

THE LIBRARIAN



A Message from the President

Hello everyone

It is probably ingrained in all of us - some much more than others - that September marks the change in season and a time of new starts. After the amazing heat of the summer, the cooler temperatures make life more pleasant and maybe encourage more going out and more socialising. The new season in the library begins with the new website up and running (abav12.fr) and of course the beginning of the quiz season, the first one being on the 30th October and the next one on the 27th November.

But a new beginning also marks an ending, in this case the ending of the summer holidays. A warning - don't travel on the motorway towards Paris on the last weekend of August. That weekend was unavoidable for us and to be fair the traffic on the road wasn't too bad and we turned off towards Tours so didn't have to face the final few miles to Paris. The nightmare was the services which we could have passed by because although we weren't hungry, the car was and demanded we stop. The convoluted design of the services layout meant that there was a huge queue on a single track lane unable to move until everything in front of them moved. Why do people think that blaring their horn is suddenly going to get the traffic moving?? It didn't. Patience was the only way through and a little note tucked into the brain to avoid travelling on the rentrée weekend.

Enjoy the coolness
Sue

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jungle Drums.....	2
Book Review.....	3
Essay -PHUT	4
Gallivanting Gourmets.....	5
Gardening Corner.....	5
Whats On ?.....	6
Whats On II?.....	7
Classifieds.....	8

DISCLAIMER The English Library takes no legal or other responsibility for the 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

*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

LIBRARY SEPTEMBER SOCIAL – 13th September

YOU MISSED A GREAT DAY!!!

A small but very select group assembled at the home of Colin and Sue Reeve for a most convivial gathering in their garden under the shade of an excellent pergola and partook of some delicious culinary contributions. What's not to like?

Well done! Sue and Colin and thank you for your hospitality.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU:

As we prepare for a hoped-for departure to the UK I have relinquished leadership in other organisations and so the time has come for me to hang up my editorial pen and eyeshade and to say thank you to all those who have contributed to the success of this endeavour over the last four and a half years. I only stepped into the role to cover an emergency and then took pleasure, and a little pride, in developing it into the form it is today. None of this would have been possible without our merry band of regular contributors to each of whom I send my heartfelt thanks, with the wish that they support my successor as they have me.

Alan

QUIZ SEASON RETURNS:

Quiz season is back and kicks off with the Halloween Quiz in the Meeting Room of the Hotel Fleurines at 18.00 on Friday 30th October. Don't be afraid to come in Fancy Dress as others did last year. Can you do better?



THANK YOU!

A big thank you to the 6 brave volunteers who helped at the Children's Fun Day! They had as much fun as the children!

SOCIETY CONTACTS:

- **BRIDGE:** lesley.sharroock@gmail.com or pellalean@gmail.com
- **NEWSLETTER:** Newsletter@abav12.fr
- **MEMBERSHIP / MAILING LIST** Membership@abav12.fr



**The
Book
Review
By
Elaine Morgan**

“The House in Bacolet” by David Lambert

This is the story of a middle-aged middle-class couple who give up their lives in Putney to set up afresh in Tobago.

We hear the story from the alternate viewpoints of Hugh and Julia. Having holidayed on the island they fell in love with a ruined church and they plan to renovate it and make it their permanent home. So far you think this is our story only transposed from France to the Caribbean.

They arrive at the airport ready to live the dream and there is no one to meet them. Enter Horatio in a two-tone chevy waving a phone card. Julia wants to trust him: Hugh doesn't.

It was hard not to share Hugh's mistrust as Horatio moves smoothly into their lives and becomes indispensable. They are lambs to the slaughter. Someone once told me about living in France "It's for them to know and you to find out" how true that has proved to be, and it is so for Hugh and Julia also. Although English is the language of the island there is a dialect and much of the book is written in this dialect for when Tobagans are speaking to each other. There are many references to the differences between the English and the island viewpoints.

Mishaps occur. As with all building projects, how could they not? In fact, the lives of Hugh and Julia seem to be more mishap than good fortune and you fear for them inasmuch as you care at all. They have no car and are dependent on Horatio for everything. Because of the way the story is told you have a sense of foreboding, and you also share the suspicions of the narrators. There are surprises but most of the outcomes are predictable as you can see them coming. In that way the book did not deliver.

Hugh and Julia are tools for the author to convey his story and his message about slavery. They don't feel very real and they are certainly a bit silly. There are some wonderful descriptions of the flora of the island.

Lambert was born on the island and is of mixed heritage. He is clearly fascinated by the speech patterns and vocabulary of the islanders. He started writing the book in 1998, so it has had a long gestation. Despite a career as a writer this is his first published novel.

He will be coming to Festilitt on the 9-11 October where there is an exciting line up of authors so I hope many of you will attend the free events.

EM

PHUT!

Sod's law dictates that if something awkward is going to happen, it will pick the most inconvenient moment.

So it proved one Sunday afternoon, when I was scheduled to chair an important video meeting at 3pm. At 10 to, I switched on my PC. The screen lit up as usual and after I had logged on, it went black. I fiddled with the switch, it came back on and I thought it was just a glitch. A few minutes later, it went black and stayed that way.

I sent a warning email to another participant and set about finding a solution. Some years previously, we'd bought a small TV from a returning expat, intending to install it in one of the bedrooms. That never happened, it just sat on the filing cabinet. I knew it could be used as a VDU, so I disconnected the dead screen and set about wiring up the TV. My old screen used an HDMI cable, but the TV manual specified a VGA connection. Over the years, I've collected a stack of IT wires and I was sure I had a VGA somewhere. A search of cupboards drew a blank and I took courage and entered the grenier. This is just a boarded loft, created when previous occupants added an extension to our converted barn. The roof is lauze on elm boards, with no insulation, so the space is always full of dust, not to mention wasps. Everything stored in there is sheeted up.

The temperature inside was at least 30C and I continually walked into spiders' webs. Raking through the usual boxes revealed nothing, but I did have one unexpected find. My spectacle case had just broken and I was about to buy a new one. One box contained a pristine case. Pulling off a dust sheet, I came across the carton for my Dell PC. Eureka! Meanwhile, time was passing and I thought the meeting might well be over.

Now to hook up that TV. The computer sits under my desk and you need a torch, so it all took a bit of time. The TV is worked only by its remote control, which was dead, and I found the batteries surrounded by white corrosion. Contacts cleaned, new AAAs and on she came, showing 'No signal'. Back to the bible. 'Press Source and select the input'. A menu appeared, complete with 'PC'. I clicked on that to reveal the PC's display. I did make the last 15 minutes of the discussion and was able to agree some vital points.

My cloud had an unexpected silver lining. With VGA and a very small screen, some things displayed fine, others had many and varied distortions. A new VDU was priority. The Darty website contained their summer sale offering substantial discounts. I bought a much bigger screen than my original for €100.

NW



Garden Corner

It is still hot and dry, but clearly the season is changing as the days are getting shorter. Finally we have beans, lots of them and the tomatoes are much better. However be vigilant as you might well find a nasty surprise inside your tomato.

I have heard of 2 market gardeners which have badly suffered from 'la noctuelle de la tomate' (*Helicoverpa armigera*, tomato fruitworm). This is a moth which lays eggs on the leaves of the tomato and the caterpillar then buries itself inside the fruit and eats. Usually, only one per fruit and there will be a tiny hole in the flesh of the tomato. The hot dry weather has clearly suited this pest, which can produce several generations and also affect aubergines and peppers.

A few years ago I did find this caterpillar on several of my tomatoes, but so far this year nothing. Birds will eat them, but make sure you destroy any that you find. They will overwinter as chrysalis in the soil.

We badly need rain, but I can see signs of recovery. Any replanting should be done in the autumn, so it has all winter to establish. Also try sowing some hardy annuals, marigolds, californian poppies, cornflowers and love in the mist.

Happy Gardening!

MG

The Gallivanting Gourmets visits :

LE JARDIN DE COLLIOURE

This time, your GG has gallivanted far from Villefranche to Collioure, a fishing village turned visitors' hotspot a stone's throw from the Spanish border at Le Perthus.

It's one of our favourites and for a number of our friends too. Well worth the trip, but avoid peak season, the parking's a nightmare.

This, our third visit, was not only for a break, but to celebrate a milestone birthday for my wife Cathy. Walk round any corner in the town and there will be restaurants and cafés; for the birthday, it had to be special. After some research, I chose Le Jardin de Collioure.

To be found at the western end of the seafront, the restaurant is set in an old stone-built Dominican convent. The outdoor part is in a now roofless building and has a decking floor. For inclement weather, there's an indoor dining room. All the diners were eating *al fresco* and it was a truly romantic *mise en scène*.

From the moment we entered, the staff were warm, welcoming and unobtrusively attentive. From an extensive menu, Cathy chose *foie gras* and *coquilles St Jacques*; I had fish soup and lamb cutlets. The champagne was truly reasonably priced. Not a 'name' brand, but fresh, lemony and tasty.

Madame reported her *foie gras* as extremely light and not at all greasy. The *coquilles* got full marks, too. I could have feasted on just that fish soup. Lamb cutlets are never what you'd call meaty, but my little stack more than satisfied, with tender and delicious flesh. I still had room for a pud, a *pannacotta* with fruits of the forest.

The really great thing about Le Jardin is the prices. For an upmarket venue, we were agreeably surprised to find that their prices matched those of the run-of-the-mill establishments all along Collioure's two waterfronts.

All told, the bill was €160, and we can't wait to go back.

G.G aka NW

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

Vide Greniers and Brocantes for October

Things wind down but here is my pick of this month's events for you hard-bitten collectors of old tat! Keep an eye on www.vide-greniers.org for cancellations or others you fancy and check out the Office de Tourisme website too.

Sunday 4 Villefranche-de-Rouergue, Grand vide-greniers d'automne at la Madeleine
(big event organised by the Caleche people so carriage rides on offer)
Puces des Couturieres at Foissac (small event but good for those keen on fabric and haberdashery)
Figeac - vide grenier at Intermarché (usually the same people but occasionally surprises)

Sunday 11 Montbazens. The season goes out with a bang! This annual event is really for addicts and definitely worth it if the weather is good. It stretches right round the town and stallholders arrive at dawn to set up. Bet more on a bit of atmosphere and finding household bargains than unearthing good quality brocante.

Sunday 18 Vide grenier de la fete de la citrouille Bouillac. This is a small event and worth going to for a couple of very laden and courful stands selling pumpkins and squashes. If the weather is good, it's a nice outing for morning coffee and a pumpkin to take home (but don't hope for any antique finds).

October 25 Brocante de Toussaint in Figeac. This high quality event, run by the pros is always worth going to, even if it is to lust after something you really would like, or to say to yourself 'I've got one of those...HOW much are they asking???'

Have fun!

FISH & CHIPS (at time of going to press)

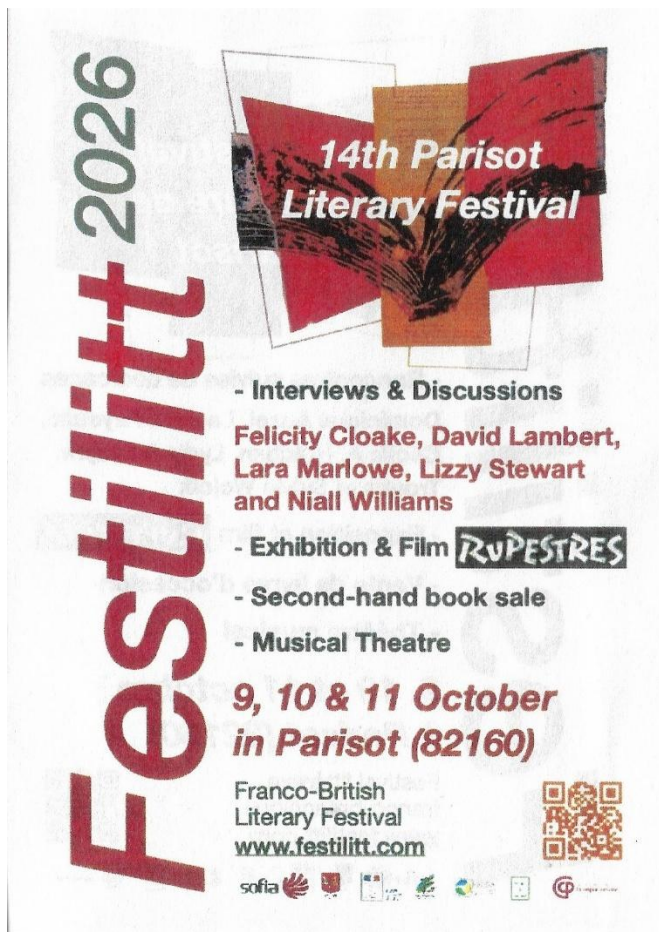
Fri 09 Chez David, Carrefour, Villefranche de Rouergue (12)

Tues 20 Cafe Maison, Parisot (82)

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

FESTILITT 2026 THIS MONTH



DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET
THE AUTHORS OF THE THE BOOKS
FEATURED IN OUR BOOK REVIEWS FOR
THE LAST THREE MONTHS.



**HALLOWEEN QUIZ FRIDAY 30TH
IN THE HOTEL FLEURINES
Villefranche de Rouergue
at 18.00**

**FANCY DRESS ENCOURAGED
LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP
REQUIRED**

**Bookings for teams of 6
with Sue at
colandsuereeve@gmail.com**

Next quiz 27th November!!

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

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)

Contact Amy, Administrative and Everyday support for English speakers in France. Admin meetings, phone calls, translation and explanations. Contact Amy on Whatsapp 0632611968, contactamy.france@gmail.com

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>

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

Nicholas Powell— "D Origine", Architectural Salvage Yard
160 Rue de jonquekes, 46260 Limogne en Quercy
Contact 06 20 55 10 40

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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, gîte/rental bookings integration & email. Contact will@outrighthosting.net

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

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

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

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.

Newsletter@abav12.fr

LETTINGS

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