



## **H**ave an apéro-quiz for the New Year

FRIDAY 21 JANUARY: 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Happy New Year to all of you!

The transition to 2022 was not exactly what we were hoping for, with yet another Greek letter to be wary of. Hopefully this Omicron wave will soon be under control, and we will be able to revert to our planned and regular activities. In the meantime, your committee has decided to play it safe and cancelled ESC gatherings in public places. Sadly, this means that the much-appreciated *apéros* will be on hold. The new recommendations do not allow us to move around and mingle in bars, which is the major advantage of this kind of event.

Until we can safely meet in town, *apéros* will take place via Teams. This month, to keep you entertained, Véronique and I will wear our quiz master hat and test your ability to have fun and learn a couple of things.

Watch out for the reminder by email to sign up!

Joëlle Gloire, President

### January 2022 - Inside this issue

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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

## Monthly Thursday morning at l'Escale

THURSDAY 13 JANUARY: 9.30 - 11.30 am

Maggie will welcome members who would like to come and visit the Escale upstairs room (78 rue du Docteur François, la Robertsau - tram E) between 9.30 and 11.30.

Whilst the health situation is degrading, the ESC committee intends to act responsibly for our community. Consequently, the usual coffee, tea and cakes will not be available and visitors will be asked to wear a mask. The *pass sanitaire* will be checked. For further details, [mvautheny@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mvautheny@esc-alsace.org).

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 room has been booked on the following dates: 3/02, 3/03, 7/04, 12/05, 16/06.



## Save the date! for a private guided visit to the BNU

SATURDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2022 - 9:00 am

Fabienne Matin is making arrangements for a tour in the library's rooms and historical storages of the Bibliothèque Nationale Universitaire on Place de la République. Starting at 9 o'clock may seem early on a Saturday morning, but you will have the privilege to enjoy the building empty of its students and researchers, before it opens its doors to the general public.

We will get an introduction to the current exhibition "L'art Phénicien". Our guide will be an employee of the BNU, Marjorie Bea who is "Chargée d'animations". She will lead us for around 1h to 1h30.

If you would like to stay with us afterwards, we will share together a coffee or a breakfast at Café Brandt.

## Past event: Impro night



With the holidays just around the corner, nine of us gathered, me facilitating for eight beginners, for a night of impro.

After brief introductions, and a little dancing, we practiced Counting to seven. That's right, it can be surprisingly tricky with a few curveballs. Then we attempted a challenging game to get us thinking on the same wavelengths, where we tried to say the same word at the same time (the key is to think less). Next we explored a range of character traits, world-views and emotions all while honouring and exalting each other's ideas in the game Hitchhiker. But the

*pièce de résistance* was Gibberish Replay, which is a guessing game that requires players to re-do a scene in nonsense language. In our case, one of us had to translate computer beeps into gibberish!

At that point, some of the group had to peel off, but the rest of us did a few rounds of Hunter and the Frog, which is, frankly, a children's game and was a perfect way to cap off a night where the goal was to have fun. It was an honour to lead the group on our inaugural Impro Club gathering. Thank you to all who participated and to our gracious host!

Nikki Michaelson

# A night out at the Bowling de l'Orangerie. What a friendly atmosphere!



Pauline & the Taggart's league

spares & strikes



Kate & the four-leafs clover



Anne & the swirling mates



Christines' triple luck



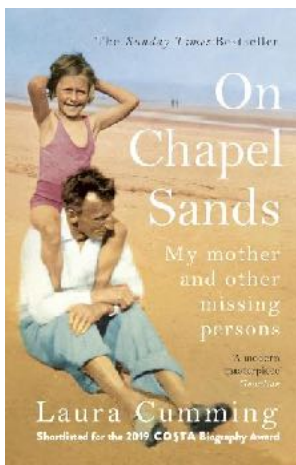
Your membership runs from 1st January to 31st December.  
To renew your registration with the ESC, click on the link in red below.

**ESC Membership / Registration 2022:** <https://esc-alsace.org/Join>

Feel free to contact the treasurer at [membership@esc-alsace.org](mailto:membership@esc-alsace.org).

# Book club review

## “On Chapel Sands” by Laura Cumming



“ This is much more than a detective story. It is about identity, the unsaid, family bonds, secrets, love and belonging. ”

It was in thick, winter fog that seven valiant Book Club members braved the journey up the motorway to Uberach to discuss my December book choice. Despite the hazardous road conditions, I think all agreed it was worth the drive, particularly as we had great pleasure in welcoming Sue Moller back into the fold during her flying visit to Alsace.

This “memoir-cum detective story” kicks off with the mysterious abduction of a 3-year-old girl from a beach at Chapel Saint Leonards in Lincolnshire in 1929. This drama immediately captures our imagination as the author creates a who-dunnit atmosphere. However, the girl is found unharmed 5 days later and returned to her adoptive parents. She never learns about her kidnapping and tragically remains ignorant of her origins for the best part of her life. It is the author, her daughter, who much later becomes determined to uncover the mystery of her mother’s origins.

This is much more than a detective story. It is about identity, the unsaid,

family bonds, secrets, love and belonging. The role of the image, including family photos and works of art are fundamental to the author’s investigation of events and her understanding of her family history. Her narrative paints such a vivid picture of people and places that we feel we come to know them intimately. It is also enriched by references to the social background of the time with mention of literary characters such as Tennyson, World War II and the seaside resort of Skegness.

Several of our book club members felt this was a book that needed to be read twice in order to get a full grasp of its somewhat complicated narrative which flows uncertainly backwards and forwards, from mother to daughter and at times going frustratingly off at tangents as Cumming struggles to find explanations to her mother’s past and indeed her own identity.

Polly Stotz



Laura Cumming has been the art critic of The Observer newspaper since 1999. Before that she worked for The Guardian, the New Statesman and the BBC. She also wrote The Vanishing Man in 2016.

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

The next books for discussion are:

“ Snow ” by John Banville on 14th February,

“ The Spinoza Problem ” by Irvin Yalom on 14th March.