



Cercle français de Belfast

# Programme 2025-2026

Bien que tous les efforts soient faits pour respecter le programme publié, des modifications peuvent être nécessaires / While every effort will be made to adhere to the published programme alterations may be necessary.

15/08/25

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## Un petit bonjour de la Présidente du Cercle !

Chère communauté francophile et francophone, membres et amis c'est avec grand plaisir que je vous retrouve en ce début de notre calendrier d'activités de notre nouveau programme 2025/26 du Cercle français de Belfast.

L'année 2024/25 écoulée a été riche en réunions et accomplissements de nombreux et divers projets menés grâce à votre soutien et à l'intérêt que vous nous avez porté tout au long de l'année.

Cette année encore, je vous invite à participer aux nombreuses activités proposées par le Cercle français de Belfast et nous sommes aussi heureux de pouvoir vous rencontrer dans de nouveaux espaces comme Le Windsor Tennis Club sur la Malone Road et l'université de Queen's sans omettre Le Community Centre de Finaghy qui nous reçoit depuis plusieurs années.

C'est avec votre soutien continu que nous espérons continuer à faire progresser Le Cercle français de Belfast et renforcer nos liens avec la communauté francophile et francophone de l'Irlande du Nord.

En espérant pouvoir vous rencontrer bientôt.

Dear Francophile and Francophone community, members, and friends, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the start of our 2025/26 programme at the French Circle of Belfast.

The past year, 2024/25, was filled with wonderful meetings, exciting events, and successful projects – all made possible by your enthusiasm and continued support. Thank you for being such an important part of our journey.

This year, we're thrilled to invite you once again to take part in a variety of engaging activities. We're also excited to expand into new venues, including Le Windsor Tennis Club on Malone Road and Queen's University, while continuing to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Finaghy Community Centre, which has welcomed us for many years.

With your ongoing support, we look forward to growing the French Circle of Belfast and strengthening our connections within the Francophile and Francophone communities across Northern Ireland.

I hope to see you soon!

Brigitte

Avis : Sauf indication contraire, nos réunions ont généralement lieu le mercredi soir et commencent à 19h30

Note: Unless indicated otherwise our *réunions* usually take place on Wednesday evenings and start at 7.30pm

24 septembre 2025

Windsor Tennis Club, 37, Windsor Avenue

Assemblée Générale, Soirée d'accueil et Quizz

Following the formalities of our AGM at 6.45 pm we celebrate *la rentrée!* Time to catch up with members for our launch of the new season. After showcasing our programme we invite those attending to a French-themed quiz.

15 octobre 2025

Finaghy Community Centre

Ciné-cercle

An opportunity to appreciate “Le septième art” as we watch a film and then reflect on what we have seen. Members have told us that they welcome such occasions to share reactions and opinions. So come along film fans.

12 novembre 2025

Finaghy Community Centre

Café causerie

Brigitte GOURLEY

First of two conversation meet-ups on subjects that are of general interest or which are making the news in France. A “speed-dating” format allows for switching of tables to discuss in French and in English. If the former, all levels welcome.

10 décembre 2025

QUB Peter Froggatt Centre

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry - an appreciation

Martin TYRRELL

Martin charts the life and work of this adventurous aviator and celebrated author of *Vol de Nuit* and *Le Petit Prince*. We'll hear about his career ending in a mysterious disappearance.

samedi 7 janvier 2026 19h

Windsor Tennis Club, 37, Windsor Avenue

Fête des Rois

The Fête des Rois is a traditional French celebration in which families and friends come together to welcome the year ahead. We will be sharing slices of *galette des rois* and a glass of something sparkling. Naturally there will be some music and a golden paper crown or two for those lucky enough to find the *fève* or charm inside their portion of *galette*.

21 - 25 janvier 2026

In person

**Les Nuits de la Lecture célèbrent : Héritage**

We will be celebrating this year's event in person. Precise details of venue and time are still in preparation so we will let you know closer to the date. In the meantime, if you have any reading suggestions on the theme of *héritage* please share them with us. In French and English with all levels welcome!

11 février 2026

QUB Peter Froggatt Centre

**Vichy France**

**Sam THOMPSON**

Sam has provided talks for two of our previous programmes and we are delighted to welcome him back to share his insights into the establishment and operation of the Vichy regime following the fall of France in 1940. Previous talks by Sam have been followed by several questions so why not come along and bring yours?

25 février 2026

Finaghy Community Centre

**Cercle de Lecture :**

**No et Moi par Delphine de VIGAN**

**Brigitte GOURLEY**

Last season we chose another of Delphine de VIGAN's books, *Les Enfants sont Rois* and such was the positive reaction that we have picked another title from the same author. *No et Moi* is available in both French and English, in audiobook format in each language and has been made into a film. It also features as a GCE Advanced level text for French examinations. We feel sure you'll want to read and discuss.

11 mars 2026

Finaghy Community Centre

**Journée Internationale des Femmes : 3 femmes d'exception**

**Les animatrices du cercle**

To mark International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March we celebrate the life, times and enduring legacy of *3 femmes d'exception* whose biographical portraits will be selected and presented by *animatrices* from our cercle membership. We hope you like this format. As we go to press the theme for 2026 has not yet been announced so we'll keep you posted.

25 mars 2026

Finaghy Community Centre

Café causerie

Brigitte GOURLEY

The second of our conversation meet-ups on subjects that are of general interest or which are making the news in France. A “speed-dating” format allows for switching of tables to discuss in French and in English. If the former, all levels welcome.

15 avril 2026

Finaghy Community Centre

The development of the Alliance Française

Brendan SADLIER

Several of our members will recall that our cercle was at one time the Alliance Française de Belfast. We are thrilled that Brendan, who at time of going to press is completing his doctoral thesis on the development of the AF on the island of Ireland, will share aspects of his fascinating research. Please bring and share your own memories of engaging with the AF.

Avril 2026.

Dîner de Célébration

Our annual dinner for 2026 will have a special celebratory flavour as we come together to honour our distinguished guest. Details of the date and venue are still being finalised but we are confident that this promises to be one of the highlights of our year that you won't want to miss.

samedi 9 mai 2026

Venue and time to be advised at QUB

A story of two Canals: Suez and Panama

Michael ROOZE and Felix SCHMIDT

The common link for the two canals is Ferdinand de LESSEPS, a diplomat turned entrepreneur. Michael and Felix will deliver an illustrated talk on the building of these projects, their place in world trade today and the financial disaster which befell de LESSEPS after Panama.

Juin 2026

Seamus Heaney Centre at QUB

**From Elsewhere, Ciaran Carson's homage to Jean FOLLAIN**

**Voices in French and English**

Ciaran Carson was Chair of Poetry at the Seamus Heaney Centre at QUB. His anthology *From Elsewhere* celebrates the work of poet Jean FOLLAIN (1903-1971) through not only translations of selected poems but accompanying them with new poems inspired by the original - interpreting translation perhaps? For this event we will hear Jean Follain's poems in French, Ciaran Carson's translations and, as he referred to them himself, his "spins or takes on them in other words". We are delighted to work with staff and students at the centre where their first director's legacy lives on. Date to be finalised.

## Extra !

We have planned additional events outside our main programme, such as café meet-ups, walks and visits. If you have any suggestions for talks or events please send us details and we'll do our best to include them.

If you are not already a member and you like the accent of our programme then why not join up? You'll find more information and joining instructions at [www.cerclefrancaisdebelfast.org](http://www.cerclefrancaisdebelfast.org)

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