

**Pub Guide**



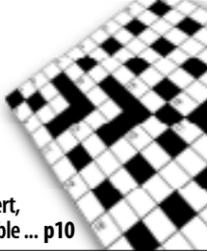
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**What's on?**



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# BISHOP SENT TO CALM ROW OVER MONACO VICAR

**A YEAR-LONG feud at Monaco's Anglican church has led to the unusual move of the church council passing a vote of "no confidence" in its vicar.**

The step led to a bishop being sent to the Principality this month in a bid to reconcile the two sides at St Paul's Church.

The Rt Reverend Frank Sargeant spent several days interviewing interested parties. A statement on his findings will be made by the Church of England's Diocese in Europe next month.

The ten-member church council is unanimous in its criticism of the chaplain, the Reverend Keith Kimber, who took up the post in January last year.

### Detriment

It claims he is "trying to impose changes to the way things are done in Monaco" which are "to the detriment of the church, its congregation and the wider community."

But the Rev. Kimber, 56, says he is fed up of the "childish stories" circulating about himself and that his appointment

## EXCLUSIVE

by Sarah Smith

is a matter for the diocese and not the congregation. He was absent from last Sunday's services due to illness.

The church council claims the Rev. Kimber does not keep them informed of church business and may actually be putting the 77-year-old church, with over 130 members, in a vulnerable situation through his political views.

### Prisoner

They say they asked him not to take up the post when appointed after seeing that e-mails from his previous position in Geneva carried pro-Palestinian attachments asking recipients to boycott Israeli goods. He allegedly agreed but then changed his mind.

They also fear he may jeopardise the church by becoming politically involved in the case of Ted Maher, the American nurse held in jail in Monaco accused of causing the fire in which billionaire banker Edmund Safra died in 1999. They produce no evidence, however, that this is happening.

As a local English-speaking vicar the Rev. Kimber visits Mr Maher.

The "vote of no confidence" was announced in a letter, signed by church

*Continued on page 6*



## STANDING VROOM ONLY

**No seats left even before Grand Prix box office opens**

The Monaco Grand Prix ticket office opens 9am Monday at the Automobile Club de Monaco but no grandstand seats for the May 26 race are available. Only €50 general admission tickets for the hillside Rocher area can be bought for the big day. Internet touts are selling grandstand tickets for €790 plus.

Inside: **World 2 • National 4 • Local 5,6,7 • Coffee Time 10 • Riviera People 11 • What's on 12,13,14 • Letters 15 • Sport 15,16**

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The next issue of The Riviera Gazette will be in newsagents and English bookshops across the region from Thursday 28 March

# CREMATORIUM BOSS 'HID BODIES IN WOODS'

A CREMATORIUM manager has been charged with 118 counts of theft — after allegedly taking money to cremate bodies and then hiding them in nearby woods and outbuildings.

Up to 300 rotting bodies have been found in Georgia, US. County coroner Dewayne Wilson said: "The worst horror movie you've ever seen? Imagine that 10 times worse."

Ray Brent Marsh, 28, reportedly told authorities his incinerator was broken.

However, many of the remains date back at least three years. Others could be more than 10 years old.

The bodies were discovered after a woman walking her dog found a skull in woods near the crematorium.

A search uncovered dozens of corpses and hundreds of body parts almost at once. Some were less than a week old and were easily identifiable. Others were either mummified or skeletons.

Officials now plan to use an underwa-

By Chris Brown

ter camera to see if there are any bodies in the lake on the property. First it will be determined if it is safe for divers to go into the water or if it must be drained.

Other Marsh family members have not been ruled out as suspects. The business has been in the family for more than 20 years.

At least 20 funeral homes that contracted with Marsh's Tri-State Crematory in North-west Georgia could be in danger of losing their licences as the investigation expands.

Local people are angry that it has been allowed to continue without any official knowledge. Under Georgia law, only funeral homes and crematoriums that deal directly with the public are regulated and inspected by the state.

Tri-State contracted with funeral homes, which sent the bodies there for cremation and then received the ashes.

## We only come up to his Neasden

THE world's tallest man lives in Neasden, north-west London. Hussain Blisad, a 7ft 9in Somali with size 26 feet is 27 years old but still growing. Mr Blisad is an asylum seeker in the UK.

"I've never even tried to use the Underground," he told *The Sun*.

## Pope urges divorce boycott

ROMAN Catholic lawyers should refuse to handle divorce cases, Pope John Paul II has said. He said divorce was "spreading like a plague" through society, and lawyers should refuse to be part of the "evil". His comments came at an annual meeting with Vatican magistrates.

## Royal Marines storm wrong country

RED-FACED British Royal Marines had to beat a hasty retreat after storming a Spanish beach resort instead of the fortress rock of Gibraltar during exercises.

A map-reading glitch sent the 20-strong invasion force onto the beach at La Linea, the Spanish town on the frontier with the British colony. The Third Battalion marines were greeted by two local policemen.

## Arafat pulled gun on security chief

YASSER Arafat pulled his gun on the chief of his West Bank security services during a public argument over the growing disorder among the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

Israeli pressure on Arafat is intensifying, with the Israeli PM Ariel Sharon publicly stating that he cannot negotiate with the Palestinian leader.

## UN calls for Chernobyl aid

SIXTEEN years after the Chernobyl nuclear accident thousands of people are still living in contaminated areas and millions are still in need of international assistance, according to a United Nations report.

The study by four UN agencies calls for "an entirely new approach" to help those in a state of "chronic dependency" in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

## Wrinkle-buster rivals Viagra

BOTULISM could soon rival Viagra as one of America's most popular drugs.

Botox, an injectable form of Botulinum Toxin, has been in use since 1991 as an anti-wrinkle treatment.

It is about to be approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for cosmetic use, which will see it enter widespread use.

## Finn is in, say Japanese

FOR the first-time ever a Westerner is to take up a seat in the Japanese parliament.

Finnish-born Marutei Tsurunen made his first appearance in the upper house of parliament and bowed to a round of applause from fellow lawmakers.

Mr Tsurunen, who became a Japanese citizen more than 20 years ago, is well-known for his work as a local politician and writer.

## China admits to 132m unemployed

CHINA has admitted to having about 132 million unemployed people, tens of millions more than previously stated. Officials say that the situation in the world's most populous nation will get worse before it improves.



## World's Muslims gather for Hajj pilgrimage

Thousands of Muslim pilgrims pour onto the plain of Arafat, just outside Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca. More than two million gathered for the climax of the annual hajj pilgrimage at the end of last month. Photo: AFP/Marwan Namaani

## LONDON DIARY

By Gerd Treuhaf

# 1m over-sixties retire to the sun

THE NUMBER of British pensioners living abroad is set to top one million, a study has revealed.

Increasingly wealthy senior citizens are opting to retire to the warmer climes of the Mediterranean, America and Australia.

And there has been a huge rise in the number moving to Italy, France and Spain.

Almost 30,000 now live in Italy - the fastest-growing destination for the over sixties - and the total living in France has

more than doubled in the past decade.

The study, carried out by the Institute for Studies in Ageing at Sheffield University and published in the *International Journal of Population Geography*, reflects a more adventurous and self-reliant spirit among British pensioners.

It found that almost one in 12 now lives abroad - around 950,000 UK citizens - compared with 252,000 in 1981.

Research leader Dr Tony Warnes said he

expects the figure to top one million in 2002.

In the past five years the UK pensioner community in France has gone up by 6.8 per cent to 16,287.

Over the same period, the figures for Italy went up by 7.3 per cent to 26,560 and Spain by 6.9 per cent to almost 40,000.

Among countries with at least 10,000 British pensioners, the highest rates of increase during the past five years have been in Italy, Spain and France.

## Going through the roof

UK HOUSE prices are soaring by £50 a day — the fastest increase for more than 12 years. The average price of a house has broken the £100,000 barrier for the first time.

For £100,000 you can buy a one-bedroom flat in London or Edinburgh. Halifax group economist Martin Ellis said: "The housing market in the UK has reached a historic milestone.

"But it depends on where you want to live and work."

Property values have soared in recent decades. In 1945 the average house price was £1,000. In 1970 it reached £5,000, only to double to £10,000 in 1973.

Since then, values have risen ten times. The £50,000 mark was passed in 1988. In the past three years house prices have

rocketed by an average 37 per cent.

## Life goes on... and on...

PEOPLE in Britain are living an average five years longer than 30 years ago.

But there are wide variations depending on jobs. Professional men can expect to live 78.5 years, up 6.5 years on the 1970s. Unskilled men have a life expectancy of 71.1, says the UK's Office for Statistics.

For professional women, expectancy is 82.8, up 3.6 years. For unskilled woman it is 77.1.

Longer lives were put down to healthier food, more exercise and less smoking.

## Teens behaving badly

BRITISH teenagers are the worst behaved in Europe, a new report

reveals. They have the most sex, take the most drugs and are the most dishonest.

Only the Danes drink more and the Portuguese were the only children to leave school with fewer qualifications.

Author Andrew Miller says poverty is not to blame: "Drug-taking and drinking need disposable incomes," he said.

## Brits are a sad lot

BRITONS are the most miserable people in Europe and the Spanish the happiest.

Women are more likely to suffer the blues, especially if they live in towns and cities. Cities in the UK and Ireland have the highest rates of depression, with 12.8 per cent and 17.1 per cent feeling down respectively. The cheery Spanish clock up 2.6 per cent.

## Cold gets commoner

BRITS are catching twice as many colds as last year.

Up to 9 million people — 15 per cent of the UK population — are suffering and the number is expected to top 9.7 million.

A freezing New Year and children returning to school is being blamed.

## A drink to remember

DRINKING a moderate amount of alcohol can reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease say scientists.

A Dutch study found 197 people out of 5,395 developed the disease over six years.

Those downing one to three drinks a day had a 42 per cent lower risk compared with teetotalers.

The type of drink did not matter.

## Goodbye...

DURING February we said goodbye to Princess Margaret, 71, the younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II; actor John Thaw, 60, who starred in TV dramas *Inspector Morse* and *The Sweeney* — but many here will remember him as Peter Mayle in the BBC's dramatisation of *A Year in Provence*; Actor Stratford Johns, 77, star of TV's *Z-Cars*; Waylon Jennings, 64, US country singer who famously missed the flight that crashed killing Buddy Holly in 1959; Chuck Jones, 89, cartoon animator and 'father' of Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck; and Spike Milligan, 83, comic and author renowned for his role in BBC Radio's *The Goon Show*, which redefined British comedy at its launch in the 1950s.

## The Riviera Gazette

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738 Rte Notre Dame, Cidex 47, 06330 Roquefort les Pins, France

Tel: 04 93 09 66 43 • Fax: 04 93 09 66 53

Editor: Sarah Clark, sclarck@therivieragazette.com

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A million flock to Nice's Euro Carnival and fruity Pinocchio has a whale of a time in Menton

# February was the month to party



FRANCS A BUNCH... Nice Carnival's huge Franc, above, and fireworks, left, and Villefranche's marine flower battle, right



**FEBRUARY** was definitely the month to party as Carnival fever took over Nice and Menton was awash with colour for its famous lemon festival.

Up to a million confetti-hurling spectators joined 385 journalists and film crews from around the world for 18-days of costumed fun in Nice. Over 140,600 tickets for top viewing, at €10 and €20, were snapped up.

The carnival, the city's 118th, took the theme of the Euro. His Majesty King Carnival and 20 floats, designed by top newspaper cartoonists, including a huge-headed character symbolising the expiring Franc, made 13 parades

By Sarah Smith

Photos: Mike Clark and Emma Newham

through the city. Up to 30,000 watched the grand finale of the King being burnt at sea followed by a breath-taking display of fireworks.

The only dampener was rain in the first week which cancelled one of three flower parades and a night parade, costing almost €183,000 in lost flowers and tickets.

Villefranche had more luck with the weather for its Naval Flower Battle — the town's hundredth — and Beaulieu-sur-Mer held a special children's carnival led by dancers flown in from Brazil.

Menton's 69th Lemon Festival

was no less colourful, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world with its theme of kiddie's favourite Pinocchio.

The two weeks of parades, featuring giant floats decorated with oranges and lemons, enchanted spectators as did the display of giant citrus fruit sculptures in the town's Bioves gardens.



MAGIC MOMENTS... Brazilian dancers lead Beaulieu's Children's Carnival, costumed kiddies in Beaulieu and Nice, above centre, and months of labour bear fruit in Menton, right



## HOW TO FIND AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING DOCTOR

**ONE telephone number is now all you need to access English-speaking doctors, nurses, dentists, physiotherapists and other medical specialists across the Côte d'Azur.**

Newly-launched Riviera Medical Services offers a database of English-speaking medical practitioners from across the region, accessible through a central telephone service.

The number is manned by medically qualified, English-speaking professionals.

They ask callers a few questions and then identify the most suitable practitioner to refer them to. Riviera

Medical Services then contacts the medical practitioner, makes an appointment and calls the patient back to confirm arrangements.

In an emergency, the patient will be referred to the nearest or best hospital, an ambulance can be called and the hospital put on alert.

No charge is made for the service. Patients settle up with the doctor or other medical professional as normal, and at standard rates, or simply claim on their medical insurance.

The service can be used to find one-off help, a regular practitioner such as a family doctor or dentist, or simply in case of emergency. The ser-

vice is funded by a modest €70 annual subscription fee paid by each practitioner on the database and, to keep costs down, each practitioner also agrees to man the telephone answering service on a rota basis.

Dr Roland Didonna, who set up the service, told *The Riviera Gazette* "It is a simple idea, based on the existing French-language 'Centre 15' service which takes calls and makes referrals for residents of the whole department.

"All anyone needs to do is call us on 04 93 26 12 70 and we will put them in touch with a medical professional who can help."

### If you need medical help on the Riviera...

- 1 Call 04 93 26 12 70.**
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- 3 The operator will refer you to a practitioner that speaks English — or to emergency help.**
- 4 Wait** for the operator to call back with your consultation time with the practitioner.
- 5 Attend** the appointment.
- 6 Settle up direct** with the practitioner at regular rates. There's no extra fee for the referral service.

## National News

## Germany backs France on US strikes

GERMANY has joined France in opposing military strikes against Iraq, causing further irritation to the US administration over the future path of its war on terrorism.

It should not be allowed to become a global military campaign says Germany's foreign minister, Joschka Fischer.

He also aired worries about what lay behind George W Bush's talk of an "axis of evil" between Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

Germany wants a new regime in Baghdad but doubts whether military action is the best way.

Fighting the spread of weapons of mass destruction "is not the same subject as the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington," Karsten Voigt, the Foreign Ministry's co-ordinator for US-German co-operation, told a radio station.

The EU is promoting friendly ties with Iran and North Korea so US hostility is seen as a calculated slap in the face for Europe. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also straining relations. Many European leaders believe US policy is too pro-Israel.

## Catholics' bid to ban Swastika poster fails

A BID to ban a film poster showing a cross twisted into a swastika in the red and black colours of Catholic bishops has failed.

A Roman Catholic group sought to get the poster banned. Agrif, the General Alliance Against Racism and for Respect of French and Christian Identity, says it offends religious sensibilities by linking "the symbol of absolute hatred and the symbol of absolute love".

The poster was designed by Oliviero Toscani, the Italian photographer behind the controversial Benetton advertisements. It promotes the new French language film Amen.

The film is about real-life SS officer

Kurt Gerstein who tried to warn the world, and the Vatican in particular, about the Holocaust at the same time as supplying gas to the Nazi camps.

The wartime pope, Pius XII, has been accused of being aware of the Holocaust but not acting to stop it.

The poster has also been criticised by prominent French Jews who, in a statement, said "we consider this amalgam of the Nazi emblem with a religious symbol to be unhealthy."

Judge Jean-Claude Magendie has ruled that the poster may remain in circulation. He says that the legal strength of the objections is not strong enough to warrant a limiting of the freedom of expression.



CRITICISED... the Swastika film poster

## Stink over fake Emmental

A CHEESE importer has been fined for labelling a New Zealand cheese as Emmental.

An association of cheese-makers, the Syndicat Interprofessionnel du Gruyere Francais, declared the cheese a fake as it fails to meet the Codex Alimentarius, the globally-recognised standards for international food trade.

Importer Boudringhin from Saint Omer, northern France, called the ruling "protectionism." The cheese, imported from the New Zealand Dairy Board, had earlier been scientifically tested in France as Emmental.

## Nuclear tests by supercomputer

FRANCE is to stop testing nuclear weapons in the Pacific and transfer the role to a supercomputer.

The French Atomic Energy Commission has invested in a new Compaq machine, seven times more powerful than any other in Europe.

The computer can perform five trillion calculations per second.

## Next stop Moo-scow

RUSSIA is importing French cows to increase the quality of its herds.

Up to 10,000 French pedigree cows are being delivered to a different Russian region each year for the next 10 years.

The first cows are going to Tyumen in Western Siberia where the beef cattle are badly needed for breeding.

Pedigree cows are short in Russia where only 160,000 remain of the 18 million before the 1917 revolution.

## What a plonker

A BORDEAUX wine merchant has admitted mixing Bordeaux and cheap plonk and selling it as Medoc.

Jacques Hemmer told the court he did it because he did not have enough good wine to meet demand. Over 400,000 gallons of the mixture was sold by his firm Viti-Vinicole.

## Non-EU rights boost

THE European parliament has backed a plan to give equal treatment to long-term residents of EU member nations, regardless of whether or not they come from an EU country.

The plan would give all residents access to the same level of social security and healthcare cover.

## Chirac and Jospin pitch passion against reason in countdown to April vote

## GLOVES COME OFF IN PRESIDENCY BATTLE

THE eternal battle of passion versus reason will be played out in France over the next two months as the fight hots up for the most powerful position in French political life — the presidency.

Incumbent President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin are the two big guns.

They have been slowly easing off their gloves for several months but with the prime minister's official declaration, the countdown to the Chirac vs Jospin bout has begun in earnest.

The Gaullist French president and socialist prime minister are joined by 17 other candidates in the two-round

By Chris Brown

election. But, despite the strong early showing of former interior minister Jean Pierre Chevenement, they are still the front runners in the polls.

For President Chirac, the buzzword is "passion" — his passion for France and the French. Making his declaration in front of the cameras in Avignon, he was symbolically positioning himself as the president of all France and the candidate of the heart.

He is fighting his fourth successive presidential election campaign, equalling the record of his former rival, the late François Mitterrand.

Lionel Jospin was true to form; the pragmatic prime minister sent a fax to the AFP news agency, signalling his entry into combat in as understated a way as possible. The two-page mission statement called for a modern and confident France — its implicit message that Jospin is the candidate of reason. Mr Chirac's first major speech was

on crime — a call for a New York style "zero-tolerance" approach.

This issue is a strong area for Chirac and his party, whereas Jospin becomes animated when talking about his achievements with the economy over the last four years. Scandal could dog Chirac throughout the campaign.

A key fugitive from criminal investigations into corruption in President Jacques Chirac's political party is returning to France after seven years on the run in the Caribbean.

Didier Schuller, wanted for questioning over the illegal financing of Mr Chirac's neo-Gaullist party, the RPR, through systematic kickbacks on council housing contracts, provoked near-panic in the RPR when he announced his return.

But the real challenge for candidates could be getting voters to the ballot boxes.

Opinion polls suggest that up to two-thirds are bored with the campaign before it has even begun.

The vote takes place on April 21, with a potential run-off between the two biggest vote winners on May 5.

● Latest polls give Jospin 51 per cent and Chirac 49 per cent — the first time Jospin has taken the lead.



JOSPIN... one of 19 candidates. True to character, he announced his entry with a fax

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## Burgers in, olive oil out

THE famed healthy diet of fish, fruit, vegetables and olive oil, leading to long life for many living on the Mediterranean, is in decline as fast food takes over.

The change is being blamed for the increase in cancer and heart disease in the area, which is now on a level with the national average, according to the Centre for Research into and Fight against Cancer in Montpellier.

The influx of people from northern France and other countries is said to be responsible.

Mediterraneans are still healthier though than people from the British Midlands where 35 per cent of the population eat sweets once a day compared with 25 per cent in the French Mediterranean.

The French eat more red meat than the Midlands but 92 per cent also eat fruit daily compared with only 21 per cent of the British.

## Francs for the memory

NO tears were shed as France finally said "au revoir" to the Franc on February 17.

In two surveys more than half of those asked had no regrets about losing the national currency. "France no longer exists. It's Europe now," some told pollsters H20/DraftWorldwide and IFOP.

Two-thirds of Franc notes had already been collected and destroyed and 95 per cent of cash purchases were made using euros by the February deadline.

All French banks will exchange francs for euros until the end of June and the Bank of France will continue the exchange for up to 10 years.

But the franc is not completely forgotten. Many people are saving some as souvenirs and a private association is planning to build a memorial near Rouen in Normandy.

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## Tonnes of coins for charity train

NICE beat all the records to hand-in 8.7 tonnes of spare centimes for the charity 'Pieces Jaunes' collection.

A huge crowd greeted Bernadette Chirac, president of the Fondation des Hopitaux de France, and judo supremo David Douillet as they arrived on a special TGV at Nice station last month.

The money, all centimes which went out of date with the introduction of the euro, will go to helping children in need.

## Prefecture worker denies cash bribes

A MEMBER of staff at the Préfecture in Nice has been detained on suspicion of receiving bribes.

The 45-year-old woman is believed to have given priority treatment to people seeking public housing in exchange for a bribe.

She admits having accepted 'thank you' gifts from people whom she has helped to find housing for, but denies receiving money.

Investigators claim they have evidence of three instances where she has pocketed money totalling F5,000/€762.

## Local coastline is dolphin haven

THE coastline of the Côte d'Azur is now part of an 85,000 square kilometre marine sanctuary.

Its northern boundary runs from Saint-Raphaël in the Var as far as Tuscany. To the south, it stretches to the top of Sardinia. The western coast of Corsica is also included.

The new sanctuary is home to 25,000 dolphins. Its aim is to ensure that the seas are managed to ensure a balance between the ecological needs of its sea life and the demands of commercial shipping and pleasure boats.

## Restaurant terrace charges double

RESTAURANTEURS in Nice's central pedestrian area will have to pay twice as much this year to use their outside seating areas.

Nice council has increased the rent in Zone Pietonne No1 to €70 per square metre per half-year. It was less than half that in 2001.

It means a restaurant with a 100 square metre terrace will now have to pay annual rent of €14,000. Last year, it would have paid only €6,740.

## Former mayor dies

PIERRE Teisseire, mayor of La Collesur-Loup from 1973 to 1995, died at his home in the village earlier this month, at the age of 89.

His father Honore Teisseire was mayor from 1929 to 1941.

Pierre Teisseire retired from political life in 1995.

He was awarded many medals for his efforts during the Second World War and notably for the work as a liaison officer for the Resistance.

## It woz 'ere

A CLEAN-UP exercise to rid private and public walls of graffiti in Cannes is underway. Since mid-December 700 square metres of graffiti has been removed. Up to €200,000 has been earmarked for the operation.

## Getting better

THE budget for the PACA (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) regions' hospitals has been set for 2002 at €128,431 million, an increase of 2.89% on 2001.

# BURGLARIES UP BY A FIFTH AS RIVIERA CRIME RISES 6%

REPORTED crime in the Alpes-Maritimes rose 6.1 per cent last year with burglaries up by over a fifth, new police figures show.

Street crime and break-ins saw the highest increases of the 117,220 recorded offences on the Riviera in 2001.

Burglaries rose 22 per cent, theft with violence 18.4 per cent and vandalism 11.5 per cent.

But, on the positive side, the clear-up rate rose 2.9 per cent generally for the combined police forces — the police municipal, national and the gendarmerie — and 8.6 per cent for the gendarmerie alone.

Theft accounted for over 70 per cent of offences. Six per cent were

## Grasse is the worst, Menton the best for town crime increases

fraud-based and five per cent were crimes against people.

The rise in violence-related offences was the most worrying, said the Prefet of the Alpes Maritimes Jene Renier Garnier, as it left the public feeling insecure.

The figures are put in the context of an average rise of 7.7 per cent in crime throughout France.

Predictably cities and towns fared worst accounting for 83 per cent of crimes in our area. Grasse had the highest rise of 16.85 per cent followed by Villefranche-sur-Mer (16.18 per cent).

### Var up 13.56%

Crime in Nice rose 11.85 per cent but the clear-up rate also rose by nearly 12 per cent. Rural and semi-

rural areas, which have until now relatively escaped problems, also show cause for concern.

The districts behind and around Cannes, Nice and Grasse saw the worst rise of just over 12 per cent.

The increase is thought to be due to thieves following demographical changes as more people move from urban areas.

Crime in the Var also rose sharply by almost double the rise of the Alpes-Maritimes to 82,464 offences — a hike of 13.56 per cent.

At the other end of the scale several Riviera towns saw a drop in offences.

Crime was down six and a half per cent in Menton, two and a half per cent in Cagnes-sur-Mer and just over four per cent in Cannes.



BURNED OUT... wrecks near Carros last week. Thieves often torch cars after joyriding in them.

## Reported crimes by area

Town	2000	2001	Difference	Trend
Antibes	11,634	12,097	+463	+3.98%
Cagnes-sur-Mer	8,657	8,440	-217	-2.51%
Cannes	15,366	8,440	-654	-4.26%
Grasse	2,635	3,079	+444	+16.85%
Menton	5,507	5,146	-361	-6.56%
Nice	42,375	47,396	+5,021	+11.85%
Villefranche	958	1,113	+155	+16.18%
Total	87,132	91,983	+4,851	+5.57%

## Burglars raid villa 8 times

ONE British Riviera resident has had his villa burgled EIGHT times in 13 years.

Two break-ins came in the same week on the home, whose nearest neighbour is 100 metres away, in the Canton area near Levens. Nearly all were between 11.30am and 2.30pm. No-one has been caught.

The man, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of more break-ins, blames inadequate police numbers and a lack of sophisticated detection methods for failing to catch the culprits.

"The police have only taken fingerprints in the last two cases. We have eight officers locally to deal with a huge geographical area, it is not enough. The criminals are laughing."

The villa now has a high-pitch alarm system which deterred a recent break-in.

# Record 4m crimes nationally but Britain still fares worse

THE national crime level rose by 7.7 per cent last year bringing the total number of crimes committed in France to more than four million for the first time.

New figures show 11,000 crimes now take place every day — the equivalent of one every seven-and-a-half seconds.

Violent crimes, particularly armed robberies, increased by 9.8 per cent in 2001 and there was a sharp increase in offences committed by under-13s.

Theft, notably of mobile phones, accounted for 63 per cent of recorded crimes. Theft with violence saw the biggest

increase — up 23 per cent. The number of rapes rose by 13.2 per cent, car theft by nearly four per cent.

Rural and suburban areas saw the biggest hikes with a rise of 11.9 per cent as opposed to 6.23 per cent in urban areas.

The figures come as the country prepares for the first bout of presidential and parliamentary elections in April, handing a strong card to opponents of socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

The main opposition party RPR, headed by President Jacques Chirac, claims the figures show the government is soft on crime. It also claims Jospin

is indifferent to the country's feeling of insecurity which opinion polls claim is the most-cited fear of residents.

Police chiefs however claim new methods of recording crime account for a significant part of the increase.

France's crime rate is still sharply below that of many other European countries such as Britain and Germany.

● In Britain street crime has risen by more than 26% over the past nine months, new Home Office figures show.

There has also been a sharp rise in the use of guns, prompting Prime

Minister Tony Blair to order a report into how to stop the crime wave.

The biggest rise in street crime was in west Yorkshire, where the number of muggings has jumped by 48% in the past year.

In London, street crime is up 33% from 26,715 reported incidents to 35,572. The figures follow recent high-profile cases of shootings, car-jackings and muggings including the murder of estate agent Tim Robinson who was stabbed in the face and chest as he parked his car outside his home in Battersea, south west London.

## Local News

## Doctor among 80 men on child porn charges

A THOUSAND child pornography videos involving children as young as six have been at the centre of the trial of 80 men in Nice this month.

The trial is the culmination of a five-year inquiry which began in 1996 when ten child pornography videos were seized at the home of a driving instructor in Nice.

Based on information given by this man, investigators were able to trace a path back to two producers, one based in the Charante and the other in Metz.

The investigation also allowed the identification of video purchasers and distributors, some of whom had been openly selling them via Minitel. Defendants include teachers, a doctor and several social services professionals. Sentences of between three months, suspended, and five years have been called for.

## Support for dad accused of killing girl's 'rapist'

THE imprisonment of a father suspected of killing the man his daughter accused of rape has provoked a huge wave of support for his case across the Var.

The 12-year-old girl lives in a care home. Back home for the weekend to celebrate her birthday, she told her father that she had been raped by Icham Ziadi, a 22-year-old Tunisian.

The father immediately set off with his daughter in search of Ziadi and finally found him in a brasserie.

Witnesses say that the daughter pointed to Ziadi and the father shot him dead.

Described as a peaceful man with no history of violence, the father's action has received widespread sympathy.

A petition of support has quickly gained over 3,000 signatures expressing sympathy for his plight.

## Monaco resident forced me to be slave, says girl

A GERMAN woman, resident in Monaco for 17 years, has been brought before the Principality's tribunal correctional after claims she treated a young girl like a slave.

The 53-year-old woman recruited the Polish girl to look after her dogs in July 2001. The girl claims she was made to work from 6am to 11pm every day, without a break or a day off, was unpaid, made to share a windowless room with the dogs and had her return air ticket confiscated. The woman denies the claims.

But the tribunal was informed that this is not the first time that employees have claimed poor working conditions at the woman's home on Avenue Princesse Grace. The prosecution has called for a two month suspended prison sentence and a fine of €3,000. Judgement will be delivered on March 19.

# PRIMARIES AND NURSERIES GET EXTRA CLASSES

## Unions say 300 new teachers needed

THE number of pupils at the region's primary and nursery schools will increase by 980 for September's rentrée.

To cope, 14 new classes will be opened at Ecoles Maternelles (nursery schools) and 19 new classes will open in Ecoles Elementaires (primary schools).

But the budget allocated to the department by the Ministry of Education is smaller than hoped for.

Eleven other classes, where demographic changes mean that demand has fallen, will have to close.

An extra 70 teachers are to be hired but the ratio of pupils to teachers will only rise slightly from 5.01 teachers per 100 pupils in 1999 to 5.10 per 100 pupils at this year's rentrée in September.

Teachers' unions say that 300 new posts are needed to meet requirements.

Ecoles Maternelles			Ecoles Elementaires		
Town	School	Number of Classes	Town	School	Number of Classes
Beausoleil	Centre	+1	Bar-sur-Loup	Amiral-de-Grasse	+1
Cannes	Bocca-Parc	+1	Bendejun	Les Sources	+1
	Bocca Verrerie	-1	Biot	Moulin-Neuf	+1
Cagnes-sur-Mer	Les Canebiers	+1	Cagnes-sur-Mer	Le Logis	+1
Mandelieu-La-Napoule	Curie	+2	Cannes	Mont-Chevalier	+1
	Mistra	-1	Carros	Eluard	-1
Mougins	Saint-Martin-de-Gloue	+1	Coursegoules	Coursegoules	+1
Nice	Saint-Isidore	+1	La Trinité	Les Geris	-1
	Ronchèse	-2	Mandelieu-La-Napoule	Curie	+1
Opio	Mistral	+1		Les Minelles	+1
Saint-Laurent-du-Var	Les Plans	+1	Menton	Franck-Guillevin	+1
	Cassin	+1		Pagnol	-1
Vallauris	Gachon	+1		Centen. Condamine	-1
	Tilleuls	+1	Mouans-Sartoux	Jacob	+1
				Orée du Bois	+1
			Mougins	Saint-Martin-de-Gioue	+1
				Le Haut	+1
			Nice	Saint-Isidore	+1
				Rancher 2	+1
				Ventabrun	+1
				Risso	-1
				Terra-Amata	-1
				Les Acacias	-1
			Saint-Laurent-du-Var	Gassin	+1
			Vallauris	Daudet	+1

Change in number of classes in local schools from next September

## Two new budget airlines start Nice flights in Spring

BMIBABY, British Midland's new low-cost airline, begins flights from Nice to East Midlands Airport in the UK on March 23, with one-way ticket prices starting at €38.

Swedish start-up Goodjet will begin flying Nice-Göteborg four times a week from April 25.

Prices will start at €116 return, tax included, and a daily service will begin in June.

But Easyjet's bid to create a new hub in Paris has been unsuccessful. It had hoped to receive the lion's share of

troubled Air Lib's Paris Orly slots, but learnt this month that it would get only three flights a day – and then only to Geneva.

The airline has also been offered nine slots a day at Roissy-CDG airport near Paris.

These slots could be used to connect Paris with London Luton, Liverpool, Toulouse or Nice, but only during high season.

Meanwhile, Buzz will start flying twice a day between Toulon/St-Tropez and London Stansted from March 23.

## Auron scoops awards but late snow means visitors down by 92%

AURON has been voted 'Best Family' and 'Best Value for Money' resort in a prestigious Alpine resorts review — a welcome boost after late snowfall caused visitor numbers to drop by up to 92 per cent last month.

"Auron's winning combination of sunshine, great value lift passes and quality ski instruction make it ideal for families and beginners," says the annual *Le Figaro* report.

"We are extremely proud to have been selected ahead of such well-known resorts as Alpe d'Huez and La Plagne", the resort's General Manager, M. Mus Hadade, told *The Riviera Gazette*. "We have worked long and hard to achieve our reputation as an eminent family resort."

The award is a ray of sunshine for local ski resorts, where the late arrival of snow and the lowest total snowfall for 20 years has hit hard.

"The poor snowfall this season has brought the number of skiers in January down 92 per cent on expected figures," M. Hadade explained.

"Recent snowfall has allowed a

By Alison Craddock

slight recovery, but businesses here are still operating at 50 per cent less turnover than usual for this time of year."

In particular, equipment rental, considered a guaranteed winter income source for many shops, has been virtually non-existent.

"We have been able to scrape by with our clothing sales, but before the snow fell I was very worried," M Drouart, owner of Auron's Magic Snow outlet, said.

Last summer he invested in additional equipment and larger premises in the hope of increasing winter hire capacity.

Hotels are also suffering. Auron's three-star 'Le Blainon' was only fully booked for one weekend in January. Owner Mme Fortni said: "In eight years here we have never had so many cancellations."

Sufficient snow to last out the season has now fallen on the region's major resorts and all 14 local resorts are open.

## Monaco vicar feud

Continued from front page

wardens David Waters and Peter Coleridge, handed to the congregation at a Sunday morning service last month.

A longer letter was forwarded to church members in which the council claims the Rev. Kimber is "A law unto himself which is not acceptable and highly dangerous, for all of us living here in Monaco and guests to the Principality, including himself."

However, the Rev. Kimber said: "I can't comment on the details but this is about a few people who are trying to discredit me."

"There have been so many claims flying around that I don't even take notice anymore of all the childishness. I leave that for others to listen to and laugh at."

"People have the right to object to me if they like but it is not up to them whether I am here. We are not in the situation of hiring and firing by the congregation — I'm appointed by the Church of England and have a Commission to serve the community as a whole and shall go on doing that."

One Monaco resident involved with the church added: "The chaplain is a very nice man who is forward-thinking and has set up new things like a website, and the council are like a bunch of councillors at a golf club in some sleepy village in England who think their way is the only way."

## Holloway leaves Riviera Radio

RIVIERA Radio disc-jockey and station manager Mike Holloway has left the company.

He arrived 17 months ago in the wake of the station's take-over by Morris Communications, the US-based media group. At the time it was widely believed that he was charged with turning around the station's fortunes within a year.



HOLLOWAY...gone

## Classic yacht sinks in Cap d'Ail harbour

*Midnight Merlin*, a 30-metre classic yacht moored in Cap d'Ail harbour, suddenly listed to the right, filled with water and sank last week. No-one was on board at the time.

An investigation into the cause of the accident has started. One possibility is that, during a recent spell in dry dock at Cannes, the hull dried out, shrunk and lost its ability to stay watertight.

## INTERNATIONAL

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## HEALTH

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## INSURANCE

### Rail expansion: Have your say

THE planned expansion of the Cannes-Nice train line has now gone to public enquiry.

Plans involve the addition of a third track to the coast line and increasing the frequency of trains.

The aim is to reduce the number of cars on the region's roads by persuading people to use the train instead.

Copies of the plans are available at Nice-Ville, Nice St-Augustin, Saint-Laurent-du-Var, Cagnes, Cros-de-Cagnes, Villeneuve-Loubet, Biot and Antibes railway stations.

### Czech next time

A YOUNG Czech paraglider had a lucky escape last week when part of her paraglider became entangled in the overhead power lines of the railway line in Roquebrune.

Barbora Dostalova was making a jump from Mont-Agel.

She was due to land on Roquebrune's Cabbé beach but strong winds forced her off course towards the railway, where the envelope of her paraglider got caught up in the overhead catenaries.

The power lines carry a lethal 25,000 volts, but she managed to escape with only a broken leg.

### Help with tax returns

TAX return forms, now being sent out, are due to be completed and returned by March 25.

For the first time they must be completed in euros. The region's 13 tax offices (centres des impôts) are offering additional help to answer questions this year, with longer opening hours from March 11 to 25 and a promise of help — albeit in French.

There is also a national telephone service called 'allô impôts', accessible by calling 08 20 32 42 52. Electronic filing of tax returns is possible via the internet at [www.impots.gouv.fr](http://www.impots.gouv.fr).

### WWII bombs close off Antibes port

ANTIBES' Port Salis had to be closed earlier this month after the discovery of seven unexploded World War II mortar bombs.

They were found during routine cleaning of the harbour walls, resting only 1.5m under water at the edge of the quay.

Two of the bombs were in perfect working order. Bomb disposal experts from Toulon safely disposed of them.

### New E111 on the cards

A PLASTIC 'smart' card could replace the E111 forms entitling citizens to healthcare in other EU countries if current European Commission proposals go ahead.

The electronic card, similar to a credit card, could be in place by 2005.

It is aimed at simplifying procedures and improving worker mobility throughout the EU.

The card would not need to be renewed as is the case with the current paper forms.

### 'Sand Beach' has too much sand

MENTON'S aptly named 'Sand Beach' has too much sand.

Several years of build-up has reduced the depth of the water in some areas from several metres to just 20 centimetres.

The surplus sand will be moved to other beaches.

# Price of new homes up but demand down

THE average price of new homes in the Alpes-Maritimes rose 11 per cent last year but demand fell by eight per cent.

The average price paid was €2,900 per square metre but there were wide variations across the region, claims a report by the house builders Socoprim-Groupe Adéquation.

Grasse remains the cheapest large town to buy in with an average apartment costing €1,590 per square metre and €2,140 for houses.

Cannes is the most expensive. Town centre apartments went for a below average €2,740 but properties to the east of the town cost €3,700, up from €2,936 per square metre in 2001.

Antibes, Mandelieu, the greater Sophia-Antipolis area and Menton have an average price per square

metre of around €3,200. At €2,060, Mougins remains less expensive and the market there remains strong with sales up 28 per cent in 2001.

The drop in demand is beginning to worry the industry. Although demand from second home owners remains strong, many local buyers have been priced out of the market.

A total of 2,809 reservations for new properties were made in 2001. But the year end saw the department with 1,904 units unsold, mostly two and three-room apartments.

The number of new construction permits issued in the region increased by 10.7 per cent last year, according to figures released by the Ministère de l'Équipement.

The rise is in strong contrast to the national average which is down 0.7%.



## NEGRESCO TO STAY INDEPENDENT

The owner of Nice's Negresco hotel since 1957, Jeanne Augier, 78, above, has announced that she is creating a foundation to ensure the hotel stays independent and out of the hands of international chains after her death. Photo: AFP

## Autopsy reports due shortly on body found wrapped in plastic bag

# IRISH COUPLE CHARGED AFTER DEAD NEWBORN BABY FOUND IN HOTEL

FINAL autopsy reports are due shortly on the newborn baby who French prosecutors allege was killed by his mother in a hotel in Théoule-sur-Mer earlier this month, writes Shane Stokes.

The woman, 21, and her partner, 35, both Irish, have been held in custody since the discovery of the baby's body on February 12 in the luxury Miramar Beach hotel, near Cannes.

The body was wrapped in a plastic bag, apparently suffocated, although the precise cause of death will not be known until after the autopsy.

However French prosecutors have placed the couple under judicial investigation and say they are certain that the baby was killed. The mother, a stu-

dent who lives in Luxembourg, faces life imprisonment if convicted of voluntary homicide.

Her partner, currently being held in Grasse jail, has been indicted under charges of failing to help a person in danger and failing to denounce a crime. The Irish resident faces up to ten years behind bars if found guilty.

It is estimated that it may take up to two years for the case to come to court. Prosecutors are opposing bail.

Both dispute the charges. The woman says the baby was born dead.

She also told French police that her partner was not the father. Relatives say they became a couple in September.

The man's lawyers state that he was unaware of her condition, a claim dis-

missed as impossible by prosecutors.

However the woman seems to have gone to great lengths to conceal her pregnancy. She said that her weight gain was due to an eating disorder, provoked by loneliness since her move to Luxembourg several months ago.

But staff at the Miramar and attendants on two flights she took on February 11 failed to spot she was pregnant, as did her sister who visited earlier in the month. Airlines ban heavily-pregnant women from flights.

Mr Raymond Doumas, the public prosecutor, concedes that it is "probable" that she tried to hide the delivery from her partner.

The baby was born in a disabled toilet on the hotel's second floor, four

floors below their room. The body was found by police, suspicious about the large amount of blood found on the floor of the bathroom by a cleaner.

They followed the couple to Broussaille Hospital in Cannes, where the woman had been rushed due to a large haemorrhage.

She is now being held in the penitentiary wing of Pasteur Hospital in Nice but will be transferred to prison when she has recovered.

Her partner has received the support of Senator Avril Doyle, an Irish MEP. "He is a very honourable young man who did everything possible to get help," Ms Doyle said in an interview with Lara Marlowe, French correspondent of the *Irish Times*.

## LAW REQUIRES RENTED HOMES TO BE 'DECENT'

A NEW law is in force setting minimum requirements for the state of repair and services in rental properties.

Loi SRU stipulates that landlords must offer "decent lodging" to tenants. It applies to new and existing tenancy agreements.

The law defines a minimum set of basic requirements. A tenant can demand improvements if his home falls short. If the landlord refuses, the tenant can take him to court. If the judge finds in the tenant's favour, he can set a new, reduced rent.

The law defines "decent lodging" under seven headings:

- The home must have suitable heating for its size and type.
- The heating system must be in safe working order.
- There must be safe drinking water on tap.
- A kitchen or kitchen facility must be provided and must be

equipped with a sink, with hot and cold water and a waste pipe, and it must have a cooker point.

- For properties with more than one room, an inside bathroom, at minimum including a WC (separated from the cooking and eating area) and a private shower or bath with hot and cold running water and a waste pipe, must be provided. Single rooms may, however, continue to be let with shared bathroom and WC facilities.
- The sanitary installation must be adequate to stop spills or bad smells entering the property.

- There must be an ample and safe electricity supply.
- A minimum size of 9 square metres of floor space with a minimum ceiling height of 2.20 metres, giving a minimum habitable volume of 20 cubic metres, must be provided.

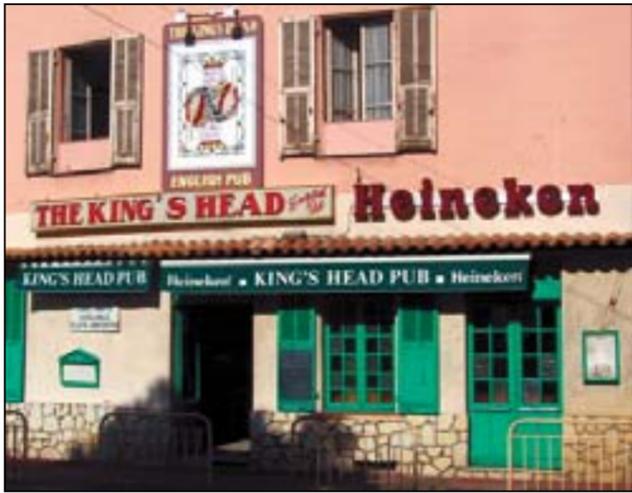
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Ex-pat bars ... Ex-pat bars ...

## More than twenty clubs and pubs cater for expats, each with their own distinct flavour



ENGLISH PUBS ... Roquebrune's even has a traditional English pub sign

AS well as the waves of seasonal visitors, international students and business travellers, the Riviera is, of course, also home to a large and growing English-speaking expatriate population – and a wide variety of expat bars to accommodate them.

While there are many popular French establishments, such bars and pubs play an important role in the local expat community, serving as a way to meet friends and enjoy time out without having to worry about your French. On the Riviera the

range includes American, Irish, British, Scandinavian, Dutch and Canadian but what else, apart from English-speaking staff, do they offer?

Well, they promise a warm welcome to newcomers and locals alike, offer familiar foods and drink, broadcast international sports and host live bands.

They celebrate traditional holidays from 'back home', serve as meeting places for expat organizations, and the multi-lingual staff are great sources of insider information about their towns. But,

far from just being a retreat from the local population, they are also a place where the French come to practise their English, meet new people, and enjoy an international atmosphere (as you'll note here, many are actually French-owned).

This listing highlights the amazing diversity of local expat bars, from Monaco to Cannes, so go and find a favourite.

Prices quoted are out of Happy Hours and for an 'average' pint (well, half litre) of beer and the cheapest soft drink.



HIPPY HOUR ... La Tour International's hus

### Antibes, Juan-les-Pins, Biot, Valbonne

## Hippy tales, frozen Margaritas and Indonesian food add spice

### La Tour International

6, Cours Masséna, Old Antibes • Open daily 17:00-00:30, closed Tuesday • Tel: 04 93 34 17 70

Small pub owned and run by husband and wife Billie and Mike since 1996. Both are full of stories about hippy years in San Francisco.

Mike tells us that he often gets mistaken for American alternative medicine author Dr Andrew Weil.

The bar is full of locals and visitors of all nationalities. Music nightly on piano from 22:30. Fish and chips served weekdays, BBQ ribs at weekends.

The house specialty is frozen Margaritas and Hemmingway-style Daiquiris. Selection of German beers. Shelves of French and English books.

But you'll have to wait... annual holidays mean the bar is closed until March 28th.

Pint €4.27, soft drink €2.29

### Le Blue Lady

Galerie du Port, rue Lacan, Old Antibes • Open daily 07:30-00:30 • Tel: 04 93 34 41 00

French-owned pub with bilingual staff, popular with local and expat yachties.

Breakfast pastries and traditional French food, terrace seating. Pool table, TV and notice board.

Also hosts special events like Halloween cos-

tume contests. The owner occasionally organises trips to rugby matches.

Pint €4.60, soft drink €2.20

### La Gaffe

6, blvd Aguillon, Old Antibes • Open daily 11:00-00:30 (and later in summer). Opens at noon on Sunday • Tel: 04 93 34 04 06

English-owned and run pub and restaurant with club atmosphere at night. Daily specials include burgers, fish and chips, sausages and mash. Traditional Sunday roast chicken from 1pm.

Live music Wed, Fri, Sat. Live sports on Sky TV. Happy Hours on Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri from 18:00-19:00. Two-for-one drinks ("Toofers") on Wed from 21:00-22:00.

Pint €6, soft drink €3

### The Hop Store

38, blvd Aguillon, Port d'Antibes • Open daily 15:00-00:30 (and 02:00 at weekends) • Tel: 04 93 34 15 33

French-owned and run Irish-styled pub, the largest in Antibes. Incorporates a second bar known as St James' Gate. Pool, darts, Sky Sports on big screen upstairs (open from 18:00). Live DJs at night. Terrace seating on pedestrian street. Irish band planned for St Patrick's Day. Happy Hour 18:00-19:00.

Pint €5.40, soft drink €2.70

### Mayfair Pub

In the Beach Hotel, Av Alexandre III & Av Louis Gallet, Juan-les-Pins • Open daily 17:00-00:30 • Tel: 04 92 93 67 67

Small, quiet British-run pub with a mixed clientele. French darts league on Wednesdays. Live sports on Sky TV.

Pint €4.40, soft drink €2.30

### Café Brun

44 ter, impasse St-Sébastien, Biot • Open Mon-Fri 12:00-14:00 and 18:00-00:15, Sat-Sun 18:00-01:15 • Tel: 04 93 65 04 83

Small, Dutch-style pub and restaurant with Anglo-French owners, popular with locals and expats from Sophia-Antipolis. Menu includes Indonesian specialties, ribs, curry, and salads. Large selection of bottled beers. Occasional live Irish musicians, terrace seating in small square. Long wooden tables and fireplaces. Beer mats and license plates from all over decorate the ceiling. Happy Hour 18:00-20:00.

Pint €4.50, soft drink €2.50, metre of beer €30

### The Inn

Place des Arcades, Valbonne • Open weekdays 17:00-00:30, Sat & Sun 12:00-00:30 • Tel: 04 93 40 24 75

Small English-owned and run pub opened six months ago (formerly Jack's Pub). On two floors, with mixed Anglo-French locals and expats. Sky Sports on TV. The only surviving ex-pat pub in the village. Menu of hamburgers, fish and chips, sandwiches. Sunday traditional English brunch. St Patrick's Day party. Happy Hour 18:00-20:00.

Pint €4, soft drink €2.30

### Others to look out for...

- Prezens Music Bar, Rue Auberon, Old Antibes
- St Charles Bar, rue St Charles, Juan-les-Pins, Tel: 04 93 61 18 82
- Lincoln Pub, blvd Aguillon, Port d'Antibes, Tel: 04 93 34 31 60

Which is your favourite expat pub/bar? Tell us where and why on 04 93 09 66 43 or [ed@TheRivieraGazette.com](mailto:ed@TheRivieraGazette.com)

# INN

## Ex-pat bars offer mo

### Cannes

## Breakfast nautical style, terraces and no half pints

### Station Tavern

50, rue des Serbes, Cannes • Open daily 07:00-00:00 • Tel: 04 93 38 34 91

Unpretentious English-owned town centre pub just across from the railway station with mixed Anglo-French clientele. Opened two months ago; before that it was the Chelsea Tavern.

Serves traditional Ploughman's lunch, English and French dishes. Sky Sports and electronic darts. Happy Hour 18:00-20:00.

Pint €4.60, soft drink €2.80

### Morrison's Irish Bar

10, rue Teisseire, Cannes • Open daily 17:00-02:30 • Tel: 04 92 98 16 17

Large, boisterous Irish bar popular with expats and visitors. Open five years, French-owned and Irish-run.

Live music Wednesday and Thursday (no half pints these nights). Big screen Sky Sports, Fantasy Football, holiday specials. Happy Hour 17:00-20:00.

Pint €6.10, soft drink €3.10

### The Quays

17, quai Saint Pierre, Cannes • Open daily 09:00-02:30 • Tel: 04 93 39 27 84

Nautical-themed Irish pub, same owner as Morrison's but more of a café atmosphere and mixed Anglo-French clientele. Try breakfast on the terrace, overlooking the old port. Internet access. Happy Hour 18:30-20:30.

Pint €6.10, soft drink €3.10



A LAFFE AT THE GAFFE ... Rich, Tim, Taggart and, front, Sammy on the evening shift



NO HALF MEASURES ... Nigel & Alena at Mo

Ex-pat bars ... Ex-pat bars ...



band-and-wife team Mike and Billie

## Nice

# Live band karaoke and a letter from Loki and Lerk

### Wayne's

15, rue de la Prefecture, Old Nice • Open daily 12:00-01:00 (01:30 at weekends) • Tel: 04 93 13 46 99

Lively English/American bar and restaurant popular with young expats and students. Open for 12 years, Wayne recently sold to a Corsican company, but it is still run by the same English-speaking staff. Live sports on a big screen and live music nightly. The Simpsons and live band karaoke on Sunday, Quiz Night on Tuesday, and Ladies Night on Wednesday. Ladies nights have been running for five years. Restaurant serves burgers, fish and chips, Tex Mex and daily specials. The website is being redone so check in a couple of weeks. Happy Hour 18:00-21:00. **Pint €6.10, soft drink €2.80**

### Thor Pub

32, Cours Saleya, Old Nice • Open daily 18:00-02:30 • Tel: 04 93 62 49 90

Large Scandinavian-themed cocktail bar on two floors, popular with students and visitors. English and Danish speaking staff. Live music every night from 22:00. Tuesday Ladies Night, Thursday sees "Thursday" specials and Sunday offers Film 'n' Food. Free "Thor Student Card" loyalty scheme and a newsletter, The Thor Gazette. Very Scandinavian with Sma Gra shots and newsletter commentary by Loki and Lerk, but the common language is English.

Bar snacks include hot dogs, and the terrace is on a pedestrian street. Happy Hour 18:00-20:30. **Pint €5.50, soft drink €3.80, 2.5 litres of beer €27.50**



PAPER GIRLS ... bar worker Becca and manager Leah read The Gazette at McMahon's

### Johnny's Wine Bar

1, rue Rossetti, Old Nice • Open daily 17:30-00:30, closed Sunday • Tel: 04 93 80 65 97

Billed as providing "good wine, good food and good music." A tiny, intimate wine bar (don't turn up in a crowd of more than ten!). Owned and run by Canadian expat Johnny whose performing alter ego is known as Wild Johnny Wine. Live music by Johnny and friends and a covered terrace overlooking a square. All you can eat spaghetti before 22:00, and chips & salsa. Happy Hour 17:30-22:00. **Pint €4.50, soft drink €2.50, glass of wine €2.00**

### Check Point

2, rue Desboutin, Nice • Open daily 17:30-00:30, closed Monday and Tuesday • Tel: 04 93 13 96 92

Opened just this month, the manager says he is targeting more "mature" customers. Relaxed lounge atmosphere upstairs and a DJ club atmosphere downstairs. Anglo-Scandinavian management (originally from the Thor Pub). **Pint €7.50, soft drink €4**

### O'Neill's Irish Pub

40, rue Droit, Old Nice • Open daily 17:00-02:30 • Tel: 04 93 80 06 75

"Here, there are no strangers, only friends we

have not yet met" is the philosophy. A large but cosy Irish-style pub with a French owner and Anglo-Irish staff. Televised Sky sports, live Irish bands Thursday to Saturday, and darts tournaments. Selection of Irish and Scotch whiskies and Dominican and Cuban cigars. Happy Hour 17:00-20:00. **Pint €5.40, soft drink €3.10**

### McMahon's Irish Pub

50, blvd Jean Juarès, Nice • Open daily 18:00-02:30 • Tel: 06 61 59 89 37

A large Irish-style pub and cocktail bar, popular with expats, locals and visitors. French-owned, American-run with English-speaking staff. "We have the biggest St Patrick's party on the Côte," says manager Leah, possibly the only American female bar manager in the city. Great non-alcoholic cocktails.

Get five drinks for €8 on Thursday nights. Pub Quiz on Mondays, Karaoke on Tuesdays. Happy Hour 18:00-21:00. **Pint €5.80, soft drink €3**

### Others to look out for...

- Scarlett O'Hara's, Rue Droite, Old Nice, Tel: 04 93 80 43 22
- De Klomp, Rue Mascoinat, Old Nice, Tel: 04 93 92 42 85

# PLACES

## re than just ordering in English

If you fancy a night out but don't feel up to the lingo (even before a drink), or just hanker for the nearest you can get to a good old-fashioned beer like they serve in the old country, then an ex-pat pub may be the answer. **Heather Stimmler-Hall** goes exploring...



... where pints are the order of the day

## Monaco, Beausoleil, Roquebrune

# Chip butties, Newcastle Brown and a cocktail lounge

### Toby Jug Tavern

3, ave Général de Gaulle, Beausoleil • Open Tue-Fri 12:00-14:30, Mon-Fri 17:00-00:00, Sun 12:00-00:00. Closed Sat • Tel: 04 93 78 83 55

Unpretentious English-owned and run pub popular with French locals and Anglo expats. Sports and news on Sky TV. Sports jumpers on the ceiling and chip butties on the menu. Traditional English lunches and dinners. **Pint €5, soft drink €2.30**

### King's Head Pub

1, ave de France, Roquebrune Cap Martin • Open daily 12:00-02:30 • Tel: 04 93 78 34 30

Small, bright English pub with mixed Anglo and French clientele. Rugby on TV, darts, English breakfast and traditional pub food. **Pint €4.50, soft drink €2.29**

### McCarthy's Irish Pub

7, rue du Portier, Monaco • Open daily 18:00-05:00am • Tel: +377 93 25 87 67

Said to be the only Irish pub in Monte-Carlo. Large, comfortable bar, Italian-owned but Irish-run. Popular with a mixed crowd of locals, expats and visitors. Short hop from the casino. Quieter in the evening, usually packed when live

music starts. Easily accommodates large groups. Live music Thurs-Sat. Special events for St Patrick's and holidays, darts, TV, pub snacks and sandwiches. Happy Hour 18:00-21:00. **Pint €5.50, soft drink €3**

### Slammers

6, rue Suffren Reymond, Monaco • Open daily 17:00-01:00 • Tel: +377 97 70 36 56

Hip, upmarket cocktail lounge with a candlelit Moroccan theme, owned by two English ladies. Small terrace. Has takeout menus available for clients to order and eat at the bar. Cocktails and champagne are popular at the tiny mosaic bar. Happy Hour 18:00-20:00 (except Sunday) **Pint €6, soft drink €4**

### Ship and Castle

42, Quai Jean-Charles Rey (formerly Quai des Sanbarbani), Port de Fontvieille, Monaco • Open daily 11:00-01:00, except Sat when it opens at 18:00. Closes later at weekends and in summer - 'about 03:00'. Tel: +377 92 05 76 72

Cosy, English-owned and run pub and restaurant open for 13 years. Has a small bar and large terrace overlooking the Fontvieille Port, live Sky Sports and was the first European pub to serve Newcastle Brown Ale on tap. "Women feel more comfortable coming here

on their own than to French bars," says staffer Kim. Nice quiet place to eat and drink. All food is homemade (owner John was making mushy peas while we were there). **Pint €5, soft drink €3**

### Stars'n'bars

6 Quai Antoine 1er, Monaco • Open daily 11:00-01:00, closed Monday • Tel: +377 97 97 95 95

A true sports bar, just like you find in the US. Plenty of space, sport on TV and sporting and celebrity memorabilia on every inch of the walls.

Upstairs is a restaurant with children's play area and beyond that a nightclub. The attentive multilingual staff and American food make this a favourite hang out for English speakers. Happy Hour 15:00-19:30, Tuesday-Thursday. **Pint €5, soft drink €2.50**

### Others to look out for...

- Flashman's English Pub, ave Princesse Alice, Monaco, Tel: +377 93 30 09 03
- Grand Prix Café, Quai Antoine 1er, Monaco, Tel: +377 93 25 56 90



NAUTICAL BUT NICE ... staff member Kim and Ship and Castle owner John Haly

Coffee Time

# STARS

with TV's John Garland



March 2002

## AQUARIUS

20 January–18 February

To all intents and purposes, you're in for a brilliant month. Whatever's given or taken away, you'll still hold your own financially. However, you'll be giving more thought to your domestic and family scene. Handle flare-ups tactfully on 4th, 17th and 30th. Although emotional waters tend to run deep, romance is generally harmonious. Pinpoint the 12th, 14th and 24th for social and personal activities.

## PISCES

19 February–20 March

The star patterns suggest you take on any extra work. Talk up your abilities and check any recent or new installations. Also, consider other people's feelings between the 19th and 22nd. Maximise your career potential on the 3rd, 13th, 22nd and 31st. If you're unattached, turn on your charm between the 1st and 14th. With so much going for you, take the rough with the smooth.

## ARIES

21 March–20 April

Whatever's to be mended or replaced, don't put it off. Spotlight significant ideas on the 5th, 14th and 25th. Go with your creative flow after the 9th. Take a more relaxed outlook, especially with outdoor or competitive interests. Things will happen anyway, so don't tempt the fates or you'll end up going round in circles. If you're single, romance is powerfully starred between the 13th and 22nd.

## TAURUS

21 April–20 May

Put your best foot forward on the 8th, 17th and 25th, especially if you're asking for favours or putting a workaday plan into action. Fix your financial sights on the 3rd, 12th, 21st and 30th. More importantly, pace yourself and channel your energies into enhancing your overall well-being. The possibilities won't be endless, but what does happen will restore your faith in your personal destiny.

## GEMINI

21 May–20 June

If you've been trimming your cash flow or saving hard, then you can afford a little self-indulgence. Then again, conduct money matters carefully on the 12th, 13th, 22nd and 24th. Be prepared to deal with some tricky tugs-of-war. Watch what you decide or say between the 12th and 20th, particularly where family, friends and colleagues are concerned. After the 14th's New Moon, cast your nets far and wide!

## CANCER

21 June–20 July

Don't fall into the wait-and-see trap. Flow into fresh streams and before long you'll reach life's great ocean of opportunity. You could enjoy an intriguingly happy time between the 1st and 10th. Spotlight the 12th, 22nd and 23rd for gearing up your abilities. Connect to people who're in a position to say 'yes' between the 4th and 19th. Make March marvellous!

## LEO

21 July–21 August

So far, so good, but you've a lot further to go. Everything to do with romance, property, money and random events could be a source of delight. However, don't let your Leo pride get in the way. Talk money between the 1st and 11th. Swing socially on the 3rd, 10th, 15th and 24th. Make dates to get out and about on the 15th, 24th and 25th. Enjoy!

## VIRGO

22 August–22 September

Ignore other people's promises, unless they come with at least half a guarantee. Right now, it's time to look again at how to improve your goals. Phone, e-mail or write on the 8th, 17th and 27th. Make yourself known to new faces and places between the 1st and 13th. More than you imagine could happen if you focus on leisure and pleasure. Stay active.

## LIBRA

23 September–22 October

Aim true on the 9th, 19th, 21st and 28th. Then again, set your career, social and personal dreams in motion between the 4th and 16th. Highlight all practical or financial negotiations on the 5th, 14th and after the 22nd. Obviously, there'll be those who'll do the opposite to what they say. Just be single-minded, and you'll get most of what you want. Stick with it!

## SCORPIO

23 October–22 November

Whatever obstacles befall you on the work or home fronts, remember that suffering in silence isn't golden. So be firm but fair on the 2nd, 14th 23rd and 28th. If you're in the place of your choice between the 7th and 16th, some exciting things could happen. Meanwhile, whatever the delays or hurdles financially, do your homework and ensure that your facts and figures add up!

## SAGITTARIUS

23 November–20 December

The sort of days that will bring benefits to indoor or outdoor chores are the 6th, 13th, 15th and 24th. For all kinds of reasons, you could be torn between concentrating on family affairs and having a good time. However, there's plenty of scope for your career, leisure and other outgoing ambitions between the 1st and 13th. There's even a surprise in store!

## CAPRICORN

21 December–19 January

If you want to please yourself, then you'll have to please everyone! Single Capricorns should mix and mingle, because the first two weeks are romantically potent. If money's on your mind, sort things out between the 1st and the 9th, or after the 22nd. Also, if you've any plans to get certain people or situations to fit in with your plans, this is the perfect time.

## Hagar the Horrible

by Chris Browne



## Pooch Café

by Paul Gilligan



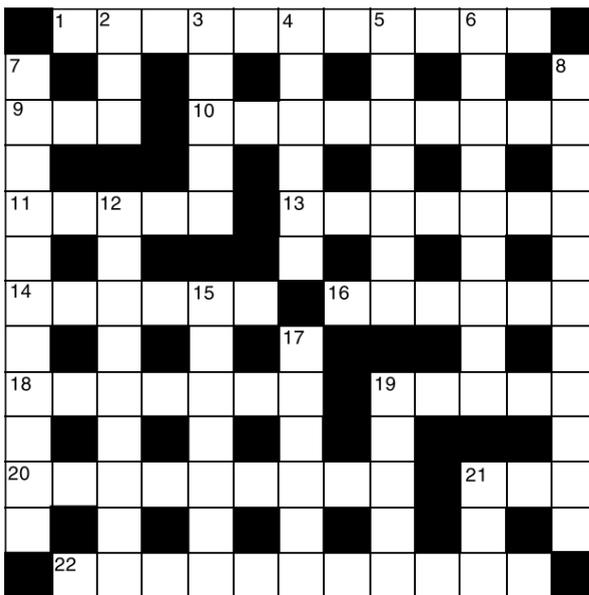
## Dilbert

by Scott Adams



## DOUBLE CROSSWORD

No 10,002



### SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE 10,001

QUICK Across: 1 Vary; 3 Assemble; 9 Liberal; 10 Tress; 11 Disintegrate; 13 Twinge; 15 Divest; 17 Impermanence; 20 Arras; 21 Article; 22 Hilarity; 23 Tell. Down: 1 Validate; 2 Robes; 4 Seller; 5 Extortionate; 6 Breathe; 7 Easy; 8 Transgressor; 12 Ethereal; 14 Immoral; 16 Impact; 18 Niche; 19 Lash.

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

### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1. 3-D viewer (11)
9. Intimidate (3)
10. Rot (9)
11. Mischievous (5)
13. Narrated (7)
14. Make more prosperous (6)
16. Satisfy (6)
18. Greed (7)
19. Dulcet (5)
20. Showed (9)
21. Hawaii garland (3)
22. Former holder of post (11)

#### DOWN

- 2. Haul (3)
3. French sculptor (5)
4. Happens (6)
5. Droll (7)
6. Lying face down (9)
7. Goes faster (11)
8. Absolutely sure (4,7)
12. Assemble (9)
15. Scaled (7)
17. Feverish (6)
19. Teams (5)
21. Zodiac sign (3)

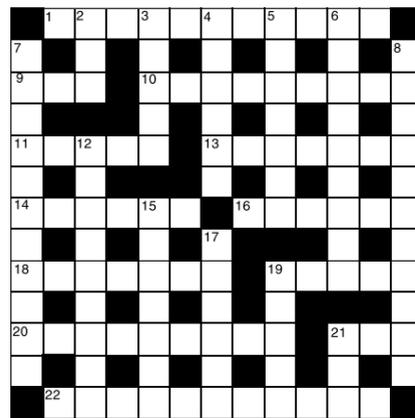
### CRYPTIC CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1. Ruined sable is not wanted as a possession (11)
9. A person who discredits an old woman? (3)
10. A ruinous craft (9)
11. One of two coming from below (5)
13. Short cut from the beach? (7)
14. How a customs officer should concentrate when working? (2,4)
16. Routed as a diversion (6)
18. Put in again (2-5)
19. Won a hand and won the game (5)
20. In favour of a move that'll earn more money? (9)
21. A bit of supper for each (3)
22. Not even sufficient, strange as it seems! (5,6)

#### DOWN

- 2. French born (3)
3. We nod to provide money (5)
4. Maintain some plain sisters (6)
5. A service for car- and plane-travellers (3-4)
6. A dispiriting thing to do (3,1,5)
7. Shake hands and tackle the situation (4,2,5)
8. Give-away merchants who don't want custom? (4,7)
12. Nasty moment for a poor loser! (3,6)
15. Fit role for clover, for example (7)
17. A clock may do it and continue working (6)
19. Chap to go for fruit (5)
21. Fix a drink (3)





## An Oscar would be magic...

ONE of the computer graphic wizards from the *Lord of the Rings* movies was in Villefranche last week, celebrating the film's special effects team netting an Oscar nomination.

Mike Perry, above left, who was *en route* home to New Zealand, told our snapper: "Do you remember the spectacular fireworks at Bilbo's party at the start of the movie? They were all computer generated. I did that."

He will soon begin work on the next two parts of the trilogy. All were filmed at the same time "but that's just the beginning - the digital effects and other post-production work is yet to be done" said Mike.

The team will hear if it has won an Oscar at the Academy Awards on March 24. *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* has received 13 nominations. The omens are good; the movie's special effects team scooped a Bafta just before *The Gazette* went to press.

Mike was joined by old pal and colleague Paul Perrot, who is currently working on TV projects in the UK. Sky viewers will recognise his work in a TV advert featuring a man flying on the back of a swan. He animated the swan. Paul added: "Now I can't listen to the Shaggy song that was used in the soundtrack - hearing it all day, every day for three months while I worked on that bird has taken the edge off it!"

CMYK

## Right Royal affair



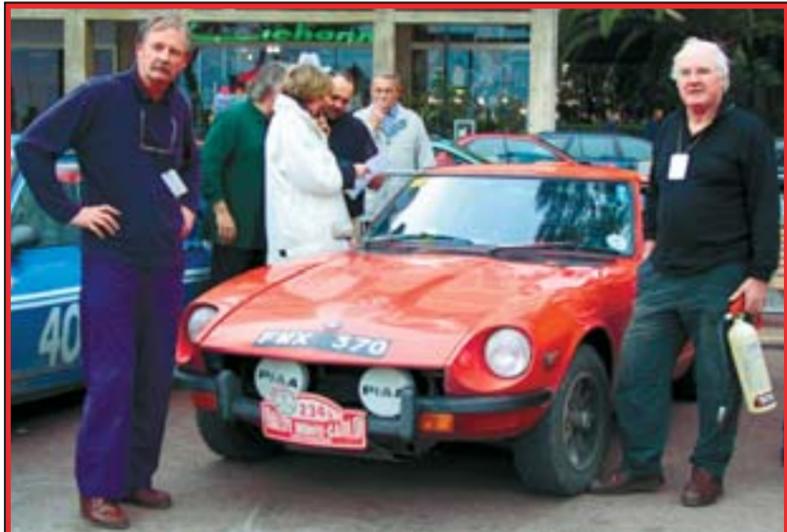
A THOUGHTFUL and entertaining look at the British Monarchy through the ages, entitled *Pomp and Force of Circumstance*, was staged recently by Antibes' Red Pear Theatre — an apt choice for the Queen's Golden Jubilee year.

Written and performed by husband-and-wife team Edward Petherbridge and Emily Richard, pictured above, the production drew on material from sources as diverse as the classics and modern tabloids and ran the whole gamut from outrageously funny to touchingly sentimental.

A bonus for the local audience was that the review was presented in a mansion on Cap d'Antibes — rather than in a conventional theatre setting — giving a very intimate feel, similar to country house entertainment of a hundred years ago.

Edward Petherbridge is now in rehearsal as the toy-maker in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, which opens at The London Palladium on March 19.

# RIVIERA PEOPLE



## MC's historic rally 'no Sunday drive'

AMONG the British teams taking part in Monaco's 5th Annual Historic Rally were Chris Knowles-Fitton and Mike Kempley, driving a 1972 Datsun 240Z from their starting point in Reims.

Mike, pictured right, a retired solicitor who was navigating, has owned the car since new. Chris is a businessman and the Leader of the Craven District Council in

North Yorkshire. "This rally isn't a Sunday drive — the timings are quite tight, and there are plenty of opportunities to have a bit of a go," said Chris, who was a works driver for Rover and BMC in the 1960s.

We also spotted Peter Barker and co-driver Willy Cave in a 39-year-old Mini. Willy, celebrating his 75th birthday, has taken part in 12 Monte-Carlo rallies since 1955.

## Bowled over — even at 1am



WAYNE'S Bar in Old Nice was filled with cheering American football fans for the recent Superbowl XXXVI — despite the 1am local time kick-off.

New England Patriots fans celebrated after their team beat the heavily favoured St Louis Rams 20-17 with a field goal kicked in the last seven seconds of the game.



● AWARD-winning author and photo-journalist Nick Danziger made a guest appearance at Scruples English bookshop in Monaco this month.

He is pictured here with customer Kerry Roberts, signing a copy of one of his travelogues.

Nick, whose books chart his travels through such countries as Iran, Afghanistan, China and Tibet, now lives in the Principality.

## America discovers Columbus



Monaco-USA, a club for Americans and 'friends of America' in Monaco, recently met for evening drinks at the Columbus Hotel in Fontvieille.

Guest of honour at the club's new venue was Mme Hélène Day, Monaco's Consul in Boston. She's pictured, above centre, with Mrs J d'Amico, Vice President of Monaco-USA, left, and Kristina Lynn, right.



## RADA gets a chorus of approval

THE Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association last week staged a three-night run of their latest production at Mougins School.

The cast, pictured above, gave a capable and entertaining interpretation

of Alan Ayckbourn's *A Chorus of Disapproval*.

A play within a play, the comedy charts the trials and tribulations of a small provincial cast between first rehearsal and the first performance of *The Beggars Opera*. RADA's

Lena Walsh said: "The group has been going for six years, and we put on three shows annually."

"We do it for the love of acting more than anything. Tonight's play has been in production since just before Christmas," she

told *The Riviera Gazette*.

The group is seeking more male actors. Anyone interested should contact them via their website at rada.freeservers.com.

RADA's next production is scheduled for early May.

All photos: TRG/Mike Clark/Heather Stimmiller-Hall. 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...

■ **Supertramp, The Cranberries** and the **Red Hot Chili Peppers** will all be playing venues in the region in the next few months. First up are The Cranberries. They play the Zenith Omega in Toulon on March 11. Supertramp perform at the Nikaïa in Nice on May 19 and Red Hot Chili Peppers play the same venue on June 19. Tickets for all these events are available from [www.ticketnet.fr](http://www.ticketnet.fr).

■ Irish supergroup **U2** will play one concert in the south of France this summer. The date is set for August 20 but the venue remains undecided. It is expected to be either the Nikaïa in Nice or a venue in Marseille. A decision is expected this week and tickets will be available on [www.ticketnet.fr](http://www.ticketnet.fr) when the venue is confirmed.

■ Put your **dancing shoes** on this month and join a weekend course in Carros to learn Flamenco, modern jazz, hip hop, contemporary dance or African dancing. Further information from 04 93 08 76 07.

■ The bi-annual charity sale at Cannes' Palais des Congrès takes place on March 23 and 24. Organised by the **Sunny Bank Anglo-American Association**, the sale includes only good quality, pre-screened items and has "something for everyone" from clothes to sports equipment and jewellery to books. Sunny Bank is open 9am to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to receive donations. Call 04 93 60 11 67 for directions and information.

■ The **Russian Imperial Ballet** comes to Juan-les-Pins on 28 March with a performance featuring some of ballet's all time favourite scenes including Ravel's Bolero and scenes from Swan Lake and Don Quixote. Call 04 92 90 53 00 for tickets.

■ **Red Pear Theatre Company** has two productions this month. First up on March 3 is 'My mother said, I never should'. The end of March sees two performances of 'My Kingdom for a Horse', written and performed by Richard Derrington. Both productions will be held at the



**SWINGING INTO MONACO...** The Glenn Miller Memorial Band performs at the Théâtre Princesse Grace in Monaco on March 13. Call +377 93 25 32 27 for tickets.

Antibéa in Vieil Antibes, call 04 93 61 01 71 for reservations.

■ The Columbus Hotel in Fontvieille, Monaco has launched a Sunday night **Cinema Club**. The evening kicks off at 7pm with a three course dinner, coffee and a glass of champagne and then the film. The full dinner and film package costs €50 whilst cinema tickets alone are €15. March highlights



**'NAPOLEON' LANDS AT GOLFE-JUAN...** Returning from his exile on Elba, Napoleon landed at Golfe-Juan on 1 March 1815. Each year the town celebrates the event with a re-enactment of the landing on the Plages du Soleil. See it on Saturday March 2.

include Breakfast at Tiffany's and Casablanca. Call +377 92 05 82 46 for reservations.

■ **Walkathon 2002** takes place on March 16. Each year hundreds of people participate in this annual sponsored walk, organised by Vicki Cozens-Walker, a teacher at the CIV school in Sophia-Antipolis, with all proceeds going to the Guide Dogs for the Blind school in Biot. Each dog costs over €12,000 to train and, over the last eleven years, the Walkathons have raised enough to sponsor 15 guide dogs. To participate, call 04 93 90 01 36.

■ Some of the world's top magicians come to Juan-les-Pins' Palais des Congrès each year for their annual convention. This year, at the **11th Colombe d'Or**, they will also be performing three shows on March 8, 9 and 10. Tickets cost from €25 and are available at the tourist offices in Antibes and Juan-les-Pins or by phone on 04 92 90 53 00.

# Cycle race from Paris to the sun

By Shane Stokes

Some of the world's top professional cyclists will be speeding through the streets and slogging over the hills of the region during March, with three stages of the prestigious Paris-Nice tour taking place on the Côte d'Azur.

Among the 168 riders taking part are French favourites Richard Virenque and Laurent Jalabert, Joseba Beloki (twice third in the Tour de France), Stefano Garzelli — a former Tour of Italy victor — and previous Paris-Nice winners Alex Zülle and Andreas Klöden. Last year's champion Dario Frigo will also be competing.

The eight-day tour is one of the most keenly fought events on the early season calendar, ensuring the participation of cycling's big champions and the exhortations of large crowds; both bike-mad French spectators and curious foreigners will be keen to watch the multi-coloured, high speed racing.

Following a prologue (a short time trial) near Paris on March 10th, the race heads southeast through the middle of France before the riders race into Cannes on Friday afternoon, March 15, arriving in the town soon after 4pm.

Saturday's 6th stage is one of the toughest of the race, with no fewer than eight major climbs to be covered on the 175 kilometres from Saint-Raphaël to the Col d'Eze.

The riders leave Saint-Raphaël at 10:40 and arrive in Grasse at around 12:30. They then continue on to

Tourettes-sur-Loup before tackling the daunting Côte d'Aspremont, the climbs of Col de Chateauneuf, Berredes-Alpes and the Peille. Then they turn towards Nice via Col d'Eze.

This final 502 metre climb will see all the major contenders clash in a battle to take over the white jersey of race leadership, guaranteeing a thrilling spectacle. They should arrive at around 15:45 — get there soon after lunch for a good view.

The final day of the race starts and finishes in Nice. However, the riders don't get off that easily. After a 12:45 start in the city, the 157 kilometre stage takes them back into the mountains behind the Côte d'Azur where they will slog their way up the gruelling Col de Vence and then on and up to Gourdon, arriving there at around 14:30.

From Gourdon, the riders plunge at breakneck speeds back to the coast via Le Rouret, Valbonne and Villeneuve Loubet, arriving in Nice at around 15:45.

They then finish with seven laps of a circuit along the Promenade des Anglais.

In all, they face 1,200 kilometres in 8 days, over some of the hardest terrain in France. What better reason to go along and cheer them on?

But do get to your vantage point in good time because roads will be closed around 45 minutes before the cyclists arrive.

# The stars come out in Monaco

Monte-Carlo will be teeming with the world's top pop stars early this month.

The 14th annual World Music Awards take place at Le Sporting in Monaco on March 6. Top music biz celebs will be in town to pick up their awards at the event, which kicks off at 9pm.

Award winners' names are never revealed in advance, so there's no knowing beforehand who will be there.

Star spotters usually do well because the stars often venture out in

Monaco's famously safe and relaxed streets.

Last year's event saw awards going to Britney Spears, Ricky Martin, Destiny's Child, Moby and Eminem amongst others.

Awards are given to the best-selling artists worldwide in each category and the ceremony is broadcast to 160 countries, ensuring that the stars do turn up to collect their awards.

There's also a special award for an artist who has sold over 100 million albums in their career. Last year, it went to Rod Stewart.

## SNOW STATS

THE RIVIERA'S fourteen winter sports stations all now have a good dusting of snow with the higher resorts now having sufficient to last out the season. Cover was as follows at the end of February:

**Auron** 60-80cm; **L'Audibergue** 50cm; **Beuil** 'open'; **Le Boréon** 35-60cm; **La Colmiane** 40-60cm; **Turin-Camp d'Argent** 40-50cm; **Gréolières-les-Neiges** 60cm; **Isola 2000** 80-130cm; **Roubion les Buissons** 60-100cm; **Saint-Dalmas-Le Selvaige** 45-65cm; **Tende-Val Casterino** 'open'; **Valberg** 70-90cm.

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# 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.

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Listings appear free of charge, but inclusion is at the sole discretion of the listings editor.

## March 2002

### 1 Friday

**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. Performances today and March 3 at 15:00. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99 ◆ March 3

#### 16th Festival International des Jeux

International games festival features tournaments, workshops and demonstrations on games including bridge, scrabble and, even, Pokemon. At the Palais des Festivals, Cannes. Entry free, opening hours are 13:00 to 20:00 today and 10:00 to 20:00 at the weekend. Tel: 04 92 59 41 20 ◆ March 3

**Sebastien Cicolella Trio** Jazz evening at MJC Picaud in Cannes at 21:00. Tickets from Fnac for €6. Tel: 04 93 06 29 90

**Sylvain Luc** Jazz performance at CEDAC Cimiez in Nice starting at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 53 89 66

**Phil and Georges Leon** Jazz concert at the Salle Escoffier in Villeneuve Loubet at 21:00. Tel: 04 92 02 60 50

**Week-end National du Cirque** Circus at Espace Chiris in Grasse. Tel: 04 93 36 66 66 ◆ March 3

**Ensemble Baroque de Nice** Performance of music by Bach at 20:30 at St Martin-St Augustin church. Also at 16:30 on March 3. Tel: 04 93 80 08 74 ◆ March 3

### 2 Saturday

**Napoléon at Golfe-Juan** Weekend of festivities to commemorate Napoléon's landing in France on 1 March 1815 following his exile on the island of Elba. On the programme is a re-enactment of Napoléon's arrival on Golfe-Juan's Plages du Soleil, reconstruction of a Napoleonic village, a bivouac made by the soldiers, falconry and fencing demonstrations and live music. Tel: 04 93 63 73 12 ◆ March 3

**Basketball: Antibes v Le Mans** Pro A championship match at Espace J Bunoz in Antibes at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 33 32 32

**Israel Sinfonietta** Performance of music by Mozart, Bruch and Haydn at 20:30 at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77

**Finals of Tremplin** Two rock bands will be performing this month at MJC Picaud in Cannes as part of the competition between young musicians from the Alpes-Maritimes. Suprêmes Dindes play tonight at 20:30, with Brank Schme Bleu performing on Saturday 30 March. Tel: 04 93 06 29 90 ◆ March 30

**Basketball: AC Golfe-Juan Vallauris v ES Prisse Mâcon** Men's national championship at the Gymnase J Allinei in Golfe-Juan. Tel: 04 93 63 83 34

**The Tales of Hoffmann** Performance of the Offenbach opera at Nice Opera House at 19:30 tonight. Tickets costs from €6 to €67. Tel: 04 93 13 98 53

**Garou** Concert at Nikaia Zénith. Tel: 04 92 29 31 12

**Children's Festival** The fun starts at 11:00 in St Cézaire sur Siagne. Tel: 04 93 60 84 30

**Blues Bossa** Jazz/Blues concert at Gymnase Municipal in St Laurent du Var at 21:00. Tel: 04 92 12 40 23

**Snowboarding: Weekend Freestyle** Competition at Isola 2000. Tel: 04 93 23 15 15 ◆ March 3

**3rd Salon des Minéraux** Exhibition of minerals, fossils and gems at Palais des Congrès Europa in Mandelieu. Tel: 04 92 97 80 89 ◆ March 3

**Volleyball: Nice v Tours** Pro A championship match at Salle Palmeira in Nice at 20:30. Tickets cost €7.62. Tel: 04 93 86 64 31

**Football: Cannes v Boulogne** French national championship match at Stade Pierre de Coubertin in Cannes at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 19 50 50

**Snowboarding: Valberg Free Ride** Competition at Valberg. Tel: 04 93 23 24 25 ◆ March 3

**Kermesse oeuvre de Soeur Marie** Charity sale at Espace Fontvieille in Monaco. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16 ◆ March 3

**19th Journées Culturelles Corses** Corsican cultural weekend at the Palais des Congrès in Juan-les-Pins. Tel: 04 92 50 53 30 ◆ March 3

**Giulio Cesare** See March 1

**16th Festival International des Jeux** See March 1

**Week-end National du Cirque** See March 1

### 3 Sunday

**My Mother Said I Never Should** Red Pear Theatre production, in English, at Théâtre Antibéa in Antibes. Tel: 04 93 61 01 71

**Russian Philharmonic Orchestra** Performance of music by Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky in the Théâtre Debussy at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77

**Columbus Cinema Club** New film club offers dinner and a movie every week at the Columbus Hotel in Monaco. Included in the €50 price is a glass of champagne, 3-course dinner, coffee and the film screening. All films are in their original language with subtitles in English or French as necessary. Tonight's film is the Italian production *Il Postino*, followed on March 10 with the original version of *The Thomas Crown Affair* starring Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway. The rest of the films this month are *Breakfast at Tiffany's* on March 17, *Cinema Paradiso* on March 24 and *Casablanca* on March 31. The evenings start at 19:00, with the film commencing at 20:30. Tel: +377 92 05 82 46

**24th Bourse aux Jouets** Toy Fair organised by Cannes Model Train Club. Cars, planes, tin toys and dolls as well as trains will be on display at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes. Tel: 04 93 68 26 02

**Bourse Philatélique** Event for collectors of stamps, coins and post cards at Base Nautique in Cap D'Ail. Tel: 04 93 78 02 33

**Découverte Jeunes, Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice** Performance of music by Tchaikovsky and Elgar at 11:00 at Nice Opera House. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40

**Giulio Cesare** See March 1 ■

**16th Festival International des Jeux** See March 1 ■

**Weekend National du Cirque** See March 1 ■

**Ensemble Baroque de Nice** See March 1 ■

**Napoléon at Golfe-Juan** See March 2 ■

**Snowboarding: Weekend Freestyle** See Mar 2 ■

**3rd Salon des Minéraux** See March 2 ■

**Snowboarding: Valberg Free Ride** See Mar 2 ■

**Kermesse oeuvre de Soeur Marie** See Mar 2 ■

**19th Journées Culturelles Corses** See March 2 ■

### 4 Monday

**Grand Prix Tickets** The booking office for the Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix opens at 09:00 today at the Automobile Club de Monaco on Boulevard Albert 1er. Tel: +377 93 15 26 00

**5 Tuesday**

**Monaco USA** The club for Americans and 'friends of America' in Monaco is meeting for drinks at Stars'n'Bars, Quai Antoine 1er,



**OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLISTS...** The French national figure skating team starts a national tour this month, calling in Monaco on March 26 and 27 and in Nice on April 15. Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, who have just scooped the ice dance gold at the Winter Olympics, are expected to be with them.

Monaco at 7pm, to toast its new President. Newcomers are welcome.

### 6 Wednesday

**Grands Choeurs d'Opéra** Concert by Monte-Carlo's Opera and Philharmonic Orchestra, including works by Bizet, Borodine, Mascagni and Verdi, at Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco at 20:30. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99

**Monte-Carlo World Music Awards** Although not open to the public, the awards ceremony gives fans a chance to see the World's big names in music arrive at Le Sporting, Monte-Carlo for 21:00. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16

**Kelly Joe Phelps** Folk and blues music at CEDAC Cimiez at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 53 89 66

### 7 Thursday

**Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice** Performance of music by Strauss and Tchaikovsky at Nice Opera House at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40

**Rally: 46th Tour de Corse** The World Rally Championship's French round, held on Corsica. Starts and finishes each day in Ajaccio ◆ March 10

**8 Friday**

**Illium Quintet** Jazz concert at MJC Picaud in Cannes at 21:30. Tickets cost €8 from Fnac. Tel: 04 93 06 29 90

**L'Académie de Musique Prince Rainier III** Percussion concert by the pupils in the Salle des Variétés in Monaco at 20:30. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16

**11th Colombe d'Or** Magic festival in Juan-les-Pins. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00 ◆ March 10

**11th Festival Musical du Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat** This year's festival starts tonight with French singer Marie-Paul Belle. Soprano Nathalie Choquette performs on March 15, followed by Stacey Kent on March 22, l'Orchestre Impérial Andreyev Balalaïka on March 28 and l'Orchestre Régional Provence Côte d'Azur on April 5. All performances start at 20:00 and cost €30. Tickets including dinner at 21:30 cost €120. Tel: 04 93 76 50 50 ◆ April 5

**Motorcycles: 1st Trial Indoor International de Nice** Riders from around the world will compete in Nice's first trial bike spectacle at Nikaïa. Tickets for the event cost €23. Tel: 04 92 29 31 29

**Rally: 46th Tour de Corse** See March 7

**9 Saturday**

**Fête des Violettes** Tourrettes-sur-Loup celebrates the end of the violet's flowering season with a weekend of festivities and the village covered in the flowers which symbolise love. A farmers market, visits to

the violet fields, children's games and jazz and folk musicians are on the programme for Saturday. Sunday follows with mass at 10.30 in Saint Grégoire church, a parade, accompanied by the Nice fire fighter's brass band at 14:30 and a battle of flowers at 16:00. Tel: 04 93 24 18 93 ◆ March 10

**Carnaval des Enfants** Children's festival based around the theme of the circus in the streets of Biot. Tel: 04 93 65 78 00

**Taille de l'Olivier** Market for olive products including oil and pâtés at 10:00 in St Cézaire sur Siagne. Tel: 04 93 60 84 30

**Handball: Villeneuve Loubet v Bourgoin** Match at Gymnasium Granelle in Villeneuve Loubet at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 20 20 48

**Skiing: National New Freestyle Tour** Big Air and Skier Cross competition at Isola 2000. Tel: 04 93 23 15 15 ◆ March 10

**Cycling: 14th Big Green** BMX free style competition at Parc Robinson in Mandelieu. Tel: 04 92 97 80 89 ◆ March 10

**Salon du Modélisme** Display of models arranged by the model club of Mouans Sartoux. Tel: 04 92 92 47 24 ◆ March 10

**Volleyball: RC Cannes v Damrochette** Women's national championship match at Palais des Sports in Cannes at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 39 60 47

**Foire Internationale de Nice** A variety of exhibits bringing the countryside to the Acropolis in Nice. Different aspects are covered on the different days of the fair including farm animals, olives, cookery, nature and tourism. Tel: 04 92 00 20 80 ◆ March 18

**17th Fête de l'Oeillet** Falicon's annual carnation festival themed this year around the Circus. Tel: 04 92 07 92 70 ◆ March 11

**South African Club Party** in Grasse. Knees-up for members of the Riviera's South African Club – new members always welcome. Tel: 06 12 06 49 57

**11th Colombe d'Or** See March 8

**Rally: 46th Tour de Corse** See March 7

**10 Sunday**

**The Forum** Get-together at The Hop Store, Old Antibes. This time a private room has been booked upstairs to accommodate the club. Starts 19:00. Tel: 06 22 82 16 18.

**Orchestre Régional de Cannes PACA** Performance of Fauré, Haydn, Schredine and Mendelssohn-Bartholdy at Palais des Festivals in Cannes at 16:30. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77

**Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo** The music of Mahler performed at the Centre de Congrès, Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco at 18:00. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99

**Carnival** St Vallier de Thiey's annual carnival. Tel: 04 93 42 67 49

**Syrinx** Vocal ensemble performs Brahms at Vence Cathedral at 15:00. Tel: 04 93 58 06 38

**Volleyball: AS Cannes v Poitiers** Pro A match at Palais des Sports in Cannes at 17:00. Tel: 04 93 39 60 47

**26th Cross du Larvotto** Cross Country Race starting on Larvotto beach in Monaco. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16

**Grand Prix Meeting d'Hiver** Winter horse race meeting at the Hippodrome in Cagnes sur Mer. Also on March 15. Tel: 04 92 02 44 44 ◆ March 15

**Columbus Cinema Club** The Thomas Crown Affair. See March 3

**11th Colombe d'Or** See March 8 ■

**Fête des Violettes** See March 9 ■

**Skiing: National New Freestyle Tour** See March 9 ■

**Cycling: 14th Big Green** See March 9 ■

**Salon du Modélisme** See March 9 ■

**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9

**17th Fête de l'Oeillet** See March 9

**Rally: 46th Tour de Corse** See March 7 ■

**11 Monday**

**Quand la Musique Classique Rencontre le Jazz** 'When Classical Music Meets Jazz' concert at the Palais des Congrès in Juan-les-Pins at 18:30. Tel: 04 92 90 54 40

**The Cranberries** Play the Zenith Omega in Toulon tonight, for one night only. Tickets from [www.ticketnet.fr](http://www.ticketnet.fr)

**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9

**17th Fête de l'Oeillet** See March 9 ■

**12 Tuesday**

**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9

**13 Wednesday**

**The Glenn Miller Memorial Orchestra** Concert at Théâtre Princesse Grace in Monaco at 21:00. Tickets cost from €27. Tel: +377 93 25 32 27 ◆ March 14

**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9

**14 Thursday**

**The Boyfriend** Performance by pupils of the International School of Nice. Starts at 19:30. Tel: 04 93 21 04 00 ◆ March 16

**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9

**The Glenn Miller Memorial Orchestra** See March 13 ■

**15 Friday**

**Cycling: Paris-Nice** World leading cyclists arrive in Cannes today at around 16:00. Tomorrow they continue to Nice via Grasse, Tourrettes-sur-Loup and the Col d'Eze. The final stage is on Sunday when the route takes them in a

## Riviera Diary

circle from Nice via Vence, Gourdon, Valbonne and Villeneuve Loubet. ♦ March 16  
**Philippe Gareil Quartet** Jazz at MJC Picaud in Cannes at 21:30. Tel: 04 93 06 29 90  
**Opera** Romantic duets and other arias performed at Salle St Exupéry in Menton at 20:30. Tel: 04 92 41 76 76  
**Les Gavottes Trio** Classical music at the St Jacques le Majeur church at 20:30 in Mougins. Tel: 04 93 75 87 67  
**Anima y Corpo** Music at the church in Sophia Antipolis this evening. Tel: 04 93 12 32 20  
**Chassagnite Quartet** Jazz at Salle Escoffier in Villeneuve Loubet at 21:00. Tel: 04 92 02 60 50  
**Dédé** Ballet de la Cie Addiva and Ensemble Instrumental de Nancy performance at Salle du Canton in Monaco at 21:00. Also at 16:00 on March 17. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99 ♦ March 17  
**13th Journées du Jardin** Plant display and competition at Place Sophie Lafitte in Sophia Antipolis. Tel: 04 93 12 34 50 ♦ March 17  
**Maisons Fleuries** Garden displays at St Vallier de Thiey. Tel: 04 93 42 63 18 ♦ March 20  
**Feast of St Patrick** The Princess Grace Irish Library has organised two free events to celebrate St Patrick. Tonight is a concert featuring the first performance outside of Germany of Wolfgang Löll's *Suite für Grace Kelly*. Starting at 20:30 at Monaco Cathedral, the evening will also include traditional Irish songs sung by La Maitrise de la Cathedral and Les Petits Chanteurs de Monaco and music by the l'Orchestre de l'Académie de Musique Foundation Prince Rainier III. On March 18, The 1952 film *The Quiet Man*, starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, will be shown in Salle 3 at le Sporting in Monte-Carlo at 18:00. To reserve tickets, tel: +377 93 50 12 25  
**11th Festival Musical du Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat** See March 8  
**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9  
**Grand Prix Meeting d'Hiver** See 10 ■  
**The Boyfriend** See March 14

## 16 Saturday

**AMIAC Lunch** The Alpes Maritimes International Aperitif Club get together for aperitifs and lunch at Le Caveau in Cannes at 12:00. New members always welcome, tel: 04 93 69 22 65  
**St Patrick's Day Celebration** An hour of traditional Irish music and readings organised by the Monaco Ireland Arts society at the Columbus Hotel in Monaco. The free event starts at 20:00 and is followed by a €45 dinner. Call Richard Murray for a dinner reservation. Tel: +377 92 05 90 00  
**Cycling: Paris-Nice** See March 15  
**Basketball: Antibes v Le Havre** Pro A championship match at Espace J Bunoz in Antibes at 20:00. Tel: 04 93 33 32 32  
**Football: Monaco v Nantes** 1st division match at Stade Louis II in Monaco at 20:00. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16  
**Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice** Performance of chamber music in the Auditorium du Mamac in Nice at 16:30. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40  
**Valses de Vienne** Vienna Waltz Operetta at Acropolis Congrès in Nice. Tel: 04 93 92 83 00  
**Trio Serenata** Chamber music by Mozart, Schumann and Bruch at Vieux-village church in St Laurent du Var. Tel: 04 92 12 40 23  
**Skiing: Grand Prix Poussins** Under 11s competition in Valberg. Tel: 04 93 23 24 25  
**Exposition Féline Internationale** Cat show at Espace Chiris in Grasse. Tel: 04 93 36 66 66 ♦ March 17  
**Fête de l'Olive** Olive festival with a market and exhibitions, including a table and cooker from Château Grimaldi, in the gardens at Musée Renoir in Cagnes sur Mer. Tel: 04 93 20 85 57  
**Bal du Printemps** Spring Ball at Salle Léo Lagrange in Mouans Sartoux at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 75 75 16  
**Football: Nice v Wasquehal** 2nd division match at Stade du Ray in Nice at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 07 06 06  
**Football: Cannes v St Maur** Match at Stade Pierre de Coubertin in Cannes at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 19 50 50  
**Concert VII** Music by Schoenberg, Bartok and Brahms at Nice Opera House at 20:00 today and at 16:00 on March 17. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40 ♦ March 17



**GETTING IN THE GROOVE, LATIN-AMERICAN STYLE...** *The Cuban Bar at the Casino in Monte-Carlo has a new floorshow. Latin Groove will be on stage every night except Mondays until June 22, with a show mixing jazz, rhythm and blues, soul and rap. Latin Groove's performances are followed by DJ Waldo O'Farrell and music by The Conga Band. The shows start at 23:00, tickets cost €40. Call +377 92 16 36 36 for reservations.*

**Bal de la Rose** The Rose Ball is a major event in the Monaco social calendar, organised by the Red Cross, at Le Sporting, Monte-Carlo. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16  
**Celtic Evening** Gathering organised by the Auld Alliance to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Tel: 04 93 08 32 78  
**Walkathon 2002** Charity walk in aid of L'Ecole des Chiens-Guides d'Aveugles de Biot between 8:00 and 13:30. Guide dogs from the school in Biot will be taking part in the event at the CIV, home of the international school in Sophia Antipolis. A good reason to spend a morning in the fresh air – and exercise your dog if you have one. Tel: 04 92 96 52 24  
**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9  
**The Boyfriend** See March 14 ■  
**13th Journées du Jardin** See March 15  
**Maisons Fleuries** See March 15

## 17 Sunday

**La Veuve Joyeuse** Franz Lehar's operetta performed at the Palais des Congrès in Juan-les-Pins. Tel: 04 92 95 20 28  
**Orchestre Régional de Cannes PACA** Music by Elgar, Hahn and Mozart performed at Théâtre Noga Croisette in Cannes at 16:30. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77  
**Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo** Performance at Musée Océanographique at 11:00. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99  
**Orphée aux Enfers** Offenbach's opera Orpheus in the Underworld performed at Nice Opera House at 14:30 today and at 20:00 on Tuesday 19 March, Thursday 21 March and Saturday 23 March. Ticket prices range between €6 and €67. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40 ♦ March 23  
**Sailing: Critérium Olympique** Races at Juan-les-Pins today plus 23 and 24 March. Tel: 04 92 91 13 13 ♦ March 24  
**Cycling: Paris-Nice** See March 15 ■  
**Grand Prix de Biot Cycliste** Cycle race between 8:00 and 11:00 organised by le Vélo Sprint Biotois. Tel: 04 92 94 09 90  
**Columbus Cinema Club** Breakfast at Tiffany's. See March 3  
**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9  
**Dédé** See March 15 ■  
**13th Journées du Jardin** See March 15 ■  
**Maisons Fleuries** See March 15  
**Exposition Féline Internationale** See March 16 ■  
**Concert VII** See March 16 ■

**Orphée aux Enfers** See March 17

## 20 Wednesday

**Chamber Music** Performance in Salle des Variétés in Monaco at 20:30. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16  
**Steve Coleman & Five Elements** Jazz concert at CEDAC Cimiez at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 53 89 66  
**Skiing: Children's Grand Prix** Takes place in Valberg. Tel: 04 93 23 24 25  
**Maisons Fleuries** See March 15 ■

## 21 Thursday

**L'Académie de Musique** Pupils play chamber music in the Salle des Variétés in Monaco at 20:30. Tel: +377 92 16 61 16  
**Orphée aux Enfers** See March 17

## 22 Friday

**An Evening with Eoin McNamee** The author of Resurrection Man talks at the Princess Grace Irish Library in Monaco. Tel: +377 93 50 12 25  
**Chant Choral** Concert organised by the Rotary Club, at Vence Cathedral at 20:30. Tel 04 93 58 06 38  
**Bacca** Jazz at MJC Picaud in Cannes at 21:30. Tel: 04 93 06 29 90  
**Alma Tango** Dance show at Médiathèque in Mouans Sartoux at 21:00. Tel: 04 92 92 47 24  
**Lac des Singes** Modern ballet performed at Théâtre de Nice at 20:30. Tickets cost between €10 and €28.20. Tel: 04 93 13 90 90 ♦ March 23  
**13th Monte-Carlo Interior Design and Gardening Exhibition** Everything for the home and garden at Espace Fontvieille in Monaco. Tel: +377 92 166 116 ♦ March 25  
**11th Festival Musical du Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat** See March 8

## 23 Saturday

**Pastoral Music** Recital at the church in La Gaude at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 24 47 26  
**Ball** At Salle Léo Lagrange in Mouans-Sartoux at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 75 75 16  
**Snowboarding: Slalom and boarder cross** Competition at Valberg. Tel: 04 93 23 24 25  
**La Wanadoo Snow Bike Competition** Weekend-long competition at Isola 2000. Tel: 04 93 23 15 15 ♦ March 24  
**Volleyball: AS Cannes v Sète** Pro A championship match at the Palais des Sports in Cannes at 20:30. Tel: 04 93 39 60 47  
**Sunny Bank Grande Vente Kermesse** Huge and renowned biennial charity sale of pre-screened good quality donated items including clothes, books, music, gadgets, toys and home-made food, cakes and jams at Palais des Festivals in Cannes between 10:00 and 18:00 today and tomorrow. No credit card facilities, so don't forget your cheque book. Tel: 04 93 60 17 67 ♦ March 24

## 18 Monday

**Feast of St Patrick** The Quiet Man. See March 15 ■  
**Foire Internationale de Nice** See March 9 ■  
**Maisons Fleuries** See March 15

## 19 Tuesday

**Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo** Performance of music by Mozart and Beethoven at 12:30 in Salle des Variétés in Monaco. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99  
**Fête Patronale St Joseph** Day of festivities centred around Place Libération in Beausoleil to celebrate the town's patron saint. Tel: 04 93 78 01 55  
**Maisons Fleuries** See March 15



**CHAGALL IN MONACO...** *You can be amongst the first to see the originals of Chagall's Circus series, used to illustrate the book Cirque in 1967. The 38 pictures are now on show for the first time at the Salle du quai Antoine 1er, Monaco. The exhibition is open every day from noon to 7pm until 14 April.*

**The Forum** Dinner at Karr, 10 rue Alphonse Karr, Nice. Pre-booking advised. Tel: 06 22 82 16 18 or visit <http://all.at/the-forum>.  
**Orphée aux Enfers** See March 17 ■  
**Sailing: Critérium Olympique** See March 17  
**Lac des Singes** See March 22 ■  
**13th Monte-Carlo Interior Design and Gardening Exhibition** See March 22

## 24 Sunday

**Orchestre Régional de Cannes PACA** Performance of works by Mozart, Maratka and Dvorak at Théâtre C Debussy in Cannes at 16:30. Tel: 04 92 98 62 77  
**Tea Dance** At the Palais des Congrès in Grasse. Tel: 04 93 36 66 66  
**Swedish Easter Bazaar** Takes place next to the Swedish church in Haut de Cagnes between 11:00 and 17:00  
**Idue Foscarini** Verdi's opera performed at Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco at 18:00. Tel: +377 92 16 22 99  
**Découverte Jeunes, Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice** Performance of works by Haydn and other composers at Nice Opera House at 11:00. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40  
**Viva Verdi** Show celebrating the works of Verdi at Théâtre F Gag in Nice at 14:30. Tel: 04 93 62 00 03  
**Skiing: Regional speed skiing and boarder cross competition** at Valberg. Tel: 04 93 23 24 25  
**Fête du Vélo** Organised by le Vélo Sprint Biotois in Biot. Tel: 04 92 94 09 90  
**Columbus Cinema Club** Cinema Paradiso. See March 3  
**Sailing: Critérium Olympique** See March 17 ■  
**13th Monte-Carlo Interior Design and Gardening Exhibition** See March 22  
**La Wanadoo Snow Bike Competition** See March 23 ■  
**Sunny Bank Grande Vente Kermesse** See March 23 ■

## 25 Monday

**Dave Weckl** Jazz at CEDAC Cimiez at 21:00. Tel: 04 93 53 89 66  
**13th Monte-Carlo Interior Design and Gardening Exhibition** See March 22 ■  
**26 Tuesday**  
**Nuit Glacée à Monte-Carlo** Competition performances by Olympic ice-skaters in the Salle des Princes at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco at 20:30. Also at 15:00 on March 27. Tickets cost from €28 Tel: +377 99 99 30 00 ♦ March 27  
**Football: Cannes v Dijon** National championship match at Stade Pierre de Coubertin in Cannes at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 19 50 50  
**Football: Nice v Amiens** 2nd division match at Stade du Ray in Nice at 20:00. Tel: 04 92 07 06 06  
**Foire de Printemps** Spring Fair in Guillaumes village. Tel: 04 93 05 57 67

## 27 Wednesday

**Soirée Richard Wherlock and Nils Christie** Mozart's Symphony K 551 Jupiter and Wagner's Wessendonck-Lieder performed at Nice Opera House at 15:00. Also at 20:00 on March 28, 29 and 30. Tel: 04 92 17 40 40 ♦ March 30  
**Nuit Glacée à Monte-Carlo** See March 26 ■

## 28 Thursday

**10th Salon Internationale Floral** Flower show at La Citadelle in Villefranche between 10:00 and 18:00. Tel: 04 93 76 33 06 ♦ April 1  
**Skiing: Côte d'Azur Grand Prix** at Auron. Tel: 04 93 23 02 66 ♦ April 4  
**Ballet Folklorique d'Argentine** Argentine Ballet at Palais de l'Europe in Menton at 21:00. Tel: 04 92 41 76 95  
**11th Festival Musical du Grand-Hôtel du Cap-Ferrat** See March 8  
**Soirée Richard Wherlock and Nils Christie** See March 27  
**Ballet Imperial de Russie** Scenes from Bolero, Carmen, Don Quixote and Swan Lake will be performed at the Palais des Congrès in Juan-les-Pins. Tel: 04 92 90 53 00  
**Local schools break up** for the Easter holiday

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# riviera sport

## ITALIANS RIDE HIGH IN LE CANNET

By Shane Stokes

ITALIAN cycling bounced back from a disappointing 2001 season with a dominating performance in the Tour of the Mediterranean race, taking all five stages plus the overall title this month.

The tour, which included a stage finish in Le Cannet on February 14 and a start the following morning from Villeneuve-Loubet, was won by Michelle Bartoli from the impressively strong Fassa Bortolo team.

Organised by 1966 Tour de France winner Lucien Aimar, the early-season Mediterranean Tour prepares riders for bigger challenges in the months ahead, such as the Paris-Nice tour (March 10-17), the Milan-San Remo classic (March 23) and other spring World Cup races.

However, the event is a prestigious contest in itself and the stages were fiercely contested from the moment the

action began on February 13 with a team time trial. First blood went to the Italian Fassa Bortolo team; the world's No1 ranked outfit beat Tour de France team time trial champions Credit Agricole by seven seconds and propelled Bartoli into the first yellow jersey of the race.

Stage two from Bouc Bel Air to Le Cannet saw flamboyant Italian sprinter Mario Cipollini take his first win of the season and highly-placed Alessandro Petacchi succeed his team-mate in yellow.

Cipollini looked poised to take his fourteenth career stage win in the race at the end of stage 3, from Villeneuve-Loubet to Hyères, but was hampered in the sprint; however his Acqua & Sapone team-mate Giovanni Lombardi stepped

into the breach to make it two in a row for the new squad.

Stage 4 brought yet another day of driving rain and freezing conditions. French favourite Richard Virenque (Domo) tried his luck with a long-range attack, but was left hypothermic, exhausted and several minutes in arrears by the stage finish atop Mont Faron in Toulon, where Bartoli won alone and retook the race lead.

It proved the decisive moment of the race. Virenque tried again on the final stage to Marseilles but was recaptured close to the finish, where Petacchi outsprinted Cipollini to take the stage and Bartoli finished safely in the main bunch. Final score: Italy five, rest of peloton nil. Next stop Paris-Nice, March 10-17.



FLAMBOYANT... Mario Cipollini wins in Le Cannet on Valentine's day

## Curlers, tea-tray and medal to dye for

IT was left to a young Oxford graduate on a tea-tray, a foursome of Scots wielding giant stones and brooms and a skier with the wrong hair to uphold the Olympic honour of Great Britain in Salt Lake City, writes Chris Brown.

And they did it so well that Britain's Winter Olympic team had their most successful games since 1936.

Rhona Martin's team of women curlers, bidding for Britain's first Winter Olympic gold medal since ice dancers Torvill and Dean in 1984, succeeded after the very last shot of the match gave Britain a 4-3 win.

The Scottish housewives have awoken the country to a sport few had even heard of. It is likely to be a while before 5.7 million Britons stay up to watch international curling again.

Skeleton Bob sounds more like a cartoon character than a sport. But Alex Coomber from Somerset had genuine prospects of winning the inaugural women's event. She was ultimately pushed back to third.

And on the last day, Alain Baxter became the first Briton to win an Olympic medal on snow. The Highlander almost got into trouble when he turned up at the Olympics bearing a blue-and-white Scottish flag in his hair, which could have been con-



CURLING... Rhona Martin's team bagged Britain's first Winter Olympic gold in 18 years

sidered a political statement by the International Olympic Committee.

He dyed his whole head blue to avoid hassle and — cheered by friends and family from his home town of Aviemore — clinched a bronze medal in the men's slalom. The Games have been dubbed the Security Games with thousands of guardsmen on patrol. But they will be remembered more for controversy and surprises.

The big story revolves around the figure skating competition where a

French judge was said to have been pressured to "act in a certain way" before casting the pivotal vote awarding gold to Russia rather than Canada.

The result, which placed the Russian pair in first place despite a flawless performance from the Canadian duo, drew hoots of derision from the crowd.

Sally Stapleford, Britain's top ice skating official, reacted indignantly to claims she had intimidated the French judge who was later suspended.

Marie-Reine Le Gougne told journalists she was not, as originally reported, pressured by her own federation into voting for the Russians in exchange for Russian support in the ice dance judging.

She said she had been criticised for giving the Russians her vote by Stapleford, who is head of the International Skating Union's technical committee, and added that the British official told her to blame her own federation for influencing her vote.

Meanwhile, a policeman from Salzburg, Fritz Strobl, came from nowhere to win the blue-riband event of the Games — the men's downhill.

And in a classic "tortoise and hare" race, Australia won its first gold medal as a bizarre finish handed the gold medal to the speed skater who couldn't keep up.

No one gave Steven Bradbury a hope of winning in the 1,000-metre, short track final, and true to form he was trailing everyone else as the finish line loomed.

Then a spectacular sequence of trips, bumps and spills sent the four other competitors sprawling, leaving Bradbury to coast home. He shook his head in disbelief as he stepped up to the medal podium. "From worst to first," read one headline.

## Record entry in Primo Cup

By Alison Craddock

THERE was a record number of entrants for the 18th Primo Cup Trophée Credit Suisse in Monaco earlier this month with 188 yachts and 900 crew from 11 nations.

Apart from lack of breeze cancelling races on the first Saturday, conditions were mostly favourable but challenging with constantly changing wind directions and strengths.

Ten classes were represented over the two weekends. They comprised Bénéteau 25s, J/22s, J/24s, Mumm 30s, Smeralda 888s, Stars, Surprises, Etchells, UFO 22s and Melges 24s.

The mixture of classes caused difficulties for the smaller yachts, particularly the Olympic Classed Stars.

Jaques Puissegur, of the Club Nautique de Nice, said: "It is impractical to combine so many classes; the larger yachts steal the smaller yachts' wind, and the risk of collision is high."

The local 'star' of the Stars, ex-European Champion, Jochen Schwartz of the Yacht Club de Monaco, came third overall with his yacht, Blackie.

First place went to Javier Aguado of Spain and Rockport.

The English racing community was well represented, particularly in the Etchells class, where the top four boats were all British. First place was stolen from Niels Razmilovic, last year's Etchells World Champion, when Patriot Games finished just two points ahead of the consistent leg winner Mtu Moja Na Umbwa Yake (Kenyan for 'One man and his dog').

Skipper Paul Blowers of Patriot Games, who was tactician on board Australia II during the America's Cup Jubilee in Cowes last year, said, "We are very pleased with our result. Competition was very strong."

The final prize-giving on February 10 was well attended. The gold ingot spot-prize, donated by sponsors Credit Suisse (Monaco), was won by the crew of Allez Paulo J'accele III.

## Jonny puts England on top of Rugby world

FOR the first time in decades the English rugby union team can officially claim to be the best in the world.

England climbed to number one in world rankings after crushing Ireland 45-11 at Twickenham in their latest six-nations encounter.

The English were ruthless as they gained revenge for their 20-14 defeat in Dublin last October, a result which cost them the Grand Slam.

And the hosts had Jonny Wilkinson to thank, after the 22-year-old produced arguably his most complete performance at international level. The

By Chris Brown

outside half scored the first try of the afternoon, made the space for almost every resulting score and kicked intelligently both from the spot and in open play.

The Welsh though can merely stare across the border in desperation. After a 54-10 thumping by Ireland in their first match, their Kiwi coach Graham Henry resigned. Although their performance improved in the next match, they still lost at home to France. Scotland, who were mauled by

England in round one, came back to win in Italy 29-12, thanks to two late tries by Gregor Townsend and Brendan Laney.

France are level on points with England but are way off the English performance level. The two meet in Paris on Saturday March 2 with the English firm favourites.

English captain Martin Johnson will be available despite receiving a three-week ban for punching Saracens hooker Robbie Russell. His appeal was delayed until after the crunch match for "logistical reasons," allowing him to play.