Here we are at midsummer already, with high temperatures and pouring rain. How will the summer evolve, I wonder?

As part of your committee’s work on the Strategic review of the English-Speaking Community, your editor, Catherine Manini and our Strategic driver, Véronique Heller-Claus, have redesigned the format of the newsletter which will be launched after the summer break.

Thanks to member contributions, we also have a new name for the newsletter, and this will be announced at an event at the end of the month - for all the contributors to the new name. If you are not there, you will see it with the new format in the autumn.

Have you noticed our new logo on our latest flyers? It will soon be showing on the newsletter and our website too – esc-alsace.org.

All these changes are aimed at better representing the essence of the ESC: we see the group as a focal point of friendship, communication and sharing – in the English language.

As you know, we have many activities and I have to share with you a photo from last Monday’s visit to Gaby and Pierre’s magnificent garden – in the rain. The beauty of such a group as the ESC is that it can cater for every taste. Do let us know what events you would like to join.

I look forward to seeing you at this year’s summer barbecue on 23 June. I cross my fingers for good weather!

Sue Moller
ESC President
Upcoming events

Coffee morning: Thursday 20th June - 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! (no need to sign-up)

The Escale community centre (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. As from 17th June it will have its own tram stop at the end of the extended Line E!

Should you have a question to put to the Committee, you can speak to Gaby or Nigel.

On 25 May we tried out our first Saturday Get-together, the coffee morning for working members. We were about ten members and there was plenty to chat about. The next Get-together will be on 19th October. Do come and join us.

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

ESC annual Barbecue: Sunday 23rd June, 12.00 at l’Escale

The countdown to the ESC midsummer barbecue has begun; beer and sunshine have been ordered. Getting there has never been easier: the first trams have started running to the new Escale tram stop this weekend.

This is a golden opportunity to connect with old friends in the relaxed atmosphere created by good food and mellow jazz played by the Chantal Stewart trio. 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.

To help the catering arrangements, we ask for prior payment. If you didn't sign-up and would like to join, please contact Mike Wraith at: mike.wraith@wanadoo.fr
03 88 61 75 49 / 06 29 25 21 55

We will need volunteers for the setting up and the tidying up, so please raise your hand if you can help organise the event.
Music and drinks at Jasmine's: 21st June, 18.30 - Jardin des Deux-Rives

My name is Jasmine Singh and I am a new member of the ESC.

I live very close to the Jardin des Deux Rives and the river and I would like to propose to have an Apéro at my place - in my front garden (weather permitting). As it’s the same evening as the Fête de la Musique, we could find some live music after the drinks.

Date: Friday, 21st June - Time 18.30
Place: 3 rue Jean Monnet, Strasbourg.

Contact number: 06 10 66 14 96 - Email : jasminesingh@outlook.fr

Save the date!

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

Rentrée picnic: 15th September, 12.00 - Parc de l'Orangerie

Keep your checkered blankets, folding seats and coolboxes close until Sunday 15th September when the annual ESC Rentrée picnic is due to take place in the parc de l'Orangerie near the lake, starting at noon.

Whatever the weather we will be there and look forward to seeing you. Light rain will not deter us; our plan A is to meet at the northern end beside the lake in the Parc de l'Orangerie, while our plan B will be to go to the terrace of the Bowling, where we can take a drink and have lunch.
Salon des Associations: 28 & 29 September, Parc de la Citadelle

Over the weekend of 28-29 September we will participate in the MDAS Salon des Associations, the event at la Citadelle with about 200 societies promoting their particular interests.

Volunteers will stay in turn on our stand for an hour or two, to chat to punters and introduce the ESC activities.

Seasonal Saturday Buffet lunch: date tbd

For the coming year, Dany offers to organise the ESC Saturday lunch out on three occasions - one in Autumn, one in Winter and one in Spring - at Pâtisserie Gerber (28, Allée de la Robertsau in Strasbourg).

For a first meeting - between 21st September and 12th October - Dany would take into account the interested members preferences. The potential participants are invited to forward their suggestions to her (for booking purposes, we hope that at least 4 members will be interested).

For more details, do not hesitate to contact Dany at danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr / tel 03.88.31.11.95
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 13.

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 27th September 2019

A MAXIMUM of 3 PHOTOS IS ALLOWED

Examples will be posted on our website shortly: http://esc-alsace.org/

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

Our last afterwork drinks at Cafty Tom’s and at Hotel

Newcomers evening at Le Jardin de l’Orangerie

Visit to Gaby and Pierre’s lovely garden
Farewell

Frank said his final farewells. He was a regular attendee of the Book Club, the English, French and German Conversation Groups not forgetting the Coffee Mornings. Several of the ESC members had a chance to enjoy lunch with him before he moved to his Bedfordshire home. So he will take away many memories of his time here as he journeys back to the UK. We wish him a safe journey and look forward to hearing from him in the near future.

It was a wonderful afternoon for me. The whole experience, sitting in the garden, the snacks and drinks, the music, all was a culmination of many previous afternoons, indoors and outdoors, so many topics, so many arguments!

All organised and hosted by Frederick & Maryline. Nigel, Chantal, along with all those who regularly brought and offered contributions on Friday afternoons. All Hands on deck: lights, camera, sound & music! Table setting, chairs, food, drinks. There was no escape possible! And so to my presentation. Along with a variety of voices, in conversation, the questions and, hopefully, enlightenment!?

Chantal V. was hostess at table slicing and serving a wonderfully large decorated cake which had a very pleasant satisfying taste. Chantal S. accompanying on guitar her self-edited! song material from the USA, with voices of a Maori choir on tape brought to the table by Nigel (who spent a lot of time and effort with camera and music).

All of this was sung with gusto by those present (me too!). Then, the wine and the accompanying toasts and wishes. All rounded off with lots of goodbyes and thanks.

And this morning, sitting and remembering brings back to me so many old stories, old memories and past experiences enjoyed, I hope, with friends both new and old. For me, so many new experiences enjoyed with ESC members over the last 10 years: summer barbecues, coffee mornings, visits together at restaurants, various cuisines, quiz evenings, and best of all, English group meetings chez Frederick & Maryline, Spanish with Alicia, sadly missed.

French conversation group with Colette & group, German conversation [mit Bernard, Brigitte und allen Freunden & Freundinnen im cafe Rapp] and all the very many persons, especially Dany, who organised, attended, contributed and hosted meetings for The Book Club.

Many thanks. Till the next time, goodbye, au revoir, auf wiedersehen, hasta la vista, arrivederci, sayonara, u.s.w. (und so weiter).

Frank Laughton
Saoli’s choice, *The Children Act*, is an engaging story dealing with religious beliefs, human weaknesses and moral dilemmas. The book opens with a crisis in the marriage of High Court Judge Fiona and professor Jack Maye – both in their late fifties, childless, career driven and drifting apart – when Jack announces that he proposes to have an affair. Faced with the outrage of his wife, he packs his bags and leaves.

Fiona works in the family division in London as duty judge, a role which demands much of her time and concentration with her major source of relaxation being playing the piano. Still shaken by her husband’s infidelity, she has to tackle an urgent case involving the teenage son of Jehovah’s Witnesses’ parents, Adam. Without a blood transfusion the boy, suffering from leukaemia, is unlikely to survive but he refuses treatment in line with the teaching of his church and the beliefs of his parents. She chooses to meet the boy, is touched by his original personality and decides that the treatment should be administered despite his wishes.

The boy recovers but he is now adrift as he has given up on his religious beliefs and is estranged from his parents. He looks to Fiona for help and writes her letters to which she refuses to reply. He even confronts her one rainy night in Newcastle but is sent away without the guidance he was looking for. The story reaches its climax at an end-of-year concert in which Fiona plays to an audience of fellow legal professionals and experiences a personal emotional crisis.

The book attracted a great deal of interest and there was an animated discussion at the meeting of the group. The film was released in 2017 with Emma Thompson as Fiona Maye.

Since publication of his first book of short stories in 1975, British writer Ian McEwan has produced an outstanding body of work, being shortlisted for the Man Booker prize on five occasions and winning once. He has written screenplays based on a number of his novels and *The Children Act* was released as a film in 2017 with estimable Emma Thompson in the leading role.

A public intellectual with strong views on a range of issues from militant Islam to Brexit, McEwan has made enemies on both left and right of politics.

The next books discussed at the book club will be

- ‘Warlight’ by Michael Ondaatje (to be reviewed in September)
- ‘The Lacuna’ by Barbara Kingsolver (to be reviewed in October - meeting 9th September)

You are interested in joining the book club ; contact Joelle at: joelle.glore@gmail.com
My D-Day

Yes I was around that memorable day!! I was waiting in a bus queue to take me to my art school in nearby High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, when, over the trees, appeared this very low flying B17 Flying Fortress with one engine trailing smoke and its propeller stopped, its large tail fin had a big hole in it. We all knew it was making for Bovingdon airfield and we all knew that "something" was up.

Suddenly my Mother came rushing out of the house opposite where we lived and shouted "They’ve landed in France"!!!!

The bus queue all cheered!! She had just heard it announced on the BBC wireless. Well the rest of the day at art school was buzzing with excitement and not a lot of work was done that day!! A very good friend and a fellow student, John Young who lived near Bovingdon airfield, was absolutely elated as he often went there to sketch the aeroplanes. He went on to become a very famous aviation artist and a President of the Guild of Aviation Artists. His work can be found world wide. Everything from then on that day seemed rather flat! For months before D-Day we had intensive activity in our area with American, British, and Commonwealth troops with their tanks, guns, jeeps and lorries and suddenly they were all gone!! I often wonder how many of them never made it off the Normandy beaches and if those that are left remember their time of waiting in the Chiltern Hills camps.

I feel very privileged to say that I was present on that historic day and although I was too young to be in the forces, nevertheless I know now that, as I write this here in Strasbourg, I am here enjoying what all those brave men made such sacrifices for, and ashamed and so sad that my native country today is contemplating leaving the European Union.

War must never happen again in Europe.

Frederick William-Smith
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
nigelpermal@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

Robertsau Flat For Sale
Spacious and luminous apartment near the European institutions, at the start of the Robertsau.
T4, 105 m2, top floor. Perfect for a family.
Around the corner from the European School, 10 minute walk or 4 min cycle from the Piscine du Wacken and Parc de L'Orangerie. Below the appartement is the Supermarket U and a friendly local bar/restaurant, a Boulangerie and a great food market on Tuesdays and Saturday’s right across the road.
The apartment has two bedrooms, a double living room, large kitchen and bathroom with washing machine and separate toilet. There are two balconies facing East-West so you can catch both morning and afternoon sun.
Free car parking, great local shops, banks and library, easy Tram and bus access into the centre of Strasbourg.
Currently at 295,000 euros before it gets released into the market next week by an agency, adding 4.5% to the price.
For further information: Alexander 06 11 03 42 33 / sashosom@yahoo.com
Scottish Dancing

The Scottish Country Dance Group currently meets on Monday evenings at the Studio Robbins, Centre Culturel Marcel Marceau, rue de Ribeauvillé, Neudorf, 67100 Strasbourg, from 19h30 to 21h30.

Classes will resume on Monday 16 September and anyone interested is welcome to come along.

Please note that the weekly class venue may change for 2019 so please contact us before coming along for the first time.

We are also organising a free workshop to find out what it’s all about on Saturday 7 September from 14h00-18h00 at the Foyer St Arbogast, 10 rue des Mérovingiens, 67200 STRASBOURG.

The only equipment you require is a pair of light, preferably flat, dance shoes (no outdoor shoes), a bottle of water and ideally a sense of rhythm!

The membership fee is 80€ a year, or 30€ per term if you wish to try out the class for 3 months. Insurance is a further 20€.

For any further information, please contact the group by e-mail at strasbourgscoishdancers@gmail.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 newsletter will be issued in September (no copy issued in July and August)
Following issue dates are planned on: 15/9 - 13/10 - 17/11 - 15/12
Deadline for next copy: Sunday 8/9/2019 - 19.00