



Paris Branch

Newsletter

N° 34 – March 2025



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Chairman's introduction, March 2025.

Welcome to this month's newsletter.

February was an interesting month. As well as a most successful lunch, which was enjoyed by all, we also had a very enjoyable 60s night with a surprise guest which Mark will mention in his report below. Much discussed were ideas and suggestions for future evening events and you can expect to be informed of the fruits of the exchange in due course.

Your committee received an invitation from Charles des Moulins de Falaise to attend a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe. It was in honour of Capitaine Charles Trépel who was with the FNL under Philippe Kieffer's command during WW2. Janet and I with Robin, Tim and his wife as well as Bill who represented the RNVR and Gerard representing the Libre Resistance SOE section F all attended. The occasion provided an opportunity to recruit several new members to our branch. See photos further down in this newsletter.

This month we have our lunch on the 20th so if you can come along, do e-mail or phone me.

You will have seen in a previous e-mail that we are also invited to the commemoration ceremony of Admiral Ramsey. It will take place the day after this newsletter comes out and I hope to see some of you there. Details below.

Our Poppy Appeal thank you evening (for those who took an active part in last November's poppy collection and for new members who have joined us in the past twelve months) will take place on the 27th.

the Ecole Franco-Allemande has kindly invited me to give a talk about the work of the RBL and I shall do so on the 19th March. The school will also make a donation to our funds and we thank them in advance.

Have a good month.

Richard.

MARCH QUIZ

1. How many varieties of daffodil (the birth flower of March) are there.
More than: 30, 300, 3,000, or 30,000?
2. Which UK Saints Day is on March 1st?
3. The lives of the four March sisters feature in which famous novel?
4. March is called maaliskuu in which European language?
5. The March Hare is the character from which book?
6. Which annual health awareness day takes place on the second Wednesday in March?
7. The surname of the actor who won Academy Awards for Best Actor in both 1932 and 1946 was March. What was his first name?
8. Symbolizing courage, name March's birthstone?
9. March is named after Mars; what is Mars the Roman god of?
10. What are the zodiac signs for early March and late March?
11. On the first Thursday in March every child in full-time education in the UK is given a voucher to spend on what?
12. The Ides of March is a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to which date?
13. Complete the saying: 'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a?'
14. On the 5th of March 1946, what did Churchill warn was falling across Europe?
15. 'Dear March – Come in', was a poem by which reclusive 19th Century American poet?
16. On what date in March is Saint Patrick's Day?
17. In British tradition, which quarter day falls on March 25th?
18. St. Piran's Day, held on 5 March every year, is the national day of where?



Answers on last page

Janet Warby

EVENTS

Thursday 13 Lunch

As this took place rather earlier in the month than usual, it was mentioned in the February Newsletter. it was a very pleasant occasion. See below for details of the next one.

Thursday 20 February

Theme evening. This too was most enjoyable with some of the attendants having made half-hearted but honourable efforts to adapt to the “Sixties” theme announced.

A surprise appearance was that of the Rev. Paul Rumbolt, who is Chaplain to Branch 45 of the Royal Canadian Legion at Woody Point, Bonne, Newfoundland.

On right in pic:



He was visiting Paris, discovered our website and thought he would drop in for a drink. By some sort of miracle, he happened to hit on one of the only too rare occasions when loads of members were present – and drinking.

He joined us for the evening and apparently enjoyed his visit.

28 February

Arc de triomphe - The RBL was represented by Janet and Bill as standard bearers at the ceremony in honour of Capitaine Charles Trépel who landed with Commander Philippe Kieffer on Sword Beach as part of the British Forces during the Normandy landings. This ceremony was organised by the French Marine Commandos.



Also in attendance from the RBL were our Chairman, Richard Neave, Committee Members

Robin Sweeney and Roger Warby. The British Embassy was represented by a Naval Officer and a Royal Marines Officer.

It was a long but interesting Ravivage at the Arc de Triomphe. After the ceremony a reception was

given at the Yacht Club in Avenue Click on this link for more photos:

Foch. <https://mega.nz/folder/kgRRlbrS#VD5hdHV7RoJnGXf3CbnAwQ>

COMING EVENTS

Sunday 16 March 11am

Cimetière Nouveau, Saint-Germain-en-Laye

Commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the death of:



Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay KCB KBE MVO

Naval Commander in chief of the Allied landings of 6 June 1944

You should already have been informed of this ceremony (see the e-mail for details). I mention it here as it takes place tomorrow and a reminder seems appropriate.

Thursday 20 March

Paris Branch lunch :

 <p>Don't forget to book in for this month's lunch. Thursday 20 March 1215 for 1230 Only €18 - Pay on the day (in cash please)</p> <p>Contact Richard at 06 45 10 47 70 or richard.neave05@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Reserve early to be sure of a place. (Cancellations up to 48h before)</i></p>	 <p>LUNCH MENU <i>Thursday 20 March</i></p> <p>STARTER- <i>Salade alsacienne</i></p> <p>MAIN COURSE- <i>Choucroute garnie</i></p> <p>CHEESE : <i>munster</i></p> <p>DESSERT- <i>Tarte aux fruits</i></p> <p><i>Wine served with the meal Coffee or tea</i></p>
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8th & 11th April

Les Clack informs us of an upcoming production of George Orwell's "1984" (in English). The advent of Donald Trump 2 seems to make it newly relevant:

LE THEATRE DU HERON, in collaboration with TNT Britain and ADG-Europe, presents:

1984 by George Orwell

<https://www.artednet.com/1984>

The performance is entirely in English.

Paris – Espace Reuilly

[1 Rue Riesener, 75012 Paris](#)

April 11th–14h00

[Ticket shop](#)

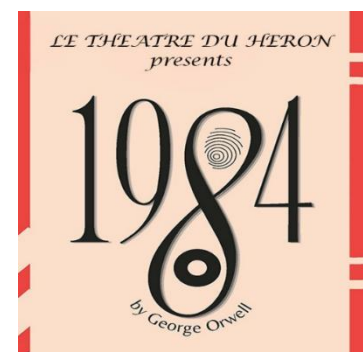
Boulogne-Billancourt – Théâtre de la Clarté

[74 avenue du général Leclerc Boulogne-Billancourt](#)

April 8th – 14h00 [Ticket shop](#)

April 8th – 19h00 <https://www.billetreduc.com/368482/evt.htm>

Click on the links to book.



What's Your Beef?

Some 50 years ago I had a student who was a butcher and one of the subjects of conversation – and indeed the English lessons I was giving him - was the difference between English and French steak. I remarked that a good French steak was all meat and no fat. Yes, he said, in France there are only two cities which prefer marbled beef - Marseilles and Lisle. The most popular meat elsewhere, he told me, was the Charolais. Tastes seem to have changed since then and the Charolais is now frequently crossed with fattier breeds like the Aberdeen Angus



WAGYU



ANGUS

It was on 14 February that I remembered this curiosity. I had been persuaded to dine, having saved up my pennies for some considerable time in preparation and not least, pushed into the background my Yorkshire sense of what was a reasonable price for a meal, to dine at what I am led to believe is the only Chinese restaurant in France with a

Michelin star.

The meal was indeed memorable and included in one of its several courses a meat dish the quality of which was such that we asked the waiter about it. He, having a little time available – people eat very slowly at those prices – gave us a short lecture on the meat in question. Most have heard of Kobe beef and its astronomical price and this, of course, was not that unaffordable delicacy, virtually unavailable outside Japan. It was, however, from the same breed of beef, the Wagyu. Never having heard of that I decided to look it up. It turns out that the Wagyu, though rare, has been raised by a few breeders in France



SALERS

since about 2006.



CHAROLAIS

Actually, Wagyu means simply Japanese Cow (Wag + yu), and is always excellent. There is, however, a bloodline of the strain termed Tajima-gyu and it is that which provides the best of the best. This is the strain raised in Kobe and pampered, according to popular

legend, with lots of space, special food, piped music, special mechanical brushes and, some say, daily massage, to ensure a stress -free environment. Japan made it illegal to export livestock in the 1990s but there were already a few Wagyu abroad, notably in

America. The French Wagyu stem from fertilised eggs from America implanted in surrogate mothers of other breeds. I haven't seen Pierre, my farmer friend out in Normandy since that memorable meal. I must remember to bring up the subject next time he's round for dinner. He raises Salers cattle. They are muscular creatures with exceptionally long horns which they can wave about inducing stress in, at least human onlookers when they make yet another attempt to break out of their fields. I don't think they would be very adaptable to the Kobe treatment although I must say that, when you meet an escaped one on the road again, they seem very relaxed about it. Maybe he could try a Salers Kobe cross...



A Word in your Ear....

Starboard, port etc

“Board” meant the side of a ship – originally made of planks of wood – and used alone and in other contexts “board) continues to mean a sort of plank. “Star” comes from “steer”. Back in the days when a ship had a steering oar as a rudder, this was mounted on the right side of the ship, hence starboard for the right side.

The original opposite of starboard was “larboard” which originate from Middle English “*ladebord*“ (from *laden* "to load" (as in a laden horse or indeed boat). As the steering oar, a delicate appendage on that side and prone to damage, was on the right, ships were docked left side to port (irrelevant since the invention of the rudder although the oar persisted until the 14th century).

This left the problem of the words starboard and larboard sounding too similar – It is not difficult to imagine the captain howling to a steersman over the shrieking of a gale “No you silly ----. I said (*mumble*) board!”. Consequently the term “port” was adopted meaning the side the boat was loaded on – the left.

M.Y.



The Friday Appointment

Doctor: Ah Mr. Smith. I'm glad you could make it today. I've just been looking at your results.

Patient: You mean the results of my blood analysis? You phoned and left a message for me to come by today before four-thirty? I quit a meeting in the middle and dropped everything to get here...

Doctor: Well. As you know we checked everything in your medical last week. All was well but we didn't have the results of the blood sample.

Patient: Yes. I must say I have been worrying a bit about that.

Doctor: They came in today and I thought you ought to know. With the weekend coming up you wouldn't have seen them till next Monday. It's just as well you got my phone message in time.

Patient: "In time", doctor!?! You'd better tell me the worst. Are the results as serious as that?

Doctor: Serious? What makes you think they are serious?

Patient: Well, if you thought I really need to have them today... Tell me doctor, what is it: Hemophilia? Leukemia?

Doctor: No. Nothing at all. You're perfectly all right.

Patient: Oh. Thank goodness - but why were you going on about me getting here in time, and not seeing the results till Monday?

Doctor: Well, it's four forty. I'm closing the office early. I've got a round booked at the golf course for five o'clock.

M.Y. (48)

March Quiz: Answers:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 30,0002. March 1st3. Little Women (Louisa May Alcott)4. Finnish5. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (by Lewis Carroll)6. National No Smoking Day7. Fredric8. Aquamarine or Bloodstone9. War	<ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Pisces (until March 20 or 21) then Aries11. Books (It's World Book Day)12. March 15th13. Lamb14. An 'iron curtain' (speaking in Fulton, Missouri)15. Emily Dickinson16. 17th March17. Lady Day18. Cornwall
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*Comments & contributions to mfyates@gmail.com
Back numbers: rblfrance.org/ then "Paris Branch Newsletters"*

