



THE *English Library*

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

EVENTS

There are great events almost every day in August. Check this link for Villefranche/Najac/Villeneuve events

August 4th **Fête de chiens**, Foirail de la Madeleine

https://www.tourisme-aveyron.com/fr/diffusio/agenda/fete-du-chien-villefranche-de-rouergue_TFO143914364614

Friday **9th August - Fish and Chips**, Gare de Villefranche. As usual, pre-order with Cod en Bleu using their online ordering page at <http://www.cod-en-bleu.com/OrderOnline.aspx> then reserve your table in Le Césarée bar.

Le Growing Groupe - The next meeting is on. . For more details email colandsuereeve@gmail.com or phone Anne Dyson on 05 65 81 47 67 or 068367878

Marchés nocturnes 6th and 20th August Place St Jean, V de R

Thursday 8th, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th of August, 10h - 18.30. **Sale/Braderie of original art prints**

Three day sale of prints in the Atelier Hors Cadre, 25bis Rue Emile de Rodat, Villefranche

Cinema +

15th August **outdoor cinema**, Place Notre Dame, V de R

https://www.tourisme-aveyron.com/fr/diffusio/agenda/la-guinguette-ephemere-et-cinema-en-plein-air-villefranche-de-rouergue_TFO239120870547

VIDE GRENIERS/BROCANTES/MARCHÉS

Sat 3rd August Villefranche https://www.tourisme-aveyron.com/fr/diffusio/agenda/brocantes-en-bastide-villefranche-de-rouergue_TFO354707496383

Sun 4th. Flagnac, Beduer <https://vide-greniers.org/connexion>

Thurs 7th Lanuejoules **43ème foire à la brocante et aux antiquités**

Sun 7th Villeneuve foirail, https://vide-greniers.org/12-Aveyron/Villeneuve-12/vid-grenier-brocante_1476583726

Thurs 15th Najac https://vide-greniers.org/12-Aveyron/Najac-12/marche-puces-brocante-vid-grenier-najac_658784

Sun 15th Druhle, Figeac https://vide-greniers.org/46-Lot/Figeac-46/grande-brocante-figeac-sous-halle_771721449

Sun 25th Martiel, Bournazel https://vide-greniers.org/12-Aveyron/Bournazel-12/vid-grenier-bournazel_940890

CONCERTS

02/08 à 21h : **Violon-piano** à la Chapelle des Pénitents Noirs

Pages célèbres : Olivier Pons, violon -Thomas Chedal ,accordéon- Philippe Alègre, piano : Vivaldi, Brahms , Schubert ,Liszt ,Sarasate...

Tuesday 13th. **Choral concert** @ Loc Dieu 21h

https://www.tourisme-aveyron.com/fr/diffusio/agenda/concert-orchestre-et-choeur-martiel_TFO333304530695

Wednesday 14th August @21.00. **Concert baroque** at collégiale

https://www.tourisme-aveyron.com/fr/diffusio/agenda/concert-baroque-labyrinthe-musical-en-rouergue-ensemble-a-bout-de-souffle-villefranche-de-rouergue_TFO321725798256

23rd August, Chez Jules & Jeanne, 170 Chemin de la Bories des Pères, V de R. Karl Strand Group (rock n roll)

EXHIBITIONS

Bulles d'Art at La Borie des Peres Villefranche de R. hosts exhibitions every week until the end of September. The guest artist changes each month. Opening hours - Friday 15h-19h, Saturday 10h-13h, Sunday 15h-19h

Chez Jules & Jeanne, 170 Chemin de la Bories des Pères, V de R, open Friday - Sunday - August - exhibition of painting by **Bruno Rigal**

Friday 2 - Sunday 4th. Exhibition of arts and crafts in Parisot - all day event.

Please let me know of any events you would like publicised in future issues.



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BOOK REVIEWS

'Lonesome Dove' by Larry McMurtry.

Every now and then a novel comes along that has everything: great characters, good plot and writing and snappy dialogue. "Lonesome Dove" is such a one. Published in 1985 it was a Pulitzer prize-winning masterpiece.

Set in the 1870's in Texas where two former Texas Rangers, Gus McCrae and Call Woodrow, are running the Hat Creek Cattle Company in a town called Lonesome Dove. The two have gained renown for their almost mythic skills and bravado but Gus now passes his time drinking, playing cards and chatting to the local prostitute, Lorena. Call works ceaselessly and shows no interest in life beyond work. He dislikes conversation and avoids women.

Then one day into town rides Jake Spoon, a former rider with Gus and Call. His description of the beautiful wilderness of Montana fires Call with a dream to drive a large herd of cattle up there and stake a claim. For a while this seems too outlandish that Gus gives it no credit. Then realising that Call is serious and bored with his lifestyle he opts to go too.

Jake is no worker and no cowboy, preferring gambling and women to anything else but he is persuaded by Lorena to follow the herd and to take her to San Francisco. So the plot is set in motion. The cattle drive is an epic journey across rivers and plains. There are many dangers and extreme weather, all beautifully described.

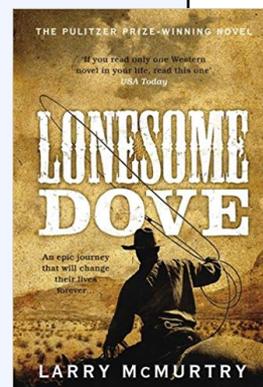
The author skilfully weaves in the back story of all the characters and we move from one to another before returning to the journey. We learn of Gus's love for Clara, a woman who has rejected him: we discover that Call has not avoided women completely. The book hinges on decisions taken, many of them bad, often whimsical, but they have consequences. Call's desire to reach Montana, a place further than any of the riders have ever been, drives the herd and the hands onwards often to their deaths.

He is not a rancher yet this dream is an obsession, as journeys sometimes are. In spite of the fact that they are crossing vast tracts of empty land they have a habit of meeting people they know who are also crossing it. Jake Spoon is on the run from the law and the sheriff pursuing him supplies another strand to the tale. The story owes something to "Don Quixote".

The dialogue, as befits a skilled screenwriter, is often terrific: terse and to the point. Gus is particularly funny and the repartee between him and the other characters is choice. I closed the book with great regret at leaving such powerfully drawn characters and immediately bought a prequel "Dead Man's Walk". This is not in the same league at all: Gus and Call seem hapless in comparison with what they became and it's hard to see how their luck could have held sufficiently for them to become so skilled.

McMurtry himself eventually expressed dissatisfaction with the popularity of Lonesome Dove, particularly after the mini-series adaptation. In the preface to the 2000 edition he wrote: "It's hard to go wrong if one writes at length about the Old West, still the phantom leg of the American psyche. I thought I had written about a harsh time and some pretty harsh people, but, to the public at large, I had produced something nearer to an idealisation; instead of a poor man's Inferno, filled with violence, faithlessness and betrayal, I had actually delivered a kind of Gone With The Wind of the West, a turnabout I'll be mulling over for a long, long time."

Unfortunately that didn't stop him writing the prequels 10 years later. "Lonesome Dove" is a tour de force and some 900 pages long. You will leave it, and your sun lounger with regret.



EM

GARDENING

It has been far too hot and so dry - this summer has been a real struggle. Surprisingly we still have lettuce. As soon as one lot germinates I like to resow, but it won't germinate if it's too hot and transplanting, even with shade, is a risky business. I have been trying to follow the lunar calendar for my sowing and planting, but yesterday they forecast rain and cooler temperatures so I sowed some more salad, despite the lunar calendar. In England I used to sow when I had the time and when conditions were right. I had perfectly good results, obviously some years better than others. Here they take the lunar calendar very seriously and I do think it is worth following. However, the weather and soil conditions override the state of the moon, at least for sowing and planting.

I hate to see bare ground. The potatoes were rubbish, not enough water, so we are getting through them very quickly. Normally I resow with a green manure, or something quick growing like coriander or zinnias but without rain they won't germinate so for the meantime I am trying to cover the bare ground. I haven't got enough weed suppressing membrane, so I am now using cardboard. To cap it all it is now raining heavily, so I regret not sowing those sweet williams.

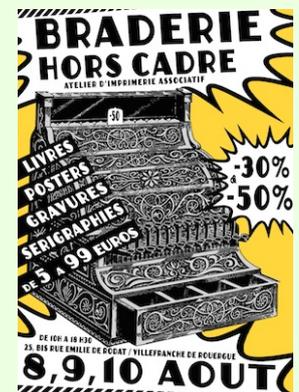
Some people don't like belle-de-nuit (*mirabilis*), but they do grow. The front of the barn is a difficult area, rubbish soil, dry from the cherry tree and afternoon sun. The *eschscholzia* and *nepetas* have gone over, so they have either been cut back or cleared. There are far too many, but the belle-de-nuit are popping up everywhere and growing rapidly. I even managed to transplant a few. This summer I am grateful for anything which grows and doesn't need constant watering. Thankfully, at last some decent rain, but it is unlikely to be anywhere near enough.



MG

SALE/BRADERIE OF ORIGINAL ART PRINTS

There will be a three day sale of prints in the Atelier Hors Cadre, 25bis Rue Emile de Rodât, Villefranche on Thursday 8, Friday 9 and Saturday 10 of August. Original art books, posters, etchings and screen prints at knock down prices from €5 - €99! There is something for everyone. Atelier Hors Cadre is a collective printing works. Run by a group of artists on a voluntary basis. Printing courses can be held upon demand. HC is situated behind the tourist office along the river bank & just past the Atelier Blanc. It will be open from 10h - 18.30.



HM

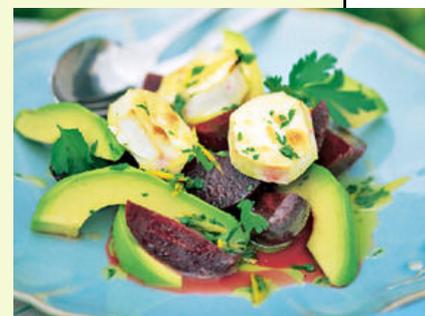
RECIPE

Avocado, Beetroot and Goat's Cheese Salad. Serves 6

I am not a fan of celebrity chefs. To me, they plunder recipes, presenting them as their own invention. Antony Worrall Thompson however, produced this original and delicious recipe in a 2006 edition of "Good Housekeeping". For this I could overlook his patronising manner on TV, and his later fall from grace.

The ingredients are key. Chervil [cerfeuil] lifts this dish to the sublime; it is hard to find, unless you grow it each year. The goat's cheese must be suitable for "chèvre chaude" and the avocados need to be ready to eat; forget those packs of supposedly ripe enough to eat - they are not. The beetroot is easy. If you do not grow your own, Leclerc sells "eco" packs of cooked beetroot which tend to contain the smaller beetroot to suit the recipe.

8 medium beetroot
 1 large shallot, finely chopped
 ¼ tsp each chopped lemon and orange zest, plus 1tbsp juice from each. Do more, you will need it.
 2tsp golden caster sugar
 1 tbsp chopped chervil. Ok. Parsley will do. If you are lucky, Provenc'Halles will have fresh chervil.
 4tbsp extra virgin olive oil
 2tbsp each red and white wine vinegar
 200g log of goat's cheese, sliced. A St Maure is ok, or you ask for individual cheeses which will cope with "Chevre chaude". The wrong choice of an immature cheese gives you a pretty, lacy tuile, which spoils the intended effect.
 2 ripe avocados, sliced
 Salt and pepper



Cut the cooked beetroot into wedges. Toss them into a mixture of the vinegars and olive oil, salt and pepper. This can be done ahead; leftovers last several days in the fridge. Combine the shallot, orange and lemon zest and juices, sugar, chervil and a pinch of salt. Mix well. Either preheat the grill to medium or heat up a large non stick frying pan. Dress the plates with the beetroot and sliced avocados; a bit of rocket goes nicely here. Drizzle the citrus dressing over, reserving a bit for the goat's cheese. Grill or fry the cheese until oozing and place on top of the beetroot, avocado mix. Put the last of the citrus dressing on the goat's cheese. A second pair of hands is very useful in the latter stages. If you care, it comes out at 290 calories, but you can reduce the quantities for an effective starter.

LS

LIBRARY FACEBOOK PAGE

If you are a Facebook user please join our English library, Villefranche de Rouergue page for in-between events and info www.facebook.com/groups/1374046415990276/

A TRIUMPH

In 2001, I succumbed to my lust for a classic sports car and bought a 1972 Triumph TR6. It was a good, usable car with no rust and very sound. Its owner said that at some time in the past, the engine had been tuned, but he had no details. From the way it went and handled, someone had really given it a makeover.

Cathy and I had a ball touring the Cotswolds where we lived, real wind in the hair motoring, poles apart from a modern computerised box. The TR drew attention everywhere, people just love old cars.

But classics go wrong and the head gasket blew. One head stud was irrevocably rusted in, and the head wouldn't budge. My local garageman Phil solved that by attaching a hoist to the head and lifting the car bodily. 'There was a helluva bang,' said Phil, 'and it parted.' Our neighbourhood machine shop dented my bank balance, then I painstakingly rebuilt the whole shebang so that it would come apart in the future.

We really looked forward to weekend forays to Moreton-in-Marsh, Cirencester, Broadway, Bourton-on-the-Water, Chipping Campden and so many more beautiful towns and villages. We never put up the hood. The sports exhaust makes a thunderous sound when you give it some welly outside built-up areas.

Then disaster struck. The TR6 has a four-speed box with overdrive and that started playing up. Phil and his boys tried to fix it but failed and the overdrive stuck when I was in reverse gear. That was potentially calamitous - overdrives must only run forwards. Somehow, with the help of my neighbour, I prised the gearbox out and took the overdrive to a specialist company. Miraculously, the reverse incident had caused no damage, and I reunited a fully fettled overdrive with its 'box.

There used to be this horrible thing called work which got in the way and included periods in Saudi Arabia. Thus my trusty steed was still not quite roadworthy when we sold up and prepared to de-camp to France. Frantic activity followed and I drove it on to and off the removal truck and into its new garage. Alas, house renovations mean it has sat there until May this year, when I got stuck in and revived my pride and joy.

Happily, it has needed very little in the way of resuscitation. The front brakes had rusted on, some electrical bits had mouldered and the steering required some new rubber parts, but mostly, it was about a good clean-up. When that engine's stirring bellow rent the still of the Aveyron once again, I shed a few tears.

Now armed with an attestation from the Fédération Française des Véhicules d'Époque and some classic insurance, I'm about to submit the TR6 for its contrôle technique. With luck and a following wind, she'll be on the road by the end of August.

I can't wait!



NW

DESERT ISLAND BOOKS

If cast away on the proverbial desert island, which five books would we choose to have with us?".....

Choose five books, said Jackie. Only five? What torment. Surely, if I took my kindle...? No!

Well, I'll start with a trilogy, because they are sometimes bound as one volume, so it only counts as one! 'Firelight and Woodsmoke' by Claude Michelet. It's a family saga about the Vialhes, based in this part of rural France. I found it in the English bookshop in Eymet, where the owner suggested I bought all three, so convinced was she that I'd get hooked. She was right. It's an interesting read, as much for the wealth of background information as the story. I have reread it several times, it helped me understand my neighbours! The other two titles are 'Applewood' and 'Scent of Herbs'.

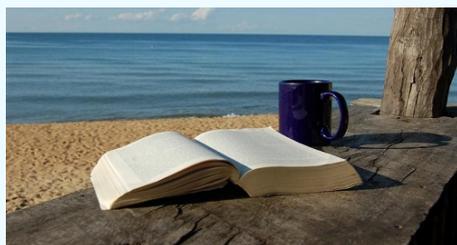
'Eleanor of Aquitaine' by Marion Meade. What a woman. She inherited a quarter of modern-day France at the age of 15 and married Louis VII, then Henry II. It's a very readable biography, more like an adventure story, but well researched. Meade has written a number of biographies including one of Dorothy Parker, 'What Fresh Hell is This?' which brings me to my next choice...

'The Collected Dorothy Parker' published by Duckworth. The original collection was chosen by Mrs Parker herself, and who could fail to enjoy her acerbic wit, even if she is a bit keen on semi-colons.

Oh, life is a glorious cycle of song,
A medley of extemporanea ;
And love is a thing that can never go wrong;
And I am Marie of Roumania.

'The London Encyclopedia' edited by Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert. You can dip into this wonderful book every day and still learn something new. It has the origins of places and street names, as well as notes on people and events. For example Snow Hill, off Holborn Viaduct, where young men used to capture elderly women and roll them down the hill in barrels, passing Thomas Cromwell's grocery shop. Bizarre. A great book for setting questions for a quiz night.

And finally... 'The Hare with Amber Eyes' by Edmund de Waal. The story of a family collection of netsuki, those little carved figures worn as a toggle on a Japanese kimono. The collection passes down through de Waal's family, the Ephrussi, from Charles Ephrussi in 19th century Paris, on to Vienna where this extremely wealthy banking family loses all its assets to the Nazis. A fascinating story about the history of two cities I love to visit.



Are you sure I can only have five books?

SERVICES

Fripaffaires, a charity shop based in Parisot (82) raises funds for Médecin sans Frontières and Restos du Cœur. Situated at the Pole Medical, next door to the pharmacy, the shop is open Tuesdays and Wednesday's 2-6pm and Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 12.30pm. Donations always gratefully received.

The Writing Desk can swiftly turn your ideas into sharp, punchy script. As an author and experienced freelance journalist I have spent many years creating features for business and lifestyle magazines. For great words and a fast service, contact Nigel on: T:05 65 65 81 53 nigelwild@hotmail.co.uk

Gardener and/or cleaner available. Contact Ruth Patterson on 05 65 34 37 88 or 07 80 45 50 46.

Learn *French in a friendly, fun atmosphere* at So'Happy School in Villefranche. All levels/all ages. Qualified, motivated teacher with excellent OFSTED reports and 15 years experience. Small groups: 18 Euros/1h30 lessons; individual lessons: 22 euros/hour. Contact Sophie on 07963050236 or sohappyschool@gmail.com

Domestic services - based near La Fouillade we, an English couple, offer a range of domestic services including garden maintenance, cleaning and gîte change overs. If we can help, contact us via email at kevinandcherylpower@gmail.com or phone us on 0784599553.

English - French translations of documents and interpreting during meetings. Help with French administration and/or with official French letters. Also one to one French lessons or French conversation, contact Jacynth Crozier, Tel. 06 30 31 13 00 contact@crozier-traductions.com <http://www.crozier-traductions.com>

Mon Plaisir Chambres d'Hotes. Tranquil, rural but easy access to Villefranche de Rouergue. 3 en suite rooms, €69-79 per night, inc breakfast for 2. Splash pool, river view decking, free wifi. Full info on: www.monplaisir-france.com. Book now! Phone: 05 65 57 18 43 or email: monplaisir@hotmail.co.uk

Holiday apartment to rent in beautiful Nerja, Andalucia, Spain. A modern, 2 double bedroom, ground floor apartment with terrace and spectacular sea and mountain views. A superb location 300m from Nerja's most popular beach Burriana, with a choice of bars and restaurants and only a short walk to the old town centre. For details contact Lynne Harding 06 65 50 95 37 or email: lafage.harding@gmail.com

SERVICES continued

Iyengar Yoga. Tuesday afternoons 2.30 - 4.00 and Thursday mornings 10.15 to 11.45 in Villefranche de Rouergue. Qualified Yoga teacher. First lesson free. Contact Penny Mackey on 05 65 81 74 58 or email: penny.mackey@orange.fr

Qualified hairdresser with 30 years experience. From a simple cut to a complete restyle, colouring and highlighting, I can attend to your hair care requirements in the comfort of your own home. T. Jayne on 0632842384 or jhpn@hotmail.co.uk

Does your house, holiday home or gîte need finishing? All kinds of interior and exterior work undertaken e.g. skirting boards, wood trims, tiling, painting, decorating etc. Contact: Tim Fortune on 05 65 45 48 14 or mail f.design@outlook.fr

Home from Home welcomes your dogs to board with us & our Golden Retrievers in our home (not kennels). British experienced owners and breeders offering TLC to your pet when you cannot be there. Between Villefranche de R. and Figeac, phone us on 06 27 72 01 07 or email at ambersclan.goldenretrievers@orange.fr. Or see www.ambersclan.com.

Stained glass. Book an afternoon workshop near Belcastel & make yourself a stained glass sun-catcher. Sessions from 1.30 - 5.00pm including tea/coffee & cake €15 euros per person. Also items for sale. Contact libbydowle@gmail.com or T. 05 65 80 47 19 or 0604441425

Experienced gardener specialising in natural organic design and maintenance. Affordable and flexible - References available. Contact: Kathryn: 05 65 65 78 01 / montagnac@hotmail.co.uk

ITEMS FOR SALE

Manure For Sale

Contact Bridget Blunsdon 05 65 65 78 60

Contemporary Sculptural Mirrors. Go to www.fortunedesigns.co.uk for details. Free delivery and fitting within 20km of Villefranche de Rouergue. Ideal for a special gift. T: 05 65 45 48 14 or email f.design@outlook.fr

BUILDERS & TRADESPEOPLE

Carpenter/joiner, 40 years experience, city and guilds qualified. Many aspects of building work carried out at reasonable rates. Contact Phil Needham on 0565635878 or jhpn@hotmail.co.uk

Nicholas Powell - Maçon du Bâti Ancien
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