Bibliotheque
Anglo-Francaise

November 2024
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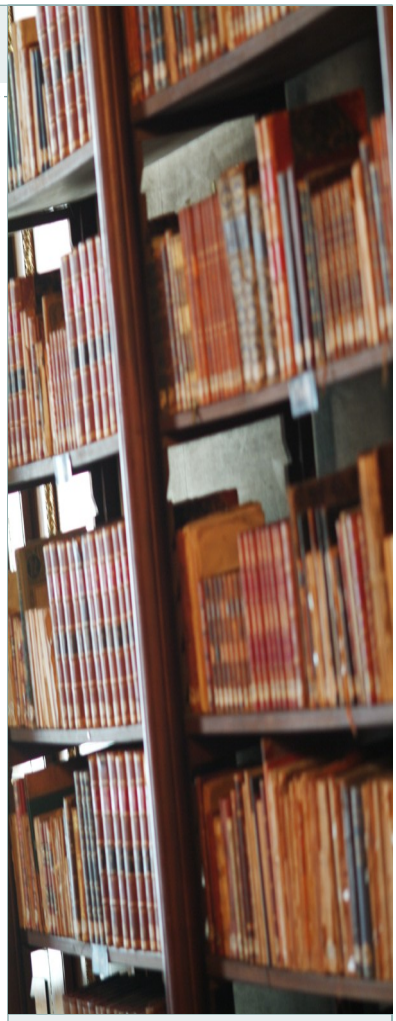
The Librarian

A word from the President

I cannot believe that November is almost upon us, you take your eye off the calendar for five minutes and 30 days have disappeared. I dread the wet ,cold days but read recently that the El Niño effect is expected to bring a warmer ,drier winter than we have had recently, we shall see.
We are attempting to brighten your month with an exhibition of various art forms, to be held in the Salle Volute in the Place Bernard Lhez where there is easy parking , from à vernissage on the afternoon of Tuesday 12 th November at 4 p,m until Sunday 17 th .Please come and see the masterpieces and if you have anything that you would like to exhibit contact Helen Mcloughlin for more details mcloughlinhelen7@gmail.com or 06 85 83 10 93.
We have booked another quiz for Friday 22 November, usual rules apply.
Enjoy the late Autumn anticipating wintery things, my favourites are the wood burner, leafless trees, muted colours, socks and red wine. I wonder what yours are, let's make lists of them .
Jackie

DISCLAIMER

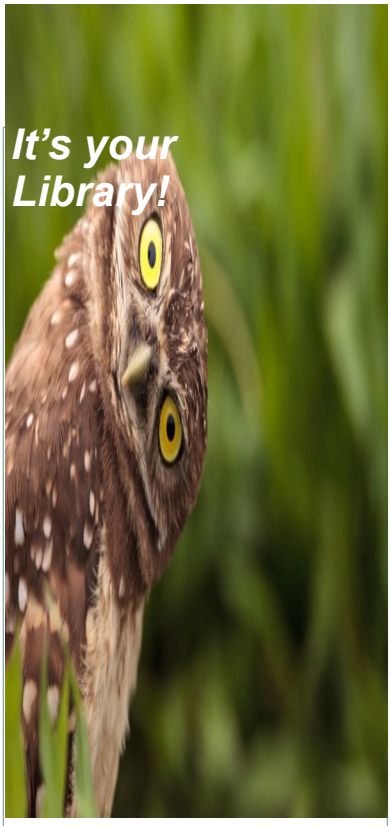
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Library Hours

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays

10.00—12,00

Large Variety of books to choose

Tea & Coffee Available

Drop in for a chat

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CAMERA GROUP

nigelnwild@hotmail.co.uk

ARTS GROUP

lateliersourient@gmail.com

BRIDGE GROUP

harriet.joynes@gmail.com

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Jungle Drums — Seen or Heard

NOT ANOTHER SCAM JUST A NEW NUMBER !!

In the course of our lives here in France some, if not most of us, will have had occasion to call the emergency services and they will have taken details of the phone number from which you are calling. They often call back to ensure that the call is genuine and to get further particulars of the emergency. In the past when they called you, your caller ID screen would have shown "33 112" or "33 18" from the pompiers.

Due to a change in French legislation this method is no longer available to the emergency services so in future if they have a need to call you back they will appear on your caller Id screen as 0800 112 112. Do not be alarmed this is not spam it is normal.

For the sake of good order please note that there is no change to the numbers you call in the first instance if you need help

Pompiers / Fire 18

Police/ Gendarmes 17

SAMU / Medical 15

Apologies

The more eagle eyed of you will have noticed that that this edition of the Newsletter is late and not as polished as our usual monthly offering. The reasons for this are the succumbing of the editor to the dreaded COVID and the discovery that a blast of static electricity from Storm Leslie had fried the Mother Board of his computer resulting in the loss of the software on which the Newsletter is prepared. Microsoft in their infinite wisdom no longer support MS Publisher so I have had to resort to some emergency measures to get this edition out the door. Hopefully I will have secured a permanent solution in time for December and normal service can be resumed. Big shout out to Ordimil computers in Villefranche and to Perks Computer Services who between them got me back in the publishing business..

New Books in the Library

Angela Marsons Books 13, 16, 17 ,18 and 19. (Books 14 & 15 already in the Library)

Emilia Hart "Weyward"

Rebecca F Kuang "Yellowface"

Robert Galbraith "The Running Grave"

Andrea Mara "No One Saw a Thing"

Mark Billingham "The Last Dance"

Terry Hayes "The Year of the Locust"

Someone has donated almost 20 cookery books, mostly hardback, mostly household names, all in top condition. Although we don't hold cookery books at the Library, we can give them away to members. Due to the sheer weight of them, please allow us some time to physically haul them there!!

The Book Review By Elaine Morgan



“Precipice” by Robert Harris.

Harris is a best selling author and I looked forward to his latest book with interest however this started very slowly and improved but it still lacks a real plot. I don't consider transcripts of letters and a rehash of the start of WWI a plot for a novel. I was disappointed in "Act of oblivion" for similar reasons as after "An officer and a spy" any novel by Harris would have to be terrific to compare.

Precipice is based on the some 560 letters that Asquith wrote to a young woman called Venetia Stanley, a friend of his daughter’s with whom he became obsessed. Harris' invention of the content of Venetia's letters is clever but is that enough to make up a novel? It is clear that she was intelligent and Asquith shared much with her, probably too much.

It seems extraordinary that Asquith composed letters to Venetia during Cabinet meetings and that society should have turned a blind eye to what was clearly a very strong relationship. In the novel he also disposes of secret telegrams by throwing them out of the window of his car. Did he do this?

In order to create more of a plot Harris invents Deemer, a young policeman who is brought in to intercept the letters and relay the contents to his boss. So one thinks “Ah, have we got the beginning of something good here?” No we haven’t. Deemer manages to do good work, even if his surveillance is at times very implausible.

Overall we know the historical events so there is no suspense. The novel is beautifully written and well researched, as you would expect from Harris but in the end it is a damp squib.

EM

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Garden Corner

by Margaret Guerin

Our stream has risen and so has the river. The water is all brown and muddy, run off from the fields. Your soil is precious so make sure you keep it. The compost and manure is better left until the spring, but a good layer of straw, leaves or a mixture of grass and leaves will protect the soil from heavy rain, stop compaction and rot down over the winter months.

Most crops have now been harvested. The cabbages and broccoli have done well with all the rain, but the green peppers are clearly not going to turn red so I need ideas for about 50 green peppers. As soon as we get a dry spell we will sow broad beans to over winter, for an early crop next May.

Most vegetable gardens seem to be abandoned over the winter months, but I like to leave it tidy and mulched. Certainly don't leave tomatoes, aubergines or peppers as the remaining fruit will certainly have blight spores which could cause you problems next year. The plants can be composted, but the spores of blight (mildiou) will over winter in the seed. We still have a few dahlias in the garden and this year they have loved the wetter conditions, so they are still full of flowers. Once we have the first frost, we cut them down and cover them with a bark mulch.

This works well for us, but this year the ground is very wet so they are likely to rot in the soil. If this very wet weather continues, it might be better to lift and store in a big pot, in a garage or other dry, frost free place. The tubers need to dry a bit (certainly check for slugs and snails) and then cover with some dry compost.

We have clumps of honey fungus in several places in the garden. We have over the years cut down several trees and the mushrooms appear near the stumps, at this time of year. Don't panic, there are several forms of honey fungus and the one we have growing here does not seem to be aggressive.

The mushrooms can be eaten, but check first.

MG

“Better things are electric”



‘Better things are electric’, ran the TV slogan in 1968. In 2024, we’re being urged to buy electric vehicles, but are these EVs really better?

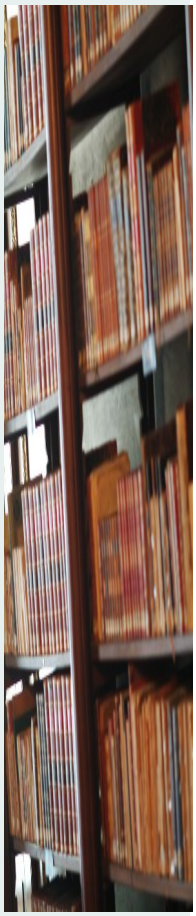
A ban on UK sales of combustion-engined vehicles is scheduled for 2035, but will the whole EV scenario have normalised by then?

The raison d’être of an electric vehicle is zero emissions at the tailpipe; that’s not the full story. Its whole-life carbon footprint is greater than an equivalent petrol or diesel model and there are very few plants to recycle the batteries. Some battery parts can’t be reused and unless a solution can be found, we’re simply going to create a huge toxic mountain.

EVs are costly to buy and insure. Too few garages are yet equipped and trained to repair them and their very construction makes the cars vulnerable to even minor collisions, leading to write-offs. The fragility stems from the battery layout. Batteries are getting lighter as technology advances, but they are still heavy. To even out weight distribution, manufacturers place networks of smaller cells around the car’s interior. Repairing such a complex structure can be uneconomic.

That same structure features in owner worries about battery life. The average manufacturer guarantee is currently around ten years. Replacing the battery on a car with a low residual value could top five figures.

‘Range anxiety’ is the new motoring phrase. Makers’ claims about mileage on a full battery are frequently optimistic. Driving a car in daylight on a lightly-trafficked road in early summer is worlds apart from a winter trip in heavy traffic with the lights and heater on. And throughout your journey, praying that you’ll get there before the power runs down, the charging point shown on your mobile app is working, there isn’t a queue and the point accepts your prepayment card.



The transition to EVs is presently in difficulties. High inflation and steep rises in the cost-of-living - including electricity - combined with the uncertainties of EV life, have seen demand for electric cars slump 70% in Germany, 33% in France and 40% in UK. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders announced recently that demand for diesel cars now exceeds that for EVs. Car makers, required by law to make a certain quota of their output zero emission models, are witnessing expanding stockpiles of unsold cars. VW is threatening layoffs. The Chinese are aiming to dominate the market with cheaper models, but there is the fear that all their cars will be booby-trapped so that they can turn them off remotely and engender chaos.

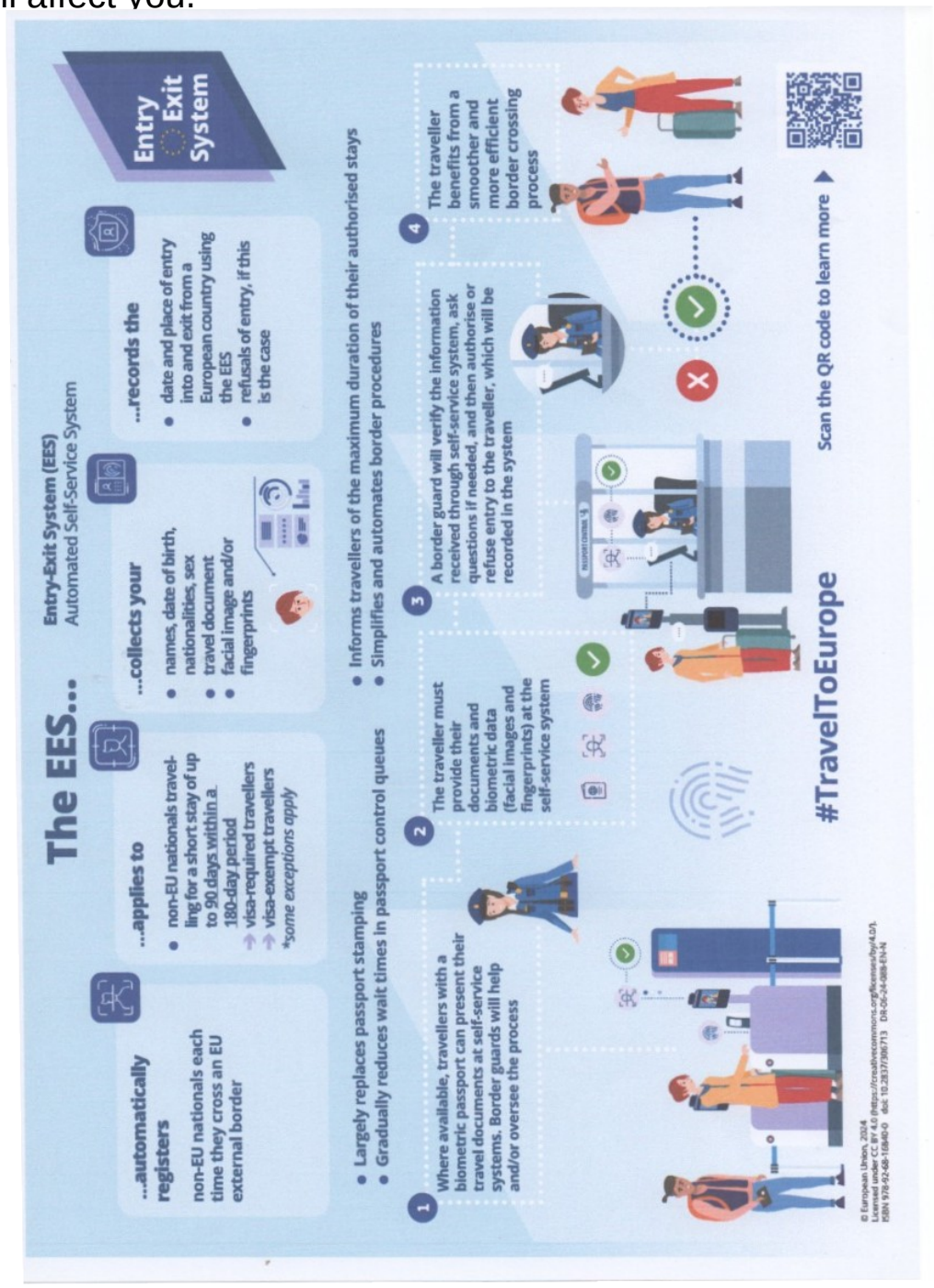
We all want a carbon-neutral planet, but the road ahead is still bumpy. The alternatives to electric are hydrogen power and sustainable fuels. Despite extensive research, hydrogen is still a long way off, not least because it would require ample supplies and networks of filling stations. For me, sustainable fuels offer the solution. Using biomass such as straw, the refining process draws in the carbon from the atmosphere. This carbon is then released back through the tailpipe, making it a repeatable, carbon-neutral cycle. Existing vehicles can be adapted to burn this new power source.

Now where did I leave my crystal ball?
NW

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING

The New European Union Wide Entry and Exit System. Which has been delayed yet again, but which will affect most of the members when eventually introduced. In essence, if you are not an EU citizen then this will affect you.



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

Vide Greniers - Sundays

November 3rd Figeac
December 1st Marche de Noel, Morlon le Haut

Fish & Chips

Villefranche — Friday 8th November, Bar Cesaree

Parisot - Tuesday 19th November, La Maison, Café Bar

Armistice Days

UK Sunday 10th November
France Monday 11th November – Public Holiday -Ceremonies begin about 10.30 with a parade of veterans from Place Bernard Lhez to the First World War Memorial, opposite the Post Office and then continues across the town. Poppy wearers are made most welcome.

Cinema

November 7th at 20.00 special showing of "Nevermore"

November 19th at 14,00 From the Metropolitan Opera "Tales of Hoffman" by Offenbach

Events

November 2nd, Villeneuve Espace Cultural "Miss Molly" rock n roll swing dance
November 6th, Villefranche, "Spectacle Clownesque", Rose de Sens
November 7th , Villefranche, Hotel de Fleurines Evening of Poetry, 20.00 – 21.30
November 9th , Villefranche, Le Manufacture, "Cafe Lecture Literaires" 10.00 – 12.00
November 9th, Villefranche, "Grande Soiree Vitadanse", La Madeleine, 21.30
November 23rd Villefranche, Le Grande Theatre, Marie Carrie Quintet, 21.00

Library Exhibition of Arts, Mixed Media and Crafts

Wednesday 13th to Sunday 17th November
Salle Volute, Villefranche de Rouergue
Daily 10h-12 noon and 14h – 17h
Vernisage : Tuesday 12th November 16h-17h30

CLASSIFIEDS

LOCAL TRADERS AND SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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 200€ as a thank you!
Andrea May Enterprise Individuelle 06 48 69 72 20
andrea.may@beauxvillages.com
SIREN: 987 513 157 RSAC RODEZ

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

Nicholas Powell - D'origine Architectural Salvage Yard
160 Rue de jonquilles, 46260,Limogne en Quercy.
Contact: 06 20 55 10 40

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

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 nigelnwild@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

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

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

DOMESTIC SERVICES

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

Experienced gardener specialising in natural organic design and maintenance. Affordable and flexible - References available. Contact: Kathryn: 05 65 65 78 01 or montagnac@hotmail.co.uk

We have sacks of hay and straw for sale suitable for all small animals. Small bales of straw for larger animals. Contact Bridget Blunsdon 05 65 65 78 60

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