Bibliotheque
Anglo-Francaise

November 2025
Vol. 3, Issue 19

The Librarian



Do you still live in a “lieu-dit” or have you been granted an official number and street name as has been decreed?

We were given ours a couple of months ago so we no longer have to rely on the local postman’s knowledge or have to give directions over the phone to a van driver to get to us from wherever he may be. Except that……..if I put our new address into Google maps it places our house at the far end of the lane and helpfully tells me that it is 1.2 km from our house to our house.

I have sent an accurate location with added photos, but so far we are still residing in the car repair shop on the main road. And on accuracy, do you know about “What 3 Words”? It is a free app that uses 3 words to pinpoint any location, any of (so I read) 57 trillion 3 metre squares. It includes remote mountainsides, and oceans and is used widely in the U.K. by the emergency services, though not so much in France. Have a look, it might be useful one day should you be stranded on some mountain somewhere.

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for the late arrival of this months edition of "The Librarian" which is due to the indisposition of the "Paper Boy"!

Normal service will be restored next month—we hope!!

LIBRARY CLOSURES

The Library will be closed on

Tuesday 11th November (Armistice Day) but all are welcome at the War Memorial opposite the "Banque de France" building in Villefranche or your local village Memorial

And

Thursday 2nd December (First Aid Course) in the Library

NEW SPEED LIMIT

Just in case you have not noticed, a new 50 kph limit has been introduced between the Souyri Roundabout and the disused Calvet factory on the Rte de Montauban to protect the pedestrian crossing to the new car share car park and bus stops at the Roundabout.

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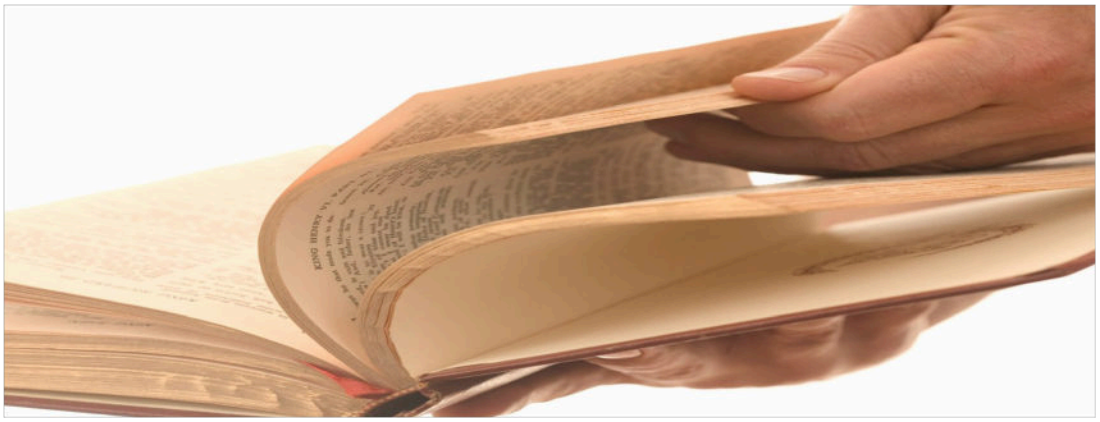
BROADEN YOUR FRENCH VOCABULARY

Soupe de légumes
Je ne vais pas vous **raconter des salades** (lie to you), ni des **bobards** (idem) dans cette **feuille de chou** (feuille de journal).
On pourrait penser que **les carottes sont cuites** (pas d'issue, situation désespérée). Mais ce n'est cependant pas **la fin des haricots** (the end, no hope).
Attention de ne pas trop **appuyer sur le champignon** (l'accélérateur, aller vite) pour aller voir **un navet** (un film peu réussi).
Il faut parfois **poireauter** (attendre longtemps) pour pouvoir **mettre du beurre dans les épinards** (améliorer sa situation financière).
Avoir un cœur d'artichaut (tomber amoureux facilement) ne fait pas de vous **une grosse légume (**oui au féminin !) **(**quelqu'un d'important, d'influent) !

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

New Date 2nd December 2025





The Book Review By

Elaine Morgan

The Echoes by Evie Wyld.

I came to this book as I had heard the author read from it during Festilitt. The extract sounded witty and insightful.

Unfortunately the book is more of a muddle than I would have liked as it has multiple timelines and viewpoints. It can be hard to keep track. Why is it that so many authors feel the need to write in this way? Do they worry that their story is not strong enough to keep our interest unless they flip about? I find it annoying and, perhaps, lazy. They write in stream of consciousness and we are expected to keep up.

The main characters are Max and Hannah who have lived together in a flat in Tulse Hill for some time when the story opens. However we quickly learn that Max has died and returned as a ghost to observe Hannah and to try and communicate with her.

We have multiple flashbacks to their lives together and separately and the recent past is the wittiest. The author was open about the fact that Max is modelled on her husband. It seems that she uses her writing to express things to him that she does not say such as "Why will you not take the bin out, or empty the dishwasher?"

In fact the relationship is fragile: they live constantly on the edge of a row. Much is left unsaid. Max wants to meet her Australian family and she is determined that he never will.

In the "Before" sections we get a gradual revealing of what has happened to Hannah. Her parents appear normal but live in a strange isolated place called The Echoes. This name of course has many layers since the site was once the location of a school for indigenous Australian children who had been forcibly removed from their families in order to be "educated and civilised" so they would make good servants for white families.

Then there are the echoes that resonate from an old black and white photo that Hannah treasures. It shows an old man and a girl in front of a house in Tulse Hill. Hannah is fascinated by how these people relate to her family. It transpires that the girl is her grandmother who lived happily in London until her parents took her to Australia: an emigration that was not a success. Talia longed to return but never did and her unhappiness is passed to her children.

The other echoes we hear are those of abuse: sexual and physical which have formed a large part of Hannah's past.

Sadly I found the novel strangely unsatisfactory. It could have been so much better if it had been pulled together with a clear narrative thread. I found it hard to get below the surface of the characters or to care much about them. Hence the impact of all that trauma and abuse was muted for me. It was a bit of a slog to finish.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT!

As a journalist, most of one's job is to meet interesting people and report what they say, but unless you are on the entertainment beat (whose hacks jealously guard their territory) you don't often get to interview the A-names of the movie world.

We were in Portugal in the 70s, covering the revolution and its aftermath. My husband, Nat ,was bureau chief of the American news agency, United Press International, and I was freelancing for the American weekly newsmagazine, Newsweek, the Daily Telegraph and a slew of others.

A message from Newsweek asked me to interview Gregory Peck for a short piece for the page dedicated to What Top People were doing Where. Peck was starring (uncharacteristically) as the notorious Nazi Dr. Mengele, in “Boys from Brazil”, which was being filmed in Lisbon. I was thrilled but terrified. What would I say to this movie icon--- Mr. Peck, I have been a fan of yours for ever? How pathetic. But, of course, that is just what I said.

I watched the filming for a while and marvelled how actors can go through the same scene so many times without losing any spontaneity and then was conducted to his caravan by his beautiful, French wife, a former journalist herself. The piece was to be a short one, thank goodness, and I managed to get enough copy despite my worries. Gregory Peck, in person was no different to his screen persona- - he radiated kindness, decency, honour and, all that is good and noble. He was taller than I had imagined and just as ruggedly handsome.

In contrast, Richard Gere was shorter than he seemed to be on screen, but to off-set that, he radiated a drop-dead sexiness.

Two decades later, working for Tme magazine, this time in London, I was sent to interview R. Gere, for, again, a short People page piece. He was opening a photo exhibition on Tibet at a London art gallery. I was more relaxed by then about celebs, and when one of Time's librarians begged me to take her along, I said okay, but don't say a word It may have been for a short item, but I still needed to have RG talk if I was to write anything. Of course, she gushed all over him for far too long. I was profoundly irritated but he seemed slightly amused, and again, in the end I had enough to write something. The librarian, far from being contrite, criticised me for not being more glamorously dressed for the occasion

Perhaps the worst interview I ever had was with Ruby Wax, the American comedienne of Imelda Marcos interview fame. I trotted along to her London home, happy in the thought this would be a cinch, since she was so bubbly, gabby and funny on TV. Luckily I had prepared a slew of questions because she was the hardest of any person I had ever interviewed. There was no reminiscing, or expanding or even an answer, to most of the questions, just a yes or no.

I was mortified, was it me? I was so pleased to find out later that a BBC interviewer had the same problem.
HG

GARDEN CORNER - STILL GROWING!

The weather has been wonderful and the garden looks great. Yves is still mowing grass and I am still picking courgettes.

At this time of year I divide many of my perennials and try to plant out all the small plants and cuttings which have been sitting outside the greenhouse all summer. This year it is difficult, very few spaces and the beds are full of seedlings and late flowers. The soil is warm and moist, where I can I find a place for another Hebe or another climbing rose ?

This year the leeks are fantastic, no sign of the allium leaf miner. Possibly the weather conditions or is it the basil we planted in between the leeks. We have taken out all the tomatoes, but the vegetable garden is full of Tagetes. The bees are loving it, but no doubt a frost will leave us with a blackened, wilted mess. The pots are still full of geraniums and tender plants, but they still look good. I have taken loads of cuttings, so all this frosted material will end up on the compost.

It is definitely autumn, the days are getting shorter, but I shall continue to enjoy the super weather and profit from all the produce stashed away in the freezer or in storage.

MG

HOW TIMES CHANGE!!

Last week the Anglican church and the Roman Catholic Church recognised the value of the other in a symbolic meeting in Rome.

I was reminded that as an 18 year old I attended a recruitment event for the Irish Defence Forces at the Methodist College I attended at the time.

During the course of a Question and Answer session the young officers told us that if we were to join the Irish Military as Officer Cadets we were virtually guaranteed promotion to the rank of Commandant (Major)!

When asked to justify the statement they explained that it was a clash between the Irish Constitution and the Roman Catholic Church. The Constitution explicitly required the state to recognise the major religions in equal measure but the rules of the Roman Catholic Church at that time, for bade the attendance of their followers from entering the places of worship of all other religions.

Given the population of the Republic at the time was effectively 95% Roman Catholic it followed that all of the major Offices of State would be filled by persons who, if they followed the dictates of their religion, could not in good conscience fulfil the requirements of the Constitution to equality.

The chosen solution to this problem was to appoint Military ADC's to all Office holders who could represent the State on behalf of their Principal and in order to be an ADC in the Irish Military you had to be of the rank of Commandant or higher.! Ergo non Roman Catholics in the Irish Military would be a "novelty" and would allow the Constitution to be honoured

As at the time the most modern aircraft flown by the the Irish Air Corps were three Alouette Helicopters and some Cessna trainers,. I hate square bashing and get sea sick, so I declined their invitation and went into business instead..

CRUNCH

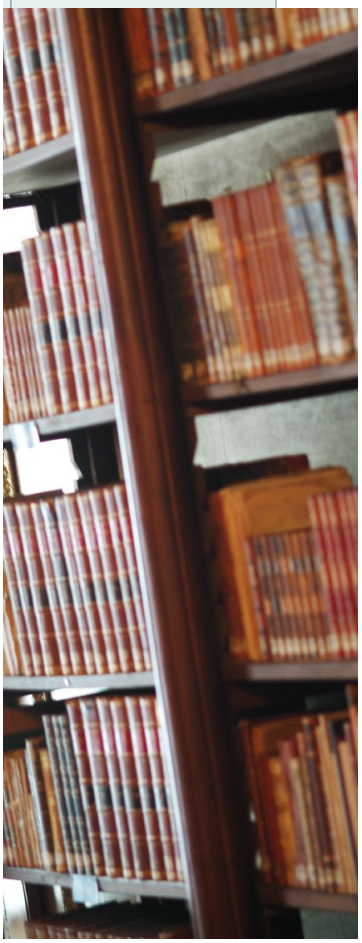


Given the driving standards in France, I've been lucky to get away unscathed for 12 years. In this, my 13th year, that luck ran out.

I reversed into a parking space outside the pharmacy in Rieupeyroux, then went in for some medicines. My wife Cathy stayed in the car. A few minutes later, she rushed in to say that someone had driven into my car. Outside, I found a Citroën stationary at an angle between the two rows of parking bays and sporting a large dent in its rear bumper. The lady driver had reversed into me, punching a foglight back into its housing and scratching the bumper. The lamp's mounting lugs had broken, but the housing seemed OK.

She was elderly and agitated, so I kept calm and as it was raining, suggested she sit in the back of my car and we could fill in the *constat aimable* I keep in the glovebox. She refused and said she wanted to drive to her home 500 metres away and fetch her son. Since Cathy had already said that if she had not been there, she was sure the lady would have driven off, I insisted we complete the accident statement. But she persisted in wanting to go home, so I warned her that if she drove away, I would call the police. She phoned her son, who came immediately. We filled in the *constat* in her insurer's office, which happened to be in the block behind my car. I had already taken photos of both cars and the accident scene.

As we had a long road trip to UK in less than two weeks, I emailed my broker ASAP, who called the insurers. They emailed swiftly with a case number, saying that IDEA Expertises would be in touch about an assessor. I emailed the BMW agent in Rodez, who asked me to call by next day. They ordered a new light, said the scratches were an easy repair, and gave me an appointment for the following Tuesday. IDEA rang, then sent me a link to choose an appointment time, which I did to coincide with my visit to BMW; they confirmed it. Without the assessor's OK, no work can be done.



Accidents, however minor, are always fraught. Keep a *constat Européen*, known as a *constat aimable*, in the car. Ask your insurer or broker, or download one from the web. It's two identical copies, one for you and one for the other driver. The top copy is pre-carboned, so you need a ballpoint and a firm surface to ensure legibility on copy 2. On the reverse of each form is a *déclaration*, where you write your account of what happened. If anyone is injured, call the police. Send the form to your insurers within 5 days. Take photos at the scene to illustrate positions of any vehicles involved, the damage to each one and also their licence plates. If you've read the recent articles on what happened to another of our members, you'll know that getting it even slightly wrong can have serious consequences.

You'll need your insurance details too. As insurers no longer send out green cards, ask your company or broker for an *attestation d'assurance*, and a green card if going abroad.

So did the assessment and repair go according to plan? Not exactly… I expected the expert in person, but nobody came. After an hour, the service receptionist checked a reminder email to me of the appointment. I had missed that it said 'de visio', which means by video. We tried calling the expertises, but without success. So I told the garage to fit a new foglight and I paid the bill. They also polished out the scratches. After a fair amount of to-ing and fro-ing, my car will now be examined post-repair by an assessor and I hope I will be refunded my costs.

Drive safely!

NW



Firstly a big thank you and welcome to Jenny Fieldgrass who has accepted my invitation to become the replacement for Harriet Joynes in keeping me advised of coming events. Jenny will be in full harness for the December issue so if you know of any event that would be of interest to our readership please contact her with your item.

Welcome aboard Jenny!!

DATES TO NOTE IN NOVEMBER and DECEMBER

- **Next Quiz Night, Friday 28th November, 18.00hrs, Les Fleurines, VdR**
- **Morning Coffee in the Library with Mince Pies, Thursday 11th December**
- **Library Closed 11th November for Armistice Day and December 2nd for First Aid Course**.

VIDE GRENIERS—SUNDAYS

Capdenac Gare, Rignac
Foisseac, Montbazens
Villefranche de Rouergue, Figeac

FISH & CHIPS

14th Nov @ Cesaree, Gare, VdR
18th Nov @ Café Maison, Parisot, - Film Night
Pre book with "Cod-en-bleu" to ensure satisfaction!!

EVENTS

TBA

CONCERTS

TBA

4 salles pour le cinéma

QUERCY NEMA

Caylus, Parisot, Saint-Antonin, Varen

NOVEMBRE 2025

	CAYLUS	PARISOT	VAREN
 La ferme des animaux	Sam. 08/11 14h		
 L'homme qui a vu l'ours qui a vu l'homme	Sam. 08/11 16h		Dim. 16/11 18h
 Muganga, l'homme qui soigne	Sam. 08/11 18h30		
 La mort n'existe pas	Dim. 09/11 16h		
 Un simple accident VOSTFR	Dim. 09/11 18h30		
 Nouvelle Vague			Ven. 14/11 20h30
 Marcel et Monsieur Pagnol			Sam. 15/11 17h
 Une bataille après l'autre VOSTFR			Sam. 15/11 20h30
 Cervantes avant Don Quichotte VOSTFR		Mar. 18/11 20h30	Dim. 16/11 15h
 Downton Abbey III : le grand final VOSTFR		Mar. 18/11 17h	

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

DECEMBRE 2025

	CAYLUS	PARISOT	VAREN
 Amélie et la métaphysique des tubes VF	Sam. 06/12 14h		
 Une bataille âpres l'autre VOSTF	Sam. 06/12 16h		
 Soundtrack to a coup d'etat VOSTF	Sam. 06/12 19h		
 Put your soul on your hand and walk VOSTF	Dim. 07/12 16h		
 Oui VOSTF	Dim. 07/12 18h30		
 On falling VOSTF		Mar. 16/12 17h	
 L'etranger VF		Mar. 16/12 20h30	
 La femme la plus riche du monde VF			Ven. 19/12 20h30
 Les cavaliers des terres sauvages VOSTF			Sam. 20/12 17h
 Kaamelott deuxième volet partie 1 VF			Sam. 20/12 20h30
 Ce que cette nature te dit VOSTF			Dim. 21/12 15h
 Les tourmentés VF			Dim. 21/12 18h

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

Cinéma des grands lacs du Lot | Salle Claude Nougaro, Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val | Salle des fêtes, Caylus | Salle des fêtes, Varen

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

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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
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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