

# **BROS NEWSLETTER**

October 2010

Number 114

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## 1 BROS Meeting

The BROS meeting took place at 5.30pm on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 at the Lou Paradou Club. Also in attendance were Auriol Langen and Pauline North of the B A of the Var who provided Tea, coffee and biscuits. They had a successful day selling their cards, calendars and notelets and gained further members.

I am grateful to Tony Godwin who chaired the meeting in my absence due to Dot continuing to suffer from Ramsay Hunt Syndrome. I am also indebted to Barry Richardson for supplying the following report of the meeting.

‘Tony Godwin chaired and Pam Kilbey translated where necessary. Some 30 members attended.

Bob West sent his apologies for absence due to Dot being unwell and unable to travel. He thanked members for their kind note and cards. Following the meeting a message of best wishes will be sent to Dot and Bob.

M.Valentin was invited to address the meeting.

There is concern about the rental of plots to “undesirables”. Rentals are now being made over the internet with no control from owners. An article on the subject will appear in the Gazette.

Owners are asked to be vigilant on rentals.

At present there is no limit on the number of plots anyone may own and Statutes need modification to restrict the number that any proprietor may own.

Note: both these subjects were raised in later discussion. Various views were expressed on restrictions as some members thought these did exist – only rental to family and friends, total rental charges limited to cost of annual fees, only permitted to own two plots. Constitution and ‘Notes to Owners’ appear confused.

Following the catastrophe in June, analysis of work required, whose responsibility and extent of cover of various insurance policies is underway. This will establish likely costs to associates. Issues of particular concern are rock and landfalls which are dangerous to installations plus the bridge on the emergency evacuation route. Is this a municipality responsibility?

Apart from these matters it had been considered a good season on the domaine without any recorded accidents.

M. de Coninck, had asked to address the meeting. He has been on the Conseil since 2007 and is now President. He considered his role to be working within the Statutes with the Gerant and liaising between the associates and the SCI. To assist this later point he requested that he receive copies of the BROS newsletter. He is involved in the study of necessary site repairs. He agreed with the need to change the statutes to control rental arrangement, numbers of occupants, time periods and the ownership of multiple plots for rental purposes. Such changes are required as soon as possible.

A query was raised to him on the quality of financial statements issued by the SCI which he will consider.

M Jacquemin requested that associates check their Avis D’Imposition Taxes Foncières as there should be no charge for rubbish collection [Taxe ordures menagères]. If there is, then send a copy of the Avis to the Gerant bureau.

Treasurers report. Figures are satisfactory and fees can be held at the present level of €7 or £5. Please pay promptly. [The accounts will be published with the first newsletter in the New Year]

‘Living in France’ [[www.blevinsfranks.com](http://www.blevinsfranks.com)] available through Amazon, contains useful information on property inheritance.

Richard Edwards made an appeal for the restoration project at the Musee de la Liberation in Le Muy. All artefacts and exhibits have been ruined. [Cheques to be made payable to Chris Compton at 107 The Highway, Chelsfield, Orpington, Kent BR6 9DQ.

Photographs of the catastrophe are on the website [www.dcanebieres.com](http://www.dcanebieres.com) maintained by Antony Topham’.

## 2 Fire Service [Sapeurs-pompiers]

As has been the case in previous years a donation towards the welfare of the Sapeurs-pompiers will left with bureau so that it can be handed to them when they visit to sell their calendars.

## 3 Flood Damage

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 over 15 inches [380mil] of rain fell on the Var. This caused substantial flooding leading to considerable damage to the infrastructure and the property in many towns including Le Muy. Sadly about 25 people were killed together with a number of horses and other animals. Hopefully those people who lost relatives or had their property flooded can soon get back to some sort of normality.

I had not witnessed the flooding of the access road over the Couloubrier River until this year. There was about 25feet [8m] of water above the bridge which prevented access to or from the domaine [apart from by boat which had to negotiate about 150 yards of water] for three days.

The electricity was cut off for three days but fortunately the large tank on the Peynier Hill ensured that we had water but this would have not continued for much longer had the electricity not been reconnected on the evening of the third day. This brought the water pump which supplies the tank back into use thereby refilling the tank.

Once the water had subsided the domaine staff soon cleared the road of the large amount of mud deposited on it by the river.

We were thankful that we had a gas hob to go with our electric oven so we were able to give a candle light meal to our dinner guests on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 when the power went off at 6.15pm!.

4 Miscellaneous.

I know it is rather early but Dot and I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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