

CORONA NORTH NEWSLETTER

December 2019

FaceBook page: Corona-North Mauritius Website: <http://coronanorth.webs.com>

Editor: Marie-Hélène Oliver - 5 746 6943/tamholiver@gmail.com

Deadline for items for January newsletter: 25 December



Wishing you all the peace and joy of Christmas!

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Lunch at Gail's Café on Tuesday 10 December if you have signed up, otherwise at our next meeting at Grand Baie Yacht Club on Tuesday 14 January.



November Charity Fair

Once again, we held a charity fair at Grand Baie Yacht Club with even more stalls than last year. The charities were:

Amour sans Frontières
Association d'Alphabétisation de Fatima
Gonzague Pierre Louis Learning Centre Rodrigues
Link to Life
Solidarity St François D'Assises Association, Pamplemousses.

After a dodgy start with the weather, the sun came out and the club was soon buzzing with activity. Lisa Maurel manned the Corona Cuisine stall and did a roaring trade (Rs 13 8350) with delicious home baked cookies, cakes, jams, tapenades ... And Sheena did a grand job once again on the secondhand book stall (Rs 5 250). Audrey had the great idea of including the handiwork of the Fatima pupils thus showcasing their work and raising Rs 3000 that has gone straight to Fatima.

Our very special thanks go to Isabelle for organising the whole affair, to the Yacht Club for letting us use their wonderful setting as our venue, and to all of you who contributed to this important event in the Corona calendar.

We raised Rs 40 845 for our charities.

Sadly no photos this time - everyone was too busy one way or another!

ANNUAL QUIZ FOR SOS FEMMES

Our other important fundraiser of the year for SOS Femmes was a great success with 54 participants. We pitted our wits once again against some tricky questions compiled by our quiz mistress extraordinaire, Marie-Louise Letellier Edwards. Fortunately, she was kind enough to provide us with the occasional helpful hint! We are most grateful to the Yacht Club for providing us with a delicious BBQ supper and to the many who so generously donated a wonderful array of raffle prizes and to Foxy and Heather for selling the tickets. I'm afraid I don't know how much we raised at the time of 'going to press'.



A VISIT TO RODRIGUES

On a recent visit to Rodrigues, I popped in to see Paul Draper who has been our link to the Trevor Huddleston Association for many years. Paul has been on the island for forty years and has been working all that time to help the people of Rodrigues, particularly those with special learning needs. They manage to subsidise what they do from the sale of handicrafts in their two shops, they receive some money from the government, and the rest from donations. This year, sadly there will be no revenue from honey as the eucalyptus trees didn't flower following the two cyclones. The school was closed for the school holidays, and so I wasn't able to meet Susan Auguste, the director of the Gonzague Pierre Louis Learning Centre.



You can just see one of the hives in the background - and their pet rabbit by my foot!

If ever you go to Rodrigues, do pay Paul a visit in Camp du Roi just behind the fire station in Port Mathurin. He has promised to come and tell us about his work if ever a trip to Mauritius coincides with one of our meetings.

CLEANING OUR BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

#PranKont and Plogging in Mauritius

On the warm and humid morning of Saturday 23rd November, I, together with my son, Timothy and two friends from South Africa, headed off to Von Moltke Public Beach next to Roches Noire. We were part of a larger group attempting to walk and clean up the litter along the beach, in the mangroves and in the village. The Swedish have a very descriptive word for this, "plogging", which is a mash up of jogging and the Swedish "plocka upp" which means 'pick up' – and it has become a new worldwide craze for people wanting to save the planet. It is also a great form of exercise as apparently you burn far more calories plogging than simply doing a brisk walk. The event was incredibly well organized by #PranKont which I was informed means "take notice" in Creole. They are attempting to raise awareness of the problem of litter in Mauritius and how as responsible citizens we should be recycling as much as possible.

After a briefing and a quick lesson in what was recyclable and what wasn't, we begun to scan for and collect litter.

NOTE: if plastic bottles, paper and cans have been exposed to dirt or the elements for too long a period, they are unable to be recycled – this was new to me, but then again, I am a newbie 'plogger'.

We were given large bags to collect all the litter, together with doctor's gloves as protection for our hands. And we then started – scanning the land, bending down, picking up and



popping in the bag. The non-recyclable bags were soon filled up and left along the roads or beach for collection by the organisers.

After about an hour, a tonne of litter had already been collected! Each bag was weighed so that #Prankont could keep track on the amount of rubbish collected. We had a quick pit stop with water and delicious rolls supplied by the organisers and then started walking through the mangroves.

Over two tonnes of litter was collected by the end of the morning, in a very small corner of Mauritius. It sometimes felt that we were “tilting at windmills”, as even after our three hours of collecting, there was still more litter on the ground.

However, we all can make a difference where we are, AND #Prankont will be holding more plogging days, so follow them on Facebook and join in this worthwhile cause (and become fitter at the same time!).

Catherine Bean



Please remember that we are always looking for suggestions for speakers, activities or excursions, so please let us know if you have any.



VOTING IN MAURITIUS

A little late for this time around, but did you know that you might be able to vote in Mauritius?

Qualifications of electors for National Assembly Elections (Sec. 42 - The Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius)

Any person who:

is a Commonwealth citizen of not less than the age of 18 years; and

either has resided in Mauritius for a period of not less than 2 years immediately before such date as may be prescribed by Parliament or is domiciled in Mauritius and is resident there on the prescribed date.



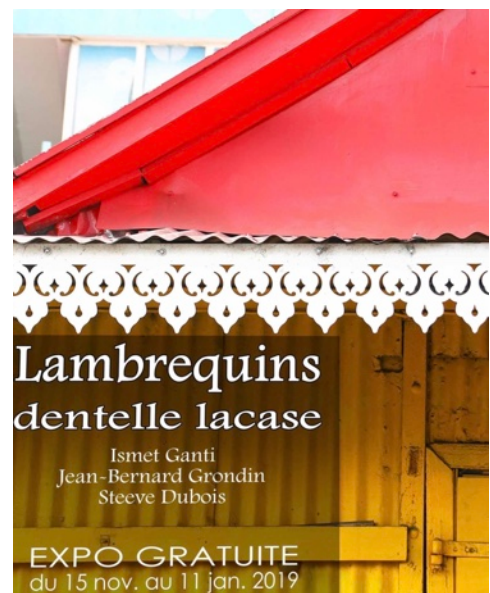
<http://electoral.govmu.org/English/Pages/Who-is-eligible-to-register.aspx>

What's on in December?

Lambrequin is a short piece of decorative drapery hung over the top of a door or a window or draped from a shelf or mantelpiece, or a cloth covering the back of a medieval knight's helmet. In Mauritius, it is the lacy decorations around the roof of a traditional Mauritian house!

Caudan Arts Centre has a Christmas Music Recital on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 December at 18.00

See <https://caudanartscentre.com/shows/events/>



FLORA IN MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES

Seeing the talipot palm flower in SuperU car park reminded me that there is a very rare palm tree in Curepipe Botanical Garden to be found on the aptly named Route du Jardin.



And did you know that the rarest plant in the world is to be found in Rodrigues at the Grande Montagne MWF Nature Reserve and at Kew Gardens in the UK? It is the **café marron** discovered by a young lad called Hedley Manan, in his garden.

It was thought that the plant was extinct until Hedley spotted a single surviving tree in 1979 after he had been shown a drawing of the plant by his teacher. The only image of the plant was made in 1877, by a European visitor, passing through Rodrigues. By the 1950s, it was presumed to be extinct. Cuttings were taken to Kew Gardens, and although the plant regularly flowered, it never produced seed until horticulturist Carlos Magdalena discovered how to make the male plant bear female flowers. In 2003 the café marron bore its first fruit with viable seeds. Slow but steady efforts have been made to grow more café marron trees and speed up the pollination process. (Wikipedia)



Sadly there was no mention of Hedley in the naming of the plant. Instead it was called *Ramosmania rodriguesi*: Ram after Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the first Prime Minister, and Osman after the first Governor-General ...

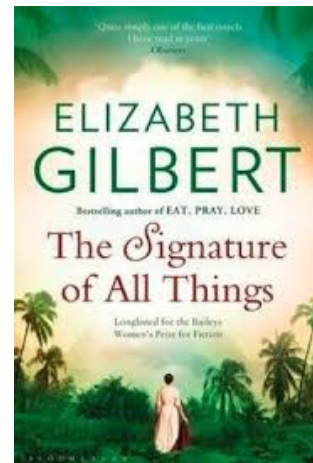
Resurrecting Café Marron — In Defense of Plants

www.indefenseofplants.com › 2018/11/14 › the-resurrection-of-caf-marron

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/books/article-4585756/Savaged-giant-tortoise.html?ito=email_share_article-top

CORONA NORTH BOOK GROUP DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: **The next Book Group meetings** will be at 10.30 on **Monday 13 January at Audrey's home** to discuss *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert.

A glorious, sweeping novel of desire, ambition, and the thirst for knowledge, from the # 1 New York Times bestselling author of *Eat, Pray, Love* and *Committed*. In *The Signature of All Things*, Elizabeth Gilbert returns to fiction, inserting her inimitable voice into an enthralling story of love, adventure and discovery. (Goodreads)



November Book Club review by Angela Rozwadowski who sadly will be leaving Mauritius this month. Best wishes to her and to her husband, Tony.

The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 83 1/4 years old.

Written by a Dutch author whose identity was a closely guarded secret until 2016 when it was superbly translated into English by Hester Velmans.

Each entry into the diary presents aspects of life from the point of view of Hendrik, an 83 year old resident in a care home in north Amsterdam. A light hearted book, with serious undertones that doesn't shy away from the issues of ageing, i.e. physical and mental deterioration, loneliness, euthanasia and even funding.

Hendrik doesn't like old people, particularly their endless complaints and small minded conversation. He therefore, creates the Old But Not Dead Club.

This book will make you laugh out loud, but it reminds us that growing old should not mean that the fun should stop.

All members of the book club said they enjoyed reading the book.

Corona North's Book Club is now full.

If you would like to join a group and would like your name added to the waiting list, please let Heather know. A new group may be organised with approx. six members. CONTACT Heather Chettiar (5252 6062).



The **Mahjong group is always looking for players**. Please contact Annamaria Brockes (5 495 2544) if you are interested. They meet every Monday at 10.00: Grand Bay Gym. BEGINNERS are also welcome!



If you are visiting or returning to the UK and want to join or visit a Corona U.K. Branch, please contact Sarah Randall directly by email - Sarah.randall@outlook.com or via Corona head office corona@coronaworldwide.org.

And don't forget that we are **twinned with the London Jubilee Branch** which meets on the first Thursday of the month at 11am for coffee & lunch at a central London restaurant. Corona North members always welcome.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN December and January

Wednesday 25 December	Christmas Day
Wednesday 1 January	New Year's Day
Thursday 2 nd January	Day after New Year
Saturday 25 January	Chinese New Year

WEEKLY/MONTHLY EVENTS

BOOK CLUB	Monday 13 January at 10.30 at Audrey's home. Contact: Heather Chettiar (5 252 6062)
BRIDGE	Every Tuesday at 10.15: Grand Bay Gym. Contact: Heather Chettiar (5 252 6062)
COFFEE MORNING	Friday 20 December: 10.30 at Paul's, La Croisette. Contact: Heather Chettiar
MAHJONG	Every Monday at 10.00: Grand Bay Gym. Contact: Annamaria Brockes (5 495 2544) Beginners welcome.
PLAY READING	Christmas lunch on Thursday 19 December. Please contact Madhvi Ivain (5 800 6207) for further details.
SCRABBLE	Every Thursday at 2.30 chez Foxy Pitcher in Calodyne. Contact: Foxy (5 722 4834)

WRITERS'
CIRCLE

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact:
Gisela Dörflinger (5 948 9356).

AND DON'T FORGET that if you wish to ADVERTISE, you are welcome to do so free of charge in the newsletter if you are a Corona member.

ITEMS FOR SALE: Please contact Corona member Elaine Schorn (5 839 4295)

USED:

Oriental passage runner (wool)

Rs 8 000

BRIDGE LESSONS at her home in Belle Vue: please CONTACT Corona member: Carole Robson on 59246059



PATRICK MAVROS
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Tried & Tested	By Corona members
Nelly Joganah-Lapp	Podiatrist @ Grand Baie Business Park, speaks English.
5 709 7430	<i>Recommended by Kathleen Law Hing Choy</i>
O'chado	Dog groomer Royal Rd Pte aux Canonniars
5 923 0498	<i>Recommended by Kathleen Law Hing Choy</i>
Brandon UPHOLSTERY	5810+2615
	<i>Excellent service</i>
	<i>Recommended by Kathleen Law Hing Choy</i>
Isabelle JOSEPH	<i>Veterinary surgeon - pays home visits</i>
5 935 9026	<i>Recommended by Sarah Taylor</i>
ijoseph.dvm@gmail.com	

Exotic Dream Tour Operator & Car Rental	Airport pick-ups, day trips: flexible and punctual, great staff <i>Recommended by Veronica Murphy</i>
Route Royale (opp. Pereybere Beach)	Tel: 263 53 59 Email: office@exoticdream.mu
Car Connexion, Circle Square, Forbach	Service Centre; Body Shop from September Ask for quote for servicing
Tel: 244 3888	<i>Recommended by Heather Chettiar</i>
Mauritius Hash House Harriers	For a run/brisk walk in convivial company every 2 nd Sunday morning
Www.mhash.com	<i>recommended by Pat Knox</i>
Nickelnet Company Limited	Carpets/Upholstery Cleaning - Bring Beauty back to your Carpets and Sofa
Mariamen Temple Road	Contact Krishini Panjanadum
Cap Malheureux	Nickelnet@live.com
262 7708/5 723 9906	<i>Recommended by Yvonne Mamtora</i>
XTREME Tech Informatique Limited	For your computer problems
La Colombiere, Royal Road Grand Baie	Contact Jonathan Maurer Masson on 5 918 5321
	<i>Recommended by Elisabet Dent & Heather Chettiar</i>
GRAND BAY STUDIO	Call Kawsar Banon on 5 729 7005 or kawsar19@intnet.mu : learn to paint on material,wood,ceramic and canvas.
Sottise Rd roundabout near La Croisette	<i>Recommended by Foxy Pitcher</i>

FLOWERS OF PARADISE	<i>Recommended by Jean and Ben Fourie</i>
Beach Lane, Pereybere Tel: 5 934 5320/0204	<i>Cuisine: European, French, Mediterranean, seafood.</i>

ADVERTISEMENTS	
HOLIDAY APARTMENTS Beach Lane, Pereybere	One & two bedroom apartments with private balcony, Aircon in bedrooms, bathroom with shower, living area equipped with microwave, oven, stove and TV
Contact Heather Chettiar on Mobile 5252 6062	Maid service, safety box, alarm system (response) Clean and reasonably priced
Dod.chettiar@intnet.mu	Only a few minutes walk from Pereybere Beach. Owner lives on site
JUST BREATHE PILATES	Small group & private Pilates classes
http:// www.justbreathe-pilates.com	Contact Michele de Gennaro Tel: 57 66 43 53

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