Bibliotheque
Anglo-Francaise

May 2025
Vol. 3, Issue 13

The Librarian



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We recently found ourselves in a bar-bookshop, what kind of divine combination is that? It was early evening and while more wine was being sold than books, at least one book was sold in the short time we were there. Books in shops and libraries are generally sorted by content, - biographies, thrillers, humour, crime, general fiction etc., - but how would it be if we categorised by wine description? Here are a few wine descriptions, try putting books you read into one of these groups ———

A dry white, - rich, creamy and nutty.

A sparkling red - off-dry, with notes of raspberry and cherry.

A fruity, dry red - tart, spicy and soft.

A dry rosé - fruity and floral.

A fortified red dessert.

A sparkling white - dry, creamy and rich.

A sweet white - tropical and honeyed.

Some books of course would have to go into the spirits section, whisky being the one that springs to mind, but a warming Kahlua? A genteel sherry? So many possibilities!

Have fun with that as you read the book of your choice, maybe sipping a suitable wine to go with it.

Sue

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jungle Drums..... 2+3

Book Review..... 4

Gardening Corner..... 5
Galivanting Gourmets..... 5

Tal of Two Cities..... 6
Notice Board.....7+8
Whats On In Feb 9
Classifieds..... 10



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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions are due in every year following the AGM! Beware the lesser spotted David Sharrock!! He is after your annual subscriptions which are now due. Pay David directly or give them to the Library volunteer the next time you drop if for a coffee and a book.

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

Villefranche USP (Université des Savoirs Partagés) is considering a French conversation group for English speakers. Please contact me if you are interested. Don't hesitate to specify what you wish in term of frequency, time…

We will adapt the format according to your need and your French level of competence.

Here is my mail : demonet.ge@gmail.com

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Geneviève Démonet

ENGLISH SPEAKING MEALS—Updates

1. Mdm Shona ALBOUY of the Chambre de Métiers in Rodez has advised us that due to the joys of French administration they cannot run their proposed meal for the students in this Academic year, but are planning to include it in the curriculum starting September . She thanked us for our interest and support and will be in touch with us again in September.
2. I bumped into the Chief de Cuisine of the Saint Joseph catering college at the wine and chocolate show in Villefranche last month, and mentioned the annual English Speakers Meal his predecesser had run. He was unaware of it and we agreed to speak again in the new Academic year.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Thanks to an excellent suggestion from a member, the Photo Group has a new format, open to all library members, not just the Group.

Starting on Tuesday 6 May, we will meet at the English Library on the first Tuesday of each month at 10am.

Each participant will draw an assignment from a hat eg bridges, balconies, water, statues etc. You will then have an hour to photograph your subject before returning to the Library to compare results and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit.

You don't need to have a camera. The cameras on smartphones are often as good, if not better, than a camera. If you do a little delving about your phone, you will find it contains editing and effects software to alter and enhance images. If in doubt ask! Some one in the group is likely to know the answer.

All are most welcome. Come along and have a fun morning.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Remember May is the month with more holidays than any other:!

Thursday 1st May– Labour Day

Thursday 8th May—Liberation in Europe Day

Thursday 29th May— Ascension Thursday / Pentecost

Therefore the Library will be closed on these days and don't forget that when a public holiday falls on a Thursday the French love to "Pont" i.e. Bridge and take the Friday as a holiday to give a decent week-end"

QUIZ NIGHT IN MAY

You asked for it so here goes !!

Friday 16th May at Les Fleurines @ 18.00hrs

As usual all entries and queries to David Sharrock

SOCIETY CONTACTS

- CAMERA GROUP — *nigelnwild@hotmail.co.uk*
- BRIDGE GROUP — *lesley.sharrock@gmail.com or pellalean@gmail.com*



The Book Review By

Elaine Morgan

« La gloire de mon père » Marcel Pagnol.

Pagnol is known to many of us as the author of “Jean de Florette” and “Manon des sources” based on a story he heard in his youth. Perhaps less well- known is his series of childhood memoirs. Starting with “La gloire de mon pere” the series of four ends with “Les temps des amours” which was left in note form and published after his death. The books are charming in the main and evoke life in Marseilles and Provence at the turn of the last century.

When we meet the family it consists of Marcel, his father Joseph, mother, and younger brother Paul. Later a sister is born. It’s clear that Pagnol loves them all dearly and it is sad to learn that later his mother dies when he was only 18 and Paul died at the age of 30.

Life improves dramatically when the family rents an unfurnished house in the countryside near Marseilles where they spend their summers and gradually more and more of their free time. This is the setting for the first two books in the series.

The Pagnol family is joined by an aunt (sister of the mother) and her husband, Uncle Jules who met during walks in the park with Marcel. Uncle Jules is a keen hunter of game and, for me, this was a less pleasant topic to read about. However I did learn that at that time the peasant population was very poor: they hunted game to sell and trapped and ate songbirds. This us understandable and possibly excusable in an era of rural poverty. It’s less easy to understand why songbirds are still hunted in France since food is more affordable and available.

In the later books Marcel attends the Lycee and his life changes completely as the school days are long and he only sees his family for the evening meal. Again it would be hard for us to recognise the discipline and harshness of French school life at that time. Pupils were kept in control by a system of fear and detention. Pagnol was a scholarship student and he risked losing this privilege if he misbehaved. His father could even have lost his job as a teacher if discipline really broke down.

Pagnol loved words and was drawn to English but hated Latin. I’m sure this had a lot to do with how these subjects were taught. The Latin master seems particularly remote from adolescent boys as he teaches the ablative absolute by rote and the endless exploits of Julius Caesar in Gaul.

Marcel becomes friendly with his neighbour who reads comics and does no work except to copy that of Marcel. Gradually they work out ways of coping with the system of discipline and how to avoid it.

I particularly liked the way the writing evokes the Provencale countryside and the heat and scent of the brush. Pagnol writes fluently and is easy to read.

GARDEN CORNER - SPRING HAS SPRUNG

It's raining again, yesterday afternoon in just a few hours we had 40mm of rain, more during the night.

We are lucky, our soil drains very quickly, but the area where I have sown seeds looks very compacted. We needed the rain, but heavy rain just flattens everything, compacts the soil and then runs off the slope. As soon as those seedlings have germinated I will hoe and mulch. I keep telling you to mulch, so I hope you are following this advice.

The green house is full of tender plants and seedlings. All the more hardy plants have been moved into the cold frame. The plastic cold frame is falling to pieces, but is it is now more than 15 years old, something we picked up cheap in the supemarket. At this time of year it is invaluable. It just gives that extra protection and it is super for hardening off plants, or protecting from the really heavy rain.

The strawberries are in flower and there should be a good crop, hopefully for us and not for the voles. The mouse catcher is presently asleep on the chair and looks to determined to stay there. Clearly we are going to have to come up with alternatives, possibly an electric fence at mouse height.

You would be most welcome to join us when our garden is open on Sunday 25th May, all day. Entrance is 3€, extra for tea and cake. The money goes to charity.

MG

GALAVANTING GOURMETS

Lunch at Le Bal O'Thym

If you are in the mood to lunch at a hole-in-the-wall with simple yet above average fare, Le Bal O'Thym may be for you. A small operation with at most seven interior tables (in summer there are also outdoor tables), the restaurant offers a new menu every week with a choice of two entrées, two plats, and two desserts. One entrée and plat are always vegetarian, a rarity around here.

Small and cozy, the one room restaurant is quiet and calming. The music is always interesting and mostly unobtrusive, if that matters to you. (It matters to us as we typically get offended by music in public places, especially restaurants.) The kitchen is open and tiny, so one can see the cheffe/propriétaire working her magic if you are not busy eating or talking to your tablemate(s). The cheffe is friendly and wryly funny, but mainly all business because she is busy. We eat there often, and have never been disappointed with the quality and creativity of the various offerings. As an added bonus, service is great, and prices are reasonable.
Here is a sample menu:

La terrine de butternut et panais aux amandes, sauce blanche aux épices
or
La salade de lentilles vertes du Puy, magret fumé, pommes et oeuf mollet.
—-
Le filet mignon de cochon farci aux figues et noix, jus réduit au porto et à l'orange, tagliatelle
or
Le risotto d'orge perlé aux poireaux, petits pois et fèves édamames
—-
Le moelleux citron, citron vert
or
L'ananas caramélisé en crumble de spéculoos

Le Bal O'Thym is open Monday through Friday for lunch 12-2. Speaking French is a plus, but they have always suffered our butchery of the language with humour and grace. Reservations are necessary, as we always see them turning hapless souls away. Le Bal O'Thym is in the bastide, next door to where Jacques a dit used to be: 52 Rue de la République, 05 65 45 25 22. A new menu is posted to Facebook every Sunday.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

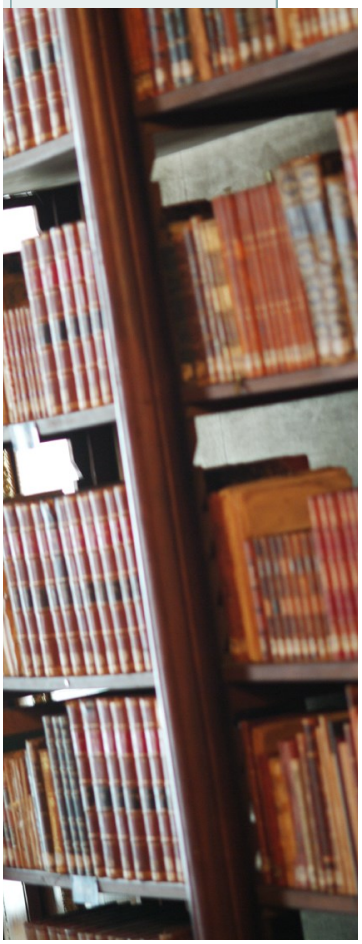


Oxford, a city at the heart of biotechnology; Riyadh, striving to do the same as part of their $multi-billion programme to create alternative industries to oil.

In 2009, I was part of an Oxford consortium that won a contract to design, build and manage Saudi Arabia's first biotechnology incubator, which offered laboratories, offices, equipment and business support to fledgling companies. After 20 years in pharma and biotech, I knew how to design and build biolabs and direct construction projects. That was my task. Having lived in Saudi in the 80s, I understood the culture.

In July, my colleague Barry and I first visited Riyadh, where the incubator was housed on the sixth floor of the medical school at King Fahad Medical City. An earlier committee had arranged structural alterations and installation of benching and lab gases pipework and they had pretty much got it right. Otherwise, bar an architect's drawing, there was no plan and no budget. Heading the project was Sultan, a US-trained orthodontist who had become involved in the programme. We spent two weeks getting acclimatised and I doing some in-depth designing and planning.

I soon returned for several weeks and got down to brass tacks. Top priority was to have the town gas supply lines removed, as modern biotech uses flammable solvents. The biggest obstacle was that the kingdom had no real supply chain. Finding a supplier was hard and the internet of little use. Getting delivery of exactly what you had ordered and on time was harder still. When out and about, I took notes of any business which stocked items I was likely to need. Three big ticket items I ordered from UK were an autoclave, a pure water system and a cold room like a butcher's walk-in fridge. The autoclave came bang on schedule, the much-delayed water system then got stuck in Dubai for weeks with faulty documentation and the cold room had still had not arrived when I finally left.



Construction was done mainly at weekends by the chief engineer and his maintenance team from a hospital where Sultan had once worked. Willing and cheerful, these lads were from developing countries and their trade skills sadly lacking. Health and safety? Forget it. I had to be eternally vigilant to obtain an acceptable standard.

Sultan was a really nice guy with endless contacts, plus he handled the rampant internal politics that also brought delays. Unfortunately, he would often arrange – and unarrange – things without telling me, some of them key issues. We had a number of serious conversations.

With only a trickle of water until booster pumps were installed, broken aircon and 30C in the office, constant let-downs and 60–100-hour weeks, it was a tough gig.

Fortunately, I have a knack for driving projects forward and somehow, bit by bit, it all came together to a high standard and on time. When the big chief Prince Turki visited, he was delighted.

I am truly proud of achieving a first for Saudi Arabia, and Badir for Biotechnology still thrives, now one of many similar establishments across the kingdom.

NW

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING

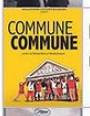
4 salles pour le cinéma

QUERCY NEMA

Caylus, Parisot, Saint-Antonin, Varen

VO = Version Original, not necessarily English!! Be sure you know the origin of the film in question—unless of course your German or Japanese is up to snuff!

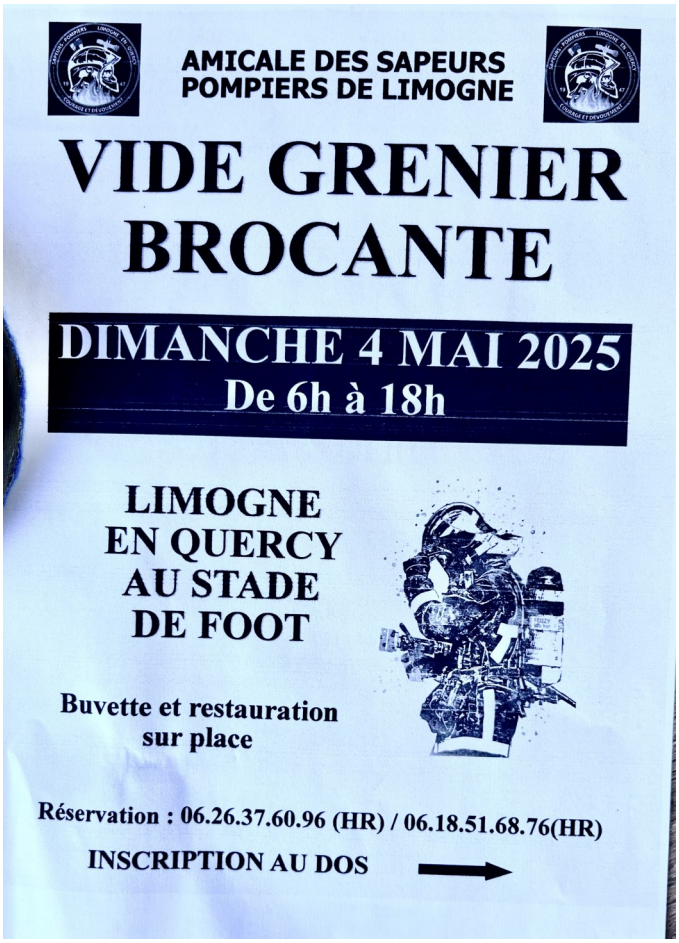
STFR = Sub Tities in French

MAI 2025	VAREN	PARISOT	SAINT-ANTONIN
 Prima la Vita VOSTFR	Sam. 03/05 17h		Lun. 26/05 20h30
 On ira	Sam. 03/05 20h30		Sam. 24/05 20h30
 Deux sœurs VOSTFR	Dim. 04/05 20h30		
 À bicyclette !	Ven. 16/05 20h30		Dim. 25/05 17h
 Lire Lolita à Téhéran VOSTFR	Sam. 17/05 17h		
 Le secret de Khéops	Sam. 17/05 20h30		
 The Brutalist VOSTFR		Lun. 19/05 18h30	
 Bridget Jones : folle de lui VOSTFR		Mar. 20/05 17h	
 Lumière, l'aventure continue		Mar. 20/05 20h30	Dim. 25/05 14h
 Commune, commune			Ven. 23/05 18h
 Black Dog VOSTFR			Sam. 24/05 17h
 To Be Or Not To Be VOSTFR			Dim. 25/05 20h30
 Colargol et le cirque Pimoulu	Sam. 31/05 17h		
 Ma mère, Dieu et Sylvie Vartan	Sam. 31/05 20h30		
 Les linceuls VOSTFR	Dim. 01/06 20h30		

Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING





WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

Markets / Vide Greniers

Thursday 1st. Villefranche. Madeleine with flowers & vintage cars
Saturday 3. Memer en Fete
Sunday 4th Martiel
Thursday 8th. Monteils
Sunday 18th. Belcastel & Vailhourles
Thursday 29th Peyrusse le Roc
Thursday 29th medieval market at Najac. 10am-6.00pm come in costume

Fish & Chips

Villefranche de Rouergue 09th May @ Cesaree 6.00pm onwards. Book in advance

Parisot 20th May @ Café Maison, 6.00pm onwards. Book in advance

Events / Cinema

Thursday 1st. Les Maria Capella. 6.00pm at Penitents Noir
Sunday 4th. Mens choir Concert at Loc DIeu. 5.30 pm
Saturday 10th. Figeac Voix at church of st augustins VF 8.30 pm
Saturday 17th. Marche gourmand nocturne @ 7.00pm @Madeleine
Friday 23rd. Jean Jaures ~ a voice, a word, a conscience VF Theatre Municipal 8.30pm
Saturday 24th baroque music of Ireland & Scotland @ Bournazel 8.00pm

Tuesday May 13th The Marriage of Figaro from the NYMet Opera. 2.00pm

Jardins Ouverts: 10H –18H, ADMISSION (For Charity) Euro 3

Sunday 25th **"Jardin des Amis"** Lieu dit Falgayrenc, D269 between Bastide L'Eveque and Villefranche de Rouergue, GPS: 44.357542, 2.123427

Saturday 1st June **"Le Jardin du Presbytere"** at Villevayre, 12270 Najac

Thursday May 8th Plant sale @ Lanuejouls

Puce des Couturieres

Sunday 25th Salle d'Annimation, La Capelle-Bleys, 10h—19hrs

CLASSIFIEDS

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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

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, 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

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 sohappyschool@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 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 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