 15, Mon-Sat, 9h-16h: Exhibit by the artist/author Linda Nissen Samuels at the Cercle Villa Vera (51 ave de Vallauris and 1 ave de Saissy, Cannes). Works comprise of oils, acrylics, watercolors, and illustrations from her newest book "Elly at the Animal Park", a charming story for young readers. Info: 04 93 06 61 00.

**POLITICAL WINE**

Wed Nov 5, 18:30h-20h: The Riviera Chapter of Democrats Abroad will be hosting it's monthly Political Wine event at La Canne à Sucre, 11 promenade des Anglais, NICE. See Wed Oct 1 for more details.

**AMIAc AGM**

Thurs Nov 6: AGM and lunch at Le Caveau in Cannes. To reserve please ring Laurie: 04 93 56 34 92.

**VIAC AGM**

Thurs Nov 6: AGM then lunch in Le Cannet. See [viac.fr](http://viac.fr) for details.

**SADECA FURNITURE,  
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FAIR NICE**

Fri Nov 7-Wed Nov 12, 10h-19h: See the latest trends in furniture and decor at the Palais des Expositions in Nice. Tickets: €6. See [salondumeuble-nice.fr](http://salondumeuble-nice.fr)

**REMEMBRANCE DAY  
SERVICE**

Sun Nov 9, 10h30: With the Royal British Legion at Holy Trinity Church Cannes (Ave Branly). Contact: 04 93 94 54 61 or see [holytrinitycannes.org](http://holytrinitycannes.org)

**MARATHON DES  
ALPES-MARITIMES**

Sun Nov 9, 8h: See pg 46 to sponsor local charity runners doing 42.195km from Nice to Cannes. See [marathon06.com](http://marathon06.com)

**SWEDISH  
CHRISTMAS FAIR  
AT VILLA INGEBORG**

Photo: ©Danadesigns.blogspot.com

Sat Nov 22 & Sun Nov 23, 10h-16h: Presented by the Swedish Church Côte d'Azur and Monaco (40 ave de Verdun, Cagnes-sur-Mer), there will be a Swedish Christmas food stand featuring salmon, herring, Swedish meatballs, gingersnaps, Swedish candy, Jansson temptation, home-made pastries and much more. Great handcrafted Christmas gifts and Swedish Christmas decorations like Christmas ornaments, candles and napkins. Flea market. Oysters and champagne. A bookshop selling books in Swedish, English, and French. A big ticket lottery with great prizes. The draw will be held at 15h on Sunday. Traditional Swedish food will be available for sale with specialties such as the Christmas food plate, "Glögg" (hot spiced wine), coffee, pastries and hot dogs. The Lucia procession, the bearer of light with candles in her hair and her handmaidens, all dressed in white, starts at 14h Sunday. All welcome. Tel 04 93 20 40 64.

**ACR LONG WEEKEND  
IN PARIS**

Thurs Nov 13-Sun Nov 16: With the Association of American Clubs and the American Club of Paris – for all members. Info: Mr Burton Gintell 06 20 40 11 28. See: [americanclubriviera.com](http://americanclubriviera.com)

**CHOCOLATE FAIR NICE**

Fri Nov 14-Sun Nov 17, 10h-19h: On the Promenade des Anglais at Beau Rivage. Tickets €5, under-12 free. See [salon-chocolat.com](http://salon-chocolat.com)

**TEACHING MORNING**

Sat Nov 15, 9h30-13h: "An overview of the letter to the Romans" Part II. Lunch provided at Holy Trinity Church Cannes (Ave Branly). Contact: 04 93 94 54 61 or see [holytrinitycannes.org](http://holytrinitycannes.org).

**THANKSGIVING LUNCH**

Thurs Nov 27, noon: With France-Etats-Unis Nice at the Koudou (Promenade des Anglais, next to Parking Masséna). Price around €30; a traditional menu like last year. We ask that our diners leave an extra euro for the service.

**THANKSGIVING AT  
HOTEL HERMITAGE**

Thurs Nov 27: American Club of the Riviera's glorious Thanksgiving lunch at Hotel Hermitage, Monaco, with invited members of the US military. Infor Mr Burton Gintell 06 20 40 11 28. See: [americanclubriviera.com](http://americanclubriviera.com)

**COMMONWEALTH CLUB  
OF THE RIVIERA**

Thurs Nov 27: Annual Dinner. More at [commonwealthclubriviera.com](http://commonwealthclubriviera.com)

**DOG AND CAT SHOW**

Sat Nov 29-Sun Nov 30, 10h-19h: At Palais des Expositions in Nice.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

Sat Nov 29, 20h: Ensemble vocal Ristretto: Orchestra Ristretto (leader Peter Szuts); Elenor Bowers-Jolley (soprano); Kristin Finnegan (alto); Alex Tsilogiannis (tenor); Koji Terada (bass); Conducted: Errol Girdlestone. St Pauls Church, 22 ave de Grande Bretagne, Monte-Carlo. Tickets: €30, from FNAC Monte-Carlo.



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**For more properties for sale see pg 30.**

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More info: **Tel Iris on 04 93 97 86 32** or **Odette on 04 93 49 37 01**

**English American Library, 12 rue de** France, Nice. Open 10-11 and 3-5 Tues to Sat. See: [nice-english-library.org](http://nice-english-library.org)

Alliance Française Nice.....	43
Antique Shop.....	43
Astema Thermal Imaging.....	29
Automobile Assistance.....	17
Azur Running Tour.....	cover
Banking, Banque Populaire.....	35
Bed, Darya Blake, Bed Concept.....	43
Books, Antibes Bookshop.....	33
Books, Valbonne English Book Centre.....	45
Brittain's Home Stores.....	21
Building, Isotech.....	45
Building, Victorious Renovations.....	15
Business Services, Peter Johnson.....	33
Car Rental, Greenrent.fr.....	33
Centre Leclerc, Le Cannet.....	23
Computing, Gale Force.....	21
Drones, MLV Drone.....	17
Education, ISP.....	cover
Education, Mougins School.....	19
Education, Pain d'Epice.....	19
EezyPeazy.....	33
Energy Watch.....	42
Finance, Blevins Franks Int. Ltd.....	5
Fitness, Endurance Shop.....	42
Fitness, Fitlane.....	15
Furniture, Authentic Furniture.....	13
Garden, Scape Design.....	cover
Garden, Liguria Landscape.....	43
Garden, The Garden Company.....	42
Golf, Domaine de Barbossi.....	11
Home Store.....	25
Insurance, Eric Blair Network.....	13
Internet, Webstore.....	45
Mosquito Free.....	42
Personal Assistant Nikki Manwarring.....	43
Property, Chrisma.....	29, 33
Property, Coast & Country.....	29, 39
Property, Hindle & Baldock.....	31
Property, Leggett Imobilier.....	37
Property, Cannes rental.....	29
Removals, AGS Worldwide Movers.....	41
Removals, Delahaye Moving.....	21
Restaurant, Enjoy Pasta, Rocheville.....	39
Riviera Renovations.....	42
Satellite, HasEurope.....	9
Satellite, North Weald.....	35
Seafarer Health & Safety Branch.....	17
Photography, Studio Photo Alfieri.....	42
Photography, Arta Photo.....	42
Upholstery House.....	42
US Tax Advice, George Donnelly.....	29
Vélo Station.....	5
Victoria Retirement Home.....	7
Wine, Château du Chabert.....	39

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