

Happy 50th for DS

● De Gaulle's favourite car, the Citroën DS will be celebrating its 50th birthday in style this October with a parade of more than 1,000 cars on the Champs-Élysées. Perhaps best known for its unmistakable swivelling headlights (pictured right), the DS is loved by car enthusiasts for its great design and innovative engineering and was adored by De Gaulle who famously used a chauffeur-driven DS for weekend visits to his retreat at Colombey-les-Deux-Églises.



The parade will take place on Sunday 9 October and a 50th anniversary exhibition will be hosted at the cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris until the end of October. Don't miss our Citroën DS celebration feature in the November issue, on sale on 19 October.

● Advertisers on holiday home websites are being warned about a scam which appears to be on the increase. Philip Suter, director of an online property services company, says that accommodation owners have been targeted in the last couple of months. The scam works when

the applicant sends an email enquiring about holiday accommodation. They arrange to send a cheque for the week's rental but in fact send a cheque which is far in excess of the agreed figure. They then contact the property owner again to see if the cheque has arrived only to be told that they have sent too much money. The property owner agrees to send back the difference. However the original payment was bogus which means that the advertiser has lost out. Examples of recent scam emails said to have been sent can be seen at www.jmlvillas.com

● Nîmes-Arles-Carmargue airport has secured funding for 2006. The move means that

Ryanair will continue to operate flights there from the UK. The management of small regional airports in France will change in 2006. From then on, they will no longer be run by local chambers of commerce but will instead be managed by a consortium of investors made up mainly of local and regional authorities. The Nîmes Chamber of Commerce has confirmed it will continue to operate the airport until the new consortium takes over.

● The Taittinger family might get the opportunity to buy back its holding in the champagne part of the company which it previously sold to American investment firm, Starwood Capital. In order to do so, a formal auction would be held and it is likely the champagne house would be valued at more than 500€ million.

● Many people are fascinated by the idea of discovering hidden gems at scrapyards, especially so when it takes place in France. Rico Daniels returns with a new series called *Le Salvager* starting on 14 September at 10pm on Discovery Real Time channel.

FRENCH ETIQUETTE

POLITIQUEMENT CORRECT:

PATRICIA STOUGHTON introduces the fine balance between not causing offence and appearing ridiculous

DO

● be aware that political correctness has reached France, particularly in administration and the media. Whether or not you agree with its political or ethical aims, it is basic good manners not to cause offence

● take note of language used by friends or colleagues and ask if you're not sure

● say black not *noir* for black people, or *une personne d'origine africaine, jamaïcaine*, etc.

● use gay as in English

● use Madame le Maire or Madame le Ministre: these functions of government are masculine nouns. However, the office of the Assemblée Nationale has authorised the use of Madame la Députée for women members of parliament

DON'T

● feminise nouns unnecessarily. *Cheffe*, used in Quebec and Switzerland for head of department, is not recognised in France. *Chauffeuse*, is a fireside seat not a female chauffeur!

● if you employ a woman to clean your house, describe her as a *technicienne de surface!* (This could be straight out of Molière's *Précieuses Ridicules!*) She is a *femme de ménage*, or *quelqu'un qui m'aide avec la maison*

● say *arabe du coin* for corner shop, call it *magasin de proximité* or *proxi*; don't say *clochard* (tramp), use SDF—*sans domicile fixe* (homeless person)

● allow euphemistic words to diminish reality, such as: *incivilités* when you mean *violence* or *vandalisme*; or *le départ* instead of *le décès* or *la mort* for death

FAITS DIVERS



● One of Europe's largest suppliers of online phone cards, 1st4phonecards, has launched a new type of international phone card, Card4anywhere, giving

access from every country around the world. The card uses eCallback technology which means the customer initiates the call via the web or by text message and is

then called back on a designated phone number before the system connects them to their destination number. For more information visit www.card4anyway.net.

● Truffle fans (of the fungal variety) are now able to own their own truffle-producing oak tree in France.

Tree owners can choose between pooling their truffles for sale in the market and receiving a cheque at the end of each season, or having them sent by post. The cost of a tree is £149 and annual care and maintenance thereafter is £35.

For more information call (Fr) 5 62 64 15 23 or email dick@truffle-tree.co.uk