

THE LIBRARIAN



A Message from the President

In those odd ten minutes (- ok, sometimes longer) between one thing and the next, I find myself turning to Pinterest for something completely different and somehow mind clearing. Books and libraries have been coming up recently and out of the hundreds of quotes I thought these might amuse you or make you think. Let's start with Albert Einstein.

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales."

And by way of a contrast, Groucho Marx.

"Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

Those of you who visit the library will know the friendly, dedicated band of volunteers who man the library, and many thanks to each and every one of them. This, however, is Monty Pythons take on a library which is obviously not ours.

"You see, I don't believe that libraries should be drab places where people sit in silence, and that's the main reason for our policy of employing wild animals as librarians."

And as we started, let's finish with another thought from Einstein.

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library."

And if you don't know that, check out our website <http://abav12.fr/>

and we hope you will open that magic door from the street soon.

Sue

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*It's your
Library!*



Library Hours

Open Tuesdays

& Thursdays

10.00—12.00

**Large Variety of
books to choose**

**Tea & Coffee
Available**

**Drop in for a
chat**

Jungle drums

New Look Newsletter

The more observant of you may have noticed that the “look” of our Newsletter has Changed. Not by choice but by the good folks at Microsoft who have decided that they no longer wish to support the program “Microsoft Publisher” after October this year, which has been the back bone of our publication for the last four years.

So, I have taken the opportunity of enforced absence from the garden and the pool due to excessive heat to effect the necessary changes. One would think that the good souls at Microsoft would have a plan for the transfer of existing “Publisher” files into “Word” or “PowerPoint” or something similar but no it is “We are off and you lot can fend for yourselves” There are no transfer tools available.

A new start was necessary and I have chosen to go with a “Word” based document to allow for continued support and ease of use in the future – I hope!

Please let me know your thoughts and suggestions, polite ones only please, and I will try to accommodate as many as I can.

AM Editor.

New Library Website

<http://abav12.fr/>

Take a Look!!

SOCIETY CONTACTS:

• BRIDGE:

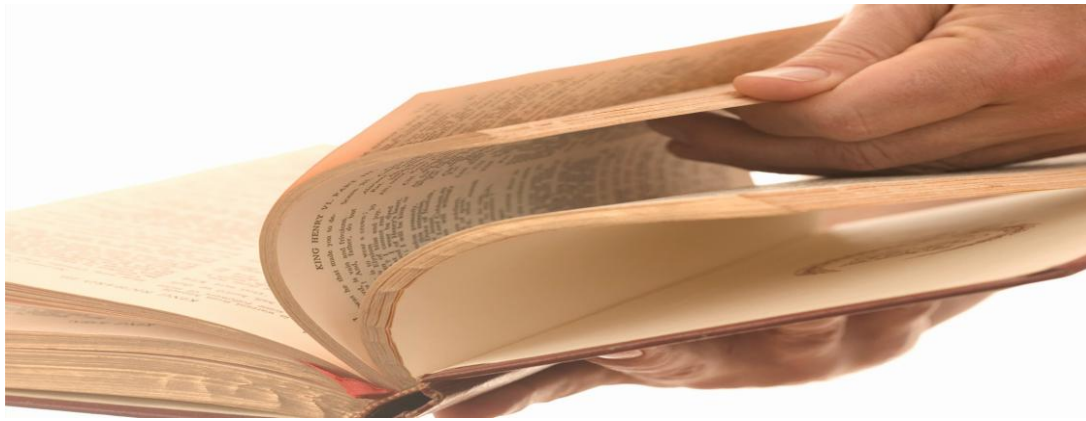
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**The
Book
Review
By
Elaine Morgan**

“How good it is I have no fear of dying” (one woman’s fight on the frontline) by Lara Marlowe.

In August 2023 Lara met and interviewed Lieutenant Yulia Mykytenko for an article about women in the Ukrainian army, which was published in the Irish Times. Lara found Yulia inspiring and the idea for a full book developed. Yulia agreed to tell her story and thanks to modern technology they managed to spend 24 hours together over a period of 5 months while the story was told.

It is a story of immense courage and patriotic fervour as Yulia sticks to her principles to defend Ukraine against Russian aggression. She pays a high price but seems never to waiver.

Along the way there are many insights into Zelensky and Putin. Zelensky’s and the West’s early failures together with the collapse of the 2014 Minsk Agreements led to the full-scale invasion in 2022 that we all know about. In fact the war dates back a lot longer than that, the Dombas region has long figured in Putin’s sights. Putin’s annexation of Crimea did not raise enough red flags for other European countries or NATO to provide adequate assistance to Ukraine. The feared an “escalation” of the situation so Putin prevailed. As a result, many more people on both sides have died or been injured.

Zelensky is seen as something of a hero in the West, but Yulia is quite candid about his failures. His predecessor was a Russian sympathiser who allowed his police to beat up peaceful protestors. His regime collapsed and he fled to Russia with his wealth. Yulia was always part of the protests as was her father.

She reflects on Putin’s mindset and how he has used propaganda and infiltration to pursue his policies in countries like Georgia which have also lost large parts of territory to his regime. He has planted sympathisers in Finland, another border country, now part of NATO. He fears NATO but despises the EU. No doubt he wants Ukraine’s vast mineral wealth, but he also believes that Ukraine is part of Russia. The fact that Ukraine has an ancient history and has a separate culture and language is no obstacle to this belief and the Ukrainian language was suppressed in favour of Russian under the USSR

Yulia studied philology at university, and this degree did enable her to achieve officer rank in the army when she signs up. She and her young husband sign up together and want to serve on the frontline. He is killed and she is left to survive this tragedy. Her father also dies and this may explain the title of the book which is taken from a Ukrainian poem. It’s a harrowing but important story

My only criticism of the book is to do with its structure which has a timeline that hops around a lot. Even though the chapters are headed with dates I did find this confusing and would have preferred something chronological.

Lara Marlowe will be coming to Festilitt October 9-11 to talk about her book and Yulia.

ARE TODAY'S CARS REALLY GETTING BETTER?

Cars have been with us for some 140 years. Put Otto Benz's Patent Motorwagen of 1885 next to any 2026 model and they are light years apart. But as yet more technology is poured into our vehicles, are they really getting any better?

The key figure when looking at a purchase is the whole life cost of that car. It may be cheap to buy, but is it reliable? What about the costs of insurance, servicing and spare parts? What will it be worth on resale?

The biggest revolution in vehicle design came in the late 1960s with electronics. Initially, these controlled engine functions. Now there's computers for engines, gearboxes, axles, suspension and brakes, not to mention aircon, satnav and in-car entertainment. And not forgetting (how can we?), advanced driver assistance systems. Any motor vehicle technician's primary skill is now computer literacy rather than deftness with a spanner, especially with the arrival of electric cars. Fault finding is next to impossible without a laptop and the correct software module. Now some manufacturers have taken sole control of their diagnostics and information. To gain access, you have visit one of their agencies, which will log on to the factory's mainframe. So, if you break down, you'll have to be transported to a dealer, which could be miles away. Just don't have a *dépannage* at a weekend.

Today's cars are not designed for home maintenance. Packed engine bays that often require major dismantling to reach other parts, special tools and the need for a car lift to access key areas rule out DIY. Electric cars must only be serviced by trained mechanics. With electrical systems running at 700-800V, electrocution is a grave risk for the unskilled. All of which means higher costs for the motorist.

Some modern engine designs have proved a bane not a boon. Many engines use dry timing belts of polyester and rubber that run inside a cover on the outside of the unit. Around 2008, wet belts appeared, which run within the engine's oil system so that they are lubricated. In the last 10 years, these belts have suffered premature breakages. Valves hit pistons and can result in a new engine. If oil changes are neglected, the dirty lubricant degrades the belt and rubber crumbs are pumped around the system and can eventually block it entirely. Replacing the belt is a complex job that takes two days and lands the driver with a bill for the thick end of €2,000. Given that many a small, 10-year-old car is worth less than €2K, vehicles are now often scrapped rather than repaired. To find out if your car sports such a belt, look for 'wet belt' or 'belt in oil' on the web.

In 2015, one manufacturer introduced a modular engine available as a 3,4 or 6 cylinder. While improved from 2020, earlier models, the diesel in particular, suffered major problems, often at early mileages. Plastic guides on timing chains degraded quickly, causing stretching, snapping and serious damage. Turbochargers and fuel injectors would fail, leading to expensive harm. The worst fault was in the diesel particulate filter design, which led to fuel contaminating the oil, causing premature wear. This happened especially on vehicles doing short trips that prevent DPF regeneration. Such is this engine's reputation; some garages will no longer buy or sell cars and SUVs so equipped.

Cars aren't cheap anymore. Some of the models referred to in this article start at £110,000. For that, you are entitled to expect reliability, a long working life and good service. For all the technology, we find ourselves being sold short.



Garden Corner

There really isn't much to do in the garden at the moment, except water and as there are now restrictions (generally between 8am and 8pm), watering is limited. You need to check the water restrictions for your commune Restrictions d'eau en Aveyron par commune : carte sécheresse et arrêtés. Basically you are allowed to water vegetables and tree and shrubs, planted within the last 3 years.

Even with watering and shade the vegetable garden is really not producing very much. Normally I am giving away courgettes and cucumbers, I have yet to pick my first bean and the tomatoes are rubbish. I can only hope the storms forecast for the weekend give us the rain we need.

Without doubt we have lost things in the garden, but the more recent drought tolerant planting is coping. This is the way to go, choose the right plants, wherever possible plant in the autumn and then mulch the new plants in the spring. Plants which seem to cope best either have a good mulch, or they are shaded by other plants.

Don't give up, just learn and adapt. (At the moment the indigofera heteranta looks lovely, never watered but coping well in the semi shade). The wildlife can't adapt fast enough; they need our gardens. Many of the wildflowers have shriveled up in the heat and dry, so the butterflies and insects are here in my garden, searching out the nectar rich plants which are in flower. Don't forget to leave some water for the wildlife.

MG

New Books Coming!!

- ***Fredrik Backman "My Friends"***
- ***Bernard Minier "The Frozen Dead"***
- ***"Don't Turn out the Lights"***
- ***Minette Walters "The Players"***
- ***Anne Tyler "Three Days in June"***
- ***Percival Everett "Erasure"***
- ***Zoe Boehm Promo Pack "Down Cemetery Road"***
- ***Mick Herron "Clown Town"***

"Smoke and Whispers"

"Why we Die"

"The Last Voice You Hear"

"James"

This a selection of members' requests. More will be ordered next time.

Lesley

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

Vide Greniers and Brocantes for August

Our pick on those worth checking out....and there are some goodies this month.

Sun 2 Livinhac le Haut (near Capdenac. In a big field with no shade, but while you are there take a look at Le Relais de La Brocante which is a stone's throw away and is open for the day. Address on their website)

Lac de Parisot (another annual event with stalls around the lake)

Weds 5 Lanuejols (annual brocante with high class stuff from the professional dealers and well worth a visit).

Sun 9 Villeneuve - in the Foirail and another big event. Mostly outside though the better stuff is usually under the Foirail itself as the more professional dealers will reserve this space early.

Sun 15 Montsales (as we go to press still to be confirmed...small annual event in pretty village with plenty of shade and the Tour de Montsales is worth a visit)

Sun 23 Druhle (vide grenier in the village)

Figeac (big event through the streets around the Halle with very nice things from professional dealers of the region - good atmosphere)

Have a great time!

FISH & CHIPS

Fri 14 Chez David, Carrefour, Villefranche de Rouergue

Tues 18 Cafe Maison, Parisot

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

14th Edition of FESTILITT

October 9-10-11, 2026

***Check out the Book
reviews for the next 3
months!!***



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

**BRADERIE
HORS CADRE** FÊTE SES 15 ANS !

ATELIER D'IMPRIMERIE ASSOCIATIF

**-30%
-50%**

**LIVRES
POSTERS
GRAVURES
ANIMATIONS**

SERIGRAPHIES

**DE 5
À 99 €**

25, BIS RUE EMILIE DE RODAT / VILLEFRANCHE DE ROUERGUE

15/16 AOÛT
DE 10H A 19 H !!!

CLASSIFIEDS

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Andrea May, for a stress free property journey. Buying or selling your home or know someone who is? Refer them to me and upon completion receive Euro 200 as a thank you.. Andrea May Enterprise Individuelle 06 48 69 72 20. Siret 987 513 157 RSAC RODEZ

Andrew Whelan – Grass & Hedge cutting, Property maintenance and small renovation works, stonework and re-pointing Email: Andrew@artificer.fr Web: www.artificer.fr Mobile: 07 68 68 33 48 (WhatsApp)

Ben Naismith, Arborist. Tree and hedge cutting at competitive rates. Tree pruning, reductions, felling, trimming and logging. Contact bennaismith@outlook.com or T: 0786807434

Creative design including web sites, logos, and graphics. Websites fully hosted and monitored including ecommerce, blogging, gite/rental bookings integration & email. Contact will@outrighthosting.net

English - French translations of documents and interpreting during meetings. Help with French administration and/or with official French letters. Also one to one French lessons or French conversation, contact Jacynth Crozier, Tel. 06 30 31 13 00 contact@crozier-traductions.com <http://www.crozier-traductions.com>

Justin Fairley - Garden Maintenance & Small Projects Contact: jvfairley@outlook.com or Mob 07 85 17 86 52

Learn French in a friendly, fun atmosphere at So'Happy School in Villefranche. All levels/all ages. Qualified, motivated teacher with excellent OFSTED reports and 15 years experience. Small groups: 18 Euros/1h30 lessons; individual lessons: 22 euros/hour. Contact Sophie on 07963050236 or sohappyschool@gmail.com

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Contact 06 20 55 10 40

The Writing Desk can swiftly turn your ideas into sharp, punchy script. As an author and experienced freelance journalist I have spent many years creating features for business and lifestyle magazines. For great words and a fast service, contact Nigel on: 05 65 65 81 53 nigelwild@hotmail.co.uk

DOMESTIC SERVICES

Gardener and/or cleaner available. Contact Ruth Patterson on 05 65 34 37 88 or 07 80 45 50 46

We have Small bales of straw suitable for larger animals for sale. Contact Bridget Blunsdon on 0 6 40 46 48 87

LETTINGS

Olive Tree Cottage, Bed and Breakfast:

Self-contained Chambres d'Hôtes in Martiel, suitable for 2 adults, large pool and garden, ample parking. Booking via Airbnb or direct on 0565 29 44 96

Holiday apartment to rent in La Herradura, Andalusia, Spain.

A light and spacious 1 bedroom apartment (sleeps 4) with large terrace, sea and mountain views. Only a 7 minute walk to the beach & restaurants. Monthly winter lets available. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089978104205>

Holiday apartment to rent in beautiful Nerja, Andalusia, Spain

Apartment Aqua Marina is a modern 2 bedroom ground floor apartment with terrace and spectacular sea and Mountain views. Superb location only a 3 minute walk to the beach and a short walk to the restaurants and shops of the old town. Monthly winter lets available

See: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090122020875>

For further details on both these Spanish properties contact: Lynne Harding 06 65 50 95 37 or lafage.harding@gmail.com

SOCIAL

FripAffaires, a charity shop based in Parisot (82) raises funds for Médecin sans Frontières and Restos du Cœur. Situated at the Pole Medical, next door to the pharmacy, open Tuesday & Wednesday 2-6pm and Friday & Saturday 10am to 12.30pm. Donations always gratefully received

If you would like us to include a small ad in any of these columns, please let us have the details by emailing us at the address below. If you have any questions or comments (complementary or otherwise) please don't hesitate to contact us on the same address. editor.elnbafvdr@orange.fr