

Marseillan



Historique

To benefit the Village  
Dans l'intérêt du Village

May 2008

## 2008 A year of major changes ?

### President's word

Whow ! Things are beginning to happen in Marseillan.

Our new Mayor, Mr. Yves Michel has wasted no time in showing that he has ideas for the future of the village that are in marked contrast to the policies of the last three mayors.

He has already announced that the under-used Old Persons' *Foyers* are to be converted into an Exhibition Hall. This will free up the *Salle Polyvalente* (Village Hall) for social events and relieve the pressure on the Theatre, which is not really suitable for exhibitions, anyway.

This is a key decision that underpins other initiatives, and he has taken it quickly to indicate his determination to encourage visitors and boost the economy.

A second, quick, decision was to take part in a day visit organised by Bath Tourist Office and exploiting the new Bristol to Béziers Ryanair service.

Marseillan is likely to take part in a drive to encourage two-way visits between the West Country and the Midi. Details to be sorted, but the omens are good.

At last the Traders' Association is being encouraged to contribute to the enlivenment of the village and - as you know - Marseillan Historique was one of the first bodies to be invited to share our views on the village's future.

And the village has signalled its support for MH. We now have received some 700 Euros in sponsorship from prominent smaller businesses - with more to come when the larger concerns make their long-winded decisions.

Patricia

### Summer Programme

This promises to be an exciting summer for MH, and perhaps also for Marseillan.

We are maintaining our Walks schedule, that is Wednesdays the old village; Thursdays the port and Etang de Thau.

We are adding six Garden Parties. On the first and third Thursdays of June, July and August.

Hopefully Noilly Prat and a local Outside Caterer will sponsor.

The programme will be mainly social, a chance to mingle and share experiences of visiting and living in the Midi.

But there will be a short presentation on Marseillan at each gathering - the first Thursdays will cover the village to Napoleon. The third Thursdays from Napoleon to today.

Numbers will be restricted, with tickets available on a first come first served basis... but with MH Members enjoying a priority.

So if you will be here, and would like to come, let us know as soon as you can.

We also plan to link with the Musical *Le Belle Scribote* in the first week of July.

Joining up with with the Traders' Association we plan to run a 'Spot the error' competition.

You may know how it works, but it will be new to the French... an object foreign to a trader is placed in his window, so an electrical shop may have a jar of coffee in the window, and a pharmacy a wrist watch. Some pretty obvious, others quite subtle.

Small entry fee, very good prizes, hopefully popular and successful.

### NEW EDITION

The second edition of *Marseillan, Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow* has just arrived from the publishers. It has 38,000 words on 80 pages, with 42 illustrations.

(Edition One was a mere 18,000 words.) A bargain at 15 Euros - but a tremendous bargain taking our Special Offer into account. See enclosed.

Don't delay - order today.

### Final Reminder

Membership  
2008 fees are now overdue.  
Only 10 Euros -  
but such a good cause  
it ought to be more !

**10 Euros or £7 per person.**  
**Addressed envelope enclosed.**

*Marseillan needs your support*

*Why not take advantage of the  
Special Offer ?  
(See enclosed)*



CAISSE D'EPARGNE  
LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

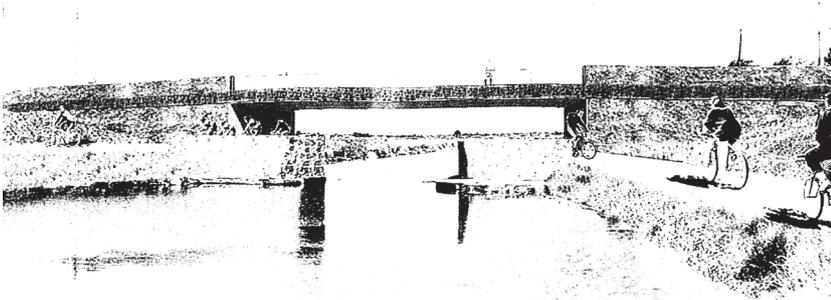
Discussions re Sponsorship  
are on-going.

## Our new bridges

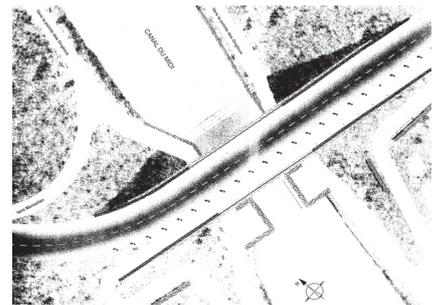
The long awaited replacement bridge across the Canal du Midi is, as we said in the last Newsletter, scheduled for construction this coming winter. It will replace the narrow, hump backed old bridge that has caused drivers to cross with fingers crossed... and created many long traffic delays.

So Hooray for that. But not for the design.

The new bridge will be modern, functional, unattractive. Why, oh why, cannot new things be at least blended into the old ?



Artist's impression of the new bridge - from the Agde side



Seen from above

The other new bridge will cross the *Grau de Pisse Saumes* (the German Canal) at Marseillan Plage.

It will cross just before the canal enters the marina, and will, again, be a functional span.

Ever secretive the Mairie has not released details, but to judge from the placard at the site the bridge will allow pedestrian traffic. We hope there will also be wheelchair access.

## Developments

### The Lido

All of the communes around the Etang de Thau and along the coast are united in the need for controls to deal with the vastly increased number of residents and summer visitors.

Sète has completed a massive development to the west that has cleared all the private enterprises from the beach, established esplanades and walkways, created vast car parks and generally turned an open and free space into a regulated 'environment'.

Development of the Lido (the stretch of land between the Etang de Thau and the sea) has begun. The introduction to the plan says *The Lido from Sète to Marseillan is a site of exceptional diversity, yet is extremely fragile. The erosion of the beaches will be prevented and the unique ecosystem will be safeguarded.*

A new road close to the railway is being built; beach depth increased to 70 metres; new *durable and secure* access points are being created. The whole to be carried through with *respect for the wild nature of the site.*

How can planners expect to protect a fragile ecosystem when greatly reducing its size, adding a new road and providing visitor access to land immediately adjacent ?

### Cycle paths

A network of cycle paths are planned, between villages and around the Etang. The tow paths of the Canal du Midi are to be cleared, and opened to cyclists.

Again the ecosystem is to be preserved. Doubtless all these developments are needed to accommodate the increasing numbers of people, but the last thing they can do is preserve. They will all contribute to restrictions, and a massive change in the culture of the area.

### The port

Builders have begun to create the *Rive Gauche* development of the warehouse that directly overlooks the Etang.

They promised traditional building - but a concrete foundation has been poured and the walls are cement blocks.

With concrete staircases going in we have little hope of a good outcome

## Traffic changes

Be very careful when driving in France this summer.

Do not trust the 130km speed limit. With minimal warning it can now be reduced ahead of a bend. Miss the sign and the camera catches you. Fine and points.

Autoroutes that bypass cities are now 110km, NOT 130 as they always were.

And beware the proliferation of speed bumps. They are appearing at all urban junctions. To get to Marseillan Plage one negotiates 10 BIG bumps in 1km.

Finally priority has changed to the secondary roads in town ! So if the bumps don't get you the stop signs will.

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