



# Brunssum and GK Community Newsletter



## February 2023

Goodness, January seemed like a long month! However, for one family, January brought a surprise in the early arrival of baby Charlotte to Stephen and Kat Davies who only arrived in the Netherlands at the beginning of the month - Congratulations!

February brings plenty for us to look forward to! Not only are the days getting slightly longer again, but the French delegation is hosting a Valentine's Day event (on 13th Feb) and there are lots of events in the local area for Carnival. The HIVE blog will have updates for you and we'll post what we can on Facebook and WhatsApp—please feel free to share your plans and photos with the rest of the community on the Facebook page—we'll share the best photos in the March newsletter.

We have reinvigorated our Road Rep network now that we are fully staffed in the CLO office. We are still looking for a volunteer for Sittard and we'd love to have the single personnel here represented too. If you're interested, please let us know.

Hopefully you've all seen the 'Save the Date' notices for the Coronation Ball (11 May) but please add Thursday 4 May to your calendars as well as we'll be hosting a Community Coronation Event at the Brit Bar from 16:00. More details to follow.

Finally – don't forget that February 21st is Shrove Tuesday, so we hope you have some flipping good pancake fun!!

Your NSE Team



# What's on...

- ✓ 6th Feb. NAAFI order deadline for delivery 13th Feb.
- ✓ 13th Feb. French Valentine's Day event 10am - 3pm at the French Delegation
- ✓ 16th Feb. International Club Bake Sale in the Miner's Rest, 9-12 (or when there's no cake left!)
- ✓ 20th Feb. Carnival Holiday. Half Term begins.
- ✓ Every Wednesday - Coffee Drop-in. Community Room in the NSE, 10-11.



## Carnival!!

Did you know that Carnival officially starts on the 11 of November?!

Carnival traditions across the Netherlands vary, with distinct differences between the north and south of the country. Here in the south of Limburg, public life is suspended for a few days, and everything revolves around the Carnival. While many old traditions slowly disappear and are swallowed up by more commercial events, the Carnival continues to grow. Although the religious importance is increasingly eroded, the Limburg carnival culture is developing steadily.

Carnival is three days where people distance themselves from the everyday humdrum and rational world and replace it with the irrational and unusual. However, while all the parties might seem like chaos, Carnival in the Dutch province of Limburg is highly ritualised. For example, in some towns, power is symbolically handed over to the prince of the celebration and his Council of Eleven. This ritual symbolically moves the town out of the everyday rational world and into the world of Carnival – a bit like Alice going to Wonderland!

The council and the prince are cultural mediators of the festivities. The Council of Eleven is steeped in symbolism. Their bicornes hats are inspired by the hats worn by jesters and symbolise the foolishness that is central to the Carnival. Every member of the council and the prince wears a chain that symbolises their unity. The regalia of the prince, his sceptre, feathers and other distinguishing features express his symbolic power of the three days of folly.

The most common aspect of Carnival in most cultures worldwide are the costumes worn by the revellers. They replace their real identity for a temporary one, usually signifying a connection with the bizarre world of insane. The outfit is a 'mask' behind which revellers can hide their everyday identity to celebrate Carnival without shame. Although revellers hide their personal identity behind the 'mask', it is, in fact, an expression of their individuality. People take great care choosing their temporary identity, and some express themselves in very individual creations.

**However you choose to celebrate Carnival—have a great time, stay safe and share your photos with us!**



COMING UP THIS

# *Spring*

Sunflower Growing  
Competition

Easter Crafts  
Competition

Coronation Community  
Event



**SAVE THE DATE:**

**FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**(10.00 - 15.00 hrs)**



# **VALENTINE'S DAY**



\*\*\*\*\*  
**FRENCH DELEGATION**  
**(JFC BRUNSSUM # 308)**



\*\*\*\*\*  
**COME and DISCOVER**  
**the REFINEMENT and the SWEETNESS of**  
**FRENCH PASTRY**



**Sébastien Trudelle\***  
Best Worker of France 2018 in Pastry  
"SMORES"  
*Maastricht & Meerssen*  
*\*Cash payment only*



\*\*\*\*\*  
*for NATO JFC Brunssum & NATO AB Geilenkirchen personnel and their families*

# BOOK CLUB

Next meeting Tuesday 28th Feb at 8pm

This month's book is **The Midnight Library**  
by Matt Haig

For more information see Brunssum  
Book Club on Facebook



The Book have also planned a cinema trip to watch a Man Called Otto at the Foroxity in Sittard on Tuesday 7th Feb at 19:30. Please see the Brunssum Book Club page on Facebook for more information or contact Vicky Edwards





## What is the Brunssum International Club and why would I join?

The Brunssum International Club (BIC) is open to all NATO ID holders and spouses. It meets monthly for Coffee and Culture mornings, hosted by different delegations and runs various events throughout the year. Membership is 12 Euros for the year. For more information, including how to sign up, head to [www.jfcbic.com](http://www.jfcbic.com)





#### Why The Need for Awareness!!!

- 1 in 3 of us will have a MH issue in our lifetime.
- Those serving **overseas** are more susceptible due to isolation, no jobs, language, being away from family support.
- Women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with anxiety then men.
- 1 in 6 people report experiencing a common mental health problem (like anxiety and depression) in any given week.



## Mental Wellness & Domestic Abuse Awareness Presentation

• **When:** Mon 06 March 23, 1030hrs – 1230hrs

• **Where:** Alliance Theatre

• **Who:** All Serving Personnel and Spouses

*Do Not Suffer in Silence, We are here to help!*

**POC: WO2 (SSM) Cornell x4348**



JFC INTERNATIONAL  
CLUB'S

## Charity Bake Sale

Eat sweets and support your local charity!

FEBRUARY 16 | 9:00AM-12:00PM  
MINER'S REST



This year's bake sale will directly benefit the local charity,  
Stichtingzomooimogelijk,  
an organization that empowers children with down syndrome.





## BRUNSSUM ON-LINE SHOPPING SERVICE



### FULL RANGE OF GROCERY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

Orders can be placed via e-mail:  
[naafionline@naafi.co.uk](mailto:naafionline@naafi.co.uk)

Card and Cash payments accepted.  
Payment will be accepted on delivery.  
Coffee, Whisky, Gin, Cigarettes and Tobacco are rationed items.  
Please produce your ration card at the time of purchase.

ORDER DATES	DELIVERY
2023	
2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023

# EMERGENCY NUMBERS

**Police - 112**

**Fire - 112**

**Ambulance - 112**

**Nightcare Heerlen - 045 577 8844 / +3145 577 8844**

**Healix - +44208 4817800 / 0208 4817800**

**Duty Officer - +3165 1520 896 / 065 1520 896**

**Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre**

**01452 519951 / +441452 519951**

**Military Police - +31 45526 2616 / 045526 2616**

**Main Gate - +31 45526 4041 / 045526 4041**



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## Support Contacts

In addition to contacting your CLOs, JFC Welfare Champions and the NSE, there are organisations and people who can help in many ways.

**Please take note of the below welfare points of contact for future use:**

For details on multiple available supporting organisations, and to contact the EJSU welfare team, please visit: [www.ejsu.net/welfare](http://www.ejsu.net/welfare)

### Padre:

Maj. Nia Williams: Email: [Nia.Williams264@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Nia.Williams264@mod.gov.uk)

### European Welfare Officer (EWO)

Ann Mckenzie

Office: 0032 (0) 6544 8082

Mobile: 0032 (0) 478 97 02 80

Email Address: [annmarie.mckenzie114@mod.gov.uk](mailto:annmarie.mckenzie114@mod.gov.uk)

**SSAFA Health Visitor, Kerry Riley:** [UKStratCom-DMS-DPHC-EJSU-CEPGrp@mod.gov.uk](mailto:UKStratCom-DMS-DPHC-EJSU-CEPGrp@mod.gov.uk)

**Army Families Federation:** [ejsu@aff.org.uk](mailto:ejsu@aff.org.uk)

**Brunssum Hive:** [brunssumhive@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:brunssumhive@armymail.mod.uk)