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Your guide to winter sports at all 14 local resorts... p8

Riviera People

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What's on?

Riviera Diary – your month-long guide to local events... p12

TRAM PLAN WILL TRANSFORM NICE

Chances good for €305m network to free up city centre

Nice looks set to get an ambitious €305 million tram system.

The scheme, aimed at unclogging city centre traffic and reducing pollution, goes to public debate next month.

The response is expected to be favourable, meaning work could begin next year. The tram line would start at the Nice Nord junction with the A8 motorway.

From there it will run into the city centre via the University district, Place de Gaulle, near the railway station, Nice Étoile, and Avenue Jean-Médecin to Place Masséna.

Parking

It then turns north-east to the Palais de Justice, Nice Acropolis and Roquebilière, before ending at Pont Michel in the north-east of the city. New car parking would

By Riviera Gazette staff

be built at Nice Nord to encourage people to leave their cars outside the city centre and take the tram.

The scheme will also improve access to the Nice Acropolis convention centre. A new terminal for trams and buses will be built along with car parking.

At the north-east end of the line, a link between the tram network and the SNCF rail network will be created. A fast-track bus

service, with its own dedicated lanes, and a tramway spur to the Port of Nice are also possible.

The project, first mooted in 1996, has now reached the public enquiry stage. Plans and dossiers will be available for public viewing from February 14.

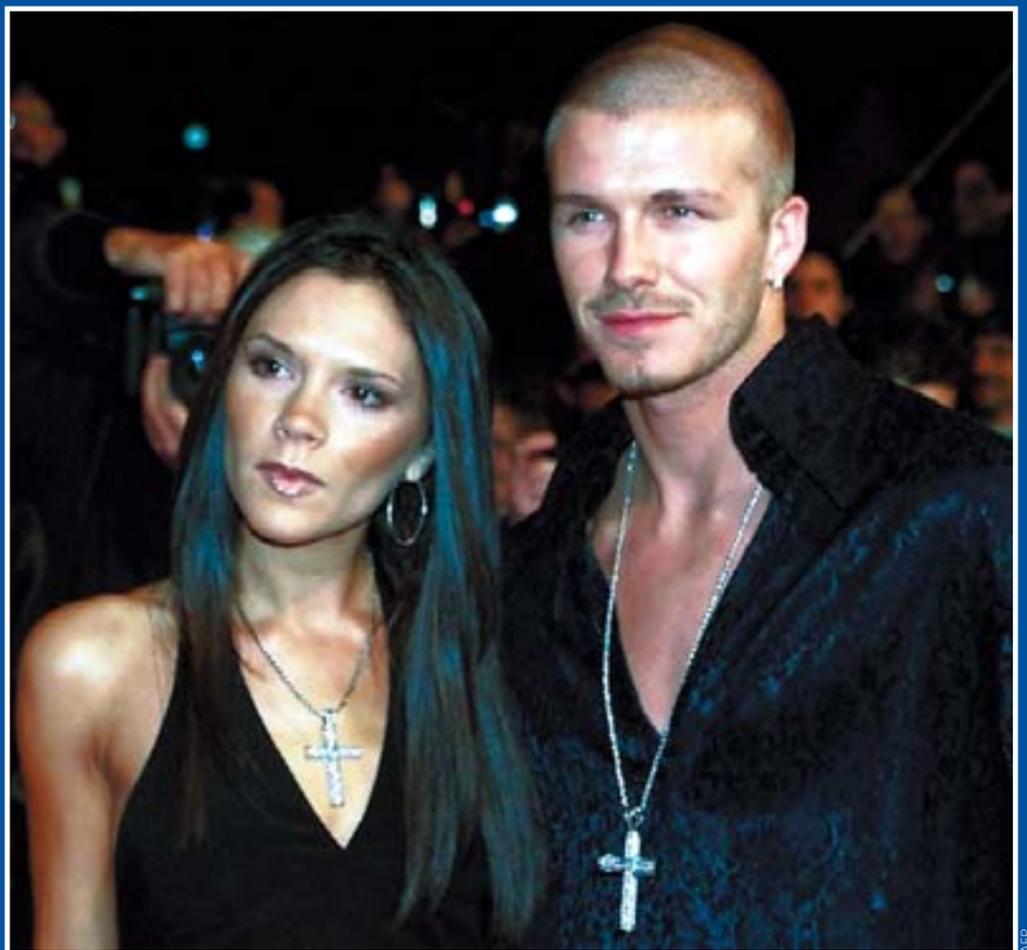
Review

A committee of experts will also debate the plan and review comments, currently mostly positive.

It will deliver its opinion by April 17. The Prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes must then give the final go-ahead to the project.

Work would begin in early 2003, starting with the moving of water, gas and electricity supplies. Trams would be up and running in mid-2006.

Ports update, page 6



OTHER HALF TIME

Posh'n'Becks take time out together to visit Riviera

Footballer David Beckham, currently negotiating a new £100,000+ a week contract with Manchester United, called half-time last week to accompany wife Victoria to Cannes' NRJ Music Awards. To see who else was there, turn to page 3.

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see page 7

The next issue of The Riviera Gazette will be in newsagents across the region on 28 February

World News

Edited by Chris Brown

Musharraf sees peace with India

PAKISTAN'S President Pervez Musharraf has said that he does not believe there will be war with India.

The announcement was made shortly after US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the press in India he was encouraged that a solution could be found to the military confrontation in the region.

Pakistan and India have been engaged in a tense confrontation along their border, after Delhi blamed Pakistan-based militants for an attack on its parliament last month.

Sierra Leone peace

THE president of Sierra Leone has declared an end to one of Africa's most brutal wars.

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was joined by rebel leaders and international guests at a peace ceremony in the capital Freetown.

The celebrations included a symbolic bonfire of some of the tens of thousands of weapons, gathered over the past year from both government troops and rebels.

The conflict killed up to 50,000 people and was characterised by mass rape and mutilation.

Amazon in black

AMAZON, the internet retailer, has announced its first ever profit. It made a US\$5m profit in the last quarter of 2001, compared to a US\$545m loss a year earlier.

Enron failure probed, Kmart files Chapter 11

THE United States Justice Department has launched a criminal investigation into the bankruptcy of Enron, the biggest corporate failure in US history.

The energy company filed for bankruptcy in December, and more than 5,000 employees lost their jobs. Enron is said to have close links with President Bush.

Meanwhile, Kmart, the biggest discount retailer in the US after WalMart, has filed for protection from creditors whilst it re-structures its business. Analysts say that Kmart is short of cash after long-term problems and a poor Christmas. The company has over 2,000 stores and 250,000 employees.

Argentina crisis

ARGENTINA'S new president Eduardo Duhalde is attempting to bring politicians, business leaders and unions together to solve the country's economic crisis.

Riots in the capital Buenos Aires this month have shown the anger felt by the people who have suffered from years of mismanagement and corruption at the highest level.

Argentina has now formally defaulted on its international debt and the currency has been allowed to free fall against the US dollar.

Save our tuk-tuk

THE Government of Thailand wants to preserve the world famous tuk-tuk - a motorcycle taxi - as uniquely Thai.

It has urged the makers to challenge British company MMW Imports that has registered a modified version of the vehicle.

Tourists and locals alike use tuk-tuks to beat horrendous traffic jams in the capital, Bangkok.

Lockerbie appeal

ONE of the two men convicted of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing has started his appeal at the Scottish Court at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands.

Abdelbasset Ali Mohamed al Megrahi was found guilty in January 2001 of Bombing Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie and killing 270 people.

The trial is expected to last six weeks.

Dad kills in row over sons' hockey

A FATHER who beat another dad to death in a row over tactics at their sons' ice hockey practice has been found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in Massachusetts.

Thomas Junta, 44, was found guilty of killing Michael Costin, 40, at a game in July 2000.

Volcano leaves 500,000 homeless



UP TO 500,000 people have been left homeless by the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo on the border of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The first aid shipments reached the residents of Goma on Thursday, a week after the volcano destroyed around 80% of the city. But a humanitarian disaster is still feared as refugees return from nearby Rwanda to salvage what little is left of their belongings.

It is thought nearly 100 died in the initial eruption. The volcano last erupted in 1977. Goma was the scene of the refugee exodus from Rwanda during the 1994 genocide that claimed 800,000 lives.

Brits held over bin Laden link

By Chris Brown

THE hunt for members of Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda terrorist organisation has stepped up with arrests in Europe and the Far East.

British police have charged two men and arrested 11 others in raids in Leicester. Baghdad Meziane, 37, and Brahim Benmerzouga, 30, were charged with membership of the Al-Qaeda terrorist organisation.

Net

In Spain, two men suspected of belonging to Al-Qaeda were arrested in the L'Hospitalet de Llobregat suburb of Barcelona.

Arrests have also been made in Malaysia, the

2 charged with being members of Al-Qaeda terrorist network

Philippines and Bosnia-Herzegovina as the US attempts to close the net around Al-Qaeda, now thought to operate in 40 to 50 countries.

Wanted

The whereabouts of America's most wanted man, Osama bin Laden, are still unknown.

Meanwhile, the British man arrested for the attempted shoe-bombing of the American Airlines flight between Miami and Paris before Christmas has appeared in a US court.

Richard Reid, who prosecutors now believe was trained by Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, has pleaded

not guilty to all nine charges.

The arrests come amid complaints of America's treatment of Al-Qaeda and Taliban prisoners of war. Up to 320 prisoners will be held at the Guantanamo naval base in Cuba.

Prisoners

UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, has publicly reminded the United States of its international obligations towards the prisoners under the Geneva Convention.

Prisoners are to be kept in cells open to the elements. The pressure group Human Rights

Watch describes the conditions as "a scandal."

But US opinion seems unmoved.

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said: "They [the prisoners] are being treated vastly better than they treated anybody else." John Ashcroft, the US Attorney General, has shown video messages found in Afghanistan from five Al-Qaeda members claiming to be preparing suicide martyrdom missions.

Their whereabouts are unknown and Mr Ashcroft has warned that future attacks could be imminent.

Zimbabwe faces sanctions for press ban

ZIMBABWE is facing a range of international sanctions after its parliament passed measures that could enable the government to stifle opposition in the forthcoming presidential elections.

A new security bill criminalises criticism of president Robert Mugabe, pictured above right, and new election regulations attempt to ban foreign and local independent monitors and journalists.



SECURITY BILL... Mugabe

Hopes to heal Cyprus rift

THE Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders have agreed to meet three times a week to try to heal the rift between the island's communities.

The two long-standing adversaries met at Nicosia airport, disused since 1974.

The island has been divided since 1974, when Turkey sent in troops following a coup by Greek Cypriots backed by the former military government in Athens. The prospect of the island's European Union membership has galvanised movement towards a settlement.

Middle east violence escalates

ISRAELI soldiers blew up the building housing The Voice of Palestine radio station in the West Bank town of Ramallah. This was in retaliation for a Palestinian attack in the northern city of Hadera, in which a gunman burst into a banquet hall with an assault

rifle, killing six Israelis and injuring 30. The latest surge in violence came after three weeks of relative calm between Israel and the Palestinians. The militant Palestinian group Islamic Jihad called off its self-imposed ceasefire, whilst Hamas killed four Israeli soldiers.

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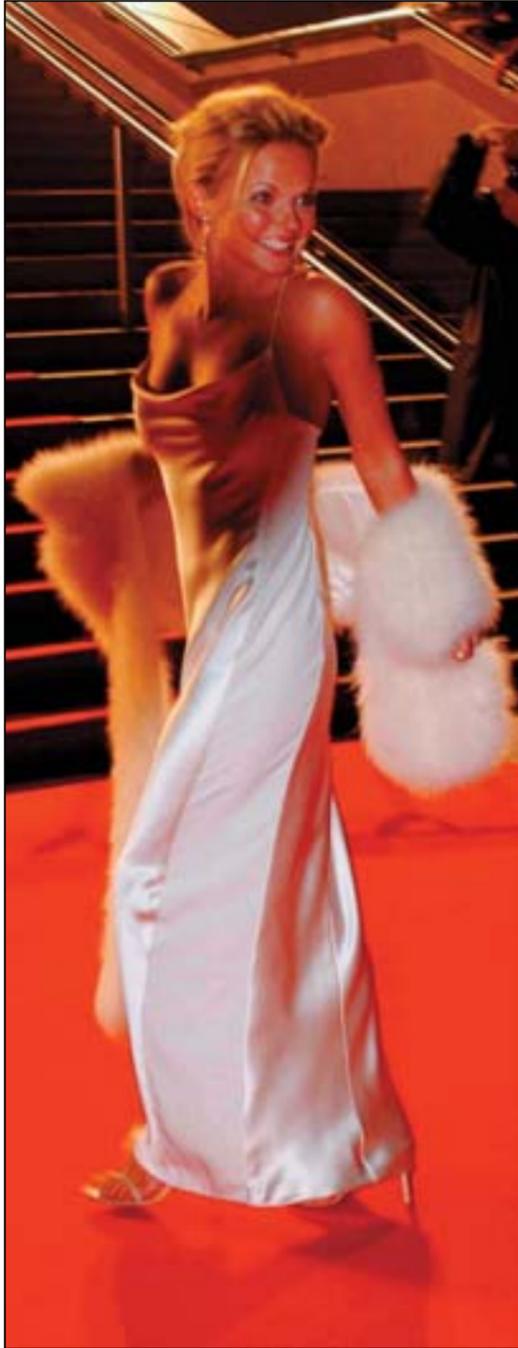
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Celebrities flock to music awards



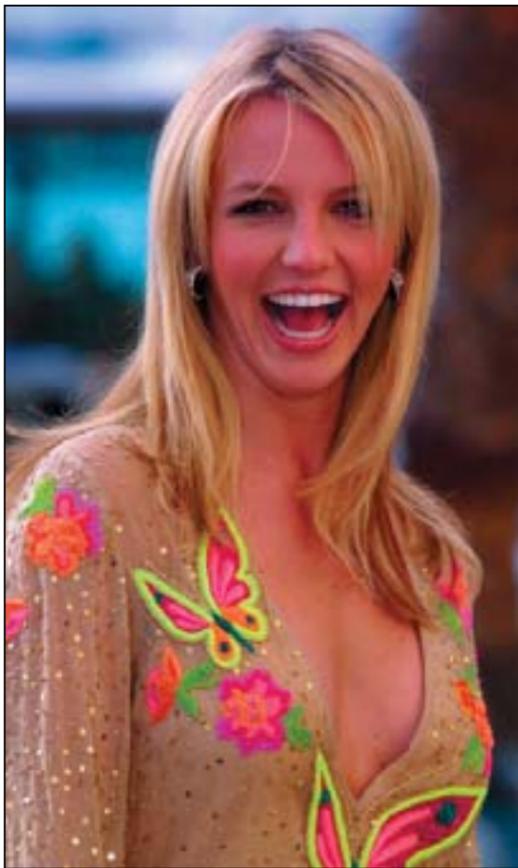
Pop's top names gather for annual conference

A host of stars flew into Cannes this week for the NRJ Music Awards, part of the annual MIDEM tradeshow.

Among the top names were Geri Halliwell (left), Britney Spears (below) Westlife (bottom right), Dido and French Canadian singer Garou, and Mick Jagger.



Photos:Midem 2002



CMYK

...and from media circus to real one!



Audiences at Monaco's Big Top were wowed this week as the world's top circus stars came from five continents to compete at the 26th Festival International du Cirque.

Over a hundred performers, hand-picked by

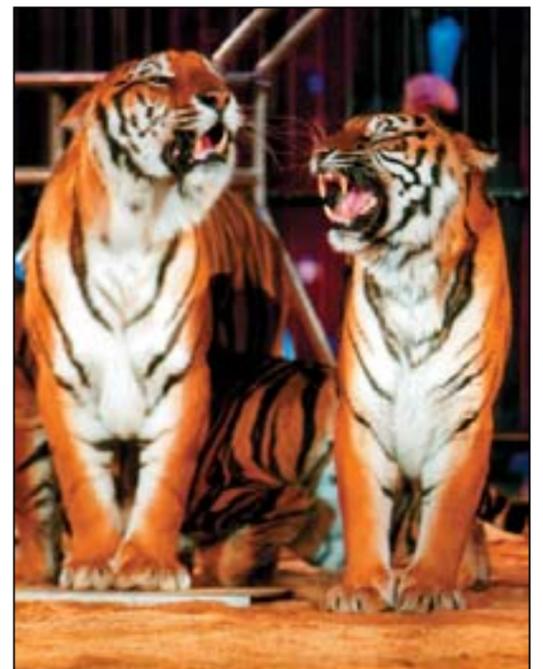
a jury led by HSH Prince Rainier III, travelled to Monaco in search of a coveted Clown d'Or trophy, awarded to the two very best acts amongst the performers.

To the Big Top came stars of the flying trapeze,

a lion tamer, acrobats and contortionists, jugglers, clowns and animal trainers. With them came two elephants, two horses, several tigers, 28 Bacterine camels and assorted performing ducks, cats, doves, dogs,

geese and roosters – and even a vulture.

Clowns d'Or went to Les Quiros, a Ringling Brothers high-wire act, which dazzled the audience with Fred Astaire style dancing and bicycle-riding ten metres above the ring, and to the acrobats from China's Guangdong Troupe.



National News

Chirac 'corruption' judge quits

THE judge who was removed last year as the main investigator into alleged corruption allegations against French President Jacques Chirac has retired saying his work was sabotaged.

Judge Eric Halphen spent seven years on the investigation. He compares French politicians' cases to those involving the Italian mafia and claims justice does not exist in France.

Although French courts ruled that Chirac has immunity from prosecution as long as he is in office, the corruption allegations may yet harm his chances in the spring elections. Publication of Mr Halphen's book in March may also prove a factor.

Euro puts DVDs up 5.5%

PRICE rises of up to 5.5 per cent have been recorded by a French state agency following the introduction of the euro.

Hikes of one per cent among restaurants and cheaper hotels, a 1.8 per cent increase on drinks in cafés and a 1.6 per cent price increase for car repairs, are listed in the report by the General Direction for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Reprising Fraud.

Video cassettes and DVDs saw the highest increase of between 5.1 and 5.5 per cent. Supermarkets and a corner shop had not increased their prices.

Many sectors in France increase prices in January so the introduction of the euro may not be totally to blame.

First NHS patients arrive in France as doctors here strike

THE first British NHS patients to be treated abroad to ease UK waiting lists arrived in France this week as French doctors went on strike for better working conditions.

Local clinics have also begun recruiting Spanish nurses to fill staff shortages.

Nine NHS patients arrived at the private La Louvière hospital in Lille last Saturday. They are part of a three-month trial aimed at cutting hospital waiting time for the one million people on the treatment list in the UK.

Two hundred people

Riviera clinics recruit nurses from Spain to fill empty posts

will take part in the trial which could lead to more British patients being treated abroad. The British government is currently working on a contract which could be used as the basis for future deals with European hospitals.

After months of disaffection and local go-slows, France suffered from three days of hospital strike action this week.

On Monday, workers in state-run hospitals took action against the 35 hour

Dismantlers' turn on Millennium Wheel

Owner may sell to city of Paris for €3m plus

By Sarah Clark

WORK on dismantling the 60-metre high Paris Millennium Wheel has begun despite all the efforts of owner Marcel Campion and his supporters to get another extension.

Campion faced fines of €15,000 a day after losing his court battle with authorities to keep the wheel in place.

Progress

He agreed to dismantle it on Monday after the Mayor said it could stay in Paris.

Talks are now in progress to find another site in one of the city's

parks. And if the two sides cannot agree, Mayor Bertrand Delanoë, who is keen for the wheel to stay in Paris as long as another suitable site is found, has suggested that the city may buy it.

Campion says his selling price would be more than €3 million.

The Millennium Wheel was erected at the bottom of the Champs Elysée in 1999 to celebrate the new millennium and was originally due to be dismantled at the end of 2000.

Demonstrations

It will take 20 people two or three weeks to take it down.

A demonstration, pictured right, took place this month when up to 200 fair workers protested against an order to remove the wheel from the Place de la Concorde. Owner Marcel Campion is pictured front left.



Irishman heads EU parliament



NICOLE Fontaine, whose second home is in Villefranche-sur-Mer, has stood down as President of the European Parliament.

Liberal Democrat Pat Cox from Ireland has been voted in as the new President. Mr Cox's plans include a series of reforms aimed at making parliament more effective. Both are pictured above.

Shoe bomber Paris link

SHOE bomber Richard Reid had a support network in Paris, police believe. It is thought he acquired triacetone triperoxide explosive from the city before taking an American Airlines flight to Miami in December.

They have confiscated computer equipment from a cyber café in the city, where Reid is reported to have exchanged emails with a contact in Pakistan.

Slap for US tax breaks

AMERICA faces sanctions worth more than US\$4bn after the World Trade Organisation ruled that huge tax breaks given to firms like GE, Boeing and Microsoft were illegal export subsidies. This is the fourth such ruling in five years and paves the way for the EU to impose punitive tariffs on US imports.

Air France 'negligent' over Concorde maintenance

AIR France has been criticized for sloppy flight management and negligent maintenance of the Concorde which crashed in July 2000 near Paris.

The final report of the Bureau Enquêtes-Accidents confirmed earlier conclusions that a burst tyre caused by a strip of metal on the runway caused the accident but suggested that "improvisation and lack of method" by Air France engineers could have affected other parts of the aircraft's functioning.

An inspection of the conditions of operation and maintenance of the Concorde by Air France was strongly recommended by the BEA.

The three flight crew were exonerated of any errors in procedure after fire broke out.

Corsica setback

LEGISLATION to give Corsica a measure of self-governance has been thrown out by the French Constitutional Council.

The bill, giving the island greater political power and a limited ability to set its own laws, was deemed unconstitutional and a breach of the principle of national unity.

The nine-member council did approve a provision to make teaching of the Corsican language part of the primary school curriculum.

A French magistrate living in Corsica narrowly missed becoming the latest victim of violence on the island when he discovered a makeshift explosive device on his doorstep on Friday.

In a bid to end decades of separatist violence, French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin began moves to grant the Mediterranean island greater autonomy in 1999. Corsica has been ruled by France since 1768.

Strike farmers' train blockade

TRAIN passengers were left stranded recently when French farmers blockaded railway lines in protest at compensation figures for mad cow disease.

The cattle breeders have been offered at least €2,000 each on top of previously announced figures but are protesting that it is not enough. Police were called in to break up the protests on high-speed train routes between Paris, Rennes and Nantes.

Toulouse blast an accident

TERRORISM was not the cause of the explosion at the AZF unit of oil giant TotalFinaElf near Toulouse in September, investigators have ruled. "All our leads point towards an accident," said an official.

Antarctic ship won't pay tax

AN Australian research ship is to defy France's demand for A\$3,500 tax when it docks at a French Antarctic base this week. They say it counters the International Antarctic Treaty which bans ownership of Antarctica.

High speed net use up 500%

HIGH speed internet use increased 500 per cent last year in France according to market researchers. Barometres Multimedia de Meriametrie found one in eight homes now use cable or ADSL for net access.

Classy tipples with nipples

A NEW Paris nightclub is trying to bring back the upmarket days of striptease by introducing doormen, valet parking and prices that include €177 bottles of champagne. Le Pink Platinum is a modern version of the 1930s, claims promoter David Guetta.

week. It was the turn of the nurses on Tuesday and then on Wednesday hospital doctors and nurses across the country staged a 24-hour national "Day Without Doctor" strike, called by almost all French medical unions, that left emergency services seriously strained.

On the Côte d'Azur, staff shortages have led local clinics to begin recruiting in Spain.

Three groups of private clinics in the region, who run 12 clinics between them, have got together to launch a joint recruitment campaign to find Spanish professionals willing to fill their 100 nursing and 12 midwifery vacancies.

They have been hit by a fall in the number of people entering nursing training, necessary changes for the 35-hour week and large numbers of people leaving the profession.

But the World Health Organisation still ranks the French health system as the best of the world - although it comes at a price. France spends £1,400 per person per year on health. The UK spends only £970.

IRISH WRITERS GET MONACO BURSARY

BY SHANE STOKES

The Irish writers Eoin McNamee and Angela Bourke will each take up residence in Monaco for one month this year, as the first two recipients of the Ireland Fund of Monaco's 'Bursaries for Literary and Academic Writers'.

Under the scheme, the two will work on their current projects while staying in the Principality, using the Princess Grace Irish Library as their base, and will be awarded living expenses, a daily allowance and an honorarium worth €1,270.

The writers will give a reading or a talk to an invited audience during their stay.

McNamee and Bourke will stay in Monaco during the Spring and Autumn respectively. McNamee is best known for his 1994 novel 'Resurrection Man', later



BURSARY... Eoin McNamee

made into a feature film, which dealt with the subject of a Loyalist death squad in 1970s Belfast. His native Northern Ireland is also the setting for his most recent novel 'The Blue Tango'.

Angela Bourke is a writer, feminist historian and lecturer of Modern Irish in University College Dublin. In 2001, she received The Irish Times Irish Literature Prize for Non-Fiction for her book 'The Burning of Bridget Cleary'.

Chess cheat hid computer in raincoat

AN apparent first in the world of chess happened at an international tournament in Nice recently when a player was caught cheating with a mini-computer hidden in his raincoat.

Renato Scarenzio, 64, was spotted slipping a hand inside the mac as he played Frenchman George Berenge on the third day of the Nice

Judge spots 'braille' ruse at top Nice tournament

Chess Club contest which boasted €6,400 in prize money.

As he took his hand out, one of the three judges spied a tiny computer tucked away in the mac's pocket.

The Novaq computer is designed for training

chess players with impaired sight and can be set to tell with a touch estimated responses by an adversary.

Mr Scarenzio, from Turin, Italy, was instantly disqualified from the 17th Open International Tournament held at the Radisson Hotel.

Judge Eric Mouret told the Gazette: "I was alerted to the guy by other players because he was playing with his mac balanced on his lap, which is a little strange, and he kept putting his hand in the pocket.

"I couldn't do anything without proof so I told him to put the mac on a chair, which he did, but he looked lost and went on to lose the match.

"Then later, incredibly, I saw him playing wearing the mac so I stood discretely behind him and

watched. It was then I saw the computer as he took his hand out of a pocket."

Director of the Nice club, which is one of the top five in France, Mr Thierry Foissez added: "It wasn't actually very logical of him because he wasn't going to come in the top 15 and win a prize even if he won.

"He was a modest player and I think he just did it to make himself seem stronger.

"His opponent, though, wasn't playing him - he was playing a computer."

The incident has been reported to the Italian Chess Federation.

Mr Foissez said it is believed to be the first time such a cheat has been caught in an international match. In a recent contest in New York a player used a hidden ear-piece to get advice from a third party.

In Moscow, prestigious match players are now screened for electronic devices before play.

Political giant dies at Le Rouret

THE former Home Secretary of President Giscard D'Estaing's government, Michel Poniatowski, died recently at his home in Le Rouret, aged 79.

Mr Poniatowski, a father of four, had devoted himself to writing the second edition of his memoirs at the house that his father bought in the village in 1925.

President Jacques Chirac paid tribute to Mr Poniatowski's conviction and devotion to liberal ideas and the building of Europe.

He was buried in a family service at the small village cemetery.

New British Consul General

A NEW British Consul General has arrived in Marseilles to take up a four-year posting.

Simon Lever, 39, is a career diplomat with the Foreign Office. He is married to a Thai lady and has a 15-month-old daughter.

"It's a very popular posting and I'm very pleased to have it," Lever told *The Riviera Gazette*.

Eur-a dunce

TWO drug dealers were caught redhanded because they took so long trying to convert francs into euro on their calculators.

The couple, a man and woman, were seized in a park in Ventigmilia, Italy, as the woman had difficulty converting the francs of their French customers into lira and euro for the heroin sale.

The time it took her to work out the transaction was enough for police to arrive and charge all four.

Luxury cars stolen on New Year's Eve

A French-English couple had a Porsche and a Ferrari, together worth nearly €275,000, stolen from their Var home while out celebrating on New Year's Eve.

The couple returned home at around 3am to find all the doors of their villa, a second home in Draguignan, open.

They immediately saw their grey Porsche Boxster, with a British plate, was missing and, when they checked the garage, discovered their new blue Ferrari 360

Modena was also gone. The home's alarm system had been disabled and the telephone wires cut. Inside, furniture had been overturned in every room.

The thieves also escaped with a safe containing jewellery and professional documents.

A police spokesman



DREAM CAR... a Ferrari 360 Modena similar to the one taken

said it was likely to have been the work of professional thieves who had the know-how to disable

the cars' tough security devices. Anyone with information should telephone 04 94 60 61 60.

TOP CANNES AWARD FOR BRITISH LADY

Long time resident and fundraiser is made Citizen of Honour for devotion to promoting links between nations

By Sarah Clark

THE town of Cannes has given a prestigious award, rarely made to foreigners, to a British lady.

Mrs Dorothy Chamaide, who has already been recognised with an MBE, was awarded the Medaille d'Argent de la Ville de Cannes for her lifetime's work fundraising for the town's Sunny Bank Hospital and for promoting Anglo-French relations in the area.

The award makes her a Citizen of Honour of Cannes. It is awarded to only three or four people each year, and very rarely to anyone non French.

"My aim has always

been to promote good Franco-British relations. It's easy to see what we don't agree on, my aim is to show what we do agree on - and that is plenty," said Mrs Chamaide.

Mrs Chamaide, a resident of Cannes since before World War II, is a tireless supporter of France-Grande Bretagne and the Sunny Bank Anglo-American Association.

France-Grande Bretagne is a French association founded during World War I to promote

relations between the two nations. The Cannes branch has over 200 members.

"The idea is to get our members, French and British, to be able to understand each other in

“ It's easy to see what we don't agree on, my aim is to show what we do agree on ”

every way, to get together and show our French members the English way of life," Mrs Chamaide explained.

There are regular lec-

tures and trips. The branch's Saturday Club is particularly popular. Meetings include language workshops where English members help French members and vice versa. Membership of

France-Grande Bretagne costs €30 a year and the Saturday Club costs a further €32 for a 13 week series of workshops every Saturday afternoon.

Sunny Bank is the old Anglo-American hospital in Cannes, built at the end of the 19th Century. It

closed three years ago but its association's work continues.

"We are looking to build a retirement home on a new site inland where six rooms will be kept available for deserving local people who could not otherwise afford the cost," said Mrs Chamaide.

The association will hold an enormous charity sale at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes on March 23 and 24.

For more information on France-Bretagne contact Mrs Chamaide on 04 93 99 04 28.

To donate items to the sale, contact the Sunny Bank Association on 04 93 06 31 06.



HONOURED... Dorothy Chamaide with her Medaille d'Argent

COTE D'AZUR PORTS SHAKE-UP

Emotions run high as public debate on new Nice port closes

EMOTIONS were running high on Tuesday night at the last public debate on the extension of Nice port.

Six hundred people packed the meeting room at Nice Acropolis. The majority opposed the planned extension.

Those in favour say that the existing port can't cope with demand and the city must have facilities to handle the needs of cruise, ferry and commercial shipping now and in the future.

Objectors say that the plans will raise taxes, ruin the environment around the port and will lead to traffic chaos and more pollution.

Cheers

Rousing cheers greeted every anti-Nice port statement. Shouts from protestors often drowned out the words of the project's supporters.

Four different options for coping with the pressure on the port have been put forward, ranging in cost from €1.68 million to €144.83m.

Option one calls for alterations to be made to the internal layout of the port. But its overall dimensions would remain essentially the same.

At between €1.68 million and €20.28 million, depending on the exact specification chosen, it is the cheapest option and would be the quickest to implement. Work would take two and a half years.

By Sarah Clark
and Alison Craddock

Option two is the most ambitious. It comes in two versions.

The first involves building a new 320m long by 45m wide breakwater. It would give the port a total of nine berths for major shipping, including space for the new mega-cruise ships which cannot currently be put into Nice.

This version would also allow a dedicated cruise passenger terminal to be built as well as a shopping area and an NGV fast ferry terminal.

It is the most expensive option, costing €144.83m, and would take six years to complete.

Backing

But it has the backing of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Nice Côte d'Azur and the Mayor of Nice, Jacques Peyrat, who described the many opportunities it could bring to the city.

The second version involves modifying the existing breakwater and rearranging the existing port layout. It would allow a new 300m-long quay to

Objectors say extension plan will blight port area and damage Nice

be built. This would give space for seven berths for major shipping, against nine for version one. But it is much cheaper at €77.75m.

Ferries

Option three proposes that all the Corsican ferries and cargo ships that currently use Nice port are moved to a new location in St Laurent du Var.

With a substantial amount of the existing space now freed up, Nice port could then be rearranged to improve facilities for cruise ships.

This option would cost €83.85m and the work would take six years.

It has the additional advantage that it could be combined with any of the other three options to give a wide variety of future expansion possibilities.

Decision

All solutions involve establishing a quay for NGV ferries on the Île-de-Bauté side of Nice port. The small boats currently berthed here would have to be moved.

A decision on which option will be adopted is due to be made within the month.

St Laurent du Var scheme has airport to ferry link-up

By Alison Craddock

ST LAURENT du Var has put forward an alternative to the Nice plans which includes a link to Nice Côte d'Azur airport.

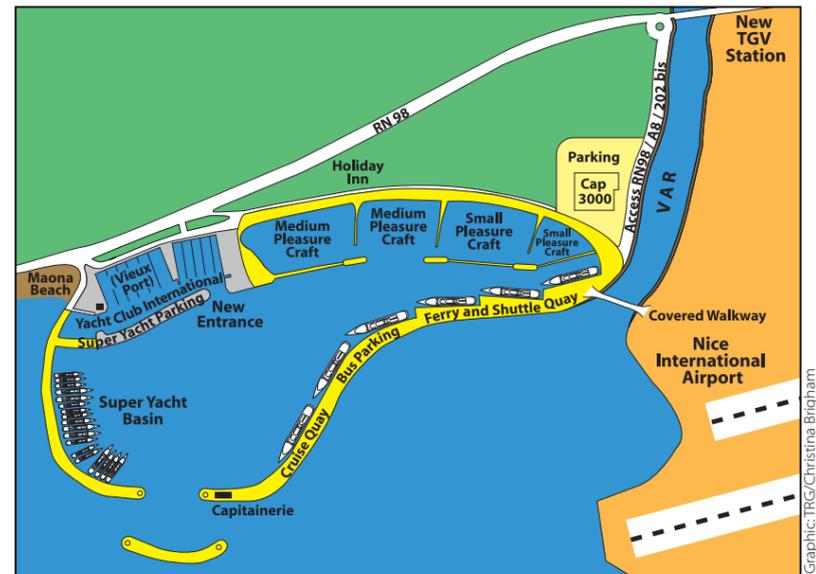
The scheme, announced by St Laurent du Var's Port director Pierre Bonhomme, has been met with approval from the yachting world.

Many had criticised the planned extension to the old port of Nice for not gaining enough new port space. The St Laurent du Var plan would see its existing port grow from the current 1,100 berths to a potential of up to 4,150 at a maximum depth of 12 metres.

The space would be apportioned to accommodate every size of yacht, relieving the shortage of berths for pleasure yachts along the coast.

It could provide up to 4,000 6-8 metre berths, 100 in the 30-50 metre range, and 30 between 80 and 100 metres.

There would also be



GRAND PLAN ... how the proposed port extension at St Laurent du Var would look

room for up to four NGV ferries, and even two to three large cruise liners. They are currently forced to anchor off Villefranche because the region currently has no berths large enough for them.

Bridge

The proposed port's proximity to the airport means it would be possible to use a bridge across the river Var to take travellers directly to a shuttle ferry,

from where they could reach many destinations along the coast.

This shuttle service could also be used by residents from San Remo to St Tropez as an alternative route to work, thereby reducing traffic along the region's already congested main roads.

Enlarging the road from the port directly north along the Var would allow direct access to the A8 motorway, and also to the

proposed TGV station nearby – a project which goes up for public debate at the end of 2002.

An accident in 1979, when 11 people were swept into the sea during construction work on the airport side of the Var river mouth, means that officials are dismissing the plan as too dangerous. But Bonhomme contends that it keeps the port's boundaries well clear of dangerous currents.

Monaco port extension runs €82m over budget



QUAY STONE ... Monaco's new cruise quay takes shape

MONACO'S port extension project is running seriously over budget.

An extra €82.3 million will have to be spent on the port upgrade. It will make it one of the larger ports in the Mediterranean at a total cost of €333.86m.

The authorities say that the cost increase is down to a general increase in prices since the original budget was prepared in 1997, the later addition of several extra upgrades and the innovative nature of the project.

Because of the depth of the water, traditional construction methods cannot be used in Monaco and a new kind of structure is being employed.

This meant that the project had many unknown variables. As the project has progressed, the actual costs have become known

and the budget adjusted accordingly.

The revelation comes as the first major component of the innovative new sea wall, the first of four 'caissons', arrived in Monaco from the construction site in La Ciotat.

The caissons are huge, hollow concrete boxes which, once filled with rubble, form the connection between the mainland and the new, 352 metre semi-floating sea wall, due to arrive in August.

Once complete, the



HERCULEAN TASK ... architect's model shows how Monaco's Port Hercule is being extended

port's capacity will have doubled – and there will at last be facilities to handle the new, larger cruise ships that cannot currently be put into Monaco.

The project will also create one hectare of new land below Fort Antoine, a terminal for cruise ship

passengers, a 250,000 square metre dry dock and 360 parking spaces. Quai Louis II will be built at the end of the existing Quai des Etats-Unis.

A second stage of the project could also see major developments along the sea front

between the Monte-Carlo Grand Hotel and the Larvotto beach area, improving links between the Grimaldi Forum and the rest of the city. There could also be improvements between Larvotto and the eastern border with France.

Villefranche writer waits to see if his Riviera novel will be made into film

Make my Day, author Harry tells Hollywood

LOCAL author Harry Day is attracting Hollywood interest with his first novel, a pacy detective story set on the Riviera.

Two studios are considering making a movie out of First Person Plural, which centres on the seamier side of the luxury life in the area.

Harry, 64, who has lived on the Côte d'Azur for 11 years, will know by Spring if plans for a film will go ahead.

Another production company is considering the story for a television series.

The highly original tale has the added twist of its central characters having at least two personalities. Much of the action is set in Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Nice and on Cap Ferrat.

Harry says he sees his life as a series of coinci-

dences that have led to appointments with destiny.

"The owner of the house I look after has a collection of Fabergé jewellery at another of his homes. When he found out that my wife used to sell it in one of London's leading jewellery stores, he immediately took to us. This sort of thing happens all the time.

Harry can be found in his eyrie, a fantastic mansion perched high on the cliffs above Beaulieu-sur-Mer. Harry and his wife are looking after the house for its American owners.

His earlier career was as a master mariner and a naval architect, which ended with him owning and running a boat yard in North Wales. Then he sold the business and bought and sold houses for a few years.

"I've always been a writer, though, but it is only

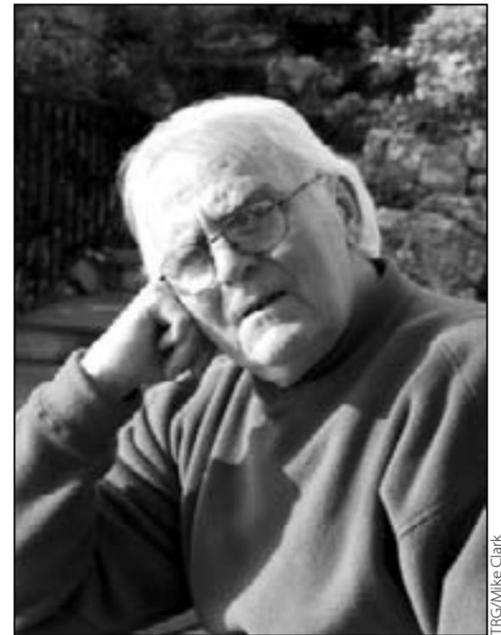
recently that I have had time enough to write full novels.

"The book has gone down well. I'm very excited about the chance of it eventually appearing on the big screen. Several people have said to me that it's a great book, but would make an even better film," he added.

And Harry's advice for aspiring authors? "The message is that perseverance is the name of the game – and not just in writing books. Being in the right place at the right time helps, too.

"My advice to anyone else wanting to write is that you must write every day – without fail."

Harry aims at a modest 400 to 500 words a day. His next book, Beware the Leopard in a Pin Stripe Suit, is due to be published at the end of the year.



WAITING... Harry Day will hear about film by Spring

Luc Besson must get rid of Var pool

FILM director Luc Besson has been ordered to demolish a swimming pool and part of his Var mansion for not having planning consent.

Mr Besson has six months to complete the work on the home which he bought in Bormes-les-Mimosas for €1.83m in 1995.

He lost an appeal against the decision in Aix-en-Provence last month.

The director, whose hit films include The Big Blue, Nikita and Leon, was rebuked by planners

in 2000 for work which surpassed the allowed habitable area for the mansion which stands in 1.4 hectares beside the Var.

He was accused of building without consent and not declaring additional work.

A swimming pool,



TOO BIG BLUES... Besson

banned by authorities because its inclusion created a liveable surface area of 300 square metres more than allowed, was a

particular bone of contention.

Mr Besson claimed that, at the time, he knew nothing of the details of the work and that he had delegated supervision of the building project to a third party. But authorities fined him almost €46,000 and told him to

modify the home so it complied with planning permission.

When he appealed the fine was doubled and he was ordered to demolish the pool and part of the living space, built between 1996 and 1998, by mid-Summer this year.

Villefranche loses out to Nice

VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER'S decision to contest its inclusion in Metropolitan Nice has cost it dearly.

With Beaulieu and St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, the town took its case to the local Tribunal Administratif last month, seeking a ruling that the towns' inclusion in Nice against their wishes was unconstitutional.

Their aim was to put a stop to the creation of Metropolitan Nice, but the tribunal has ruled against the towns. Although they could appeal the decision, the process could take three years.

So Villefranche council has decided to abandon the fight and join Nice.

But the decision comes after Monday's first meeting of Metropolitan Nice council, when elections for key posts were held.

Beaulieu and Cap Ferrat boycotted the meeting, but Villefranche mayor Gérard Grosgeat decided to attend. He wanted one of the vice-presidency posts for himself and his town.

However, other councillors voted against him, choosing instead known supporters of the new council.

Expatriate workshops to make you feel at home

A SERIES of workshops, aimed at familiarising expatriates with life in France, will be run in Sophia Antipolis next week and throughout February.

The sessions are led by French authority experts, in English, and tackle issues such as banking, finding accommodation, education, motoring, finances and taxes and job networking. They are

run by the non-profit agency Adapt in France. Membership costs €50 for an individual and €80 for a couple. Members represent 13 nationalities.

Organiser Sylvie Kirmin said: "We point people in the right direction and give them a basis to work from."

"We started the workshops last year and they were very successful."

The agency also runs

on-site training programmes for company employees. Its resource centre in Sophia and office in Antibes is open twice a week.

To book, contact Sylvie on 04 93 65 33 79 or visit www.adaptinfrance.org

Antibes may test robot cabs

A fleet of next-generation driverless cars may arrive in Vieil Antibes within three years. The cyber-cars would run 24/7 and replace all other traffic.

BRITS ARE THE RICH OF EUROPE

BRITAIN is richer than the rest of Europe, new figures show.

Its GDP, gross domestic product per head, is now £16,466 – 5% higher than Germany (£15,688) and 7% higher than France (£15,386).

This is a remarkable turnaround. In 1991 the GDP of Britain was 19% below Germany and 16% below France.

The change is said to be due to the strength of the pound against the euro and the British economy which was the fastest growing among leading industrial countries last year. The figures, from consultants Oxford Economic Forecasting, come as retailers report bumper Christmas sales, up 7% on last year.

However, Britain's GDP is still 35% below America's and 27% lower than Japan's.

Britons also spend more of their income enjoying themselves than any other European country.

Holidays, drinking and eating out are now top priorities in the UK and if Brits cannot afford such pleasures they are more likely than other Europeans to opt

for credit, claims Eurostat, the official EU statistics office.

British households now spend an average £3,410 a year on leisure – the bulk going on holidays and eating out. In France the figure is £1,873.

Long working hours in Britain and the rising divorce rate are said to have led to more spare cash and a greater desire to socialise.

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Horse-drawn skiing, frozen waterfalls, sleigh rides, heli-skiing, driving on ice (for fun!) as well as top class



IT'S

Next month's half term school break is the traditional time to head to the mountains for winter sports. Gazette reporter **Emma Newham** sloped off early to see what was on offer in the local ski resorts...

T

Auron

Auron, 90km from Nice, is the largest ski-area in the Alpes-Maritimes, situated at 1600 metres. It has 130km of alpine and cross-country ski runs as well as Surf-Land for snowboarders. There are 37 ski runs, with a new one due to open this winter along with new off-piste ski sections in the Lieuson area. Snow cannons keep 4km of piste open with artificial snow.

Away from the slopes, there is an ice-skating rink, cinema, swimming pool and a gym with sauna and hot tubs. Sleigh rides are also on offer as are quad bikes and snowmobiles which can be hired from €15.24 for 15 minutes. Children can join in with baby-scooters for those aged five and up and electric scooters for three and four year olds.

Auron has a good range of hotels, mostly 2 star, plus the 3 star Le Savoie. Apartments and gîtes can be booked through central reservations agencies but hotels must be booked directly. Hotels offer special weekend rates, including ski pass, on half-board basis, starting at €124 for two nights in a 2 star hotel.

Especially for kids ESF Mini-club offers half day or full day activities for four to seven year olds in a special kids area and there is a crèche for two to five year olds, tel: 04 93 23 35 51. A list of baby sitters is available from the tourist office **Runs** 4 green, 13 blue, 13 red, 7 black **Daily ski pass** at weekends and during holidays is €22.11 for adults, €18.90 for students, €16.01 for children under 12 **Ski school** École de Ski Français (ESF), tel: 04 93 23 02 53, fax: 04 93 23 01 74 **Apartment reservations** tel: 04 93 23 02 66 **Gîtes reservations** tel: 04 92 15 21 30 **Tourist office** tel: 04 93 23 02 66, fax: 04 93 23 07 39, email: auron@wanadoo.fr, web: www.auron.fr.st

St-Dalmas-le-Selve

Saint-Dalmas-le-Selve is the highest village in the Alpes-Maritimes. Its 38km of cross-country ski routes incorporate two frozen waterfalls.

Daily ski pass is €4.5 for adults, €3 for children **Tourist office** Mairie, tel: 04 93 02 41 01

Peira-Cava

Inland from Menton, perched above the valleys of Paillon, Vésubie and Bévéra, Peira-Cava is aimed at cross-country skiers and walkers. It has a nursery slope.

Tourist office Maison de Pays de Lucéram et du Haut-Paillon, tel: 04 93 79 46 50

Castérino

Castérino is a cross-country ski station with three runs, totalling 20km, in the Roya Valley.

Tourist office tel: 04 93 04 73 71, email: info@tendemerveilles.com, web: www.tendemerveilles.com

Isola 2000

Isola 2000 is 90km from Nice and situated between 1800 and 2610 metres. It boasts 48 pistes, totalling 120km, giving scope for all levels. There are runs for cross-country skiers, a snow-park for snowboarders and an area for solo and linked toboggans. If you fancy a go at horse-drawn skiing (ski joëring), introductory sessions start from €9.15. Guided heli-skiing trips are also offered with prices ranging from €275.

There are lots of other activities both on and off the snow. You can drive a car or kart on ice from €29, hire a snowmobile from Chalet du Belvédère or ride a quad bike.

For those wanting a slower pace, there are sightseeing tours by helicopter and horse sleigh rides. Aquavallée, which is open all year, offers a place to relax with its 25m by 4m tropical lagoon, sauna, hammam, solarium, gym and squash courts.

Isola 2000 has a good range of all accommodation from the 4 star Chastillon and Le Diva hotels to apartment rentals, small hotels and gîtes. Away from school holidays and peak weekends, prices can be as low as €75 per person for ski pass and two nights

accommodation, based on four people sharing a studio. Weekly packages start from €136.

The resort also offers a sun and snow guarantee with a free return trip offered if you don't see the sun or snow for three consecutive days.

Especially for kids Le Club Back to Back, one of the largest snowboard clubs in France, offers lessons during school holidays, tel: 04 93 23 92 49. Le Club de Sport d'Isola 2000 organises competitions and activities during the school holidays for 6-14 year olds, tel: 04 93 23 10 91. From four years and up ESF's Le Caribou is the resort's ski school for small children. A list of daytime and evening baby sitters is available from the tourist office **Runs** 8 green, 19 blue 17 red and 5 black **Daily ski pass** at weekends and during holidays is €22.10 for adults, €18.80 for students, €16 for children under 12 **Ski school** ESF, tel: 04 93 23 28 00 **Accommodation** Central reservations, tel: 08 05 01 25 25, email: info@reg-isola2000.com **Tourist office** tel: 04 93 23 15 15, fax: 04 93 23 14 15, email: info@isola2000.com, web: www.isola2000.com

Estenc-Entraunes

Situated at 1,250 metres, at the confluence of the Var and Bourdoux rivers, some 100km from Nice, this station offers one ski slope and three cross-country runs of 11km in all. Snow shoe exploration trips are also available. Contact the Mairie of Entraunes for accommodation information.

Daily ski pass is €7 or €4.5 for a half day **Tourist office** Mairie of Entraunes, tel: 04 93 05 51 26, fax: 04 93 05 50 03, email: mairie.entraunes@smtm06.fr

Gréolières-les-Neiges

Gréolières-les-Neiges is the closest resort to Nice, being just 27km from Grasse, so is the easiest to visit for a day trip. As well as its 30km of ski runs, it offers a fun tube, 30km of cross-country ski runs and great tobogganing for children – an excellent way to give youngsters their first experience of snow. Toboggans can be hired easily. New at Gréolières this winter is the Espace Trappeur, 20km of walks offering panoramic views. Snow shoes, which can be hired on-site, are essential. Artificial snow can

cover 4km of piste. Gréolières has two small hotels and a range of apartments.

Runs 7 green, 3 blue, 13 red and 2 black **Daily ski pass** costs are €19.67 on Sundays and in school holidays, €16.16 at other times. Half-day passes are available. Cross-country skiing is €6.10 for adults, €4 for children. A season ticket costs €65 **Ski school** ESF, tel: 04 93 59 70 03 **Tourist office** Mairie in Gréolières, tel 04 93 59 95 16

L'Audibergue

L'Audibergue covers the communes of Andon and Caille at an altitude of 1640 metres. It is 32km from Grasse and offers views of the Côte d'Azur, the Îles de Lérins, the Var and the Alps. It has 22 ski runs and a nursery slope, covered by a snow cannon. There are 28km of cross-country and snow shoe runs including the 'Ours Brun' run which crosses the plain between Andon and Caille. For accommodation information contact the Mairie in Andon.

Runs 7 green, 8 blue, 6 red and 1 black **Daily ski pass** is €19.94 for adults, €9.15 for children. Half day passes are also available **Ski school** ESF, tel: 04 93 60 73 38 **Tourist office** Mairie in Andon, tel: 04 93 60 45 40



ss runs and cross country routes – The Riviera Gazette has found it all within a reasonable drive of Nice

SKI

(And did you know,
it started here
back in 1909...)

TIME

SKIING has been around for at least 4,000 years but only became a recognised sport at the end of the 1800s.

A Nice-based climber, the Chevalier de Cessole, became fascinated with the sport after watching a ski event at Mont-Genèvre, near Briançon in the Hautes-Alpes in 1907. In 1909, he formed the ski-club des Alpes-Maritimes and that year the club held its first ski competition at Turini-Camp-d'Argent.

La Colmiane was founded as a ski centre in 1931, quickly followed by Valberg and Beuil. Skiers had to climb

the mountain on foot until Valberg put in the first mechanical ski lift in the Alpes-Maritimes in 1936. A year later Auron installed Las Donnas, the third cable car in France.

Alpine skiing, though, was still seen as eccentric.

Cross country skiing and ski jumping were the only 'sports-on-planks' staged at the first Winter Olympics, which were held in Chamonix in 1924.

But it grew in popularity, and when Chamonix held the first World Downhill Championships in 1937, the modern sport was born...

Val-Pelens/ Saint-Martin- d'Entraunes

Inland from Valberg, the ski station of Saint-Martin-d'Entraunes is aimed at children. There are eight ski runs, three cross-country routes and walking circuits. Snow shoe trips are also organised.

Runs 4 green, 3 blue, 1 red **Daily ski pass** from €9 **Tourist office** Mairie of Val-Pelens, tel: 04 93 05 51 04

Roubion-les-Buisses

Seventy kilometres from Nice, near Valberg, the ski station at Roubion-les-Buisses is open every day during school holidays, as well as Wednesdays and weekends during the rest of the season. Its seven ski lifts give access to 30km of ski slopes including the newly opened l'Isard black run in the forest of Mèlèzes. Access to the ski lift on the nursery slope is free as are the 12km of cross-country ski runs covered by one green and one red route. Snow shoe discovery tours are also available from the resort.

Accommodation can be booked through the tourist office.

Runs 3 green, 5 blue, 12 red and 2 black **Daily ski pass** €13 for adults and €10 for children

Tourist office tel: 04 93 02 10 30, email: ot.roubion@smtm06.fr, web: www.roubion.com

Turini- Camp- d'Argent

Just inland from Peira-Cava, Turini-Camp-d'Argent offers four ski slopes but focuses mainly on cross-country skiing with 15km of runs based at Col de Turini. The resort has a toboggan run and, uniquely for the area, a dog sleigh is also available.

Runs 1 green, 1 blue, 2 red **Tourist office** tel: 04 93 03 60 54

La Boréon

Ten minutes from Saint-Martin Vésubie, next to Lake Boréon and near La Colmiane, La Boréon offers five cross-country ski routes over a total of 30 kms. There's also a circuit for walkers.

La Colmiane/Valdeblore

La Colmiane positions itself as an outdoor activities centre for lovers of open spaces with 30km of piste including 16km of cross-country ski runs and snow shoe routes through beautiful scenery. Cross-country explorations are available for €57.96 on skis and €28.97 on snow shoes (price includes equipment hire). Nature discovery days and other walking tours are also available.

The resort aims to become a top snowboarding centre so has been investing heavily in snowboarding facilities for this winter. Its two hectare snowboard site is kept open with artificial snow.

The La Colmiane area includes the traditional mountain villages of La Bolline, La Roche and Saint-Dalmas where modern and traditional accommodation is available. Information on apartment rentals is available from the tourist office.

Runs 6 blue, 4 green, 9 red, 2 black **Daily ski pass** (at weekends and during holidays) – €14.60 for adults, €11 for under 12s **Ski school** ESF, tel: 04 93 02 83 57 **Tourist office** tel: 04 93 23 25 90, fax: 04 93 23 25 91, email: otcolmiane@wanadoo.fr, web: www.colmiane.fr

Valberg/Beuil-les-Launes

Valberg is an official P'tit Montagnard resort, designated by Ski France as being particularly suitable for children. Just 86km from Nice, Valberg offers 90km of ski runs, 20 hectares of which can be covered by artificial snow. The 25km of cross-country skiing area includes one green and two red runs. A 10km route is available for walkers wearing snow shoes. The resort also has a ski jump. For snowboarders, the Snow-parc has artificial snow facilities and this year has opened a new children's structure.

New in the resort this winter is an area for boarder cross and the chance to have a go at driving karts on ice. Other facilities in Valberg are a sauna, cinema, disco and sports hall.

Valberg is linked by ski runs to the historic village of Beuil so you can stay in, or visit, one of the first ski centres in the Alpes-Maritimes. Valberg has a good selection of accommodation. Outside of school holidays, special weekend and weekly packages are available from €100 per person for

two in a studio. This includes group skiing lessons and ski passes.

Especially for kids Under sevens can learn to ski at the Parc des Oursons, run by ESF. More experienced children can join in Club ESF's competitions at weekends and during school holidays. For kids aged 14 months to six there's a crèche, tel: 04 93 02 57 10 **Runs** 11 green, 13 blue, 22 red and 12 black **Daily ski pass** at weekends and during holidays is €20.20 per day for adults, €14.80 for students and €12.40 for under 12s. A pass covering Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday is available for €29.50 for adults, €20.20 for students and €10.90 for children under 12 **Cross-country skiing** is €5.50 for adults and €4 for children, per day **Ski school** ESF, Valberg tel: 04 93 02 51 20; Beuil tel: 04 93 02 31 11 **Accommodation** central reservations, tel: 04 93 23 24 32 **Tourist office** Valberg, tel: 04 93 23 24 25, fax: 04 93 02 52 27, email: ot@valberg.com, web: www.valberg.com; Beuil, tel: 04 93 02 32 58, fax: 04 93 02 35 72

HOW TO GET THERE BY ROAD OR AIR

It's a good idea to have snow chains for your car for all mountain trips in Winter. It's a legal requirement to carry or fit them in many places. You can buy them at petrol stations or supermarkets from about €25. If you don't have a car, or prefer not to drive, these bus and helicopter services will help.

Auron By bus: Santa Azur runs a regular bus service from Nice bus station. Reservations, tel: 04 93 85 92 60

By helicopter: from Nice to Auron, tel: +377 92 05 00 50

Isola 2000 By bus: Santa Azur runs a daily service, in sea-

son, leaving Nice bus station at 9:15, the railway station at 9:30 and Nice airport at 9:50. Travel time is two hours; reservations are required, tel: 04 93 85 92 60.

By helicopter: from Nice or Monaco, tel: +377 92 05 00 50

Valberg By bus: Broch runs a daily service leaving Nice bus station at 8:30, tel: 04 93 31 10 52

La Colmiane/Valdeblore By bus: La TRAM leaves Nice bus station at 8:30, on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, tel: 04 93 89 41 45



Coffee Time

STARS

with TV's John Garland

February 2002



AQUARIUS

20 January–18 February

Talk to the right people between the 10th and 14th, because your potential is greater than you realise. You will feel so much healthier, happier and less frantic if you strive to loosen up with loved ones. The 12th's New Moon is in your own sign, suggesting that if you persevere, money and personal events will fall into place, especially if you're single.

PISCES

19 February–20 March

You'll feel that you've taken on a new lease of life, so make the most of personal and career discussions on the 2nd, 10th and 21st. After the 14th you could amaze others with your imaginative ideas. You will want to take charge of things but some outdated routines will hold you back. Nevertheless, the 27th's Full Moon spins new attractions to excite your heart and mind.

ARIES

21 March–20 April

Aries is a force to be reckoned with, energetic, protective and bold. However, you must tame your high voltage impulses, especially on the 8th, 9th and 24th. The 12th's New Moon underlines everything to do with networking, travel, business and creative output. Romantic connections are favoured between the 14th and 23rd. Who says you don't have the willpower to succeed?

TAURUS

21 April–20 May

You can be your own worst enemy, so avoid the temptation to argue about petty details. Take any personal criticism with a pinch of salt, but don't assume that you should always have the final say. The 12th's New Moon is bright for travel and partying, although the overall pattern is threaded with both financial and personal challenges. Go all out for what you want.

GEMINI

21 May–20 June

Affairs of the heart will thrive between the 1st and 14th, but not without some heart-searching. Chill out and remember that silence is golden. Financially, your efforts are set to sparkle. You'll be in top shape, so pour your optimism into one main project, rather than scatter your talents to the wind. The 27th's Full Moon is a potent phase for untangling whatever is frustrating you.

CANCER

21 June–20 July

Friends and loved ones will be keen to join you for outings and entertainment. Your ruler the 12th's New Moon is in radical Aquarius, to help you make important career, business and other practical connections. However, just because others keep their plans hidden, doesn't mean that you should. There is much to be gained by trusting and talking openly. In fact, it could mark the beginning of a whole new chapter.

LEO

21 July–21 August

Tempers could heat up on the 10th, 12th and 19th. Leos are known to have a volatile temper, but there's no part of ourselves we cannot control. Your career success depends on who and what you know, so promote your wishes on the 8th, 14th and 23rd. If you're romantically inclined, you are more likely to meet those who share your ideals between the 9th and 15th.

VIRGO

22 August–22 September

You'll have a lovely time picking and choosing items for the home and garden. In fact, anything to do with making and repairing things will bring satisfaction all round. Whatever goes wrong, gets mislaid or pushed to one side, put your Virgoan flexibility into action. Also, handle any disruptive influences as calmly as you can. Be guided by your intuition.

LIBRA

23 September–22 October

It's going to get so busy, that you'll wish you had an extra pair of hands! Homely activities will take care of themselves, but relationships could be uneasy. The secret is to speak from the heart, rather than be too analytical. Fortunately, the 12th's New Moon reinforces all work dealing with negotiations or the public. Meanwhile, spread your wings on the 10th, 14th, and 23rd.

SCORPIO

23 October–22 November

Planetary magic weaves lots of ideas to improve your lifestyle. If you're careful, you'll get value for money on what you buy for decorating or generally beautifying your home. Romantic togetherness and social happiness go hand in hand. However, as far as work and money are concerned, you must be decisive on the 12th's New Moon. Tick off the 3rd, 14th and 23rd as the best days to be upfront.

SAGITTARIUS

23 November–20 December

If you're owed money, or trying to get a fair deal, you'll have to clear the air and talk tough, otherwise things will just drag on. You've every right to draw the line, but you too will have to compromise. Accept the ups and downs as tests on your optimism. Fortunately, co-operation and your extra effort will show in what you accomplish.

CAPRICORN

21 December–19 January

You're not usually known for high speeds, or doing things without first testing the water. Once in a while, your Capricornian instincts give you the green light to play a wild card. Make your special aims days, the 9th, 19th and 27th. Take care not to push your luck on the 2nd, 10th, 22nd and 24th. If you want to mix and mingle with good results, then circle the 1st, 2nd, 16th, 22nd and 24th.

Hagar the Horrible

by Chris Browne



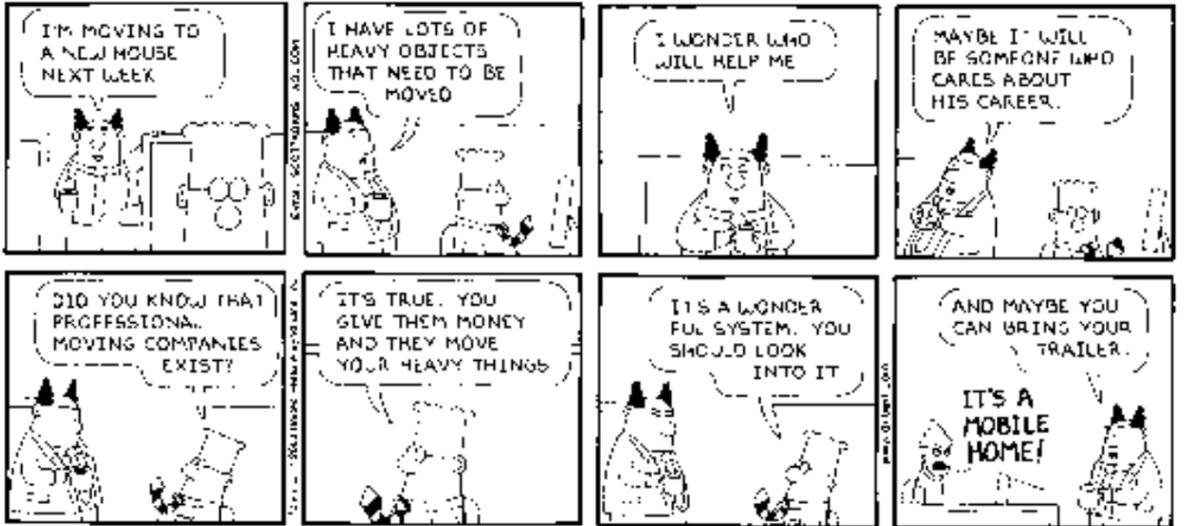
Pooch Café

by Paul Gilligan



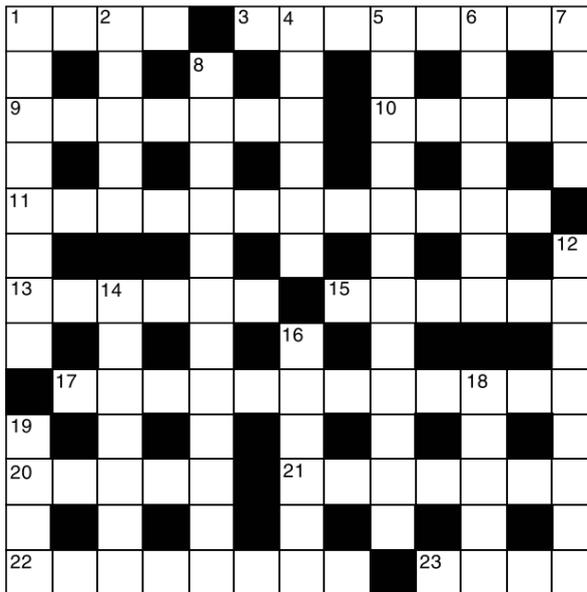
Dilbert

by Scott Adams



DOUBLE CROSSWORD

No 10,001



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- Liver concoction for the head (4)
- Unusual price ring by America is very valuable (8)
- What Pied Piper's music proved to be? (3-4)
- Observed to have been scored? (5)
- Bill follows delightful flower (5-7)
- They are held up for brides! (6)
- One who is after a different search (6)
- Clearly a job for men of craft (12)
- The vice of a number in tents (5)
- Fifty in the street, maybe, giving support for the board (7)
- Remove from a lofty perch from the other end (8)
- Love personified in the rose-garden (4)

DOWN

- A priest is disturbed about a hanger-on (8)
- In the manuscript it left a name (5)
- Make better repertory atmosphere (6)
- This contains a wicked light! (6-6)
- Not within the regulations for criminals (7)
- It is often required to weaken the spirit (4)
- Stationery for what journalists are doing (7-5)
- In newspapers half the rogues make some advance (8)
- Transversely what has changed painting (7)
- Endless fruit for the ruler (6)
- Kind of section to put underground (5)
- Put on sweet paste as a piece of nice decoration (4)

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE 10,000

QUICK:
Across: 6 Develop; 7 Delay; 9 Scrap; 10 Artiste; 12 New Year's Day; 14 Genealogist; 18 Present; 19 Court; 21 Caper; 22 General.
Down: 1 Bench; 2 Relate; 3 Top; 4 Begins; 5 Partial; 8 Arrange; 11 Cyclone; 13 Hearsay; 15 Easter; 16 Stores; 17 Break; 20 Fee.
CRYPTIC:
Across: 6 Treason; 7 Pains; 9 Strip; 10 Written; 12 A fool and his; 14 Disposition; 18 Pairing; 19 Brigs; 21 Money; 22 Are soon.
Down: 1 Grate; 2 Tariff; 3 Pop; 4 Parted; 5 Anaemic; 8 Breadth; 11 Consent; 13 Picador; 15 Parley; 16 Onrush; 17 Age of; 20 Art.

The grids are the same, but the answers are different. Have fun!

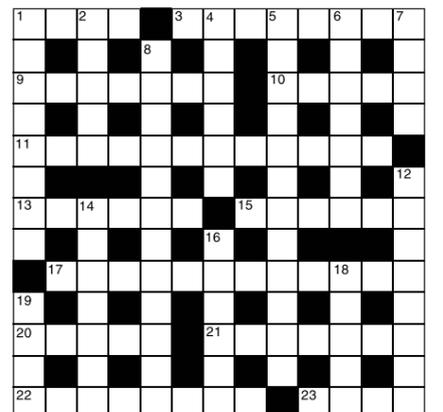
QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Diversify (4)
- Muster (8)
- Generous (7)
- Lock (5)
- Break up (12)
- Pang (6)
- Strip (6)
- Temporariness (12)
- Tapestry (5)
- Object (7)
- Mirth (8)
- Narrate (4)

DOWN

- Ratify (8)
- Gowns (5)
- Vendor (6)
- Exorbitant (12)
- Respire (7)
- Simple (4)
- Sinner (12)
- Airy (8)
- Depraved (7)
- Collision (6)
- Recess (5)
- Scourge (4)



RIVIERA PEOPLE



210 brave dip

UP to 210 people braved the chill in the air, not to mention the chilly water, to wave goodbye to 2001 with a dip in the sea at the traditional Bain de Noël on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice. Among the hardy band was the city's mayor Jacques Peyrat, pictured left, who smiled all the way through – no doubt confident of a warmer reception at the next elections...

South African dinner afloat



THERE were smiling faces all round as the South African Club of the Côte d'Azur held its annual Christmas dinner aboard the restaurant boat The French Riviera.

The boat made a voyage around the islands off Cannes for the evening, which included dancing.

Outgoing president Gabriela Fontaine, pictured right, said: "It was a lovely evening, everyone had a great time."



Time marches on

THE University of New Hampshire's marching band was one of several performing on the Croisette in Cannes on New Year's Eve.

The 111 band members paid their own way to travel to Europe to play just twice – in Monaco during the morning and Cannes after lunch.



Radio Caroline South hosts Nice roadshow



RADIO Caroline South presenters Mark Dezzani and Tom Anderson drew the crowds to Wayne's Bar in Nice old town earlier this month for the station's first ever roadshow. The evening featured live music from Medi, an up-and-coming band just signed to ex-Eurythmics Dave Stewart's new record label.

Radio Caroline South can be heard locally every Saturday and Sunday from 7pm to 1am on 88.4FM. The next roadshow will be in Antibes in Spring.



CIV's Cinders cast proves charming

A HUMOROUS version of Cinderella proved a sell-out for Valbonne's CIV school's annual pantomime.

Students from the school's international section, aged from 12 to 17, played to a full house for two nights.

The play and lyrics were written by head of Arts Kathryn McGrath. English/Theatre teacher Nora Louise Syran wrote the music.

Cinderella was played by Ashley O'Neill and the two ugly sisters by Luke Stratte-McClure and Eoin Healey, pictured below. Special mention goes to Sami Souabni



who played King Hangover and Luke Dillon-Mahon, Prince Charming, for particularly good performances.

Robin Sturley (pictured above) was Haroldson, King Hangover's butler.



So that's what they look like...

REVEALED – the faces behind the voices of Riviera Radio. Our snapper spotted a beaming Mike Holloway proudly displaying his bounty from the station's charity auction as he enjoyed a drink, or two, with fellow presenters Mark 'Mr Showbiz' Abson, centre, and Peter Mackley, right, last month. Mike couldn't resist bidding

for the silver-plated Quich, a Scottish ceremonial drinking cup, at the auction in Stars'n'Bars, Monaco – but colleague Neil Myers was the auctioneer and is well known for his sweet talking. All money raised goes to the Guide Dog School at Biot and UNICEF. Riviera Radio can be found on 106.5FM and 106.3FM

Monaco's Panto a real treasure – oh yes it was ...

THIS year's Drama Group of Monaco Christmas Panto, Treasure Island, was a resounding success with up to 1,000 people enjoying the show.

The cast of over 50 (pictured right) performed four shows at the Salle des Variétés in Monaco, raising €5,800. The money will be split between Jeune d'Ecoute, a Monaco children's charity, and Helen's House, a children's hospice in the UK.

Show director Anne Batt said: "We do about three shows a year but our Christmas one is the real star and has gone from strength to strength."

"Our first show was six years ago and we had six in the chorus, this year we had 40 so you can see how it's taken off."

"It's tremendous work with a non-professional cast but we end up putting on a show as good as found in any rep in England."



All photos: TRG/Mike Clark. Reprints may be ordered on 04 93 09 66 43.

Riviera Diary

Pick of the month

Plenty happens on the Riviera, but how often have you only heard about something *after* the event? You need never miss out again with The Riviera Gazette's comprehensive diary listings...

■ The **69th Menton Lemon Festival**, the Fête du Citron, kicks off on January 31st. The festival celebrates Menton's position at the centre of the region's citrus growing area and takes place over a two week period. This year's festival takes Pinocchio as its theme and includes parades of giant floats, decorated with lemons, which promenade along the sea front accompanied by Brazilian bands, folk groups, dance troops and majorettes. The festival begins with a fancy dress Children's Carnival on the afternoon of January 31 and parades then take place every Sunday afternoon and Thursday evening until February 17. As well as the parades, there will be a large exhibition area, featuring giant sculptures covered with citrus fruits and illustrating the story of Pinocchio, in the Biovès gardens between 1 February and 17 February and the Palais de l'Europe will be hosting an orchid exhibition and an Arts and Crafts Fair. Tickets for the parade start at €7.62 and can be purchased at Menton Tourist Office or by calling 04 92 41 76 76.

■ The **Combat Naval Fleuri**, Villefranche-sur-Mer's unusual annual carnival, takes place on February 11. The event begins at 2pm with a carnival parade through the town and is followed at 2:30pm by a flower parade in the harbour.



FEELING FRUITY... Menton's world-famous Fête du Citron starts on 31 January

■ **Pavarotti** visits the Salle Nikaïa, Nice on July 6 for one night only. Book through www.ticketnet.fr or at Fnac, Carrefour or Galeries Lafayette.

■ Twenty of the region's top potters will be displaying their works at the Salle des Expositions in Vallauris until 25 February. The display forms part of the **1st Salon Professional du Syndicat des Artisans Potiers de Vallauris**, CREA. The exhibition is open every day except Tuesdays from 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:30 to 17:30 at Espace Grandjean in the Salle des Expositions, Vallauris.

■ Keep the kids happy and active over the school winter holiday period by signing them up for a week's worth of half-day sports

courses with **Club Omnisports de Valbonne**, based at the CIV School in Sophia-Antipolis. Beginning 4 February, over-8's can join courses on rock climbing, horse riding, fencing and kayaking, and there's also a basketball course for over sevens. The next week sees courses on rock climbing for 10-14 year olds, horse riding and archery for the over eights, gymnastics for all ages and an introduction to various sports activities for four and five year-olds. Courses cost between €50 and €85 and are for members only, but you don't need to be affiliated with the school and an annual membership is inexpensive at €30 for individuals and €65 for families. Book direct with the COV on 04 92 94 33 43.

■ The yachting season gets underway the first weekend in February with the **XVIII Primo Cup - Trophée Credit Suisse**. Organised by the Yacht Club de Monaco, a record 179 yachts representing 10 classes, including a number of Olympic race boats and close to 800 crew, will compete over two consecutive weekends. There will be a prize giving at the Yacht Club de Monaco for each event, the first on Sunday 3 February at 18:00 for the Stars and the Beneteau 25s, the second on Sunday 11 February at 18:00 for all other classes.



AT SEA... The TNT Primo Cup

■ The first meeting of the new **Celtic Society**, a group for those interested in the literature, music and arts of the Bretons, Irish, Welsh and Scots, will be held in the coming weeks. Anyone interested in joining the society, or helping to get it established, should contact Brian McDowell on 04 93 08 32 78.

Nice Carnival, King of Euroland

WITH a history dating back to the Middle Ages, Nice Carnival is one of the world's most important.

It began as a period of feasting, merry-making and foolery prior to forty days of fasting for Lent, and the first parade in the modern tradition took place in 1830.

Held in honour of King Charles-Felix and Queen Marie-Christine of Piedmont-Sardinia, some thirty carriages paraded in front of the monarchs and the local people took to the streets wearing disguises and throwing plaster confetti, flour and eggs at each other.

Today, the flour and eggs have largely been replaced by paper confetti and spaghetti bombs - 15 metric tons of confetti and 50,000 spaghetti bombs are consumed during each Carnival Parade.

The festivities are led by His Majesty King Carnival. He arrives in Place Masséna at the start of the Carnival on the evening of January 31 in great pomp, surrounded by revellers, to sit upon his throne for an 18 day reign.

Carnival parades take place each

By Sarah Clark

Sunday afternoon and are set to include twenty floats designed on the Euro theme, some 500 'big heads', and street theatre and music groups from around the world.

The floats have been designed by newspaper cartoonists from across the world and include contributions from cartoonists on Libération and Nice-Matin, Germany's Die Welt, The Irish Times, El Mundo in Spain, the Financial Times, the New York Post and the Moscow Times.

On Saturday evenings and on the evening of Wednesday 6, the Parade of Lights is held. For these parades, the floats, Place Masséna and Avenue Jean-Médecin are lit up with garlands of multi-coloured lights.

Carnival finishes on the evening of February 17 when His Majesty King Carnival marches alone, escorted by his executioners, to be ceremonially burned. This year he will be accompanied onto the bonfire by the French Franc. The bonfire is followed by a firework display.

Nice Carnival also includes several 'Batailles de Fleurs'. The origin of



WALKING TALL... His Majesty King Carnival arrives in Nice's Place Masséna

these flower parades lies in the exchange of bouquets of flowers between the carriages of rich winter visitors in 1876. This was observed and soon became a popular and integral part of Carnival.

The parades will take place each Saturday afternoon. This year there will be twenty floats, all decorated with fresh flowers.

Some 4,000-5,000 flowers adorn each float, and they are accompanied on foot by teams of young people

dressed in costume and wearing extravagant headdresses.

Traditionally an event for the 'common people', to encourage everyone to join in, anyone coming to the Carnival Parades or the Parades of Lights in carnival or fancy dress gets in free. In ordinary clothes, a ticket will cost €20 in a numbered stand or €10 standing.

1,200,000 million people attended last year's carnival, but only 160,000 paid to get in...

Monte Carlo or bust

THREE hundred and fifteen classic rally cars from the 1950s, 60s and 70s will be converging on Monaco on January 29 for the culmination of the 5th Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique.

The rally is no sedate afternoon trip in the sunshine. It's a real race, fiercely competitive, with a mixture of former professional rally drivers and keen amateurs tackling challenging mountain stages, night runs and twisty roads.

Eligible cars must be identical to models raced in the Monte-Carlo rally between 1955 and 1977. Cars participating include several Mini Coopers, a Porsche 911 or two, an Aston Martin DB 2/4, Jaguar E Types and a Mk II, Morgans and MG As.

The teams come from eighteen different countries and include ex-Formula One driver Jean Alesi and his father Franck, driving a classic Mercedes-Benz loaned by the factory. The UK, regarded by many as the spiritual home of rallying, has 35 teams entered in the event.

The race begins on January 26 with the teams setting off from one of four departure points at Barcelona, Turin, Bad Homburg and Reims. They then race to the convergence point at Vals-les-Bains in the Ardèche to start their joint run into Monaco on January 28.

The crowds are not huge at this event. Finding a good viewing spot should present no problems and departure times are staggered over a four hour period, making it easy to sit back, open a picnic basket and settle down to spend the afternoon watching the cars race by. Then wander down to Quai Albert 1er to get a close-up look at the teams and their cars as they prepare for the night run. Jean Alesi departs at 7:30pm.

The rally route

Entering our region, the teams set off from Gap on the morning of January 29, arriving on the D85 at Sisteron, via Barcelonnette, between 10am and 2pm. They then leave Sisteron on the D3 and head towards Puget-Theniers via Entrevaux on the D202. From Puget-Theniers they head for Monaco on the D27, follow the D202 again for a while, head onto the A8 at the junction with the D202, pass the Péage and then descend into Monaco from exit 56 of the A8 via Cap d'Ail and onto Quai Albert 1er, arriving between 2.45pm and 7pm.

In the evening they set off again from Quai Albert 1er between 7:30pm and 11:40pm for the final Monaco-Monaco leg, the famous Turini stage. This involves a five hour night drive through the mountains, beginning with a tour through Monaco, passing the Casino square, the Jardin Exotique, Cap d'Ail, Beausoleil, La Turbie, Peille and onto L'Escarene and Sospel before heading right into the mountains at La Colmiane and Valdeblorre before heading back to Monaco in the early hours of January 30 via Luceram, Drap and the monastery at Laghet.

What's on

Your guide to this month's events on the Riviera

Listings

Info for readers...

◆ before a day shows the event's final day.
■ after a listing signifies the last day of an event.

Info for contributors...

Please submit listings in writing at least ten days before publication. Please include dates, prices, times and a contact phone number. Listings can be sent by post or fax (04 93 09 66 53) or by email to diary@theriviergazette.com. Listings appear free of charge, but inclusion is at the sole discretion of the listings editor.

January

26 Saturday

Burns Supper Organised by the British Association of the Alpes-Maritimes and the Var and including the full haggis, neeps and tatties. At La Bastide des Moines, Montferrat at 19:00. Tickets cost €30 for members, €33 for non-members. Contact Selwyn Glick on 04 94 47 06 28

Fête de la St Blaise, du Raisin et des Produits du Terroir Weekend festival in Valbonne, featuring artisans' food market, flower market and activities. There's a childrens' carnival this afternoon at 14:30 featuring a fancy dress competition with a childrens' stories theme, open to 3-12 year-olds. Face painters will be on hand in Place de Arcades between 14:00 and 16:00. Tomorrow sees a Carnival Procession through the streets of the village. It begins at 14:30 and concludes in Place des Arcades at 17:00 with entertainments, mulled wine and hot chocolate. Tel: 04 93 12 34 50. ◆ Jan 27

Quatrix Opera for children, written and directed by Jean-Michel Bossini and performed by the Cannes Music Academy. At Théâtre La Licorne, Cannes at 16:00. Tel: 04 92 99 31 08

Fête du Pétardier Castellane celebrates the liberation of the village from protestant troops in 1586. The village will be turning out in period costume for a reconstruction of the battle and there will be a variety of displays and activities as well as a special market. Tel: 06 82 23 57 17

5th Pro Am Golf International At Cannes Mandelieu Golf Club. Tel: 04 92 97 32 00. ◆ Jan 27

Chinese Calligraphy Demonstration and workshop by Lin Chi-Yi at the Musée des Arts Asiatique, Nice, at 15:00. Tel: 04 92 29 37 00

Impressions d'Afrique Market, activities, exhibition and batik workshop, all on an African theme. At Place de l'Eglise, Biot from 10:00 to 17:00. An exhibition of African masks is also open until February 2 at the Centre Culturel. Tel: 04 93 65 57 99

Célébration de la Fête de Sainte-Dévote Procession on Avenue J-F Kennedy, Monaco, at 18:50 followed by mass at Sainte-Dévote church at 19:00. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16. ◆ Jan 27

Duo Isabella d'Este Flute and viola concert at Palais Carnolès, Menton at 15:30. Tel: 04 92 41 76 76

Carnaval de Clans Fancy dress carnival evening in Clans village. Tel: 04 93 02 91 34

Gospel Voices Gospel music concert at Espace S Grappelli, St Laurent du Var at 21:00. Tickets €15.24. Tel: 04 92 12 40 23

Corso du Mimosa Procession to celebrate the first Mimosa flowers. Help garland the floats for tomorrow's procession through the streets of Pegomas. Tel: 04 93 42 85 17. ◆ Jan 27

Volleyball: Cannes v Calais Professional ladies' league match at the Palais des Sports in Cannes at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 39 60 47

Volleyball: Nice v Paris Pro A men's league match at Salle Palmeira, Nice at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 87 63 77

Football: Nice v Nancy League Division Two match at Stade du Ray, Nice, at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 84 18 55

Skiing: Mémorial Jean Pazzi Skiing competition in Valberg. Tel: 04 93 23 24 25 ◆ Jan 27

Skiing: Grand Prix de la Colmiane Skiing competition, la Colmiane. Tel: 04 93 02 88 80

5th Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique The Monte-Carlo Historic car rally. Tel: +377 93 15 26 00. ◆ Jan 30

Le Sacre du Printemps Modern dance performance to music by Stravinsky, choreographed by Angelin Preljocaj and performed by the Berlin based Staatskapelle dance troupe. At the Théâtre de Nice at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 13 90 90 for reservations.

5th Pro Am Golf International See Jan 24

Skiing: Coupe d'Europe de Freestyle The European cup for ski acrobatics at Isola 2000. Tel: 04 93 23 15 15. ◆ Jan 27

27 Sunday

Célébration de la Fête de Sainte-Dévote Mass at 10:00 at Sainte-Dévote church and an organ recital at Monaco Cathedral at 17:00. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16

Vitouse II Concert at the Nice Opera House celebrating the work of Jean-Pierre Rampal at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40

Nicolas Spiel Recital at the Église St Pierre, Haut de Cagnes at 21:00. Tickets cost €2.20. Tel: 04 93 20 61 64

Chants de Merveilles Concert at the Église St Grégoire, Tourrettes sur Loup at 16:00. Tel: 04 93 24 18 93

M Pascaud and J Gésina Guitar and piano concert at the Théâtre de la Cité, Nice at 18:00. Tel: 04 93 16 82 69

Tea Dance At the Palais des Congrès, Grasse. Tel: 04 93 36 66 66

11th Festival d'Art Sacré Performance by the Orchestre Chambre du Philharmonique de Nice at the Cathedral in Vieil Antibes at 15:00. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00

Concert Découverte Jeunes Concert showcasing young musicians performing Mozart at the Opéra de Nice at 11:00. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40

Vélo Sprint Bitois Cycle race starting at Place des Déportés, from Gattières to Biot. Tel: 04 93 58 11 63

Nabucco Opera by Giuseppe Verdi at the Salle des Princes, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco. Performance at 15:00. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99

Corso du Mimosa See Jan 26 ■

Coupe d'Europe de Freestyle See Jan 26 ■

Fête de la St Blaise, du Raisin et des Produits du Terroir See Jan 26 ■

5th Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique See Jan 26 ■

Célébration de la Fête de Sainte-Dévote See Jan 26 ■

Skiing: Mémorial Jean Pazzi See Jan 26 ■

5th Pro Am Golf International See Jan 24 ■

28 Monday

Les Lundis du Conservatoire Concert at the Palais des Congrès, Juan-les-Pins at 18:30. Tel: 04 92 90 54 40

5th Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique See Jan 26 ■

5th Pro Am Golf International See Jan 24 ■

29 Tuesday

Belen Maya 'The Goddess of Flamenco', dancer Belen Maya, gives the first of two performances tonight at the Théâtre de Grasse at 19:30. Tickets cost €19. Reservations: 04 93 40 53 00. ◆ Jan 30

5th Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique See Jan 26 ■

5th Pro Am Golf International See Jan 24 ■

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www.nicecarnaval.com or tel: 04 92 14 48 00. ◆ Feb 17

69th Fête du Citron The annual Menton Lemon Festival kicks off with the fancy dress Children's Carnival today. Parades take place at 14:00 on Sundays 3, 10 and 17

February and at 20:30 on Thursdays 7 and 14 February. The evening parades will be followed by fireworks. Tickets for the parades are €7.62 or €13.72 and €7.62 for the citrus exhibition. Packages combining entry to both cost from €13.72. Call the box office on 04 92 41 76 76 or contact the Menton tourist office on 04 92 41 76 53. ◆ Feb 17

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FUN CLUB ... pictured left to right are 'The Forum' members Dawn Glynn, Leslie Palanker-Jermyn, Lisa Leboucq, Simon Glynn and, far right, Rebecca Palmer at the Hop Store in old Antibes. The Forum is a new but already thriving social club aimed at putting younger newcomers to the region in touch with each other. Members, mostly aged mid-20s to mid-30s, meet around once a month in a pub atmosphere for drinks, conversation and fun. The first meeting was held in late November last year and already the club has over 50 members. Rachael Dickens, a recent arrival from the UK, told The Riviera Gazette: "I came to France by myself, and I didn't know anyone when I arrived. I've found these people really friendly, and now my French mobile phone has some numbers stored on it". The next meeting takes place at the Hop Store on February 9, starting at 20:00. In keeping with the club's relaxed outlook, just turn up and ask for The Forum, or call Simon Glynn beforehand on 06 22 82 16 18.

2 Saturday

Marché de la Truffe Truffle market at the Hôtel de Ville, Villeneuve Loubet. Morning only. Tel: 04 92 02 60 50

Bal de Riviera Danse Ball at Salle Léo Lagrange, Mouans-Sartoux at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 75 75 16

Concert VI Music by Bartok and Brahms with violin soloist Vera Brodmann-Novakova and cellist Zela Terry at the Nice Opera House tonight at 20:00 and tomorrow at 16:00. Tickets cost between €6 and €21. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40

Basketball: Antibes v Gravelines Pro A championship match at Espace Jean Bunoz, Antibes. Box office: 04 93 33 32 32

Hockey: Ladies' Premier Division Finals The finals of the French national ladies' championship at Gymnase J Granelle, Villeneuve Loubet. Tel: 04 93 20 20 48. ◆ Feb 3

Volleyball: Cannes v Bordeaux Men's Pro A championship match, at the Palais des Sports, Cannes, at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 39 60 47

Football: Nice v Caen League Division Two match at Stade du Ray, Nice at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 84 18 55

14th Première Rampe International circus competition for under 18s, at Monaco's big top in Espace Fontvieille. Features young clowns, acrobats and jugglers from France, China, Russia, Italy and the USA. They will be competing for the prestigious K d'or, awarded by a jury presided over by SAS Princess Stéphanie. Tickets are available from +377 37 77 90 17, prices start at €11.

Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act See Feb 1 ■

TNT Primo Cup See Feb 1 ■

Salon Forma Pro See Feb 1 ■

Zig-Zag See Feb 1

Fête de la St Blaise See Feb 1

Carnaval de Nice See Jan 31

3 Sunday

11th Festival d'Art Sacré Performance by the Ensemble Vocal des Alpes-Maritimes at the Cathedral in Vieil Antibes at 15:00. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00

Orchestre Régional de PACA Concert at the Théâtre Noga Croisette, Cannes, featuring music by Britten, Paganini and Schubert at 16:30. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77

Yunnan Circus Troupe 15-strong Chinese acrobatic troupe appear at Monaco's Stade Louis II today at 17:00. Tel: +377 92 05 40 67

Philharmonique de Nice Médiathèque Concert in Mouans-Sartoux. Tel: 04 92 92 47 24

Skiing: Valdeblore Challenge Competition for children at La Colmiane. Tel: 04 93 02 88 80

American Football: Superbowl Late opening for live TV coverage of the biggest football game of the year at Stars'n'Bars, 6 Quai Antoine 1er, Monaco. Starts at midnight. Tel: +377 93 50 95 95.

Hockey: Ladies' Premier Division Finals See Feb 2 ■

Concert VI

Riviera Diary

8 Friday

Ensemble Baroque de Nice Concert series at Église Saint-Martin-Saint-Augustin, Nice at 20:30 tonight and Feb 9, at 16:30 on Feb 10. Tel: 04 93 80 08 74. ♦ Feb 10

Baptist Trotignon Trio Jazz concert at MJC Picaud, Cannes at 21:30. Tel: 04 93 06 29 90

Sailing: TNT Primo Cup Second weekend. See Feb 1

Il Matrimonio Segreto See Feb 6

9 Saturday

La Fête du Mimosa Festival celebrating the first flowers of spring in Mandelieu La Napoule. This year's theme of magic will be followed through the week-long festivities, starting with a trip to see mimosa growers followed by a magic show tonight. A procession of floats will go through the town tomorrow and on Feb 17. The world of magicians is explored in an exhibition at the Palais des Congrès Europa throughout the week. A children's carnival takes place on Feb 13, the start day for the traditional market which continues until Feb 17. An opera, classical music concert and comedy night are also planned for the festivities. Tickets are available from the tourist office. Tel: 04 93 49 95 31. ♦ Feb 17

Fête de la Ste Appollonie Events and activities in La Gaude village, celebrating its patron saint. The festivities begin tonight at 20:30 with La Nuit des Sosies and continue tomorrow with a parade at 10:00 followed by a church service. Tel: 04 93 24 47 26. ♦ Feb 10

Carnaval des Neiges Carnival day in La Colmiane. Tel: 04 93 23 25 90



THE PEKING ACADEMY BALLET... Founded in 1954, the Peking Academy is China's leading ballet school and draws its dancers from the best talent in the country. They perform at the Théâtre Palais Croisette in Cannes for one night only on February 9. Tickets costs €24 or €28 and can be booked on 04 92 98 62 77.

at 20:00. Tickets from €6 to €21. Tel: 04 92 17 40 00

Skiing: Grand Prix de la Ville de Nice Takes place today in Auron. Tel: 04 93 23 02 66

Skiing: 2nd Big Boarder Tour Stage 1 of a regional snowboarding competition takes place today in Roubion-les-Buisses. Tel: 04 93 02 10 30

13 Wednesday

Bal de la St Valentin At Espace Centre, Cagnes sur Mer at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 20 85 46

Carnaval de Nice See Jan 31

La Fête de Mimosa See Feb 9

14 Thursday

AGM The Annual General Meeting of the Cannes branch of the British Association of the Alpes Maritimes and the Var. At St Donat Golf Club, Mouans Sartoux at 11.30, followed by lunch. A new chairman will be elected. Tel: 04 93 09 09 68

Nuit de la Saint-Valentin St Valentine's Day ball at the Hermitage Hotel, Monaco at 21:00. Tel: +377 92 16 40 00

69th Fête du Citron See Jan 31

15 Friday

Vania Cohen-Aloro Piano Recital at the Salle des Variétés, Monaco at 20:30. The programme includes works by Chopin, Schumann and Bach. Tel: +377 93 25 67 83

16 Saturday

Saint-Valentin St Valentine's Day ball at Salle Falcoz, Vence. Includes the election of the Queen of Vence and a dinner dance. Starts at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 58 06 38

Carnaval des Bouffets Carnival in the streets of La Colle sur Loup with various folk music groups. Tel: 04 93 32 68 36

La Route d'Or With the Club 2CV Côte d'Azur. Meet up at Salle Léo Lagrange, Mouans-Sartoux. Tel: 04 93 60 99 69. ♦ Feb 17

Basketball: Antibes v Hyères Pro A

championship match at Espace J Buno, Antibes, at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 33 32 32

Volleyball: Cannes v Ajaccio Men's Pro A championship match at the Palais des Sports, Cannes at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 39 60 47

Snowboarding: Mini Riders Big Air and Snowboard Cross Country Race at Isola 2000. Tel: 04 93 23 15 15 ♦ Feb 17

Carnaval de Nice See Jan 31

17 Sunday

Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo Performance at the Grimaldi Forum at 18:00. Tel: +377 99 99 20 00

Snowcoot Snowmobile competition at La Colmiane. Tel: 04 93 23 25 90

Brocante-Artisanat Craft and flea market at Port de Plaisance, Beaulieu sur Mer. Tel: 04 93 12 32 21

Les Sundays Symphonique Performance by the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo and the choir of the Opéra de Monte-Carlo at the Grimaldi Forum at 18:00. Tel: +377 99 99 20 00

Orchestre Régional de PACA Concert at Théâtre Noga Hilton, Cannes at 16:30. The programme includes works by Bartok, Rozsa and Schumann. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77

Classic'Azur Recital by four young soloists from around the region, part of a series organised by Interim'art. At the Palais des

Congrès, Juan-les-Pins at 16:30. Tel 04 92 93 14 13

Fête du Mimosa Festival with folk bands playing in Rue St Sébastien and Place des Arcades in Biot, 10:00 to 18:00. Tel: 04 93 65 78 00

La Fête de Mimosa See Feb 9

69th Fête du Citron See Jan 31

La Route d'Or See Feb 16

Skiing: Mini Riders See Feb 16

Carnaval de Nice See Jan 31

Goodbye to the French Franc Shops and businesses cease accepting payment in Francs from today

18 Monday

La Charanga Habanera Salsa at Forum Nice Nord at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 84 24 37

Back to School Local schools go back today after the Winter Holiday

19 Tuesday

Prélude 1 & 2 Contemporary Dance with Françoise Murcia at the Théâtre de Grasse at 19:30. Tickets €13. Tel: 04 93 40 53 00

20 Wednesday

Foire de Carnaval In Guillaumes village. Tel: 04 93 05 57 763

21 Thursday

Les Contes d'Hoffmann Performance of the Jacques Offenbach opera at the Nice Opera House at 19:30 tonight, 27 February and 2 March and on February 24 at 14:30. Tickets from €6 to €67. Tel: 04 93 13 98 53. ♦ Mar 2

22 Friday

Nuit du Carnaval de Venise Venice carnival ball at the Hôtel de Paris, Monaco. Tel: +377 92 16 30 00

Bacca Group Concert at Salle Escoffier, Villeneuve Loubet at 20:30. Part of the town's Jazz au Village series. Tickets €10. Tel: 04 92 02 60 50

Destination Bien-Etre Exhibition celebrating 'the art of good living'. Exhibits cover cruise companies, leisure activities, associations and clubs, health and nutrition, beauty, fashion and improvements to home and finances. At Espace Fontvieille, Monaco. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16. ♦ Feb 24

23 Saturday

Carnaval Mouans-Sartoux's carnival takes place this afternoon on Boulevard Urbain from 14:30. Tel: 04 93 75 75 16

Marché à la Brocante Flea market at Espace Chiris, Grasse. Tel: 04 93 36 66 66. ♦ Feb 24

Harp, Vibraphone & Marimba Concert at Palais Carnolès, Menton at 15:30. Tel: 04 92 41 76 76

Origami Workshop and Demonstration With Keiko Yokoyama at the Musée des Arts Asiatiques, Nice at 14:30 and 16:00. Tel: 04 92 29 37 00

Tango Argentin Part of the 'Musicales de Cagnes' series, at the Cinéma Espace Centre, Cagnes sur Mer at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 20 61 64

4th Forum de la Petite Enfance and Salon Bouquins Calins Stands, workshops and exhibitions demonstrating local products and services for pre-school children. At the Palais des Congrès, Juan-les-Pins. Tel: 04 93 61 07 49. ♦ Feb 24

Handball: Villeneuve-Loubet v St Genis National Division Two match at Gymnase Granelle, Villeneuve-Loubet at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 20 20 48

Volleyball: Nice v Asnières Men's Pro A championship match at Salle Palmeira, Nice at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 86 64 31

Football: Nice v Le Mans Division Two championship match at Stade du Ray, Nice at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 84 18 55

Football: Monaco v Guingamp French Première Division match at Stade Louis II, Monaco at 20:00. Tickets from the box office. Tel: +377 92 05 37 54

Destination Bien-Etre See Feb 22

24 Sunday

La Vençoise Cycle run from Vence. Tel: 04 93 58 29 33

Les Sundays Symphonique At the Musée Océanographique, Monaco at 18:00. See Feb 17

Concert Syrnix Piano, violin and cello concert at Vence Cathedral at 17:00. Tel: 04 93 58 06 38

Orchestre Régional de Cannes PACA Concert featuring music by Berlioz and Schumann at Théâtre Claude Debussy at 16:30. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77

Classic'Azur Piano recital. Part of a series organised by Interim'art. At the Palais des Congrès, Juan-les-Pins at 16:30. Tel: 04 92 93 14 13

Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo Concert with music by Vivaldi, Handel and Bach at the Musée Océanographique, Monaco at 18:00. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99

Tea Dance At the Base Nautique, Cap d'Ail at 14:30. Tel: 04 93 78 02 33

Brocante des Professionnels Flea market in the Old Port car park, Golfe Juan. Tel: 06 85 59 05 47

Tea Dance At the Palais des Congrès, Grasse. Tel 04 93 36 66 66

4th Forum de la Petite Enfance See Feb 23

Destination Bien-Etre See Feb 21

Les Contes d'Hoffmann See Feb 21

Marché à la Brocante See Feb 23

25 Monday

Les Lundis du Conservatoire Chamber music concert at the Palais des Congrès, Juan-les-Pins at 18:30. Tel: 04 92 90 54 40

26 Tuesday

27 Wednesday

Giulio Cesare The opera by Handel, performed by the Opéra de Monte-Carlo, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo and dancers from the Académie de Danse Classique Princesse Grace at the Salle du Canton, Espace Polyvalent, Monaco. Gala performance tonight at 20:30, additional performances on March 1 and on March 3 at 15:00. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99 ♦ Mar 3

16th Festival International des Jeux The international games festival features tournaments, workshops and demonstrations on games including bridge, Scrabble and, even, Pokemon. At the Palais des Festivals, Cannes. Entry free, open from 13:00 to 20:00 weekdays, 10:00 to 20:00 at the weekend. Tel: 04 92 59 41 20. ♦ Mar 3

Les Contes d'Hoffmann See Feb 21

28 Thursday

16th Festival International des Jeux See Feb 27

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG... Mandelieu's Mimosa Festival celebrates the arrival of Spring

The Forum Social evening at the Hop Store, Blvd Aguilon, Vieil Antibes from 20:00. Just show up and ask for 'The Forum', or call Simon Glynn in advance on 06 22 82 16 18.

National Ballet of Peking Performance at the Théâtre Palais Croisette at 20:30. Tickets €24 and €28. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77

Bal de la St Valentin St Valentine's Day ball at Espace Centre, Cagnes sur Mer at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 20 85 46

Falla, Maldonado, Phillippes and Ourkouzoun Guitar concert with four guitarists at the Musée d'Art Naïf, Nice at 20:30. The programme includes music by Ravel and Debussy. Tickets €10 and €14. Tel: 04 93 71 78 33

Harp and Flute Concert At Palais Carnolès, Menton at 15:30. Tel: 04 92 41 76 76

Basketball: Golfe Juan v Anjou Division one men's match at Gymnase J Allinei, Golfe-Juan. Tel: 04 93 63 83 34

Volleyball: Cannes v Riom Ladies' professional league match at the Palais des Sports, Cannes at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 39 60 47

Oneyed Jack, Double Nelson Jazz performance at MJC Picaud, Cannes at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 06 29 90

Sailing: TNT Primo Cup Second weekend. See Feb 1

Ensemble Baroque de Nice See Feb 8

Carnaval de Nice See Jan 31

10 Sunday

Virtuose III Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart performed at the Nice Opera House

69th Fête du Citron See Jan 31

La Fête de Mimosa See Feb 9

Il Matrimonio Segreto See Feb 6

Sailing: TNT Primo Cup Second weekend. See Feb 1

Ensemble Baroque de Nice See Feb 8

Carnaval de Nice See Jan 31

Fête de la Ste Appollonie See Feb 9

11 Monday

Combat Naval Fleuri Carnival parade through the streets of Villefranche-sur-Mer, starting at 14:00 and followed by the battle of flowers in the harbour at 14:30. Tel: 04 93 76 33 06

12 Tuesday

Mardi-Gras Children's carnival at Place Marinoni, Beaulieu-sur-Mer from 15:00. Tel: 04 93 01 02 21

Mardi-Gras en Musique Theatrical concert for children at Salle Saint-Exupéry, Menton at 15:00. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99

Carnaval In the Place du Village, Luceram at noon. Tel: 04 93 91 60 50

Les Midis Musicaux Occasional lunchtime concert series performed by the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo. Today's programme includes works by Debussy and Louvier, at the Salle des Variétés, Monaco at 12:30. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99

Football: Nice v Créteil Division Two match at Stade du Ray, Nice at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 84 18 55

Carnaval de Nice See Jan 31

Letters



Send letters to **The Editor, The Riviera Gazette, 738 Route Notre Dame, Cidex 47, 06330 Roquefort les Pins, France**, or by fax to 04 93 09 66 53 or by email to letters@theriviergazette.com

Letters should not be more than 250 words and must carry the writer's full name and address (even if not for publication) and a daytime telephone number to check any queries. Anonymous letters will not be considered and those giving a full name and address for publication will normally take priority. Letters may be edited or cut at the Editor's discretion.

Health queries

Madam,
Having been in conversation with a number of Anglophones in the area, I have become increasingly aware of the confusion that exists concerning rights and obligations in relation to the CMU (Couverture Maladie Universelle).

It would appear that some residents are paying for full private health care whereas others are adamant that this is not possible according to French law – and that everyone should belong to the French system, the CMU.

We also have friends who are thinking of taking early retirement and moving to France. They know that they will be covered by English social security for two years (under EU regulations) and again when they reach official retirement age at 65. However, they are worried about how they would be covered and whether they would remain part of the CMU in the intervening years.

I have also heard that it only needs one person in a family to be contributing to the CMU for all other dependents to be automatically covered.

I wonder if any reader has definitive answers to these questions? I would be glad to hear the experiences of others in these matters.

Yours faithfully,
TIM TURNER

Cagnes-sur-Mer

You've set yourselves a very high standard to keep up and I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

I feel sure that your newspaper will be very well received by those living on, staying on or simply just loving the Côte d'Azur (even from a distance).

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HALLAM-JONES

Le Cannet

Madam,

Congratulations! I really enjoyed the first issue of The Riviera Gazette and shall look out for the next one. It would be really cool to have a real English language newspaper survive and thrive in this region.

Best regards,
MARK DEZZANI

Seborga, Italy

Madam,

This is a good luck card for your new venture. I wish you every success.

I read The Riviera Gazette from cover to cover and particularly liked the 'What's on' part.

I would welcome even more local French news; as a non-French speaker it helps me keep up to date with my community.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE PILLING

CalmCare Ltd

Nice

Rest assured that full coverage of local news is a key part of our remit. Expect to see this section of the paper get bigger and better over the next few issues – Ed.

American Football

NFC Divisional Play-Off 19/20 January
Philadelphia Eagles 33-19 Chicago Bears
St Louis Rams 45-17 Green Bay Packers

AFC Divisional Play-Off 19/20 January
New England Patriots 16-13 Oakland Raiders (after overtime)
Pittsburgh Steelers 27-10 Baltimore Ravens

Upcoming fixtures

Sunday 27 January
AFC Championship game:
New England Patriots at Pittsburgh Steelers
NFC Championship game:
Philadelphia Eagles at St Louis Rams
Sunday 3 February
Super Bowl XXXVI, in New Orleans

Warner wins NFL MVP award... St Louis Rams quarterback Kurt Warner has been named the National Football League's Most Valuable Player for the second time in three years. Warner is the league's leading passer, and guided the Rams to the NFL's best record this season.

Degrading Redskins... The Washington Redskins could be forced to change their team name after the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments passed a resolution urging them to change the "degrading and dehumanising term [which] is offensive and hurtful to native Americans".

Cricket

Records spin... Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan became the seventh bowler to take 400 Test wickets in the third test against Zimbabwe in Galle on 15 January. Muralitharan, playing in his 72nd Test, bowled Henry Olonga for a golden duck becoming the youngest bowler to claim 400 wickets in the fewest amount of Tests.

England draw level... England beat India by 16 runs in the second one day international in Cuttack on Tuesday, to level the six-match series. Chasing England's 250-7, India were cruising at 99 for one before star-man Sachin Tendulkar was freakishly run out for 45 at the non-striker's end. This triggered a middle order collapse from which India could not escape. England were beaten in the first match in Calcutta, despite a century in just 80 balls from Marcus Trescothick.

Aussies make poor start... World champions Australia have made a dismal start to the Tri-Nations series in their own country. Beaten twice by arch-rivals New Zealand and once by South Africa, they finally recorded two straight wins against South Africa to kick-start their challenge.

VB Tri-Nations Series as of 20 January
New Zealand P4 W3 L1 12pts
South Africa P5 W2 L3 8pts
Australia P5 W2 L3 8pts

Football

Spurs v Blackburn in Worthington final ...
Tottenham Hotspur will play Blackburn Rovers in the Worthington Cup Final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on 24 February. Spurs thrashed Chelsea 5-1 at White Hart Lane on Wednesday in their semi-

final second leg – winning 6-3 on aggregate – while Blackburn eased past First Division strugglers Sheffield Wednesday 4-2 at Ewood Park, 6-3 on aggregate.

Forlan joins Red Devils... Manchester United have signed Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan from under the noses of Middlesbrough. The Independiente forward arrived in Britain last week to seal a £6.9m (£11m) transfer.

Derby sack Todd... Derby County have sacked manager Colin Todd just three months after he replaced Jim Smith. For the 17 games that Todd was in charge, Derby lost 11 times. Derby striker Fabrizio Ravanelli has said he is not interested in taking over, despite media speculation that he would be asked to become player coach.

Ruud record... Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy set a new Premiership scoring record when he became the first player to score in eight consecutive games. The Dutchman scored in United's 2-1 win over Blackburn Rovers.

Premiership Results

Charlton Athletic 1 - 2 Aston Villa
Manchester United 0 - 1 Liverpool
Leicester City 1 - 3 Arsenal
Chelsea 5 - 1 West Ham Utd
Derby County 1 - 3 Ipswich Town
Leeds United 1 - 1 Arsenal
Leicester City 0 - 0 Newcastle United
Liverpool 1 - 1 Southampton
Man Utd 2 - 1 Blackburn Rovers
Middlesbrough 1 - 1 Bolton Wanderers
Sunderland 1 - 1 Fulham
Tottenham Hotspur 1 - 1 Everton

Premiership table 23 January

	P	W	D	L	GD	PS
1 Man Utd	24	14	3	7	22	45
2 Arsenal	23	12	8	3	19	44
3 Newcastle United	23	13	4	6	13	43
4 Liverpool	24	12	7	5	9	43
5 Leeds United	23	11	9	3	14	42
6 Chelsea	23	9	10	4	17	37
7 Aston Villa	23	9	8	6	3	35
8 Tottenham Hotspur	23	9	5	9	4	32
9 Fulham	22	7	10	5	1	31
10 Charlton Athletic	23	7	8	9	-1	29
11 Sunderland	23	7	7	9	-6	28
12 West Ham Utd	23	7	7	9	-12	28
13 Everton	23	7	6	10	-5	27
14 Southampton	23	8	2	13	-10	26
15 Blackburn Rovers	23	6	7	10	1	25
16 Bolton Wanderers	23	5	10	8	-8	25
17 Ipswich Town	23	6	6	11	-2	24
18 Middlesbrough	22	6	5	11	-10	23
19 Derby County	23	5	4	14	-24	19
20 Leicester City	23	3	8	12	-25	17

Athletics

Sotomayor tests positive... The 1992 Olympic high jump gold medallist, Javier Sotomayor, has had a second urine sample test positive for banned steroids. The Cuban athlete was tested at a meeting in Tenerife in July 2001. He is unlikely to face any further sanction having retired from international competition last October.

Golf

Boy, 13, chases Tiger... A 13-year-old South Korean boy has made history by becoming the youngest player to qualify for a professional tournament. Jae An made his debut in the New Zealand Open earlier this month, finishing his first round just two shots behind world number one, Tiger Woods.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

● A BIG thank you to everyone who, in such sad circumstances, helped with the arrangements for, and attended the funeral of, Sheila Smith of Valbonne at New Year. Special thanks to our new friends Paul, Dorianne and Hilda for chaperoning us whilst in Valbonne. Cheers! Graham, Kate, Mary and Malcolm.

JOBS

Employment Offered

● WANTED: English person, who can speak French, to give English conversation lessons to couple at their home in St Paul. Call Mrs Zimmermann on 04 93 32 67 26

● THE Riviera Gazette is building a team of enthusiastic local correspondents. A keen interest in local affairs is key. Interested? Call Sarah Clark, Editor, on 04 93 09 66 43 to find out more.

DIRECTORY

Get your business listed here, in every issue. Call 04 93 09 66 43 and ask for Classified Directory Sales

● INTERNATIONAL Baptist Church welcomes you! NICE: 13, rue Vernier, services every Sunday evening at 18:30, information 04 93 24 92 61, SAINT-PAUL: Espace Saint Claire Commercial Centre, Level 0, services every Sunday morning at 10:45, information 04 93 77 31 45

Obituaries

Alfred Henry Heineken, 1923-2002

'FREDDY' Heineken, the brewing magnate whose yacht is moored at Port Vauban, died this month, aged 78.

Freddy Heineken was the grandson of the Heineken founder and said to be responsible for making the company a worldwide brand name.

The family brewery traces its roots back to 1592. Freddy joined the company at 18, starting by carrying sacks of barley. He became chairman of the Heineken holding company in 1979.

Freddy Heineken earned a reputation as a bon viveur, with a passion for private jets and fast cars.

Restaurants

He had a home in the Domaine de la Garoupe on Cap d'Antibes and was often seen eating in the restaurants of old Antibes with his wife.

His yacht 'Something Cool' had been moored in Port Vauban for 20 years. Its flag was put at half-mast on news of his death.

Freddy hit the headlines in 1983 when he and his chauffeur were kidnapped and held prisoner, chained to a wall, in a disused factory in the docks of Amsterdam for three weeks.

He was freed only after a €16 million ransom was paid. He later stepped up security, employing several bodyguards at his Antibes villa.

Queen

The family had another scare in 1987 when the Dutch Queen Beatrix had to be evacuated by helicopter with suspected meningitis, while on one of her many visits to

them in Antibes. The villa was also raided several months later when thieves stole several paintings while the family were away.

Freddy had been in frail health after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage last April.

He is said to have died peacefully during the night of January 3 at his home in Noordwijk, Holland.

Freddy Heineken is survived by his wife Martha Lucille (née Cummins) and his daughter Charlene, who inherits the family stake in the brewery.



HEINEKEN...Antibes resident

● The world has also said goodbye during January to jazz singer Peggy Lee, 81; Former US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, 84; David 'Dave' Thomas, founder of the Wendy's hamburger chain, 69; Stanley Unwin, comedian, writer and master of gobbledeygook, 90; Peter Adamson, Coronation Street's Len Fairclough, 71 and Sir Nigel Hawthorne, the British actor best remembered for playing Sir Humphrey Appleby in Yes Minister, 72.

riviera sport

Watch out for locals in Winter Olympics



OLYMPIC COMPETITORS... Prince Albert of Monaco, right, and team-mate Sebastien Gattuso in St Moritz

The 2002 Winter Olympics kick off on February 8 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Local interest includes the participation of HSH Prince Albert of Monaco in the bobsleigh event. His team came 26th in the Four Man Bobsleigh World Cup in St Moritz earlier this month.

There is some local British interest too. Sebastien Vassoney, 26, a member of the French Snowboarding team, was born in Manchester and his mother is English.

Sebastien told *The Riviera Gazette* that he is "feeling very good" about his chances. "I'm really confident. Now I've got the final selection, I'm looking forward to it."

Sebastien moved from Manchester to France, where his father is a ski instructor, as a baby. He now lives in Bourg Saint Maurice and trains with the La Colmiane Snowboarding Club.

He started snowboarding at 13 when the sport was first taking off. "I'd been skiing since I was five - because of dad - and I wanted to try something different. I didn't think my dad would approve but actually he was really supportive and took it up with me. He pushed me to compete." Sebastien won the national championships in 2000.

Other local interests to watch in Salt Lake City are Doriane Vidal, also from La Colmiane Snowboarding Club, and skiing star Christel Saioni from Provence.

Loeb hands it to Makenin

SEBASTIEN Loeb withdrew his appeal yesterday against the two minute penalty he picked up at the 70th Monte-Carlo Rally last week.

His decision leaves the way clear for Tommi Makenin to be confirmed as the rally winner, his fourth victory in Monte-Carlo. It also gives Makenin an all time record of 24 career wins. Loeb now gets second place.

The controversy surrounded an illegal tyre change made by Loeb's team on his Citroën Xsara WRC before the final stage. Leading by 28 seconds, the team changed tyres during a service break on Saturday afternoon and incurred a two minute penalty.

This penalty was suspended on appeal, but Makenin - driving for the



GALLANT GAUL... Sebastien Loeb was first past the post in his Citroën Xsara, but a penalty put him second place

Subaru team - was unaware of the decision. He claims he slowed down in the final stages.

"We were ready for the fight, but then we knew we did not have to push", said Makenin.

"Then we get to the fin-

ish and are told there were no time penalties. It was very disappointing."

But the Citroën team said the tyre change had been an innocent mistake, made in only their second year in the sport. The French driver claimed a moral victory.

Politics

"It does not matter about the politics of what happened, I won this rally on the road," he said.

There was disappointment for British fans as reigning world champion Richard Burns finished

eighth for his new Peugeot team. "This was not a fantastic result but I cannot say I am unhappy," he said. "I have learned a hell of a lot about the car."

Colin McRae was the highest ranking Briton, finishing fourth behind

his Ford Focus team-mate Carlos Sainz. His hopes of a podium finish ended on the second day when the engine on his Focus started misfiring near the point on the Col de Turini where he has retired in the previous two seasons.

70th MONTE CARLO RALLY/WRC FIRST ROUND

Drivers' World Championship

1 Makenin, 10pts	2 Loeb, 6pts
3 Sainz, 4pts	4 C McRae, 3pts
5 Gronholm, 2pts	6 Solberg, 1pt

Manufacturers' Championship

1 Subaru 12pts	2 Ford 10pts
3 Peugeot 4pts	

(Citroën not competing in championship)

TIM JINXED BY JONAS

TIM Henman once again flattered to deceive as he was knocked out in the fourth round of the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Britain's number one was the top seed remaining in the tournament, but missed his best chance of winning a grand slam event when Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden easily beat him in three sets.

Top seed Lleyton Hewitt was beaten in round one whilst Andre Agassi withdrew before the tournament started and number two seed Gustavo Kuerten pulled out injured during his first round match.

But it was Henman's class against Greg Rusedski in tennis' very own 'Battle of Britain' in the third round that gave

By Chris Brown

Henman a real chance of a first grand slam success.

The British pair fought out a tense battle in front of a sell-out crowd.

The first set saw both players determined not to give anything away in the first grand slam meeting between the two. The quality of play was pleasingly high with Henman showing why many consider him the best volleyer in the game.

Bird

The set went with serve until the tenth game. Henman turned up the heat on the Rusedski serve but at 15/30 Rusedski's concentration was affected badly by a bird flying around the arena. Henman showed his mettle to take the advantage and win the set



DEJECTED... Henman near the end of the Bjorkman match

6-4. Henman started the second set playing some of the best tennis of his career. He immediately broke the Rusedski serve and took command of the match. Rusedski was play-

ing well above himself, but Henman had the edge in class and composure. Rusedski's lack of composure lost him the second set. A close line call when Rusedski had a break

point against Henman at 5/3 went against him. Incensed, Rusedski promptly lost three points in a row to go two sets down.

Impressive

The British number two looked a beaten man but came back in the third set to win 6-1. But Henman never looked like he was going to let Rusedski's emotions take over the match. His cool approach was impressive. He looked like a champion in the making as he won the fourth set 6-3.

But despite the quality, despite the hype, Henman was outplayed by Jonas Bjorkman just two days later. "In all honesty, I got beaten at my own game," said Henman, who lost 6-2 7-6 6-4. "He did everything better than me today."

Dado do nicely! Monaco in Cup quarter finals

MONACO is through to the quarter finals of the French Cup after beating first division rivals Montpellier 2-1 last Saturday.

The winning goal came from Croatian forward Dado Prso in the 84th minute and was no more than Monaco deserved in front of its home crowd.

The match failed to live up to its billing until the final 15 minutes.

Monaco went ahead after 28 minutes through Wagneau Eloi after good work from Marcelo Gallardo. Eloi should have doubled the lead just after half time, when set up by German international Oliver Bierhoff, but his header went wide.

Bierhoff was replaced by Prso after 75 minutes as Monaco looked for a winner, but it seemed as if the home side would

rue Eloi's missed opportunity when Abdoulaye Cissé equalised for Montpellier in the 78th minute. But on 84 minutes, Prso became the hero sending Monaco through.

Monaco goes into the quarter finals with big guns Marseille and Paris St Germain. Marseille dumped Lens out whilst PSG saw off the challenge of Yzeure.

France's lower league sides provided the story of the round by claiming top division scalps. Third division outfit Lusitanos won 2-0 against Bordeaux, Lyon was knocked out by second division Chateauroux 2-0, and fourth division Libourne Saint-Seurin dumped Metz with a 2-1 win after beating Lille in the last round. Metz coach Albert Cartier was sacked as a result.