



THE FRENCH CONNECTION
WRINGTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION
The John Locke Room, Silver Street, Wrington BS40 5QE

NEWSLETTER March 2023

Website: <https://www.wringtontwinning.co.uk>

email: editor@wringtontwinning.co.uk



Olive trees coming into leaf. Image from thegoodlifeFrance.com

Welcome to your *March* newsletter

Here we are at the beginning of spring, and with **a whole new programme of events, a new energy and direction for The French Connection.** It's a very special thing, to have this dynamic community of Francophiles in a small, former market village in north Somerset (proximity of airport notwithstanding). A group of enthusiasts, each with different 'takes' on their 'Frenchness', ready to head off to their favourite Francophile activity, speaking French, English or Franglais, and enjoy the ambience of the vital connection with our nearest international neighbour. In a strange resonance with national politics, The French Connection is forging a new relationship with its 'twin', Villeneuve-les-Beziers, and finding a new way of combining interests and activities within its ambit.

This edition of the Newsletter is celebrating that new start as a kind of 'flyer', with full reference to our website and now, social media presence. A further announcement is planned, which will present a full calendar of events, but what follows is a trailer, if you like.

Firstly, thanks to **our new administrator, Anne-Marie Savory**, we have a presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, with links from the website.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/French-Connection-Wrington-Twinning-Association/100089579449000/>

The website is also fully up to date (thanks to **Frank Finn**) with all the information that you need on our activities, links and history. Most of all, thanks to **John Adams** for driving this new initiative, with great energy, and for taking over the administration of several aspects, including **Ciné Club** (see below).

To celebrate our new start, we are offering, for **five consecutive Saturdays, Free Membership and Free Coffee and Croissants at Mother Hen throughout April!** If you come in and sign up to our newsletter and announcements with your email address, you can enjoy coffee and croissants from **10–12 every Saturday morning** throughout April, as a guest of the French Connection, at Mother Hen. What's not to like?? From now on, no membership fees will be requested. Everyone in Wrington and the surrounding area may automatically become a member by simply signing up to the mailing list.



Also coming up in **April** is a **wine tasting** on **27th, 7.30–9.30pm**, more details in the next newsletter.



Boules will resume at **The Plough in May**.



Vive la Villeneuve!

On **Thursday, 30th March 7–9pm**, in the **Bowling Club**, we shall be hosting **Welcome to Villeneuve**, an evening of exchanging information about our ‘twin’ town of Villeneuve-lès-Béziers, beginning with a short presentation: *Sun, Sea and bloody Strife: introducing the historic village of Villeneuve-lès-Béziers, Wrington’s twin on the Mediterranean coast of Occitanie*. This will be followed by a Q&A session about Villeneuve, with an opportunity for stories and reminiscences from the floor about past visits, and information about future ones. There is **no charge**, and there will be **a glass of wine**, with top-ups available for a small contribution to funds. Please come along and bring your friends, find out a bit more, and come and go as you please.

Virtual Villeneuve is the new name of our monthly group conversations with our friends in Villeneuve, on Zoom. We talk about aspects of daily life in both villages, in both French and English, usually over a glass of something delicious. Don’t be put off if you don’t really speak French, there is lots of give and take. Regular meetings will resume in April, after the **Welcome to Villeneuve** event. Further details from Jane Finn (janefinn20@hotmail.com).



French Conversation



Everyone is welcome to come along on the first Tuesday and fourth Thursday of the month (don't worry, we give you the dates!) to chat in French over a cup of coffee or tea at the Langford Inn. If you are not sure if your French is up to it, come along and see, we are very friendly. If there is a demand, we may provide a separate group for those wishing to acquire basic conversational French. There will be an opportunity to sign up for this at Mother Hen (see below) in April.

Dates in for the conversation group in March are:

Tuesday 14th March 3pm The Langford Inn
Thursday 23rd March 3pm The Langford Inn

For more information please contact Margaret Hancock at margaretdivonne@gmail.com.

Ciné Club



The film discussion group is also relaunching! Our first meeting is **Tuesday March 7th** at the new time of **6pm**. Please join us on Zoom (**see login details below**) for the much-postponed discussion of *Jules et Jim* (1962), written, directed and produced by François Truffaut.

The **April** meeting will be on **Tuesday 4th at 6pm** to discuss Céline Sciamma's animation *Ma Vie de Courgette*.

Please note there is no longer a universal log-in for French Connection and Wrington Twinning Zoom meetings. You will be sent an invitation to join, and a link, shortly before the meeting. If you are NEW to Ciné Club and would like to join in, please let John Adams know (jradams@gmail.com) and he will send you the Zoom invitation. Current members will automatically be informed

News from France

Lots going on in France in March! The following comes from thegoodlifefrance.com website:



What's on in France in March?

Sarlat: Perigord, Geese Festival Fest'Oie. From 4-5 March 2023, this famous annual festival takes place in the [picturesque town of Sarlat](#) and celebrates all things goose! Noisy flocks of geese honking through the medieval city, foie gras tastings, workshops and demonstrations. en.sarlat-tourisme.com

Provence, Tournettes-sur-Loup, Alpes Maritime, Festival of Violets 4-5 March 2023. The whole village smells of violets, there are farmers markets, and a violet parade with a battle of the flowers! Held annually first weekend in March. toureттessurloup.com

Limousin, Limoges: Puces de la Cité. A very lively market with over 100 antique dealers. Held every 2nd Sunday of the month www.tourismelimoges.com

Côte-D'Azur, Nice: Les Printemps des Poètes, 11-27 March 2023. People in Nice go potty for poetry each March. This annual festival sees, and hears, recitals over a two week period in bars, theatres, clubs and cafés all over town. www.printempsdespoetes.com

Pas de Calais, Le Touquet: Car Rally, 16-18 March 2023. The inaugural roudm of the French Rally. Championship is held annually in Le Touquet. It's a crazy car rally through the countryside and along the coast of Pas de Calais. More than 150 rally drivers converge on the lively seaside resort of [Le Touquet](#) for this one www.letouquet.com

Cambrai, Nord, March 2023 TBC, [International Orchid Festival](#) in stunning surroundings in an ancient abbey – just gorgeous. [abbayedevaucelles.com](#)

Lagouile, Midi-Pyrénées, Aveyron: La Trace du Fromage 12 March 2023. A truly amazing cheese tasting event. [www.tourisme-aveyron.com](#)

Aquitaine, Bayonne Ham Fair: TBC. For more than five centuries, the Bayonne Ham Fair has attracted gourmets to a festival of authentic regional produce. There's also an omelette and ham competition!

Paris, Seine-Saint-Denis: Banlieues Bleues, 24 March – 21 April 2023. Jazz, blues and world music in districts all over Paris. [uk.tourisme93.com/banlieue-bleue-festival](#)

Gers, Le saint Mont, Vignoble en Fete, 24 March – 26 March 2023. Winegrowers demonstrate their knowledge and products to visitors. Held annually, last weekend of March. [www.mairie-saintmont.com](#)

Cultural News

The *Prix du roman d'entreprise* is a prize set up in France for the best novel about the workplace, or issues relating to work. It is funded by a training organization, the Place de la Médiation, and has been awarded since 2009. To read about the five novels in the present list for commendation, go to <https://theconversation.com/five-books-on-work-by-french-authors-that-you-should-read-on-your-commute-112115>.

The novels listed are all in English, but available in French, of course, if you prefer the original language. Your editor is just finishing an admirable novel by the first listed author, Delphine de Vigan, in which the narrator is an author, called Delphine, who suffers from writer's block after a successful but controversial novel. It is essentially about the intersection of fiction and reality and is also a thriller of sorts. She's very good.

Wine and food



No recommendations this month. Lent is my excuse, but the main reason is the focus on our new launch, and more to come when April and May are finalised. However, we do still have:

Le mot juste

This month I cannot do better than an article in *The Conversation* about the phrase 'pas de souci', a French form of 'no worries', which apparently causes quite a lot of worries among some French citizens!

<https://theconversation.com/pas-de-souci-the-french-war-on-saying-no-worries-168878>



Lindsey Shaw-Miller, Newsletter Editor, The French Connection.