

# To benefit the Village Dans l'intérêt du Village

April 2013

## A long winter

### President's word

It has certainly been a long and very quiet winter. Not a cold one, thank goodness, but the villagers retreated behind their shutters and there was no life, and little movement.

We did have some snow however - and what chaos that caused!

It was daytime snow, which is unheard of. But it came in mid-afternoon when people were going to get their children from school.

We have seldom seen such a fuss about a little snowfall. Traffic came down to a crawl with people craning forwards in their seats to squint through the screen.

We heard horror stories of 20 minute journeys taking an hour-and-a-quarter!

All of the restaurants except the Jardin du Naris closed after New Year until late February and, of course the Boulevard is undergoing renovation.

There is not good news about the New Boulevard. Due to re-open on April 17 it is still gutted. They found a major problem with a load bearing wall and until that is fixed everything is at a standstill.

Bernard describes it as a catastrophe.

They are now hoping for a July opening, and we are keeping our fingers crossed.

The Luna restaurant has changed hands and seems to have improved the menus, the cooking and the service. A total change. The new owner says he will revamp to a full Italian at the end of the season but for now he can only make small - but significant - changes.

With all the best for the summer.

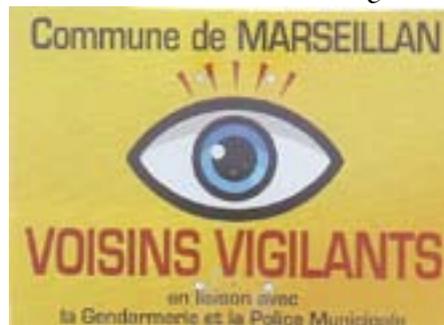
Patricia

### Marseillan Plage



The renovation of Marseillan Plage has continued through the winter. It has taken six months to upgrade the upper half of the main boulevard that runs from the roundabout to the sea. (The lower half was renovated last winter.) It all looks very pretty and is to be inaugurated on May 4th... but there is no provision for those with prams and/or wheelchairs to easily access the beach. There is now no easy access to the beaches of Marseillan Plage and all along the coast to Sète. Really cannot understand the planners nor those who signed off on the proposals.

### Neighbourhood Watch



Signs have gone up at some of the entrances to the village informing all concerned that the voisins are vigilant (neighbours are alert and watching).

But we haven't been asked if we wanted such a scheme, nor have we been told how it will operate.

Still we can all sleep safe in our beds knowing that villains will be deterred.



### Timing!

A lady we know put her clocks forward two weeks early - whatever she was thinking of we don't know, but her family had a very odd day!

### Subscriptions

Yes, it is that time again. Please send your renewal to the address overleaf.  
10 or 25 Euros

### Roads One

There are still interesting things happening to Marseillan's road system.

The new roundabout, about which so much has been written in earlier Newsletters is still a matter of interest and concern. It has been fitted into a space that is too small, and the angles of approach are very tight.

Thus large lorries are having to go to the left of the roundabout because they cannot negotiate the sharp right hand entrance to the roundabout.

Just this week one huge lorry was stuck, angled across the left hand side of the roundabout, yet wanting to turn tight. There just was not sufficient room for it to turn and after much palavara the driver had an awkward reverse to find an alternative route!

We reported that the paint marking the three (not four) pedestrian crossings had worn off in quicktime. The very next day painters arrived and re-painted the crossings. (Hooray!) But now the paint has worn off again - even though most people cross where it suits them.

Finally, so many of the maze of fence posts and one signboard have been knocked over by vehicles negotiating the tight corners that six have been removed!

### Roads Two

A marvel of modern invention was erected at the Agde entrance to the village.

It recorded one's speed and displayed it in red (50 and over) or green (49 and lower). It also showed in orange the speed limit of 50. Wonderful!

Unfortunately it recorded speed eight kilometres low - i.e. 40 was shown as 32.

Much effort was put into rectifying the problem, but now the invention has been removed. Will it return?

### Sancho Pizza

The best pizzeria in town closed suddenly at the end of December and has lain neglected ever since.

Many rumours have spread through the town, but nobody yet knows why such a successful business should close.

### Twin Towns

An agreement has just been signed, after three years of negotiation, to twin Marseillan with a third village. This time in the Republic of Ireland.

Now Marseillan has twinning agreements with:

**Castleblayney:** a village of some 3,000 inhabitants situated mid-way between Dublin and Belfast - in the northeast corner of the Republic.

**Melmedy:** a town of around 11,500 inhabitants in Belgium, to the south east of Liege

**Caudete:** a town of approximately 10,000 people in Spain, to the south of Valencia.

It is interesting that all three 'twins' are inland. One might have expected a fishing village to twin with one or more coastal towns ?

### Canal du Midi

The plane trees that line the banks of the canal have been infected by a virus and all have to be cut down and burnt (as previously reported).

The work is well under way at our end of the canal, with the poor banks, denuded of their glorious trees, looking strangely bare.

Oddly, however, not every tree has been taken, and the south bank has been visited twice by tree surgeons - not many trees have survived.

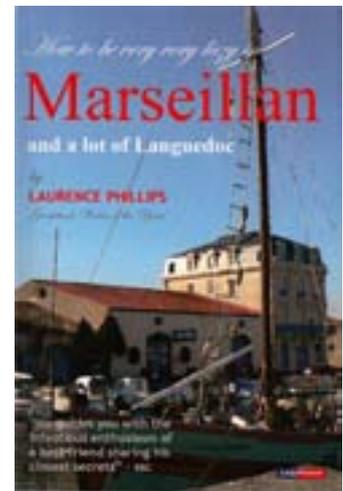
But on the north bank there are more trees than spaces so it is hard to understand exactly what is happening.

### The Mediterranean

A recent study has revealed that so much waste material and industrial effluent is being discharged into the beautiful Mediterranean that it is at serious risk of becoming a dead sea within 50 years. Urgent action is called for.



Certainly makes you stop and think, doesn't it?



### New Guidebook

The Lazy Guide to Marseillan is a very enjoyable read.

Written by a man who has lived in the village for many years it is rich with anecdotes and background information.

Although it has several errors of fact it also provides much useful guidance to the Languedoc. Several other villages are also covered, briefly, as is Agde.

At 15 Euros this book is well worth considering.

### Contact

President: Patricia Worsam

Secretary: Nicolas Ghorra

Treasurer: Mike Worsam

BP29, 34340 Marseillan,  
Hérault, France.

+33 4 67 77 38 64

marseillan.historique@sfr.fr