A RIVAL broadcaster is preparing to sue Riviera Radio over its claim that it is the only English-language station in the region.

The president of Radio International, Jack Kelly, says Riviera Radio’s claim means his station misses out on the chance to bid for advertising business and that this has hit future income and the value of his company by upwards of five million dollars.

Mr Kelly told The Riviera Gazette that he has asked Riviera Radio to change its advertising claims several times in the three years since Radio International launched.

He said the last straw came when Riviera Radio’s new boss, Marc Dugimont, was quoted in a local paper last week as saying “I really believe Riviera Radio is in a unique position. It is the only English-speaking station catering for the ever-growing English-speaking population on the Riviera.”

Dugimont continued: “Normally I welcome competition. But if you find yourself in a unique position, why not take advantage of it.”

Kelly told The Riviera Gazette: “Twelve months ago I told them that if they kept repeating these claims there would be legal consequences.

“At the moment it is a question of venue [for a court case] and the amount of damages we will be seeking. Probably somewhere north of $5 million.”

This week he wrote to the station’s US parent, Morris Communications, saying: “I am now formally demanding that Riviera Radio immediately cease and desist the dissemination of deceptive and false promotional matter in any form.”

Kelly is also demanding that Morris issues a policy statement to Riviera Radio saying that the station will always compete fairly, and that Riviera Radio sends a letter of clarification to all current clients and prospects.

“We are prepared to take action to seek redress,” Kelly concludes.

The newspaper article also says that Riviera Radio “has an estimated audience of nearly a quarter of a million listeners.”

In a fax sent out to Riviera’s advertising clients after the article appeared, Kelly says “Riviera Radio has no evidence whatsoever of any measured audience.

“Oh of course, they do have listeners but there is no quantifiable data on the size of the total audience or the amount of minutes per week contributed to Riviera Radio by its listeners.”

But Dugimont is confident that the figure is not inaccurate. “It’s not too crazy. I think I’m not far off the mark” he told The Riviera Gazette.

He also stands by his description of Riviera Radio as ‘unique’.

“As far as we are concerned we are really the only radio station” he said. “I don’t see them as competition... people just have to tune into him and they’ll see the difference.”

Dugimont, 32, joined Riviera Radio last month from Luxembourg-based broadcasting giant RTL, where he was in charge of its non-French radio stations.
PALESTINIANS HIDE IN BETHLEHEM CHURCH

By Chris Brown

PALESTINIAN militants were last night hiding from Israeli troops in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

The church is built on the spot where Jesus is believed to have been born – and night hiding from Israeli troops in the PALESTINIAN militiamen were last stills that was wiped out by a flood 3,500 years ago has Bronze Age ‘Venice’ sunk by flood is found

BETHLEHEM CHURCH

World News

2 The Riviera Gazette

Britain’s last Viking was killed in a 1500-year-old death struggle

Some 700 people probably lived in the port village near the current town of Poggiomarino, south of Naples, between 1500 BC and 600 BC.

Scientists think that a mode of life that may be threatened by sewage works and into rivers. This is being linked to the effects

LONDON DIARY

Pill in water ‘causes infertility’

THE contraceptive pill may be to blame for the rise in male infertility as it is filtering the drinking water system through recyling of water.

The Environment Agency says that half of all male fish in low-lying English rivers are changing sex due to pollution by the pill.

Scientists say the urine of women taking the pill carries an “exquisitely potent” form of the male hormone oestrogen, which may be flushed through sewage works and on fish, and they fear the chemical could contaminate the UK’s drinking water – one third of which comes from rivers. A group of Northern Ireland scientists have been working on a way to combat it using photocatalysis. The process uses titanium dioxide to decompose water, and promises to remove a wide range of pollutants.

Tony Blair has scrapped plans to buy an £80 million luxury jet to avoid a row with the Queen. Number 10 pulled the plans for a ‘Blair Force One’ – dubbed Buckingham Palace 2 – after fears Buckingham Palace would refuse to share the cost. A spokesman said: “It was just too expensive and the PM has decided not to go ahead.”

The British government has become the first country in the world’s most important Club of Paris Prime Ministers to announce in writing that it is no longer a member. Britain remains the only major Western Power and the last stage of water treatment, and promises to remove a wide range of pollutants.

MONKEY moves cursor by power of thought

A MONKEY with an implanted brain stimulus has astonished scientists by moving a computer cursor using his mind to control a computer.

The discovery is the latest advance in work on the link between man and machine carried out by researchers at Brown University in the US. They hope it will help the paralysed and infirm to work with technology.

Bronze Age ‘Venice’ sunk by flood is found

A BRONZE Age ‘Venice’ full of canals and busts built on stilts that was wiped out by a flood 3,500 years ago has

Britten the vain of Europe

BRITONS have the most plastic surgery in Europe.

Doctors carried out 24,333 operations in 2000, more than double the number performed in Germany, a survey shows.

In Europe only France came close, with 21,211 operations. Worldwide only Americans and Brazilians have more.

PENSIONS will fall short

PEOPLE in Britain are not investing enough for their retire- ment, with only 12 per cent sav- ing outside their pension.

They are also leaving it late to begin additional saving for when they stop work, with 22 per cent not starting until they are 45, according to the Birmingham Midshires building society.

The Pension Policy Institute has warned that 25-year-olds will have work to until they are 72 or greater increase contribu- tions to retirement on the same income a 65-year-old would expect today after 40 years in a final salary pension scheme.

Fearful sleep with guns

TENAMENTs of Britons are so worried about crime they sleep with a loaded gun by their bed.

Six out of 10 questioned by a poll – said they would carry a weapon against intruders. Half would kill to protect family. Up to a tenth have a weapon near them at home, at night outside their own abode.

Ten boys off reading

TEENAGERS in Britain spend just 20 minutes a day reading as television and computer games take over, a survey reveals.

Boys of 15 and 16 spend 2.3 hours a week reading for plea- sure, a study made just before World Book Day shows. They watch TV for over 11 hours and spend over nine hours on computer games.

Travel costs skew $202 billion

LATE trains and traffic jams cost British business almost $2 billion a year.

People are driven late to work by transport chaos, a report shows. On average, 6.7 million people per month average, according to a poll by Barclaycard. Health is also affec- ted – more than half the 2,500 polled said travel was the most stressful part of their day.

Goodbye...

Light beams tribute to September 11 victims

New York lit its “Tribute in Light”, memorial, consisting of two shafts of light to represent the twin towers of the World Trade Center, on March 11 – six months after the terrorist attack that destroyed the buildings.

Photo: AP/Stan Hurn
Queen Mother dies at 101

The Queen Mother was preparing for war. She had read Mein Kampf, had learned to use a revolver, and was not persuaded to go to Canada to escape. “The children could not leave without me, I could not leave without the King, and the King will never leave,” Queen Elizabeth announced in 1940.

It was her visits alongside George VI to the burned ruins of the East End in London that re-established the position of the Royal Family. The Second World War, and her response to it, could be argued to have saved the monarchy.

This was a new kind of war, with a home front, and the royal couple were dedicated to helping the nation. She had experience as a nurse during World War I, but as Queen she visited hospitals, factories, military establishments and areas damaged in the blitz.

She was to retain extensive links with the military for the rest of her life. Her last public appearance was as a ceremony to re-commission the aircraft carrier Ark Royal in Portsmouth on 21 November last year.

The visits to the East End went down in folklore. It was said that she would stop her car and nip out to mingle amongst the crowds, talking to them. She won the respect and affection of her subjects, and this increased the popularity and sense of trust between the Royal Family and the British people at large that had broken down so badly during the abdication crisis.

The gift of mingling, which her husband tried to copy, their desire to be seen with the people and to sympathise with them combined to change the monarchy forever. What Royal trip these days does not involve the now famous walkabout?

It is not to say that the “levelling” effect was total. The Royal couple would retreat to Windsor every evening to escape the bombing, Champagne was still served at dinner during the harsh days of rationing.

Peace eventually came, but George VI’s health was never to be the same. After an operation in 1949 for arteriosclerosis, he weakened and died of lung cancer in 1952.

Their daughter, Elizabeth, ascended to the throne. She had been an “example in public freedom.”

The Queen Mother, as she was now to be called, would hand over to her daughter a rejuvenated monarchy.

world leaders pay their respects

leaders from around the world immediately paid tribute to the Queen Mother.

There were tributes from many Commonwealth countries, including Canada and Australia, where the Queen is head of state.

“Although we mourn her passing, it is an occasion of thanks for a very long and special life,” said Australia’s Prime Minister Howard. Then the Duke of York, it is an occasion to give our thanks for a very long and very special life,” said Australia’s Prime Minister Howard.

KING Edward VIII’s determination to marry an American divorcee is a story of legend. But the Queen Mother felt it made her a widow at just 31.

In 1937 Edward VIII abdicated his throne, choosing instead to marry his lover, Wallis Simpson. At the time it was unthinkable for a King to marry a divorcee.

Edward’s brother – and Elizabeth’s husband – Albert became King George VI. He was a shy and reluctant King.

The abdication crisis brought the Royal Family closer to its destruction than any other single event. It was not just a political and constitutional upheaval – it was an emotional crisis that left deep scars for the Queen Mother.

As late as the 1970s, the BBC scrapped a documentary about the Queen Mother because she refused to take part if the abdication was mentioned. Even now, hundreds of official documents relating to the crisis are under lock and key. They are kept secret because officials concede that publication would have caused her distress and embarrassment.

The wrangling over income and titles was a determination that the exiles should not set up an alternative court. Despite her wish to see Edward happy, bitterness grew between Elizabeth and Edward and, especially, his new wife. It was the death of her husband, known to her as ‘Bertie’, that made the estrangement permanent. She believed the strain brought him to an early grave. As one courtier put it: “The Queen Mother believes that Mrs Simpson shortened her husband’s life and she has never been able to forgive her.”

The abdication thrust the Queen Mother to the head of the Royal Family, but left permanent scars. She was never able to fully accept the marital difficulties of her grandchildren Charles and Andrew, and would forever be reluctant to accept the remarriage of divorcees.

The Riviera Gazette 5 April 2002

Britons mourn as ‘nation’s grandmother’ passes away peacefully in her sleep

Queen Mother dies at 101

The Queen who saved the Royals

The Queen Mother was prepared for war. She had read Mein Kampf, had learned to use a revolver, and was not persuaded to go to Canada to escape. “The children could not leave without me, I could not leave without the King, and the King will never leave,” Queen Elizabeth announced in 1940. It was her visits alongside George VI to the burned ruins of the East End in London that re-established the position of the Royal Family. The Second World War, and her response to it, could be argued to have saved the monarchy.

This was a new kind of war, with a home front, and the royal couple were dedicated to helping the nation. She had experience as a nurse during World War I, but as Queen she visited hospitals, factories, military establishments and areas damaged in the blitz.

She was to retain extensive links with the military for the rest of her life. Her last public appearance was as a ceremony to re-commission the aircraft carrier Ark Royal in Portsmouth on 21 November last year. The visits to the East End went down in folklore. It was said that she would stop her car and nip out to mingle amongst the crowds, talking to them. She won the respect and affection of her subjects, and this increased the popularity and sense of trust between the Royal Family and the British people at large that had broken down so badly during the abdication crisis.

The gift of mingling, which her husband tried to copy, their desire to be seen with the people and to sympathise with them combined to change the monarchy forever. What Royal trip these days does not involve the now famous walkabout?

It is not to say that the “levelling” effect was total. The Royal couple would retreat to Windsor every evening to escape the bombing, Champagne was still served at dinner during the harsh days of rationing.

Peace eventually came, but George VI’s health was never to be the same. After an operation in 1949 for arteriosclerosis, he weakened and died of lung cancer in 1952. Their daughter, Elizabeth, ascended to the throne.

The Queen Mother, as she was now to be called, would hand over to her daughter a rejuvenated monarchy.

Leaders from around the world immediately paid tribute to the Queen Mother.

There were tributes from many Commonwealth countries, including Canada, and Australia, where the Queen is head of state.

“My children could not leave without me, I could not leave without the King, and the King will never leave,” Queen Elizabeth announced in 1940.

It was her visits alongside George VI to the burned ruins of the East End in London that re-established the position of the Royal Family. The Second World War, and her response to it, could be argued to have saved the monarchy.

This was a new kind of war, with a home front, and the royal couple were dedicated to helping the nation. She had experience as a nurse during World War I, but as Queen she visited hospitals, factories, military establishments and areas damaged in the blitz.

She was to retain extensive links with the military for the rest of her life. Her last public appearance was as a ceremony to re-commission the aircraft carrier Ark Royal in Portsmouth on 21 November last year. The visits to the East End went down in folklore. It was said that she would stop her car and nip out to mingle amongst the crowds, talking to them. She won the respect and affection of her subjects, and this increased the popularity and sense of trust between the Royal Family and the British people at large that had broken down so badly during the abdication crisis.

The gift of mingling, which her husband tried to copy, their desire to be seen with the people and to sympathise with them combined to change the monarchy forever. What Royal trip these days does not involve the now famous walkabout?

It is not to say that the “levelling” effect was total. The Royal couple would retreat to Windsor every evening to escape the bombing, Champagne was still served at dinner during the harsh days of rationing.

Peace eventually came, but George VI’s health was never to be the same. After an operation in 1949 for arteriosclerosis, he weakened and died of lung cancer in 1952. Their daughter, Elizabeth, ascended to the throne.

The Queen Mother, as she was now to be called, would hand over to her daughter a rejuvenated monarchy.
Frozen bodies in cellar banned

Ooh-la-la, wife swapping is in

A COUPLE whose bodies are stored in a freezer in the basement of their Chateau must be properly buried or cremated, the court has ruled.

Dr Raymond Martintot, a biologist who believed that advances in medical science would one day enable him and his wife to be revived, froze her wife’s body after she died in 1984 and left instructions that when he died, son Remy should freeze his body too.

Martintot had received permission from the authorities to leave the family home but, although he is reported to have given tours of the cel-

lar where the body was stored at -60°C, they say they weren’t aware until Martintot died last month that the body had been kept within a time limit of six days after death and that the bod-
ies must now be buried or cremated.

A GOVERNMENT funded study into the sex lives of the nation has found that the image of the French as world trading leavers may well be justly deserved.

“Nothing is forgotten anymore” concludes author Jean Mozuss-Lavaud, a sociologist who has spent two years researching her 466 page study “La Vie Sexuelle en France”.

“People are tolerant, and fairly prag-
matic. So long as no-one is being forced to do anything, anything goes.”

In her survey, which included inter-
views with people aged 17 to 72 from across France, Mozuss-Lavaud found that wife-swapping, spanking and group sex are all on the increase.

And it is just the younger gener-
ation who are becoming more adven-
turous. In Clermont-Ferrand, she found wife-swapping was devoted only to those over retirement age.

Mozuss-Lavaud interviewed both heterosexuals and homosexuals for her survey and found that, contrary to popular belief, their sex lives are not so very different.

Homosexuals “are not at it like rabbits”, she says.

CHIRAC AND JOSPIN

WITH less than three weeks to go, the two main candidates in the pres-
idential election are neck and neck in the opinion polls and trading places on a daily basis.

For voters though, there is frustra-
tion. The political programmes of sitting president Jacques Chirac and prime minister Lionel Jospin are as close as the gap in the polls.

The result is a campaign where per-
sonality not policy, style not sub-
stance, is the defining issue for the first round of voting on 21 April.

Both candidates have set out mani-
festos that seek to reach beyond their core supporters to try and gain the mid-
dle ground. In the case of Jospin, the word socialism has barely been men-
tioned. For Chirac, state intervention stands side by side with his cherished free market beliefs.

Both Chirac and Jospin are staying on a daily basis.

As voters struggle to find a real dif-
fERENCE between the two, both are being urged to appeal more to their core vote. This promises to polarise the two in the last two weeks, especially in economic policy.

Prime minister Jospin has pledged to focus on job creation – he has promised 900,000 more jobs by 2007, despite the fact that 500,000 have been lost to temporary work places on a daily basis.

President Chirac has aimed his fire at the French left – he has accused of confusing voters with such a weighty message. But Chirac’s biggest worry comes from attackers who say he has only flimsy ideas which sound good in principle but have little or no detail to back them up.

So the focus is now on who can pro-
vide the best performance, rather than who has the most inspiring message.

Observers have noted that Chirac, now 69, is far less energetic in this elec-
tion than in previous campaigns and has shed away from the more person-

al attacks of Jospin. Chirac has told his sup-
porters that he believes the voters do not want a vitriolic campaign, but it is more likely that he is worried about being dragged into a sling-
ging match in which his opponent has far more mud to throw.

Revelations in the French press this week point to further scandal, but Chirac has been dubbed ‘the Teflon pres-
ident’ as it becomes clear that the electorate takes the view that all politi-
cians are corrupt.

For one of the most famous, National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, this could be his last campaign.

His support base has shrunk in recent years to elderly white people, and his campaign atmosphere has been described as nostalgic rather than a menacing far-right movement.

One effect of the election could be an overhaul of the anti-
quated nomination process for candidates.

Each must persuade and cajole 500 “grand electeurs” – a mix of 46,000 people who hold elected office at home and abroad – to nominate them.

This could prove to be a problem for President Chirac after having to work very hard to secure the neces-

sary nominations at the last minute.

Le Pen accuses Chirac supporters of trying to persuade grands electeurs not to nominate him, and has threat-
ed to instruct his supporters to cast a spoiling vote against Chirac in the second round of voting.

The race is tight but history may be on Jospin’s side. Since the Fifth Republic was created in 1958, any can-
didate ahead in March has gone on to win the race.

A further 14 candidates are taking part in the election.

Killer leaps from fourth floor police station window

LONER WHO SHOT DEAD 8 KILLS HIMSELF

AN INQUIRY has been opened after a 33-year-old man who shot dead eight people and injured 19 others committed suicide by throwing-
himself from a fourth-floor window at a police station.

Richard Durn died two days after the opening fire and “shooting and eco-

necos protective and in development costs for Canal Plus says.

Over a billion dollars in unearned income and in development costs for a new security system have been lost, Canal Plus says.

NDS has dismissed the Canal Plus claims as “outrageous and baseless”.

3m live without adequate housing

THREE million people are now without ade-
quate housing, and triple the number of people afflicted by the problem is increasing diversely, says a new report by the French Labour Ministry.

Of these, 86,000 are homeless. Half a million are in temporary lodgings or bed and breakfast accommodation or are staying with friends or relatives.

The remaining two million are housed in accommodation which lacks even the most basic facilities, say the report’s authors.

French pilot is first Euro space walker

PHILIPPE Perrin, 39, will be the first Frenchman to go to space when he sets off in the space shuttle Endeavour in May.

A graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique and a former F1 Mirage pilot, has spent the last five years researching his 466 page study “La Vie Sexuelle en France”.

A frequent visitor to the public galleries and in the opinion polls and trading places on a daily basis.

By Chris Brown

LE PEN… jubilant after gathering 503 nominations

3m live without adequate housing

THREE million people are now without ade-
quate housing, and triple the number of people afflicted by the problem is increasing diversely, says a new report by the French Labour Ministry.

Of these, 86,000 are homeless. Half a million are in temporary lodgings or bed and breakfast accommodation or are staying with friends or relatives.

The remaining two million are housed in accommodation which lacks even the most basic facilities, say the report’s authors.

French pilot is first Euro space walker

PHILIPPE Perrin, 39, will be the first Frenchman to go to space when he sets off in the space shuttle Endeavour in May.

A graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique and a former F1 Mirage pilot, has spent the last five years researching his 466 page study “La Vie Sexuelle en France”.

A frequent visitor to the public galleries and in the opinion polls and trading places on a daily basis.

By Chris Brown

LE PEN… jubilant after gathering 503 nominations

3m live without adequate housing

THREE million people are now without ade-
quate housing, and triple the number of people afflicted by the problem is increasing diversely, says a new report by the French Labour Ministry.

Of these, 86,000 are homeless. Half a million are in temporary lodgings or bed and breakfast accommodation or are staying with friends or relatives.

The remaining two million are housed in accommodation which lacks even the most basic facilities, say the report’s authors.

French pilot is first Euro space walker

PHILIPPE Perrin, 39, will be the first Frenchman to go to space when he sets off in the space shuttle Endeavour in May.

A graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique and a former F1 Mirage pilot, has spent the last five years researching his 466 page study “La Vie Sexuelle en France”.

A frequent visitor to the public galleries and in the opinion polls and trading places on a daily basis.

By Chris Brown

LE PEN… jubilant after gathering 503 nominations
metro nice raises tax by up to 234%  

**High kicks round off a roaring ISN show**

A NIGHT at the theatre does not often end with a 79-year-old from the audience climbing on stage to perform a high-kicking dance routine, writes Sarah Smith.

But then The International School of Nice (ISN) last month was far from ordinary. The 28-strong pupil cast gave a slick performance which was round- ed off perfectly on the last night by the surprise announcement that a member of the play’s original cast, from when it opened in London 50 years ago, was in the audience.

And plucky French actress Violetta, the show’s original maid, came forward and performed a lively dance.

Violetta later said: “It took 50 years off me, much better than anything a doc could give me!”

The cast did not know she was there and the surprise was reflective of the fun of the evening.

The Sandy Wilson play was the result of months of rehearsal and deservedly sold out twice during its three-night run.

Set in the Roaring Twenties, the costume-makers clearly had a ball and the supporting songs and dance routines were performed admirably.

Special mention must go to the cast’s own maid Nancy Delaughter for her fantastic facial expressions, David Light as Lord Brockhurst and Pandora Todd as Maisey.

**Opponents of plans get inquiry re-opened**

**NICE PORT PROTESTORS GET INQUIRY RE-OPENED**

By Sarah Clark

EMPLOYERS in all but two of the towns which make up the new metropolitan area of Nice Côte d’Azur are facing substantial increases of up to 234 per cent in the rate of taxe professionnelle, reports Sarah Clark.

It is a local tax which is chargeable as a percentage of a business’ total annual payroll bill. And, as predicted by the seven towns that campaigned against being forced to join the new authority, it is the smaller towns that are being hit hardest.

Under national legislation, all the towns that make up a metropolitan area must have the same rate of taxe professionnelle. Rates in the 22 towns which make up Nice Côte d’Azur currently vary widely and most have a substantially lower rate than Nice.

But Nice is by far the largest employer of the 22. This means that lowering the rate in Nice to meet the rates of the smaller towns would be impractical, since it would result in a major reduction in the overall budget of Nice Côte d’Azur.

So the authority has decided to set a rate across the towns of 21.02%, slightly lower than Nice’s existing rate of 22.59% – but higher than all the other towns apart from La Trinité.

Worst hit is Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, where the new rate is four times the current level of 5.02%.

In Beaulieu, where the Mairie mounted a strong campaign against being made to join the metropolitan area, the new rate of taxe professionnelle is double the existing charge of 10%. La Gaudie, Saint-Blaise, Levens and Villefranche-sur-Mer will also see steep rises.

The new rate will be introduced gradually, with incremental increases or decreases to be placed each year until the rate is uniform across Nice Côte d’Azur by 2013.

**Mean machines are all heart**

**THE Nice chapter of the Harley Owner’s Group held a charity day in the centre of town last month.**

Bikers turned out in Place Massena on around 50 of the big American bikes and spent the day giving rides to the public at €2 a go. The money was donated to Les Restaurants du Coeur, a charity that helps “those in material or moral difficulty”.

Locally, this means feeding the homeless. Restos organiser Annie Castel told The Riviera Gazette that volunteers in Nice currently serve around 730 people with six meals a week, at a cost to the charity of €1 per meal. Nice HOG member Ken Stubbs, 66, rides a top-of-the-line Harley Davidson Fatboy. He told The Riviera Gazette “Events like this show we’re not a motorcycle gang. The club has a heart. “A lot of the guys speak English, and the club has changed my life for the better – I met a wonderful lady the first time I went.”

**Hotel baby: autopsy reports still not out**

**FINAL autopsy results, which were expected last month, have not yet been released on the dead baby found in a Cannes hotel room in February, reports Shane Stokes.**

Prosecutors claim the mother, a 23-year-old Irish woman, killed the baby shortly after its birth. She claims her son was born dead.

The woman, a student who hid her pregnancy from friends and family, was staying at the Miramar Beach Hotel with her 36-year-old partner, her former convent school teacher. She has not yet been interviewed due to her fragile state.

Her partner has been released on bail. The woman says he is not the father. He denies charges of failing to help someone in danger and not dis- closing a crime. He says he did not know she was pregnant.

**Bin Laden brother’s Cannes home raided**

**Police conducted a search of the Cannes Californie villa of Osama Bin Laden’s half-brother Yassam last month.**

The raid was carried out on the orders of Paris judge René Van Royenbeke.

He is investigating claims that Swiss firm Saudia Investment Company, run by Yassam Bin Laden, is involved in money laundering.

**KEEP CREAM OUT**

Ordinary household alarm systems sense intruders when they’re inside your house. By then, the damage is already done.

We specialize in security systems that detect and deter intruders BEFORE they ever enter your home.

We can also monitor your alarm 24 hours a day by radio, and send your rapid response security team to your home night or day if it activates.

Because we only use our own staff for installation, monitoring, monitoring and response, you can be sure of fast, dependable and efficient service – just one more reason to give us a call now to find out more. We’ll tell you how you can have your new security system working as soon as tomorrow...

**Valbonne Security**

84 01 (91) 18 04 - 04 (91) 12 09 10 500 Route de Nice, 06560 Valbonne

www.valbonne.com

**Riding high . . .**

Chris Mann on a 1000cc Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

**Riding high**

High kicks round off a roaring ISN show

**NICE PORT PROTESTORS GET INQUIRY RE-OPENED**

By Sarah Clark

The Nice chapter of the Harley Owner’s Group held a charity day in the centre of town last month. Bikers turned out in Place Massena on around 50 of the big American bikes and spent the day giving rides to the public at €2 a go. The money was donated to Les Restaurants du Coeur, a charity that helps “those in material or moral difficulty”.

Locally, this means feeding the homeless. Restos organiser Annie Castel told The Riviera Gazette that volunteers in Nice currently serve around 730 people with six meals a week, at a cost to the charity of €1 per meal. Nice HOG member Ken Stubbs, 66, rides a top-of-the-line Harley Davidson Fatboy. He told The Riviera Gazette “Events like this show we’re not a motorcycle gang. The club has a heart. “A lot of the guys speak English, and the club has changed my life for the better – I met a wonderful lady the first time I went.”

**Hotel baby: autopsy reports still not out**

Final autopsy results, which were expected last month, have not yet been released on the dead baby found in a Cannes hotel room in February, reports Shane Stokes. Prosecutors claim the mother, a 23-year-old Irish woman, killed the baby shortly after its birth. She claims her son was born dead.

The woman, a student who hid her pregnancy from friends and family, was staying at the Miramar Beach Hotel with her 36-year-old partner, her former convent school teacher. She has not yet been interviewed due to her fragile state.

Her partner has been released on bail. The woman says he is not the father. He denies charges of failing to help someone in danger and not disclosing a crime. He says he did not know she was pregnant.

**Bin Laden brother’s Cannes home raided**

Police conducted a search of the Cannes Californie villa of Osama Bin Laden’s half-brother Yassam last month. The raid was carried out on the orders of Paris judge René Van Royenbeke.

He is investigating claims that Swiss firm Saudia Investment Company, run by Yassam Bin Laden, is involved in money laundering.

**Keep cream out**

Ordinary household alarm systems sense intruders when they’re inside your house. By then, the damage is already done.

We specialize in security systems that detect and deter intruders BEFORE they ever enter your home.

We can also monitor your alarm 24 hours a day by radio, and send your rapid response security team to your home night or day if it activates.

Because we only use our own staff for installation, monitoring, monitoring and response, you can be sure of fast, dependable and efficient service – just one more reason to give us a call now to find out more. We’ll tell you how you can have your new security system working as soon as tomorrow...

**Valbonne Security**

84 01 (91) 18 04 - 04 (91) 12 09 10 500 Route de Nice, 06560 Valbonne

www.valbonne.com
The Riviera Gazette
5 April 2002

LESS IS MORE
Models go skimpy
for music awards

THE world’s top selling music stars gathered in Monaco last month for the 2002 World Music Awards, but it was the revealing outfits of some of the other celebrities there that stole the show.

Rachel Hunter, one of the stars presenting the awards, wore a figure-hugging sequined dress which was completely see-through.

Swedish-born model Victoria Silvstedt also left little to the imagination with a plunging black dress which showed why she was once a Playboy pin-up.

Rachel was in a more relaxed mood than the night before when she is said to have been overheard criticising her ex-husband Rod Stewart’s new love whilst she enjoyed a night out in the Casino.

Among the guest presenters were HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, Omar Sharif and singer songwriter Michael Bolton.

Supermodel Naomi Campbell was also there to hand out awards but, unlike Victoria and Rachel, was unwilling to pose for photos.

The ceremony was expected to be seen by over a billion viewers throughout 160 countries.
**Airline war hots up as Nice-Paris hits €22.50**

The arrival of EasyJet and Air Libé on the Nice-Paris route has kicked off a price war that looks set to revolu-

THE Riviera Gazette 5 April 2002
tionise the cost of travel between the South of France and the capital.

Air Libé, the new airline created from the ashes of AOM Air Liberté, launched its service between Nice and Paris Orly Sud on 31 March. It offers up to eight flights a day with prices starting at €29 one way.

From June 18, EasyJet will operate four flights each day between Nice and Paris Charles de Gaulle. Its prices start at €32.50 one way. The airline is also launching services from Paris to Liverpool, Geneva and Luton.

**Body of missing ex-councillor found in cellar**

A M ODY matching the description of a missing Beausoleil man has been discovered in the basement of the home where he disappeared and been involved in his murder.

An autopsy showed that the man had been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.

Claude Bichet, 47, a former Beausoleil town councillor, disappeared in April 2001. His girlfriend, 47-year-old Brétice Édouin, is accused of hiring two hitmen to have him killed.

Three years before his disappearance Bichet left his wife of 17 years to move in with Édouin, but their relation-

On one occasion he is believed to have been shot in the head.
On the day she died Queen Victoria said “Oh, if only I were in Nice I should recover,” such was her love of the city. Michael Nelson, the former General Manager of Reuters, discovered while browsing in a bookshop that Victoria had stayed in Nice’s Excelsior Hotel. He began researching the nine visits she made to the area over twenty years. His book ‘Queen Victoria and the Discovery of the Riviera’ is the first on the subject. Here he writes exclusively for The Riviera Gazette not only about Victoria but also the other foreigners who “invented” the Riviera.

Injured GIs start beach craze

AMERICAN soldiers played a leading role in the invention of the Riviera as we know it today as they showed us the joys of its beaches. During the First World War Nice received many wounded GIs who recuperated in the hotels the French government had requisitioned. To the amazement of locals, as they got better the Americans started to take to the beaches in the warmer months, a sight never before seen. When the war ended the American government wanted to keep the “doughboys” away from the fleshpots of Paris. It therefore expanded a programme of “Leave Zones” where it sent soldiers for one-week stays and the Riviera proved the most popular. The Nice government was so happy with the infusion of rich Americans that it even made the seaside promenade exclusively for their use and changed the name of part of it to Quai des Etats-Unis – United States Quay. By May 1919 when the programme ended 150,000 GIs had spent over 50 million francs basking in the sun.

There had, of course, been Americans on the Riviera since the eighteenth century. One of the most distinguished was Thomas Jefferson, later to become American President, who toured the Riviera in 1787, when he was a minister in Paris. He went to Hyères, Fréjus, Antibes, Nice, Monaco and Menton. He was surprised to find the locals generally well clothed and fed. Americans later went to the Riviera because that was where European royalty and aristocracy went. There was a great social round of carnivals, gambling, horse racing, yachting, tennis, concerts, opera and balls, where the American girls were thought the most beautiful and the Russians the most elegant. Russians were important. In 1860, of the 704 foreign families who spent some of the winter in Nice, 128 were Russian, 37 German, 22 American, 172 French and 252 English.

Until the 1920s the Riviera season ran from September to the end of April. It was considered unhealthy for the rest of the year. But with memories of the fun summer in the Riviera “leave zone” the Americans created a new summer season. In 1922 the song writer Cole Porter rented the Château de la Garoupe on the Cap d’Antibes for the summer and invited illustrious figures to stay, including the well-off American expatriates Gerald and Sara Murphy, Pablo Picasso, Rudolph Valentino, and F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. The guests dug out the seaweed, about four feet deep, from the nearby beach of La Garoupe, creating one of the Riviera’s few sandy beaches. The Murphys built a villa and Scott Fitzgerald immortalised their drunken parties in Tender is the Night.

The revolution in the hotel industry came in 1923 when Gerald Murphy persuaded the owner of the Hotel du Cap to stay open through the summer. The only guests were a Chinese family, the Murphys and the Picassos. But the die had been cast, other hotels copied and the summer season began. That same year sunbathing received its accolade when the designer Coco Chanel strolled off a yacht “as brown as a cabin boy.” No longer was a tan the mark of a peasant – it was beautiful.

Queen Victoria

THE British mainly came to the Riviera for health reasons. It was Queen Victoria who showed the world you could visit for holidays as well as convalescence. She first visited in 1862 with her son, Leopold, who was a haemophiliac but her other eight visits were for holidays. Queen Victoria did not visit the

CARNIVAL QUEEN....Queen Victoria shows a girlish streak during a battle of the Flowers in Grasse in 1891. She would pelt revellers from the balcony of her hotel, only to get staff to retrieve the fallen blooms from the street below so she could do it all again.
Queen Victoria’s love of Nice played a major role in shaping its history, as did wounded GIs’ penchant for sunny beaches.

Before the arrival of the Americans the Riviera was mainly created by the British. It had been a backwater until they started to settle here in the eighteenth century. At the time of Queen Victoria’s death a century and a half later it was one of the most developed parts of France and Europe.

In the eighteenth century Nice and the Comté de Nice were ruled from Turin by the kings of Sardinia of the House of Savoy. It did not become part of France until 1860.

Britain had had an alliance with Sardinia since the seventeenth century as part of its Mediterranean policy following the conquest of Gibraltar and Minorca. Young Britons went to the military academy of Turin. During the War of the Austrian Succession from 1743 to 1748, Britain supported the Austro-Sardinians and British army officers stayed in Nice in the winter and came back as visitors after the war. However, the first English people to ‘discover’ Nice were probably Lord and Lady Cavendish, who visited in 1731. Lady Cavendish was pregnant when she arrived and gave birth to a son, Henry, later to be a famous chemist.

There had been occasional English travellers to Nice in the mid-eighteenth century, including the artist Joshua Reynolds who, coming from Venice, stayed in Nice in 1752. Arthur Young visited Antibes in September 1789 but, unable to hire transport, had had to walk from Cannes. He noted that the winter before there had been 57 English visitors to only nine French. Italy, not France, was then the place for the Grand Tour.

One of the first visitors to France after travel became possible again following Britain’s victory over France in the Seven Years War was Dr Tobias Smollett, MD. In 1763 Smollett, ill with incipient tuberculosis, journeyed to Nice with his wife, seeking a kinder climate than England.

When he returned to England he published a book of his experiences, Travels Through France and Italy, which revolutionised the travel habits of the British. The role of the British was underlined in 1834 when cholera in Provence led, by chance, to the founding of Cannes as a major resort.

Lord Brougham, a former Lord Chancellor of England, was on his way to Nice with his sickly daughter and on December 28, 1834, was stopped at the Sardinian frontier because of the outbreak. He stayed in the little fishing village of Cannes and liked it so much that he built a villa. He easily encouraged his friends to build there too and so the British colony in Cannes began.

The British dominated the Riviera to such an extent that when the writer Alexandre Dumas asked an innkeeper what the nationality the guests who were just arriving were, he said they were all English, but he was not sure if they were Germans or Russians.

Britons lead the way and cholera outbreak benefits Cannes

a shows winter sun good for holidays as well as convalescing

Riviera until she could come by train. The arrival of the railway – to Cannes by 1863 and to Menton by 1869 – transformed tourism in the area.

The visits to the Riviera by Queen Victoria, the monarch of the world’s most powerful empire, were important to the area and to France because they affirmed and strengthened the Riviera’s role as the leading holiday centre for Britons, other Europeans and peoples of the Americas.

The importance of her presence is shown by the increase in visitors during the two decades of her visits and the concern of the French at the damage which would be done to the tourist industry if she were to cancel her trip in 1899 because of bad relations between France and Britain.

It is also reflected in the many hotels, cafes and roads named after her and the number of statues erected to commemorate her.

‘Oh, if only I were at Nice, I should recover’, she said as she was dying. The entries in her journal of May 1, 1899, might have been written by a tourist coming to the end of a holiday on the Riviera today: “Alas! My last charming drive in this paradise of nature, which I grieve to leave, as I get more attached to it every year. I shall mind returning to the sunless north, but I am so grateful for all I have enjoyed here.”

About the author

MICHAEL Nelson was browsing in a bookshop in Cannes in 1997 when he came across a contemporary history of the Excelsior Hôtel Regina in Nice, which had just been published. As he dipped in he was surprised to discover that Queen Victoria had stayed in the hotel three times.

He had heard about her many visits to Balmoral in Scotland and to the Isle of Wight, but not to the Riviera.

Further investigations showed that she had visited nine times and no-one had written a book on the subject. Nelson had just published War of the Black Heavens: The Battles of Western Broadcasting in the Cold War and was looking for a new subject.

He and his wife moved their French residence to Opio from Lake Annecy in Haute-Savoie in 1994 because of the better weather. They also live in Notting Hill, London. Nelson was formerly General Manager of Reuters, the international news organisation. Queen Victoria and the Discovery of the Riviera’ is published by I.B.Tauris and is available at English-language bookshops throughout the Riviera. His website is at www.michaelnelsonbooks.com

The Riviera Gazette 5 April 2002


Coffee Time

Hagar the Horrible® by Chris Browne

Pooh Café® by Paul Gilligan

Quick

Across
1. Ascends (3, 3)
2. Sustains (6)
3. Flattens (6)
4. Romance (6)
5. Provides (6)
6. No crucifix left (3, 3)
7. Gullible (6)
8. Puts a lift on (3, 3)
9. Heals (6)
10. Support (6)

Down
1. Looms (4)
2. Slogan (4)
3. Aids (4)
4. Sustains (6)
5. Aids (6)
6. Staples (6)
7. Aids (6)
8. Aids (6)
9. Aids (6)
10. Aids (6)

Solutions to Puzzle 10,003

Across
1. Ascends (3, 3)
2. Sustains (6)
3. Flattens (6)
4. Romance (6)
5. Provides (6)
6. No crucifix left (3, 3)
7. Gullible (6)
8. Puts a lift on (3, 3)
9. Heals (6)
10. Support (6)

Down
1. Looms (4)
2. Slogan (4)
3. Aids (4)
4. Sustains (6)
5. Aids (6)
6. Staples (6)
7. Aids (6)
8. Aids (6)
9. Aids (6)
10. Aids (6)

Quick Clues

Across
4. Nominal (7)
8. Above board (6)
10. Servette (6)
11. Hypothesis (6)
14. Gullible (6)
16. Restored (6)

Down
1. Join (7)
2. Snake (7)
4. Bounce (6)
5. Powerless (8)
6. Rough (6)
10. Gullible (6)
13. Saviour (8)
15. Garland (7)
16. Feast (6)
**New man heads Monaco USA**

MONACO USA, the club for Americans and ‘friends of America’ met last month to welcome its new president, Mike Powers.

Mike, 51, is a well-known local businessman who has lived in the principality since 1960. His company, Monte Carlo Entertainment, runs Monaco’s annual Invitational Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament. He was also involved in starting the Stars’n’Bars restaurant with his sister Kate.

His company, Monte Carlo Entertainment, runs Monaco’s annual Invitational Pro-Celebrity Golf Tournament. He was also involved in starting the Stars’n’Bars restaurant with his sister Kate.

He plans to build the membership of Monaco-USA from its current base of around 100. He also wants new events including barbeques and baseball games to attract younger members.

**British Association’s new President has eye for culture**

THE Nice branch of The British Association of the Alpes-Maritimes and the Var has appointed Josephine Fellows as its new President.

Mrs Fellows, 58, the marketing manager of Sunny Bank Anglo-American Association charity sale in late March. Clothes, toys, jewellery, bric-a-brac and books were also on offer, helping to raise around €17,500. The sale, at the Palais des Congrès in Cannes, was held to raise funds for a new nursing and retirement home, primarily for the English community, on the Riviera. Association chairman Peter Durlacher, left, said negotiations over a possible site were progressing well.

The sale has been held every two years since the 1960s. Mr Durlacher said: “The hall was packed and the total is fantastic. I’m very grateful to all the volunteers and donors who made this sale possible.”

**RIVIERA PEOPLE**

A MOUTH-WATERING display of cakes and sweets were among the delights on sale at the Sunny Bank Anglo-American Association charity sale in late March. Clothes, toys, jewellery, bric-a-brac and books were also on offer, helping to raise around €17,500. The sale, at the Palais des Congrès in Cannes, was held to raise funds for a new nursing and retirement home, primarily for the English community, on the Riviera. Association chairman Peter Durlacher, left, said negotiations over a possible site were progressing well.

The sale has been held every two years since the 1960s. Mr Durlacher said: “The hall was packed and the total is fantastic. I’m very grateful to all the volunteers and donors who made this sale possible.”

**New face on BCC board**

THE British Chamber of Commerce re-elected its president last month. The association, which has 110 members, was set up to help British subjects in difficulty, which can range from tourists with lost passports to residents who need welfare help and advice.

Mrs Fellows, who has British, Canadian, and French nationality, has also been involved with Nice Chamber of Commerce for 20 years.

In her new role she plans to expand the social side of the association to include more history-related and cultural events. On April 19 there is a lunch at the Studio of the Victorine in Nice which will be followed by a tour of the associated film studios.

British and non-British residents are welcome. For more information call Mrs Fellows, during evenings only, on 04 93 87 43 24.

**British Association’s new President has eye for culture**

THE Nice branch of The British Association of the Alpes-Maritimes and the Var has appointed Josephine Fellows as its new President.

Mrs Fellows, 58, the marketing manager of the International School of Nice, took up the position last month. The association, which has 110 members, was set up to help British subjects in difficulty, which can range from tourists with lost passports to residents who need welfare help and advice.

Mrs Fellows, who has British, Canadian, and French nationality, has also been involved with Nice Chamber of Commerce for 20 years. In her new role she plans to expand the social side of the association to include more history-related and cultural events. On April 19 there is a lunch at the Studio of the Victorine in Nice which will be followed by a tour of the associated film studios.

British and non-British residents are welcome. For more information call Mrs Fellows, during evenings only, on 04 93 87 43 24.
Your guide to this month’s events on the Riviera

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...

April 2002

5 Friday

Holiday on Ice Ice skating spectacular at the Salle Nikaia in Nice. Performances start at 20:30 tonight, 14:00, 17:30 and 21:00 tomorrow and 14:00 on the 7th. Tickets €31 for adults, €19 for children, available from www.nikaia.fr or by calling 08 92 69 42 42.

➢ Ter Salon Mer & Vigne et GastroNutrition. A gourmet’s delight. Eighty exhibitors offer top-quality sea food, wines, chocolates and other foods, at direct-from-the-producers prices. At the Palais des sports de l’Europe in Mandelieu la Napoule. Open 10:00 to 21:00 today and tomorrow, 10:00 to 20:00 on Sunday. Tel: 04 72 43 06 17 ➢ Wednesday and Friday 3 evening with Irish writer and Booker Prize winner Colm Tóibín at 20:30. Tóibín will also be signing copies of his books at the Fnac store in Monaco on April 13 from 14:00 to 14:45. Contact the library on 04 93 92 12 32 ➢ 6 Salo n d’Esthétique, du Bien Être et de la Beauté. Beauty salon offering a range of beauty treatments and for sale. At the Espace J. Buisson, Antibes at 18:00. Tel: 04 93 33 32 32 ➢ Open de Squash. Rackets de Monaco 2002. Takes place at the Salle Omnisport G Médecin today and tomorrow. Tel: 04 97 92 11 67 ➢ 7 Temple of Art and Modern architecture art exhibition at the Salle Exposition, Villeneuve-Loubet. Featuring the work of local artists. Tel: 04 92 02 49 50 ➢ 12 The Riviera Gazette

6 Saturday

Nata Bento Free entrance today and tomorrow at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of the Côte d’Azur ➢ 7 22e Fête des Plantes Plant festival at Parc Phébus. Free for visitors from around the world, on display and for sale. Open from 09:00 to 19:00 today and tomorrow. Tickets €3 for adults, €1 for children. At the Jardin des Plantes in Grasse. Tel: 04 93 40 32 32 ➢ 7 Concours de Boules competition at Band’au Bay des Plages de Guilleou. At 14:00. Tel: 04 93 94 61 15

12 Flashing air. …Nearly every day you can watch young skaters honing their skills on Nice’s Promenade des Anglais, but on April 20th and 21st the Prom will host the first round of the French in line roller skating championship. The Nice Roller Cup will see around 150 contestants competing over 17 laps of a 2.5km circuit.

19 Festival du Hip-hop See Apr 8 ➢ 4 Salo n d’Esthétique, du Bien Être et de la Beauté. Health, good foods and wine exhibition at the Salle Nikaia in Nice. Tel: 04 93 40 32 32 ➢ 21 High energy with Irish writer and Booker Prize winner Colm Tóibín at 20:30. Tóibín will also be signing copies of his books at the Fnac store in Monaco on April 13 from 14:00 to 14:45. Contact the library on 04 93 92 12 32 ➢ 22 Gala concert with the Verdi opera, performed by the Royal Wallonie Opera and the Royal Orchestra of Wallonie. At the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 21:00. Tel: +377 93 53 83 03 ➢ 28 Gala concert with the Verdi opera, performed by the Royal Wallonie Opera and the Royal Orchestra of Wallonie. At the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 21:00. Tel: +377 93 53 83 03 ➢ 30 Gala concert with the Verdi opera, performed by the Royal Wallonie Opera and the Royal Orchestra of Wallonie. At the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 21:00. Tel: +377 93 53 83 03 ➢ 6 Saturday

Neta Bento Free entrance today and tomorrow at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of the Côte d’Azur ➢ 7 22e Fête des Plantes Plant festival at Parc Phébus. Free for visitors from around the world, on display and for sale. Open from 09:00 to 19:00 today and tomorrow. Tickets €3 for adults, €1 for children. At the Jardin des Plantes in Grasse. Tel: 04 93 40 32 32 ➢ 7 Concours de Boules competition at Band’au Bay des Plages de Guilleou. At 14:00. Tel: 04 93 94 61 15

12 Flashing air. …Nearly every day you can watch young skaters honing their skills on Nice’s Promenade des Anglais, but on April 20th and 21st the Prom will host the first round of the French in line roller skating championship. The Nice Roller Cup will see around 150 contestants competing over 17 laps of a 2.5km circuit.

19 Festival du Hip-hop See Apr 8 ➢ 4 Salo n d’Esthétique, du Bien Être et de la Beauté. Health, good foods and wine exhibition at the Salle Nikaia in Nice. Tel: 04 93 40 32 32 ➢ 21 High energy with Irish writer and Booker Prize winner Colm Tóibín at 20:30. Tóibín will also be signing copies of his books at the Fnac store in Monaco on April 13 from 14:00 to 14:45. Contact the library on 04 93 92 12 32 ➢ 22 Gala concert with the Verdi opera, performed by the Royal Wallonie Opera and the Royal Orchestra of Wallonie. At the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 21:00. Tel: +377 93 53 83 03 ➢ 28 Gala concert with the Verdi opera, performed by the Royal Wallonie Opera and the Royal Orchestra of Wallonie. At the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 21:00. Tel: +377 93 53 83 03 ➢ 30 Gala concert with the Verdi opera, performed by the Royal Wallonie Opera and the Royal Orchestra of Wallonie. At the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 21:00. Tel: +377 93 53 83 03
19 Friday
Jeanne Chévalier A chance to meet local painters and buy direct at this market!
At the Place Garibaldi, Grasse. T el: 04 93 34 51 03
20 Saturday
Tennis Masters Monte-Carlo See April 13
21 Sunday
The Carter Hotel 4 star hotel at the Port of Honorine, Monte-Carlo. T el: 04 93 19 37 17
22 Monday
Salon du Bien-être Please call Mike Clark on 04 93 09 66 43.
23 Tuesday
Basketball: Aribas v Limoges Pro A national championship match at Espace Jussieu, Antwerp at 20:45. T el: 04 93 33 93 32
Salon du Bien-Être See April 20
24 Wednesday
Sox Tezar The Ballet de Monte-Carlo performs a new ballet, “No More Play” at 16:30 and 20:30 daily. T el: +377 99 99 30 00
25 Thursday
Foire Agricole Agricultural fair all day in the Place de la Puege, Théoule. T el: 04 93 50 05 03
JUMPING International de Monaco Top show jumpers compete at the 8th International Jumping Shool Trials at Espace Fontvieille until 22:00. T el: +377 93 50 95 60
26 Friday
Jazz au Boulevard L’escale, St Jean-Cap Ferrat, starting at 21:00. T el: 04 92 92 63 05
Festival de Sacred Music With the Russian Quartet and the Cantores Bormani Choir. At the Eglise de la Sainte Famille, Cannes Mer at 20:30 and tonight and April 28th. T el: 04 93 61 64 14
27 Saturday
Mauro Parisi Philharmonic Concert performs works by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky at the Nice Opera House at 20:00. T el: 04 92 17 40 40
Pimienta de Musique des Equipages de la Flotte de Toulon music by Brahms, Haydn, Ives and Slavicki at the Théâtre Palais Croisette in Cannes at 20:30. T el: 04 93 19 20 49
28 Sunday
Les Clownesques Gwendal Peizerat, perform at the Nikaïa in Nice. T el: 04 93 09 66 43
Printemps des Arts de Monte-Carlo: “Montreux Traditional festival” at the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 20:00. T el: +377 99 99 30 00
See April 28
29 Monday
Golf: Trophée Lalique at the Cannes-Mougins Golf Club. T el: 04 92 97 32 00
Golf: Coupe Barclays at the Mandelieu Golf Club. T el: 04 92 97 32 00
30 Tuesday
International Archery Tournament at the Stade de Football de la Maison des Jeunes, Antibes today and tomorrow. T el: 04 93 63 73 31
Soirée Country & Line Danse Fête de l'Olivier at the Maison des Jeunes, Antibes today and tomorrow. T el: 04 93 63 73 31
Foire Agricole Agricultural fair all day in the Place de la Puege, Théoule. T el: 04 93 50 05 03
Soirée Country & Line Danse Fête des Fraises in Carros to celebrate the start of the local strawberry fruiting season. Strawberries and other local produce will be for sale and there’s a programme of music, dancing, and other activities in the afternoon. T el: 04 93 19 20 49
Apr 28
Les Clownesques See April 13
Lettres Jeunesse See April 11
27 Saturday
Twelfth Annual French Wine Growers Exhibition Find wines from 210 vineyards directly from the producer. Free gas, cheeses and cured meats will also be available. The €7 entrance charge includes free tastings, a kilometre long glass and presentations on wine tasting given by award-winning sommelier Franck Thomas. Open daily from 10:00 to 20:00 at the Hippodrome in Cannes Mer. T el: 04 92 92 63 05
Fête de la St Marc Folk festival in the Place de l’Horloge, Villefranche-sur-Mer today and tomorrow.
T el: 04 93 13 81 53
Fête Féte des Fraises Open today to 20:00, tomorrow 09:00 to 17:00. T el: 04 93 13 81 53
Soirée Country & Line Danse Le Festival de la Renaissance in Antibes today and tomorrow in Carros to celebrate the start of the local strawberry fruiting season. Strawberries and other local produce will be for sale and there’s a programme of music, dancing, and other activities in the afternoon. T el: 04 93 19 20 49
Apr 28
Kermesse de l’Amitié Charity sale at the Eglise de la Sainte Famille, Cannes Mer at 20:30 and tonight and April 28th. T el: 04 93 61 64 14
Vence Fête des Cultures Cultural festival in Vence old town and Place Clemenceau.
T el: 04 93 06 30
Foire Agricole Agricultural fair all day in the Place de la Puege, Théoule. T el: 04 93 50 05 03
JUMPING International de Monaco Top show jumpers compete at the 8th International Jumping Shool Trials at Espace Fontvieille until 22:00. T el: +377 93 50 95 60
Sox Tezar See April 24
Salon du Bien-être See April 20
25 Thursday
Apr 19
Printemps des Arts de Monte-Carlo: “Montreux Traditional festival” at the Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco at 20:00. T el: +377 99 99 30 00
See Apr 27
22 Monday
Salon du Bien-Être See April 20
23 Tuesday
Basketball: Aribas v Limoges Pro A national championship match at Espace Jussieu, Antwerp at 20:00. T el: 04 93 33 93 32
Salon du Bien-Être See April 20
24 Wednesday
Sox Tezar The Ballet de Monte-Carlo performs a new ballet, “No More Play” at 16:30 and 20:30 daily. T el: +377 99 99 30 00
25 Thursday
Foire Agricole Agricultural fair all day in the Place de la Puege, Théoule. T el: 04 93 50 05 03
JUMPING International de Monaco Top show jumpers compete at the 8th International Jumping Shool Trials at Espace Fontvieille until 22:00. T el: +377 93 50 95 60
Sox Tezar See April 24
26 Friday
Jazz au Boulevard L’escale, St Jean-Cap Ferrat, starting at 21:00. T el: 04 92 92 63 05
Festival de Sacred Music With the Russian Quartet and the Cantores Bormani Choir. At the Eglise de la Sainte Famille, Cannes Mer at 20:30 and tonight and April 28th. T el: 04 93 61 64 14
Mauro Parisi Philharmonic Concert performs works by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky at the Nice Opera House at 20:00. T el: 04 92 17 40 40
Pimienta de Musique des Equipages de la Flotte de Toulon music by Brahms, Haydn, Ives and Slavicki at the Théâtre Palais Croisette in Cannes at 20:30. T el: 04 93 19 20 49
The Riviera Gazette's guide to unmissable events in the month ahead

- Wines from 210 vineyards will be available at direct-from-the-producer prices at the 12th French Wine Growers Exhibition at the Hippodrome in Cagnes-sur-Mer from April 27th to May 1st. The €7 entry price includes free tastings and access to presentations given by award-winning local sommelier Franck Thomas. The exhibition also offers stalls with traditional French produce to taste and buy – including lois gras, cheeses and cured meats. Over 35,000 people are expected and around 200,000 bottles of wine will be for sale.

- The next production from the Riviera Amateur Dramatic Association is a set of three one-act plays, to be performed at Mougons School on May 9th, 10th and 11th. The programme is The Reading Group by Fay Weldon, Albert by Richard Harris and Richard Tydeman's A& A Silly Question. Tickets are €10 and can be bought at the English Book Centre in Valbonne, or by calling Lena Walsh on 04 97 01 08 94.

- Two Riviera restaurants have been awarded an extra Michelin star in this year’s edition of the Guide Rouge. In Mougons, Roger Vergé’s Moulin de Mougins has regained its two star status after being demoted to a single star in 1997. Rising star Bruno Cirino now also gets two stars at his residential hotel La Petite Ferme at Marineland in Carros.

- A series of residential workshops for writers and artists is being offered this summer at the Château du Reclos in the Var. The week-long courses will be held at the Château du Reclos in the Var. The week-long courses are organised by writer David Hare and actress Fay Weldon, founder of the Favrile Institute. The courses are available to writers and artists and include workshops in writing, painting and sculpture. The courses are open to anyone, regardless of artistic or literary background.

- A series of residential workshops for writers and artists is being offered this summer at the Château du Reclos in the Var. The week-long courses are organised by writer David Hare and actress Fay Weldon, founder of the Favrile Institute. The courses are available to writers and artists and include workshops in writing, painting and sculpture. The courses are open to anyone, regardless of artistic or literary background.

- The 30th Salon d'Antiquités takes place in Vieil Antibes until April 22nd, priced at €3.80 for adults, children get in free.

- La Petite Ferme at Marineland on the RN7 near Biot is offering hands-on chocolate making sessions for kids of all ages until April 19th. There’s no extra charge – participation is included in the standard entry price of €6.50 for adults, €7 for children.

- Afternoon programme of music, dancing and other festivities and activities is offered stalls with traditional produced foods, including honey and cheese, apples and strawberries. There’s also an afternoon programme of music, dancing and other festivities and activities. The event is open daily from April 17th to 15th, from 10am to 7pm.

- The Antibes Raft Race takes place on May 4th. Teams will compete for the best raft, dressed crew and quickest round the harbour. The charity race starts at 12:30. Entry is €100 per team. The event is open daily from April 12 to 21. Tickets start at €7.30, entry costs €8.

- Over 180 pre-owned boats from eight to 22 metres, will be on display and for sale at Mandelieu’s Port La Napoule for the 12th Second Hand Boat and Speedboat Festival this month. Last year, the event attracted 25,000 visitors. This year it includes a new section for speedboats. There’ll also be a number of smaller new boats, jet-skis and boating accessories. The show is open daily from April 11th to 15th, from 10am to 7pm.

- Cars and motorbikes from the 1920s mix with the latest fashions for summer 2002 as Mode à Juan. The event is at les Pinèdes in Juan-les-Pins on April 20th and 21st. The cars tour through Juan-les-Pins and Antibes on Saturday, followed by the motorbikes on Sunday.

- Local potters will be displaying their wares at a Potters’ Market in Biot old town on April 26th. It’s a chance to see the work of the different potters in one place and save money by buying direct.

- Over 35,000 people are expected and around 200,000 bottles of wine will be for sale.

- The Riviera Gazette is looking for a trainee news reporter who can research and write the sort of informed, properly-structured copy our readers expect. What we expect from you:

  - English is your mother-tongue, and you’ll have a high degree of literacy.
  - You’ll have good spoken French, which you’ll need on the phone.
  - You’ll be able to demonstrate experience or a strong existing interest in news journalism.

- We’re looking for a trainee news reporter who can research and write the sort of informed, properly-structured copy our readers expect. What we expect from you:

  - English is your mother-tongue, and you’ll have a high degree of literacy.
  - You’ll have good spoken French, which you’ll need on the phone.
  - You’ll be able to demonstrate experience or a strong existing interest in news journalism.

- In return, you offer full training, including the chance to gain the recognized NCTJ qualification, and experience by professional journalists with UK and national newspaper experience.

- We’re looking for a trainee news reporter who can research and write the sort of informed, properly-structured copy our readers expect. What we expect from you:

  - English is your mother-tongue, and you’ll have a high degree of literacy.
  - You’ll have good spoken French, which you’ll need on the phone.
  - You’ll be able to demonstrate experience or a strong existing interest in news journalism.

- In return, you offer full training, including the chance to gain the recognized NCTJ qualification, and experience by professional journalists with UK and national newspaper experience.

- We’re looking for a trainee news reporter who can research and write the sort of informed, properly-structured copy our readers expect. What we expect from you:

  - English is your mother-tongue, and you’ll have a high degree of literacy.
  - You’ll have good spoken French, which you’ll need on the phone.
  - You’ll be able to demonstrate experience or a strong existing interest in news journalism.

- In return, you offer full training, including the chance to gain the recognized NCTJ qualification, and experience by professional journalists with UK and national newspaper experience.

- We’re looking for a trainee news reporter who can research and write the sort of informed, properly-structured copy our readers expect. What we expect from you:

  - English is your mother-tongue, and you’ll have a high degree of literacy.
  - You’ll have good spoken French, which you’ll need on the phone.
  - You’ll be able to demonstrate experience or a strong existing interest in news journalism.

- In return, you offer full training, including the chance to gain the recognized NCTJ qualification, and experience by professional journalists with UK and national newspaper experience.
Classifieds


HELP WANTED

The Riviera Gazette is building a team of enthusiastic volunteers. A keen interest in local affairs is key. Interested? Call Sarah Clark, Editor, on 04 93 06 46 43 to find out more.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale

St-Paul Les Gazettes. Beautiful villa large, 5 bed, 5 bath, 350m2, gated garden (5,000m2), pool, ready to move in €1,950,000. Tel Mrs Bournet on 06 22 13 15 32. No realtors please.

AUTOS

Motorbikes & Scooters

Aprilia Gp 50 scooter, late '99, dark blue, liquid cooled, 6000km, no realtor, €400. Roquefort les Pins, tel 06 21 96 59.

Where to get the Gazette

You can buy The Riviera Gazette at:

- All good Riviera newsagents
- Heath's English Bookshop in Antibes
- The English Book Centre, Valbonne
- The Cannes English Bookshop
- Chez Wet, Villeneuve-sur-Mer
- ...and more stockists coming soon.

Alternatively, subscribe by using the form below or call 04 93 77 31 45.

Interested in selling The Riviera Gazette?

Call Alison C a d d r o c k o n 04 93 09 66 43.

It couldn't be easier. Use the form below to send in your classified ad, with your payment, and we'll print it in the next issue. Then just sit back and wait for the English community to ring your phone off the hook!

SATELLITE EUROPE 6550

ALL WITH FULL 12 MONTH WARRANTY 
& DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR,
F-R-SKY DIRECT DIGITAL, DISH & LB NW, OR CAN USE
YOUR EXISTING DIGITAL 
W/FOR PERFORMANCE AS E39

All digital receivers are complete with information sheets and instructions on Sky cards.

Up to TV and easy set up.

We are an established TV & VCR retailer of 34 years standing, our team of four Engineers is only a phone call away for help and information. Also I am in France approximately every eight weeks so I have a holding home near Châteauneuf in the Doubs-Savoirs.

Payment accepted by cheque (French or English) or English credit card, SWITCH/MASTERCARD/AMERICAN EXPRESS.

Information Telephone - Stan or Steve Condon, 04 99 74 90 68.

Pace

Jon Grundy

Panasonic

Amstrad

For Sale

LONDON apartment to rent for the week or month. In a quiet leafy suburban location, £1500-2000 per week or month depending on length of lease.

Mr R. Jones, E: Jones90@gmail.com, T: 0789 123 4567.
Formula One races back to Var circuit

Re-vamped Paul-Ricard opens for testing

THE glory days of the Paul-Ricard racing circuit at Le Castellet near Bandol in the Var are set to return. The 5.8 kilometre track has 42 different circuit configurations, designed to push all types of racing car to the limits. A four-star hotel and an airport able to handle the biggest transatlantic business jets have been added.

But this would require the existing stadium to be demolished first. Construction work would not be able to begin until 2003, and the stadium would only be ready for the start of the 2005-2006 season. In the interim, the options are looking very limited. Monaco's Stade Louis II does meet Division One standards. But Nice fans, jubilant that France's fifth largest city at last have the Division One team they feel it deserves, are not expected to be happy with the idea of Monaco as a venue for OGC Nice matches.

That tiny Monaco has a top division team, whilst a city the size of Nice would only be ready for the start of the 2005-2006 season. This year's season draws to a close on May 3.