



To benefit the Village  
Dans l'intérêt du Village

May 2012

## 2012 Jubilee, Football & Olympics

### President's word

It is all very well organising major events that feature heavily on television as well as attracting a huge number of actual visitors... but what about the traders ?

This year the temptation must be to holiday at home, with so much prime attractions who can blame those who normally holiday away ?

And then there is the recession ! Stay at home, make day trips, holiday economically... all must be very attractive.

But that is no good to Marseillan and other holiday venues. We are seeing the effects in visitor numbers. They are *down* and down quite substantially.

People we normally see are not here, and short-term visitors are conspicuous by their absence.

What's to do ? Well price reductions are the obvious first alternative. We are seeing massive reductions, with Butlins down to almost half price and people such as Saga offering 35%.

But still the people are not booking. So, face it, it will be a bad season. Tighten our belts and get on with it.

Our Visitor Centre is also feeling the pressure with numbers down,,, and the French holidaymakers don't effect us of course.

On the other hand we are a service, we don't rely on the Centre for our income.

But not let's start on decreasing pension values in recessionary times.

Marseillan has had a face lift. That's our big, good (?), news. or is it. ? Opinion is mixed.

A bientôt

Patricia

### The New Roundabout



The renewal of the village centre is now - at last - complete. Gone are the traffic lights. We now have a roundabout.

This is certainly an improvement, even if the cobbles are already discoloured with rubber and diesel.

But can the same be said for the extension of cobbles through the whole of the village. Traditionalists are disappointed.

Modernists are pleased that the village has been prettified.

Whatever opinions are held is it now all too late, the deed is done.

One sad thing is the loss of the plane trees. They were a major feature of the old village, and the Marine Bar has especially suffered. (See the photo over the page.)

We shall get used to it.

### Breath Test Kits

BREATH TEST KITS are obligatory in cars in France from July 1.

Motorcyclists will also have to carry a kit, though scooterists are exempt.

There will be an 11€ fine, so it may well be best to buy two kits so there is always one unused in the car.

The kits will be on sale at Channel crossings, and pharmacies - ask for an *éthylotest* - they should cost about 1.5€. Check they are "NF" standard.

Websites are selling legal kits at extremely high prices, especially the electric kits - at least 100€ for those meeting the "NF" standard.

### Canal du Midi

A plea for donations is about to be launched because tens of millions of Euros are needed to save the Canal du Midi's trees.

The trees are being ravaged by a fungus that was possibly introduced by American servicemen's kit boxes in WWII.

It is thought that some 42,000 will have to be cut down and replaced over the next 10 years at a cost of around 200 €m. Some 2,000 have already been taken down.

It is suggested that a third of the cost might come from donations with the other funds coming from the state and local authorities.

A spokesman said that the trees are aesthetically pleasing as part of the image... and the roots hold the banks together while the branches and leaves provide shade.

For details send an email to [valerie.mura@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:valerie.mura@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

### Avoid traffic fines

A French family has avoided fines totalling some 23,000€ by registering their car in the name of their four year old son !

The car was found to have incurred a long stream of offences from parking fees to speeding fines.

However, due to the registration being in the name of a child, and in the absence of proof as to who was driving, the judge had to let them off.

The only recourse was to declare a financial responsibility and he applied fines at punitive rates. But legal opinion is that parents cannot be held responsible for a minor's fines.

So will the penalties ever be applied ?

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### The Marine Bar



The Marine Bar has lost its lovely plane trees but acquired a rather basic and unsightly retractable awning. It is still the venue of choice, however.

### Railings Galore

Negotiating the maze of railings that have been erected everywhere can be a bit difficult.

In particular the railings by the roundabout are complex as they have to provide for access to garages as well as protection from two roads.

Still the flower baskets are a welcome addition to the village overall.



### Marseillan Plage



AVENUE DE LA MEDITERRANEE has undergone a major face lift, and certainly looks pretty. Unfortunately there is no handicapped parking, and access to the beach is a 300 metre walk from the central car park.