



### Apéro at Social Bar

17 MARCH: 6.30 pm

Le Social Bar, 69 rue du Faubourg de Pierre, 67000 Strasbourg  
Contact: [events@esc-alsace.org](mailto:events@esc-alsace.org)

### Annual General Meeting

30 MARCH: 2.00 pm

Maison des Associations, 1A place des Orphelins, 67000 Strasbourg  
Contact: [contact@esc-alsace.org](mailto:contact@esc-alsace.org)  
Please register [here](#).

### Guided tour of Musée Vodou and Beer Tasting

1 APRIL: 4.00 pm

Château, Musée Vodou, 4 rue de Koensigshoffen, 67000 Strasbourg  
Contact: [events@esc-alsace.org](mailto:events@esc-alsace.org)

### Book club

17 APRIL: 6.30 pm

At a member's home in turn.  
Contact: Joëlle  
[bookclub@esc-alsace.org](mailto:bookclub@esc-alsace.org)

### Walk at Bischoffsheim

16 APRIL: 10.30 am

Place St Rémy, 67870 Bischoffsheim  
Contact: Polly  
[polly.stotz@gmail.com](mailto:polly.stotz@gmail.com)

### Coffee morning

27 APRIL: 9.30 - 11.30 am

L'Escale Robertsau, 78 rue du Dr François, 67000 Strasbourg: room on first floor  
Contact: Maggie  
[mvautheny@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mvautheny@esc-alsace.org)

## March - April 2023

For more info and updates, visit the [What's On](#) page of the ESC website:

...[esc-alsace.org](http://esc-alsace.org)...

## 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)

**A G M: THURSDAY 30 MARCH at the Maison des Associations, 1A place des Orphelins, Strasbourg**

The AGM for the year 2022 will take place at 6.30 pm on Thursday, 30th March at the Maison des Associations, 1A place des Orphelins in La Krutenau, followed by a social gathering with crémant, red wine and a tempting light buffet. Please register [here](#).

An AGM provides the opportunity for members to discuss all aspects of the functioning of the ESC and to make suggestions for events. This is also an opportunity for people to join the committee, and we are always keen to welcome new enthusiastic members.

And don't forget that we share more than a language!

Your ESC committee

# A G M

## Annual General Meeting

The Extraordinary General Meeting convened on the 9th March to consider the proposed revision of the statutes of the association failed to reach a quorum.

Although there was an interesting discussion amongst those present, it was therefore not possible to approve the changes.

As mentioned in our mailing of the 28th February, this means that a second Extraordinary meeting will be held immediately after the AGM agenda.

You should have received copies of both old and new statutes in our mailing of 9th February. If you didn't receive them, have misplaced them, or have other questions please contact us.

Two members of the committee have decided to step down at the AGM.

If you would be interested in joining the committee, getting involved in organising events or helping in any capacity, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact us at this address: [contact@esc-alsace.org](mailto:contact@esc-alsace.org)

# Upcoming events

also see: <https://esc-alsace.org/calendar/>

## It's apéro time again!

**FRIDAY 17 MARCH: 6.30 pm at Le Social Bar**

Friday 17 March is a special date as it is Saint Patrick's Day. For this occasion, we have booked a private room at the Social Bar. So, come along wearing your best green outfit or, even better a shamrock as a buttonhole. We're hoping to take a nice group photo. 🍀

Meet us at 69, rue du Faubourg de Pierre from 6.30 pm onwards to meet old friends and make new ones. As usual, the ESC provides some shared nibbles and... you pay for your drinks and sides.

Please sign up here: [Apéro Social Bar](#)



## Guided tour of the Château, Musée Vodou, and beer tasting

**SATURDAY 1 APRIL: 4.00 pm**

On April Fools' Day, we have set up a special outing. So, come and join us to discover the history of this unique museum, the Château, Musée Vodou. It is also the place to go to for art lovers as it houses the most important collection of West African Vodou objects in the world.

We in the West have given a particular meaning to the cult of 'Voodoo' by associating it with witchcraft and dark arts. In fact, this cult takes on a completely different meaning in the cradle of Vodou in West Africa. Contrary to popular belief, Vodou is associated with religion, culture and philosophy. It embodies the beneficial spirit that can support us at any moment of our lives.

The one-hour fifteen-minute guided visit will take place on Saturday, 1st of April at 4 pm and will be followed by a beer tasting.



**Ticket price:** ESC members €16; non-ESC members €18.

Please sign up here: [Château, Musée Vodou](#) by March 20th at the latest as we have to confirm the number of participants in advance.

**Address:** 4 rue de Koensigshoffen, 67000 Strasbourg

**Access:** Bus Lines 10, 4 et 2 - stop Porte Blanche - Musée Vodou / Tram: Line F - stop Porte Blanche - Musée Vodou

## Save the date: Mad Hatter's Play Party

**14 MAY in the afternoon in the Parc de l'Orangerie**

A Mad Hatter's Play Party for children and families is planned on 14/05. Watch out for an email in the weeks to come.

## Coffee Morning

THURSDAY 27 APRIL: 9.30 - 11.30 am

Do visit our next free coffee morning on Thursday 27/04. We meet at L'Escale, Centre Socio-Culturel de la Robertsau, 78 rue du Dr François (in the upstairs room). Good parking facilities are available, and it is within a five-minute walk of tram line E and bus routes L6, 15 and 30. By exception, no signing-up is requested.

Stop by any time between 9.30 and 11.30 pm for a chat, drinks, biscuits and friendly faces. A selection of books will be on display. We hope you will find something you will want to take home.

We'll welcome you again on 11/05 and 15/06 and then in September. For further details, please contact Maggie at [mvautheny@esc-alsace.org](mailto:mvautheny@esc-alsace.org).



## 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) - 06 11 12 68 51

### German conversation group

Our group started off the New Year with a meeting of seven members on the 16th of January. Our former and long-standing venue in Kehl, Cafe Rapp, has now closed down. Forced to seek an alternative venue, we decided to meet at Cafe Pierod, at least on an interim basis. This venue is located in the pedestrian part of the main street in Kehl, about 50 metres over the road from the Rathaus tram stop. We have settled on a large table at the back of this cafe, so that we can have our discussions in relative peace and quiet. As everyone prefers to be outside in the sunshine when there is any, we will probably gravitate to one or the other of the outdoor cafes as the weather warms up. In light of the need to be quickly in touch in the event of a last minute change of venue, I have set up a WhatsApp group: ESC GERMAN.

Meetings take place at 2-3 week intervals, allowing some flexibility for school holidays and members commitments. Once a quorum of at least 4 members attending is reached, a meeting is scheduled. We now meet on a Monday at 2.00 pm at Cafe Pierod. Our next gathering should take place on Monday, 20th of March.

We usually discuss a newspaper article, current events or a grammatical problem. We are fortunate in usually having at least one member fluent in German to help with difficulties. New members are very welcome.

Please contact me, Bronwyn Harrowfield, at [bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org](mailto:bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org) - 06 85 33 11 24.

## Spring walk at Bischoffsheim

**SUNDAY 16 APRIL - 10.30 am**

Come and join us at Bischoffsheim near Obernai where we will do a circular walk around the Bischenberg. The circuit will take us up through woods, orchards and vineyards passing by the convent with its 16th century chapel and stations of the cross. All this with splendid views over the plain of Alsace, the surrounding villages and across to Mont Saint Odile. We'll start off at 10.30 am.

**Meeting Place:** Car Park, Place St Rémy, Bischoffsheim (opposite the Mairie/public toilets) or in rue Épiscopale.

**Walking Details:** About 12 kilometres, some ups and downs with an elevation gain of around 250 m. It can be muddy on the lower paths, walking boots are recommended, packed lunch and something waterproof to sit on.

**Contact:** Polly at [polly.stotz@gmail.com](mailto:polly.stotz@gmail.com) - 03 88 07 04 93 / 06 72 71 90 41



## Walk from Villé to Frankembourg castle

**SUNDAY 14 MAY: 10.00 am**

Join us on our circular walk at Breitenau near Villé. We will walk up through the woods to the Château du Frankembourg, a typical medieval castle with a magnificent view of the Vosges and the Château du Haut Koenigsbourg. On our way back we can stop at the spectacular Roches des Fées.

**Departure time:** This time, please make sure to meet us by 10.00 am.

**Meeting place:** Car park in Villé next to the railway station on the left, just after you get into Villé.

**Walking details:** Around 11 km (4 hours walking time); Elevation gain: 365 m. Walking shoes and sticks are recommended. Don't forget your picnic lunch.

**Directions:** Motorway A35 Strasbourg to Sélestat; turn off at Exit 17 and follow the road signs to Villé.

**Contact:** Bernard on 03 88 66 32 06 or Karl on 0049 781 94 00 530 by Friday, 12th May.

Post walk refreshments can be taken at Pâtisserie Pfister in Villé.



# Other events of interest:

## Strasbourg Write A Story

SATURDAY 13 MAY

The Strasbourg Write A Story Competition is now closed for entries.

The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, 13 May 2023.

On the same morning from 10.00 to 12.00, there will be a last free workshop, led by Katy Masuga, at the Maison des Associations, 1A place des Orphelins, Strasbourg.

Sign up on the SWAS website: <http://sxb-write-a-story.org/workshops-2022-23/>



*Free the writer within!*

## Long-form improvisation in English with Tagora

WEEKLY WORKSHOPS ON THURSDAYS starting 23 MARCH (6.00 - 8.00 pm, COE)

Don't miss this new opportunity to join a jolly party of impro novices!

Starting 23 March 2023, a series of drop-in weekly workshops will be directed by Nikki Lynn Michaelson (alumnus of The Peoples Improv Theater and iO Chicago) at the Council of Europe in association with Tagora. Participants are requested to join the Amicale (the annual fee is 25 euros and advanced notice with full ID presentation is compulsory).

The group aims to present a showcase in mid-June where they will perform a format called the Harold, a time-tested impro format popular in the U.S. The audience are to be friends and family.

For those who still wonder, theatrical improvisation, in short 'impro' or 'improv', is a good opportunity for live practice of the English language, in fun sessions which can appeal to natives and fluent non-natives, even if they have no experience or ambition in theatre. You will be gently guided to act in several role-playing exercises with an emphasis on spontaneity. Just be ready to let mental barriers down to tap into your creative side!

To express interest and for further details, please visit <https://www.tagora.eu/>.



# Past events: Burns night



# Bouc Bleu Carnival in Hoenheim

February and March tend to be very cold months in Alsace, but thanks to Carnival parades, and the thousands of revellers lining the streets to wave and cheer the cavalcades as they slowly make their ways to a given destination, there is a feeling that 'spring' is once again in the air.

Nearly twenty ESC members accepted Henri and Maggie Vautheny's invitation to celebrate the Bouc Bleu Carnival parade with many hundreds of spectators of all ages as it went through Hoenheim on Sunday, 5th March.

Carnivals are events which bring communities and generations together and this one was no exception. Members, both young and old, of local and international cultural associations, made this parade

such a success: people sporting costumes of 'wild characters' such as beasts, devils and witches; acrobats doing somersaults, folk dancing, brass bands followed by Samba dancers and Olodum drum music. Decorated floats, brimming over with colourfully-costumed revellers throwing sweets to children and Schlager music blaring out of ginormous amplifiers, were pulled along the narrow street by huge tractors.

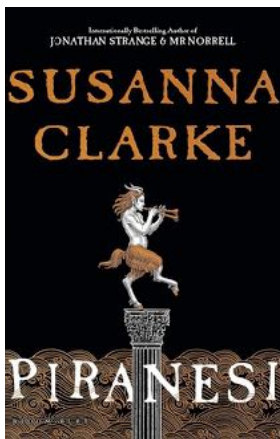
As the final float disappeared, the ESC members made their way to the warmth and welcome of the Vautheny's home to enjoy pancakes, an assortment of delicious home-made jams, as much tea, coffee and squash as they could drink and some lively conversation.

Terence Boyle



# Book club reviews

## “Piranesi” by Susanna Clarke



“ The book explores the themes of loneliness, imagination and memory... and a mystery to be solved as well. ”

Ten of us gathered in Hoenheim to talk about our January book choice. Some of us were put off by the fantasy world aspect of this novel while others had no problem walking through the back of the wardrobe into another world.

A world inhabited on a permanent basis by Piranesi, the title character, who is working for his friend, the Other, on a scientific project.

Piranesi keeps a detailed journal and we learn about his world through this. I personally did believe in this magical house with labyrinth halls and tides that thunder up staircase, filled with statues and albatrosses and thoroughly enjoyed exploring it with Piranesi.

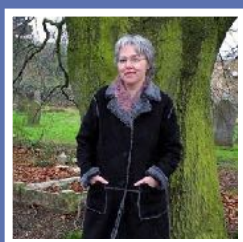
The book explores the themes of loneliness, imagination and memory and there was a lot to talk about.

There are elements of mythology and fantasy and a mystery to be solved as well.

I didn't want to write a classic review of this book which would include more discussion of the characters and the world, or worlds, they live in as I think this would give too much away. My point of view is to start reading this book without any preconceptions at all and allow yourself, as the reader, to just fall into the world that the author has brilliantly created. I hope that you too will discover that “The Beauty of the House is immeasurable; its Kindness infinite.”

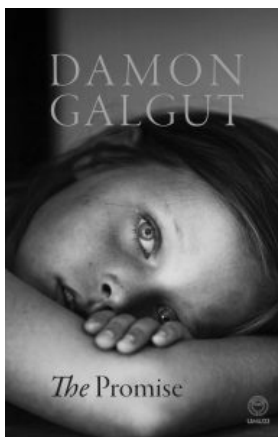
All of the above make this a book I would recommend to read for anybody.

Maggie Vautheny



Susanna Clark is an English author known for her debut novel, *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norell* which won the Hugo award in 2004. She has also published a collection of short stories. Both of these worlds are set in a magical England. *Piranesi*, published in 2020, won the 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction.

## “The Promise” by Damon Galgut



“ But  
apparently  
not so simple  
after all ”

This 2021 Booker Prize winner follows the ups and (mainly) downs of an Afrikaner family living in South Africa through the decades largely defined by the Apartheid regime and its aftermath.

The ‘promise’ of the title, extracted from her husband by the dying mother of the family, was simply to grant ownership of a modest outhouse to a faithful servant. But apparently not so simple after all: decades pass, deaths happen, there are repeated denials and

prevarications, and while the issue is periodically revived by the youngest daughter who acts as the family conscience, it always seems to slip away unfulfilled right down to the uncertain ending.

With a narrative style which is richly inventive and often playfully humorous despite the unfolding tragedy, the story provided ample material for discussion at the February Book Club meeting.

Mike Wraith



Damon Galgut is a South African novelist and dramatist, born in Pretoria in 1963. His previous novels ‘*The Good Doctor*’ and ‘*In a Strange Room*’ were shortlisted for the Booker Prize. A cancer survivor at the age of six, he regards the bed-bound months of recovery during which he was read to by relatives, as a crucial part of his development as a writer.

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

**The next books for discussion are:**

**“A Single Thread” by Tracy Chevalier on 17 April**

**“The Storied Life of A. K. Fikry” by Gabrielle Zevin on 15 May**

# Local and cultural

## Apéro hosted by ESC at Le Cube Noir before the Tagora performance



**BETRAYAL:** <https://www.tagora.eu/tagoras-next-show/>

## Upcoming: Holes, strings and bolts: British sculpture 1910-1970

**TUESDAY 14 MARCH: 7.00 pm**

**Place : Maison de l'Amérique latine, 7 rue de la course, 67000 Strasbourg**

This conference will present - in French - the emergence and development of a constellation of sculptors in Great Britain around the beginning and middle of the 20th century. The conference will offer a survey of materials and concepts put forward by such artists as Jacob Epstein, Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Richard Hamilton, Anthony Caro, and the living sculpture Gilbert & George.

Mr. Yann Tholoniati teaches British and Irish literature and arts at the University of Lorraine - Faculty of Arts, Literature and Languages in Metz.



### Newsletter Publication

We'll publish your announcements/advertisements, space permitting, limited to 100 words. Advertisements may be repeated once. 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 to [newsletter@esc-alsace.org](mailto:newsletter@esc-alsace.org).

**The deadline for the next bimonthly copy (by mid-May) is Sunday 23/04/2023**

Cover picture: **Saint Patrick preaching to the Irish people**

# Classified ads

## 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](http://www.bella-tuscany.net)

We are also on Airbnb: [www.poggioallupo.com](http://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 amenities: Grocery Shop, Restaurants, Cafés.

**3 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms** (can accommodate up to **9 people**)  
Fully equipped kitchen and living room of 60 m<sup>2</sup>  
Television with cable network and Wi-Fi  
Outdoor terrace with BBQ and a **swimming pool**

Contact : Maria Trémoureux - 00 33 6 11 12 68 51 - [maria.tremoureux@gmail.com](mailto:maria.tremoureux@gmail.com)

