

Bibliothèque
Anglo-Française



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The Librarian

President's Message

Hello Everybody

The sun is shining and it is deliciously warm, which brings to mind the reasons that made many of us choose this part of the world to live in.

May and into June are beautiful months, before the scorching heat, before the family catering and before the tourists, when we have the place to ourselves. Time to appreciate sitting outside a bar with a drink of choice watching the world go by, maybe in a lively square in a town or under trees watching a river flow by, and not feeling hassled to finish your drink because someone else wants to sit down.

Different pace of life. Time to appreciate the plants springing into flower, in a garden but also along the roadside - the poppies and orchids. Time to appreciate a bigger livelier market with the hustle and bustle that is so French.

All in all, time to reflect on how lucky we are to live here.

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

Quiz Night Left Luggage—STILL WAITING!!

FOUND!! After you had all left the March Quiz, a pair of black rimmed spectacles in a soft case (readers??) were handed to me. If these are yours then please make contact with the Library on open days. They are pining to be reunited with their owner, and the food cost is enormous.

Another Scam

It seems that every other month now I am having to sound the alarm bells about an internet scamming attempt.

Earlier this month a friend received a notification from "Microsoft" that there was a problem with their Microsoft account and they needed to take particular steps to clear the problem, Sounds plausible, could be true, they are not techies but then the "Penny Dropped"

They don't have any Microsoft products—they only use Apple Iphone and Ipad so cannot appear on any Microsoft database!

So beware out there, just because you ARE paranoid does not mean that THEY are not out to get you!!

Stay Paranoid and Stay safe!

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**The
Book
Review
By
Elaine Morgan**

“Stone’s Fall” by Iain Pears

This novel consists of three first-person narratives which reveal progressively earlier parts of the same story.

It starts with the death of a man called Stone in the early 1900 just before WWI. Stone has died after a fall from a window in his home. His grieving widow commissions a young journalist to write Stone’s biography but also to investigate a mystery the solving of which will enable probate.

The first part revolves around the journalist Braddock’s research. He is inexperienced and constantly asks himself and is asked by others why he has been given the job. Stone’s wife Elizabeth is a compelling and beautiful woman and she lures Braddock into her spell. Perhaps she chose him so she could manipulate him. Perhaps she never wants the mystery to be solved. Against this is the backdrop of looming war and the manoeuvres of the Russians, the French and the British.

The second part, set in 1890 is told by a man named Henry Cort who started work with Barings but has become a sort of spy. This section sags considerably as there is far too much about banking and how manipulative it all is. Pears may have done his research but a lot of the detail (especially when characters spend time explaining things to one another) is very dull and a bit unbelievable.

In the third part we finally hear the voice of Stone himself. So far we have seen him as an enigmatic multi-millionaire, arms manufacturer and meddler in banking. Now, in the 1860’s, we go back to where it all began, in Venice, with his discovery of a man who invented the torpedo. Stone becomes hypnotised by the seedy, sleepy allure of Venice and of a beautiful woman. Things are a lot more gripping here and it all hangs together better if you ignore the detail on torpedoes.

There are deep flaws in this novel and I was by turns gripped and bored to tears. The character of Elizabeth Stone is, frankly, unbelievable. She rises from poverty, obscurity and squalor to become someone who can entertain the then Prince of Wales and be a dazzling charmer.

Pears writes too many digressions and much could be cut. I have read the novel twice so I knew I could skip chunks without losing track. This I did.

Finally all 3 narrators have very similar voices and it can be easy to forget where we are and who we are listening to in such a long novel. Some of the minor characters are interesting and the portrayal of Venice is very well written. 3 stars overall, I think.

HEAR AGAIN

In my 60s, I developed age-related deafness, but it wasn't that bad, just a loss in sharpness. While in UK in 2017, a party balloon exploded near my left ear with a very loud report. I was almost deaf for 4-5 days and my head was ringing.

Back in France, I was referred to an ENT specialist, who gave me an audio test. He said the hearing damage was irreversible, I needed hearing aids.

French aids cost around €3,000 and there was no government scheme at the time, so I bought from an excellent firm in UK. I sent a copy of the specialist's report and they calibrated my new devices accordingly. The cost was £600. These were a great improvement, although not a complete solution. Deafness means you can no longer filter and although the aids had a noisy environment setting to reduce ambient sound, it was still difficult to hear.

Come 2025, my aids weren't cutting it. My wife got fed up with repeating herself and I dreaded social gatherings rather than looking forward to them. Time for new aids.

The government scheme for affordable aids and glasses arrived in 2020. Like glasses, hearing devices come as type A and B. Type A is fully reimbursable via CPAM and your mutuelle. Type B may be partially refunded, but it is vital to check the exact position with your supplier before you commit.

The process began with a prescription from my GP for an audio test and new hearing aids. I surfed the websites of all the local suppliers and asked three friends who had bought locally for their opinions. One was totally dissatisfied. He had bought an expensive set of rechargeables, but these scarcely improved his hearing and after a short time, the batteries only lasted two hours. His complaints, if you'll pardon the pun, fell on deaf ears. The other two had used a different firm; one was very happy, the second praised the pre-sales service, but not the after-sales when problems arose. I chose another outlet near the hotel de ville, primarily because their website displayed a wide range of Type A, while all the others tried to push Type B.

I was given a hearing test, just tones at varying pitches and volumes, which produced a graph on the *acousticien's* PC. When he found that my current aids were British, he said I had to be examined by an ENT specialist for my first French set. Thoughts that this might entail a long delay were dispelled when he said he would arrange it. He first checked the local hospital's appointments. Their earliest was July, so he arranged a swift rendezvous with another doctor in Limogne. Housed in a former CA bank, this Belgian gentleman was utterly charming, repeated almost exactly the same test as before, then issued me with a test chart, a prescription for hearing aids and a bill for a reimbursable €22, paid by credit card.

Next day, new type A's were fitted. I have to use behind the ear devices, as I am very sensitive to low tones and in-the-ear won't work. Mine are small and very discreet and once connected to the technician's computer, were calibrated to my hearing. He also paired them with my iPhone, which I can use hands-free (not in the car!). They can be connected to other Bluetooth devices, such as a TV amplifier. There are several modes available, including noisy environment. The instruction booklet is in clear French with diagrams.

I expected an improvement, but this was astonishing. Crystal-clear sound, to the extent that I felt back to pre-deafness. I emerged into the street to a much louder world, where even the rustling of the wrapping paper on a baguette was audible at several feet. My spirits have been lifted.

I have to return in a fortnight for a check and if after a 30-day trial I'm satisfied, pay €1900 and await reimbursement. Throughout the whole process, this company's service has been impeccable.

Deafness can be a serious issue, leading to isolation and depression. If your aids are past their sell-by date, go get new ones.

NW



GARDENING CORNER

I have stopped early, it has not been a good morning. The shredder keeps blocking, it doesn't seem to be working properly. The goût à gout might work but the water tank is empty. The mower won't pick up because the grass is still too wet.

These are all jobs which I normally leave to Yves, but this year it has to be me. Any type of gadget or machine I prefer to avoid, unless it just works with a flick of the switch.

I decided the way forward might be an electric strimmer and this does indeed start with a flick of the switch. I will probably buy one, but not this particular make. Even with the battery in a harness, it is far too heavy and I needed a man to actually remove the battery from the strimmer. The instructions were not clear, but my fingers and hands are just not strong enough to press and lift at the same time.

I am very happy, sowing, planting, weeding and cutting back, but machines generally decide to break down for me. People talk about a his and hers garden, but for me that doesn't work as I would still end up, needing help with the big jobs. Yves and I have been married 46 years and I guess it has been a pretty good gardening partnership. We each have our strengths and preferences, so if the other half is not around, doing what the other person normally does seems to take twice as long and probably the result is not as good.

Yves has now been more than 8 weeks in hospital, so he has missed so much. Hopefully he will soon return home and he will be like a visitor to his own garden. I think it looks pretty good, but this partnership needs help, practical knowhow is so much better than instructions which tell you nothing.

Gardening is very much a sharing activity, surplus produce/plants, ideas and practical knowhow. Liz Godfrey opens her garden at Villevayre on the 31st of May and there will be gardens to visit on the weekend of 6th/7th June for Rendez vous des jardins.

M.G.

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD!

Last week I was shopping and had cause to visit the Gluten Free section of E. Leclerc to pick up some gluten free pasta and the usual supply of GF biscuits and madeleins. I noticed an unexpected brand of pasta on the GF shelves but was content that Leclerc are responsible retailers and would adopt the necessary standards. I was more than disappointed, therefore, to find, on closer inspection, that the pasta in question while within the designated GF section and marked as "suitable for vegans" was not in fact Gluten Free—the contents section clearly stating "Ble".

I immediately abandoned my shopping and took examples of the offending products to the "Accueil" to have these products urgently removed from public display. I was assured by the young man at the counter that he would bring the matter to the attention of the "Responsable".

I returned to my shopping content that I had done the right thing but when ready to leave and pay for the shopping (some 20 minutes later) I passed again by the Gluten Free section to find these dangerous products still on public display. I again advised the same young man at the reception that the products were still on the shelves.

I was informed that Yes he knew but that nothing could be done till approved by the "responsible" and they were currently unavailable. A broken bottle of sauce or soda gets a quicker response because they can get sued if you slip and fall but if you fall ill at home because of their negligence the attitude is clearly "not our problem"

Certainly, the training of the staff in Leclerc leaves a great deal to be desired and they seemingly have no concept of the danger Gluten poses to those with a medical necessity to avoid it. For these patients "Gluten Free" is not a fashion trend or a dietary fad! It is life changing!

Leclerc does not know the difference! So stay alert people!

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

DATES TO NOTE IN JUNE

June is a bumper month for vide greniers although so much depends on the weather. A successful day needs sun (but not too much or the exhibitors are put off) and sudden storms and rain can lead to last-minute cancellations. If you are travelling far, double check the night before on www.vide-greniers.org...indeed also worth doing for last-minute additions. Check out the tourist websites as well. Much mocked, keen vide grenier goers know these events are a lovely way to explore new villages and often combine with local fetes, especially around fruit-producing time.

VIDE GRENIERS/BROCANTES

Saturday June 6	Capdenac Parc de Capele (nice and shady) Cransac (combined with Marche Gourmand in evening)
Sunday June 7	Villeneuve (small one in garden of Resto Campagne) Toulonjac Claunhac (Salles Courbaties). Large annual event, very shady (tree-wise!) Rignac
Saturday June 13	Viviez
Sunday June 14	Balaguier d'Olt (outside village hall) Memer (usually big) St Parthem (very pretty village, usually big event) Figeac (Intermarche)
Sunday 28 June	St. Pierre Toirac (very small but pretty village with cafe) Cajarc

FISH & CHIPS

12th June @ Cesaree, Gare, VdR

16th June @ Café Maison, Parisot, - Film Night

Pre book with "Cod-en-bleu" to ensure satisfaction!!

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST



PLUS FORT QUE MOI

Royaume-Uni - 2025 - 2h01 - **VOSTF**

COMÉDIE DRAMATIQUE **BIOPIC** de Kirk Jones avec Robert Aramayo, Shirley Henderson, Maxine Peake...

Dans les années 1980, John Davidson grandit avec le syndrome de Gilles de la Tourette, une pathologie encore largement méconnue. Entre incompréhension, stigmatisation et détermination, son parcours d'abord semé d'embûches se transforme en combat pour être reconnu tel qu'il est, au-delà des préjugés.

Robert Aramayo, a reçu le BAFTA du meilleur acteur et a déjà conquis le public Outre-Manche.



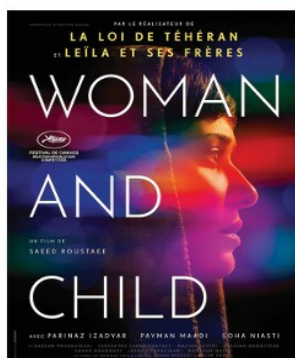
16/06
17h
Parisot

WOMAN AND CHILD

Iran - 2025 - 2h11 - **VOSTF**

DRAME de Saeed Roustaei avec Parinaz Izadyar, Sinan Mohebi, Payman Maadi...

Mahnaz, une infirmière de 45 ans, élève seule ses enfants. Alors qu'elle s'apprête à épouser son petit ami Hamid, son fils Aliyar est renvoyé de l'école. Lorsqu'un accident tragique vient tout bouleverser, Mahnaz se lance dans une quête de justice pour obtenir réparation...



16/06
20h30
Parisot

JUIN 2026		CAYLUS	VAREN	PARISOT
	Juste une illusion VF	Sam. 06/06 18h		
	Good luck have fun don't die VOSTF	Sam. 06/06 20h30		
	Monte la-dessus MUET	Dim. 07/06 12h		
	suivie d'une auberge espagnole			
	Le retour du projectionniste VOSTF	Dim. 07/06 18h		
	suivie d'une auberge espagnole			
	La vie après siham VOSTF	Dim. 07/06 20h30		
	présence du réalisateur en visio			
	Plus fort que moi VOSTF			Mar. 16/06 17h
	Woman and child VOSTF			Mar. 16/06 20h30
	Le crime du 3 ^e étage VF		Ven. 19/06 20h30	
	chao VOSTF		Sam. 20/06 17h	
	Michael VOSTF		Sam. 20/06 20h30	
	Les fleurs du manguier VOSTF		Dim. 21/06 18h	
	Reminders of him VOSTF		Dim. 21/06 20h30	

7€ PLEIN TARIF | 5€ TARIF RÉDUIT (ADHÉRENTS, ÉTUDIANTS, + 65 ANS)
4€ TARIF SUPER RÉDUIT (-DE 18 ANS, CHÔMEURS, RSA, AAH)

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

DÉFILÉ DE MODE VENDREDI 5 JUIN SALLE DES FÊTES PARISOT

À célébrer le 10e anniversaire
de Fripaffaires

Portes ouvertes à 19h 30

Début de défilé 20h

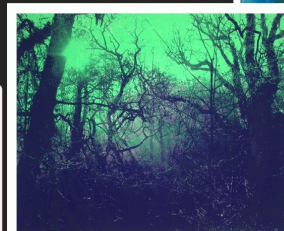
Buvette, amuse-gueules
Possibilité de acheter
des vêtements

**ENTRÉE GRATUITE
VENEZ NOMBREUX**



EXPO d'ART

Sculptures, Peintures,
Impressions, Affiches



Mercredi 17 - Samedi 20 Juin
Mardi 23 - Samedi 27 Juin
10h - 12 et 14h - 17h

CLASSIFIEDS

LOCAL TRADERS AND SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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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

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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 sohappy-school@gmail.com

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Nicholas Powell— "D Origine", Architectural Salvage Yard
160 Rue de jonquekkes, 46260 Limogne en Quercy
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 lafrage.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