

Dear Members

It's fair to say that the month of January was as cold and wintry as expected (in this little corner of the world at least)! The lack of adequate central heating certainly makes it somewhat nippy in the mornings. Like the weather, this month also seemed to have its share of ups and downs. We witnessed the total failure of the AS Monaco football team, the departure of a world class player turned manager, Thierry Henry and the return of another, Leonardo Jardim. Even the Monaco Basketball team, which was top of the league last year, is not experiencing the same level of success but, hopefully, we shall soon see a turnaround in its fortunes.

This month did host the annual Circus Festival as well as a much anticipated return of Jean-Louis Grinda's feathery production of Verdi's last opera, "Falstaff" at the Salle Garnier, which I was sorry to miss. Tickets for the Opera season are always so hard to come by, the "sold out" signs going up way ahead of time!

The Association also takes the opportunity, as in previous years, to send congratulations to H.S.H. Princess Charlene, who celebrated her 41<sup>st</sup> birthday on 25 January.

As another calendar page turns, however, I always look forward to February because it means longer, brighter days and a month just long enough to get us through to March and the arrival of Spring. The Principality's gardeners are already out and about, planting the hardier annual bedding varieties whilst the bulbs they planted just before Christmas are now sprouting their colourful blooms and adding welcome cheer to our surroundings.

From the perspective of the Association, the highlight of January had to be our very own Burns' Night Supper, held in the Salon Bellevue of the Café de Paris. This "Tribute" has always been something which I was keen to feature on our events roster and, thanks to the invaluable help and organisational prowess of Yvonne Bernhardt and Julie Lewis, we succeeded in making it happen. Much planning and arranging and more than a few sleepless nights culminated in a fantastic evening with great sounds, lots of laughter, a sumptuous menu and, I must say, a delicious Haggis! This event would not have been possible without the support of our very generous local sponsors. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise this.

Look out for our next big event, to be announced in a forthcoming newsletter, an evening of jazzy entertainment which our BAM team will be proud to host.

In the meantime, all the best,

John Luigi Megginson  
President

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2019

With the arrival of the New Year, membership subscriptions and renewals are due. The good news is that we are maintaining our current subscription prices so, for once, here is something that has not increased! Thanks to those of you who have renewed your memberships promptly; your 2019 stickers will be sent out soon. For those who have not yet renewed, a gentle reminder that you need to do so before the end of February so as to be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting in March – date to be announced shortly.

Membership is €50 for singles and €80 for couples. Download your membership form [HERE \(PDF\)](#)

## PAST EVENTS

### THURSDAY COCKTAILS

Our first Thursday cocktail of 2019 was held on 10 January at the Novotel, where more than twenty members gathered for a convivial evening around generous platters of charcuterie and cheese, accompanied by our various preferred tipples – an appropriate antidote to the chilly winter weather outside – and we were able to catch up on our Christmas and New Year activities and experiences. Since the Novotel will be undergoing refurbishment during the next few weeks, we shall be holding our Thursday cocktails elsewhere for the time being but we look forward to seeing its "new look" in due course.

So we duly tried out what proved to be an extremely successful new venue for our 24 January cocktail, in the shape of the Casa del Caffè in Avenue de la Costa. Not only was the welcome from waiter Piero extremely warm but the exterior heaters very efficient, which meant that we were able to enjoy our drinks and the unstinting supply of tapas in a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere – so much so that we received emails the following day, asking for a repeat visit!

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



As you will know from previous newsletters, our first major event of the New Year was our **Tribute to Robert Burns**.

The cold winter weather was left firmly outside whilst more than seventy members and guests, all wearing their best bibs and tuckers – black tie or the kilt for the gentlemen and a touch of tartan for the ladies – assembled in the Salon Bellevue of the Café de Paris, beautifully decorated in fitting Scots style by Yvonne Bernhardt and Julie Lewis. Special thanks are also due to Justin and Marie Hayward for kindly providing the floral table decorations.



Following the cocktail reception, the festivities began with the ceremonial "piping in" of the Haggis and the time honoured Address, delivered by Keith Hogg, who also treated us to a hilarious comic monologue, "Holy Willy," later in the evening (see picture, right). A delicious three course dinner was then served, accompanied by the aforementioned Haggis, "neeps and tatties."



The delicious dessert having been cleared away – no counting calories on a night like this – the Billy Anderson Band struck up once again and the dancing began in earnest. Caller Joyce Anderson encouraged even the most faint hearted of us to brave the dance floor and her easy to understand instructions soon had us mastering the intricacies of the Circassian Circle, St Bernard Waltz and the like, not forgetting, of course, the Gay Gordons!



Needless to say, a good time was had by all, although it was difficult to guess whether the rosy cheeks were due to over-exertion on the dance floor or the effects of the traditional Whisky poured over the Haggis!

We are most grateful to Alan Wardrop of Glen Goyne for supplying the Whisky and to Alister Roe of Villeneuve Wines, Peebles, as well as to Robin Brock for his stalwart support and to local sponsors Galeforce Computing, Mr & Mrs Donald Manasse and Savills Monaco, without whose help this event would not have been possible.



## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **LUNCH at the LYCÉE TECHNIQUE et HOTELIER de MONACO**

As those who have already attended one of these events will know, BAM members are invited once a month to make up a table of six to partake of a three course meal, prepared and served by the students of the Lycée. The purpose of our members attending (in addition to enjoying the food, of course!) is to engage the students in English conversation so that they can improve their grasp of the language. These lunches have proved so popular that the February and March lunches are already fully booked. If you are interested in joining a future lunch please contact Yvonne Bernhardt on 06 60 21 63 99 or email her at [bernhope@libello.com](mailto:bernhope@libello.com).

### **THURSDAY COCKTAILS IN FEBRUARY**

Since Thursday 14 February is St. Valentine's Day, we have decided not to hold our usual cocktails on that date.

### **ArchiDEC : Thursday 28 February – 6.30-8pm**

Our cocktail event on Thursday 28 February will feature a special presentation by interior design specialists **ArchiDEC**.



Carlotta Troubridge, specialist in interior renovations and design and Emmanuelle Morin, decoration and furniture expert, will share their expertise and know-how with BAM members in the friendly and stylish atmosphere of the SNM Rowing club Restaurant (Quai Louis II, just below the Yacht Club of Monaco).

The workshop will be dedicated to small space living - Carlotta and Emmanuelle will present their top small space tips and share with you design tricks that really work! You'll find there's something incredibly thrilling about size-challenged decorating that really forces you to get creative ...

Price of €25 per person includes admission to the workshop with drinks (Prosecco, wines, beer or soft drinks and buffet of focaccia, pissaladière, pizza etc). Download the booking form [HERE \(PDF\)](#)

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **MONTE-CARLO "CLASSIC" and "HISTORIC" RALLIES**

Although both rallies began on 30 January, there's just time to catch the thrills and spills as the drivers come hurtling into the Finish on the Port. The "Classic" ends on Saturday 2 February and the "Historic" on Wednesday 6 February. Be sure to wrap up warmly since there's bound to be some waiting around!

### **OBJECTIVE – ZERO RUBBISH : Sunday 3 February 1pm – 5pm**

Stars 'n'Bars presents a Family Ecohub Wellness Day aimed at reducing our rubbish by learning how to make our own cosmetics and cleaning materials from natural products. Associating partners will demonstrate the advantages of re-usable cosmetic cleansing tissues and kitchen roll, drinking straws made of stainless steel or bamboo instead of plastic; how to make your own natural cosmetics, face and body scrubs, talcs, deodorants and cleansing oils and a host of other ingenious ideas!

**Entrance is free.**

**SUPER BOWL FINAL : Stars'n'Bars - Sunday 3 February 10.30pm**

A chance for all you American Football fans to watch the world famous Super Bowl Final on the big screen as it happens.

Reservations on 97 97 95 95

**MONACO BOOKWORMS** book club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Library of St. Paul's Church. The book for discussion at the meeting on 21 February is "Midwinter Break" by Bernard MacLaverty. If you would like to attend, please contact Lydia Porter at [lyd.porter@maboum.com](mailto:lyd.porter@maboum.com).

**3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOBILE SHOW : 28 February – 3 March**

Cars of all kinds and vintages are back for a third year, displayed on the Port – well worth a leisurely wander round and the opportunity for some fantasy daydreams as well as great photos.



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Members with animals in their family will know what a problem it can be whenever a trip back to the UK comes into view. Happily, the EasyGroup has now come up with a clever solution, in the shape of **easyPet**, a new transport service designed to take care of your pet's every need. Regular trips between the French Riviera and London mean that you can rest assured that your pet can now be safely waved off on its journey and will be only too delighted to be reunited with you at your destination!



Full details and prices can be obtained by visiting [easyPet.net](http://easyPet.net), email [info@easyPet.net](mailto:info@easyPet.net) or ring +44 7395 329 364.

**And finally :** Don't forget the English Library, open every Saturday morning from 10.30am-noon 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. The newly installed lift is now working, making access easier.

**BAM PATRONS**

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

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<b>Eric Blair</b>	- Ex-officio member, Honorary UK Consul	<b>Julie Lewis</b>	- Events Co-ordinator
		<b>Vivienne Taylor</b>	- Administrator

To provide a focus for British and Commonwealth citizens residing in Monaco and surrounding areas to meet socially, represent their views in the Principality and to provide a welfare service for those in need.

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