Bibliotheque
Anglo-Francaise

July 2025
Vol. 3, Issue 15

The Librarian



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The rather long drive home from Calais recently was really quite easy but was enlivened by listening to Desert Island Discs. So many people who have made a successful life through hard work, dedication, belief in something, a good deal of chutzpah or sheer good luck, but two of today's selection were authors, Colm Toibin and William Boyd. They talked about their lives and the big and little things that have happened in their lives and how those events have shaped their writing as well as their lives. Colm Toibin grew up in a family with lots of women in it and he would listen to their conversations and gossip which he used for or in his stories, the story for "Brooklyn"was one example. William Boyd spent a lot of his boyhood years in Africa and recalled an incident when he and his father were in Nigeria at the beginning of the civil war and were stopped by a road block. Several menacing, drunken "soldiers" emerged from the bushes armed with Kalashnikovs and knives, and only the wit and confidence of his father saved them and they drove away alive. Boyd saw this experience as a pivotal moment when the whole story could have changed and uses chance as a basis for his stories.

Interesting to speculate what role certain conversations or chance circumstances have played in our own lives.

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, starting again in September when we will all be "sans visiteurs" and the temperature a little lower!

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.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR "MIDSUMMER" TEA PARTY!

Goodness that went well!! If you weren't with us then you missed a treat. Congratulations to all those who had a hand in the preparation and delivery of a most enjoyable couple of hours in the library. Rumour has it that it might well become an annual event. Remember next year to bring a friend who is not a member and swell our numbers.



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Minette Walters "The Last Hours"
" " "The Turn of Midnight"
" " "The Swift and the Harrier"
Jennifer Worth "Shadows of the Workhouse"
Caimh McDonnell "Welcome to Nowhere"
Kate Atkinson "Death at the Sign of the Rook"
Alice Feeney "Rock Paper Scissors"
Angela Marsons "Killing Mind"
Ann Cleeves "The Dark Wives"
" " "The Rising Tide"
Emily St John Mandel "The Singer's Gun"
Kristin Hannah "The Women"
" " "Fly Away"
" " "True Colours"
" " "Between Sisters"
" " "Firefly Lane"
" " "Wild"
" " "Night Road"

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

HISTORY "lite"

"The three Emperors: 3 cousins, 3 empires and the road to WWI" Miranda Carter

"*The Accursed Kings" (Book 1 – The Iron King) Maurice Druon*

In seeking to understand the causes of WWI I turned to the Miranda Carter book as it seemed to be as much about people as events and I like that. For a while all was well as I learnt about how mad kaiser Willem really was. As a grandson of Queen Victoria he worshipped her all his life. She died in his arms (partly because he ensured this was so). Some of her other grandchildren who lived more close by were less enthusiastic about her controlling hand. However while she was alive and could write him scolding letters Willem was kept more or less in check. He hated Edward VII and ascribed sinister motives to his amiable diplomacy.

George V and Emperor Nicolas were the other two cousins in the triangle and we learn of their rather odd lives. Inevitably as the book progresses it becomes more about treaties and politics. The trouble with modern history for me is that so much is known and thus it is easy to get bogged down in detail and so it proves with this book. Various agreements and manoeuvrings are described and my eyes glazed over a bit. Nonetheless to be fair I grasped more of the background to the war from the mood of the populations of Europe to the long and tangled history that led to outbreak.

Queen Victoria's plan to unite Europe through family marriages gradually fell apart but it did leave England with a very German royal family.

"The Accursed Kings" series is about the Capetian dynasty in France in the run up to the 100 years' war. These books are novels fo much is guessed and invented. They are also translated from French so that may account for their rather peculiar style.

We start with the final years of the reign of Philip the Fair up to his death in 1314. Philip had ruthlessly supressed the Knights Templar, expelled the Jews and put his chosen Pope on the throne in Avignon so, like Henry VIII he wanted no challenge to his authority.

The central scandal at this point in his reign was the fact that 2 of his daughters-in-law were convicted of adultery and imprisoned for life: a third was convicted of colluding with them and also imprisoned. This led to a stalemate where the marriages were not annulled and there were no direct male heirs which sowed the seeds for the 100 years' War.

Another strand in the book is the role played by the Lombards (Italian bankers) and the moneylending and intrigue they masterminded. Once you get past the odd style the book is readable and strongly based on facts. George RR Martin claimed the series was the inspiration for Game of Thrones.

GARDEN CORNER - SUMMER HEAT

Suddenly it is too hot and too dry, but the garden is doing well. I am coping less well with the heat, I have to spend the afternoons in the cool of the house, my gardening is now restricted to the evenings.

The weeds continue to grow, but there is no way they can be pulled out as the soil is rock hard, so use a hoe. Flowers go over quickly in this heat, so lots of dead heading and tying up. The serious work has been done, so it is a joy to spend these long summer evenings in the garden.
Unfortunately, we now have to catch up on all the paths and grass cutting of the meadow. We tend to avoid long grass, so we like to keep our paths clear, but I now have a tick from this morning's strimming. We have a nightly ritual tick check and Yves is really quite expert at removal. I did once have to trek to casualty, late one Sunday evening, it seemed trivial, but they treated it quite seriously. Growing up, I never once had a tick and both our boys enjoyed playing in the new cut baled hay with out any problems. Summers are now too hot and dry and there are far less birds to prey on ticks. Chickens are meant to be good for this, but I suspect our two spoilt feathered pets are not doing their job as I think this particular tick was picked up in the chicken run.

MG

CARIBBEAN CHEESE ON TOAST!

For one year, many years ago, I was a governess to two children aged 7 and 5.

The father of the family was very ill and I was employed to teach the children for a year while the family travelled, hopefully as recuperation after his illness. In fact he died, which was probably the more expected outcome, and on the day I got there.
So for three months that year I found myself in the Caribbean and Mexico as the family visited friends and relatives. One such friend lived on Tobago where he had two houses, one an old planters house with glorious glowing wood in all the rooms. One of his friends on the island was the photographer Norman Parkinson, famous at the time as a fashion photographer but also as a favourite royal photographer. He always wore a dark red, embroidered Middle Eastern hat, and took the photograph of the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret all supposedly wearing blue velvet dresses and diamond brooches, but which was in fact just a piece of velvet carefully draped across them. We visited him for the children to play in the swimming pool and just to visit. We were there for a while and - here is my claim to fame - Norman Parkinson, royal and fashion photographer, made me cheese on toast for tea. The others as well of course, but "me" is the subject of this piece, me, me, me, me, me.

Teaching in Leeds the following year brought me back to earth!

SR

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME!



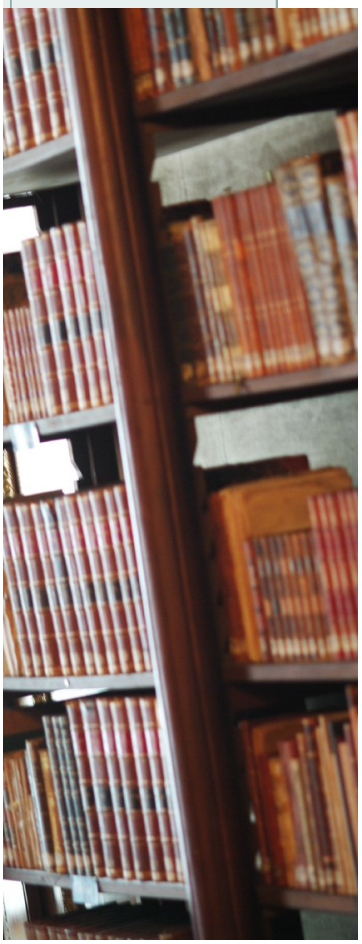
This is not a review of Stephen Hawking's work on cosmology and the development of the universe, but how and why we have the hour, minute, second and the means to measure them.

It all began in ancient Egypt, where the flooding of the Nile was, and still is, a critical event for agriculture. It was accompanied by the rise of Sirius before sunrise and the appearance of 12 constellations across the night sky. Influenced by this, the Egyptians divided the night into twelve equal intervals. These were seasonal hours, shorter in summer than in winter. Later, the day was divided into intervals and these became more important than the night. The system spread to Greece and Rome and eventually, an hour was 1/24th of a day, with no variations.

Early civilisations used a sexagesimal (Base 60) method of dividing arcs on things like sundials and this led to the minute and the second. Originally, a second was a day divided by 60X60, but when mechanical clocks began to appear in the 14th century, this became an hour divided by 60X60.

The first clocks were sundials, hourglasses and even candles with metal rings at intervals. In the 16th century BC, Babylon, Egypt and Persia had water clocks or clepsydra, which measured the inflow or outflow of water to or from a vessel marked with gradations. Many countries used the water flow to drive mechanical systems, resulting in greater accuracy and the designs gradually came to Europe.

A number of people are credited with the early mechanical clocks in the 14th century. The most notable was Henry de Vick, who established basic clock design for the next 300 years. The escapement mechanisms of these pioneer timepieces were inaccurate and it was not until the 17th century that the pendulum movement solved the problem.



Mariners demanded very accurate clocks to determine longitude, but temperature variations produced errors. In 1730, John Harrison produced his first chronometer, which had temperature compensation and revolutionised navigation. To enable seafarers to verify their chronometer settings, timeball stations were erected around the world's ports. A large ball sliding up and down a mast atop a tower would be dropped at 1pm each day by a remote electric signal from places like the Royal Observatory. Timing began when the ball dropped.

Watches evolved from spring-driven clocks and by the 17th century, were carried in men's pockets. Wristwatches took off in the 19th century, when soldiers needed to accurately coordinate movements without signalling and revealing their position. These watches were not as we know them, but simply fob watches on a strap. The modern wristwatch evolved in WWI, was issued to almost every serviceman and set a fashion that survives to this day.

However, all the mechanical, quartz and electronic timekeepers pale into insignificance compared to the atomic clock. Much beloved by scientists, it is accurate to 0.9 of a second.

Time, as ever, has not stood still.

NW

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING

CONCERTS « Les veillées musicales »

Tous les soirs à 21H30 dans l'Abbatiale de Conques

Lundi 16 juin	Récital : Flûte et guitare (Jérémie & Charly)
Mardi 17 juin	Le i Trio (flûte/violon/cello) et chant du monde
Mercredi 18 juin	Récital Orgues ou Piano (F. Godefroid)
Jeudi 19 juin	Trio Baroque E=MC2 (violon/cello/théorbe)
Vendredi 20 juin	Récital flûte et piano (F. Godefroid)
Samedi 21 juin	Les Maria Capella (chants du monde)
Dimanche 22	Le i Trio (flûte/violon/cello) et chant du monde
Lundi 23 juin	Trio Baroque E=MC2 (violon/cello/théorbe)
Mardi 24 juin	Piano /chant (F. Godefroid)
Mercredi 25 juin	Le i Trio (flûte/violon/cello) et chant du monde
Jeudi 26 juin	Récital Orgues ou Piano (F. Godefroid)
Vendredi 27 juin	Les Maria Capella (chants du monde)
Samedi 28 juin	Les Duocelli
Dimanche 29 juin	Récital : Flûte et guitare (Jérémie & Charly)
Lundi 30 juin	Sonates violon / orgue (F.Godefroid)
Mardi 1er juillet	Le i Trio (flûte/violon/cello) et chant du monde
Mercredi 2 juillet	Orgue & chant (F. Godefroid)
Jeudi 3 juillet	Adoration
Vendredi 4 juillet	Piano /chant (F. Godefroid)
Samedi 5 juillet	Récital flûte et piano (F. Godefroid)
Dimanche 6 juillet	Récital : Flûte et guitare (Jérémie & Charly)
Lundi 7 juillet	Les Maria Capella (chants du monde)
Mardi 8 juillet	Orgue & chant (F. Godefroid)
Mercredi 9 juillet	Trio Baroque E=MC2 (violon/cello/théorbe)
Jeudi 10 juillet	Le i Trio (flûte/violon/cello) et chant du monde
Vendredi 11 juillet	Récital Clarinette & piano (F. Godefroid)
Samedi 12 juillet	Trio Baroque E=MC2 (violon/cello/théorbe)
Dimanche 13 juillet	Récital : Flûte et guitare (Jérémie & Charly)

Libre Participation

Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING

4 salles pour le cinéma

QUERCY NEMA

Caylus, Parisot, Saint-Antonin, Varen



OPÉRA BASTIDE 2025



Festival lyrique international de Villefranche de Rouergue

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 experience.

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

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

Sunday Markets / Vide Greniers

6th ~ Ambeyrac, Villefranche, Cajarc, Figeac

13th ~ Laguepie, Bouillac

20th ~ Villeneuve, Caylus

27th ~ Varen, Causse et diege, Puylaroque

Night Markets

July 6 to September 7 ~ Every Sunday evening in Villefranche

July 2 to Sept 3 ~ Wednesday evening in Najac

July 4th Friday Belcastel, Villeneuve

Fish & Chips

Villefranche de Rouergue 11th July @ Cesaree 6.00pm onwards. Book in advance

Parisot 15th July @ Café Maison, 6.00pm onwards. Book in advance

Concerts

16th - 27th Carmen Opéra Bastide @ the Theatre Villefranche Rouergue

4th ~ 8.30 pm concert Constantinople @ Loc Dieu

16th July - 17 August. Abbaye de Beaulieu festival. Music, dance, theatre

16th July in the Church at St Croix at 8pm Ensemble Florilame : concert Baroque (Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Falconieri)

Reminder. Rencontres musicale figeac starts on August 6th

16th - 8.00pm ~ ensemble florilame concert baroque @ St Croix

Events / Cinema

Starting June 25th F1 the film @ the vox

Sunday 28th Concert of Baroque Music, Chateau Bournazel 20.00

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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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

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Nicholas Powell— "D Origine", Architectural Salvage Yard
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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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