Of roses and man - a long standing love story...

Illustrated talk by Pierre Pfeiffer
Sunday, 3rd June - 17h00

Roses are certainly the most cherished flowers, and for centuries, man has thrived to improve naturally occurring botanical species to introduce new colours and flower structures, fragrances, repeat blooming and pest resistance.

Roses have left a deep imprint in various civilisations, being associated with coat of arms, religious purity, medical properties but also lush, hedonism and pleasure (think of roman orgies...)

Among the vast range of roses available today, you’ll certainly find your favourite that will suit your purposes, guided by your preferences in habit, flower structure and colour, fragance and... love at first sight!

Pierre is a great expert on roses, with huge practical experience. He will give an illustrated talk at Sue Moller’s house in La Robertsau.

Please email esc.events.67@gmail.com to register, as there are limited spaces.

In the Ads section you’ll find a notice on the exhibition of cut roses (ca. 200 different cultivars, all from the members’ gardens) organised by the garden society “L’herbe Folle” on Sunday, 10 June at Griesbach near Gundershoffen.

And there is an organised visit of Pierre and Gaby’s abundant garden in Eckwersheim on 16 June.
About brunches:

**Au Tivoli, May 17th - 12h00 & Gerber, June 2nd - 11h00**

Last month, I was a bit disappointed that no one seemed interested in the brunch planned for the last Saturday of April. I assume this was due to the period of school holidays starting the same week-end and I will try to be more careful next time.

I suggest ending the school year with a **final brunch at Gerber’s, 28 allée de La Robertsau on Saturday, June 2nd**. As usual, please contact me beforehand at danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr or tel 03.88.31.11.95 (BEFORE Tuesday, May 29th due to booking purposes).

In the meantime, since it had been suggested, at our first brunch, that we could alternate with having lunch at the restaurant **Au Tivoli, 71 rue Boecklin (opposite the Robertsau post-office) right after the Coffee-morning**, with volunteers on the spot, that is what I’m planning to try and organise this month, providing 4 people, at least, should be interested. But you never know in advance…?

See you soon,

*Dany Gay-Minck*

P.S. Any suggestions for next school year will be welcome...

**Newcomers welcome evening: Friday, 25th May - 18h30 onwards**

The ESC Committee is happy to invite all ‘new members’* to join us for a special Newcomers apéro at **Le Café Composé, 8 Place d’Austerlitz, 67000 Strasbourg**. This event is not just for newcomers, existing members are very welcome to join us!

Meet other new members, from 6.30pm, and get to know us and enjoy a drink and light food. **Booking will help the catering arrangements.**

Contact Véronique, veronique.heller.clauss@gmail.com if you would like to come along.

* New members includes anyone who joined ESC for the first time after the last welcome evening (May 2017).
**A Funny Valentine ‘The Story and Music of Chet Baker’:**  
31 May and 2 June (20h30) and 3 June (17h00)

It’s 1961 and Chet Baker is in jail in Lucca. Voted best trumpet player in the world only five years before, now he’s doing time in an Italian jail for drug offences. Italians strolling around the town walls stop and listen to the sound of Chet’s golden trumpet wafting through the prison bars.

Chet shared his prison cell with a storyteller. The storyteller became his friend. Twenty-eight years later, Chet shared a hotel room in Amsterdam with his friend. That was the night Chet Baker died.

Only the storyteller knows what really happened. He knows the whole story, and now he’s telling it... An unforgettable evening of jazz, junk, and genius!

![A play with music performed by Mike Maran (actor), Colin Steele (trumpet), Fraser Urquhart (piano). Directed by Patrick Sandford.](http://www.mikemaran.com)

**Venue:** Cabaret Onirique, a converted barge moored beside Médiathèque André Malraux  
http://www.cabaretonirique.fr

Tickets 20€, bookings on:  
https://www.weezevent.com/my-funny-valentine  
https://www.facebook.com/events/203829947036519

**After-work apéro at Café Brant: Friday, 15th June - 18h30**

Our monthly after-work apéro will take place at Café Brant situated at 11 place de l’Université, Strasbourg on Friday, 15th June as from 6.30pm.  
http://www.cafe-brant.fr/

No need to register, just come along any time after 18h30 and join in the conversation. A warm reception is assured. As usual everyone pays his or her own way and some finger food will be provided by the ESC.
**Garden potluck: Thursday, 7th June as of 12 (noon)**

I would like to invite you to have a potluck lunch/picnic in my garden next to the Bruche river on Thursday, 7th June as of 12 (noon).

The address is: 5 rue de Mollkirch, Strasbourg Montagne Verte

Buses: N° 2 and N° 1, stop Gliesberg.

You can catch these buses either at the tram station Montagne Verte, or N° 2 at Gare Centrale and N° 1 from Robertsau (but that one is a long journey!).

If it should rain, we can always find refuge in my apartment. It'll be a bit cramped, and the cats will want to come and say hello, but it can also be fun!

I only have enough chairs for 10 people! So please advise at ckeget@club-internet.fr

Please let me know what you intend to bring so that we can manage the whole thing. I will provide a fruit salad, bottled waters, juices, and a bottle of red wine. And coffee and tea of course.

*Christine Secouet*

Would I dare say a potluck gathering is to be compared with the ESC itself?
You never know how many will turn up but be sure they will be good fellows. You’re never quite sure what you should bring, well make it simple and let it mingle with what the others can offer.

Surely you’ll think of that recipe that waited for a good opportunity to be given a go or, better, the one that never fails to attract everyone around the table.

You wonder if the dishes will be savoury, spicy or sweet. Well, it takes all sorts, doesn’t it?

The ESC is rich in its diversity and with each contribution one can make, should it be just once or on a regular basis.

If you would like to host a future lunch or dinner, or help in the organisation of an event, feel free to contact the committee or email: contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com

Your Editor.

**Save the date: ESC annual Barbecue on Sunday 1st of July**

The venue will be l’Escale in La Robertsau and we will be getting into the swing with an apéro in the garden starting at noon with live music. Food will be served from about 12.45 onwards.

The ESC will supply all the meat, drinks and coffee. We ask each family to contribute either a salad or dessert (to feed 6+ people).

The subsidised price for members is: Adults 10€; 10-18 years 5€; free for under 10s.
**Garden open day - Roses and Tea: Saturday, 16th June - 14h30**

If you would 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 SATURDAY JUNE 16 from 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm at 2 rue de la Colline 67550 ECKWERSHEIM (between Vendenheim and Brumath)

Please call 03 88 69 47 60 or mail to gaby.philipps-pfeiffer@wanadoo.fr to confirm.

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**Summer walk Wangenbourg Engenthal: Sunday, 24th June**

You are invited to join us on our circular walk at Wangenbourg Engenthal known as ‘La Suisse d’Alsace’ and see the castles of Wangenbourg and Freudeneck. 3-4 hours with picnic. Details to follow later. Hope to see you then.

Monique and Polly.

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**English Conversation**

chez Frederick & Maryline William-Smith  
7 rue des Ducs, Vieux-Cronenbourg, Strasbourg  
(trams A/D station Ducs d’Alsace) 
for details of the next meeting, contact Nigel Permaul nigelpermaul@gmail.com Phone 06 75 63 89 98

**French Conversation**

The group meets twice a month, on Thursdays from 2 to 4 pm, 
for details of the next meeting, contact: Colette Jandrok fredericka06@yahoo.fr Phone 03 88 20 21 17

**German Conversation**

The group meets fortnightly, on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 3.30 pm, in Café Rapp, Haupstr. 104, Kehl. 
Contact: Bernard Greiner bernard.greiner@numericable.fr Phone 03 88 66 32 06

**Spanish Conversation**

Colette is trying to organise a new Spanish conversation group. 
If you are interested, please get in touch with her: 
Colette Jandrok on 03 88 20 21 17 or fredericka06@yahoo.fr
Rambling around Durbach in the Black Forest

On Sunday, 15.04.2018, eleven people met at the public swimming pool in Durbach from where the tour started. In perfect, sunny weather we walked along the river, past the hotel Rebstock, then among blooming cherry trees orchards past the Sägewerk to the Bildeiche, where we stopped for a picnic lunch at the Wanderhütte.

We walked on through vineyards to Hummelswald, then to the Brandstetter Kapelle, crossed the main road, and walked to Schloss Staufenberg, from where we had a good view of the surrounding area and the Straßburger Münster.

From Schloss Staufenberg we descended the mountain to Durbach, and finished the day at the Café Müller, after which we returned to the cars.

Film club review: Kings

"Kings" is about the time in Los Angeles during the Rodney King trial, 1991. I remember being in high school during that time, and I remember the racial tension that was felt around the country. How shocked everyone was when the policemen were found not guilty, the riots that came after.

The film did a great job of capturing that tension and fear. There were a lot of characters so it was a little difficult at times to know who was who and what they were all doing. Halle Berry played a mother who seemed to be a foster mom, who also baked and delivered cakes.

The film portrayed the difficulty at times to always do the right thing when there is so much peer pressure to do otherwise. The story was a little chaotic at times, but if you could see past all of that, I thought the movie was good overall.

Jill Butryn
I used to give up everything I started. Poems and stories, of course, but also simple daily missions such as tidying my room.

When I heard of the SBX contest, I was pretty sure that even if I signed up I would never find the motivation to finish my so-called story. But still, I talked about it to my teacher. And she encouraged me to enter the competition. So, I did. First, I had to find a synopsis. It wasn’t hard, considering that I always have pieces of scenario playing in a corner of my head. But, I intended this one to have a special dimension. To tell a story not only for the delectation of writing, but also to create a picture in the mind of the reader. I wanted their breath taken away. I wanted a sweet fall, and a beautiful ‘wow.’

I’ve always seen writing as a liberation. Because it allows artists to communicate whatever they have in mind, in every way. And more important, it helps people to put words on their emotions and feelings. Writing is essential. It makes you human, it leads you deep down into your guts to see what you really wish to scream to the world. Of all arts, literature is to me the most demanding for the reasons that there are no drawings and sounds. Just ink to the extent of sketching reflections. Writers have to live their stories, and they do it by themselves, because no one can understand it as they achieve.

I lived mine, and sent it.

My win was not anticipated, and wonderful. I remember being on the scene, a bitter and soft apprehension between my stomach and my heart. I was persuaded that I would be the first name to be called. I didn’t have an inch of hope. Every time someone was called, I felt goose bumps. And then, I just won. I couldn’t help but smile, because it painted my heart with bright colours, it showed me that I was able to produce something and get recognition for it. I had the ability to touch people. And words gave me this invaluable, universal and mighty power.

**Anne Carbiener**
Winner of the 2017 Non-Native Under Eighteen category with her story “Saturday”
The Ministry of Utmost Happiness by Arundhati Roy

How to tell a shattered story?
By slowly becoming everybody.
No?
By slowly becoming everything.

As usual there were mixed feelings about this long and dense book – beautiful, confusing, too many characters, self-mocking, too far-ranging.

I had chosen it because Arundhati Roy was invited by Librairie Kléber for one of its author sessions and they had such high expectations that they hired the Opera House, rather than the Salle Blanche above the shop. I went along knowing next to nothing about Roy, and was impressed by her spirit, her forthrightness and the preface that she read us, about vultures becoming extinct in India because of the antibiotics in the cow carcasses they live off. This seemed to me an unusual opening to a book.

Roy talks about a badly dysfunctional country – indeed, subcontinent – but with intimacy, really getting to know her characters and how they think, what drives them, and how their position in the cast system rules their lives. We also experienced the tragedy of the indulgent ongoing atrocities in Kashmir, perpetrated it seemed, for the pleasure of the police and soldiers. Roy really does become ‘everybody’ and ‘everything’ in her writing, and she records with wonderful objective but sensitive observation.

It is a slow read and one must have faith that Roy has a plan: it is only as we reach the end of the book that the multitudinous threads of story become a meaningful whole. The advantage of the book group is that one continues to read beyond one’s natural inclination and, if nothing else, the reader can appreciate the author’s intentions. So it was for me, a slow reader.

We were lucky to have Leena at the meeting who could clarify many questions we had about life in India, especially for the ‘untouchables’, the Dalit cast, and the Hijra, a third sex who live quite separately from conventional society, and yet whose presence is considered auspicious at weddings and births.

It was agreed that perhaps Roy had been too ambitious and should have written two stories, not try to interlink them into one. However, the group was generally pleased to have witnessed so much of Indian life, both beautiful and stressful.

But no-one had any suggestion as to the meaning of the title!

Sue Moller

The group’s next book is “War in Val d’Orcia: An Italian War Diary 1943-1944” by Iris Origo and will be hosted by Marilee Karl on Monday 14 May. All ESC members are welcome to join the group. Contact Marilee Karl at marilee.karl1@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

The following book will be “A Girl’s Guide to Hunting and Fishing” by Melissa Bank, date in June to be confirmed. Mike Wraith will be the host: mike.wraith@wanadoo.fr
Mithra

The archeological museum of Strasbourg is a great place to visit, especially now during the exhibition « Vivre à Koenigshoffen à l’époque romaine, du 1er au 4e siècle après JC » which takes place until 31/08/2018. Various interesting visits and conferences are organised on this topic. I followed one which was really exceptional regarding Mithra.

A sanctuary of Mithra has been found in 1911 in Koenigshoffen during the archaeological excavation which took place when the Church Saint-Paul was built. Koenigshoffen was the Roman « Vicus » and the roman camp was set around the cathedral of Strasbourg. Since it was an important historical vestige, the rest of the discovered sanctuary has been transferred to the Archaeological Museum of Strasbourg.

But who is Mithra, what is it about?

There are only a few original written texts mentioning it. Some famous Roman writers like for example Pline l’Ancien, Strabon and Tertullien gave some details. The main source of data for the archaeologists is the iconography, such as the low reliefs, stones, frescoes, sculptures on monuments, paintings, ceramics, etc.

We know that the Mithra religion has reached West Europe with the Roman army who carried it from their conquest in the Eastern countries, but also through the official administrators, the merchants and the slaves. The highest peak of celebration of this monotheist religion was most likely during the 1st and 2nd century after JC.

Mithra was an Indo-Persian god but the celebration rites are borrowed from the hellenist Roman tradition.

The most popular representation shows a tauroctony.

A young man, sitting on a white taurus, pressing its garrotte with his knee, ready to kill the taurus with a knife. The young man, representing the god Mithra, wears Persian clothes such as the phrygian hat and the type of « kandys » trousers.

On both sides, you can see young boys, one holding a torch towards the ground and the other towards the sky : these two boys are
the representation of Cautès and Cautopatès, one representing the sunset, the other the sunrise, symbolising the East and the West.

In most cases, the iconography associates the cock (symbol of the morning) and the owl (symbol of the evening). On the top left side, the personification of the sun, with a man on its equestra quadriga on a rock, representing the quadriga of Sol coming as the morning star and as pendant, on the right side, a black taurus leaving with a man on its biga, symbol of the star of the evening: the moon.

Below, on the left side, is a raven perched on a rock, considered as the messenger of the sun which has given the prescription of the immolation of the taurus. Finally, on the opposite side, the eagle. There are also two heads, symbolising the wind.

The dog comes to lick the blood of the taurus which flows into a crater, the snake slithers to reach the wound of the taurus and the scorpio pinches the testicles of the taurus.

After the sacrifice of the taurus, a banquet between Mithra and the god Sol was organised, named as a «mithrical banquet ».

This mysterious scene is surrounded by rocks, which shows that the tauroctony is taking place into a cave. The cave symbolises the internal cosmos of the word. The sanctuaries of Mithra can also be found near water, such as the groundwater.

Regarding the place of the sanctuary:

The mithraea are not temples but look very similar since they were build according to the antic « basilical style». They all have a common room for meetings, banks (podia) allowing members to look while they were lying on it towards the representation of Mithra located in a niche or the arcosolium in the front near the altar. As the god Mithra (associated to Sol invictus, the solar God) killed the taurus in a cave, this explains why the Mithrae are located in caves, in any underground or at least leaning to a rock. The ceiling of the roof was painted with all kind of stars (like the Great Bear or the Dragon) as an allegory to the power of the stars, the sky as well as the infinity of heaven.

Membership was open to anybody, except women. Nevertheless, an initiation rite in seven steps was requested. The highest level is named as « Pater ».

Since this religion was contemporaenous to Christianity some analogies can be found:

The Mithraeum is not a place destined to the devotion of a god (like in the temples of the Greeks and Romans) but a place of communion between god and the humans. The religion of Mithra meant a spiritual and moral elevation of its members to reach heaven, for the salvation of the humanity;

The room for the banquet is linked to the Last Supper. The meal was also composed of bread, water, wine and sometimes meat;

To become members people had to do the rite of initiation, as Christians must be baptised. The head of the community was called the Pater, like the priest in the Christianity;

The sacrificed taurus is not offered to the God, but for the salvation of the world and the people, the sacrifice is aimed at reinforcing life, solidarity between people against death. A link can be made with the sacrifice of Jesus who died to redeem Humanity;

The blood of the animal was also collected in a crater, the blood of the taurus being the symbol of immortality. The presence of the
The scorpio who eats the testicles of the taurus is a symbol of regeneration or, to a certain extent, resurrection. The eaten meat of the taurus is a symbol of a continuation of the tauroctony, helping in getting stronger against the enemies of life.

The presence of Cautopatès shows the day and night, life and death with resurrection but also the circle of life.

The place of the most initiated members is like in church: the priest is in the choir, the nearest place to the altar and the representation of the scenery of Mithra.

There is also a link with December 25th, but this is another story!

The Mithraeum of Koenigshoffen ceased in 260 after JC, most likely after the invasions, but also due to further destructions by Christians.

The decline of the Mithraism started with the Emperor Constantin in 341 after JC when he became a Christian. Actually he was more against the bloody immolation than against the Mithraism religion itself, which really ended in 392, with the Emperor Theodose who was fully against this religion.

Fabienne Martin

https://www.france.tv/france-2/d-art-d-art/382327-mithraeum-de-sidon-anonyme.html
Building Bridges - The Franco-British Young Leaders programme

Meeting Tom (below) and James at the UK-French summit was both exciting and reassuring. They told me about the French and British governments’ positive encouragement of skilled young people from each country to actively engage and influence the powers that rule our countries. Here is a brief taster but the website will tell you much more.  

Sue Moller

Whilst building a physical bridge across the English channel may be technically very challenging, a new team of Young Leaders from France and Britain are building metaphorical bridges in every other way: cultural bridges, scientific bridges, business bridges and humanitarian bridges. The Franco-British Young Leaders programme (1) was created by the UK and French governments in 2017 and selected 33 young people from all fields of human endeavour from politics, culture, business and my particular area of expertise in science. Its objective is to build a generation of 21st century leaders who will keep the Franco-British relations at heart, with a give back/give forward ethos at its core.

I became involved when I was made aware of the application process from a colleague and encouraged to apply as a result of my work in space science. I work on astrophysics and help to lead the European Space Agency’s next cosmology mission called Euclid (2): that will make a map of Universe over 75% of the sky, and back in time over 75% of the age of the Universe. Leading in this field means managing thousands of scientists over decades in a technically and sociologically demanding environment, and maintaining a very close relationship between France and the UK.

The young leaders programme runs two residencies each year: one in London and one in Paris. The inaugural residency was in London in the spring of 2017, and we look forward to the next one in Paris in spring 2018. Since then several activities have started for example an initiative to help the Calais migrant situation, and the development of a 2040 vision for Franco-British relations. As well as activities we have had the opportunity to interact at several high profile events such as a breakfast with the UK foreign secretary, a meeting with the French ambassador in London, and the attendance of UK-France summit to meet the UK prime minister and French president.

The Young Leaders programme will grow over the years, where each new year will recruit a new cohort of members to the family, whilst maintaining a close knit network from the previous years; stitching together our societies and building bridges to the future.

Dr Thomas Kitching  
Mullard Space Science Laboratory  
University College London

1) http://francobritish.org
2) Euclid - http://sci.esa.int/euclid
Roses Galore at Griesbach: Sunday, 10th June

If you are interested in roses you cannot miss this!

herbefolle.asso-web.com

The garden society “L’herbe Folle” organises on Sunday, 10 June at Griesbach near Gundershoffen an exhibition of cut roses (ca. 200 different cultivars, all from the members’ gardens) as well as visits to private gardens in the vicinity.

Seasoned gardeners and complete beginners alike are welcome and have the opportunity to interact with local gardeners to learn about their experience with various roses, both antique and modern, coping with soil conditions, climate and disease.

They will also be happy to provide you with advice on pruning, fertilization, disease control, training of climbers, etc.

Venue: Salle Communale 3, rue de la Dîme, Griesbach-Gundershoffen from 10 am to 6 pm.

You can also contact Gaby and Pierre at 03 88 69 47 60 or gaby.philipps-pfeiffer@wanadoo.fr who will be at the roses exhibition.

We’re looking for some help from an English mother tongue babysitter to pick up our 7 year-old daughter from school and speak English with her on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please text your name and number to: Paul Freeman (near Avenue Des Vosges)
Tel: 06 62 30 22 35

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Coffee Mornings
All Thursdays
9h30 to 11h30

17th May
14th June

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

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, email contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com

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

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

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

ESC Email contacts:
contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
esc.events.67@gmail.com
esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com
esc.film.club@gmail.com
Newsletter Publication – Deadline for next edition: Sunday 3/06/2018

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 by 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 submission. Items for publication should be in English.

Please forward items by e-mail to Catherine Manini at esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com