Welcome to your May edition of the English-Speaking Community newsletter.

Action-packed as usual, there will surely be much to interest and amuse you – and of course, your contributions are always a treat. Tell us what you are thinking, interesting books you have read, great films.

We have long been aware that our coffee mornings only reach those who do not work on Thursday mornings and so, for May, we are offering both a Coffee Morning on Thursday 23 May and an ESC Get Together on Saturday 25 May, both at L’Escale, both from 9.30-11.30, both following the same formula. We hope to welcome all members, but especially those unable to come on Thursdays. I do hope to see you there.

If you came to recent coffee mornings, you will have noticed we have moved to a smaller room upstairs in L’Escale, since your committee felt that the usual vast hall was both more in size than we needed and the largest expenditure in our budget. There have been many positive comments about the move: more friendly, easier to mingle, easier to set up the room - of course those chairs and tables need to be carried back to their storage place by the few fit arms around.

But the one apparently unavoidable downside is that the room is not sound-absorbent and therefore, once conversation gets animated, it can be difficult for some to hear conversations. We welcome any practical suggestions how to remedy this.

We will return to the large hall for the November Christmas Craft coffee morning.

Enjoy this wonderful spring!
Best wishes
Sue Moller
ESC President

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What’s happening?
23/05 Thursday Coffee morning ☕
25/05 Saturday Get-together 🍪
25/05 Tour of l’Orangerie Park 🌿
25/05 TOG gig at Kurgarten 🎵
26/05 Apéro at Marilee’s 🍷
01/06 Lunch at Gerber 🍽
10/06 Garden visit 🌼
16/06 Walk with Polly 🌳 (details to follow by email)
20/06 Thursday Coffee morning ☕
23/06 Barbecue, L'Escale 🎉

Deadline for next copy:
Sunday 9/6/2019 - 19.00

ESC Email contacts:
contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
esc.events.67@gmail.com
esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com

The registration form can be found on:
http://esc-alsace.org/about/register
Save the date!

The ESC activities will take a break during July and August. Take note of our next activities:

- 15/09 - Rentrée Picnic
- 22/09 - Walk with Polly
- 28/09 - Russian Orthodox Church visit
- 28 & 29/09 - Salon des Associations

Upcoming events

ESC annual Barbecue: Sunday 23/6, 12.00 at l’Escale

This is a golden opportunity to connect with old friends in the relaxed atmosphere created by good food and mellow jazz played by the Tiger’s Eye group. The apéros will start to flow from noon and the afternoon is yours to enjoy.

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.

We will need volunteers for the setting up and the tidying up, so please raise your hand if you can help organise the event.

Contact: To help with catering arrangements, please send a cheque to Mike Wraith, 7 rue Lovisa, 67000 Strasbourg by Sunday 16/6.

For further details: mike.wraith@wanadoo.fr
03 88 61 75 49 / 06 29 25 21 55
**Coffee morning: Thursday 23rd May - 9.30 to 11.30 - 1st floor room**

Come and catch up with ESC members and visitors at our free monthly coffee mornings at l’Escale! *The last meeting before the summer break on 20/6, dates as from September to be decided and advised later)*

The Escale community centre (L’Escale, centre socio-culturel de la Robertsau, 78 rue du Docteur François) is our regular home and has good parking facilities whilst it is within a five-minute walk of bus routes 6, 30 and L1.

You can ask for advice and help with your computer at our IT table held by Bill. And speak to Nigel or Gaby should you have a question to put to the Committee.

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

Free event. No need to sign-up.

>>> Invitation – Saturday Get-together! >>>

For some time people like me have been unable to attend the ESC coffee mornings because they are held on work days and so the committee has decided to experiment with Saturday get-togethers – the first will be on **Saturday 25 May** at the usual venue, l’Escale - **First floor**, from **9h30-11h30**.

Of course, everyone is welcome and do bring friends who might be interested in learning more about the ESC’s activities.

I do hope to see you there, **Sue Moller**

**Lunch at Gerber: Saturday, 1st June - 12.30**

If enough members (at least 4) are interested, I’ll try & organise a last buffet-lunch before the summer holidays at Pâtisserie Gerber - 28, Allée de la Robertsau (opposite Clinique Orangerie). It should take place on Saturday, June 1st - from 12:30. The price is 17.30 € for the buffet, including dessert & possibility for a hot dish (i.e. quiche). It has never amounted to more than 25 € /each with drinks, coffee & a nice tip.

The deadline for confirming reservation will be Wednesday, May 29th.

Please, contact Dany at [danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr](mailto:danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr) or tel. 03.88.31.11.95.
**Garden open day - Roses and Tea: Monday 10/6 (Pentecost) - 14.30**

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 **from 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm** at 2 rue de la Colline in 67550 ECKWERSHEIM. Please let Gaby know if you need - or can offer - a lift.

**To confirm please email gaby.philipps-pfeiffer@wanadoo.fr or call Gaby at 03 88 69 47 60.**

**Guided Tour - The Orangerie Park: 25th May - 14.30**

Learn the story behind the Orangerie Park, anecdotes from its history and the great characters who have marked the place designed to woo Joséphine de Beauharnais. Learn about the park’s landscapes, remarkable trees and storks.

**Meeting point:** in front of the entrance to the Orangerie bowling (by the car park) at **14.15 for a 14.30 start.**

**Cost:** 8€ for members (10€ for non-members)

**Contact:** esc.events.67@gmail.com

**🥂 Apéro at Marilee's: Sunday 26th May**

Marilee Karl (see her Profile reviewed in the April issue) would like to invite all ESC members to an apéro at her home near the Orangerie Park on the evening of 26 May.

Please advise and email Marilee for the address: Marilee Karl - marilee.karl1@gmail.com
Dear ESC member,

once again we are launching the annual ESC photographic competition.

Submissions should be in JPG format (but any size) and sent to esc.photo.gallery@gmail.com

Each image should be submitted without any digital readjustment with the exception of Category 12.

The categories this year are:

01 Landscape.
02 Landmarks.
03 People & Culture.
04 Endangered Planet.
05 Thrills & Adventure.
06 Nature.
07 Food.
08 Street Art.
09 Dusk to Dawn.
10 Oceans, Seas, Rivers & Lakes.
11 Street Life.
12 Travel
13 Young Travel Photographer - Under 18: Theme My Journey

Digital images allowed

The closing date for submissions is September 27th 2019

A MAXIMUM of 3 PHOTOS ARE ALLOWED

If you can produce at least one image in a panoramic format we would like to use it in our newly designed newsletter.

Examples will be posted on our website shortly: http://esc-alsace.org/
The Other Guys are rockin’ in Spring and rollin’ out Summer!

at the Chalet du Kurgarten, 40 rue d’Orbey, 67100 Strasbourg (Neudorf) on Saturday 25 May (turn in at the sign of the bicycle) Doors open 19.30, tickets are 10 euros (entry and unlimited tarte flambée, drinks extra)

Tickets on the door or if you want to book in advance contact any of the boys (?) in the band!

it's only rock ‘n roll but we play it.
Namibia – an exhibition at the Musée Würth

On April 27 a small group of us met at the Musée Würth to be guided in English (by Rosalie, who had previously commented the wonderful exhibition dedicated to the works of Hélène de Beauvoir) through “Namibia - Art of a young generation”. [https://www.musee-wurth.fr/namibia-lart-dune-jeune-generation/]

To quote from the brochure : “21st March 1990 marked the end of an era for Namibia. Indeed it was on that day that the country gained its independence and a new nation was born. Colonisation, apartheid and war were to leave a deep impression on the fate of the country and the Namibian people. Even though contemporary Namibian artists do evoke the period prior to independence, they tend not to show the extreme violence of this past in a tangible way. Rather, they allow a sensitive eye to linger on history in order to establish a connection with the present day... How does the past influence the present ? How does the present transform the past ?”

The exhibition has several themes : Heritage, Landscape, Rurality, Urbanity, Alteration - Recycling (recycled coloured plastic waste, beads, paper, fabric, soda cans), Social realities, Spiritual worlds (animism) etc...

Photographs, drawings, sculptures, paintings, water colours, all forms of art are represented in a beautiful and inspiring journey.

I was not sure what exactly I was going to discover, but I was in awe, truly, at the imagination, the creativity, the beauty of the variety of works on display. I absolutely loved it ! You can look at some photograph on the [ESC drive (clic here)](https://www.musee-wurth.fr/namibia-lart-dune-jeune-generation/).

The exhibition goes on until May 26. The Museum itself is a wonderful place with gardens, a very reasonable cafeteria, and a great souvenir shop !

Christine Secouet
**Book club’s monthly reading: The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett**

This delightful novella begins with a state banquet in Windsor when the Queen throws the President of France into a fluster by asking him what he thinks of Jean Genet. The author imagines what might happen if the Queen took up reading; if she enjoyed it so much that it began to affect her duties. In his imaginings, the Queen discovers a mobile library behind the palace kitchens and a kitchen boy, Norman, borrowing books. She borrows one too and thereby begins her obsession with reading. Norman is promoted from kitchen boy to amanuensis with a desk in a hallway near the Queen’s private office.

There is no real plot to the story, but a lot of plotting by the Queen’s equerries on how to remove Norman from his position of influence and curb the Queen’s new-found love of reading. And while the Queen is away on a prolonged trip, the luggage containing her books mysteriously goes missing and her private secretary sends Norman away to university.

From books by Nancy Mitford, to which the Queen can easily relate, to Jane Austen whose nuances about class differences are baffling, the Queen makes her way through a wide range of literature over a period of some years. She finally devours Proust’s monumental six volume work, *A la recherche du temps perdu*. Then, much to the relief of her staff, she seems to lose interest in reading.

But wait! At a tea party for her Privy Council, she confides in the Prime Minister that she has decided to write a book about her life. Everyone assumes it will be reminiscences of her family and travels. But no, to everyone’s dismay, she announces that she will write, like Proust, an analysis and reflection.

The book has a surprise ending, but a discerning reader might be able to guess it.

The Uncommon Reader is not really about the Queen, of course, but about how reading can change lives. Only 127 pages long, this short book provoked a lively discussion.

*Marilee Karl*

Alan Bennett (born 9 May 1934) is an English playwright, screenwriter, actor, and author. His collaboration in the satirical revue ‘Beyond the Fringe’ at the 1960 Edinburgh Festival brought him instant fame. Bennett is extraordinarily prolific. He has written nearly 50 TV plays, more than 20 stage plays and 13 films, and has published more than 30 books. For these he has won more than 30 awards, including five Laurence Olivier Awards, two Baftas, five Evening Standard Awards and four British Book Awards.

The next books discussed at the book club will be:

- ‘*The Children Act*’ by Ian McEwan (to be reviewed in June)
- ‘*Warlight*’ by Michael Ondaatje (to be reviewed in September).

You are interested in joining the book club? Contact Joelle at: joelle.glore@gmail.com
Contribution: Demise of the Whitehouse crew

Those who walk in the Forêt de la Robertsau may be familiar with an interesting information board (at the intersection of Allée des Trois Sapins and Chemin du Beulengrund). It commemorates a tragic event that took place exactly 75 years ago this Summer. For on 25 July 1944, an allied Lancaster bomber crashed near this spot, killing all 7 crew members. They are buried in Commonwealth war graves in Cronenbourg French National Cemetery:

- Flying Officer Keith Owen Whitehouse, 23, RNZAF, Pilot, from Wellington, NZ.
- Pilot Officer Jack Thomas Milliner, 22, RAAF, Navigator, from Queensland, Australia.
- Flight Sgt. Ray Steele Horsford, 28, RAFVR, Air Bomber, from Sittingbourne, UK.
- Warrant Officer Keat Dudding, 25, RNZAF, Wireless Operator, from Auckland, NZ.
- Sgt. Bernard Leighton, 34, RAFVR, Flight Engineer, from Manchester, UK.
- Flight Sgt. George Alfred Badge Taverner, 21, RAAF, Rear Gunner, from South Australia.

This was Whitehouse’s 27th operation. His grandfather had emigrated from England (Warwickshire) to New Zealand. Born in 1921 Keith was brought up in a small town and later in Wellington, where after leaving school at 16 he became a “wool classer”. He enlisted in the “RNZAF” in 1941 and trained as a pilot in NZ, Canada and England. In December 1942 while on a training flight his plane was involved in a mid-air collision in which two RNZAF airmen were killed.

It was the first of three major raids on the city, leaving its central districts devastated; most of the municipal and cultural buildings were destroyed. The raid was scattered and intense A.A. fire was encountered, together with combats in the air. The Lancaster in question was one of two aircraft which had been classified as “failed to return” to Mepal (and one of 20 Lancasters in total which had crashed or had been shot down that night after raids on Stuttgart). There is conflicting information: one source says it was hit at 1.14 am near Pforzheim; another says it was brought down at 2.10 by an enemy fighter on the northern outskirts of Strasbourg. In any event, it came down in German-occupied Alsace (which was of course not liberated until the end of 1944) and there were no survivors. (...)

The “Whitehouse crew” had flown together on many missions over the previous months, including to assist in the D-Day operations, on 5 and 6 June 1944 (targets at Ouistreham and Lisieux). On 24 July at about 9 pm they took off from RAF Mepal (Cambridgeshire) to take part in a night raid on Stuttgart involving 21 aircraft.
A few days later on 29 July a couple of other Lancasters came down near Strasbourg on their way back from another Stuttgart raid – one crashed in Ottrott, the other in Weyersheim. The few survivors from both those crashes were taken prisoner (one escaped). The five Weyersheim victims (3 Australians, 1 Canadian and 1 origin unknown) are also buried in Cronenbourg military cemetery.

The story of the commemorative board (a painting of the plane with details of the crew) in the forest is actually quite recent. In September 2008 a local historian Patrick Baumann appealed in the local newspaper DNA for information about another crash, that of an American “Flying Fortress” in 1943. He received a few accounts from local people about wreckage they had once seen in the Robertsau, which he instead discovered to be the Lancaster (whose exact location seems to have been hitherto unknown in official lists). Baumann and others from the “Association du souvenir aérien dans l’Est de la France” were guided to the spot by a local man who claimed to have played on the wreckage at the age of 14 (he also remembered seeing the lifeless bodies of airmen hanging from parachutes in the trees). They traced various metal and glass fragments, together with 7.7 mm munitions (proving it was not an American plane), still lying in the undergrowth 65 years later. They identified the Lancaster from its approximate date and from the list of airmen buried at Cronenbourg, i.e. the group whose names were not already connected with a known crash site. The information board was unveiled in October 2009.

Links:
https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2031745/cronenbourg-french-national-cemetery/
https://75nzsquadron.wordpress.com/k-o-whitehouse-crew-10-5-44-%E2%80%A0/
http://francecrashes39-45.net/page_fiche_av.php?id=1417

James Brannan
Petsitter needed

Hello ESC-Members,

My mum, Malika Radünz is going on holidays (for the wedding of her best friend) in Austria from 5th to 12th August 2019!

I would be glad to stay here with a catsitter belonging to the ESC.

What can I tell you about myself? I am nearly 9 years old, I love to sleep, music 🎼, and the presence of someone who caresses me.

If you need some references, and more information, contact Malika Radünz: raduenz14@yahoo.com; 06 68 98 93 99.

English Conversation
chez Frederick & 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
nigelpermaul@gmail.com
Phone 06 75 63 89 98

French Conversation
The French conversation group meets twice a month on a Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30pm,
at the Tea Room « Patrick »
5 rue de Verdun, Strasbourg.
If you are interested get in touch with Colette at
contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
Phone 03 88 20 21 17

German Conversation
The German group meets fortnightly,
on MONDAY from 2.00 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
The Spanish conversation group plans to meet once a month on a Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30pm, at the Tea Room « Patrick »
5 rue de Verdun, Strasbourg.
If you are interested get in touch with Colette at
contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
Phone 03 88 20 21 17

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 newsletter will be issued on 17/06 (no copy in July and August)
Deadline for next copy: Sunday 9/6/2019 - 19.00
RENCONTRES AUTOUR DES ROSES ANCIENNES

DIMANCHE
16 JUIN 2019
DE 10H À 18H

Entrée :
1 € le jardin

Jardins ouverts autour de Griesbach (près de Gundershoffen)
Exposition de roses et village d’artisans
A la salle communale de Griesbach