

A page is turning

I have been the ESC Newsletter editor since June 2016. It is now a total of 68 newsletters recorded on my personal computer. Although it has been a demanding commitment, I enjoyed it all the way. I had never done this before, but highlighting the stories received and the renewed surprise of putting together the 12 pages puzzle with a few touches of creativity was kind of fun. Being a French native, I gradually gained in confidence in signing myself a few texts, with the reward of improving my practice of the language we are sharing.

This is the last copy of this newsletter that I will shoulder. Your committee worked hard to set up various other channels of communication. If you regularly browse our website pages, read our Upcoming Events and Community news emails, use our Facebook or WhatsApp groups, you are getting the latest information.

The newsletter account will keep operating so that you can receive occasional bulletins looking back at our past events and gatherings, with pictures and reviews illustrating how active and cheerful is our community.

My warm thanks go to all the contributors for the generous efforts made in writing articles, to those who took the time to kindly express their appreciation, to the proofreaders and to my fellow committee members, my husband and three daughters, who supported me in this fulfilling experience.

Catherine Manini

Summer 2024

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
- Magazine: newsletter@esc-alsace.org
- Events: events@esc-alsace.org

Upcoming events

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

Garden apéro

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Maggie and Henri have generously offered to hold a Friday evening 'garden apéro' at their house in Hoenheim on the evening of 23rd August. Drinks will be provided. Your contribution of your favourite finger food and/or drink is expected. Entry is free to all members. Guests are asked a participation of €5.

Please sign up on Helloasso: [Apero August 23rd](#).



Save the date for a canoeing / kayaking outing

SUNDAY 25 AUGUST afternoon

Before the rentrée and its accompanying September madness, join us on Sunday, 25th August for a guided tour of Strasbourg on a kayak or a canoe. We will paddle for around 2-hours, from the Ponts Couverts in La Petite France, through the city centre, and end our trip in the European quarter. You will discover the city from a different perspective and certainly learn some fun facts you did not know about.

We will end our tour at the Eaux-Vives club, rue Pierre de Coubertin (behind the Wacken swimming pool) and we hope to round up the afternoon with a tea party in the neighbourhood. The tour is open to everyone over the age of 8 (you must be able to swim 25m and have no medical contraindications).

Watch out for an invitation and sign-up by email.

For more details, contact: Pauline Kaspar at SportsOutdoors@esc-alsace.org.



Village des Associations at Parc de la Citadelle

SAT. 14 & SUN. 15 SEPTEMBER 12.00 - 7.00 pm (Sat.) / 11.00 am - 6.00 pm (Sun.)

The annual expo of Strasbourg associations will take place once again in the Parc de la Citadelle over the weekend of the 14th/15th September.

Volunteers from roughly 250 associations will be presenting to prospective members what their community has to offer while visitors will be looking for activities they want to sign up for after the holidays. Sports and artistic demonstrations for the whole family will be presented. Food stalls will be available throughout the day.



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.

If you can help for a couple of hours at the stall, please contact Jonathan Crow, jcrow@esc-alsace.org.

Rentrée picnic at parc de la Citadelle

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 12.00 am

This year, our traditional Rentrée picnic will take place in the Parc de la Citadelle. This way, it will be easier for organisers and volunteers holding our stall at the Village des Associations to stop by and share the fun. Consequently, it will be just as easy for members sharing the picnic to visit our stall at the Village.

You are invited to bring food and drinks for yourself or to share. The ESC will be in charge of the apéro, and will provide wine, water and soft drinks. Please make sure you bring your own glasses, plates and cutlery.



An email with the exact meeting point and sign-up link will be sent by end of August.

Harry Potter treasure hunt for families

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 3.00 - 4.30 pm

La Rentrée! Save the date! Be prepared to be whisked away into a magical world of riddles and secrets hidden within the oldest park in Strasbourg, Parc de l'Orangerie.

We are delighted to host our second treasure hunt to celebrate back to school. This year our theme will be based around one of the most famous English-speaking student, Harry Potter! You have time over the summer holidays to start reading the Harry Potter series, watch the movies and get into the magical spirit for back to school in September.



Stay tuned to register and receive your letter of admission to join the most prestigious magic treasure hunt! To express your interest, please contact Pauline at ptbertram@esc-alsace.org.

Gastronomic walk in Bischoffsheim

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 11.00 am

We are delighted to propose to you again a gastronomic walk at the end of this summer: “*Les sentiers gastronomiques du Bischenberg*” in Bischoffsheim which will take place on Sunday, 29 September 2024, starting at 11:00 am sharp.

Over a 7 km distance, you'll wind your way through orchards, vineyards and forest, admiring the landscapes of the Vosges foothills, Mont Sainte-Odile, the Alsace plain, the peaks of the Black Forest. At each of the 6 gourmet stops, we will taste different local specialties and wines. **The price is €35 for adults, €17 for children up to 14.** The group is limited to 30 persons. Carpooling can be arranged.



If you are interested in joining us, [please sign up by 31 August using this link: Gastronomic Walk Bischoffsheim.](#)

If you have questions, please contact Véronique Heller-Clauss at events@esc-alsace.org - Phone 06 72 00 08 13.

Coffee morning looking for a new venue

Our monthly coffee morning on Thursdays 9.30 - 11.30 has been for years a good opportunity to catch up with old friends and present the association to potential members. A sharp increase in room-hire costs at L'Escale, taken together with a diminished number of attendees, means that we now have to look for a viable alternative. In September, we will be resuming elsewhere our Thursday Coffee mornings.

We are still actively looking for a convenient place, with enough space to accommodate about 20 people and with easy car parking and easy public transport access. We are exploring venues in town but if you happen to know of an indoors room where we could hold our traditional 2-hours cosy chat on a Thursday morning (second or third week of the month), feel free to contact Maggie at mvautheny@esc-alsace.org.

Past events

Annual barbecue

We hosted our very own ESC Olympics at the annual BBQ this year. With athletes representing nine different countries and referees representing five countries, we had a very exciting and competitive programme: Archery, Golf, Track & Field events which included the Sack race, Egg & Spoon and 3-Legged Race, Penalty shoot-out.

The sack race proved to be so popular that we hosted a second and third race for teenagers and parents! A highlight for some was the final competition – team rowing! Everyone at the BBQ had an opportunity to work up an appetite for dessert by collectively forming an ESC team and under the leadership of our amazing teenager coaches, we rowed to the beat of “Rock the Boat”!

Congratulations to all our participants and our gold-medal winners: Ruizhe, Chloe and Elie. We would also like to extend our thanks to our teenager volunteers who coached and referred: Jonah, Alex, Beth Jacob, and Evrard.

Pauline Bertram

Annual Barbecue at l'Escale



IS Women tennis at Wacken



Historical Exhibition at BNU



Farm Picking in Eckwersheim



Recipe for Good Health



There were 15 of us walkers who met in the village of Ottrott on Sunday 14th April. It was a glorious, warm, sunny day. What good luck! By the following Sunday the temperature had dropped by 20 degrees, and we were back into winter clothes. In a friendly and jovial atmosphere, we steadily climbed 450m up past Ottrott's two castles to two impressive viewpoints at Elsberg kiosk (no ice-creams) and Hohenburgerberg looking over to Mont Sainte-Odile.

22 years ago, three members of the ESC got together to organise a similar Sunday walk at Ottrott, passing by Mont Sainte-Odile. Two of them, Marina and Karl, were with us on this last Sunday walk. Together with Bernard Greiner, they have led countless walks for ESC members all over the northern Vosges and Baden-Württemberg for over two decades. According to Bernard's careful records there were 7 walks in 2014! No wonder the 3 of them have kept so fit. This is, undoubtedly, their recipe for good health with the added stimulation or 'ESC touch' of being able to converse with people from all walks of life and, in this case, in peaceful, natural surroundings of outstanding beauty.



Polly Stotz

Guided visit of the “Frisbee” exhibition at Musée Würth

With just a few weeks to go before the start of the Olympic Games, we headed to the Würth Museum on Saturday, 6th July 2024 to discover their latest exhibition, “Frisbee”.

Our guide, Rosalie Humler, began the visit with the first section of the exhibition, devoted to the display of the body in movement. She led us to a sculpture by Alfred Hrdlicka, an Austrian artist whose work showcases the massive body of the boxer Sonny Liston. This “massiveness” of the body brought out by sports is also highlighted by Salomé’s painting of the sumo wrestler.



Movement and bodies have always been a subject of inspiration for artists. On the one hand, Jan Nelson’s hyper-realistic depiction of Joseba Beloki’s crash during the 2003 Tour de France makes us aware of this often-hidden moment of vulnerability in the world of sport.

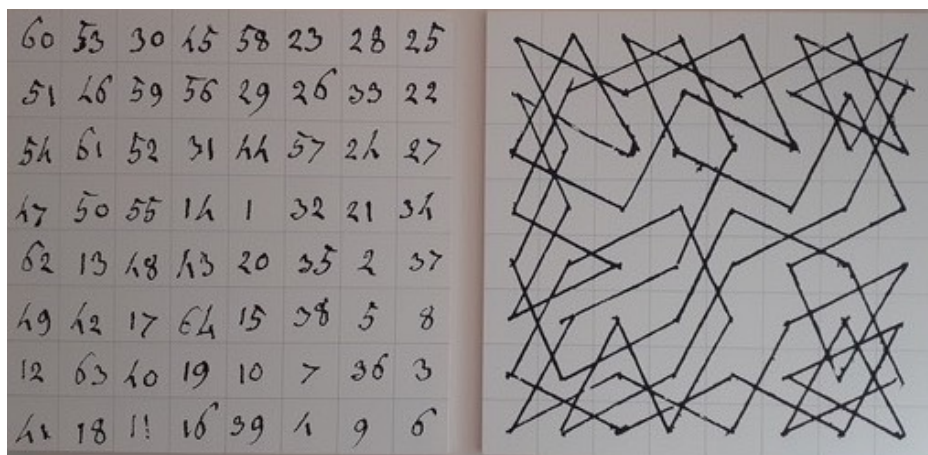
On the other hand, Donna Stolz’s painting of a person (a man? a woman?) throwing or receiving a frisbee make us question the vision of the bodies provided by artists through time, relating it to the ancient “perfect male body” of the discobolus sculpture placed right in front of the painting.



Upstairs, the exhibition takes a step into the joys of paid holidays (legalised by the Front Populaire for all workers in 1936), as Fernand Léger reminds us with *Les Loisirs*. Outdoor sports became a synonym of leisure and entertainment. The new fascination with mountain landscapes was captured by Karl Christian Sparmann's *Die Rosengartengruppe* in Südtirol and Jim Dine's *Untersberg*.

But for many artists, leisure is also synonym of game. François Morellet, for example, in *Cavalièrement n°1*, takes the chess knight to a new level of geometry (photo below). Marcel Duchamp and Adolf Hrdlicka also created their own chess pieces, which were exhibited at the end of this captivating tour of previously unseen works of art from the Würth Foundation's vast collection.

Solenne Carteron





Conversation groups

The organisation of each group is specific.
Please get the details of next meetings' dates and locations
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

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

German conversation group

The German conversation group meets on a regular basis of once every 2 weeks, with the meeting being held in the Cafe Pierrod, Kehl on Monday afternoons. As most of us are retired, the meetings continue whether or not there are school holidays, and the forthcoming meetings are based on a majority decision.

There is a hard core of 6 or 7 members who attend regularly, and we are fortunate in that we now have two fluent German speakers to help us along.

We discuss newspaper articles, usually extracts from *Rheinblick*, and other material such as quizzes, when available.

New members are welcome to visit us!

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

Bronwyn Harrowfield (lady in red in the foreground)



Book club

Our enthusiastic book group met on 11 June to discuss Vanessa's choice, **"The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig**.

It's the story of Nora Seed, a young woman who decides to commit suicide and finds herself in a library between life and death, with the opportunity to experience all the different lives she could have lived. We all felt that the concept was interesting but the way the story was developed lacked depth. It did however lead to a good discussion about regrets, or no regrets. Someone pointed out that it could be a good story for a film, and it turns out that the rights have already been sold for such a project. One of Matt Haig's other books, *"How to Stop Time"*, will be available on TV with Benedict Cumberbatch playing the lead role of Tom Hazard.

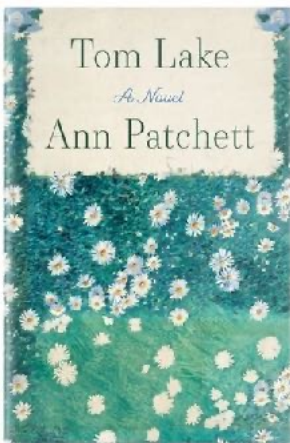
The participants were thankful for the tasty food prepared by Vanessa, which included a generous selection of vegetarian dishes.

A great treat and a lively evening to end the ESC book club season!

Joëlle Glore



"Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett



It's spring and Lara's three grown daughters have returned to the family orchard. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the one story they have always wanted to hear.

The story of the film star with whom she shared a stage and a romance, years before.

A story about falling in love the way one does at twenty-four - so wildly in love it felt like jumping off a roof at midnight.

This is not an action-based book but rather a character-based book which unfolds slowly, a novel about choices and relationships. There is no high drama but rather a portrayal of contentment and the good fortune of achieving what one really desires.

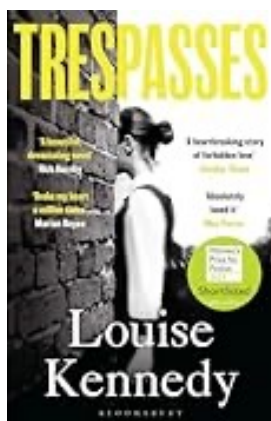
Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love and the lives of parents before their children are born, and explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart.

Maggie Vautheny



Ann Patchett lives in Nashville, Tennessee where she writes novels (Tom Lake being the latest out of nine), nonfiction and children's books. She has won awards to books such as *"The Dutch House"* and *"State Of Wonder"*. She also acts as a spokesperson for independent booksellers in the US.

“Trespases” by Louise Kennedy



“ her experience provides an authenticity which underpins the whole story. ”

We are equipped with an extraordinary sensitivity towards the nuances of speech and culture of our fellow human beings. While this ability to ‘sniff out’ the other has an undoubted survival value, it often leads to destructive prejudice and conflict within societies. Such was the situation in Northern Ireland where the author of this book grew up in the last few decades of the 20th century, and her experience provides an authenticity which underpins the whole story.

The narrative revolves around a couple of ordinary people doing their best to help others in difficult circumstances. Cushla is a working class Catholic, a young primary school teacher, popular with her pupils but whose life is constrained by looking after an alcoholic mother and helping her brother run a pub. Michael is older, a middle-class Protestant

lawyer whose clients are mostly victims of human rights abuses and whose wife has mental health issues.

Cushla and Michael are understandably both ready for some distraction. Despite, or perhaps because of their differences, they embark on an affair which begins well but, as a consequence of the toxic nature of the society they live in, spirals into tragedy.

The author lifts the mood in a redemptive final chapter set years after the signing of the peace accord.

The Book Club members, in a packed meeting, split roughly down the middle in reaction to “*Trespases*” though the ‘pro-lobby’ was notable in providing some deeply felt and articulate support.

Mike Wraith



Louise Kennedy is a native of County Down in Northern Ireland. She worked as a chef for 30 years before being persuaded to try writing by a friend. She obtained a PhD in creative writing and received critical acclaim for a book of short stories: “*The End of the World is a Cul-de-Sac*”. “*Trespases*” is her first novel and was written at great haste after she was diagnosed to be suffering from serious illness.

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 book for discussion is:

“The Island of Missing Trees” by Elif Shafak (on either 9 or 16 September)

Contribution

What is a sworn translator?

In France a sworn translator is usually (with one exception, see below) a judicial expert appointed by a Court of Appeal (or the Court of Cassation); thus those in Alsace (Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin) have the title “expert près la Cour d’appel de Colmar” and their names appear on an official list, with all the other experts in various domains – a list which is available via the website of the relevant court (<https://www.cours-appel.justice.fr/colmar/les-experts-judiciaires>). They are known as “sworn” (*traducteurs assermentés*) because they take an oath (during a ceremony at the Court of Appeal) at the time of the appointment. Their translations should, however, be referred to as “certified” rather than “sworn” translations, as the latter adjective goes with the person not the document.

Any interpreters/translators can apply to become an expert, you need to show that you are qualified and there is usually an interview (with the prosecutor or the police), but the chances of being accepted depend largely on whether a new translator is needed in the area for a given language combination. There are separate sections of the official list for translators and interpreters; but most candidates apply for both – those who are less experienced may be accepted only as interpreters. Some are listed for more than one language. Once on the list, there is a probationary period of 3 years after which renewal is requested every 5 years until the age of 72. One of the few requirements for renewal is that training has to be demonstrated every year (this could be a seminar or conference). A report has to be filed once a year showing the work carried out. After 5 years it is possible to apply to become an “*expert près de la Cour de Cassation*”.

The exception mentioned above relates only to Alsace and Moselle, where in 1903 a specific system of sworn translators was introduced, known as “*traducteurs jurés*”. While no new appointments have been made under this regime since 2013, those who still have that status are entitled to certify translations.

Many expert translators/interpreters join a local association, which has the advantage of helping them with formalities such as obtaining the stamp, filing the annual report, providing them with training, etc. One of the main ones in our area is the CRETA (*Chambre régionale des experts traducteurs d’Alsace*), which has just over 100 members and has just celebrated its 25th anniversary at its annual meeting on 2 December 2023 (<https://www.creta-france.com/en/>).

Leaving aside the interpreting role (mainly in court hearings and police interviews), sworn translators are called upon for all sorts of official documents but mainly birth certificates (especially for nationality applications), driving licences, diplomas and degrees, etc. They are expected to translate from and into French. They may also receive translation requests from the local courts (e.g. evidence obtained abroad, for the prosecutor). While judicial work is paid according to a fixed rate, there is no set rate for private clients (when a certified translation is needed), hence the wide range of prices that can be found (a birth certificate for example could cost between 25 euros and 100 euros).

Each State has its own system and while the French one may not be perfect, it has the advantage of being strictly regulated and ensures independence. And this is one field where machine translation is unlikely to replace the human translator...

James Brannan

What are sports about

Nearly a year ago the ESC Sports and Outdoors group was launched with the aim of giving the committee a framework to expand and renew the range of activities that are offered to our members. As ever, we hope to please our members and encourage as many of you as possible to sign up and take part.

Our varied 2023-2024 past events will be reviewed in a portfolio presenting a selection of pictures illustrating what we can offer and who we are, which will be displayed to visitors to the ESC stall at the next Village des Associations in September. We encourage you to volunteer or just visit us.

Among the successful events reviewed in this issue, Jonathan Crow hit a home run with the complex organisation of our May gathering at the IS women's tennis tournament, a fun day in a pleasant environment, boosted by a very flexible programme. In this instance, he gave us a remarkable example of enthusiasm, commitment, endurance, and use of the appropriate resources to jump some technical or time hurdles. You will recognise, in this list, qualities that are necessary to achieve good results in sports, should it be at champion or amateur levels.

We are curious to know if you have bought tickets for the upcoming Olympics and Paralympics sessions in Paris, Lille or Marseille... Tahiti maybe? Do tell us when we meet at a next event!

I wish you a wonderful summer.

Catherine Manini

