



The English Library



A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
OUR READERS!

There's a lot going on in December...

4th & 5th December St Projet's first Marché de Noël was the idea of two English residents who wanted something special for our village, after a difficult couple of years. With the help of Nigel who owns the bar, Chez Jano, we have assembled over a dozen local crafters who produce everything from pottery to pâtisserie, jewellery to wreaths and table decorations, hand-made wooden items and beautiful tree decorations. Père Noël will be here with games for the little ones. Do come and see us: Sat 14h00 to 19h00 / Sun 11h00 to 18h30

4th December 11h00 Open Air Guitar concert in Place Notre Dame, Villefranche

5th December Lanuejols has a big Christmas Fair in the sports hall with local crafts and artefacts of a high standard. Refreshments on sale throughout the day on sale throughout the day

8th December 15h30 The Grinch film (in French) at the Vox Cinema, Villefranche. At the end of the film, candles will be handed out for a gathering to celebrate the Festival des Lumières in the square just opposite.

10th December 20h30 Choral Concert in the Collégiale, Villefranche de Rouergue Sérénade d'Hiver, Music for Christmas

11th December Christmas Market starts in Villefranche

11th December 20h30 Concert at Ambeyrac church (heated!) by FigeacVoix choir. A mix of sacred and secular music.

12th December 14h00 Rides in a Horse-drawn sleigh, Villefranche de Rouergue

12th December 16h00 Organ, Trumpet and Voice Concert Villeneuve

18th December Najac Christmas Market and Sacred Choral works in the Church at Najac

19th to 30th December Ten concerts including one for children, in varying musical styles, organised by Gerfaut, an association whose aim is to restore and enhance the Toulonjac heritage. The generous artists who come from Rodez, Laramière, Villefranche, Peyrusse le Roc, Marseille and Montpellier, help you to rediscover the greatest classical and jazz hits.

There will be no ticket sales at the entrance to the concerts. But we will appeal to the generosity of the audience. The proceeds will finance part of the restoration of our old church, which is over six centuries old.

Advance reservation of places on the website is essential.

<https://www.legerfautdetoulonjac.fr/les-concerts>

22nd December 16h00 Father Christmas accompanied by Mother Christmas, abseiling down the Tower of the Collégiale in Villefranche

24th December 15h00 Open air concert Place Notre Dame, Villefranche

Review of Chocolate Event, Mas de Pradie, Saturday 27th November

Natasha Bull has been making handmade chocolates and special cakes for some two years now. Lockdown interrupted activities but things are up and running again and many of us were invited to this event to taste some of what is on offer. Natasha uses concentrated, natural flavours in her chocolates which are well-balanced and not excessively sweet. Fresh cream is also used and it is recommended that everything is consumed within 14 days of purchase as no preservatives are used. This is not a difficult condition to meet!

The event in the barn at Mas de Pradie was well-attended and very convivial: we were offered a hot drink before settling down to the business of tasting. Tray after tray came out of the kitchen with flavours such as pistachio, blueberry, strawberry and salted caramel (this one was my favourite). The barn was imaginatively decorated with a beautiful display of special confections that Natasha can make. For example there was a bunch of muguets in delicate shades of green and white, a chocolate house, and a ladybird amongst others.

Orders for Christmas can be placed up to the 15th December, preferably by calling Natasha on 0619 48 73 12. This is not mail order as Natasha prefers people to discuss their preferences with her before she makes up the order. Her website is www.natasha-patisserie.wixsite.com/site. Email natasha.bull@wanadoo.fr



SHOPPING IN THE BASTIDE THIS CHRISTMAS

Shop local and support local businesses!

Many people never venture into the Bastide to shop but with a little effort you'll discover that Villefranche has more to offer than you might think.

Instead of buying your gifts online why not take a wander around the Bastide to search out your gifts. There are plans for another Christmas market in the place Notre Dame which should add to the Festive mood. Along the rue Marcellin Fabre there are several shops worth a visit for decorative items, leather, jewellery and gift ideas that you won't find elsewhere. Kraft in particular stocks a range of original gifts that are sourced from around the region. Don't feel shy about going in to these places shops for a look around. There is no obligation to buy.

Newly opened on rue Sergent Bories is a lovely shop selling beautiful handmade wooden toys. Also newly opened on rue de Republic is a candy shop selling an amazing selection of sweets candies in all shapes and sizes. Perfect as stocking fillers.

We are all familiar with Ambiance et Styles and this year the place is chock-full of beautiful ideas for your table decor or as gifts. Further outside the Bastide check out RAGT as apart from the usual plants they have a good selection of reasonably priced household items. Nearby is Hyper Fête. If you'd like to make your own cards this is the place to source ideas and stock up with paper, paints, glue, coloured envelopes and Christmas stickers. If you order the turkey, chapon, or duck in your local butcher or Le Bec Fin, you know that it is produced locally.

So support your local businesses and at the same time cut down on your carbon footprint!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, that's another year which has raced by after a very inauspicious start.

The old saying that "time flies when you are enjoying yourself" has been tested by keeping heads above water and ducking and diving around Covid, if that isn't too much of a mixed metaphor!

We are all to be congratulated on whatever small successes we have had this year and hope, very strongly, that 2022 will be good to us and that we will witness more kindness throughout the world. Here's to next year and a lighter atmosphere everywhere.

Have a very happy Christmas, stay warm, stay well and stay safe. With very best wishes to you all.



If you have any comments or questions, complimentary or critical please don't hesitate to contact Martin and Pella at englishlibrarybaf@gmail.com

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Ben Naismith, Arborist. Tree and hedge cutting at competitive rates. Tree pruning, reductions, felling, trimming and logging. Contact bennaismith@outlook.com or T: 0786807434

Nicholas Powell - Maçon du Bâti Ancien
Marin 12260 Sainte Croix. Contact: 06 20 55 10 40

Alan G. W. Mackay - Civil Funeral Célébrant,
English Speaking. Dignified, personal, respectful, memories. Contact: 05 65 29 88 54 / 06 89 33 82 45 or anglocelebrant@orange.fr

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: 05 65 65 81 53 nigelnwild@hotmail.co.uk

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

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>

Creative design including web sites, logos, and graphics. Websites fully hosted and monitored including ecommerce, blogging, gîte/rental bookings integration & email. Contact will@outrighthosting.net

SOCIAL

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, open Tuesday & Wednesday 2-6pm and Friday & Saturday 10am to 12.30pm. Donations always gratefully received

DOMESTIC SERVICES

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

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

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

We have sacks of hay and straw for sale suitable for all small animals. Small bales of straw for larger animals. Contact Bridget Blunsdon 05 65 65 78 60

LETTINGS

Mon Plaisir Chambres d'Hôtes. 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.monplaisirfrance.com. Book now! Phone: 05 65 57 18 43 or email: monplaisir@hotmail.co.uk

Holiday apartment to rent in beautiful Nerja, Andalucía, Spain. A modern, 2 double bedroom, ground floor apartment with terrace and spectacular sea and mountain views. A superb location 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 lafage.harding@gmail.com

If you'd like us to include a small ad in any of these columns, please let us have the details by emailing us at englishlibrarybaf@gmail.com. If you have any comments or questions, complimentary or critical please don't hesitate to contact us at englishlibrarybaf@gmail.com