

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all again after the brief summer break. I hope that many of you have had the opportunity to enjoy the summer and maybe get away for a few days. This time last year, I spoke of the major catastrophes and global natural disasters which had hit us : the Californian and Greek wild fires, the Hawaiian volcano, the Keralan monsoons and, closer to home, the collapse of the Morandi bridge in Genoa.

It is unfortunate that I must report a new set of tragedies and, more generally, a hot topic which is as important to Monaco as it is to the rest of the world : the environment. The Amazon fires which have been blazing for sixty days, destroying swathes of forest and natural habitat, have serious implications – and not just for the people who call the basin home or for the millions of plant and animal species which live there. The Amazon rainforest is one of the world's greatest natural assets when it comes to tackling the problem of climate change. Equally bad are the problems of plastic pollution : many people in the poorest parts of the world are becoming ill and dying from diseases caused by the burning of rubbish and plastic near their homes and, in many countries, this burning of rubbish is the single largest source of carbon emissions, contributing to global warming and climate change.

More than eight million tonnes of plastic enter the world's oceans each year, most of it coming from land based sources. These wreak devastating effects on animals and ocean currents carry the waste and gather it together to create the infamous Pacific Garbage patch. This is a global problem of the highest order - studies have shown that we are breathing in plastic in our homes and eating it from the fish which have ingested microplastics from our seas and oceans. This is why it is so essential to reduce our plastic and carbon footprint and schemes such those in place in Monaco, particularly with regard to recycling, are small but vital steps towards tackling the problem.

Environmental disasters and climate change notwithstanding, I hope that many of you were able to witness the annual firework competition this year which is always a crowd pleaser during our summer months (and which, we are proud to say, was won by Great Britain!); the Dali exhibition, which was a fascinating retrospective view of his work; the music Festivals in Monaco and along the coast and, of course, our own very popular BAM Summer Party, a great success!

Quite apart from the electric atmosphere which always pervades Monaco with the arrival of the annual Yacht Show, running this year from 25-28 September, we have much to look forward to in the coming autumn months – a myriad of exciting BAM events, amongst them a guided visit of the Palace, a wine tasting trip to the Var, the Oktoberfest, the Brexit results (!) as well as our usual Lycée lunches, dinners and Thursday cocktails – at which we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Don't forget that we are always interested to receive feedback from you as to the kinds of events you would like us to organise for you so do please be in touch with us.

All the best,

John Luigi Megginson  
President

## PAST EVENTS

### **BAM SUMMER PARTY : Thursday 25 July at 7.30pm – Miami Plage Restaurant**



Following the demise of our beloved Baobab, we chose Miami Plage for this year's Summer Seaside Party. Just short of 40 members and guests spent the evening partaking not only of the live jazz being played nearby but enjoying a plentiful feast of crudités with tasty dips, focaccia, ham and melon, followed by Chicken Caesar Salad or Risotto with Truffles and ending with a blissfully sinful Tiramisù.



The wine flowed, as did the highly animated conversation as we welcomed old and new friends, several of whom were back in Monaco on a summer visit to catch up on all the news. It will be sad to bid farewell to the Larvotto we know and love but exciting to see what next year will offer as an interim facility whilst we await the opening of the spanking new all-singing, all-dancing Larvotto Beach promised for 2021 (see the feature in our July newsletter for more details).



Beachlovers amongst us will, however, be happy to know that Miami Plage will certainly be remaining open at least until the end of September so there is still time for you to enjoy the fine weather, beach facilities, sea air and good food.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### **COCKTAILS in SEPTEMBER**

Thursday 12 September : CASA del CAFFE, Avenue de la Costa – 6pm–8pm

Thursday 26 September : L'OLIVERAIE, Place des Moulins – 6pm-8pm

### **MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON : St Paul's Library, Friday 27 September, 3pm-5pm**



Many of you will know of the invaluable work done by the Macmillan Cancer Care nurses in the UK and the fundraising activities carried out over the past few years in the form of "Macmillan coffee mornings."

We are proud to announce that BAM is now undertaking to institute this tradition in Monaco.

Our first event will be held on Friday 27 September in St. Paul's Library. We shall be serving tea, coffee and cakes and hope that as many of you as possible will not only come and join us but will also donate generously, either in the form of cakes (home made or purchased) or financially towards supporting this vital work. Donations can be sent to our usual address at the head of this newsletter.

### **SAVE THE DATE : Visit : The Rainier/Grace meeting - 10 October, 5pm**

We are arranging a visit (in English) to view the special anniversary exhibition which has been mounted within the Princely Palace, entitled "**Histoire d'une Rencontre.**"

The exhibition tells the story of the historic visit which Grace Kelly made to the Palace to meet H.S.H. Prince Rainier on 6 May 1955.

Originally organised on the initiative of the photojournalists of Paris Match, the visit almost didn't happen and, indeed, must have seemed jinxed to Grace, right from the most inauspicious start to the day, when a power cut in Cannes where she was staying during the Film Festival meant that she was unable to dry her freshly washed hair and so was forced to conceal the fact by simply tying it back and adding a few flowers, to the enormously long time she was obliged to wait, having finally reached the Palace. The Prince having been unavoidably detained by business, she must have been so relieved when the man who was to play such a pivotal rôle in her future life finally stepped into that room!

It is fitting that this year, when Grace would have celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, all these photographs have been gathered together in one place and are displayed throughout the State Apartments, together with articles and other memorabilia, cinematographic material and, of course – the highlight of the show – the floral Schwarzenbach silk dress she wore on that occasion.

Less than a year later – on 18 & 19 April 1956 to be precise, Rainier and Grace were married and, as they say, the rest is history!

Our visit will be followed by cocktails (venue to be advised). Please be sure to note the date in your diary so as not to miss this very special opportunity.



## **OTHER DATES TO MARK IN YOUR DIARY :**

Important future dates to make a note of include the following :

### **Wine-tasting trip to the Var : Saturday 12 October**

We are arranging a trip to the Domaine de PiqueRoque for wine tasting and lunch. Further details and booking form will be available soon. Carpooling will be available.

### **Oktoberfest at the Café de Paris – Date to be confirmed**

We shall be reserving our usual table to celebrate all things Bavarian – Ein Prosit!

### **Annual Oecumenical Kermesse : Saturday 7 December – Chapiteau de Fontvieille**

As usual, we shall be looking for volunteers to man our stands and bar and to help collect all kinds of goods (clothes, gifts, electrical goods, books, traditional English foodstuffs etc). Further information to follow in our October newsletter.

### **BAM Christmas Lunch : Wednesday 11 December – Automobile Club de Monaco**

Once again, the Automobile Club has kindly agreed to host this popular event, which always fills up very rapidly so be sure to note the date to avoid disappointment.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**



Monaco is renowned for the number and sheer quality of the many charities based here but, for most Brits, the best known is the Poppy Appeal, running through October and November until Armistice Day on 11 November. Worldwide it is run by the Royal British Legion, whose local President is Commander Michael Healy MBE of Beaulieu but, after 20 successful years of fund-raising he is now seeking a new team to carry on the (unpaid) work.

This means distributing the red Poppy tins and trays to all the British offices, pubs, restaurants and events where supporters of this leading Forces charity may be found. Following Armistice Day, the tins need to be collected, unsealed and the contents counted with care to ensure maximum transparency, and the receipts to be banked. The Branch also runs a busy mail-order business all over France to ensure that poppies get on to as many lapels as possible. "Remembrance" says it all.

The new Poppy Appeal Organiser and helpers should have enough time and energy to devote to the task. Candidates for this most worthwhile charitable work can find out more from Michael Healy on [mhealy@orange.fr](mailto:mhealy@orange.fr) or 0670103755 (sms preferred). Full training and back-up will be given.

### **Monaco plays a starring rôle in Greta Thunberg's journey to New York**



For some months now, sixteen year old Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg has been grasping the world by the ears and forcing it to take heed of her entreaties to sit up and take notice of the climate change crisis and – more to the point – to do something about it.

When young Greta was invited to address the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York on 23 September, she sought a low-/non-carbon emission method of crossing the Atlantic and Monaco's Pierre Casiraghi and his "Malizia II" skipper, Boris Herrmann immediately stepped in to help Greta. Malizia II is a completely self-sufficient vessel, equipped with state of the art solar system of 1.3kW and 2 hydro-generators installed on the

stern of the boat; these together generate more than enough electricity to power all the boat's systems (navigation instruments, autopilots, water makers) enabling the entire crossing to be zero-emission. What more could Greta have asked for? We all wish her every success in her endeavours.

### **NEW BIKES FOR MONACO**

Prince Albert has launched the **MonaBike** service for Monaco, the Principality's new electric bike-sharing system to help residents and visitors alike navigate Monaco's hilly terrain more easily. Around 300 bikes are available, spread over 35 stations. Totally silent and capable of reaching speeds of up to 25km per hour, the MonaBike has a range of 60km, more than enough to travel across the Principality worry free. With very reasonable prices, starting from as little as €1, maybe now is the time for us all to get pedalling!



### **BAM KEEPING FIT : Classes resume after the summer break – 11 September, 10.15am**

Lisa Parker is continuing her gentle exercise classes in her studio at Monaco Broadcast, next door to Stars 'n' Bars. If you would like to join Lisa's Wednesday morning group, contact her at [lisajazzmin@gmail.com](mailto:lisajazzmin@gmail.com).

**BAM members will receive a discount on a course of 4 classes.**

### **La Camina Mangia : Hiking tour in Gorbio – 15 September**

For the hikers and walkers amongst you, this food and wine walking tour in the Gorbio valley might well arouse your interest. With 15 *dégustation* stands along the route, what better way to combine fitness and exercise with sampling the best of local produce? Get all the lowdown from [www.caminamangia.com](http://www.caminamangia.com)

### **Biennale de Sculpture : 17 September – 26 October – Rue Princesse Caroline**

Since 2009 local artists Héléna Krajewicz and Rob Rowlands have set out to surprise and stir the public by presenting art in unexpected places. With each exhibition featuring a different theme, this year's subject is "The world walks on its head" (*Le monde marche sur la tête*) and includes works by 14 international artists using a wide range of visual media, from one dedicated to icebergs to another created entirely from precious stones, bronze and resin.

### **MONACO BOOKWORMS : 19 September, 7.30pm – St Paul's Church Library**

The group meets on the third Thursday of each month. Books for upcoming discussions are :

19 September : "The Ballad of a Small Player" by Lawrence Osborne

17 October : "The Wall" by John Lanchester

If you would like to join in, please contact Lydia Porter at [lyd.porter\[at\]maboum.com](mailto:lyd.porter@maboum.com)

### **MONACO YACHT SHOW : 25-28 September – Port de Monaco**

Once again the Port will be crammed to the gunwales with every possible kind of craft and the uber-rich will be inspecting all the latest gadgets and gizmos, as well as the niche brands of customised supercars and motorbikes on the Car Deck.

### **Watch your speed over the border!**

Following the signing of a new Franco-Monégasque agreement, French authorities are now tightening up on fines issued to Monaco-registered vehicle owners caught speeding on French territory. Don't say you haven't been warned!

**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.

### **BAM PATRONS**

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

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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.