Bibliotheque
Anglo-Francaise

Dec 2024 / Jan 2025
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The Librarian

A word from the President

The library's Arts Exhibition in the Salle Voutee was a great success. From Wednesday, after the vernissage on Tuesday afternoon until we closed on Sunday afternoon there was a steady stream of interested viewers.

It was eye opening to see the high quality of photography, painting, print making, sculpture and jewellery , lace making and other textiles artistry on display.

A great big "Thank you" to all who exhibited their talents and to the people who came ,viewed and bought.

Finally an enormous ! "Thank You " to Helen Mcloughlin who was the mastermind behind it all. It was an uplifting experience on a cold November day . Well done everyone!

Jackie

DISCLAIMER

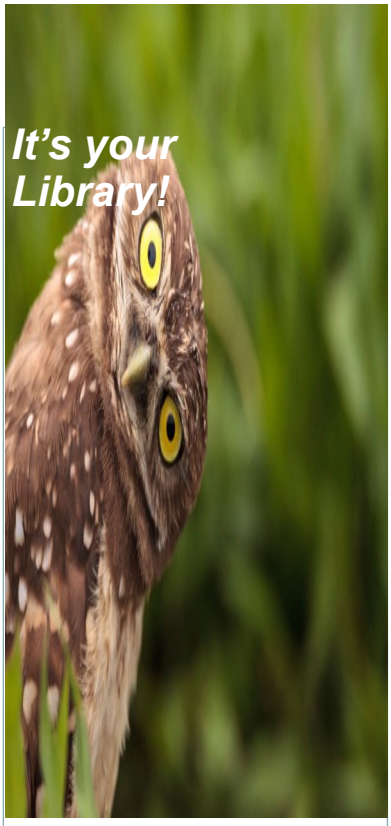
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Library Hours

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

Jungle Drums — Seen or Heard

Library Exhibition of Arts, Mixed Media and Crafts



Congratulations to all of our Library Members on their skills which were amply displayed at the recent Exhibition in the Salle Voutee in Place Bernhard Lhez Congratulations and thanks to Helen Mc Loughlin for sourcing the venue and managing the whole enterprise. My word you are a talented lot and if you missed seeing it, you will just have to wait till the next time we pluck up the courage to mount such an enterprise!

Beware the open Hatchback!!

Spotted on the straight road past the Hospital, a medium sized, mid blue, family hatchback with the tailgate open. On getting closer it revealed a full radar speed enforcement camera on a tripod just waiting for errant motorists. Be safe out there!!

Christmas Greetings

The Newsletter Elves, without whom none of this would be possible, will be taking a well earned rest in January and will produce the next edition for your delight and education in February. We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

The Book Review By Elaine Morgan



“Squeeze me” by Carl Hiaasen

The book is set in Palm Beach and Florida, among the elderly rich who adore their President and believe everything he says. It’s a thinly veiled satire on the Trump first term and was published in 2020 which is listed as “the post -Trump era”. Sadly, as we know, we are back to the Trump era. I make no apologies for taking a political stance here.

The story opens with the disappearance of Kiki Pew from a country club charity event. Kiki was a rich socialite and she has influential friends and 2 worthless sons. It soon becomes clear to the reader that the tiny Kiki has been swallowed by a giant python (pythons having become established further north due to climate change). The plot revolves round the manager of the club’s attempts at damage control which rapidly spiral into farce.

We are introduced to our heroine, Angela Armstrong. Angie qualified as a vet but lost her nerve and now has a business dealing with removal of pests and dangerous animals. She is an environmentalist and animal lover and here we come to the major preoccupations of Hiaasen: the natural world and the damage humans are doing to it.

More pythons appear mysteriously and the original one is still causing mayhem. An illegal immigrant from Honduras is wrongly accused of murdering Kiki Pew. Cue endless rants from the President about border control etc.

Melania Trump is portrayed very sympathetically as “Mockingbird”. Both she and the President are having affairs and the Secret Service is kept busy managing the moves from one crisis to another. They are also portrayed a good guys, powerless in the face of Presidential whims. There is a small subplot around the President’s use of sunbeds and the management of his toupee.

I didn’t find this book to be the best of Hiaasen. I enjoyed “Sick puppy” and found it funnier than “Squeeze me”. Frankly it’s hard to laugh when you think that we have another 4 years of this mad man running America. No matter how extreme the excesses Hiaasen dreams up they are probably quite close to the kind of thing that really happens.

EM



Garden Corner

by Margaret Guerin

We have now had our first frost so the remains of those tender plants (zinnia, courgettes and cosmos) will now go on to the compost heap. If the stems seem a bit woody, cut them up into smaller pieces. The grass needs another cut and at the same time we can collect most of the leaves which have fallen on the grass. This too can go on to the compost or into a seperate pile of just leaves.

We have recently taken out a row of raspberries so this bare ground is now waiting for a couple of gooseberry bushes. I am gradually covering the area with cardboard, followed by some straw. Leaves would also be a good material to use as mulch. The cardboard will exclude the light and stop weeds, the straw or leaves will gradually rot down and make a good mulch around the new bushes. Ideally you use compost, but I just don't have enough and compost is better left until the spring. The salad bed has been covered with well rotted manure and a weed surpressing membrane. This will protect the soil and allow the worms to do their job.

We have a good row of parsnips, some sprouts and some Tuscan kale. We have eaten a few leeks, but again they have been attacked by the allium leaf miner, so I have cut them, almost down to soil level, below any obvious insect pest. Hopefully, they will grow again and give me some leeks next spring. The advice is to cover leeks with a fine insect net, but with our warmer temperatures, this has not worked at all, as the leeks become too leafy. I also tried mixing the leeks with other strong smelling plants, to disguise the distintive onion/ leek smell, but that has also failed. I love leeks, so I will continue to try to beat this pest. Despite the frost the caterpillars on the cabbages have survived, so I will continue to check them.

There really isn't much to do in the garden at this time of year. We will now focus our efforts on the cutting of firewood. I hate the short days, but it is a delight to be up in the woods on a sunny afternoon.

MG

STILL SCINTILLATING IN TOULOUSE



In a recent newsletter, I recounted our discovery of the scintigraph and nuclear medicine for treatment of a neck problem. Rodez hospital conducted this scan in early September and a further appointment with the neurosurgeon in Toulouse was made for mid-October.

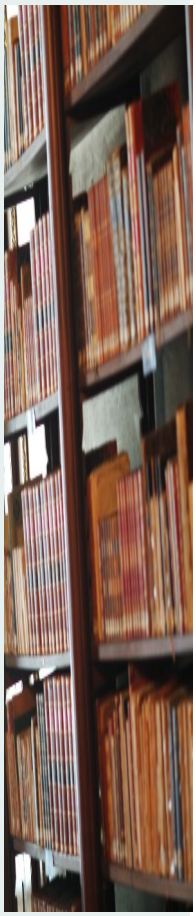
As the rendezvous was for 1030, we rose at crack o'sparrows in case of rush-hour traffic or bad weather. Luck was with us, sunshine and very light traffic. La Clinique des Cèdres was at full bore, a packed car park and patients everywhere.

Our surgeon runs a non-stop schedule, so each appointment lasts about ten minutes. We got six. He studied the scintigraph, said it confirmed his diagnosis and that he would refer us to his friend and colleague Dr Guedin, a radiologist.

'He can give an injection between the C1 and C2 vertebrae and that avoids surgery.'

Armed with the necessary paperwork from his secretary, we set out to find Imagerie. The clinic is huge, with multiple levels and long corridors. To cope with large numbers, their appointments system is rather different. At each reception, there are touchscreens displaying a choice of the services available. Press the appropriate button and a numbered ticket is printed. Then watch a wall-mounted screen for your ticket and appointment desk numbers. It's a bit like Argos!

'You're in the wrong place and you've asked for the wrong appointment,' said our receptionist. She then helpfully took us to the right place, manned by an utterly charming young lady, who bent over backwards to assist.



'Before the treatment, you need a short consultation with Dr Guedin. As you live so far away, I'll ask if he can see you this afternoon.'

She made a call, but it seemed our doctor was tied up that afternoon. She asked us to return at 1.30 and she would try to help. We did so and Dr Guedin would see us immediately.

He displayed the scintigraph on a huge wall screen, then in very good English, explained the procedure.

'I will give you an injection of cortisone and painkillers using a CT scanner to give me a full picture of the area. This is vital, as an artery runs through the vertebrae and puncturing this blood vessel would be serious.'

'The injection can be given up to three times, but usually no more than twice,' he said. 'From looking at your case, I believe it will work well and we want to avoid surgery.'

Throughout, he was not only professional, but truly empathetic, giving my understandably nervous spouse great confidence. By late November, she should have some relief.

NW

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING



All contributions gratefully received at the Social Centre opposite the Library!
Memories of Primary School Days

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

Christmas Markets

Sunday December 1st	Marche de Noel, Morlon le Haut
Sunday Dec 8th.	Martiel
Sat & Sun Dec14/15	Najac weekend festivities

Fish & Chips

Villefranche — Friday 13th December, Bar Cesaree

Parisot - Tuesday 17th November, La Maison, Café Bar

January dates expected to be as usual, 2nd Friday in Villefranche and 3rd Tuesday in Parisot

Events

Christmas Wreaths / Courounne making at Jardin de la Mothe – Any afternoon in December Contact Marion on 0695179934



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

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Buying or selling your home or know someone who is?
Refer them to me and upon completion receive 200€ as a thank you!
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andrea.may@beauxvillages.com
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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

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

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Nicholas Powell - D'origine Architectural Salvage Yard
160 Rue de jonquilles, 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 nigelnwild@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

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.
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