Bibliotheque
Anglo-Francaise

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The Librarian



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Peoples lives.

There are biographies and autobiographies in the library, from Hillary Clinton to Billy Connolly, Iris Murdoch to Jimi Hendrix and many others in between, which document lives which followed a path less well trodden. But many people in the library community have also led varied or unusual or interesting lives which are not generally known about or talked about. Many people too have instances and anecdotes that are amusing or worthy of recounting.

If you have a story to tell, of whatever length, please do send it to the editor to be included in the newsletter. You don't have to identify yourself if you would prefer not to.

Come on - write to us! Don't be shy!

Sue

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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

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.

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 e.g. 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.

COME AND JOIN OUR "MIDSUMMER" TEA PARTY!

We will be holding a "Midsummer Tea Party" in the Library on **Tuesday 17th June from 10 30hrs** and all are welcome.



Rumour has it that a member of the committee, known for her culinary prowess, has agreed to make the scones and the Treasurer will untie the strings of his purse to allow the purchase of cream and jam!!

The order in which you apply the famous essentials is entirely a matter of personal choice and we will not be entering the Devon / Cornwall/ Somerset debate!

All are most welcome. Come along and have a fun morning and perhaps borrow a book!.

OPÉRA BASTIDE 2025



Festival lyrique international
de Villefranche de Rouergue

OPERABASTIDE IS BACK!

The jungle drums tell me that we will again be treated to some wonderful music in July when there will be performances of **"Carmen"** in the Municipal Theatre on the 19th and 20th July and the 25th and 27th July There will also be 4 performances of a musical entitled **" Les Fantastiks"** on the 17th, 18th, 24th and 26th July also in the Municipal Theatre.

As last year there will also be concerts in the Chapel de Penitent Noir, The Cloisters of Chartreuse, Public Masterclasses and Auditions with the very popular "Fenetres Ouverts" on Market days to brighten your shopping

Full details of each performance and ticket arrangements and prices, if required, can be found on their extensive website WWW.OPERABASTIDE.COM

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.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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



The Book Review By

Elaine Morgan

"SWEET TOOTH" BY IAN MCEWAN

Is this a spy novel or a romance? It's a bit of both with emphasis on the romance.

In the 1970's M15 was intent on counteracting the left- wing thinking of many intellectuals so it set out on a campaign for hearts and minds. The miner's strike is in full swing and Edward Heath is beleaguered. M15 secretly funds novelists and writers in a bid to portray a more traditional account of British society.

So we meet our heroine – not traditional spy material by any means. She is the daughter of a bishop and has gained a maths degree at Cambridge. She is recruited by her middle-aged lover – a Cambridge don.

She is interviewed at M15 and we meet the cast of caricatures of male chauvinist snobs who run the show. All of them, including Serena, seemed bemused by her appointment. Will she be of any use? She asks this frequently as do her employers until they find an assignment for her. She is to recruit a young novelist called Tom Haley to write a novel. They will fund him but he will not know this. Serena has a complex cover story which makes it all look aboveboard.

So the scene is set for romance as Tom and Serena fall in love very quickly. From then on her dilemma is knowing that she is deceiving him and reporting back to her bosses. She knows that if he discovers this their relationship will be over and so the story acquires pace and tension.

I enjoyed the novel as it romped along (I skipped some of the more boring political bits). I feared a terrible ending but McEwan writes beautifully and he manages to include a couple of twists at the end which were satisfying.

It has to be said that the lovely Serena has terrible taste in men.

GARDEN CORNER - SPRING HAS SPRUNG

I love this time of the year, but as usual it is a lot of hard work get everything sown and planted. I am ready for a rest, but there are broad beans to pick and freeze and we do have ripening strawberries so I intend to make icecream..

In the end there has been no hi tech solution to the voles, just the tediuous job of covering individual plants with up turned buckets every night. I haven't got enough buckets and as the plants get bigger, a bucket isn't quite big enough, so I am now using up turned dust-bins. Anyway it seems to be working.

The vegetable patch also looks like a battle field, so many mole hills. My seed sowing has not been a great success, very few parsnips and no lettuces, both from new packets of seeds. I first sowed the lettuce in the green-house with zero germination. Yves then tried outside, sowed the whole packet, zero germi-nation. Lettuce from another packet sowed at the same time, right next to the first sowing had 100 %. Next year I will not be tempted to buy any seeds from the supermarket. I sus-pect it is not the brand of the seed, but the hot dry conditions of the supermarket which means the seed more quickly loose their via-bility to germinate

The garden is looking lovely so don't forget June 1st and the open garden at Villevayre and then Rendezvous des jardins, the week-end 7th/8th June

MG

A FIRST PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN!

I was sitting in my office in Dublin when the phone on my desk spang into life. It was the switchboard lady - she had a call from Budapest for me! Yes I would take the call.

The voice at the other end was familiar and when he asked if I had bought a new calculator, I knew exactly who it was. David and I had been on the opposite sides of a take over battle in Hong Kong and he had lost! But that is another story!

Anyway, he was now working for a Consultancy firm in Bu-dapest, and they had need of my skills. Would I be interest-ed and could I "pop out" to Budapest for a meeting? Not being particularly happy in the job in Dublin I said Yes and so I got my first Peek behind what had once been the Iron Curtain.

There were no direct flights from Dublin to Budapest so via Heathrow it had to be with BA. The flight arrived at 23.30 and fleeting glimpses of the city through the clouds looked wonderful. We landed and taxied to the Terminal Building which was hard to see in the gloom. Then we were sur-rounded by uniformed men in brown battle dress carrying weapons. Why was this really necessary? We were bussed to the Terminal which appeared to have only one light bulb, and only 40 watt at that, to join the queue shuffling forward to the Passport control Booth.

The Passport Officer was uncommunicative not to say dour and you had to enter his space sidewise to prevent any at-tempt to jump the queue. Admitted!!

OK now to find my suitcase and David's driver Laszlo. As I left the customs hall, I looked for a board with my name and yes, a small man was waiting at the end of the Barrier with my name, so I greeted him as Laszlo. No, he was not Laszlo he was a friend of Laszlo called Istvan or Pisti for short. No, it was not the expected silver Mercedes but a black BMW with heavily tinted windows and we headed off into the night towards the city. David had booked my accommodation, so I didn't even have an hotel address.

As I sat in the back of the BMW the thought struck me that I was doing what I had consistently advised my teenage boys never to do… get into an unmarked car with an unknown man in a strange city in which I only knew one person and it was now well past midnight, with no idea where he was tak-ing me!

Welcome to Central Europe before the investment and mod-ernisation arrived!

DO YOU GET FULL MARKS?



To punctuate or not to punctuate, that was the question debated recently by fellow members of my writing group. It seemed to be a Marmite issue - those that were content with unmarked scripts and others for whom it was anathema.

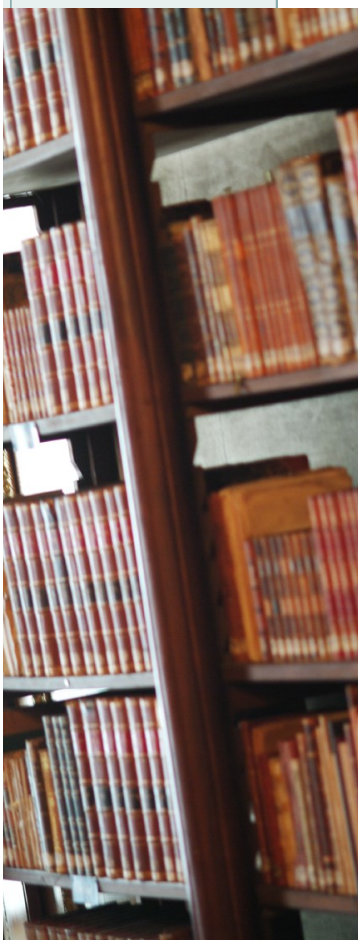
Which led me to ponder the origins and development of punctuation.

The oldest known examples of punctuation marks were found on the Mesha Stele from the 9th century BC, consisting of points between the words and horizontal strokes between sections. The stele or monument comes from the Moabite region, now part of modern Jordan.

In ancient versions of languages that use characters, such as Chinese, punctuation marks and spaces were not needed, as a separate written form distinct from the spoken language avoided disambiguation. By 400 BC, punctuation marks began to appear in Chinese; towards the end of the 1st century AD, they became common.

In the West, scribes used scriptio continua, likewise with no spaces, punctuation marks or capital letters. By the 5th century BC, the Greeks introduced vertically arranged dots – usually a dicolon or tricolon to aid oral delivery of texts. By 200 BC, Greek scribes employed the théseis system invented by Aristophanes, a single dot called a punctus placed at various heights to denote rhetorical divisions in speech. A paragraphos marked the beginning of a sentence, a diple or antilambda in the margin a quotation and a koronis the end of a major section.

The game changer was the production of large numbers of copies of the Bible. These were intended to be read aloud and a range of marks were introduced to aid the reader, plus an early version of capital letters. The Vulgate bible, translated into Latin in 400 AD, adopted an established system for teaching the speeches of Demostheneses and Cicero.



Punctuation as we know it today was spawned by the invention of moveable type and the printing press in Europe in the 1450s. Printed books with uniform letters could be read more rapidly than manuscripts, but did not allow time to analyse sentence structures. This drove the movement towards standardised punctuation, whose introduction is attributed to Venetian printer Aldus Manutius. Today, even Far Eastern languages have punctuation.

For me, punctuation marks are signposts, guiding you along the road of writing. Not only do they delineate who is speaking without having to read and re-read a paragraph, they can also change the meaning of a sentence entirely.

‘Woman, without her, man is nothing’.

‘Woman, without her man, is nothing’.

Same sentence, diametrically opposite meanings.

While languages share the same marks, they can mean different things. In English and French, the diaresis indicates that two adjacent vowels are pronounced separately eg Citroën. In German, this mark is called an umlaut and when placed over a, o or u, softens the pronunciation of that vowel.

Which camp are you in? Punctuate or not bothered?

NW

EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES TO THE BIG INTERNET PROVIDERS

There has been a trend over the last few months to find alternatives to the major Internet players such as Google, Apple, Facebook & Instagram (Meta), WhatsApp, X (Twitter), Microsoft, Linkedin. , etc.

These giants have taken over the internet world and unless we make an effort to use alternatives our personal information can be open to misuse. Recently Facebook and Instagram i.e. Meta announced that if you didn't opt out, your personal information as in your photos etc can be used by their AI.
If you didn't click to opt out then you are by definition in!

There are in fact some European alternatives. Not all of them are free apps but most of them are more open about the use of your information and respect of your privacy. In fact most of them do not store your information, which is a good thing.

Alternatives to Google Search:
SwissCows is a Swiss search engine with a focus on privacy and family friendliness,
Qwant is a French search engine that advertises privacy by not storing or selling any data about you.

Alternatives to Googlemaps:
MagicEarth is a navigation app for Android and iOS that uses the map data from OpenStreetMaps.
TomTom GO Navigation is a navigation app from TomTom for walking and car. It uses offline maps.

Alternative Email Services: There are lots of European alternatives to Gmail, Hotmail etc. I have tried Mailo.com which is a French email provider and I find it is simple, easy to use and there is no publicity.

Alternatives to X: There are two European alternatives, Pleroma and Mastodon both are open source.

Alternatives to Linkedin: XING is a professional networking platform from Germany. The social network has a focus on business relationships.

Alternatives to Instagram: BeReal is a social network from France. Users get a notification every day and after that have two minutes to share a photo.

The best and easiest way to see what's available and if it is of interest to you is to use the following link: https://european-alternatives.eu/alternatives-to

European Alternatives is a project by Constantin Graf, a software developer from Vienna, which collects and analyses European alternatives to digital services and products, such as cloud services.

HM

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

Markets / Vide Greniers

Sunday 8th Villeneuve, Toulonjac

Sunday 15th Vailhourles

Sunday 22nd Salles Courbatiers, Cajarc

Sunday 29th Saint Pierre Toirac

Fish & Chips

Villefranche de Rouergue 13th June @ Cesaree 6.00pm onwards. Book in advance

Parisot 17th June @ Café Maison, 6.00pm onwards. Book in advance

Events / Cinema

"Mission Impossible" screening this Month VF

Thursday 5th Un Monde Merveilleux Cinema VF

Sunday 8th Parisot Choir at Loc Dieu 18.30

Saturday 14th Annual Gala "Voices les choeurs", Theatre Municipal 21.00

Sunday 15th Annual Gala "Voices les choeurs", Theatre Municipal 17.00

Tuesday 17th Library "Midsummer Tea Party" from 10.30 in the English Library

Saturday 21st Fete de la Music at Villeneuve & Najac—from 14.00

Sunday 28th Concert of Baroque Music, Chateau Bournazel 20.00

Jardins Ouverts: 10H –18H,

June 7th—8th "Rendezvous aux Jardins" in Villefranche

June 7th Abbaye de Beailieu

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

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

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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.
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