Dear friends, dear members,

I struggle to think of any English expression to match ‘rentée’ as our ‘back to school’ clearly has a small population in mind. My understanding of the term is that this is when the wheels of city life begin to turn again, and indeed the ESC’s part of that city life is laid before you in your latest edition of this newsletter.

One of our goals is to better reflect the international nature of our membership, and so we welcome any suggestions you may have regarding visits or talks about something relating to your culture or a place of interest. We only ask that, in keeping with our name, the tour or talk is conducted in the English language.

One word of caution, however. Earlier this year we arranged a tour of the Orangerie park and as only five people signed up we cancelled the tour: the ESC would otherwise have made a considerable loss on the guide cost. Just in case, I went to the meeting point at the planned time and found eight members patiently waiting for the tour to commence.

Please be sure to sign up for tours in advance – there is always an email address and telephone number to contact – and we regret that if you give us less than 24 hours’ notice of cancellation, you will still be liable for the ticket price of the tour. These are not draconian measures but just good practice.

So, catch up with what’s happening in the English-Speaking Community, come and enjoy our very sociable after-work drinks, coffee mornings, walks, tours and much more - and, if we haven’t met, do introduce yourself to me. Welcome back and Happy rentrée!

Sue Moller, ESC President

Inside this issue
2 • From the committee: strategic plan, cont’d
4 • Calendar
12 • Book review: Warlight by Michael Ondaatje
12 • Ads

ESC contacts
contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com
esc.events.67@gmail.com
From the committee

Strategic plan – goals to prepare the future (cont’d)

You will have noticed the change in style of your newsletter: this is an outcome of the ESC 2019 Strategic Review.

At our Annual General Meeting in February we showcased our strategic plan and then presented our mission, vision and goals in the March and April issues of this newsletter. After the summer break, we want to give you some additional information on our fourth and fifth goals: to enhance awareness and positive image of the ESC in the Strasbourg area; and to celebrate diversity of membership within the association.

Goal: To enhance awareness and positive image of the ESC in the Strasbourg area

Let’s start with raising brand awareness and the image of our association. After having relied for many years on word of mouth to create awareness of the ESC, we have now started to look at different avenues where we could positively impact our brand awareness. Technology has taken possibilities to a whole new level and we will use the tools at our disposal to achieve the results we desire. To evaluate this, we stepped back and had a good look at the tools we are currently using and we decided to implement a change in our brand identity, make better use of social media, expand our website, upgrade our newsletter and much more...

Goal: To celebrate diversity of membership within the association

In this increasingly interconnected world, openness and appreciation of differences is important to many aspects of modern life. To celebrate the cultural diversity of our members, we plan to visit exhibitions dedicated to other cultures, open up our newsletter to members to feature traditional stories/poems/folklore from their culture, play games or take up a sport from a different culture, organise parties where members bring food typical of their country, ask the book club to propose books which reflect cultural diversity...

During the summer, a sub-group of the committee continued working on this subject. They started to step back and have a look at each element of our strategic plan. Further information will come in a near future. Stay tuned!

5 Goals identified in the 2019 Strategic Review

- Review and update the management processes of the association
- Boost participation of younger people, families and children
- Increase the attractiveness of the activities to a wider audience
- Enhance awareness and positive image of the ESC in the Strasbourg area
- Celebrate the diversity of membership within the association

Véronique Heller-Clauss
**Regular activity groups**

The English-Speaking Community in the Strasbourg area houses conversation groups in English, French, German and Spanish. These conversation groups are small groups of around 6 to 20 people who meet regularly to exchange conversation, some in their native language and others to practice their foreign language-speaking skills. These groups provide also an opportunity to meet in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and to discuss various topics - travels, hobbies, history, politics... and much more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Conversation</th>
<th>French Conversation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 4 pm  | The French conversation group meets twice  
a month on a Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 pm,  
at the Tea Room « Patrick »  
5 rue de Verdun, Strasbourg. |
| Contact: Nigel  
nigelpermaul@gmail.com  
Phone: 06 75 63 89 98 | Contact: Colette  
fredericka06@yahoo.fr  
Phone: 03 88 20 21 17 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German Conversation</th>
<th>Spanish Conversation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The German group meets fortnightly,  
on Mondays from 2 to 3.30 pm,  
in « Café Rapp », Haupstr. 104, Kehl.  | The group meets once a month,  
on a Wednesday from 2.30 to 4.30 pm,  
at the Tea Room « Patrick » 5 rue de Verdun. |
| Contact: Bernard  
bernard.greiner@numericable.fr  
Phone: 03 88 66 32 06 | Contact: Colette at  
fredericka06@yahoo.fr  
Phone: 03 88 20 21 17 |

**Book club's monthly readings**

Monday 7th October we will discuss ‘The House Made of Dawn’ by Scott Momaday  
Monday 11th November we will discuss ‘Transcriptions’ by Kate Atkinson

Interested in joining the book club? Contact Joelle: joelle.glore@gmail.com
Coffee morning
19 SEPTEMBER - 9.30 am
L’Escale, centre socio-culturel de la Robertssau, 78 rue du Docteur François: Free access, room on first floor

After-work drinks
20 SEPTEMBER - 6.30 pm
Le Purgatoire, 34 rue de Zurich: this time please register at esc.events.67@gmail.com

Rambling group
22 SEPTEMBER - 10.30 am
Meeting Place: Lalique Museum Car Park 2, rue du Hochberg, Wingen-sur-Moder: contact polly.stotz@gmail.com

Pot luck lunch
26 SEPTEMBER - 12 noon
Chez Sue Moller, 19 rue Adler, La Robertssau. Register at esc.events.67@gmail.com

Photo competition
27 SEPTEMBER
is the deadline for submission: esc.photo.gallery@gmail.com

Church visit
28 SEPTEMBER - 2.30 pm
106 Rue du Général Conrad, 67000 Strasbourg. Special price: 5€ for members and non-members. Register at esc.events.67@gmail.com

Neustadt insolite
5 OCTOBER - 2.15 pm
Meeting point: Palais du Rhin. Cost: 8€ for ESC Members; 10€ for non-Members. Register at esc.events.67@gmail.com

Rambling group
6 OCTOBER - 10.30 am
Meeting Place: Car park in Villé next to the former railway station. Contact: Bernard on 03.88.66.32.06 or Karl on 0049 781 940530

Buffet Lunch
12 OCTOBER - 1 pm
Pâtisserie Gerber, 28 Allée de la Robertssau. Register with Dany at danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr
Upcoming events in details

Monthly coffee morning

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019 - 9.30 - 11.30 am

Come and catch up with ESC members and visitors at our free monthly coffee mornings at l’Escale. The following dates are: 17/10, 21/11 (with craft display), 19/12, 16/01, 13/2, 19/3, 8/4, 21/5, 18/6. (Please note that the Saturday Get-together planned on 19th October is postponed).

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 L6, 30 and 70 (stop at Papeterie). Tram E now stops at Robertsau-l’Escale.

Should you have a question to put to the Committee, you can speak to Gaby, Maggie or Nigel. Or see Bill for help with your computer.

For further information, email: contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com. Free event. No need to sign-up.

After-work drinks

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2019 - 6.30 pm onwards

Our next monthly after-work get-together will take place at « Le Purgatoire ». Meet us at 34 rue de Zurich on Friday September 20th from 6:30 onwards and discover this new brasserie-bar with its more than 150 wine references from over the world (other drinks are available though).

The usual formula: everybody pays for his/her drinks and the ESC offers the appetisers. But this time and to make sure we can book a big enough table, we would be thankful if you could sign up at: esc.events.67@gmail.com.

Walk on the Sentier des Verriers around Wingen-sur-Moder

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2019 - 10.30 am

Come and join us for a walk around Wingen-sur-Moder to find out more about the origin of the Lalique glassworks (Sentier des Verriers). We will pass through woods, fields, a hidden cemetery and include a short climb up the Heidenkopf hill to admire views of the surrounding area.

Meeting Place: Lalique Museum Car Park 2, rue du Hochberg, Wingen-sur-Moder

Meeting Time: 10.30 am

Walking: 3-4 hours including picnic, about 280-300m gradient

Directions: Coming from Ingwiller go through the village and turn right at roundabout going under railway bridge following signs to Lalique museum. Museum up slope on left. Big Car Park 2 just beyond also on left.

Contact: Polly at 03.88.07.04.93 / 06.72.71.90.41 or polly.stotz@gmail.com
**Pot-luck lunch**

**THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER from 12 noon till 2.30 or 3 pm.**

We are kicking off the *rentrée* with a long-overdue pot luck lunch at Sue Moller’s house, 19 rue Adler, La Robertsau (a short walk from L6, 15, 72 buses and the glorious new E tram stop at Jardinières. There is also parking but the school opposite gets busy around 12).

Everyone is welcome: bring a drink and a dish for four, to share, either sweet or savoury, and we will see what the possibilities are.

Please send a brief email to esc.events.67@gmail.com confirming your attendance, so we can have enough plates, glasses, etc. ready; and specify if you intend to bring a savoury or sweet dish. See you then! Sue Moller

**Russian Orthodox Church visit**

**SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2019 - 2.30 pm**

Join us on a guided tour of the new Russian Orthodox Church, Conseil des Quinze on the 28th September, 14.30pm. Meet at the church by the canal (106 Rue du Général Conrad, 67000 Strasbourg) at 14h15 for a tour of this beautiful, new church, followed by homemade Russian snacks.

Special price: 5€ for members and non-members (please have your cash ready).

Please register by 26th September at esc.events.67@gmail.com

Enquiries: Sue Moller, 06 71 97 24 06.

**ESC stand at the Salon des Associations**

**SATURDAY 28th & SUNDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Salon des Associations is an umbrella event enabling citizens to check out all the many voluntary associations in Strasbourg.

If you have time to visit, come to the Culture tent and meet ESC members for a chat, hear about our events, past and present and even pay your very reasonable subscription fee.

**Final call for the photo competition**

This is your last chance to participate in the photo competition. Therefore we strongly urge you to send in your photos before 27th September to esc.photo.gallery@gmail.com. Results and winner will be announced at October coffee morning (17/10).

Don’t hesitate to check our website for more details: esc-alsace.org
Neustadt insolite tour

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2019 - 2.15 pm

Built by the German authorities, the district of Neustadt impresses with its imposing size of buildings, the length of its avenues and the variety of its architecture.

This visit invites you to discover the less visible aspects of this quarter: between historical curiosities and unknown artistic masterpieces, it will be an unusual look at imperial German Strasbourg.

Meeting point: in front of the Palais du Rhin, place de la République. The tour will last for two hours.

Cost: 8€ for ESC Members: 10€ for non-Members (please have your cash ready)
Enquiries: Sue Moller, 06 71 97 24 06. Please register at esc.events.67@gmail.com

Walk round Frankenbourg

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2019 - 10.30 am

"Roches remarquables" are typical for the woods round Château de Frankenbourg, a medieval castle with massive walls and tower, a deep well and a magnificent view of the Vosges and the Château du Haut Koenigsbourg!

The walk will take 4 to 5 hours (approx. 12km, 365m difference in altitude). So wear good shoes and don't forget your picnic. After the walk we will have a drink in the Patisserie Pfister in Villé.

Meeting point: Car park in Villé next to the former railway station (now a gallery), on the left soon after you get into the village : take the motorway from Strasbourg to Sélestat, turn off to Villé: first N 59 and after about 4 km, D 424. Meeting Time: 10.30 am ; If you want to come or for more information, please contact by Friday, 4th:

Bernard on 03.88.66.32.06 or Karl on 0049 781 9400530.

Buffet Lunch at Gerber

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2019 - 1 pm

Providing at least 4 ESC members are interested, I'll organise lunching out at Pâtisserie Gerber, 28 allée de la Robertsau (opposite Clinique Orangerie). We have been there a few times and it has always been much appreciated.

The cold buffet (at 17.50 euros) is fresh, plentiful and delicious and includes the possibility of ordering a hot dish (e.g. quiche/pizza) and there's a great choice of pastries as a finale.

Last year, the bill including drinks and tip never exceeded 25 euros each and everybody seemed delighted!

This year I suggest meeting there at 1 pm and the deadline for confirming reservation will be Wed. 9th October.

For inquiries and signing-up, please contact Dany at danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr or tel. 03.88.31.11.95.
Save the date

**Lecture by Pierre Pfeiffer**

**Bugs are everywhere!**
17 NOVEMBER 2019 - 6.30 pm
Inquiries: Sue Moller
Register at: esc.events.67@gmail.com

**Buffet formula**
SATURDAYS 1.00 pm
Inquiries: Dany Gay-Minck
Register at: danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr

**Next meeting**
7 OCTOBER 2019 - 6.30 pm
Inquiries: Joelle Glore
Register at: joelle.glore@gmail.com

**seasonal lunches at Gerber**

**Book club**

**Book your table now!**
17 NOVEMBER 2019 - 9.30 am
Inquiries: Malika Radünz
Register at: raduenz14@yahoo.com

**Craft market**

**English Conversation Group**
Previous events

Summer walk in the Howald

Our last walk before the Summer break was in the Hohwald. Just a 30 minute drive south of Strasbourg, it is described as "a place of freshness " with its shady beech and conifer woods rising to over 1000m and a spectacular waterfall a kilometre or so above the village. Situated in the lee of the mountains, it offers a pleasant micro-climate which attracted the 19th century bourgeoisie and many famous figures including Queen Wilhemina of the Netherlands, Joffre, De Gaulle, Sarah Bernhardt and even a Russian diplomat who is buried under a 100-year-old sequoia in the Arboretum. Indeed there is much history attached to the village but the story that seemed to intrigue people most was that of Rückert and the great fir tree (see below).

Our walk took us from the camping ground over to the waterfall on the GR5 and up into open meadows with typical Vosgien cows (bells attached) and 'fermes-auberges' with plenty of ducks and geese fated to feature on the menu along with woodruff wine. Having reached the Col de Kreuzweg where there is an elaborate high ropes and zip-line adventure park for those who are not afraid of heights, we cut back through the forest and down into the village on the other side admiring the elegant architecture of many old houses on the way. We ended our day at yet another 'ferme-auberge' where we had a drink and a look round the farm.

Polly Stotz

The Story of the Great Fir Tree

Deep in the woods above the Hohwald and not far from the Andlau waterfall stands an ancient and eroded remembrance stone. The Gothic lettering of the inscription is barely legible but reads :

"Hier stand die von F. Rückert besungene Strassburger Tanne" (here stood the Strasbourg fir tree sung by F. Rückert).

So who was Rückert and what did he have to do with a fir tree? Read on!

(see following page)
Friedrich Rückert (1788–1866) was a German poet, translator and professor of Oriental languages. He studied law at Würzburg and Heidelberg universities and began his literary career during Germany’s struggle with Napoleon writing under the pseudonym Freimund Raimar.

In 1814 he showed his nationalism by giving vigorous expression to the prevailing sentiment of his countrymen in ‘Sonnets of Arms.’ Between 1815 and 1818 he wrote ‘Napoleon, a political comedy.’ It is during this period that we meet with the fir tree of Hohwald (or Strasbourg).

In 1816 in the Hohwald forest there stood a 325-year-old, 31 metre high fir tree. In view of its great age, the authorities decided it was time to cut it down. To mark the felling of the tree they organised a grand celebration. More than a thousand people came to see the aged tree in its last hour. Musicians played their violins, oboes and horns. People danced and sang in merriment. Whether Rückert was actually there to witness the event is not clear but it certainly inspired him to write a long poem contemplating the long life of the fir tree. At the time he was working on the editorial staff in the poetry section of the Morgenblatt newspaper in Stuttgart. The poem must have been set to music. Indeed Rückert’s notoriety comes mainly from his connection with famous composers such as Mahler (Kindertotleidern), Schubert and Brahms who used his poetry for their musical compositions.

In the fir tree poem Rückert predicts the coming of war and the return of Alsace to the Reich. His prophecy of course later came true after Napoleon’s defeat in the 1870 Franco-Prussian war when Alsace became part of Germany again. It was at this point that the remembrance stone was laid where the tree had stood. After the first world war when Alsace became French again, the stone was left in place where it still remains today. In recent years, due to the illegibility of the inscription, requests have been made for it to be restored but as we witnessed on our walk nothing has yet been done. However, there is a metal plaque nailed to a tree above the stone. Strangely it gives the French translation instead of the original German. What was all that about, vengeance? If you would like to read this delightful poem you can find it on the blog ‘Autour du Mont-Saint Odile – Le grand sapin de Strasbourg’ where it is written in German with a French translation. Here, as a taster, is an attempt at just one verse (my favourite) in very unpoetic English.

Great eagles fly and falcons too
As I in shameful nightmare fall.
Never in a German house
Will I a beam become
For they shall drag me down
To turn me into a mere staircase
For ‘mairie’ or ‘préfecture’.
Newcomers' Apéro 7th June

What a warm and welcoming evening the ESC organised for us newcomers in early June. It was initially planned on the terrace of the Jardin de l'Orangerie restaurant but sadly the weather was doubtful that day so it was moved into the Billiards Room which had access to the terrace so we could still go outside. I have to admit that we were a little late because I hadn't realised immediately that the Jardin de l'Orangerie was actually the bowling restaurant, so by the time we arrived, the atmosphere was already quite jovial.

We were greeted with a glass of pink crémant and some very tasty nibbles, and gradually we started talking to people, or they came up to us and introduced themselves. At some point the President Sue Moller made a short welcoming speech and then the party continued. Excellent tarts flambées suddenly appeared from nowhere and were handed round. While I continued talking, my husband joined in a game of billiards. All in all it was a very relaxed evening which made it easy to meet new people. Many thanks to Véronique Heller-Clauss, the Newcomers Welcome Coordinator for her successful organisation.

Christine Barber

Soirée in la Robertsau

The idea that the ESC shuts down in the summer months was blown away this year by a highly enjoyable apéro organised in July by Joelle Glore and Olivier Goffin at their home in La Robertsau.

More than two dozen members turned up to share drinks and conversation in the impressive, newly restored garden and were rewarded with a warm, storm-free evening and an unexpected but quite magnificent Lebanese supper prepared by cooking enthusiast Olivier.

We have to thank Joelle and Olivier for a great evening and also for highlighting possibilities for the future. It should be noted that a beer tasting is being organised by the couple in November – an event not to be missed.

Mike Wraith
Warlight is set in 1945, and the title refers to the time in which the book is set, to the shadowy world of espionage, and the flickering quality of memories.

14-year-old Nathanial’s world is shrouded in secrecy after his mother and father move abroad. He and his sister are looked after by an enigmatic figure they nickname The Moth. Unhappy at boarding school they return to their home, now populated by an odd mix of characters. Nathanial spends time with The Moth’s friend, The Pimlico Darter. They work on a barge transporting illegal cargo, including greyhounds, from France.

Light and shade are clearly symbolic in Ondaatje’s novel and are linked to the lies and disguise which thread throughout, causing confusion for the characters, but also for the reader.

Nathanial discovers that some of The Darter’s apparently illicit activities were to help war and post-war efforts. He finds The Darter’s name and address and visits him. Whilst there he stumbles across surprising information; his view of some aspects of the past changes.

In lyrical prose, Ondaatje keeps the reader guessing until the end but, when he reveals the truth, we realise the clues have been scattered throughout the narrative.

Sue Norman-Fleck

Michael Ondaatje was born in Sri Lanka on 12 Sept 1943. He moved to England in 1954, and in 1962 moved to Canada where he still lives. He is, along with Margaret Atwood, one of Canada’s most important contemporary writers. He has received many literary awards, including the Booker Prize and is maybe best known for his internationally successful novel The English Patient which was made into a film which won the Academy Award. Ondaatje’s work includes fiction, autobiography, poetry and film.
Advertisements

A new badminton group will start soon, would you like to join?

Venue: ASL Robertsau, 212 route de la Wantzenau, 67000 Strasbourg
Courts available: Saturday 9.30 to 12.30
Price per court to share among players: €20 per hour.
If interested email Joëlle: joelle.glore@gmail.com

Flat for rent near the European institutions.
About 150 meters from the Orangerie park in a very quiet area close to public transport.
The apartment has 69 m2 with a terrace of 35 m2.
Large living area with a fully equipped open kitchen and a big bedroom with built-in wardrobe
The toilets are separate from the bathroom
Underfloor heating (géothermie). Electric shutters
Modern building
Price 1.250 € plus 80 € extra costs
Contact Béatrix Tel. 06 09 58 30 84

Native English / American speaker ?

Looking for a native english speaker to speak with a french little girl of 2 years old!

We are searching for a native English speaker babysitter to get used our little girl with the english language.
Can you play, sing and have fun with children ?
Free 1 or 2 hours a week ? Want to make some money ? Come to speak with us !
We live close to the University (rue de Bruxelles). Payed 9 euros/hour.
Do not hesitate if you have any questions, we are flexible !

Sophie 06 99 09 06 74 - sophie.gelinotte@laposte.net

What's Up? esc-alsace.org SEPTEMBER 2019 ISSUE 455 13
Jasmine Singh happily welcomes you to enjoy the Ayurveda experience in a genuine Indian atmosphere with an expert practitioner. Sessions by appointment only.

06 10 66 14 96 www.dimplebeaute.fr

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 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: 14/10 - 18/11 - 16/12
Deadline for next copy: Sunday 6/10/2019 - 6 pm