Bibliotheque Anglo-Francaise

September 2025
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The Librarian



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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Do you ever reread books? I don't generally. I have books on the shelf that I don't want to part with even though it's unlikely that I will read them again because it might somehow destroy their magic.

However, having read more because of the heat and miscalculating timings to get to the library, I found myself this week having to search the shelves for reading matter, and chanced upon a book given to me just before we moved here. It's called "A House Somewhere" and is a collection of extracts and short stories written by a range of people all of whom have found themselves by some means, living in another country.

When I first read it it was amusing and interesting, but with the twenty years of experience behind us, the second reading was a joy. The authors write about the tasks ahead of them, how exciting and maybe daunting those tasks could be, about language difficulties, about different ways of working, but also about the kindness and helpfulness of people, their patience and humour. And of how the authors came to sometimes tolerate, but often love their new setting.

We have all experienced the big relocation, and some of us are re-relocating, and know what it's like, so best of luck to those people and to those staying put, may you continue to enjoy the things that brought you here in the first place.

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

JUNGLE DRUMS

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!

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 in September??

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.

A big thank you to Heather Mackay and her Merry Band of Helpers who have all agreed to chip in and give those less fortunate than ourselves an afternoon to remember.

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

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 pellale-*

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP - ACT NOW!!!

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

Drinks and consequences…

On peut « boire un verre » (not the container but the content !) ; « boire un coup » (quick drink usually) ; « boire un pot » ; « boire un canon » (wine).

On peut boire « cul sec » (d'un seul coup, shot), « comme un trou » (sans limite, sans fin).

Et se retrouver « pompette » ou bien avec « un coup dans le nez » (tipsy) voire « complètement bourré », « beurré » ou « rond comme une queue de pelle) (drunk).

Et le lendemain, se réveiller avec la « gueule de bois » (hangover) !

FREE ONE FULL DAY FIRST AID COURSE — In French. Your chance to save a life?





The Book Review By

Elaine Morgan

"The unwilding" & "Nightingale" by Marina Kemp

I'm not a fan of novels about modern day angst but I thought these two might be OK. That is all they are in my view.!

In "The unwilding" we have 2 narrative strands and two timelines (yes – again, but it is done quite well and is easy to follow). We meet Zoe who has had a successful debut as a novelist. She has been invited to join the family of the charismatic Don who is a renowned writer at their holiday villa in Sicily. Zoe suffers from imposter syndrome as she cannot believe Don would take her seriously or enjoy her work. It's clear that he is used to having casual affairs while his downtrodden wife looks on and his children radiate hatred.

The other strand is about one of those children: Nemony (all the children have pretentious names) both as a child and as a grown up.

The holiday ends disastrously and everyone disperses. Then, years later, Nemony, now a new mother and Zoe a very successful writer meet again. It becomes clear that Zoe wants to delve into that awful holiday but Nemony is reluctant. Gradually we learn the back story of the mother and the eldest sister.

I didn't find the big reveal this entails to be either shocking or unexpected. Perhaps we are inured to the dreadful things humans can do to each other. The bits that really rang true were the descriptions of Nemony's struggles as a new mother. There is no real reason for the title of the book – or none that made sense to me.

NIGHTINGALE This is set in Languedoc in a time unspecified but before mobile phones were everywhere. The protagonist is Marguerite a young Parisian nurse with a dark secret (constantly hinted at). The village of Saint -Sulpice is full of horrible people including Jerome the old man she has come to nurse. His house is huge and remote and initially she has no car. This seems mad when she is nursing a terminally ill man.

Marguerite buries herself in her work and is closed off from people (due to her dreadful secret). Her care for Jerome is assiduous and uncomplaining. He is relentlessly mean and so neither is very realistic.

Various other characters appear, including an Iranian woman who believes she is discriminated against but is actually also unpleasant. She forces her friendship on a reluctant Marguerite.

Then there is the handsome farmer and his ugly wife, Brigitte who hates Marguerite without any reason initially. So the scene is set for all of the secrets to come out and for lives to unravel. We entered the realms of unreality about half way through when people started to change character. The ending is shocking but not in a good way.

"The unwilding " is better than "Nightingale" which was the author's first book. Both were Ok for poolside reading but I would not read anything else by Marina Kemp.

GARDEN CORNER - A PLACE IN THE SHADE

All the weather forecasts, suggested storms and more importantly rain, but nothing. Maybe you were the lucky ones, or the unlucky ones if you were unfortuante enough to get large hailstones and wind. We still continue to water the pots, vegetables and the raspberries, but the rest has to take it's chance. It looks miserable, but not everything, so anything which needs replacing will be replanted with even more drought/ heat tolerant plants. Some of the drought tolerant plants don't look so good either, crispy brown leaves, but hopefully they will recover.

I continue to water the raspberries, but they are suffering badly. We have covered them with shade netting, but the fruit is small and badly attacked by a little brown insects which seems to be looking for moisture rather than eating the fruit. I love raspberries so I am reluctant to give them up.



All my shade netting is in use, it helps to protect more leafy plants from the fierce burning sun, certainly helps to reduce the amount of watering and it just might give some protection from hailstones. The base of the tomato plants are shaded by Tagetes. This one is much taller than the usual, but they just wonderful, we haven't watered them at all.The sunflowers have also been great, suffering a bit now as they don't get watered either. They also create a bit of shade in the vegetable garden and it is so lovely to see the birds searching for the seeds.

The apples are falling early. Most I collect up and dump in the woods as I don't want to encourage the wasps and hornets. Wasp traps hung in the trees are quickly full and need to be emptied daily. Another 2 weeks and the apples might just be ripe enough for juice. The Discovery apples have already been harvested, but they don't keep so it's tarte aux pommes and maybe some juice. Thankfully, so far no nasty coddling moth, so the coddling moth pheromone traps have been effective and collecting fallen fruit will help reduce numbers for next year.

MG

NEVER LEARN TO TYPE!

Passing through Heathrow on a business trip I spent some time in the British Airways business lounge between flights and found myself sitting next to a charming lady in a wheelchair.

She was on her way to her holiday house in South America and enquired of me my destination. I said Zambia and explained a little about the project. She remarked that she knew the area well as she had been an integral part to the UNDP team extracting emerging African nations from the shadow of colonialism. She knew all of the African leaders of the time, Robert Mugabe, Jomo Kenyatta, Julius Nyerere and Ian Smith of Rhodesia . She had very well formed opinions of them all. She asked me if I had met "Kenneth"? "No, not yet" was my reply but that I was scheduled to meet President Kenneth Kaunda for a golf outing soon.! "Do give him my regards and tell him to behave" she said. I nodded my assent thinking that could be tricky!

Her name was Margaret Joan Anstee and she was the first female Under Secretary General of the United Nations. Born of humble parents but who were keen for her to be educated. She completed secondary level schooling and passed to university where she excelled at languages but who was then advised as a young girl that she should learn to type, become a secretary and find a good husband.

She ignored that advice and her advice to all girls, and the title of her published memoir ,is "Never learn to type! A woman at the United Nations" She never did learn to type!

Then it was time to catch my flight and we parted company. Ships that passed in the night never to meet again. An inspiring lady I shall never forget.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

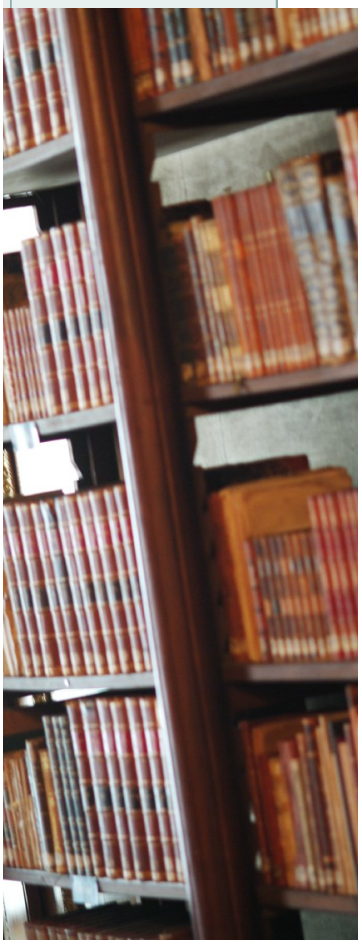


I'm no gardener, but luckily, I married an enthusiast. My efforts are confined to grass and hedges, wielding the chainsaw and heavy lifting. With one exception – I love growing tomatoes. During some research a while ago, I discovered there are thousands like me, whose only horticulture is tomato growing. I do it so that for a few months every year, we have toms that taste like toms, not bland pap.

In January this year, I began planting a variety of seeds in batches of 20. The normal germination rate is 12-15/20, but in 2025, it was 80-100%, yielding 110 seedlings perched on windowsills heated by the radiators below. Initially, they shot up, then stalled. Online surfing revealed that young tomatoes absorb nutrients through their leaves, not their roots. I found some seaweed-based liquid fertiliser, sprinkled it liberally and the plants rocketed skywards once more. It promised to be a bumper year and I gave away over 30 seedlings.

Then came May and with night temperatures remaining stubbornly below the minimum 15C required, I could not plant out. After touring garden centres in Villefranche, I located a plastic greenhouse, a kit with steel tubes, plastic joints and a reinforced plastic cover. Measuring 2m high, 2m wide and 1m deep, it looks rather like a small bus shelter. Many of the plants fitted inside and I took a chance on putting the remaining 28 outside. Next day, an icy north wind destroyed 14. Once the weather did warm up, I replaced the dead men with spares.

All of them, inside or out, just sat and did nothing. With fertiliser, Epsom salts and TLC, I coaxed them into life, but every one grew like some jungle plant, with masses of weirdly-shaped green foliage suffering leaf curl. And not a flower in sight.



The greenhouse suffered GBH in the June storms, which I repaired with dowels turned on the lathe to replace snapped plastic joints. More than once, I considered abandoning the whole lot. Then in early July came some flowers and while many have not developed, there is a reasonable crop, albeit that most fruits are badly misshapen. The flavour's good though!

We thought it was just us, but talking to friends and neighbours, practically everyone has had tomato disaster this year. One couple bought vigorous plants from a nursery; all were dead within a week. It's not only tomatoes in trouble, many fruit trees are barren too. A keen market gardener I know planted multiple rows of vegetable seeds in April. Not a single one germinated.

So what's gone wrong? A friend who a trained and knowledgeable horticulturist is at a loss as to why 2025 is a flop.

Does anybody out there know?

NW

Ed's Note: But did anyone else notice the abundance of Butterflies and other pollinators this year?

Guilty until proven innocent - a cautionary tale of French Law

On 26 July I received a handwritten notice in my letter box requesting me to attend a police interview the following Monday. There was a number to ring if you needed to change the time of the interview. I rang the number to find out what the interview would be about. The first person who answered me told me that if it was serious I would have been brought to the station not asked to attend. This was not reassuring. I called several times and went in person over the weekend to try and establish the reason for the interview. No one could or would answer so I had a tense weekend.

On the 28th I went for the interview and was told that on the 3rd of January I had fled the scene of an accident in a car park in Cahors. There was some description of what was claimed to have happened, none of which sounded familiar to me. All I could say was that I had been there at that time. I was asked if I had kept my car parking ticket. From the 3rd January to 28 July? No.

There followed a detailed interview which included my personal circumstances, my age, my earnings, my mother's maiden name and my shoe size. I did question the relevance of the earnings and was told that it was important to know if I was in financial difficulties. I was told I did not look my age which was irrelevant, especially as I felt every minute of it.

I said that I had no memory of the incident and that it was one person's word against another's. I said I was neither denying nor admitting to anything. I pointed out that my car is fitted with sensors and makes a loud sound if I approach anything too closely while reversing. I also said that it is hard to flee an accident in a car park where there are automatic barriers at the exit and you have to drive very slowly. The other driver claims she sounded her horn so I was asked if my hearing was faulty. Then I was asked if I would be prepared to do a constat so I said yes. I read and signed the report which was written on a screen. I was not given a copy of the interview which my insurance company finds strange.

I asked what would happen next and why it had taken so long for this issue to come to light with me. The answer was that it had gone through a legal procedure (I could see that the paperwork was full of legal stamps) The matter would be referred to a tribunal and the procureur would decide. This was not encouraging.

The gendarme then photographed the back of my car where there is no damage. I was told I would be photographed and finger printed. When I questioned if this would happen to the other party I was told that she was the victim. "What will happen to my record if I am not found guilty?" The reply was equivocal

On the Friday I was rung by a gendarme who said that I had been prepared to do a constat so she could now give me the details of "the victim" - (my words) I consented for my details to be passed to her. I asked what would happen next and was told that if I gave copies of the paperwork to the gendarmes they would tell the procureur not to proceed to tribunal. "And will my record be destroyed?" I was unsure if I got a yes or a maybe on this one.

Contact took some time. I spoke to my insurers and they advised NOT to complete a Constat Aimable since I was contesting the claim. They found the whole incident "bizarre" and heavy-handed. Eventually a small photo of the other party's Constat Aimable appeared on my phone. It was almost illegible. My insurers gave the incident a number and told me that it was now up to the other party to prove that I had damaged her car. The diagram of damage shows a right hand front bumper as the spot.

Obviously fleeing the scene of an accident is serious. Not knowing that there has been an accident throws a slightly different slant on this. I would hope that not much damage to a bumper could be done under these circumstances.

Needless to say all this was conducted in French. At no point was I offered a translator. I am deeply uncomfortable with the fact that my fingerprints and photo are on record for the alleged crime of hitting someone's bumper and not stopping. I am hoping that the insurers will handle it and that the issue will go away.

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/

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST

DATES TO NOTE IN SEPTEMBER

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2025

Don't forget your annual overindulgence of cake, savories and chatter at Chez Barbara & Tony Arnold, Les Roszieres, Villefranche on Friday 26h September 10.00—12.00

Vide greniers—Sundays

7th. Villefranche at Madeleine, Belcastel,

14th. Also Villefranche at Madeleine, Figeac,

21st. La Roquette, Savignac

28th Villefranche encore

FISH & CHIPS

12th ~ Fish and chips @ Cesaree Gare VF

16th— Le Café Maison, Parisot

Pre book with "Cod-en-bleu" to ensure satisfaction!!

Cinema

Wednesday 10 ~ Sunday 14th …….. Rieupeyroux Film Festival Accueil - Rencontres... à la campagne

Events

Saturday/Sunday 20-21 Days of Patrimony

!October! 10-12th Parisot literary festival

.

Concerts

Cinema Azur programme ~ Les prochaines sorties cinéma | Villefranche-de-Rouergue - CinéAzur - Vox

Saturday 27 ~ 8.00pm-9.00pm de la renaissance au baroque

4 salles pour le cinéma

QUERCY NEMA

Caylus, Parisot, Saint-Antonin, Varen

SEPTEMBRE 2025		CAYLUS	PARISOT	VAREN
	Amélie et la métaphysique des tubes	Sam. 06/09 16h		
	Kneecap VOSTFR	Sam. 06/09 18h30		
	L'accident de piano	Dim. 07/09 16h		
	Sorry Baby VOSTFR	Dim. 07/09 18h30	Mar. 16/09 17h	
	La venue de l'avenir		Mar. 16/09 20h30	
	Didi VOSTFR			Ven. 19/09 20h30
	Rock Bottom VOSTFR			Sam. 20/09 17H
	Avignon			Sam. 20/09 20H30
	Valeur Sentimentale VOSTFR			Dim. 21/09 17h
	Les 4 Fantastiques Premiers pas			Dim. 21/09 20h30

7€ PLEIN TARIF
5€ TARIF RÉDUIT (ADHÉRENTS, ÉTUDIANTS, + 65 ANS)
4€ TARIF SUPER RÉDUIT (- DE 18 ANS, CHÔMEURS, RSA, AAH)

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.
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