

# What's Up?

The English-Speaking Community Newsletter



## **W**alks and Hikes wanted!

As Polly was finalising her offer to take us on a healthy tour in the Saverne area, the project sparked off a debate within the committee. What is a walk as opposed to a hike? Do you walk on a flat path and hike on hilly landscape? Do we get by with sneakers when walking and need good hiking shoes when... hiking? Or is it, as someone put it recently to me, definitely a hike if you come back tired after a day in the Vosges, which, incidentally, was how some of you felt after the Saverne excursion.

Whether you like both walks and hikes, or just one of the categories, and you feel you have a suggestion for a tour that your ESC friends might enjoy, please come forward and tell us all about it! Even better if you would like to help organise it.

Feel free to email [jglore@esc-alsace.org](mailto:jglore@esc-alsace.org) to discuss your idea.

Joëlle Glore, President

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### 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 events

## Guided tour in Schiltigheim

**SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2021: 10.30 am**

Central Strasbourg is such a tourist magnet that we tend to overlook some other gems on our doorstep.

On Saturday 13th November, starting at 10.30am, ESC committee member Fabienne Martin will lead a guided walking tour of the authentic 'Old Schiltigheim' to discover the architecture, the traditions and anecdotes linked to some surprising places. The tour will last about an hour and a half and will be rounded off with an (optional) apéro and/or light lunch in a cosy place in Schilick.

The meeting place will be in front of the 'Ferme Linck', 22 rue d'Adelshoffen.

Please sign up using HelloAsso [GuidedTourSchilick](#). Admission fee is €5 for ESC members and €7 for guests.



## Monthly coffee morning at l'Escale

**THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER: 9.30 - 11.30 am**

Come and visit our free coffee morning at the Escale community centre (78 rue du Docteur François, la Robertsau - tram E). As usual you can drop by anytime from 9.30 to 11.30. Coffee, tea and cakes will be waiting for you.

A selection of books will be on display. We have some new ones, so surely you will find something you want to take home. The next meeting dates are: 16/12, 13/01, 3/02, 3/03, 7/04, 12/05, 16/06.

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

For further details, contact Maggie at [mvautheny@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mvautheny@esc-alsace.org).



## Save the date! for a bowling evening

**FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2021, at 18.30 pm**

After a regrettably long absence, we are proposing to return to play ten-pin bowling at the Orangerie on Friday 3rd December, starting at 18.30. The cost will be about 8 euros per person.

The emphasis will be on having fun with expertise being a minor, optional extra.

Pass Sanitaire obligatory. Watch your email for sign-up details.



## Save the date! for an Apéro at Le Social bar

**FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2021, starting at 18.30 pm: 69, rue du Faubourg de Pierre (Bus L3, 20 or 2)**

# Past events reviews

## Live quiz night!

The ESC quiz was at last able to return to an 'in-person' event in September, at the home of our gracious hosts Joëlle and Olivier who laid on drinks and a splendid buffet supper.

Once again, Martyn Symons was the man with the microphone, in a final gig before moving off to winter pastures somewhere in the Iberian Peninsula.

Martyn entertained the 20 members present with the highly original idea of an audio quiz: one where we needed our aural faculties and our memories. A quiz where most of questions were sounds – sounds ranging from the primeval to the mellifluous.

He took us on 3 aural adventures: back to our earliest origins when we knew instantly (indeed had to know) the difference between the mating bellow of a rampant alligator and the rallying roar of a lioness, to the post-Edison period when the exhortations and the *mensonges* of the famous and infamous could be broadcast and recorded, and down the Yellow Brick Road to the enchanted era of musical comedies.



To raise the spirits of the wordsmiths in the company, who might well have been getting despondent, Martyn had 10 questions where the clues were elaborate and amusing circumlocutions of the titles of well-known films. One could see the *literati* immediately brightening up and putting pen to paper.

It was clear from the appreciative sounds made by the quizsters that the two hours of phonic fun which Martyn had orchestrated had been a great success. We much look forward to the next quiz he composes when doubtless he will be challenging our olfactory organs.

Michael Hall



## Walk to the Grotte St Vit

On Sunday 17 October, a group of fifteen members of the ESC met at 10.30am at Ramsthal fishing lake. The weather was fine, slightly fresh with a clear sky which made it perfect for a walk. Polly took the helm and guided us up the valley through beech and conifer woods.

We quickly made it to 'Fontaine Mélanie', a nice meditative place with benches and a fountain where several springs meet. The place was made by the Club Vosgien and one feels grateful for the time and efforts this club puts into the marking of paths and up-keeping of the Vosges. Polly offered us her lovely home-made flapjacks and we pursued fully reinvigorated.

The next slope was a bit steep, we climbed to the rocky outcrops of Breitkopf and had great views over to the Haut Barr Castle. Around noon, we arrived at the picnic place next to the Maison Forestière, we sat around some wooden tables and had a jolly time with everyone sharing bits and pieces. We went on merrily chatting to each other and arrived at the 'Grotte St Vit'.



The place is beautiful, with lovely gardens, a lily pond and a very beautiful rockery and offers a great view over the Zorn valley. The grotto was enlarged and transformed into a small chapel. We all wondered at the name St Vit and Google gave us different versions as well as different spellings. He apparently lived in the 6th century and was the patron saint of dancers. People would implore him to cure them of epilepsy.

We then went down to the car park and finished this nice day at around 4pm by having a drink and really good pastries at the Zimmerman tearoom in Saverne.

As a newcomer, I was delighted to speak to so many people, all with different and very interesting profiles, with so many centres of interest and am looking forward to suggest some cultural events myself.

Many thanks to Polly for organising this beautiful walk, we'll be back !

Monique Schlick



# Cooking corner

For years of organising walks - as we call them - in the Vosges, Marina Von Knorring and Monique Douté have helped us discover a number of pleasant *pâtisseries* to conclude our rambles. As nice places are not always easy to book on a Sunday afternoon, Polly recently introduced a new interesting addition by sharing with us her baking treats. That Sunday, she brought home-made Flapjacks. If the name doesn't immediately ring a bell to you, her generosity extends to sharing the recipe and explanations.

Should you wish to give it a go, I hope your experience will go better than the one of James Acaster (English stand-up comedian) in the TV programme "Bake Off Britain" where he participated for charity: <https://youtu.be/Ozky4p5HBYE>. In his own words: "Even if the baking goes badly, it's a bit of fun". Bon Appétit!

## Flapjacks

Flapjacks are maybe not the healthiest things to snack on due to a high sugar content but they are nonetheless extremely moreish, nice for a treat and also very quick and easy to make.

### Ingredients

- 130g butter
- 130g soft brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup (available in the UK)
- 200g rolled oats
- 40g flour



### Cooking

- Melt butter in a pan.
- Add brown sugar and syrup.
- Mix flour with oats and stir into mixture.
- Press into shallow baking tray (9X9cm)
- Bake at 180°C for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Cut into small rectangles while still hot in tray.



To vary add dried cranberries or other dried fruit and/or half a tablespoons of dried ginger.

### Origin

The name flapjacks originated in the 1600s in England. The "flap" part of flapjack dates back to the 1300s when "flap" was used in place of "to flip". It is uncertain as to what the "jack" in flapjack means, but it is often speculated to refer to the small size of a flapjack as "jack" was used to refer to something that was smaller than normal. The flapjack was originally used to describe a pancake.

Polly Stotz

# Book club review

## “Weathering” by Lucy Wood



“ Ada never wanted to come back to the house but, in the end, comes to accept it and see what it has to offer. The house and the gushing river are haunted by her mother Pearl who was the previous owner of the house. ”

On Monday the 11th October, the book club met to review the book by Lucy Wood “Weathering”. Although I had chosen the book, work commitments prevented me from attending the evening. I had chosen the book because I had mixed feelings about it and wanted to know what others thought ; and so I was rather sad that I was not able to be there to hear the discussion.

The book was written in 2015 and reviewed by the Guardian in 2016 ; and it was this review that made me go out and buy the book. Essentially, the book is about a woman, Ada and her young daughter who inherit a ruin of a house in a wood. Ada never wanted to come back to the house but, in the end, comes to accept it and see what it has to offer. The house and the gushing river are haunted by her mother Pearl who was the previous owner of the house.

The story revolves around Ada and Pepper and how they are trying to carve out a life for themselves there.

However, it is not the plot that captures the reader, as it is the descriptive, almost dreamlike prose that draws the reader in. Personally, I found some of the passages hard to grapple with and a bit over-egged whilst others made me feel the chill of the house and the swirling of the water around me.

It is a book about sensations of all kinds but this can be overdone. There is also a haunting quality which, I suppose, is in part due to Pearl’s spirit but also something else that is even more intangible.

The character of the little girl Pepper seemed totally unbelievable to me but the author could be just using her to advance the plot. The original review (which I have now lost) had a photograph of Lucy Wood in a wood (she lives near one apparently). The picture had a haunting quality which I have never forgotten and I would say the same about the book!

Yvonne Chappel



This is Lucy Wood’s second novel. She lives in a small village in Devon near the river Teign which gave her the inspiration for this book. She has an M. A. in creative writing from Exeter University.

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

The next books for discussion are:

“ On Chapel Sands ” by Laura Cumming on 13th December,  
“ Oh William! ” by Elizabeth Strout on January 10th, 2022.



## Conversation groups

The organisation of each group is specific.  
Please get the details of the dates and locations of the next meetings directly from the group leaders listed below:



### English conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Nigel at [nigelpermaul@gmail.com](mailto:nigelpermaul@gmail.com) - 06 75 63 89 98

### French conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Colette at [fredericka06@yahoo.fr](mailto:fredericka06@yahoo.fr) - 03 88 20 21 17

### Spanish conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Maria at [mtremoureux@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mtremoureux@esc-alsace.org)

### German conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bronwyn at [bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org](mailto:bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org) - 06 85 33 11 24

## Local cultural events

### Tagora's 2021 production: "Much Ado about Will!"

27 November to 5 December 2021, Théâtre du Cube noir, Strasbourg-Koenigshoffen



"Much ado about Will!" is a musical entertainment centred on the life and works of William Shakespeare (director: Louise Palmer). You will need a good grasp of both English and French languages.

Much ado indeed; few writers have caused as much ado as William Shakespeare. Across languages, cultures and diverging cultures he provokes a universal passion.

But who was he - or she? Centuries of research and often far-fetched speculations lead only to this: you can only know him - really know him - through his work or in the imagination of the reader or the play-goer.

His essence has survived an infinite variety of interpretations and yet remains a fixed star in the constellation of world literature - to the frustration of those who hold that he lacks contemporary relevance or that his language is inaccessible.

In Much Ado About Will, Tagora presents an evening devoted to Shakespeare: the man and his writings but also the ideas and myths that surround him with extracts, sketches and songs.

Tickets now on sale at <https://www.weezevent.com/much-ado-about-will>



# Your ESC Committee



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<< This is a gentle call to renew your registration with the ESC >> Please remember the cut-off date is 31/12/2021. Do so before we all get into Christmas mood 😊

**ESC Membership / Registration 2022:** [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. 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). We plan to issue the next newsletters on the first Monday of the month (please excuse possible organisational delays).

**Deadline for next copy is Sunday 28/11/2021 - 6 pm (guidelines can be sent upon request)**

Thanks to Terence Boyle for the Cover picture

