



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

**NEWSLETTER May 2022**

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**Welcome to your May newsletter**

Apologies for a brief newsletter this month. Personal circumstances have intervened, so this will mostly be a series of dates and any necessary supplementary information. Morale will return in time for the June newsletter, we hope, so please enjoy the flow of bank holidays in May and, for those of you off to France for *les vacances*, *les fêtes*, *les 'boules'* or whatever takes you there, *bon voyage et bon courage avec les règles et les interdits*.

\* \* \* \* \*

**News from France**

The election result is the big news, so let's all breathe a sigh of relief, *pace* any members who are supporters of Marine Le Pen. (Guys, really?) For a good analysis of what the result means for the French political landscape, and both Macron's achievement in winning a second term, and the negative implications of his success, I recommend this (not too long, and cogent):

French election: Historic win but Macron has polarised France  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-61209765>

**Cultural news**

For fans of art deco, there is an exhibition in Paris to celebrate 50 years of Galerie Anne Sophie Duval, whose gallery in the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Hotel de Châteauneuf has been a magnet for three generations of collectors of 20<sup>th</sup>-century design. Read about it here (just copy and put into your browser):

[https://thedesignedit.com/fifty-years-of-modernity/?utm\\_source=Copy+of+The+Design+Edit&utm\\_campaign=79b79cd89a-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_05\\_04\\_09\\_07\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_36ca323169-79b79cd89a-62483043&mc\\_cid=79b79cd89a&mc\\_eid=88d17d0673](https://thedesignedit.com/fifty-years-of-modernity/?utm_source=Copy+of+The+Design+Edit&utm_campaign=79b79cd89a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_05_04_09_07_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_36ca323169-79b79cd89a-62483043&mc_cid=79b79cd89a&mc_eid=88d17d0673)



Gallery view: Pierre Chareau, bookcase with swivel pedestal table in sycamore, chromed metal, parchment, circa 1930; Jean Besnard, ball lamp, circa 1930; Maurice Gensoli, celadon green stoneware vase, circa 1920; Primavera, glazed ceramic rabbit money box, circa 1930; Jean-Michel Frank, pair of bronze patinated iron bowls, circa 1930; Mithé Espelt, 'Arche' mirror, circa 1965  
COURTESY: © Galerie Anne-Sophie Duval

## **News from VLB**

*Nous sommes en accord.*



SOLIDARITÉ AVEC L'UKRAINE  
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Villeneuve-lès-Béziers, fidèle à ses valeurs et à son engagement pour la solidarité, se mobilise et se joint à l'initiative de la Ville de Béziers pour venir en aide à l'Ukraine.

Unlike ourselves, however, VIB has an amber warning of rain and possible flooding.

### **Conversations with our friends in VLB**

We shall meet on Zoom on May 30th at 6pm.

If you would like to take part, please email Jane Finn at [jane finn20@hotmail.com](mailto:jane finn20@hotmail.com)

### **French Conversation**

Tuesday May 10th 3pm

Thursday May 26th 3pm

*There is no need to book for these French chats, just turn up. They are friendly, informal and fun. At the moment, the roadworks in Langford make the venue uncertain. It will be either the Ring o' Bells in Compton Martin, which served very well in April, or it will be the Langford Inn. . If you are already on Margaret's email list, she will confirm the venue nearer the time.*

*If you would like more information, please email Margaret Hancock, [margaretdivonne@gmail.com](mailto:margaretdivonne@gmail.com)*

### **Cinéphiles de Wrington**

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2.30pm 5 Lawders Orchard, Wrington, courtesy of Margaret Hancock

*La Vie en Rose* (2007) written and directed by Olivier Dahan, starring Marion Cotillard as Edith Piaf, a much-acclaimed performance. Widely available to view. Margaret will introduce the film.

We are meeting in person!!

There will then be a long break, until 6 September, before we meet again. Let's hope we are not back on Zoom again by then, but just in case:

**Please note the universal log-in for all French Connection and Wrington Twinning Association Zoom meetings, whether committee, conversation or Cinéphiles:**

<https://zoom.us/j/4933115546?pwd=bmhLSnZrSkIPRHZhRjhQaFFNczJHZz09>

Meeting ID: 493 311 5546

Passcode: 610359

One tap mobile

+442080806592,,4933115546#,,,,\*610359# United Kingdom

+443300885830,,4933115546#,,,,\*610359# United Kingdom

***NB We are now publicising our events a little more widely, but still in the locality. This means I need to hear from you about dates for inclusion by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, please! Otherwise, I cannot make the deadlines for the local press.***

## Recipe of the month

May is the month of **asparagus**. How beautiful it is to buy these tightly-packed bundles of robust stems and soft tips, which look like an arrested hyacinth. Be conservative about cooking them, it's better to undercook than overcook. If you have completely cooked them then plunging them into iced water can stop them from going soggy. Served plain, with just a light grind of sea salt and pepper, and some melted butter or olive oil, the residue wiped up with fresh bread, they are just divine. Or you can roast them, with plenty of olive oil and a little salt, in a hot oven for about 8 minutes, adding shavings of parmesan for the last four minutes, or just sprinkling the shavings over as they come out.

If you didn't make it last month, please do try this recipe for **asparagus with soft boiled eggs**. It goes into all the detail of how to cook the asparagus and shell the eggs perfectly, and it really is delicious. Enjoy!

<https://www.frenchtoday.com/blog/french-food-wine/roasted-green-asparagus-egg-mollet/>

## Wine of the Month

Matching wine with asparagus is tricky. My top tip is a dry muscat, preferably from the Alsace. You will find a good selection at Vinatis, Decántelo and Tanners Wine Merchants, and one at the Wine Society, all well under £20.

## **Le mot juste**

*dépouiller* from *la dépouille*, meaning skin or hide, means to strip, but also to scrutinize. It is used in the same way as we would talk about asset-stripping, which refers back to the time when animal skins were a sign of wealth. The phrase *dépouiller Pierre pour habiller Paul* also bears this out. Where we would say 'robbing Peter to pay Paul', the French say 'stripping Peter to dress Paul'. The reflexive form of the verb means to shed: *se dépouiller de* means to shed your possessions (as you would shed a skin). Similarly, *les arbres se dépouillent*, 'the trees shed their leaves'. Topically, it is used at election time: *après le dépouillement* means 'after the count'.

*Lindsey Shaw-Miller, Newsletter Editor, Wrington Twinning Association and The French Connection.*