

Best foot forward: discovering the countryside around Mundolsheim



Our first jaunt of the year took us to the countryside right outside Strasbourg

Four adults and one child met at the Mundolsheim train station before setting off for a circular walk around and through the villages of Mundolsheim and Lampertheim. The weather was thankfully on our side after a few dreadful days, with sunshine and the perfect temperature for a leisurely stroll across fields.

We stopped for lunch in Lampertheim, the main square offering shaded tables and



benches, as well as a playground for Nikki's little girl to burn off some more of her seemingly boundless energy.

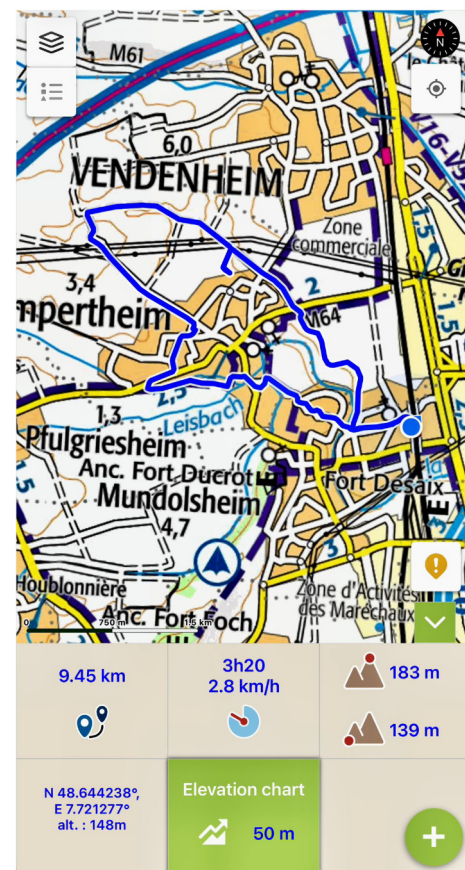
Wallya, six years old, and a true city kid, discovered nature was full of bugs, and saw corn and wheat stalks as well as asparagus fields. She even witnessed does prancing around and a couple of horses peacefully munching on grass in their enclosures: talk about getting the full *campagne* experience!

The guide for the day was not Polly as usual but Pauline Kaspar, a long-term Mundolsheim resident, who regaled the (un?)willing participants with tales of bike falls, tennis-playing heyday, kite-flying and great-grandparents' gardening stories.

The 17th of May being Norway's National Day, and her being a former resident of the kingdom, she felt compelled to wear her tee-shirt featuring the three funny letters found in bokmål and nynorsk (the horned Viking hat stayed home, even she has her limits).

It may not have been the most challenging of walks, but a good time was had by everyone.

Thanks to Chris Welch for the pictures.



Fun in the sun

The ESC barbecue was held on 7 June

Ribs, burgers and knacks

by Andie Swan

Mother Nature smiled upon the annual barbecue, as the weather was picture perfect (unlike the hellish heat of last year). There was a cornucopia of tasty items, from ribs and burgers to knacks and delicious vegan burgers. And oh, my Lord! – the desserts!

The ambience was droll and joyful, with children playing and adults standing by to assist, as when a birdie [shuttlecock] landed in a tree and a red-haired committee member climbed up to free it. She lived to tell the tale.

Less noticeable but equally joyful was the camaraderie behind the scenes, with members pitching in to wash dishes, fetch supplies, and do whatever needed doing to keep the event moving forward.



**For next year's barbecue
we are considering finding
a new venue.**

**If anyone has ideas,
please do let us know.**



As always, we are grateful to Chantelle's Band for providing the musical backdrop for the day. The music was so infectious that several members couldn't resist taking the mic to attempt to sing along. Points for trying.

Inevitably, the bar was the locus of conversation and smiles, with children and adults alike diving into the proffered bowls of chips and doing their best to dispose of the beverages on offer. The bartender concluded that a good time was had by all.



Orangerie picnic, May 2026

by Andie Swan

**They came, they picnicked, they
masticated and imbibed.**

A vingtaine of ESC members made their way to the Parc de l'Orangerie to enjoy a few hours of springtime fun by the lake. Delicious plates were shared all round, including salmon points, tabouli, hummus and cheeses, along with killer cheesecake and a smacktabulous yogurt pound cake. The wines and other beverages were also tasty, but the best part of the day was the camaraderie. New and old members chatted and laughed as the afternoon sun battled playfully with insistent clouds. The afternoon ended joyfully with a guitar banger performed by Chantal.



AGM – thoughts from the president



The ESC's annual general meeting took place on 24 March. In her report, our president, Sue Norman-Fleck, looked back on the year. Here's a recap of what she said, specially updated for this newsletter.

As I reflected on this past year, two words very quickly came to mind – change and enthusiasm.

The year 2025 was marked by transition for the ESC, as the committee adapted to the departure of three experienced members and integrated their novice, but enthusiastic and very capable replacements.

This presented new challenges as we tried to keep the right balance between maintaining well-loved, traditional events, whilst establishing new ones. Events like the apéros, Burns Supper, summer barbecue, *Marche gourmande*, Guy Fawkes night and Christmas party have rightly earned their place on the ESC calendar, joined by the popular board game evenings. We're also taking the time to re-establish old favourites like walks, bowling and museum visits.

We all know change is rarely easy and always takes longer than expected. But thanks to the commitment of members, whether in the form of volunteering at events; of giving their time and enthusiasm as dedicated committee members; or of attending events as supporters, we've managed not just to keep things running – but to move forward.

A priority for this committee was to review the way we operate and explore more efficient ways to communicate. Below are some of the results but if you want more details go to the [Spreading the word page](#) on our website:

- ◇ The re-introduction of a quarterly newsletter designed to bring members up to date with events that have recently taken place. The first two of these were published in January and April. You're reading the July edition now!
- ◇ We have created a series of WhatsApp groups, managed by Jonathan Crow. These are designed to communicate on a number of different topics

and members can choose which ones to belong to.

- ◇ Another move forward is to slowly introduce a larger range of events. We're contemplating mini-golf and karting for later this year.

In the near future we will provide a list of upcoming activities and would ask that you look at it with fresh eyes. Is there somewhere you could fit in and help? Perhaps on a one-off basis, without having to make a long-term commitment?

We feel enormously proud of what we've accomplished together.

At the AGM we presented a series of slides featuring the numerous groups and events available to all members. Again, the details can be found on our website.

There is one area we have been working on without huge success – as yet.

The aim of the association over the last few years has been to extend our reach to younger people and in particular, to families with young children. Your committee members, with the help of other wonderful volunteers, have worked hard to introduce events designed to appeal to younger people and to families. Although successful to a point, there is not enough support for these events or participation from families to guarantee they will be able to continue.

This is where we need your help.

Our work relies on volunteers, and we need more of them. The same few shoulders have carried much of the load for too long. If our activities are to continue to grow, which is, I think, what we all want, then we need fresh energy,

fresh perspectives, and more helping hands to support the existing network.

Key priorities

So, our key priorities for the upcoming year must be to engage with younger people and to recruit more help.

We must find ways to connect with the next generations – to show that with their help our association can be interesting, meaningful, and relevant to them.

The future health of the ESC will depend on how successfully we can blend the wisdom and experience of our long-standing members with the creativity and enthusiasm of younger ones. Together, we can create a thriving, inclusive, forward-looking community that continues to serve not only the aim of providing fun opportunities to talk English, but to offer a space where everyone, whatever their age, will find events, clubs and gatherings to interest them.

So, now I ask each of you to think about how you might contribute – not only with your time, but also with your ideas. Can you

- ◇ encourage younger people to get involved?
- ◇ come up with new ideas for outings, events, gatherings?
- ◇ help us with the organisation of an event?
- ◇ share what we do on your social network?

Every action helps, no matter how small.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks – to our wonderful committee, to our amazing volunteers, and to each supportive member. You are all so important. The spirit of this association has always been its people. Let's continue to nurture that spirit, embrace change, welcome new faces, and face the future with confidence and optimism – together.

Two apéros, one spirit

Celebrating connection through shared moments

by Melva Carteron

Over the past weeks, our community has enjoyed two “apéros”, each with its own atmosphere but both driven by the same intention: reconnecting while speaking in English – creating a lively space to chat, unwind, and boost our sense of togetherness.

Our first gathering took place just before attending Tagora’s production of John Patrick Shanley’s drama *Doubt: a parable* at the Cube noir. The play was beautifully acted, and sharing a drink beforehand set the perfect tone.

The second apéro brought us to a new bar (to us): the Queen Elizabeth pub. The

choice was a hit among our members. Its spacious terrace offered the ideal setting to chat freely, meet new faces, and enjoy a relaxed early-evening atmosphere. Drinks were shared, a few nibbles passed around, and conversations flowed naturally – the kind of simple, warm moments that remind us why these gatherings matter.

These apéros give us the chance to reconnect, welcome newcomers, and to raise a glass together.

July’s apéro will also be at the Queen Elizabeth. Rendez-vous 24 July from 18:30 onwards. More details on the ESC website.



Inside the Queen Elizabeth.



Jamie Brown and Tina Mulcahy in *Doubt: a parable*. Photo: David-Michel Muller.

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As a guide, for half a page, count 1 500 characters (with spaces); one full page is 2 500 to 3 000 characters. When submitting pictures please attach them to your e-mail rather than including them in a document.

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