



New Rhythms

I wish there was an English word for *la rentrée*; all that I can think of is “Back to School” season. Whatever we call it, there is a familiar energy in the frenzy of signing up for activities, seeing friends and colleagues that have been travelling, and generally getting back to what it is that we do during the 9 non-summer months. And that often means new rhythms.

This newsletter will continue to have a familiar rhythm, covering events spanning the next two months with some save-the-dates for later. The new Community News and Events email covers 3 things at once: events you need to act on in the next 2-3 weeks, announcements from fellow members, and other events of general interest around Alsace. If you are attending or leading an event which fellow English speakers might find interesting, or if you have a thing to sell or a favour to ask, this is the place for you to get the word out. To participate, please send your news to events@esc-alsace.org with 50 words or less, your name, contact information, and a link if possible.

Finally, we are launching the Sports and Outdoors group, focusing on watching sports and doing physical activities. This includes the hikes/walks we already do as well as new events like watching rugby or American football. If you want to teach us the rules of cricket, or you have tickets to SIG basketball to share, this is for you. Contact Pauline Kaspar or me at SportsOutdoors@esc-alsace.org.

Jonathan Crow, President

September - October 2023

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

••• esc-alsace.org •••

ESC contacts

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

Upcoming events

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

Village des Associations 2023

SAT. 9 & SUN. 10 SEPTEMBER: 12.00-7.00 pm (Sat.) / 11.00 am - 6.00 pm (Sun.)

The annual expo of Strasbourg associations is coming up soon, taking place in the Parc de la Citadelle over the weekend of the 9th/10th September. 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.

Contact: Jonathan Crow, jcrow@esc-alsace.org



Rentrée Picnic in the Orangerie park

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER: 12.00 pm (rescheduled)

Welcome back from summer break! Due to the rainy weather on the week-end of 27/08, we had to reschedule the picnic to Sunday, 10 September. The venue and start time remain unchanged, i.e. the parc de l'Orangerie (by the lake) from midday onwards. The first people to arrive will find us a lovely spot under the beech trees and soon there will be a colourful array of rugs under its branches.

Bring food and drinks for yourself and/or to share. The ESC will provide a few drinks and finger food. Please make sure you bring your own glass.

We might have to cancel if it's raining again, so make sure to sign up online here:

[Picnic Orangerie](#). Contact: Véronique Heller-Clauss, events@esc-alsace.org



Apéro at the Péniche Mécanique

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER: 6.30 pm

Join us from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm for an apéro at the Péniche Mécanique on Presqu'île Malraux on the South side of the Médiathèque, to meet old friends and make new ones. The usual formula is that you pay for your drink while the ESC provides some small plates to share.

Please let us know that you're coming by signing up on Helloasso here:

[AperoPeniche](#). Contact Jonathan Crow, events@esc-alsace.org



Save the date for our next apéro on 13/10 - venue to be confirmed.

Coffee Morning

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER: 9.30 - 11.30 am

Do visit our free coffee morning gathering on 21/09. We meet monthly 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 from tram line E and bus routes L6, 15 and 30. You do not have to register for this event.

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.

Maggie will be your gracious host. You may contact her at mvautheny@esc-alsace.org.

Save the date for our next meetings: 19/10, 9/11, 14/12, 11/01, 08/02, 14/03, 11/04, 16/05, 13/06.



Autumn Four Castle Walk

SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER: 10.30 am

This circular walk will begin just north of Lembach, close to the German border and Palatinate. With its numerous castle ruins and rocky crags, it is a popular location for climbers. Our loop will take us along the 'Charcoal Burners' Path and up to the impressive ruins of four medieval castles - Fleckenstein, Loewenstein, Hohenbourg and finally Wegelnburg which is just over the border in Germany.

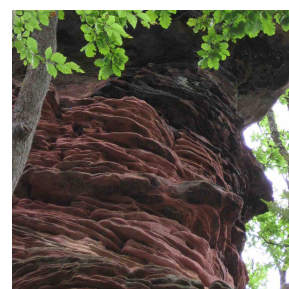
This will include a steep and partly rocky climb revealing some fascinating rock formations. An easier parallel path for less adventurous walkers or in case of wet, slippery paths may be followed instead. Post walk refreshments should be available on the way down at the Gimblehof.

Meeting time: 10.30 am. **Meeting place:** Col de Litschhof

Walking details: 3 to 4 hours with max ascent/descent 300m. Don't forget walking shoes/boots, waterproofs and a packed lunch. Poles are recommended.

Directions: From Lembach centre go straight over roundabout on D3 for about 4 kms. Take the right fork towards Fleckenstein, leaving D3 (Obersteinbach) to your left. After about 1km you will see a campsite with a lake on your left. Here take a sharp right turn signposted to Gimblehof. You will find the Col de Litschhoff parking area up the hill at a crossing on a sharp bend where there is a wood cabin.

To let her know you are coming, please contact Polly at: polly.stotz@gmail.com / 06 72 71 90 41.



Guided tour of the "Radical" exhibition - Musée Würth in Erstein

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER: 2.00 pm

The latest exhibition at Musée Würth is a double exhibition featuring a selection of representative works of geometric abstraction from Lore Bert and a series of less well-known abstract artwork from the second half of the 20th century.

Although access to the museum is free, there is a charge for our English-speaking guide. The price is €10 for members and €13 for guests.

Contact Véronique Heller-Clauss, events@esc-alsace.org / 06 72 00 08 13.



Save the date

Guy Fawkes bonfire evening

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER: 6.30 pm - private garden in Kolbsheim

Bonfire Night is an event to celebrate the anniversary of a famous event in British history dating back to the Gunpowder plot of 1606 when Guy Fawkes' group tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I. The anniversary of his arrest is celebrated each year with bonfires and fireworks. An effigy of Guy Fawkes is burned on top of the bonfire.



This is an opportunity to gather around a warm meal and a great event for children and families.

Uberach Brewery Visit and Tasting

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER: 10.30 am

La Brasserie d'Uberach was one of the first pioneer craft-breweries to be set up in Alsace. A risky venture for a nuclear engineer from the North with very little funding and next to no experience. It all began in an old, disused shoe factory in Val-de-Moder where the owner designed and constructed much of his own equipment.

Today, 24 years later, the brewery has become a thriving concern, well-known for its quality unfiltered, two fermentation beer which includes a range of over 20 types of beer and more recently a single malt whisky. All this while still remaining a micro-brewery with a dedicated staff of only 4 to 5 people. To learn more about the beer, the brewing and Eric Trossat's story and recipe for success, come and join us at the Brewery for a guided visit of the installations which will be followed by a tasting session.

The duration of the visit and tasting is 1h30. The price is €5 for members and €8 for guests. Please sign up here: [Uberach Brewery 2023](#). Numbers are limited to 18 maximum. The date limit for registration is 31st October 2023. Contact: events@esc-alsace.org.



Following the visit, those who wish are kindly invited to a 'bring and share' lunch at Polly's (you are kindly asked to bring a salad, desert or drink). A main dish beer-based taster will be provided. For lunch contributions, please contact Polly at pstotz@gmail.com - 06 72 71 90 41 / 03 88 07 04 93.

Men's Rugby World Cup watching

MATCH England vs. Argentina SAT. 9 SEPTEMBER & FINAL SAT. 28 OCTOBER

With the Men's Rugby World Cup in France this year, everyone will be talking about rugby whether they understand it or not. England vs. Argentina promises to be an important match in pool play, so why not watch it together? On 9th September, Henri Vautheny will host a meal followed by the match (at 9.15pm, broadcast in English) at his home, 9 rue du Lion in Hoenheim. For full details, please sign up here: [Men's Rugby World Cup](#).

Hopefully we'll also be able to watch the final together and see which nation is going to bring the cup home. So we will try and find a suitable venue for the last match on 28 October. Interested in seeing this happen? Contact Jonathan Crow at SportsOutdoors@esc-alsace.org.

Past events: spring and summer



Coronation picnic



Walk at Bischoffsheim



In Frankenburg castle

Mad Hatter's afternoon family party



Stargazing at the Planetarium ✨

Mid-August, a few of us attended the event "La nuit des étoiles" at the new Planetarium in Strasbourg. Two were lucky enough to be given tickets to watch a 360° presentation under the dome-screen, another did the escape game and watched Saturne through one of the big telescopes displayed in the garden. While some found that the presenters were very knowledgeable and passionate about the galaxies, others would have liked more technical content. It was perfect though for young people. Couples enjoyed the cool air and gazed at clear skies.

Past events: spring and summer

Garden picking in Eckwersheim



Annual barbecue in La Robertsau



Guided tour of the botanical garden



Impro showcase with Tagora

Mid-June, I went to see the group of 10 volunteers who had bravely met Nikki's challenge to prepare for a 60-minute showcase of long-form impro. With the help of Tagora, it took place at Le Cube Noir.

I came open-minded, knowing that impro means being surprised. Short sketches were concocted on the spot using theme suggestions from the audience. Just one word and they were off!

What you can expect is a good laugh. These people were having fun and didn't lack in the essential skill there, reactivity. Having already performed on stage together, they used their body language efficiently to interact naturally.

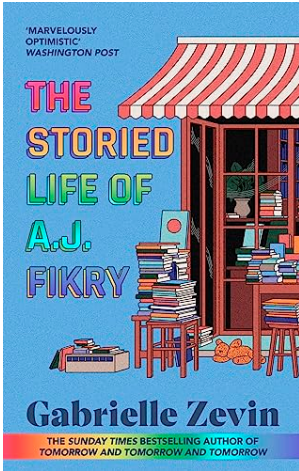
I left with a clear mind, forgetting the daily stresses that I had brought in to the show.

Catherine Manini



Book club review

“The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry” by Gabrielle Zevin



“ this did not take away from the pleasure of a book where books themselves become the central characters ”

Can books change our lives?

On 15th May, we met to discuss “The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry” by Gabrielle Zevin. This novel tells the story of a small-town bookseller and the motley crew of characters whose lives meet and intertwine around the hub of reading and activity that “Island Books” becomes over the course of the novel.

Some raised the question of how plausible the plot was and whether some of the central events would happen in reality, but it was felt that even if a few ends were rather too neatly tied up, this did not take away from the pleasure of a book where books themselves become the central characters. Each chapter begins with a book review, first addressed to potential readers, and then personal

missives from A.J. to Maya, his way of guiding her through life.

“A place is not truly a place without a bookstore”: this leads Nic and A.J. to abandon their studies to open a bookshop on Alice Island. We reflected on how true this is today in the age of Internet and e-books. In the novel, the gift of e-readers is received with great joy by Maya but as an affront by A.J., who sees them as the enemy of his bookshop, and also as the harbinger of the decline of literature. Members were divided on this matter, some considering it almost impossible to read on a machine, while others frequently use such devices – even to read the monthly Book club choices! All agreed however on the pleasures of turning the pages of a physical book.

Abigail Descombes



Gabrielle Zevin is an American writer born in New York City in 1977. She graduated from Harvard in 2000. Her work has met with much critical acclaim and her books have been translated into thirty-nine languages. *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* was on the New York Times bestseller list for several months, and has also been adapted into a film, for which Zevin herself wrote the screenplay. She is also the screenwriter of *Conversations with other women*, starring Helena Bonham Carter.

Contribution

The future of the monarchy

For most of us Brits the Queen has been around all our lives – a solid, unfaltering rock, ever-present through thick and thin. Pro-monarchy or not, it seemed almost inconceivable to imagine the country carrying on without her. However after the great pomp of her funerals and Charles' slightly slimmed-down coronation event, there seemed no doubt that it was time to move on in the modern world.

Charles, while devoted to his mother and all the values she stood for, has, like his father, always remained his own man. He was, after all, the first royal to obtain a degree. With an enquiring mind and a passionate interest in social, cultural and environmental issues, Charles has played an important role in many fields including helping disadvantaged young people through his founding of the 'Prince's Trust', pioneering organic farming and, unlike his mother, showing a keen interest in arts and culture.

However Charles' tendency to overstep his role by manifesting strong, personal and sometimes political views has always been criticised. To make things worse, his image has not been helped by years of waiting on the sidelines under his mother's wing, not to mention Netflix and the unfortunate antics of his personal life.



Today, almost a year into his reign, Charles seems a new man... at one with himself and with much to fulfill in a short time. His first state visit was to Germany, marked by his being the first monarch in

history to make a speech in the Bundestag. Here, speaking partly in German, he emphasised the importance of unity in Europe and its vital role in defending Ukraine. It would be difficult to imagine the Queen having taken such a stand. As far as Europe goes, the only sign of her views on 'staying' or 'leaving' was the blue and yellow-starred flowered hat she wore on one occasion when making her annual speech in Parliament.



So what is the future for the monarchy in Britain?

Many young and some not so young Brits today view the monarchy as outdated and a waste of money. Understandably, they feel there are more pressing concerns in our world today like the climate crisis, the state of the economy and social hardship. Others are just not interested in all the sentimental tradition and relentless media coverage of the royals' personal lives. On the positive side, the monarchy may be regarded more importantly as 'a unique soft power and diplomatic asset' for the UK.

For the time being, Charles and his son and heir William are no doubt working in a somewhat healthier two generation team. This to gradually slim down what they call 'the Firm' to fewer working royals and hopefully open up more of their numerous state residences to the public. Not only will this reduce costs but also allow those who wish, to enjoy our precious royal heritage.

[Polly Stotz](#)

Book club monthly readings

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

The next books for discussion are:

Stoner by John Williams on 11 September

A gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles on 9 October



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 - 06 75 63 89 98

German conversation group

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

French conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Colette at 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 - 06 11 12 68 51

Follow us on:

ESC website > <https://esc-alsace.org/calendar/>

> private ESC members' Facebook group

Community News emails

How to reach committee members *



Jonathan Crow

president@esc-alsace.org
jcrow@esc-alsace.org



Catherine Manini

newsletter@esc-alsace.org
secretary@esc-alsace.org



Mike Wraith

mwraith@esc-alsace.org
membership@esc-alsace.org
treasurer@esc-alsace.org



Véronique Heller-Clauss

vhclauss@esc-alsace.org
events@esc-alsace.org



Pauline Taggart-Bertram

ptbertram@esc-alsace.org
events@esc-alsace.org



Pauline Kaspar

pkaspar@esc-alsace.org
events@esc-alsace.org

** Committee members act in several roles and take on various duties. You will get a quicker answer if you email the right person directly, as indicated by their role-based emails. Please note that contact@esc-alsace.org is a general inbox. All committee members can respond to any requests received from Contact, so please watch for who signs the email and follow up with that person as needed.*

Newsletter Publication

Articles for publication should be in English and sent to newsletter@esc-alsace.org.

Half a page adds up to 1,500 characters (with spaces); one full page is 2,500 to 3,000 characters. Pictures and illustrations are easier to handle if attached to your email (not included in a document).

The deadline for the next bimonthly copy (in November) is Sunday 15/10/2023.