Bibliotheque
Anglo-Francaise

December 2025
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# The Librarian



It's useful to have markers as we go along to give a sense of perspective, memories that give events or feelings a place and time. We have been here now for 20 years and a visit to the supermarket this week set me on this train of thought.

It's mid November as I write this, and lo and behold, Christmas is upon us, and the supermarket is festooned with decorations, candy striped entrances to the shelves and piles of presents and snow. It brought back to me the wonderful revelation when we first came that Christmas in France didn't start just after Halloween, and in fact didn't really start until about mid December. So delightfully low-key!

Still, shop opening hours are a little more relaxed now which means we can dive into our Christmas shopping as soon as we want.

Enjoy and a Merry Christmas to you all!

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

## LIBRARY CLOSURES

***The Library will be closed on***

*Tuesday 2nd December 2025 for a First Aid Course*

*Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)*

*And*

*Tuesday 1st January (New Years Day)*

## RESCHEDULING OF MINCE PIES, MULLED WINE AND COFFEE MORNING

Owing to the illness of several committee members, the mince pies, mulled wine and coffee morning planned for Thursday 11 December has been rescheduled to **Thursday 15 January 2026 at 1030.**

A reminder will be sent nearer the time.

## 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.*

## SOCIETY CONTACTS

- **BRIDGE:**

  *lesley.sharrock@gmail.com or pellalean@gmail.com*

- **EDITOR**

  editor.elnbafvdr@orange.fr

- **MAILING LIST—ADDITIONS / CHANGES**

  davidg.sharrock@gmail.com

## *BROADEN YOUR FRENCH VOCABULARY*

Money , money… (1)

Plusieurs mots sont identiques mais ont un sens légèrement différent.

On paye avec de l'argent (money) même si notre argent n'est plus en argent (silver) !

On peut payer comptant (ou en liquide) (cash) et on nous rendra de la monnaie (change) si besoin en pièces ou en billets (biftons : slang). Notre monnaie (currency) est bien sûr l'euro. Les pièces de monnaie sont fabriquées par la Monnaie de Paris qui est l'institution monétaire nationale de la France. On parle de devise à l'international (also currency). Ainsi la devise du Royaume Uni est la livre sterling...

***More next month!!***

***BIG THANK YOU*** *to those of you (small selection below) who took up the challenge and came to the October Quiz Night in fancy dress. Congratulations to Adrian on winning the prize for the Best Costume.*





The Book Re-view By

**Elaine Morgan**

## The Rose Field by Philip Pullman

This final book in the series of 6 has been eagerly awaited. I have not enjoyed the previous two in this series but I hoped we would get some answers with this one.

What is Dust? What is the Rose Field? What exactly is the Secret Commonwealth? Why does Lyra's daemon need to go in search of her imagination?

We are no longer in the world of adolescence: this book is more for the adult fans. The first 20% of the book is taken up with recaps and, at times, I was confused as I had forgotten much of Book II. However this turns out not to matter much as Pullman gives us a lot of exposition. He also brings in numerous characters and then does nothing more with them which is puzzling and frustrating as the first three books were much more cohesive.

The Magesterium ( which stands for the Catholic Church, I presume) is still in power and seeking to control everything and everybody. It wants to destroy all the openings into other worlds as it perceives them as a threat.

The Men from the Mountains ( standing for fundamental Muslims one supposes) want to destroy the Rose Field so they share some of the goals of the Magesterium.

Pan, Lyra's daemon, is still separated from her as they pursue different paths but with the Rose Field as their ultimate destination. Frankly this separation has caused the last 2 books to lose a lot of the charm that was in the interaction between them. Is Pullman saying that as we get older we lose contact with our soul?

Pan and Malcolm ( who featured in books 4&5) team up with some Gryphons and we see signs of the old Pullman in the imaginative portrayal of mythical creatures. However Pan then leaves Malcolm who is joined by Lyra and the witches.

Once we have all this lined up the scene is set for a big denouement in the Red Building in the desert which contains a doorway into the Rose Field. This seems to be the source of a precious and unique rose oil which enables people to see Dust. ( Don't laugh). Lyra and Malcolm enter a world that seems very much like our own. Lyra makes a speech about the meaning of it all and the story ends.

I have tried to avoid spoilers in case any of you want to read this book. This is not the tour de force of the first 3 books. Maybe Pullman has lost HIS imagination or just got tired. Originally he could afford to ask lots of questions and introduce concepts without having to provide answers. However given the nature of the questions ( what is a soul/ imagination: how do we deal with threats to the environment and to our freedom to speak and think as we wish? etc) it is hardly surprising that he has no real answers. He champions the imagination we have as children and is against big business and overdevelopment. We may agree with all of that but he doesn't tell us how to join him in his campaign beyond buying his books! Which is itself a big business!!



Season's Greetings

From

Your Committee

## *GARDEN CORNER - WINTER IS HERE!*

Suddenly I am struggling to protect my more tender plants from the cold, mulch the dahlias, fleece the purple sprouting broccoli and bring into the shelter of the polytunnel, the very small plants. I am sure there are plants that I have forgotton. Thankfully, it is fairly dry.

All those annuals which were still flowering last week, are now a blackened, soggy mess and need to be removed, hopefully material for the compost. The viburnum which was full of flowers and smelt so wonderful, doesn't look so good either, a normal frost it will resist, but -4C is a bit much. A few days ago the garden was full of bees and butterflies, they loved the flowers on the strawberry tree, but the season has come to an abrupt end, so I guess they now hibernate or die. On cold grey days like this I choose to hibernate with a good book.

Thank you English Library.

MG

# Online purchases. - Your rights



More and more people are making online purchases as it's so easy to browse from home and pay with a credit card. Whether you purchase online to in person you have certain rights. The seller must still comply with the law.

The seller must indicate where the article was manufactured and give a description of the materials used in the manufacture and a care guide.
The seller must indicate the expected delivery time and the full cost - (vat included) in euros. Any supplementary costs must be clearly specified like application fees, transport etc. If the item is reduced, the previous price should be shown.

The seller must give an indication of delivery time and inform you of any delays. After 30 days, if you have not received the item, you have the right to cancel the order and demand your money back in full. A reasonable delay is 8-15 days unless it is caused by a "Force majeure".

You should keep copies of any contact with the seller.

Payments by a bank card have added security as if the seller is refusing to return your money, your bank can start a charge back procedure. "Retrofacturation" in French.  If you pay with PayPal, they are usually very helpful with any legitimate claims.

If the article is damaged on arrival, you can refuse to accept it from the delivery agent and write the reason on the accompanying invoice. Remember to take a photograph. If it's damaged when you open it, again, take a photograph and contact the seller as soon as possible. If you phone first, follow your call with a confirmation email and photograph.

If you place an order from an overseas seller, you might be liable for duty paid on arrival. If the value is more than €150 you will probably have to pay tax.
If you change your mind after you have made your purchase, you have the right to withdraw your order within 14 days. Even if it's on sale or second hand. However, many of the major on-line sellers like Amazon, Zara, LaFayette, Cdiscount etc, deliver with a couple of days. But they do have good return policies.

If you have a problem that cannot be resolved, then contact RéponseConso T. 0809540550.
Or check out SignalConso.gouv.fr for online help.

# CRUNCH—THE FINAL RECKONING



With the car now fixed, we set off for UK and spent an enjoyable couple of weeks with family and friends. My broker kept in touch and set up a video meeting between my garage's service manager and the expertises, where the assessor was shown a whole batch of photos taken prior to the repair.

Still the assessor was not satisfied, and demanded an inspection in person of the repairs on my return. My broker fixed a meeting with the expert at the garage and gave me a time of 8am. It was a vile journey to Rodez, pitch black, torrential rain and gale-force winds. When the assessor had not arrived by nine, I called the broker. That's when I found out that I was supposed to leave the car there all day, the expert would come at some point and then I could reclaim my vehicle. I asked for another appointment and went home. For this, the third visit, my faithful chauffeuse followed behind in her Focus and not wishing to hang about in Rodez, we returned home to await the clarion call. It finally came at 4.30 and we just managed to hack through the Rodez rush hour before the garage shut. The service receptionist told me that all had gone well.

Next day, I was emailed a letter by the expertises saying I was clear to have the car repaired. My broker asked for a copy of the bill to forward to the insurers, who phoned me direct later that day. The line was terrible, and I could only understand that there was a problem with the bill, so I asked them to call my broker. The answer was that they were querying a new foglamp, as there was no mention of the lamp in the assessor's report. The expertises sent me a copy next day and there, in copious detail, was a description of the broken light and the costs of a new one.

To their credit, my insurers refunded me in full the next day, so all's well that ends well. My concern is that the expertises made a mountain out of a €250 molehill, doubtless to justify their fee. No wonder French car insurance is so expensive.

NW



# WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

HOME OF LOCAL INTEREST



## A few ideas for December.

- See tourist office websites for details of lots of Christmas events in villages..

- Did you know that on the first Sunday in the month visits to the Musee Champollion in Figeac are free? I didn't either. Try it out on 4 Dec at 2pm when there is a treasure hunt for all the family. 'SOS Momie' for grown ups and 'Thot Junior" and "les aventuriers de la parole perdue"; for tinies..

- Want an intimate fireside musical experience? The jazz music festival 'Les Jours et les Nuits de Querbes' runs a monthly small concert 'au coin du cantou' deep in the country at a house near Asprieres. Pianist Jean-Luc Amestoy will be playing on Saturday 6 December 21.00. See www.querbes.fr.

- Maybe do your Christmas market shopping at Figeac on Saturday morning 6 December, when there will be a barrel organ ('orgue de barbarie') and retro French songs as part of the Concert de Noel des Amis d'Orgues..

- Sorry, Vide Grenier addicts, you should go back under the covers this month. It's cold and there's little of interest apart from Rignac on December 14. Save your sous instead for the Christmas cracker from the pros: the "Belle Brocante" at the Halle at Figeac on the 28th December.
- Concert de Noel, Rodez, 14th December 2025 Trio E=MC2

- Grand Concert de Noel, Villefranche de Rouergue 20th December (see Poster)

## *STOP PRESS Library AGM 30th January 2026, Les Fleurines*

**J.F.**







4 salles pour le cinéma
QUERCY NEMA
Caylus. Parisot. Saint-Antonin. Varen

| 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)

# 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.
editor.elnbafvdr@orange.fr