

Dear Members

What a wonderful December it turned out to be! With the exception of just a couple of wet days, we enjoyed a wonderfully sunny month when we were able to take advantage of all the amenities that Monaco has to offer during the run up to Christmas. From the first week of December, the annual Christmas Village opened on the Port, this year with a New Orleans theme but still encompassing all the seasonal favourites we have come to know and love – difficult to hold back from the warming mulled wine, chestnuts, spit-roast suckling pig and traditional Alsace fare – but this year there was a newcomer in the form of the tasty Hungarian cone-shaped brioches, filled with almost anything and everything one could imagine, from Nutella to foie-gras. Just as well the ice-rink was open so that those of us brave enough to don skates could tackle the ice and work off some of the accumulated calories!

Then a wander round the myriad of chalets, filled with artisan products ranging from honey and olive oil to jewellery, candles, pashminas and woolly hats (the latter very welcome as the cold night drew on) whilst the children (and sometimes the young at heart as well), sampled the various rides, carousels and the big wheel, and little fingers did their best to hook enough floating baubles to win a goldfish prize.

Farther up the hill of the Avenue d'Ostende, more chalets, this time somewhat more luxurious, featured gifts from brands such as Swarovski and Sabrina and - a final treat - a glass of crisp Champagne, ensconced in a furry wrap on a sofa in a snug "igloo" in front of the Hôtel Hermitage, watching the world go by!

Another December treat not to be missed was the "Chemin des Crèches." This collection of nativity scenes stretches from the Rampe Major up to the Place du Palais and then weaves its way through the narrow winding streets of the "Rock," ending at the Conseil National in the Place de la Visitation – well worth a visit. It is open until 11 January.

As those of you who attended will know, our annual Christmas lunch at the Automobile Club was, as always, a great success, with 73 guests who were so generous that we raised almost €700 for BAM funds. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise this.

Looking forward to the New Year, as well as the return of the International Monte-Circus Festival and the thrills and spills of the Monte-Carlo Rally and the procession, mass and traditional "burning of the boat" celebrations of Monaco's Patron Saint, Sainte-Dévote, don't forget our highly anticipated Burns' Night Tribute on 26 January - sure to be as fiery and festive as were our QBP and Oktoberfest events. Kilts, Whisky, Tartans and Haggis at the ready! Full details below.

Finally, on behalf of the British Association, may I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy New Year, full of good health, peace and happiness.

John Luigi Megginson
President

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2019

Yes, it's that time of year again – 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!

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

PAST EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Automobile Club de Monaco - Wednesday 12 December

Our annual Christmas lunch at the Automobile Club was, as in previous years, fully booked and provided an opportunity for everyone to get together and catch up on the events of the year. Once again, the staff of the Club, led by Maître d'Hôtel, Jean-Luc Dufayel, looked after us with their excellent standard of service and Chef Olivier Ribauté produced a traditional but inventive lunch of smoked salmon with blinis and sour cream, feuilleté of guinea fowl with Brussels sprouts, chestnuts and roast potatoes and a chocolate Yule log of heavenly, if calorific, indulgence!



We were delighted that our oldest member, John Davis, was again able to join us, together with Rachida. Many of you will remember that John was with us at our Queen's Birthday Cocktail celebration back in June, when he had just celebrated his hundredth birthday. Well done John – it is always a great pleasure to see you!

Congratulations to all our raffle prizewinners and thanks to Committee members Julie Lewis for providing the prizes and Marie Hayward, who single-handedly raised almost €700 from ticket sales.

COCKTAILS at the BUDDHA BAR – Thursday 13th December

Following on from our lunch on Wednesday, the turnout for Thursday cocktails was a small one but members enjoyed our last pre-Christmas drinks in the intimate atmosphere of the Buddha Bar.

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. The date for the January lunch will be advised shortly but if you are interested in joining a lunch please contact Yvonne Bernhardt for further information on **06 60 21 63 99** or email her at bernhope@libello.com

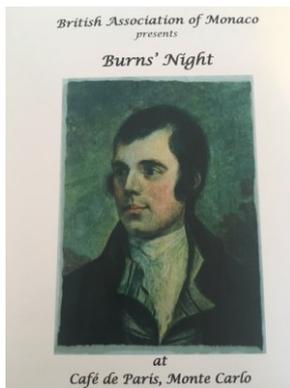
THURSDAY COCKTAILS : 6.30-8pm

The first Thursday cocktail of 2019 will be on **10 January** at the **Novotel**.

Venue for the cocktail on Thursday **24 January** to be advised – check your email update.

If anyone has suggestions concerning suitable venues for Thursday cocktails please do let us know. We like to vary the venues but your feedback is helpful so that we can try to please everyone.

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 in the December newsletter, 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 accompanying wines – and not, of course, forgetting the quintessential Haggis! – will be followed by dancing and general merriment.

A special flyer containing full details of the event has been produced (see right) which will be distributed at various locations throughout Monaco. Please do your best to advertise the event to all your friends so that we can ensure a full house and a success to match our Queen's Birthday Cocktail of last summer.

We are lucky to be able once again to use the Salon Bellevue of the Café de Paris, which will be decorated in the appropriate Scottish style so as to provide the perfect backdrop for our genuine Scots band, caller and piper as well as the indispensable dance floor for the "Flings" and country dancing which will follow the dinner.

As mentioned above, whilst the gentlemen are encouraged to sport the kilt or black tie, the ladies can give free rein to indulge in as little or as much tartan as they wish!

Tables will be for ten so if you are able to make up a complete table it will be most helpful to us if you could make a group booking using a single booking form.

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

Burns' Night Supper

SALON BELLEVUE, CAFÉ DE PARIS, PLACE DU CASINO

SATURDAY
26
JANUARY AT 7PM

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BURNS

TICKETS
MEMBERS 95€ AND NON MEMBERS 115€
For Reservations Please Call +377 93 50 19 52 or Email bam@monaco.mc

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OTHER NEWS

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE – PORT HERCULE continues until 7 January. The skating rink will remain open until 3 March.

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 17 January is "Home Fire" by Kamila Shamsie. If you would like to attend, please contact Lydia Porter at lyd.porter@maboum.com.

43rd INTERNATIONAL MONTE-CARLO CIRCUS FESTIVAL : 17-27 JANUARY

The Châteaueau de Fontvieille once again hosts the International Circus Festival – Booking office open at the Châteaueau from Monday to Friday from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm. Telephone bookings can be made on 92 05 23 45.

MONTE-CARLO RALLY : 30 JANUARY–6 FEBRUARY

Monte-Carlo Classic Rally and Historic Rally. Full details available from the Automobile Club de Monaco on 93 15 26 00.

SAVE THE DATE : On Friday 22 March 2019 the Monaco-Ireland Arts Society will be giving an evening of "**Irish Hellraisers**" celebrating the lives and inebriated times of Peter O'Toole and Richard Harris. These legendary sons of Ireland will be made to spring to life again through excerpts from their greatest performances, hilarious anecdotes and beautiful – if bawdy – songs! For more details please ring 06 82 40 55 34 or visit www.monaco-ireland-arts.org.

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 much easier.

BAM PATRONS

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

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	Vivienne Taylor - 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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