

## To benefit the Village Dans l'intérêt du Village

November 2010

2010

## A successful summer

### President's word

It has been a successful year for MH, after a shaky start.

The first three months were worrying for everybody. The village was just under populated! Hardly any visitors, restaurants empty, our tours running with only 3 or 4 walkers. And our new Centre was very sparsely attended.

Then it changed. Dramatically - with the start of the school holidays.

Suddenly the place was packed. Hard to find a bed or a parking space. Queues at the restaurants.

It seemed the whole French population came south.

There were not so many English speaking visitors as in previous years, but enough that our activities picked up well.

In the end we have some 2,000 Euros to donate to charity - more of that elsewhere.

In our new Visitors' Centre we offered advice on the local area, tourist leaflets, a book exchange and internet access. We also made quite a few telephone calls for taxis and restaurant reservations, etc..

We experimented with opening hours, and eventually settled for Tuesday/Wednesday/Saturday mornings, plus the first Thursday each month to co-incide with the monthly tour walk.

These are our results:

- Sponsors 19
- Walkers 254
- Centre visitors 1,421
- History book sales 35

We also took a full part in several village arranged tourist events - such as the Europe Quiz that was in the April Newsletter

Patricia

### Presentation



Patricia presenting our cheque to Mmes Garcia and Salmonese of Secours Catholique with Mike and Mme Demortier, Counsellor, looking on.  
NB: Secours Catholique is 'help to everybody'. It is not a Catholic Church organisation.

### Road 'improvements'

There is much road and pavement 'improvement' going on everywhere. And the groundwork for the new bridge over the Canal du Midi has begun. We now know this to be the Mayor's Bridge and a replacement is obviously necessary. We just wish the design was in keeping with the age of the old bridge. We are going to have a concrete crossing - as reported in earlier Newsletters.

By the post office there is a new single carriageway replacing the two lane road. It is one way into the parking. Its purpose is hard to understand.

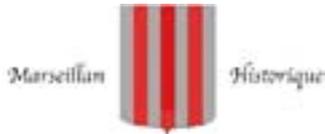
Why replace a perfectly good two-way road with a one-way one ?

Distressingly we are seeing signs of frustration with all the driving controls that are being introduced. For example: people overtaking on long straight roads that have now been solid lined. Do these changes actually improve road safety ?

### Subscriptions

Some are VERY overdue. Why not send your renewal for 2010 and 2011 at the same time?  
Please send to the address overleaf.

To benefit the Village



Dans l'intérêt du Village

# Floridoc

*"Tourism is our number one priority"*  
President Languedoc Roussillon

*So we are to become the Florida of France - fair enough...*

We have flamingoes and egrets and millions of birds.

They have pelicans, flamingoes and millions of birds... and aligators, and snakes...

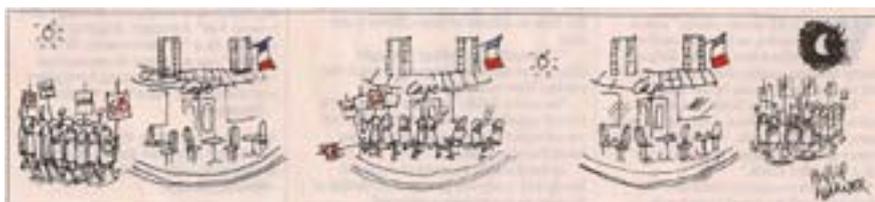


They have retirement communities, beach complexes, RV parks, apartment and condominium blocks, a safety first controlled environment...

So shall we have... soon...

Yes it is all going to happen in sunny Languedoc. Mind you, one can see the point. The guaranteed benefits that the region can offer are sunshine, wonderful beaches and magnificent countryside. One thing Florida cannot offer is snow clad mountains. Holiday there and you can't water ski before lunch and snow ski after.

Granted they do have Theme Parks... but what's the betting one will open in LR now the policy has been set ?



*Manifestations* - demonstrations - in France are usually well mannered activities. The SNCF even offer special excursion tickets so people can attend. The point is to be seen to be making a point, in the understanding that the point will be taken without the need for violence. Rioters in Paris, loved by the British media, are usually attaching themselves to an otherwise peaceful demo. Don't be fooled.

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