**Special Quiz and Apéro evening:**
**Friday, 8th March - 18h30 onwards**

To celebrate International Women's Day 2019, the ESC is going to hold a light-hearted quiz which will reveal some of the fantastic achievements of women across the centuries.

The venue is the Pax Hotel, 24 rue Faubourg National (opposite Le Tigre).

Why not do a little research to prepare yourself and come along on the night to see how much you know?

The evening will be kicked off with a short talk by a local female high achiever and there will be a relevant prize to the winning team or winner.

The evening will start as an apéro at 6.30 pm: as usual guests buy their own drinks but the ESC is pleased to offer some planchettes. The talk will be at 7.30 pm and then the quiz papers will be distributed. We hope the quiz will take 1-1.5 hours and it is free to all comers.

Come in teams, compete individually or create a team when you arrive.

For enquiries, contact sue@suemoller.com, 06 71 97 24 06

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Coming soon
28/02 Coffee morning & AGM 🗳
08/03 Special quiz and apéro💡
23/03 Tour of l'Aubette 1928🎨

Save the date
24/03 Walk 🌲
27/04 Namibia at Musée Würth 🌴
27/04 SWAS award ceremony 🎉

ESC Email contacts:
contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
esc.events.67@gmail.com
esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com
ESC Annual General Meeting: Thursday, 28th February - 10.30 am

will be held at L’Escale, centre socio-culturel de la Robertsau, 78 rue du Docteur François
(the bus stop is at a five-minutes’ walk from bus routes 6, 15A and 30)

Agenda
1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting (held 18th January 2018).
3. Matters arising from previous minutes.
4. President’s Report.
5. Treasurer’s Report.
7. Confirmation of new auditor.
9. Strategic Review.

2018 past activities, the results of the recent ESC Membership Survey as well as the strategic review progress will be presented in details and illustrated with a diaporama. Your feedback will be more than welcome. The outcome will appear in March newsletter.

10. Other Business.

... and Coffee morning - 9h30 to 11h30

There will also be time to enjoy our monthly coffee morning. Don’t miss it!

For further information: contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com


English Speaking Community Newsletter
February 2019
Issue 450

Upcoming events

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<th>English Conversation</th>
<th>French Conversation</th>
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<td>chez Frederick &amp; Maryline William-Smith 7 rue des Ducs, Vieux-Cronenbourg, Strasbourg (trams A/D station Ducs d'Alsace) on alternative Fridays from 2 to 4pm contact: Nigel <a href="mailto:nigelpermaul@gmail.com">nigelpermaul@gmail.com</a> Phone 06 75 63 89 98</td>
<td>The French conversation group meets twice a month on a Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30, at the Tea Room « Patrick » 5 rue de Verdun, Strasbourg. If you are interested get in touch with Colette at <a href="mailto:contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com">contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com</a> Phone 03 88 20 21 17</td>
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<th>German Conversation</th>
<th>Spanish Conversation</th>
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<td>The German group meets fortnightly, on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 3.30 pm, in « Café Rapp », Haupstr. 104, Kehl. Contact: Bernard Greiner <a href="mailto:bernard.greiner@numericable.fr">bernard.greiner@numericable.fr</a> Phone 03 88 66 32 06</td>
<td>The Spanish conversation group plans to meet once a month on a Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30, at the Tea Room « Patrick » 5 rue de Verdun, Strasbourg. If you are interested get in touch with Colette at <a href="mailto:contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com">contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com</a> Phone 03 88 20 21 17</td>
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The Spanish conversation group’s next meeting will take place on March 6th at 2.30pm at « Patrick » 5 rue de Verdun. If you are interested, please advise Colette (see details above)

Are you interested in the German language? Then come along or call Bernard! The German conversation group's next meeting will be on March 19th, at 2 pm, at "Café Rapp", Hauptstrasse 4, Kehl (near Tram D - 'Rathaus' station). (see full details above)

Save the date!

24/03 Spring walk with Polly

27/04 Namibia at Musée Würth

27/04 SWAS 2019 award ceremony
Cultural Tour - l’Aubette 1928: Saturday, 23 March - 14h30

For the next cultural event, we invite you to a guided tour in English of the Utopian modernist rooms in the Aubette, as designed by Theo van Doesburg, Jean and Sophie Arp, created in 1928 and following the destruction of the interior of the building during the Franco-Prussian conflict in 1870. It was referred to as “the Sistine Chapel” of the modern art.

This visit is of particular interest because one of our ESC members, Donatella Andrei, is the granddaughter of Paul Horn, the architect who commissioned the redesign of the interior of l’Aubette and project managed its implementation.

After the tour, Donatella invites you to tea at the Hotel Hannong* which her grandfather built on the remains of the Hannong faience factory and which is still managed by her cousins. Today there is a display about the history of Hannong and l’Aubette.

Tour Cost: 8€ per adult (subsidised membership price) – 10€ non-members

Time/Date: 14h30 on Saturday 23 March 2019: For tour, meet at 14h15 in passageway between Bouchara and Marionnaud

* 16h30 for tea at Hotel Hannong, 15 rue du 22 novembre, 67000 Strasbourg (5 minutes’ walk from l’Aubette)

Please register both for tour and tea at esc.events67@gmail.org

Brunches or not brunches?

Due to low response to her previous invitations for a brunch on a Saturday at Gerber, Dany would like your feedback at danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr.

She would be interested to know from potential participants what their expectations and preferences would be regarding this activity.

The next provisional date for an ESC Brunch would be the first Saturday in May (4/5). Alternatively it can be a lunch at the end of the coffee morning.
Do you love Burns Night as I love it?
With all the forces of the soul and the enthusiasm of the youth...

I had better explain something. We have quite a famous phrase in Russia about theatre. I will try to give a translation. «Do you love the theatre as I love it, that is, with all the forces of your soul, with all the enthusiasm, with all the frenzy, that only ardent youth is capable of, while it is so greedy and passionate for the impressions of daintiness and grace?»

But it always comes to mind when I talk about Scotland, Scottish culture, traditions, music, literature. Especially, if we go from abstract music and traditions to Robert Burns night, when millions of people around the world talk about "Rabbie" Burns, the Bard of Ayrshire. They also dance and sing, eat haggis, drink whisky. What is more important, we all feel a bit Scottish, and we love it. What is even better, we all become romantics and poetry lovers. Well, Robert Burns is a pioneer of Romantic literature, so we know.

Just to remind first time readers (yes, there are always newcomers in Alsace): Robert Burns, farmer's son from South Ayrshire, was born on January 25, 1759, and in memory of him Burns suppers are held on or around the date.

As for the theatre, Burns Supper 2019 brought something new (maybe a new tradition?) when it was time for Scottish Country Dancing group to show first demonstration dance. The name of the dance Trip to Bavaria gave us another reason to make a bit of theatre and to laugh together with the other guests. All 8 dancers appeared in traditional Bavarian costumes - Dirndl Costumes for the ladies and Lederhosen for the gentlemen. Three gentlemen out of four were actually ladies, but Sheila Roberts and her friends found Lederhosen for all the enthusiasts of the dancing. For the first few days some of us had a hope that maybe the idea with the costumes was a joke. But then Sheila said: «I am deadly serious about doing the dance. I was in the Black Forest yesterday and have a promise of as many dirndls and lederhosen as we might require». What can you say after that?

The most difficult thing was to keep it in secret until the traditional January event in Offendorf.

Burns Night is always theatrical, a bit dramatic, very humorous, especially when our beloved speaker Alasdair Hunter reads Address to the Haggis with the knife in his hand, ready to cut the Haggis’ belly.

Now I can come back to the beginning of the text and say that finally the phrase about love, theatre, Burns Supper is not just words for me. And maybe for those who were in Offendorf for the first time, was it also a moment of declaration of love to Robert Burns and all the Scottish world on his behalf.

The original phrase belongs to a Russian literary and theatre critic, publicist of Westernising tendency, Vissarion Belinsky (1811-1848). If you like British playwright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard, then it's interesting to know that Belinsky is one of the principal characters in his trilogy of plays about Russian writers and activists The Coast of Utopia (2002).

Tanya Ashcroft
Burns Night

Our Apéros at Le Tigre and at Le Cube Noir
Tagora's Alice in Brexitland

Knave of Hearts stole tarts  
The Mad Hatter

Three Alices

Knave in court

Quietening Alice

Photo credit David-Michel Muller (davidmichelmuller@noos.fr)
**Book club's monthly reading: “Old Filth” by Jane Garden**

Old Filth by Jane Gardam had been recommended to me by my Dutch friend, also member of a bookclub in the Netherlands. I loved it.

The first chapter is surprising. Straight away we dive into The Inner Circle, a London club restricted to lawyers. Gossiping judges comment upon the lives of two old colleagues, Sir Edward Feathers, nicknamed Old Filth, and Sir Terence Veneering. The club, the old gentlemen... So very British!

In fact, as she humorously states in her introduction of the book, Jane Gardam was inspired by the brief encounter she had with a real senior judge, and gives away the meaning of the nickname- "Failed In London Try Hong Kong".

Did Old Filth fail or succeed? Was he capable of love, but also of cruelty? Where was his home?

Reading the chapters titles gives one a hint... one travels a lot! all over the ex-British Empire, from Home to distant places such as Kotakinakulu... But which is the real home for this Raj orphan? Even for his nearest circle, Eddie remains a mystery.

At a time when colonies have disappeared, in her well documented story, Jane Gardam shows how identity problems derive from the uprooting of families and the estrangement between parents and children. This theme appeals to us today when migration has become an important social and political issue.

As Jane Gardam recommends, if you wish to know more, go on reading the other two books part of the trilogy: "The Man In The Wooden Hat" but also "Last Friends".

*Claudine Marbach, Jan. 20 2019*

**Interested in joining the book club?**
**Contact Joelle:** joelle.glore@gmail.com
Member Profile – Olivier Goffin

Olivier and Joelle came to Strasbourg in 2013, part of a life that has taken Olivier across the world in many roles for the brewing industry. You can look at Olivier’s Linked In page for his extensive cv. Olivier and Joelle are now very present members of the ESC, often circulating at the Friday-night apéros.

Olivier’s family background is Belgian but for five generations they lived and worked in the Belgian Congo (later called Zaire and now Democratic Republic of Congo): his great grandfather went out to build a 2,000-km railway line.

Olivier went to school in Belgium but following his Masters in biochemistry engineering, he specialised as a Master Brewer. On completion of his education, Olivier had a choice between a year’s military service and three years as a civil servant ‘in the field’. He returned to Congo and briefly Gabon, bringing European expertise to breweries there. This time was particularly interesting but challenging because he was given significant responsibility and had to learn much more quickly than if he had entered a major brewery in Belgium.

By the late 1980s, however, Congo was becoming volatile, added to which Olivier’s newborn had medical issues and the nearest airport was 10 hours’ drive away. While it had lasted, life was pleasant and quiet, the expat world was enjoyable at the nearby club with tennis, swimming, etc. Following these years in Africa, Olivier has repeatedly reconnected with people he worked with in those early days, since the worldwide brewing industry is rather like a very extended family.

I quizzed Olivier about his philosophy for the drinks industry as many citizens seem to have a love-hate relationship with alcohol. Olivier assured me that the industry is very aware of its responsibilities and has particularly addressed these in the last 20 years, encouraging more responsible drinking. Processes have also been improved: whereas 30 years ago, 1 litre of beer took 10 litres of water to be produced, today only 3 litres are used.

Apparently, 2 billion hectolitres* of beer are brewed per year worldwide and I wondered how much is being done regarding recycling the plastic and glass waste, once the drink is consumed. Olivier says plastic bottles labelled PET are 100% recyclable, but of course, it is necessary that users do recycle them: the brewers cannot manage this. Only 3% of beer across the world is filled in PET plastic bottles, 9% in draught keg, 30% in cans and 58% are in glass bottles.
Nowadays, Olivier brings many years’ experience to his role as Vice President Global Category - Beer, Wine & Spirits at Sidel, “the leading global provider of solutions for beverage, food, home and personal care packaging” and this takes him to the company’s customers and prospects worldwide, at such places as the Kirin brewery in Japan (see photo).

In between professional journeys, Olivier and Joelle like intelligent travel, exploring museums and then all that the new places have to offer. The theatres in and around Strasbourg give lots of pleasure and, when travelling for work, Olivier always aims to set aside some hours to explore his destination.

Olivier’s other relaxation is acrylic and oil painting, several bold examples of which decorate their elegant La Robertsau home.

Soon we will learn about the journey that brought Joelle to Strasbourg.

* A hectolitre is 100 litres.

Sue Moller
Beautiful villa to let in Tuscany

12 km south of SIENA: country-maisonette (19th century-villa), 6 large and bright rooms which are nicely furnished, two floors, sleeping up to 7-8, hall, big Cantina (former wine cellar) with extra large living room, summer kitchen (dish-washer) and two bathrooms (washing machine), extra WC, sunny courtyard and lovely garden and forest to be let from Mid March till November. Cool rivers, lakes and hot thermal springs in the vicinity, 50 km to the sea, beautiful landscape, picturesque towns and tranquil hills. From 490 Euro/week

Call for information Birgit Meyer:
0033 388 36 1991 / Birgitmeyer2@gmx.de

Also available: lovely apartment for two persons with garden and terrace 420 € / week

http://www.poggioallupo.com

Beginner or confirmed, knit or crochet. Come, talk or exchange in all languages over a cup of tea. Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 11 am to 1 pm at 'Thé des Muses', 19 rue Sainte Barbe, Strasbourg. Free meetings, drinks at your expense.

www.knittinspiration.com

Newsletter Publication

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

The next newsletters will be issued at the following dates: 18/03 - 23/4 - 20/05 - 17/06

Deadline for next copy: Sunday 10/03/2019
ESC Subscription Form 2019

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 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 by post 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: ____________________________
and email a completed membership form to: contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com

IMPORTANT: We respect EU General Data Protection Regulations and 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.

Enter comments or interests here: