Meet you on the dance floor

The ESC May Ball which takes place on Friday 12th May at the Château de L’île in Ostwald is fast approaching and the demand for reservations is strong. Price 75€.

The format of the evening will be as follows:

19h30 - Apéritif outside in the magnificent grounds of the Château (if the weather is kind to us!)
20h30 - Three-course meal including wine served.
   Live music from the M. Soul rock ‘n roll band playing dance music from the 60s & 70s.
   23h30 - Disco/dance music until late.

This is a very special occasion so dress up, no jeans please!

There are some rooms available at the Château at a reduced rate of 144€ including breakfast and use of the pool, spa etc.

To reserve a place at the Ball please contact Martyn Symons - Martynpaul@aol.com / Mob: 06 76 35 52 82

Link to the Château: http://www.grandesetapes.com/chateau-hotel-ile-strasbourg

Link to band: http://www.m-soul.com/
English Speaking Union Strasbourg

IN CONVERSATION WITH IRELAND’S COE AMBASSADOR ABOUT BREXIT

Thursday 27 April 2017 at 18h00
Strasbourg Press Club, 2nd floor, 10 Place Kléber

Ireland’s Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, Keith McBean, will be the guest speaker at ESU Strasbourg’s next meeting on Thursday 27 April which will focus on the potential consequences of Brexit for Ireland.

Dublin born and bred, Keith McBean was appointed to Strasbourg in July 2016. Previously he spent a considerable part of his diplomatic career in Brussels and is therefore well acquainted with the EU. From 2009 to 2013 he was Ambassador to the EU Political and Security Committee.

The decision of the UK to leave the EU presents unprecedented political, economic and diplomatic challenges for Ireland. Challenges to peace and challenges to prosperity. How it is dealt with will define the future of the island for decades to come.

Those challenges extend right across the policy spectrum, where so many areas are now the subject of common approaches and standards at EU level.

Ireland’s future interests are best served by remaining a fully committed member of the EU. A number of headline challenges have been identified and prioritised by the Irish Government, relating to the Northern Ireland Peace Process, trading and economic risks, impact on the Common Travel Area and whether Brexit could weaken the EU and/or Irish influence in it.

These issues and others will no doubt be raised during the evening. Ambassador McBean would be glad to discuss them with you and also to provide some insights into current developments in Ireland and the role of the Permanent Representation in Strasbourg.

Please register NOW at esustrasbourg@gmail.com

JOIN US ON 27 APRIL! AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Drinks and snacks will be served after the meeting.
Admission: Members €5 Non-Members €7.50 Students €2.50 -18 free

www.facebook.com/pages/English-Speaking-Union Strasbourg
www.esu.org

The ESC has been contacted indirectly by Christopher Yvon, the UK Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, asking if we can help him compile a list of UK citizens in the Strasbourg area. We think he plans to hold a meeting about the Brexit situation.

Would members with a UK passport contact Sue Moller by email (sue@suemoller.com) if you would like to be added to this list.

In fact, there is no need to be an ESC member in this case. Please tell your friends or acquaintances to email Sue Moller too, as soon as possible, if they wish to be on the list.
Future ESC events

Walk in Seelbach, Schwarzwald, 8th May

Our next ramble will be in the Seelbach area of the Black Forest. It will take 4 to 5 hours including picnic. The walk has an approx. 230 meters difference in altitude, through alternating woodlands and meadows. Afterwards we’ll make our way to a café in the village.

Meeting place: car park in Seelbach by the BÜRGERHAUS (village hall). From the motorway Offenburg/Freiburg A5, exit Lahr (Nr. 56). Drive through Lahr, Kuhbach and Reichenbach to Seelbach. At the beginning of the village, there is a roundabout. Follow the road sign (BÜRGERHAUS/CARPARK “approx. 1 km”).

Meeting time: 10.30 am on Monday 8th May
Contact Bernard on 03 88 66 32 06 or Karl on 0049 781 940 0530 by Saturday 6th May if you are planning to join us or for more information.

Newcomers’ welcome evening, 19th May

The ESC Committee is happy to invite all new members* to join us for a special Newcomers apéro at the Bar-Restaurant MANDALA (1st floor), 14 Rue du Faubourg de Saverne, 67000 Strasbourg. Meet other new members, from 6.30 pm, and get to know us and enjoy a drink and light food.

Contact Mike Wraith mike.wraith@wanadoo.fr / 03 88 61 75 49 if you would like to come along.
* New members includes anyone who joined ESC for the first time after the last welcome evening (March 2016). This event is not just for newcomers, existing members are very welcome to join us!

Editor’s note: There will be an apéro on Friday 9th June at 18:30 on the open-air rooftop terrasse of the Hôtel Hannong. Save the date.

Garden open day - Roses and Tea, 5th June

If you like to discover different rose varieties in a beautiful green setting and share a nice cup of tea, Gaby and Pierre Pfeiffer would be delighted to invite you to their garden on MONDAY JUNE 5 (Pentecost Monday) from 2:30 to 5:00 pm

2 rue de la Colline, 67550 ECKWERSHEIM (between Vendenheim and Brumath)

Contact: Please email gaby.philipps-pfeiffer@wanadoo.fr or call 03 88 69 47 60 to confirm
Visit of the Villa METEOR, 10th June

The ESC is organising a group visit of the Villa METEOR in Hochfelden on Saturday 10th June. We shall meet there at 14:00. Villa METEOR opened in October 2016 and is already considered as a must-see tourist stopover. So, come and join us to discover the history of the oldest French brewery, share some of the trade secrets of beer manufacturing and learn more about beer tasting.

After entering the lobby, you will be guided through richly documented stages during a visit of approximately 90 minutes:

- the garden and its raw materials,
- the 17th century family house and it’s intimate memories,
- the greenhouse which shelters the 19th and 21st century laboratories,
- the main courtyard and its spectacular brewhouse,
- the fermentation and maturation room where time turns green beer to yellow gold, before being filtered,
- the engine room to understand the industrial history of the brewery,
- and finally the bar where beer tasting will be commented by a barman.

You will indeed live a unique and playful experience!
If we are a group of 20+, the cost will be 7€. If not it will be 8€. Contact email: esc.events.67@gmail.com to book a place and register car-sharing interest. Meeting Place: Villa METEOR - Rue du général Gouraud, 67270 Hochfelden on Saturday June 10th at 14h00.

Guided tour on the Reformation in Strasbourg

In 2017, Strasbourg is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, a major transition in Europe that I think we are lucky not to have witnessed.

The ESC has arranged a guided tour of Strasbourg on the theme of the Reformation – the afternoon of Saturday 30th September – but this will be after the impressive exhibition at the Bibliothèque Nationale Universitaire in place de la République has closed, so this is a double notice: Be sure to see this free exhibition at BNU and email esc.events.67@gmail.com to register for a place on the guided tour. ESC Member price is 8 €, 10 € for non-members.

Exhibition Le vent de la Réforme / The wind of the Reformation.
11/3/2017 - 5/8/2017

The exhibition The Wind of Reformation - Luther 1517 / Der Sturmwind der Reformation - Luther 1517 is presented on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the 95 theses of Martin Luther. This exhibition is the result of a collaboration between the BNU, the Faculty of Protestant Theology (University of Strasbourg) and the Archives of Strasbourg, in partnership with the Württembergische Landesbibliothek Stuttgart (WLB) and the National Library of Latvia (LNB).

Enquiries to Sue Moller, esc.events.67@gmail.com
And other notices

**SWAS 2017 Awards Ceremony, 28th April**

Every competition cycle culminates in the Awards Ceremony, where the 20 shortlisted writers are invited and where they excitedly await the announcement of the winners and runners-up in each of the four categories. Additionally, the winning writer in each category is asked to read his or her story to the audience. It’s a great opportunity to share in the excitement of the announcement of the winners, to hear the winning stories read by their authors, to mingle with the finalists, judges, and organizers, and, of course, to purchase a copy of the annual book containing the current year’s shortlisted stories. All of this accompanied by light refreshments.

The 2017 Awards Ceremony will take place on **Friday 28 April 2017 at 6.30 p.m.** and will be held in the **Munsterhof** (9 rue des Juifs, Strasbourg)

Link to [SWAS Website](http://swaswebsite.com)

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**Irish night, 2nd June**

Matt Cranitch and Jackie Daly are making a return visit to Strasbourg on Friday 2nd June for a weekend of traditional Irish music, poetry and ‘craic’. Friday night’s concert will be in the Munsterhof and on Saturday there will be an opportunity to learn a tune or two at the workshop in the Connemara bar.

**More information to follow. Save the date!**

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**Salon So british ! 17-18th June**

Jo Crowe will present her Phoenix Cards and latest creations at the Salon So british ! on 17&18 June 2017 in Ittenheim.

Just an hint to the forecasted activities (in French for once, sorry):

*Le salon réunira plus d’une trentaine d’exposants autour du thème So british (Mode/ textile, épicerie fine, musique/vinyles, littérature anglo-saxonne, accessoires/bijoux, bières/whisky/spiritueux, papeterie, beauté, thés du monde, porcelaine anglaise, créateurs...). Vous y dégusterez des spécialités britanniques, pourrez participer à de nombreuses activités (beauté, tatouage, jeux en anglais, danse, exposition de voitures de collection, concert...).*

*Entrée: 2 euros et gratuit pour les enfants jusqu’à 10 ans. Brunch Dimanche : 11h30 à 14h sur réservation (2 services).*  
https://salonsobritish.jimdo.com
Events and activities review

More photos and videos will be shortly on the website (in Past events)

John Muir: Rhapsody in Green, 8th April

Mike Maran charmed the evening’s crowd with his performance of John Muir: Rhapsody in Green, a one-man tribute to the rich and storied life of John Muir, a Scottish naturalist, ideologue, explorer, and fierce proponent of the United States’ National Parks. Mike painted for us a vivid and engrossing picture of one of America’s first and foremost environmentalists, regaling the audience with tales of John’s travels along the coast of Alaska, accompanied by, at various times, Stickeen Indians, the terrier Stickeen (a gift from and named for said tribe), three unappreciative doctors of divinity and the Reverend Samuel Hall Young, Presbyterian minister and Maran’s mouthpiece throughout the play.

As Reverend Young, Maran told the story of John Muir’s search for Alaska’s glaciers, his goal to overturn the academic consensus on the formation of his beloved Yosemite Valley – to prove that the valley was carved through the land by a glacier, and not by a sinking of the valley floor. Muir and Young’s travels took them through forests, over great ice-sheet crevasses and up dangerous mountains – in one particularly hair-raising sequence Mike/Young told how he dislocated both shoulders while climbing, and was saved only when Muir took Young’s collar in his teeth and dragged him to safety.

Throughout the play Young’s retelling is suffused with Muir’s passion, vivacity and sheer earthly delight in his constant communion with nature and all its facets, examined through Young’s own faith, his relationship with God and Alaska - and doubt. In John Muir: Rhapsody in Green, Maran offers a powerful account of a snapshot of the titular Muir’s life and times - I wholeheartedly recommend this play to anyone with an interest in nature and the environment, or who would like to have one.

Sam Welch, 9 April 2017
This is a romantic true story in which unfailing love and determination triumph in a climate of racism, imperialism and domination of the African world. The story begins in post-war London where Seretse Khama, a Botswanan Prince is finishing his studies and preparing to take over the rule of his country which is under British protectorate. Here he falls in love with a young typist from Eltham. Despite parental and governmental opposition the couple decide to marry and defy all the obstacles that come in their way including Khama being held in exile in Britain for five years.

There is nothing particularly extraordinary about the love story. Télérama speaks of it as unlively and restrained but then that could be seen as just British. I found it a little too rosy and over-sentimental at times. However the addition of photos of the real Khama and his slightly less glamorous wife before the credits go up help bring out the true story element. Typist Ruth Williams certainly has a lot of guts when she is cast out of the family home by her father and treated as a slut for dating a black man. However her handsome black prince whisks her off to his tribal homeland where she naively practices Queen Elizabeth’s gloved-wave to the crowds. Indeed, according to her granddaughter, Ruth remained true to her British roots, always attired in neat blouses and skirts she would also invite her African family for tea and scones on Sunday. The real interest of the film I feel is the context of their story and one it seems few people seem to know about. It reveals a murky and shameful chapter of British post-war history. Churchill who was actually in favour of letting Khama return to his homeland but backs down for political reasons, does not appear in the film. Maybe this is because he is generally depicted in a very positive context.

Thank you to Malika for picking out and inviting us to join her for this film which is, in my view, well worth seeing.

Polly Stotz

A lovely walk in and around Westhoffen, 9th April

Westhoffen, the village selected by Monique and Polly for the first ‘mini-ramble’ of the season, was bathed in sunshine at 10h30 as the 15 of us ‘congregated’ in front of the impressive Protestant Church to hear Polly outline where the walk would take us. Monique took us to the first stop, the gates of an old Jewish cemetery, on which a plaque informed us that two famous men, Léon Blum and Michel Debré, originated from the Jewish community of Westhoffen. (follows overleaf)

By 11 o’clock we were making our way along the path up the hill between vineyards and cherry and mirabelle trees in full blossom. The views of the valleys and of Westhoffen from the different vantage
points along the trail were, on occasions, exceptional and there were many of them to enjoy throughout the walk.

We were all in ‘relax and enjoy’ mode so the pace was slow and easy, the weather was ideal and all present really enjoyed the many conversations, discussions and tip-sharing moments to which such a walk lent itself.

Many thanks to Monique and Polly for concocting this walk in and around Westhoffen and, on a personal note, ensuring it ended at the Winstub Silvergloeckel where a ‘homemade rhubarb tart’ awaited us. T’was......delicious !

Terence Boyle

Frederick’s birthday

On a beautiful day at the end of March ten of us from the English conversation group met to share a meal at the Dauphin, a typically Alsatian restaurant on the Cathedral square. It was Frederick's birthday and Christiane had bought a book of Arabian art for our favourite calligrapher, which we all signed. The varied menu meant that there was something for all tastes, from tarte flambée to giant prawns, not forgetting regional dishes. The conversation was lively and as usual covered a diversity of subjects.

Unexpectedly a notice at the exit described the local custom of hanging witch dolls in windows, particularly in country districts. It seems that in the 17th century a young girl from Riquewihr called Marie Wolf lost her fiancé and became a recluse with only her black cat for a companion. The villagers branded her a witch. One night on the ramparts when the village was under siege the enemy soldiers were terrified by her loud wails and fled. After that she was considered a heroine and witches are considered to bring luck and protection.

We left having enjoyed a pleasant lunch and looking forward to our next meeting.

Theresa Collet

Too Old To Die Young, 1st April

Getting to the gig meant we discovered a part of Strasbourg we had never been to. The Kurgarten clubhouse, next to a lovely little park, was already half full when we arrived. A great friendly place which rapidly filled up with people of all ages, from two through to oldies like us.

Once settled in, the band was quickly there to get our feet tapping and our hands clapping. Although small, the dancing area was soon packed. I think we managed to dance off some of the calories from the Flammekuche we ate.

The music was great, lots of golden oldies and musiciens, who don't often play in public, were fantastic. I personally am looking forward to hearing them again. All in all, a fun, friendly musical night.

Maggie Vaethoveny
Another night out, 6th April

Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox or PMJ as they are known played at the PMC in Strasbourg on Thursday April 6th. Several ESC members were lucky enough to be given free tickets from the promoter, me included! Having done a little research in advance I knew that they were a Youtube phenomenon, having amassed 500 million hits for their videos which feature a collective of very talented musicians, singers and dancers who rework modern pop music into different vintage genres especially jazz and swing.

The audience at the PMC seemed to know what to expect because from the moment the show began they were very enthusiastic and generous in their applause.

This was a very slick and polished production featuring some very gifted performers. They interpreted a diverse collection of songs from Guns N’ Roses’s Sweet Child of Mine to Creep by Radiohead via Britney Spears’s One More Time.

One of the highlights of the evening for me was a percussive ‘duet’ between a tap dancer and a beatboxer!

The large and vociferous audience were up on their feet dancing and clapping during the encores and everyone left with a smile on their face having witnessed a hugely enjoyable musical event. Not to be missed if they come back to Strasbourg.

Martyn Symons

Book club’s monthly review: The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

If you are interested in the subtle links involved in mother-daughter relationships, you will surely enjoy this intriguing and poignant book. As the novel bounces between several Chinese characters and time periods, there is a pure delight in discovering the multiple vignettes told in a brilliant flashback style.

The main focus, the theme of the universal mother-daughter dynamic, is highlighted and enhanced by the generational and cultural conflicts between the American born daughters in search of freedom and their overbearing Chinese immigrant mothers. The addition of a constant language barrier and different cultural traditions complicate the already conflictual nature of the relationship between the mothers and their daughters.

It is refreshing to read such a well-crafted, descriptive book built up from multiple perspectives and across different times. Taken together, the individual narratives combine to create something greater with a common thread – the ability to break out of one’s pre-ordained life to pursue a more positive direction. The question presented is whether there is room in the world for free will to alter the future for the better.

Christiane Lehmann
A nice cup of tea

Like so many Brits, I am accustomed to drinking numerous cups of tea every day. It is a habit perhaps, but a good one. My Mother told me that it was just that which kept them going through the Second World War when bombs were dropping on London. I also heard of ladies who poured out endless cups of tea in stations when soldiers were passing through. To speed things up the milk was put in the cups and then they just held an enormous teapot over the table in a continuous stream. Spillage didn’t matter; it was quicker.

It is essential to add the word “nice”. “A nice cup of tea” has entered into our language. It is the sort of thing offered to someone who is tired, or has had a shock. “Keeps you going”, we say. I have learned from French and German friends that they also say “une bonne tasse de thé” and “eine gute Tasse Tee” in similar circumstances.

My Swiss aunt first came to England in 1939, and brought with her the art of making really good coffee. It has run through the family and even my second generation cousins cannot be parted from their excellent fresh-made coffee, never the powdered kind. But they do drink “a nice cuppa” now and then.

Now the bottom has dropped out of my world. In an effort to counter a skin problem, I should not drink cow’s milk but only either almond, goat, ewe or almond milk. Don’t even mention soya milk... None of them taste right in tea, it doesn’t taste right and never will be, so I sneakily go back to cow’s milk now and then, and try to drink “tisanes” like the French, but it is difficult.

I think I’ll survive, but it will be difficult. I am rebellious by nature and I know I am going to give in... and give in... and give in. “A nice cup of tea” was the last drink my mother, my father, and my grandmother ever had, and I know I shall be the same. I wonder if there is any tea in Heaven (or in Hell)?

Sheilah Tanner ☕

Our Trip to India – February 2017

Gaby Philipps-Pfeiffer

As mentioned in the February Issue of the ESC Newsletter, here is the diary I promised to write after all the marvellous events we enjoyed!

We started our trip at Bangalore where we were invited for the wedding of the cousin of our long-standing Indian friend. The groom was Indian and the bride... Scottish. Both live in London where they met, and they decided to get married following the Hindu ritual in Bangalore where the groom’s parents live. As you might expect, this was a wedding out of the 1001 Nights from old prints. Flowers everywhere, hospitality tents with flower cascades, sparkling garments and jewels, and a (lengthy) ceremony conducted in Sanskrit (fortunately, with English subtitles!). And this ran over 3 days...

◊ Thursday, 23 February: things have become serious. This morning we flew into Chennai and were met with the big smile of Venkatesh, our dedicated driver. We aimed straight for
Pondicherry (a 3-hour drive) where Alice and Maran, the founding couple of the Vudhavi Karangal orphanage, were eagerly expecting our arrival and greeted us with hugs and kisses. Maran is a real chef, able to cook for a few or an entire 300 people crowd, and had put together – what else? - a real Indian meal for us.

We exchanged information over what happened since our last visit eleven months ago, with a lot of positive developments. We also met with Michel Berthet, the President of our society, who has been on site for six weeks, and we took stock of the current situation.

◊ Friday, 24 February: we have had our traditional Indian breakfast with Alice and Maran who, over the years, have found out that Gaby is rather on the salty side with dosas, (a large pancake served with sambar with coconut chutney and spicy vegetable soup!!) whilst Pierre prefers his pancakes with orange marmalade or local exotic fruit jams.

We had a working session with our President – and met with John Peter: although handicapped by a childhood polio myelitis which left him with crippled legs, he has become a yoga teacher both for the orphanage and Satia Special School – an institution for mentally and physically handicapped children. John Peter is now looking for funding to finish a rehabilitation project for children in his deprived neighbourhood in Pondicherry.

We then set off to the girls’ home where the headcount has risen to 84. They were busy studying since their exams have been brought forward one month early this year. We were greeted with a warm welcome and big smiles, many of them remembering us from last year's visit. In addition, a donor family would be coming on Saturday and the girls were preparing their dance programme.

The occupational building, where a stitching and tailoring workshop has been set up with professional sewing machines, is now fully operational: the girls were now stitching their own garments in south Indian style, and several of them are considering becoming professional stitchers.

We also had a look in the Observation Home located next door and for which Alice is also responsible: this is a short-stay home for juveniles in conflict with the law. It is not occupied at the moment, but has to be ready to take up eventual residents.

◊ Saturday, 25 February: after breakfast, prepared by Maran, we set off for the main market of Pondicherry. Beautiful fruit and vegetable stalls with vendors shouting to attract shoppers; at the fish market, ladies scale and fillet fish and shell shrimps; further down, the flower market abounds with flower garlands for religious offerings, a dazzling sight.
After crossing the spice market, which took us through an endless culinary trip, we reached the cloth and material district where we met Aroul, our preferred supplier. This is where it became difficult to choose among the wealth of silk, wool and cotton scarves, shawls and garments that overflowed from this tiny shop...

We took a stroll through this "small" (by Indian standards) town of a million inhabitants that has retained a human dimension and which has become familiar to us over the years. In the afternoon, we headed for the girls’ hostel where they performed a miscellaneous dance programme - even the local TV channel is there! And no festival would be complete without the delicious traditional meal prepared by Maran and served on banana leaves by the girls.

◊ Sunday 26 February: Pondicherry has a traditional Sunday market and the displays of all kinds of merchants, vendors, shopkeepers take over M.G. Road (Mahatma Gandhi Road). Here, you can find anything you need (or don't need!): plastic containers, shoes, sunglasses, dolls and toys with flashy colours, kids’ garments (with flashy colours too...) jewels, perfumes. It is the Great Bazar under scorching sun, a real experience!

In the afternoon, we headed for the Vudhavi Karangal Boys’ home, located some 10 km south of Pondicherry, where 150 boys aged between 4 and 18 gave us a cheerful welcome. They are lively and zippy, and smiling. It is Sunday, the day off – except for those who had to revise for their exams… A small group was set up to perform a dance to the sound of a drum.

We then visited the workshop in the occupational building where a team of boys was producing horse heads made from papier mâché – these will be used to perform a forgotten dance with stilts and horses.

After visiting the building, the dormitories, the terrace used to dry laundry with its view over the nearby river, the toothbrush corner and the kitchen, we came back to downtown Pondicherry to have a stroll along the Goubert promenade along the seaside, a strategic location where all Pondicherians go for their evening stroll, to catch some fresh sea breeze.

◊ Monday, 27 February: we discussed with Alice and Maran their wishes to improve the daily life of our boys and girls. Indeed, over the years we have introduced a "wish list" that allows us to make direct purchases with the money we bring with us for the items that were not budgeted but turn out to have become needed with time.
This is always a fun moment to see whose wishes are more important – those of Alice or those of Maran? This time the issue was with a potato peeler that can handle 15 kg of spuds at a time. Boys used to peel them by hand but, with the increasing headcount, has this become too time consuming? Similarly, we need a kneader (!) to make 5 kg batches of dough for chapatis, idlis and naans.

We decided to go shopping for this equipment after breakfast and we set off on autorickshaws for the supply providers’ area. This was a very interesting experience, far from the tourists’ beaten tracks. Alice and Maran had already checked out the type of equipment needed and now we just had to admire the two machines... and buy them! After some haggling and with the help of our best smiles, the deal was concluded and the hostel van picked them up.

◊ Tuesday, 28 February: this is Alice's birthday. Unlike last year, where a huge party was thrown to celebrate the 25 years of existence of the hostel together with Alice's birthday, celebrations were kept to a minimum this year, because the children were working for their exams. Yet there was a continuous flow of family members, friends and former hostel students, now grown-up and who came with their spouses and children, to visit Alice and grace her with poems, words of love and flowers.

And then there was a cooking class with Maran: for Alice, I baked a chocolate cake and an almond and orange cake. Gales of laughter livened up the kitchen that features quite different facilities from ours at home. Over the years, I have learned to choose adapted recipes and to bring with me special ingredients (this time almond powder and praline). Despite these small difficulties, both cakes turned out great, much to the joy of Alice and Maran and the numerous guests, the three girls staying at Alice's home and Alice's dad.

In the evening, we celebrated with Alice, Maran and many members of the family around a superb cake and fruit juice (no alcohol here!), after which Alice and Maran went back to the girls’ hostel and then to the boys.

◊ Wednesday, 1 March and Thursday, 2 March were dedicated to a further shopping spree for silk and cotton scarves, earrings, bracelets, necklaces etc. in various shops to prepare for upcoming sales back home, trying to match purchases with French taste...

◊ Friday, 3 March: cooking class with Maran. His dream: roast chicken and French fries! You may smile, but it is not that easy to find an entire dressed chicken in India, since it is generally sold chopped in pieces. What is a simple recipe in France may become a challenge in Pondicherry! We had to use the (mini)oven that works erratically, depending on power outages. Once the beast is in the oven, we have a go at the potatoes... which have been peeled by one of the boys (I wish I had that
kind of help at home...). Once washed and cut up into fries, they are dried on a towel and I proceed to explain the importance of the oil temperature and the two-step process – first passage through cooking oil, then left to drain and rest and, once the chicken is roasted, a second passage to make them crisp. And now, here comes Maran, beaming with his roast chicken and French fries. Bon appétit!

◊ Saturday, 4 March: as this was the week-end we went back to visit the girls’ home. Once again, a warm welcome, smiles everywhere and bursts of laughter – we shared their (very spicy!) meal. In the afternoon, we went back to the boys’ home with Alice who had an appointment with an Italian couple from an NGO: we had met them some years ago and they were now looking for a suitable project to grant a legacy. Alice had already in mind a joint school that would enrol both children from the orphanage and mentally or physically disabled children from Satya Special School, so that they can develop without being rejected by society. Since then, we have heard that this project was approved and its realisation will be supported by this legacy.

◊ Sunday, 5 March: We went back to the girls’ hostel and spent some time with them. They are proud to show us how they have learned to weave baskets and make fancy jewellery in their spare time. Music and dance performances were also on the agenda, and then I handed out chocolates and perfume samples which I have collected during the year. Each of them thanked us with a big smile, a very moving moment (the younger girls were quick to trade their perfume sample for chocolate from the older ones...)

Unfortunately, we have had to return to France, but we promised them we will be back next year. It is a never-ending pleasure to meet again with Alice, Maran, and the 150 boys and 84 girls (what a family!), to follow year after year their development and blossoming. We also witness how the money we have collected and donated over the years is put to good use to enable these children (often with a painful and difficult background) to become fully fledged, responsible adults with an education, training and a job that will allow them to find what they had been missing most: a real family. We headed back to France with heavy hearts, but we know we’ll be back soon to meet them again.

◊ The next home sales to support our action in Pondicherry will be held on SATURDAY 13 May from 2pm to 6pm and on SUNDAY May 14 from 10am to 6pm at our home:

2 rue de la Colline 67550 ECKWERSHEIM. You are very welcome!
Tel. 03 88 69 47 60 - Email: gaby.philipps-pfeiffer@wanadoo.fr

Les Enfants des Rues de Pondicherry - see our website: www.enfantsruespondichery.org

Editor’s note: I’m sorry I couldn’t include all of Gaby’s nice photos in this document. Sending it by circular email requires a maximum size. You’ll find them on the website.
Adverts

Please let the Editor know before next issue deadline if you need your ad repeated (3 times max)

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06 62 10 48 73  

Looking for English activities during the holidays?  
https://www.cours-anglais-strasbourg.fr/activites-vacances-scolaires-pour-enfants/

Interested in taking a Cambridge English exam?  
http://alphabetroad.cambridgecentres.org

For sale

1. Coffee table for lounge:

Coffee table, dimensions 100 x 52 x 48 (height), marble tablet, structure of gilded metal, in perfect condition, for sale 150€ - to be collected from Illkirch.

Phone: 03 88 66 32 06 or 06 15 55 58 09

2. Sofa bed:

Sofa bed "Clic-clac", dimensions 200 x 85 (width) (open: 200 x 105), wood structure, good condition, for sale 120€ - to be collected from Illkirch.

Phone: 03 88 66 32 06 or 06 15 55 58 09
Fully furnished house for rent

north of Strasbourg (CUS), 200 m² including a large living-room, an American kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, terrace, garden.

Situated on a canal, with direct bicycle path to the European institutions. 15-20 minutes from downtown Strasbourg by bicycle, bus, tramway or train.

For photos and further details contact rental2017@outlook.fr

CHARITY SALE “Enfants des rues de Pondichery” – Back from Pondichery

(see profile in February Newsletter and diary in this issue p.10)

Gaby Pfeiffer will organize a home sale of genuine Indian handicrafts - shawls, scarfs (Kashmir, wool, silk, cotton, etc.) jewellery, spices, Tulsi tea, on

SATURDAY 13th MAY from 2pm to 6pm and on SUNDAY 14th MAY from 10am to 6pm at:

2 rue de la Colline 67550 ECKWERSHEIM
Tel. 03 88 69 47 60

The funds will be used to build the extension of the girls Hostel dormitory.
Feel free to come, enjoy a nice cup of tea along with spiced cake and have a look at the garden.

Information

English Conversation
7 rue des Ducs, Vieux-Cronenbourg, Strasbourg
(trams A/D station Ducs d’Alsace)
Contact Frederick William-Smith for details of the next meeting.
frederickthescribe@gmail.com
Phone 03 88 27 70 10

French Conversation
The French conversation group meets twice a month, on Wednesdays, from 2 to 4pm, at the Café of Hotel Suisse, 2/4 rue de la Râpe, Strasbourg, near the Cathedral
If interested, get in touch with Colette on 03 88 20 21 17 or fredericka06@yahoo.fr

German Conversation
The venue currently alternates fortnightly in Cafe Rapp (Kehl) and Flunch (Illkirch). To know the next venue, contact Bernard Greiner: bernard.greiner@numericable.fr
Phone 03 88 66 32 06

Spanish Conversation
17 rue de Verdun, Strasbourg.
Contacts for details of the next meeting:
Alicia Verdier phone 03 88 60 72 86
or Colette Jandrok phone 03 88 20 21 17
Come and catch up with ESC members and visitors at our monthly coffee mornings at l’Escale!

The Escale community centre (address left) is our regular home and has good parking facilities whilst it is within a five-minute walk of bus routes 6, 15A and 30.

The coffee morning is always held on a Thursday morning between 9.30 and 11.30 and is free. We are always pleased to see friends, visitors and potential new members.

For further information, contact Jo Crowe at info@esc-alsace.org

The Anglican (Episcopal) Church in Strasbourg
Holy Communion each Sunday, 10:30 am at the Eglise des Pères Dominicains.
Contact the Chaplaincy on 03 69 57 40 03 anglican.chaplaincy.strasbourg@gmail.com or visit website, www.saintalbans.fr

The Bilingual International School of Strasbourg (BISS)
For full information, please contact the school at Tel: 03 88 15 28 00 - Fax: 03 88 15 28 09 contact-lucieberger@legymnase.eu

Trinity International Church of Strasbourg
Sunday service at 10:00 at the Foyer (Fellowship Hall) of the Eglise St. Louis, 12 rue du Cygne. www.trinitystrasbourg.org

ESC Email contacts:
info@esc-alsace.org
contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
esc.events.67@gmail.com
esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com
esc.film.club@gmail.com

Next Coffee Mornings
All Thursdays
9h30 to 11h30

27th April
18th May
22nd June

L’Escale Centre Socio-Culturel de la Robertsau, 78 rue du Dr François, Strasbourg - La Robertsau

The Newsletter is produced by ESC Volunteers. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of ESC or its members.

We’ll publish your announcements/advertisements each month, space permitting and limited to 100 words. Advertisements will be repeated twice only and please let the Editor know the first of the month if you need your ad repeated. This service is free to ESC Members, non-members €40, which should be included with your submission. Items for publication should be in English.

Please forward items by e-mail to: esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com
ESC Subscription Form 2017
Annual Fees: Family/Business: €30. Students/Au pairs: €12
Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December.
For further information about payment email “contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com”

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**If your details have not changed, just tick here □**
Otherwise, please complete as necessary.

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**Is this application for a**

- New Member □
- Renewal of last year’s membership □
- Past ESC member □

If you have given us an email address we will automatically send you the newsletter by email.
If you do not have an email address, or prefer to receive a printed copy please tick here □

**Postage is one of our highest costs - please consider this option carefully.**

Completed application forms should either be given to the Membership secretary, at an ESC coffee morning, or posted, with your cheque made payable to "English Speaking Community", to: Mike Wraith, 7 rue Lovisa, La Robertsau, 67000 Strasbourg

If you have used our Paypal option would you please enter the reference here: __________________

**IMPORTANT:** We will only ever use your contact details to send you information about the ESC or ESC events. We will never sell, lend or pass on your details.

For administrative use:

- Entered on DB □
- Date
- Fee paid: €
- Date
- Chq #