



The Librarian

President's Message

Hello Everybody

This piece was written by Beatrice Wards in 1932 and can now be found in print works across the world. "Library" can be substituted for "print-works" and the piece holds true and is worth thinking about.

THIS IS
A PRINTING
OFFICE

★

CROSS-ROADS OF CIVILIZATION
REFUGE OF ALL THE ARTS
AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF TIME
ARMORY OF FEARLESS TRUTH

AGAINST WHISPERING RUMOUR
INCESSANT TRUMPET OF TRADE

★

FROM THIS PLACE **WORDS** MAY FLY ABROAD
NOT TO PERISH ON WAVES OF SOUND, NOT TO VARY WITH THE WRITER'S HAND
BUT FIXED IN TIME, HAVING BEEN VERIFIED BY PROOF

FRIEND, YOU STAND ON SACRED GROUND
THIS IS A PRINTING OFFICE

Sue

DISCLAIMER THE ENGLISH LIBRARY TAKES NO LEGAL OR OTHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARTICLES, REVIEWS, FINANCIAL ADVICE OR ADVERTISEMENTS PUBLISHED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. THE VIEWS OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND REVIEWERS ARE PERSONAL AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF THE NEWSLETTER OR THE ASSOCIATION. READERS SHOULD VERIFY ALL ARTICLES FOR SALE, TRADES PERSONS ETC. BEFORE PARTING WITH MONEY. THE EDITORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT, REJECT OR EDIT ANY ADVERTISEMENT, ARTICLE OR REVIEW SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jungle Drums.....	2
Book Review.....	3
Days of Yore.....	4
Gardening Corner.....	5
Gallivanting Gourmets	5
Whats On ?.....	6
Whats On II?.....	7
Whats On III?.....	8
Classifieds.....	9

JUNGLE DRUMS

*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**

Quiz Night Left Luggage—STILL WAITING!!

FOUND!! After you had all left the March Quiz, a pair of black rimmed specacles in a soft case (readers??) were handed to me. We have tried contacting those we remembered being on that table but without success. If these are yours then please make contact with me on 0689338245.—Editor

Presentation to Pella Lean

On Friday the 24th April 2026, before the start of the last Quiz of the year, the Library President, Sue Reeve advised the members present of the decision of Pella to resign from her position on the Committee of the Association following over 10 years of exemplary commitment and service to us all. Sue reminded us that Pella was the originator of the idea to have an English speaking Library in Villefranche and saw the need to support English language readers in the area.



As a small token of appreciation from the Association Pella was presented with a gift and a bouquet of flowers by Terri Green, Committee member, to appreciative applause by all those present.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

- **BRIDGE:**

lesley.sharrock@gmail.com or pellalean@gmail.com

- **EDITOR**

editor.elnbafvdr@orange.fr

- **MEMBERSHIP / MAILING LIST—ADDITIONS / CHANGES**

cathywild68@hotmail.com



**The
Book
Review
By
Elaine Morgan**

“Mother Mary comes to me” by Arundhati Roy

This is part-autobiography and part a portrait of Roy's mother and their relationship.

The book starts just after the death of her mother and her return for the funeral. Perhaps she finally felt safe to portray her mother as she was towards her. As she lands in the local airport she thinks “ I could not believe topography could cause such physical pain. I had never known that beloved landscape, never imagined it, never evoked it, without her being part of it.”

Roy grew up in a Syrian Christian community in Kerala a fact which set them apart to some degree. Her parents were also divorced which was a form of disgrace. Her mother is revealed to be a toxic monster to her children, controlling them with cruelty and with the fact that she had severe asthma. On the other hand she campaigned fearlessly for education and for women's rights. Amongst other things she fought a battle to change the law so that Christian women in Kerala could enjoy equal inheritance rights. She won and had her brother evicted from the family home.

Roy had little memory of her father who was an alcoholic leading a lonely life on remote plantations. Later in her life he re-appears and Roy and her brother do their best for him.

Roy's mother appears not to have wanted to keep her children but she did, returning home to an unwelcoming environment and taking out her frustrations on her children. She sets up a school which gradually becomes enormously successful. Arundhati escapes as soon as she can and goes to Delhi to study architecture.

In Delhi she lives rough and takes risks, earning her living by doing drawings in architect's offices. She describes her mother as a cult from which she must escape and she is still in thrall to her malign influence. The book she wants to write simmers inside her and eventually gets written and wins the Booker prize. This gives her freedom and money and some grudging acknowledgement from her mother.

Gradually her mother's health declines although she continues to rule the school and manipulate all around her. Arundhati returns frequently to oversee (and pay for her care). At her death Roy becomes “undone” although her brother remains cheerful.

It's a terrific story, well told and beautifully written as you would expect. I re-read “The God of small things” and was struck by how much material Roy had pulled from her own life to write the Booker winner. As is often the case that reality is the source of the book's power.

DAYS OF YORE

Having spent most of my career in HR, I decided to look at the new Employment Act 2025, as championed by 'our Ange'.

It led me to reminisce about the late 60s, when I first cut my teeth in commerce. Then, the Employment Protection Act was six or seven years away and generally, the bosses had the upper hand.

One vacation, I worked as a shop assistant at Debenham's. It was a very old store, all brown panelling and faded paintwork, and crying out for a revamp. The personnel manager drilled me in the do's and don'ts and it was quite a list. Employees must use only the staff entrance, except when with a customer to identify an item in the window. Christian names were verboten, it was Mr, Mrs or Miss. Tea breaks were 15 minutes and not a second more.

I was assigned the hardware department, run by Mr Satterthwaite, who was nearing retirement. He introduced me to the staff, showed me round, then taught me tills and bills and the buying system. By day's end, I wondered if I'd make it to the end of the week. I was unused to standing eight hours a day on unyielding tiles and my leg muscles were screaming. I'd hide in the loo for ten minutes to rest and massage my calves. Gradually, I acclimatised. I gained some brownie points when I dealt with a French-speaking lady, who departed with a shiny new frying pan.

My most embarrassing moment came with a pleasant but roughish couple who wanted a holder for packet toilet paper. I showed them our display board, but inadvertently pointed to a kitchen roll holder. Quick as a flash, the man said: 'Christ, you'd need a wide arse for that!' I was speechless.

When *Are You Being Served* hit our screens in 1972, it was instant déjà vu.

For a while after uni, I worked in the packing department of the Triang factory that made Sindy dolls. The raw materials and the people went in one end of the building and dolls appeared at the other. The air reeked permanently of hot plastic. Everyone clocked on and if you were two minutes late, you lost 15 minutes pay. The assembly line, staffed mainly by young women, was run by a dragon who forbade the girls to talk. How they could sit for 40 hours a week without conversation was beyond me.

Completed dolls were packed into large cartons, then stacked high on skids, metal frames fitted with castors. My job involved moving these around the site and the skids were hell. Synthetic dolls' hair would float in the air then fall to the floor, where it would wrap itself round the castor spindles. These would seize without warning, and cartons would hit the concrete. Nobody was bothered and no checks were made for damage. I carried a spanner and regularly freed off stuck wheels on piles of empty skids, but there was zero interest in finding a solution.

The ethos of whole outfit was about ploughing a steady furrow, not going places. Two years after I left, Triang filed for administration.

NW



GARDENING CORNER

The weather is good and the garden looks lovely, just don't look too closely as there are lots of weeds and jobs still not done.

The last month has been very stressful, and when it all gets too much, I need to calm down doing jobs in the garden. Thank goodness it is there.

There is now so much talk about the benefits of gardening and being close to nature, at least in England. There doesn't seem to much evidence of anything like that here.

I now know quite well some of the clinics and hospitals and you would be lucky to find even a bench outside. I need to get Yves home, he needs his dog, his garden, some warm sunshine and to feel the presence of nature. We are so lucky to live here, so why don't they give the sick and elderly more chance to experience these health benefits.

Yves is also missing out on all the asparagus, but the first potatoes are up and the peas and broad beans are growing fast. Fresh home grown fruit and vegetables are much better for you, so get out into the garden, plant those tomatoes and courgettes.

MG

GALLIVANTING GOURMETS

Le Moulin de Ricard, Saint Remy

An easy drive from both Villefranche and Villeneuve this Pizza and Pasta style restaurant is worth a visit.

There was a good choice for lunch when we visited

We enjoyed soup or roast camembert with truffles for starter and Pork Belly with BBQ sauce with chips and salad, for our main course

The Lemon Meringue Pie for desert was a real hit!

Overall impression was great, good staff, nice food all for € 46 for two including wine and coffee.

Good Value and easily accessible.

Booking required to be sure of a seat. 0565 65 10 23

Estaminet—PI Bernhard Lhez, Villefranche de Rouergue

We booked (05 65 57 23 71) as it was a special event but did not inform the restaurant of the event. We went for lunch and chose the "Menu de Jour" priced at €23.

There was a choice of three items for each of the courses for the MDJ. We both had the sausage roll to start and then chose Confit of duck and a pave de Beouf for our mains. We saved ourselves for cake at home and declined the dessert offerings, but did allow ourselves a "digestive" with wine and coffee which brought our total cost to € 74

The restaurant offers a full "a la carte" menu in the evenings and at weekends.

We found the staff professional and the value reasonable. We had heard differing reports, some rather damning, before visiting but we were happy with our experience.

GG

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

DATES TO NOTE IN MAY

May may be the biggest month for French bank holidays...well, it looks like being the busiest month for vide greniers too! Here are some local ones worth thinking about, petrol permitting. As always, consult Office de Tourisme sites for Villefranche and Figeac to see what else is on and dip into www.vide-greniers.org for even more further afield.

VIDE GRENIERS/BROCANTES

- 1 May - Big vide grenier at La Madeleine, Villefranche (plants on sale too, and you can buy your traditional bunch of muguet here)
- 2 May - Vailhourles
- 3 May - Martiel, run by parents of local school, includes plant sale
 - Limogne, at the stade just outside the Village
 - Figeac, on the parking outside Intermarche (covered, fortunate as this is the weekend of the Fete de Figeac, which is rumoured to have been cursed long ago by a sorciere who was refused a stall at the Fete and ever since it rains and rains the first weekend of May...trust me, it's true!)
- 8 May - Monteils, Privezac, Larnagol (Lot)
- 10 May - Le Salvetat Peyrales, Decazeville
- 14 May - Villefranche (La Madeleine, run by Judo Club) Also flowers and cars!
 - Peyrusse le Roc
 - Figeac - Salon de Collectionneurs at Espace Francois Mitterand. A 3 euro admission charge but plenty for collectors of all persuasions, mostly books, cards, letters, etc
- 17 May - Vailhourles, Belcastel (brocante and vide grenier), Bach
- 24 May - Villeneuve, big vide grenier of Pentecote with horse and carriage parade
 - Parisot, Grealou, & La Salvetat Peyrales
- 25 May - Lunac, Limogne (at the stade, also parade of collectable cars)
- 31 May - Decazeville

KNITTING...and lastly, for knitters, Festival de la Laine, 8-10 May inclusive in Figeac (lots including Salon des Createurs, Conferences etc). More info and complete programme on www.helloassosacom/associations/la-draille-46, or via tourist office in Figeac

ADVANCE NOTICE

Frippa Affairs Fun Filled Fashion Show date Friday 5th June 2026

FISH & CHIPS

8th May @ Cesaree, Gare, VdR

21st May @ Café Maison, Parisot, - Film Night

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

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST



Sheila's Island
A comedy by Tim Firth
Middle-aged, Middle Management, Middle of Nowhere!

Friday 15th May 7.30pm
Saturday 16th May 2pm & 7.30pm

THE TARN PLAYERS

THÉÂTRE LE COLOMBIER
LES CABANNES
TICKET WEBSITE - SITE WEB DE BILLETTERIE
WWW.THETARNPLAYERS.FR

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF "SHEILA'S ISLAND" IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD. ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH LTD. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.CO.UK
© 306141000 © SFINKS | DREAMSTIME.COM



**APOLOGIES ONCE AGAIN,
NOTHING RECEIVED IN TIME FOR
PUBLICATION.
For those seeking the Film list
please contact
WWW.QUERCYNEMA.FR**

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

JARDINS OUVERTS

Le Jardin du Presbytère
VILLEVAYRE, 12270 NAJAC

Dimanche, 31 Mai

Entrée €3

10h00 - 18h00



Prendre la route D47 Montels - Varen, ensuite suivre la route D564 vers Villeveyre. Se garer sur le pré en face de l'église
Coordonnées GPS 44.213910, 1.921520

Les sommes récoltées viennent en aide dans tout France à des enfants et jeunes gens handicapés ou gravement malade
www.opengardens.eu

DÉFILÉ DE MODE

VENDREDI 5 JUIN
SALLE DES FÊTES
PARISOT

À célébrer le 10^e anniversaire
de Fripaffaires

Portes ouvertes à 19h 30

Début de défilé 20h

Buvette, amuse-gueules
Possibilité de acheter
des vêtements

ENTRÉE GRATUITE
VENEZ NOMBREUX



CLASSIFIEDS

LOCAL TRADERS AND SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Alan G. W. Mackay - Civil Funeral Célébrant, English Speaking. Dignified, personal, respectful, memories. Contact: 05 65 29 88 54 / 06 89 33 82 45 or anglocelebrant@orange.fr

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 ben-naismith@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 sohappy-school@gmail.com

M & K Construction Professional English Builders & Renovators All types of building work : roofing, groundwork, carpentry, masonry, decorating 40 years of experience. Free estimates Tel +33 0673299095. mandkrenovation@gmail.com Facebook: M & K Construction

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 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