

# What's Up?

## The English-Speaking Community Newsletter



### Changes at the top table

Under the inspiring leadership of Sue Moller, the ESC has risen to the challenge of maintaining a sense of community during the pandemic by using a range of technologies while adding live events where that has been possible, and the membership has responded enthusiastically.

At the AGM held in June at the *Maison des Associations* - a great opportunity for members to meet again in person - Sue ended her involvement with the committee and will be leaving Strasbourg to tackle new challenges in the realm of sustainable agriculture. Sue's contribution to the association has been considerable and her absence will be sorely felt.

The AGM endorsed a team of seven committee members who subsequently proceeded to elect Joëlle Gloire as our new president. Joëlle has been an energetic presence in the association for several years, running the Book Club then joining the committee, sitting on groups drawing up a strategic

plan and sharpening our presence at the annual recruitment fair, the '*Village des Associations*'. Along with husband Olivier she has also organised a string of highly successful and enjoyable events at their home.

Joëlle is committed to the challenge of retaining the best of the association while finding new opportunities for growth, and we wish her every success in steering the ESC through the years ahead.

In other changes, Jonathan Crow has taken over the role of secretary in addition to his IT responsibilities, replacing Christine Secouet. We extend our thanks to Christine for her good-humoured work on the committee and wish her every success in the role of organising outings and events.

We arrive at the *rentrée* optimistic that we can quickly return to a more normal programme of live events, and we look forward to meeting you all again very soon.

Mike Wraith

### September 2021 - Inside this issue

- Coffee morning in la Robertsau - l'Escale, Tram E
- Barbecue in la Robertsau - l'Escale, Tram E
- Village des Associations in La Citadelle park

### new ESC contacts

- General: [contact@esc-alsace.org](mailto:contact@esc-alsace.org)
- Newsletter: [newsletter@esc-alsace.org](mailto:newsletter@esc-alsace.org)
- Events: [events@esc-alsace.org](mailto:events@esc-alsace.org)

# Upcoming activities

## Coffee morning: back at l'Escale

THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER: 9.30 - 11.30 am

The Coffee morning will be on September 9th from 9.30 to 11.30 at the Escale and I am looking forward to seeing some of you there. As usual you can drop by anytime during the morning and coffee, tea and cakes will be waiting for you.

Also, we will be bringing the books out. We have some new ones since we were last able to do this, so I am sure you will find something you want to take home.

If the weather is good, we may even be able to enjoy the garden at the Escale community centre (78 rue du Docteur François, la Robertsau - tram E).

Following government guidelines, we will be checking your Pass Sanitaire.

Looking forward to seeing you there! Maggie Vautheny [mvautheny@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mvautheny@esc-alsace.org)



## Annual Barbecue

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER: 12:00 noon

It's been a long wait, but the much-loved ESC barbecue is set to return on Sunday 12th September, beginning at 12 noon. As usual the association will provide meat and drinks and we ask each participant/couple/family to bring along either a salad or dessert of 6 servings to share. Vegetarians, please let us know when you register.

There will be live music and plenty of outside space to play or relax. Come along and meet old friends or make new ones. Guests are welcome.

Venue: L'Escale, 78 rue du Docteur François - la Robertsau (tram E).  
The fee is 10 euros per adult/ 5 euros children/12 euros adult guests.

Registration and payment are via HelloAsso <https://esc-alsace.org/BBQSep2021>  
Please contact Mike Wraith on [mwraith@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mwraith@esc-alsace.org) if you pay by cheque.

To ensure the safety of everyone, it will be essential to provide a Pass Sanitaire.



## Village des Associations 2021

SATURDAY 18 & SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2021

The annual showcase of associations in Strasbourg and district will take place in the Parc de la Citadelle over the weekend of the 18th/19th September. As usual, the ESC will be present in a stall run by a team of volunteers with the aim of bringing our existence and our activities to the attention of a wide audience – and of course we will be hoping to recruit new members.

The event is always worth a visit (<https://village-assos.mdas.org>). Come along and be amazed at the diversity of associations operating in the area and call in to the ESC stand - we would be delighted to see you.



## Book club's monthly reading

**MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER: 6:30 pm "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins**

Members of the ESC book club meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm (possible change of date during holidays). The member who has chosen the book will host the meeting and is invited to write a review for the newsletter (which is published in the following issue).

Interested in joining the book club? Contact Joëlle at [bookclub@esc-alsace.org](mailto:bookclub@esc-alsace.org)



The next books for discussion are:

« Weathering » by Lucy Wood, on 11th October  
« Lost City Radio » by Daniel Alarcon, on 8th November

## Save the date! for the Quiz Night

**SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER: 7pm**

You enjoyed the online quizzes during lockdown? You will love the live show!

Martyn Symons is in town and he will be your quiz master.

7 euros / person to cover drinks and light food.

Meet us at 7pm on Saturday 25 September at Joëlle's, La Robertsau

Check your Inbox, details will be soon sent in a separate email.



## Save the date! for an apéro at the Péniche Mécanique

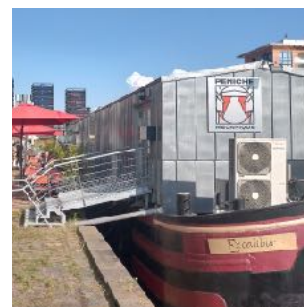
**FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER: 6.30 pm**

We are delighted to announce that we are back with our Friday apéros.

Our next one will take place on 1st October at the *Péniche Mécanique*, Presqu'île Malraux (near the Médiathèque Malraux) in Strasbourg from 6:30 onwards.

Save the date for the moment, as we will be sending out an email shortly with all the necessary details and requirements.

Looking forward to seeing you again.



# Save the date! for the visit to the exhibition Christo and Jeanne-Claude

SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER: 10.30 pm

Come and join us on October 9, at 10.30 at the lovely Musée Würth in Erstein, to visit the exhibition of the works of Christo and Jeanne-Claude, under the guidance of Rosalie Humler, well known to the ESC.

These remarkable artists have together created a body of very original and unique work throughout the world, that is difficult to describe simply : landart, wrappings, floating islands...

If you are not familiar with their work, here is the link to their official website: <https://christojeanneclaude.net>

and (below) an excerpt from Wikipedia's article about them: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christo\\_and\\_Jeanne-Claude](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christo_and_Jeanne-Claude)



The Pont Neuf Wrapped, Paris 1975-85  
Crédit : Wolfgang Volz – © Christo

As we speak, the wrapping of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris is being prepared, and will be visible from 20th September to 1st October. You'll find numerous articles on line about this event.

Even though access to the museum is free, there will be a charge of €8 for members / €10 for non-members to pay for the guide. In the next weeks, you will receive an email with an online sign-up and payment option.

The audio-guides are only in French and German.

The museum has a lovely cafeteria where they serve light lunches, indoors and outdoors (weather permitting).

Car pooling can be arranged ; you can contact me at [ckeget@club-internet.fr](mailto:ckeget@club-internet.fr).

Christine Secouet

*“ Christo Vladimirov Javacheff (1935–2020) and Jeanne-Claude Denat de Guillebon (1935–2009), known as Christo and Jeanne-Claude, were artists noted for their large-scale, site-specific environmental installations, often large landmarks and landscape elements wrapped in fabric, including the Wrapped Reichstag, The Pont Neuf Wrapped, Running Fence in California, and The Gates in New York City's Central Park.*

*Born on the same day in Bulgaria and Morocco, respectively, the pair met and married in Paris in the late 1950s. Originally working under Christo's name, they later credited their installations to both "Christo and Jeanne-Claude". Until his own death in 2020, Christo continued to plan and execute projects after Jeanne-Claude's death in 2009.*

*Their work was typically large, visually impressive, and controversial, often taking years and sometimes decades of careful preparation – including technical solutions, political negotiation, permitting and environmental approval, hearings and public persuasion. The pair refused grants, scholarships, donations or public money, instead financing the work via the sale of their own artwork.*

*Christo and Jeanne-Claude described the myriad elements that brought the projects to fruition as integral to the artwork itself, and said their projects contained no deeper meaning than their immediate aesthetic impact; their purpose being simply for joy, beauty, and new ways of seeing the familiar. ”*

# Past event review

## Garden Party at Last!

Most of you are now familiar with the usual ESC *apéro* organised on Friday evenings. This used to be in bars and whenever it became possible to meet up in person after the long lockdowns, we had the pleasure of reconnecting with each other in private gardens. It was difficult to plan much in advance as the rules regarding lockdown and curfew were constantly changing: up to 6 guests, then 10, until 9 pm... and as soon as it was possible to organise a carefree event, the idea of having a garden party with no restrictions and a proper dinner became my target. We were also fortunate to have a window of nice weather in a batch of cold and rainy days.

A few days afterwards, Michael Hall sent me a lovely thank you note with a copy of two stories he had written about dinner parties he and his wife Birgit had organised while in office. As a former diplomat, I am sure he has a lot to say about the subject. One of the articles, "Dinner for Thirteen", is a classic issue that ended up being solved by a couple of latecomers totally unaware of the stressful situation they had inflicted on the hosts and the guests. I am glad we were 30 at the four dinner tables set on our terrace. If we had to deal with the problem, we had no serving lady\* to include in the party and get around the number, and you never know if latecomers are scheduled to save your party.

Joëlle Glore

\* *Editor's note: Michael Hall stories about his life as British Consulate General in Frankfurt in the 1990's have been published in Dear Deutschland. It was not possible to include Dinner for Thirteen (published in Michael's second book Eating for Britain) this time but, if you're patient, we hope to publish extracts in upcoming issues.*



# Cooking corner

I'll share the recipe for one of the dishes prepared by Olivier which proved quite popular, should you wish to try it in your own kitchen.

## Pork loin cooked in milk

### Ingredients

1.3kg pork loin, boneless with skin removed and fat trimmed, tied  
olive oil  
80g of butter  
2 sprigs of sage  
1 sprig of rosemary  
1 garlic bulb, sliced in half horizontally  
lemon, zest peeled off into 4 strips  
1.5l whole milk  
Salt  
Pepper



### Cooking

Season the pork well with plenty of salt and pepper

Heat a good spoon of oil in a large casserole dish over a medium heat. Place the loin into the pan to brown, turning occasionally for a nice even colour

Add the garlic, lemon zest and herbs to the pan then top up with the milk. Adding the lemon zest splits the milk into curds and whey which does look a bit unappealing, but don't be alarmed, it tastes delicious!

Cover with a lid and leave to very slowly simmer for 1.5–2 hours. Baste the pork every 30 minutes or so to prevent it from drying out

Remove the pork from the sauce and leave to rest in a warm place for 30 minutes if eaten warm or let it cool down and wrap in cling film when cold if eaten cold (has to rest at least 12 hours in the fridge)

### Next steps are for warm serve

Whilst the pork is resting, pick out the whole herbs, zest and garlic, then strain the sauce into a clean pan, reserving the curds. Place the liquid back over the heat and reduce to a thin gravy consistency.

The curds may look a bit strange, but they are essentially a delicious porky ricotta, so don't waste them! Carve the pork and serve on a bed of the ricotta. Drizzle with the glossy gravy and serve with creamy mashed potatoes or polenta.

# Book club review

## "Meet me at the Museum" by Anne Youngson



The criteria I required for my final book choice for the ESC book group was first and foremost **uplifting**, as I did not want to be remembered for a murder or an incarcerated girl. I asked around and Denise Bou, an ex-group member, suggested, amongst others, *Meet Me At The Museum*.

This seemed amusingly pertinent to me, as one of the story's protagonists is based in the museum in Silkeborg, the next city from my great-grandparents' home in Denmark: and one theme around which the story resolves is the so-called *Tollund Man*, the remarkably preserved body of a man who died – oh, dear, not by natural causes – about three thousand years ago. I have recently been exploring the story around my great grandparents because of the mound of stone axes left in the back garden on my great grandfather's death, leading in due course to a museum being established in this town, Skanderborg.

So that's why it was this book: what about the contents?

This debut novel has rather a shaky premise of a woman making contact with the professor who wrote about *Tollund Man* and *The Bog People*, dedicating this book to her class some 50 years earlier. Unsurprisingly, the professor was dead and the current curator responded. Out of this evolves a correspondence more meaningful to both of them than their *présentiel* relationships – how pertinent in

our Covid times! – where they discuss what matters in life and muster the courage to make necessary changes.

Maggie had a surprising appendix to the story. She had studied *The Bog People* at school with an enthusiastic history teacher. They had gone on to build huts using the footprint of prehistoric houses and spent weekends there, trying out a prehistoric lifestyle. What an amazing teacher and wonderful experience!

Whilst the concept for the book is shaky, the style, the 'dialogue', the related relationships were universally agreed to be engaging and indeed uplifting. As this was our first *présentiel* book group in many months, we had a great turnout and enjoyed an al fresco discussion, though the mosquito-friendly amongst us were relieved to get inside to feast and chat.

I always enjoyed trying out books I would never have found on my own, and hearing perspectives that eluded me from members of the book group. I hope that, when I settle somewhere in England, I will find a similarly diverse group with whom to experience literature. In the meantime, thank you for your book suggestions and your companionship: *bonne continuation!*

Sue Moller

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Anne Youngson worked for many years in senior management in the car industry before embarking on a creative career as a writer. She has supported many charities in governance roles, including Chair of the Writers in Prison Network, which provided residencies in prisons for writers. *Meet Me At The Museum*, her debut novel, was shortlisted for the Costa Best First Novel Award and is now published around the world.

# Your ESC Committee



Joëlle Glore  
President



Maggie Vautheny  
Vice-President



Mike Wraith  
Treasurer



Jonathan Crow  
Secretary/Digital Strategist



Catherine Manini  
Newsletter Editor



Fabienne Martin  
Events Coordinator



Véronique Heller-Clauss  
Communication/Strategy  
Coordinator

## ESC Membership / Registration 2021: [link to Register with the ESC-Alsace](#)

Feel free to contact the treasurer at [membership@esc-alsace.org](mailto:membership@esc-alsace.org). Full details on our website (click on Join Us).

## 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, €40 for non-members and businesses, which should be included with submission. Items for publication should be in English.

Please forward items by e-mail to Catherine Manini at [newsletter@esc-alsace.org](mailto:newsletter@esc-alsace.org)

Newsletters are usually issued on the Monday before coffee mornings where a few paper copies are delivered.

**Deadline for next copy is Sunday 26/09/2021 - 6 pm (guidelines can be sent upon request)**

Cover picture: Strasbourg Petite-France: Square des Moulins from the terrace of restaurant Chut - CM 09.2021