



Dear Members,

'Tis the season to be jolly - with the winter season now in full swing, we have much to look forward to on our beloved Côte d'Azur!

To begin with, we have the Christmas Village opening on the Port from the 7th December. In addition to lots of handicraft, jewellery and gift booths, there is the chance for everyone to experience a range of seasonal culinary delights, dishes that one might not usually have the opportunity to savour, from delicious Russian *Pelmeni* to Cassoulet or *Tartiflette*, perhaps washed down with a warming mulled wine. With festive cheer not limited to the Port, the customary red carpets are already appearing in front of every store, with the SBM sporting gold stars on theirs this year. The various restaurants and bars are bracing themselves for the annual onslaught of office parties, the Christmas lights are twinkling away busily in all the streets, creating an atmosphere which will hopefully manage to turn that irascible curmudgeon's frown, who habitually shoos away holiday carollers with a "Bah - humbug!" into a beaming smile.

Last week's trivia evening was as usual, rather competitive, with a great turnout and evidence of some excellent knowledge of today's culture, team "Beausolais Nouveau" sealing their victory and the rest not too far behind and maintaining their respectable reputation. All in all, a good evening's entertainment - we are already looking forward to the next contest and to seeing who will unseat the incumbent team.

Do not forget our highly anticipated Burns' Night, coming up at the end of January, which is sure to be as fiery and festive as our recent Oktoberfest event. Kilts, Whisky and Haggis at the ready, and don't forget to dig out your dancing shoes! You can find full details in the newsletter below.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Lunch in a couple of weeks.

Wishing you all my festive best in the meantime,

John Luigi Megginson
President



PAST EVENTS

BAM Cocktails - Our two Thursday cocktail events in November were somewhat special – the first, on 8th November, because we broke our own attendance record with well over thirty people enjoying the Novotel's imaginative platters and the second, on 22nd November, celebrating the arrival of this year's



Beaujolais Nouveau, combined with our annual Fish & Chips & Quiznite, held at the Ship & Castle Pub in Fontvieille. Owner Annie Haly gave us all her usual warm welcome and served us an excellent meal, the traditional Fish & Chips (not forgetting the mushy peas!) being rounded off with a delicious apple crumble which set us up royally to attack the really teasing and mind-stretching quiz questions. Our Quizmaster for the night, President John Luigi Megginson, proved a tough taskmaster and, after a hard-fought contest, the winning team, "Beausolais Nouveau" certainly deserved the prize of a case of the eponymous "Beaujolais Nouveau." Winner of the prize of a bottle of Champagne for the best team name was "Six Birds and a Man."

LUNCH at the LYCÉE TECHNIQUE et HOTELIER de MONACO on Friday 9 November was, as usual, fully booked and those attending enjoyed an inventive and appetising meal prepared and served by the students of the Lycée. There will be no lunch in December but lunches will resume in January.

NO FINISH LINE – GOAL ACHIEVED!



As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, Julie Lewis and Gabrielle Crump were part of a team walking the No Finish Line in aid of Chances for Children. Gabrielle Crump, President of Chances for Children, sends us this report : "We are so pleased to announce that Chances for Children raised a giant €6,191 from their efforts at the No Finish Line between 10th and 18th November. It was fabulous to have the C4C founder from Uganda, Martin Male, also walking the track with the rest of the team!

Julie Lewis raised a fantastic €425, partly thanks to some BAM members who generously donated to support her walking an incredible 101 laps (approximately 141km)! This money has all been sent to Uganda and the construction of a new living and dining block has already started and will be completed in time for the 56 children in the C4C to enjoy Christmas in it together!" Well done, Julie!

FÊTE NATIONALE – Monday 19 November

Monaco's National Day dawned bright and sunny for the traditional celebrations, beginning with the gathering in the Cathedral of Nôtre Dame Immaculée of the congregation made up of monégasque dignitaries from all walks of life to participate in the Mass of Grace and Solemn Te Deum in honour of the Sovereign Prince. The service was, as always, highlighted by the splendid performances of the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra, Choir of the Cathedral and "Maîtrise" children's choir as everyone joined together to demonstrate allegiance to Monaco and its Princely Family.



The mass over, the extended Family and dignitaries made their way back to the Palace where, following a short interval, the presentation of arms, decorations and march past ensued, under the watchful eye of Commandant Tony Varo, directing his first Fête Nationale in his new rôle as Commandant Supérieur of the Force Publique, replacing Colonel Luc Fringant who retired earlier this year. The music, presided over by the newly-promoted Major Olivier Dréan, was as imaginative and wide-ranging as we have come to expect and every small boy's dream came true as the procession of gleaming fire engines and other emergency vehicles passed by, almost close enough to reach out and touch.

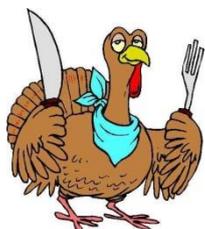


The day's events ended with a final opportunity for the great and good of the Principality to dress up to the nines and sport seemingly endless medals of all kinds to attend a gala performance of Camille Saint-Saëns' opera "Samson et Dalila" at the Grimaldi Forum. Attended by the Sovereign Prince, wearing His traditional military *habit* and Princess Charlene, resplendent in a dress by Akris and sporting a new longer, wavy hairstyle, also present were HRH Princess Caroline of Hanover, Beatrice Borromeo and Andrea Casiraghi. It was quite a sight to see them all arrive, passing through an avenue of ramrod-straight Carabinieri into the atrium of the Grimaldi Forum!

No less than 130 cast members, including dancers from the visiting Ballet of the Shanghai Opera, gave a stunning performance, conducted by the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic's Artistic and Musical Director, Kazuki Yamada.

FUTURE EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Automobile Club de Monaco Wednesday 12 December, 12noon for 12.30pm



The booking form for our annual Christmas lunch is available from our website by clicking here : www.bam-monaco.org/bam-events/booking_pages . If you wish to make up your own tables please try wherever possible to make a block booking using a single form and including cheques for your entire booking. Otherwise, please indicate with whom you would like to be seated. Every effort will be made to accommodate your wishes but preference will be given to those who book early.

THURSDAY COCKTAILS – 13 December – Buddha Bar 6.30-8pm

Please note that there will be no Thursday cocktails on Thursday 27 December. The first Thursday cocktail of 2019 will be on 10 January.

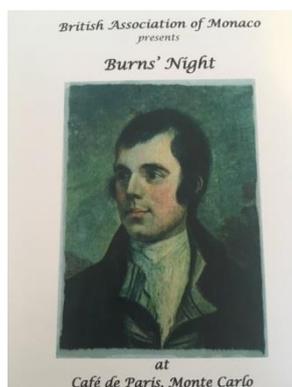
L'ORANGERIE - VISIT & TOUR – 20 December 6.30pm-7.30pm

Philippe Culazzo at L'Orangerie has kindly agreed to receive a group of BAM members for a tour of the manufacturing operation at a mulled wine & nibbles evening on 20 December. The group is limited to a maximum of 25 so please complete and return your Booking forms as quickly as possible so as to avoid disappointment! The cost of the visit is €15 for members and €20 for non-members but includes a €5 voucher to be offset against any purchases.

Download the Booking form : www.bam-monaco.org/bam-events/booking_pages



BURNS' NIGHT – Saturday 26 January 2019 at 7pm - Café de Paris



For our first major event of the New Year, BAM has great pleasure in presenting a **Tribute to Robert Burns**, featuring the Piper Craig McNichol and the Billy Anderson Band (Billy Anderson, June Dobie & Lindsay Downie) with Dance Caller Joyce Anderson.

The Address to the Haggis will be given by Keith Hogg.

As mentioned by our President above, this will be an excellent occasion to bring out the tartan and the dancing shoes, with black tie or kilt for the gentlemen and a touch of tartan for the ladies. A three course dinner with wines – not forgetting the quintessential Haggis! – to be followed by dancing and general merriment.

For Booking form please go to www.bam-monaco.org/bam-events/booking_pages

OTHER NEWS



EXPERIENCE d'ARTISTE

Many of you will know that longtime BAM member Christine Franceschini is a talented artist who has exhibited her work widely, particularly in Monaco and Roquebrune. She is currently participating in the Salon des Artistes of the Comité Nationale Monégasque AIAP UNESCO "Expérience d'Artiste."

The exhibition is at the Salle des Expositions, 4 Quai Antoine Ier and runs until 16 December. It is well worth a visit and is open every day from 1pm until 7pm. Entrance is free of charge.

Les Enfants de Frankie "Kids Nite" – Friday 14 December, 6.30pm

Under the High Patronage of HRH the Princess of Hanover, a Gala evening in aid of children will be held at the Monte-Carlo Sporting Club. More information and booking details on frankie@i2n.link.

Anyone for Mah-Jong?

A member has asked whether any other BAM members would be interested in meeting up to play Mah-Jong. If you are interested please contact BAM at bam@monaco.mc or Yvonne Bernhardt on bernhope@libello.com.

And finally : Don't forget the English Library, open every Saturday morning from 10.30am-12noon in St. Paul's Church Hall, avenue de Grande-Bretagne. A constant supply of new reading, books for sale and a friendly chat are all on offer.

BAM PATRONS

We thank our Patrons for their continued support of BAM's work within the Principality.

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