

The English-Speaking Community and what *this* means

In the January 2020 issue of the ESC newsletter, two of our long-standing British members were reflecting on the meaning of the association and how it all started in the 1970s. One of the founder members, Eila Walker, had pondered the following questions: *What does our association do, or mean, to you? And What do you want it to do, or mean to you?*

Today, I feel like asking our members the very same questions. Our events and activities appear to be attracting more and more French speakers. Consequently, at the monthly apéro or coffee mornings, during cultural visits and other events, we end up conversing in French. We are the English-Speaking Community, and the first and most relevant idea in this three-word combination is the word, ENGLISH. This is our identity and why the association exists - and, I'd like to think, the reason why you have decided to join us.

So please, when you and other members meet at an event organised by the ESC, communicate and bond in what is our main identity, i.e. the language we use as a community. We do not want to become just the Speaking Community, do we?

Joëlle Glore, President

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new ESC contacts

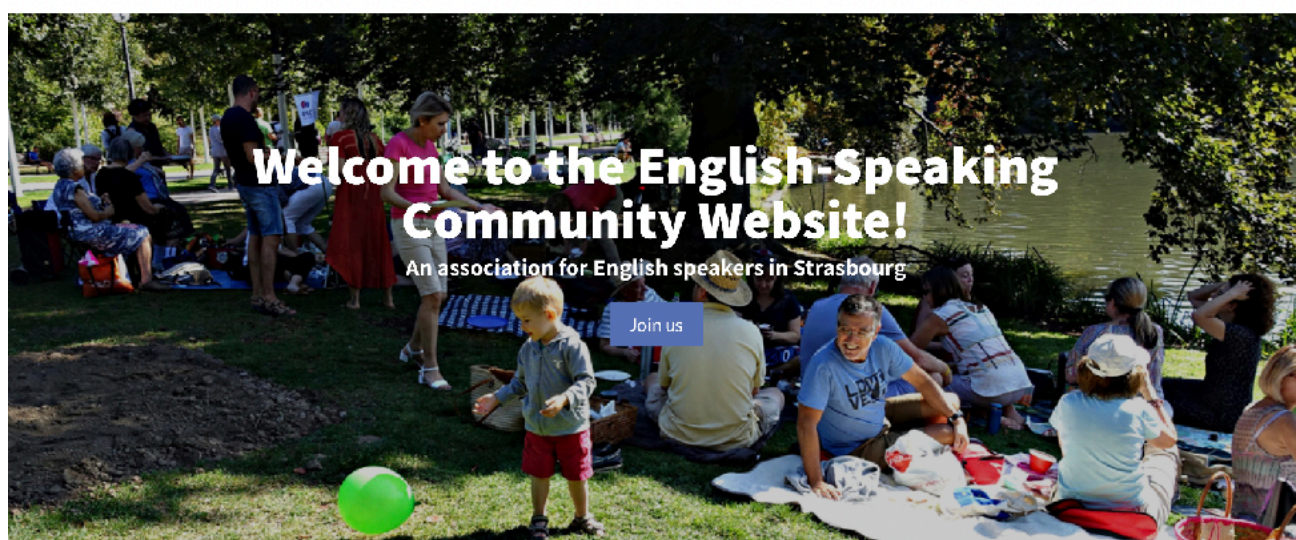
- General: contact@esc-alsace.org
- Newsletter: newsletter@esc-alsace.org
- Events: events@esc-alsace.org

From the committee

Our new website is now available



What's on ▾ About us ▾ Join us Contact



Our new website has been up and running for some time now. You may have asked yourself why we considered building a new website.

We expect our new website to provide an exciting opportunity for both current and prospective ESC members to engage in everything that we offer as a welcoming and inclusive association. Therefore, as our 'shop window', it is essential that the website is designed to reflect not only the vibrancy and depth of interest of the ESC with a compelling content but also to provide a platform to share all the most up-to-date information about our events with all our members.

You must have also noticed that we have been trying to give a new impulse to our association over the recent months and we need our website to be in line with that development. Consequently, we wanted our website to be modern, engaging, pleasing to the eye, simple and easy to navigate for an effortless user-experience.

In the meantime, you may have discovered our most essential page "What's on" with a description and images of our major events as well as a three-month calendar. This calendar will give you an idea about the various events we have in store for you and give you the possibility to plan ahead of time. Of course, you will still receive our regular emails and events will continue to be advertised in the newsletter.

A special section, intended only for you, entitled "Resources for members", located at the bottom of each page and only accessible via a password, will allow you to have access to our newsletters and other specific documents. You just have to enter the password sent recently by email in the grey box below the section "To view the protected post..." and hit enter/return.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our new website, we encourage you to do so esc-alsace.org. Enjoy!

Véronique Heller-Claus

Upcoming events

It's apéro time again! Special park edition

FRIDAY 20 MAY: 6.30 pm

Our Friday apéro is following the sunshine to the outdoors! Meet us at Parc de la Citadelle in Strasbourg from 6.30 pm onwards. We will be near the old fortress walls, just through the tunnel from the rue de Boston parking lot.

Bring your drinks and the ESC will provide some nibbles.

Feel free to bring outdoor games – pétanque, molkky, frisbee...

Please sign up here: [Apéro Citadelle](#)



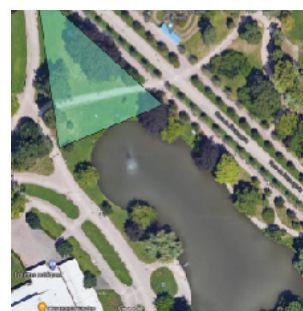
May picnic in the Orangerie park

SUNDAY 29 MAY: 12.00 noon

We are inviting you to join us for our first spring picnic starting at 12 (noon) on Sunday, 29th May. Hopefully the weather will be glorious, blue skies and brilliant sunshine. Then the first people to arrive will bag a lovely shady spot under a beech tree by the lake and soon there will be a colourful array of rugs under its branches.

Please bring food for your group. ESC will provide a selection of beverages.

Please sign up here: [May Picnic](#). Hope to see you there!



Last coffee morning before the summer recess

THURSDAY 16 JUNE: 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 am.

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.

For further details, you may contact Maggie at mvautheny@esc-alsace.org.



Mahjong group

on alternate TUESDAY afternoons

Hannelore will welcome you around the Mahjong table to show you the secrets of this fascinating game. The group meets in turn at the private homes of the participants on a Tuesday afternoon.

To join or for details, please contact Hannelore at hannelore.bolon@gmail.com (new email address)



Garden Get-together

FRIDAY 10 JUNE: 6.30 pm

Our June apéro will take place in Maggie and Henri's garden in Hoenheim.

Come and smell the roses on Friday, 10th June from 6.30 pm.

As usual, please bring some finger food and a bottle.

Registering is important, please register [Garden Get-together](#). If you have questions or are unable to attend at the last minute, please contact Maggie at mvautheny@esc-alsace.org or 06 67 71 99 26



Visit to a Frida Kahlo exhibition followed by a lunch in Baden-Baden

SATURDAY 11 JUNE: 10:00 am

This time, we propose an exhibition in Baden-Baden at the Kunstmuseum Gehrke-Remund, centered on replica paintings by Frida Kahlo, the remarkable Mexican artist.

For this fabulous exhibition, we will not have a guide as we usually do; it can be followed by means of a catalogue in English that reveals the background and secrets behind each painting.

For those who wish to spend some more time in Baden-Baden, we propose to have lunch together in a Turkish restaurant at about 10 minutes on foot from the Museum.

Price: subsidised €11 for members, €13 for guests.

To sign up, click here [Frida Kahlo exhibition](#). Places are limited to 20 participants. Carpooling can be arranged.



Berry picking

SATURDAY 18 JUNE: 10:00 am

You are fond of strawberries, why not pick them yourself and make an enjoyable family-friendly summer activity out of it! So come and join us on Saturday, 18th June at 10:00 am "Au pays des fraises" in Vendenheim, Allée du Château de Sury.

We are sure you will enjoy plucking brightly coloured, sweet-smelling gems like strawberries and maybe raspberries if they are already ripe by this time of the year. You may wonder about the price. There is nothing to pay in advance as you will be charged at the end based on the weight of the berries you've picked. Please don't forget to bring your own basket/recipient.

If you are interested in joining us, please sign up here: [Berry picking](#). Carpooling can be arranged.



Summer Barbecue with a touch of Platinum Jubilee 🇬🇧

SUNDAY 26 JUNE, starting at 12 noon

As trailed in the April newsletter, the 2022 version of the ESC annual summer barbecue will be held on Sunday, 26th June at L'Escale in La Robertsau, 78 rue du Dr François. The tram stop at the end of Line E and a decently sized car park will make your life easy.

The event will take place in the peaceful private grounds of the club – with a fallback of using the extensive indoor space in the case of an unlikely shower of rain. Live, mellow music will be provided and there will be several special British-themed events to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

As usual, the entrance fee includes all meat and drinks. We will be offering the very traditional and popular Pimm's at the apéro. Each attendee/couple/family is asked to bring along a salad or dessert to share with others. The fun starts at 12 noon, and you are encouraged to arrive on time or risk missing the best bits!

A detailed programme as well as signing up instructions will be sent in due course.



Marche gourmande in Obernai - Bookings open!

SUNDAY 28 AUGUST: 10:50 am

We are delighted to propose a gastronomic walk in the vineyard of Obernai on Sunday 28 August at 10:50 am. It will also be open to children.

This 7 km walk organised by the Obernai winegrowers' guild has become a must do in the region and we are advertising it well ahead of time to know who is coming and to ensure we reserve the necessary places.

The price is €36 for adults, €18 for children from 6 to 14 and free for children under 6. Carpooling can be arranged.

The group is limited to 30 persons. So if you are interested in joining us, please sign up by 31st May here: [Gastronomic Walk Obernai](#) (compulsory registration through HelloAsso).



Save the date! for a Guided tour in Andlau

SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

A town of wine and gastronomy, home of the Grands Crus d'Alsace (Kastelberg - Wiebelsberg - Moenchberg), Andlau houses a remarkable architectural heritage: Ste Richarde's abbey, the castles of Spesbourg and Upper Andlau, numerous Renaissance buildings in stone and wood.

In the *Ateliers de la Seigneurie* (Heritage Interpretation Center), our guide will explain the whys and wherefores of the local constructions from the *château-fort* to the traditional Alsatian house. A place where not only can you see, but also touch, build, experience... so many things!

Practical details and signing up instructions will be sent in due course.



Upcoming events overview

you are kindly asked to let us know if you intend to come by signing up, using the links provided

Apéro in the park

20 MAY - 6.30 pm

Parc de LA CITADELLE, Strasbourg
Meeting point just through the tunnel
from the rue de Boston parking lot

Sign-up link: [Apéro Citadelle](#)

Nibbles provided by the ESC,
Please bring drinks for your group.

Outdoor games welcome.

Spring picnic

29 MAY - 12.00 (noon)

Parc de l'ORANGERIE
Meeting point by the short side of
the lake facing the fountain

Sign-up link: [May Picnic](#)

Drinks provided by the ESC,
Please bring food for your group.

Lawn games welcome.

Frida Kahlo exhibition

11 JUNE - 10.00 am

and optional lunch in BADEN-BADEN
Places limited to 20 participants.

Sign-up link: [Frida Kahlo exhibition](#)

Subsidised price: members 11€ /
non-members: €13

Garden Get-together

10 JUNE - 6.30 pm

at Maggie and Henri's in HOENHEIM

Sign-up link:
[Garden Get-together](#)

Coffee morning

16 JUNE - 9.30 am

Centre socio-culturel L'ESCALE ROBERTSAU,
78 rue du Docteur François:

Free access, room on first floor

Berry picking

18 JUNE - 10.00 am

"Au pays des fraises" VENDENHEIM,
Allée du Château de Sury.

Sign-up link: [Berry picking](#)

Summer Barbecue

26 JUNE - 12.00 (noon)

L'ESCALE ROBERTSAU, 78 rue du
Docteur François

Details and sign-up link to follow

Marche Gourmande

28 AUGUST - 10:50 am (sharp)

in the OBERNAI vineyard
Places limited to 30 participants.

Cost: €36 /person

Sign-up link: [Gastronomic Walk Obernai](#)

Guided tour

10 SEPTEMBER

in ANDLAU and Ateliers de la Seigneurie

Details and sign-up link to follow

Past events

Visit of the Synagogue de la Paix



On 7th April 2022, 14h30 we entered the Synagogue Avenue de la Paix in Strasbourg to start our visit with Rabbi Mendel Samana. It was inaugurated in 1958 to replace the previous neo-Roman style one located place des Halles and destroyed during the Second World War in 1941. As the Jewish community had increased in the Contades area, the city gave them the land in the 50s to build a new synagogue in this part of Strasbourg.

The Rabbi welcomed us first in the impressive Ashkenazi synagogue, which features a very high ceiling, supported by massive columns. After giving some details about the Jewish community, he showed us the Holy Ark, located at the front and which hosts the Torah rolls. The holy book of Torah is written by hand only. Each letter must be inspected afterwards to make sure that they follow the proper scriptural writing rules. The Torah includes 52 sections, one for every week, so reading the whole Torah is completed in one year. The process starts again the following year.

During the prayer, men and women do not mix: the men sit in the middle and central part of the synagogue – which can be compared to the nave in the Christian churches - and the women used to be in the upper side balconies, but lately, they have been in the side aisle, separated by a glass window. The Synagogue de la Paix of Strasbourg comprises a total 6 worship places, one of them being the Sephardic synagogue, inaugurated in 2000. It is much smaller but brighter and features colourful stained-glass windows. While we were there, the rabbi took out the Torah roll from the Holy Ark and explained how to read it, line by line, with a « pen », but without touching the vellum paper.

Our tour ended at the Café de la Paix, where Gilbert and Elise Meyer kindly treated us to drinks and cakes. Thank you so much to them!

Fabienne Martin

Book club review

“The Humans” by Matt Haig

“I know that some of you reading this are convinced humans are a myth, but I am here to state that they do actually exist. For those that don't know, a human is a real bipedal life form of midrange intelligence, living a largely deluded existence on a small waterlogged planet in a very lonely corner of the universe.”



“ This must be one of the most muted and personal alien invasion stories that you will come across. ”

The Humans is a funny, compulsively readable novel about alien abduction, mathematics, and that most interesting subject of all: ourselves. This must be one of the most muted and personal alien invasion stories that you will come across.

Our hero, Professor Andrew Martin, is dead before the book even begins. As it turns out, though, he wasn't a very nice man - as the alien imposter who now occupies his body discovers. Sent to Earth to destroy evidence that Andrew had solved a major mathematical problem, the alien soon finds himself learning more about the professor, his family, and “the

humans” than he ever expected. When he begins to fall for his own wife and son - who have no idea he's not the real Andrew - the alien must choose between completing his mission and returning home or finding a new home right here on Earth.

As a whole, we (the 8 members of the book club who met) thought this book was amusing and had different passages that made us giggle. We found it clear from reading this book what Matt Haig finds essential to human life: music, family, friends, dogs and peanut butter.

Kate Crow



Matt Haig was born in Sheffield, England. He writes books for both adults and children, often blending the worlds of domestic reality and outright fantasy, with a quirky twist. Some of Haig's work is inspired by the mental breakdown he suffered from when he was 24 years old.

Interested in joining the book club? Contact Joëlle at bookclub@esc-alsace.org

The next books for discussion are:

“The Colossus of Maroussi” by Henry Miller on 13th June

“The Last Gift” by Gurnah Abdulrazak on 12th September

Information & ads



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

weekly on FRIDAYS at 2.30 pm

If you are interested in joining, please contact Nigel at nigelpermaul@gmail.com - 06 75 63 89 98

German conversation group

fortnightly on MONDAYS at 2.00 pm (temporarily on hold)

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bronwyn at bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org - 06 85 33 11 24

Spanish conversation group

monthly on MONDAYS at 6.30 pm

If you are interested in joining, please contact Maria at mtremoureux@esc-alsace.org

To rent: Tuscan Beautiful Property, 12 km south of Siena

The house (up to 6 people) has large bright rooms, nicely furnished, a large Cantina (former wine cellar) with a summer kitchen and a living room. There are two bathrooms, two toilets, two kitchens, fireplace, telephone, Wi-Fi/WLAN, washing machine, dishwasher, courtyard and a beautiful garden.

Nearby can be found cool rivers, lakes, churches and chapels, a public swimming pool, supermarkets, a post office, good restaurants, bars and farmers selling wine, olive oil, honey and more.

Price: 560€ /week (June/July/August 630€ /week) for 4 persons.

For information, call: Birgit Meyer, Tel: 0033 388 36 1991 (home) – 0049 172 6202 371 (mobile)
email: Birgitmeyer2@gmx.de

Views on: www.bella-tuscany.net
We are also on Airbnb: www.poggioallupo.com



VILLA TO RENT IN LISBON

Villa Goreti is a lovely and spacious traditional Portuguese house located in a quiet area, 15 min. from Lisbon and 5 min. from the beach.

Close to all commodities: Grocery Shop, Restaurants, Cafés.

3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms (can accommodate up to **9 people**)

Fully equipped kitchen and living room of 60 m²

Television with cable network and Wi-Fi

Outdoor terrace with BBQ and a **swimming pool**

Contact : Maria Tremoureux - 00 33 6 11 12 68 51 - maria.tremoureux@gmail.com



Newsletter Publication

We'll publish your announcements/advertisements each month, space permitting, 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

The deadline for next copy is Sunday 12/06/2022 - 6 pm (guidelines can be sent upon request)

Cover picture: Westhoffen, 2017 - C. Manini