Bibliotheque
Anglo-Francaise

August 2025
Vol. 3, Issue 16

The Librarian



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As summer travel is here, let's reflect on the wonders of GPS. We have just crossed the Cévennes, without a donkey but with Sat-Nav. When Stevenson tackled it over a hundred years ago, he went from village to village following his plan on old highways and byways. Still possible of course, but the number of roads, the complexity of roadworks and diversions, and finding and getting in and out of car-parks, makes such innocent sounding trips more of a nightmare than a pleasure unless your trusty Sat-Nav is there to help you.

And as an added bonus, it never once says " I said second left, not first left." in an exasperated tone but calmly recalculates 7,429 roads to get you out of the mess you've got yourself into.

I like maps and map reading, but am quite happy to hand this particular task over to our aptly named Sat-Nav, Serena.

Happy, safe travels to you all.

Sue

DISCLAIMER THE ENGLISH LIBRARY TAKES NO LEGAL OR OTHER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARTICLES, REVIEWS, FINANCIAL ADVICE OR ADVERTISEMENTS PUBLISHED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. THE VIEWS OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND REVIEWERS ARE PERSONAL AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF THE NEWSLETTER OR THE ASSOCIATION. READERS SHOULD VERIFY ALL ARTICLES FOR SALE, TRADES PERSONS ETC. BEFORE PARTING WITH MONEY. THE EDITORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT, REJECT OR EDIT ANY ADVERTISEMENT, ARTICLE OR REVIEW SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jungle Drums..... 2+3

Book Review..... 4

Gardening Corner 5

Bob Geldof.....5

Taken with a pinch of Salt.....6

Notice Board .....7 + 8

What's On In August 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

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.

Will we see YOU next month??

TIME TO PAY OUR DEBTS!

The library benefits greatly from our access to the annex to the social centre "La Ruche" as a base and once a year they ask for our help to assist with a "Fun Day" they organise for the less advantaged children of the bastide. We usually provide a "Hoopla" game and it is much enjoyed by the Children. So far so good, but it needs adult supervision from 13.30 to 17.30 on Wednesday the 24th September. We will need three people per session of I hour so 12 people in all. Can you give us one hour (or more) of you time and help us to participate in this most enjoyable and worthy enterprise and help those less fortunate than ourselves?

Please contact Sue Reeve with your offer of help

colandsuereeve@gmail.com

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

Inscriptions for the French conversation group will take place in early September at the USP (Université des Savoirs Partagés) office (next to the English Library) in order to begin the activity in October.

The group will take place at the Fleurines Hotel (in the bar room or in the breakfast room) every other Thursday at 1.30 pm.

We'll have to order a coffee to use the place. I plan to have one hour conversation to begin with and we could stay more if wanted...

USP asks us to join the association and the fee for the "atelier" would be around 50 euros for 10 sessions.

Please contact me if you are interested. I will organise an informal meeting in September to evaluate the french levels.

Geneviève Démonet demonet.ge@gmail.com

BROADEN YOUR FRENCH VOCABULARY

« Tu me casses les pieds ! » : tu m'embêtes, tu m'énerves (« you're getting under my skin »).

In the 19th century « casser » meant litteraly « écraser » (« crush ») !

DON'T FORGET!!

Villefranche Dechetterie is on Summer Hours and therefore closes every day at 14.00 hours. It will revert to normal working hours on the 15th September

LIBRARY CLOSURES IN AUGUST

Due to the closure of the Social Centre " La Ruche" from the 4th to the 8th August inclusive for their annual break, the Library will not open on Tuesday 5th August and Thursday 7th August. Normal service will be resumed in the following weeks

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

The Architect's apprentice Elif Shafak

Set in the 1550's this novel tells the story of Jahan who, with a white elephant, arrives in Istanbul to join the menagerie of Sulieman the Magnificent. After some adventures he becomes one of four apprentices to Sinan, the chief architect for the Sultan.

The author is Turkish and keen for her readers to understand some of the history of Turkey and Istanbul in particular. It helps if you have been there as many buildings are lovingly described and this can be hard to visualise.

The story is episodic and moves at a leisurely pace. Every now and then the author tries to introduce an element of suspense by having Jahan pursued by an evil sea captain and by introducing spies from Venice. None of this was very successful in my opinion and I was happy ambling along with Chota the elephant.

Some of the strange, and barbarous, customs of the Topkapi palace are detailed: the most cruel being the strangling of all the new Sultan's brothers on his accession. Then there is the drowning of concubines by tying them in sacks and throwing them into the Bosphorus. Most of them were captured women from areas as far as Georgia which had been defeated in battle.

At different times in the story Chota has to be trained to go into battle and to use his tusks as weapons. Jahan is reluctant to do this but he has no choice. Later Chota has to be trained to do tricks in order to entertain and this neither of them enjoy.

Gypsies and their treatment (exclusion) in the Empire are another side story. They help Jahan at times and seem to cope with the fact that they are persecuted and barred from integration.

Suleiman was a successful and unusual ruler as well as being ruthless. He married one of his concubines and remained faithful to her as well as consulting her on government matters. None of this was usual at the time and was not approved of.

The author ends by bringing Jahan to India (where he has always claimed he is from) where he becomes employed in the building of the Taj Mahal. I think her point is to link the architecture of the two countries and to show that Turkey was there first.

The novel is enjoyable and kept my interest although I found parts of the story far-fetched. It's a holiday read and this is the "Holiday Season"!

GARDEN CORNER - SUMMER HEAT

It's all looking a bit miserable, but the grass/ lawn at the bottom of the garden is lovely, lots of self heal, thyme, birds foot trefoil and clover. The grass itself is brown and dead and plantain is clearly the dominant weed on the paths baked by the sun. I shall dig out some, as it crowds out other species of grass and wild flowers. There is nothing to do with the grass, it will come back.

The garden is again full of butterflies, mainly on the scabious and oregano. I love this small scabious as it flowers such a long time. All of these are wild flowers, so clearly wild flowers do have a place in the garden, when most garden plants are struggling.



The raspberries hate this hot dry weather, but the thornless blackberry (Black satin) is prolific, producing large, very sweet fruit. I have a selection of squashes, unfortunately none of them resemble the butternut which I thought I had sown, at least according to the name written on the packet. Hopefully they will still taste good.



The next week looks to be slightly cooler, but we are now desperate for real rain.

MG

BOB GELDOF

BEFORE HE WAS FAMOUS!

The recent TV coverage of the Anniversary of Live Aid reminded me that I had met Bob Geldof when I was a teenager.

Cast your mind back to 1966, no not the Football, and there are two Scout Movements in Ireland— The Scout Association of Ireland which was smaller and non denominational and the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland, much larger and clearly denominational. Because of this the CBSI were not admitted to the World Bureau and could not attend any World Scout Jamboree organised by the World Bureau every four years nor participate in the development of the movement.

At the end of 1966 the SAI resigned from the World Bureau and in early 1967 the Federation of Irish Scout Associations was accepted as a full member of the World Bureau. The next Jamboree was due in August that year in the USA to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Brownsea Island camp and because of the short lead time the CBSI management decided that it's half of the joint contingent to the Jamboree would be drawn from it's Troop attached to Blackrock College, a fee paying Jesuit secondary and boarding school in Dublin. Bob Geldof was a member of that troop and we first met on the playground of the school where we were given joint briefings on the planning for the trip and instruction on marching in preparation for the Jamboree. Marching, as I remember, was not Bob's strong suit nor indeed was his respect for his elders and he soon fell foul of the National Officers of the CBSI for insubordination! He was excluded from the trip to the USA, so I never got to know him better!

He has not changed! But he has changed the world!

Ed's Note: *Whom have you met on your travels? Tell us about them and share the experience. All contributions gratefully received*

TAKEN WITH A PINCH OF SALT?



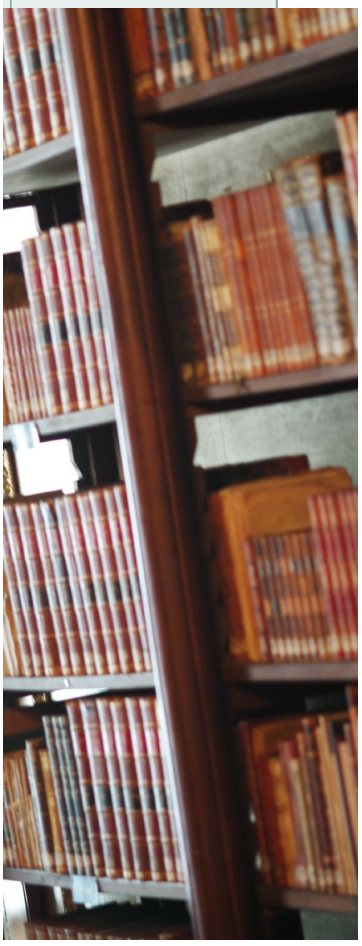
In 2018, a lady called Raynor Winn published The Salt Path, an account of her 630-mile walk with her husband Moth around part of the UK Coastal Path from Minehead to Cornwall.

The couple lived in Wales and she described how they lost their house after a long legal battle when an investment Moth had made in a relative's company failed. She said that they had produced a document proving they did not owe the money, but the judge ruled it inadmissible. At the same time, Moth had been diagnosed with corticobasal degeneration, CBD, where proteins attack and destroy brain cells. The disease is fatal.

Now desperate and destitute, they decided to make the walk, their only income a small social security payment each week. They live in a tent, exist on meagre rations, and endure all sorts of weather, but are heartened by those who take pity on their plight and look after them. The exercise, although very tough at times, improves Moth's condition and slows degeneration.

Raynor has since written two sequels - The Wild Silence and Landlines - and her bestsellers have sold over two million copies. Just over a month ago, Netflix released a film of The Salt Path.

The Salt Path was a member's choice for our book club. Most thought it well-written and enjoyable, but I and some others felt that the book did not seem to ring true.



Those misgivings resurfaced when a recent article in The Observer revealed a very different story. Their real names are Sally and Tim Walker. For some years, Sally was the bookkeeper for an estate agent, who discovered £9,000 had not been banked. He and his wife audited the accounts to find £64,000 had been embezzled. Sally was arrested, then released on bail. Eventually, the estate agent agreed not to prosecute provided all the monies were repaid and no charges were ever brought. James Cooper (not his real name), a relative of Tim's, lent them £100,000 from his personal account to clear the debt, repayable on demand. Then his company failed and he owed money. He told two creditors to approach the Walkers, who refused to pay, so they took them to court and won.

The paper's reporter discovered that Sally and Tim have owned a house near Bordeaux since 2007.

The paper spoke to a number of neurology specialists, who expressed doubt that Tim has CBD. The normal lifespan after diagnosis is 6-8 years. Some few live to 12 years, but are totally disabled and need 24/7 care. Tim is now at 18 years post-diagnosis with no acute symptoms, which seems very unlikely if it is CBD.

The Walkers refute the allegations, but a highly reputable paper like The Observer would not have published the story without being certain of the facts and clearing them with their lawyers. Will the books and the film now be withdrawn? Netflix will have made a significant investment. It is one thing to write a novel with fictitious events based around real experiences, but quite another to publish autobiographies whose veracity is now in serious question.

What is the legal position?

I will be very interested to see what happens next.

NW

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING



Festilitt 2025

October 10th & 12th

FESTILITT and the Safari Gourmand…

This month we want to let you know that our popular **Safari Gourmand** will be back at lunchtime on Sunday 7 September. For those of you who haven't yet taken part, this is a really convivial event, where you move from host to host around Parisot, eating a different course at a different house, and with a different group of fellow guests. It's an important fundraiser for the festival, but as importantly, it's a lovely opportunity to meet and mingle with a whole range of French and English Festilitt supporters over the course of the afternoon.

Participation costs just 25€ per person, for which you get a 3-course meal with wine and coffee. Places are limited and tend to go quickly, so sign up on the dedicated page on the Festilitt web site www.https://festilitt.com/language/en/home-english/

NOTICE BOARD

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST / ADVERTISING

AUGUST DETAILS NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PUBLICATION

ooOoo

28e édition, du 6 au 20 août 2025

Festival des Rencontres Musicales de Figeac

Full details on WWW.festivaldefigeac.com



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

DATES TO NOTE IN AUGUST

Vide greniers ~

Sunday 3rd. Beduer, Parisot, St Projet
Wednesday 6th. Lanuejouls
Sunday 10th Villeneuve
Sunday 17th Figeac, Lunac
Sunday 24th Druhle, Bournazel

Events

4th, 5th, 6th Chateau Bournazel ~ traditional apulian song, Schubert & Bach
13th Loc Dieu. Rencontres Musicale de Figeac. Mozart & Bach
23-25 Najac Fouace Festival Fête de Saint-Barthélemy et de La Fouace à Najac - Bastides et Gorges de l'Aveyron
29-31st Fete de la Rive Gauche Villefranche Fête de la Rive Gauche à Villefranche-de-Rouergue - Bastides et Gorges de l'Aveyron

Night Markets

Wednesday nights in Najac
Sunday nights in Villefranche
Friday 8th. Fish and chips at Cesaree/Station—Book in advance with **Cod-en-Bleu**
Tuesday 19th Fish & Chips at La Maison Café Bar. Parisot– Book in advance with **Cod-en-Bleu**

Open Air Cinema

Monday 5th @ Place Notre Dame 10.00pm. The film **Migration**
And on the 19th @ Place Notre Dame 9.30pm **Élémentaire**

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

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