



'Open Door'
(Association La Porte Ouverte)
www.opendoor-civray.com

NEWSLETTER – June/July 2011

Any information or news that you would like included in the next Newsletter please e-mail Lynn at info@opendoor-civray.com

Vide Grenier on Thursday 2nd June

We are having a stall at the Champagne-le-sec vide-grenier and there will be a selection of items at give away prices to clear the upstairs area in Open Door, the storage behind our Gite and all the stuff we have deposited in Meg and John's Barn. Your support at this event would be appreciated.

UK Shopping delivered to Civray

The next order will now be Weds 6th July and it will be a Tesco order so please let Lynn know as soon as possible if you want anything or if you want her to book you a slot on this order otherwise it will be first come first served.

Library Extension

By the time you read this Tony should have finished making the final two bookshelves and have started their installation. After some modifications to the lighting it should not be too long before we will be ready for the official opening of the new section. This should provide us with space for and extra 1000 to 1200 books. Once this area is full, the only way is up or out.

New postage rate

With effect from the 1st July 2011 the cost of a postage stamp for a letter of up to 20grammes in weight will increase from 58 to 60 centimes. The more economic rate for non-priority letters will increase to 57centimes

Chaplaincy Summer Fete Saturday 9th July

This will be at the Salle des fetes in Vouleme and we will be having a stall. Our usual interesting and varied selection of goodies will be on sale as well as some specially designed limited edition aprons for all you gardeners. Make a note of the date; we hope to see you there.

Alzheimers/Dementia

The Alzheimer's Society is once again collecting any unwanted jewellery, broken or otherwise, one odd cufflink, a few links of a bracelet or any costume jewellery or watches. We supported this very successfully in 2009 and sent a large parcel of jewellery to the Society so please let us have any unwanted items to support this worthy cause.

Coming Events

June 16th – Boules – booze and BBQ

July 14th – Bastille Day – BBQ and fireworks

The June event will be an afternoon of boules followed by a BBQ. We are trying to keep this at **5 euros** and beer, wine, cider and soft drinks will be available to buy at a ridiculously low cost. A few tickets are still available but **hurry!!**

New French tax law announced

The French Government has issued a draft law which will create a new tax on properties owned by non-residents in France. The law is causing concern at the EU as it will inevitably discriminate against non-French homeowners. The law is an amendment to the 2011 French Finance Act and will be voted on by the French Parliament in July. This legislation is likely to come into force in 2012 and will create a new tax on properties owned by non-residents in France. It will not apply to those who have made a permanent move to France or those who rent out their French properties. Along with the changes to property tax, the law contains a number of other matters, including amending wealth tax and abolishing restrictions that previously limited the upper end of the tax spectrum.

However, the draft law has been causing some controversy at the EU and President Sarkozy may yet face challenges in getting it passed. While not specifically identifying non-French people who own property in France, it will inevitably have a disproportionate impact on them. As such, the law appears to be in breach of European law and the European Commission is in the process of scrutinising it. So the message is - watch this space!

Why did he cry for help?

A mayor in Germany helped rescue a man who became trapped in a women's prison after mistaking it for a shortcut to a nearby park, police in the northern city of Hildesheim said. Hildesheim Mayor Henning Blum heard the man's cries for help while passing by the prison near the city centre and notified police who came and freed the 24-year-old. The man told police he was strolling through town and did not immediately notice he had walked into a prison. By the time it dawned on him where he was, the gate to the jail had already closed, locking him inside. Police said they are investigating why the prison gate was open, enabling the man to wander in.

Natural Medicines

The EC has just blocked the access to numerous medicines which are natural and based on plants, and already certain remedies have been removed from shelves. A new European Directive came into effect early this month which sets up restrictions for any plant based remedy that have been on the market for 30 years, and includes practically all the Chinese traditional remedies, the ayurvedic and African. The European Commission recognized itself that these rules were too drastic and reduced the choice of consumers for no good reason, but they made no move to change the legislation.

Fixed radar: signs gradually removed

By the decision of the Interministerial Committee for road safety (IRB) on May 11, 2011, signs indicating the presence of fixed radar will be gradually removed thereby providing no warning of the presence of a speed camera. More maps showing the position of radars are being made available through government websites and 1000 new "educational" radars which will indicate the speed you are travelling and the points penalty that you would face are planned for introduction by the end of 2012. Another development is the introduction of average speed radars where the vehicles average speed over two points will be measured and, if found to be in excess of the speed limit, the appropriate penalty notice will be issued.

A New Wine for Senior Citizens.

Just a single glass at night could mean a peaceful, uninterrupted nights sleep. California vintners in the Napa Valley area, which primarily produce Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir and Pinot Grigio wines, have developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic. It is expected to reduce the number of trips that older people have to make to the bathroom during the night. The new wine will be marketed as Pino More.

Don't forget you can now read this Newsletter and those of previous months by visiting our Website at www.opendoor-civray.com. There is also information about our forthcoming events as well as many items concerning the Association and life in France.

They sent my census form back.

In answer to the question, 'Do you have any dependants?', I put, 'Asylum seekers, drug addicts, the unemployable, the House of Lords, MPs, Northern Rock, RBS, Ireland, Portugal and half of Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, Pakistan and a daughter! Apparently this wasn't an acceptable answer.

An Anagram of OSAMA BIN LADEN is LOB DA MAN IN SEA

A little boy got on the bus, sat next to a man reading a book, and noticed he had his collar on backwards. The little boy asked why he wore his collar backwards. The man, who was a priest, said, '**I am a Father....**' The little boy replied, 'My Daddy doesn't wear his collar like that.' The priest looked up from his book and answered, '**I am the Father of many.**' The boy said, 'My Dad has 4 boys, 4 girls and two grandchildren and he doesn't wear his collar that way!' The priest, getting impatient, said, '**I am the Father of hundreds**', and went back to reading his book. The little boy sat quietly thinking for a while, then leaned over and said, "**Maybe you should wear a condom, and put your pants on backwards instead of your collar.**"

**Just to remind you that if you change your address, telephone number or email address please tell us
We do not want to lose touch with you.**

**The office address is Association La Porte Ouverte Le Bourg, 86510, Champagné le Sec
and the email address is info@opendoor-civray.com**