

## *update..*

It's not getting any warmer. The icy weather we have right now is probably a harbinger of the freeze-ups to come and time for a final reminder about, at least, turning water off if you are leaving a property unattended.

But let's think positive; in a few days time, on 21<sup>st</sup> December, it will be the shortest day of the year and thereafter the days will start getting longer again.

Then it will soon be spring, followed by some kind of summer and we can have a moan about being too hot - (well, at least for a week or two) !

Seriously, no-one chooses to live in the 7 Vallées in order to get an all-year round suntan and the weather is certainly no worse than in the UK. But there are so many other compensations - and it's got to be better than Belfast, right?!

## *News..*

At long last, the new swimming pool for HESDIN is open and, at least in part, operational. More correctly, it is in Marconne and called the AQUATIC BOWLING CENTRE. Some facilities are yet to be finished, but it's a huge step forward and a welcome addition to the area. In addition to the swimming pool, there's a fitness centre, bowling lanes and a small café. You can find more details at [www.abc-lhesdinois.fr](http://www.abc-lhesdinois.fr)

I had reports of the D939 between Hesdin and Montreuil being open in both directions - now that really is news! Let's hope it wasn't an isolated incident.

## *Opinion 1.*

You'll have noticed the new format for this newsletter. It's in testing phase so please let us know what you think and/or if there is any particular content that you would like to see included (or omitted) for future issues.

## *Diary Dates..* *at La Choze..*

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>..

Katie's Kitchen at La Choze

This week, full roast turkey and Christmas pudding menu.

### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>..

'Ruby Tuesday' at La Choze

Superb Indian meal, prepared by renowned 'Cinnamon Club' chef Rajinda Singh

..you need to book for the above; please call.

### Xmas Day..

'Bar will be open from 11:30 for a mid-day 'session'.

### New Year's Eve..

Party time; buffet meal available and 'Bubbly' at both midnights. Let's give 2013 a real welcome and get the year started on a positive note.

## *..and elsewhere..*

### MARCHES DU NOELS..

HESDIN - Sat 15th/Sun 16th  
Salle du Manege; 10h - 19h

LE TOUQUET - Sat 15th/Sun 16<sup>th</sup>  
Place du Marché

[more..](#)

*(continued)..**Opinion 2; is it just me?.*

Global Warming..?? I think NOT..

Whilst I don't profess to be any kind of expert on climactic conditions, the fact seems to be that whenever the 'official' experts are called upon to explain the 'unexpected' and 'caught us on the hop' weather conditions "Global Warming" seems to have given way to "Climate Change".

Is there something just slightly worrying about severe flooding in parts of rural England that are in the grip of the lowest rainfall in a century and a hosepipe ban? And, if you can't now insure your house because the insurance company have realised the address to which they've been sending your invoice might be at risk and their shareholders in the Caymen Islands might get upset with a lower dividend, what are you supposed to do?

OK, perhaps I exaggerate a little but, like the 'we're all in this together' economy, are we really getting the full picture?

*Festive Season (and other) opening hours..*

Over the Christmas/New Year period, we'll be open as follows:

Mon 24th:	12h00 - 14h00 + 17h00 - 22h00
Tues 25th:	lunchtime; 12h00 - 14h00
Wed 26th:	12h00 - 14h00 + 17h00 - 22h00
Thurs 27th:	10h00 - 14h00 + 17h00 - 22h00
Fri 28th:	12h00 - 14h00 + 17h00 - 22h00
Sat 29th:	open all day; 11h00 - 22h00
Sun 30th:	lunchtime only; 12h00 - 14h00
Mon 31st:	New Years Eve Party !!
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan:	10h00 - 14h00 + 17h00 - 22h00

Then, until end March, 'winter' opening hours for the bar will be\*:

Mon:	closed all day
Tues:	evening only; 17h00 - 22h00
Wed:	evening only; 17h00 - 22h00
Thurs:	10h00 - 14h00 + 17h00 - 22h00
Fri:	10h00 - 14h00 + 17h00 - 22h00
Sat:	open all day; 11h00 - 22h00
Sun:	lunchtime only; 11h00 - 14h00

\* Excluding short January break in UK from 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

*Diary Dates<sub>(cont)</sub>..*MARCHES DU NOELS..

ARRAS - now til Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.

LILLE - everyday til Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.

For more information on these and many other Marchés de Noel in the region go to:

[www.noel-marche.fr](http://www.noel-marche.fr)



As usual, outside the above hours, we will invariably be available in the office for members and can always be contacted on 06 89 04 43 03