

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

October 2015 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Market Day In Eymet

GET TOGETHER NEEDS YOU!

As the AGM moves closer, the GT committee will be changing – this is where YOU come in.



Most Committee members will be staying on, but 2 very important positions will be vacated. Both Roger and John have each served an extra year in their roles as President and Southern Co-ordinator and will be vacating these posts in February. This means that we **NEED 2** volunteers to take over.

I joined the committee last year, and yes, it does take a small amount of my time. But we enjoy each other's company and have quite a laugh at meetings....as well as doing the 'real business' obviously. It is also enjoyable to get involved with various events, meet lots of people, build relationships and help to move the association forward. It is very rewarding as GT is a group of people who want to have fun!

So back to YOU – GT is all run by volunteers like you. We offer our homes, gardens, knowledge, ideas and time. We learn from each other, most of us (but not all) being

foreigners in a foreign country. There is always somebody who can offer advice and help – as they've probably been there before! We all have time restraints with family, visitors, UK needs and other responsibilities – but if you don't step up to the plate – who will?

It doesn't matter how long you've been in Get Together – both new and long-serving members are welcome.

So back to you – don't let GT disappear through lack of enthusiasm - can you get more involved? Please speak to a Committee member and find out what you can offereven share a post?? The Committee look forward to your call.....

PROPOSED PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Within GT for the last few years a calendar has been produced from photographs submitted and voted on by members. This year is no exception and we should currently all be trawling our archives for suitable photographs for the 2016 calendar.



Because of this competition, and my own passion for photography I suggested to our Committee that there were probably enough members with a similar interest to form a Photography Group. They agreed, so I would like anyone interested in joining

an informal and not-too-technical group to contact me.

It is envisaged that a small group of up to about 12 members would meet monthly at different members' homes to chat about photography, hold workshops, view members' photos, arrange photo-shoots and generally enjoy the wonderful hobby of photography. There are enough activities within GT that a photography group could seamlessly integrate with other groups, the possibilities are endless and if you have an idea for photographic subjects, get in touch.

Most people nowadays have a digital camera of one form or another, and all can look at their results and be either pleased and/or would like to improve. It doesn't matter what type of camera you use, what is most important is the enthusiasm. Everyone has something to offer and we can all learn from each other, so don't delay, send me an e-mail or give me a call and let's try to get another enjoyable GT activity off the ground.

David Brennan e-mail: djb79310 (at) gmail (dot) com

HISTORY GROUP LIBRARY

At the history group meeting, on Thursday 17th September, the history group committee launched the history group library.

The library is open to all GT members and at present contains over 450 books, covering a wide range of history topics.

Viewing the library and requisitioning books is easy.

All You need to do is: Go to the GT Website:

www.getogther-france.org from the home page at the top select the **Events Tab** and then the **Activities List**.

Scroll down until you come to the section headed **History Group Library**, in Red, read down until you come to the heading **“Requesting/returning a book or article”**, there you will see two email addresses.

One is david (dot) sewell (at) orange (dot) fr - use this first to register yourself by sending an email to David.

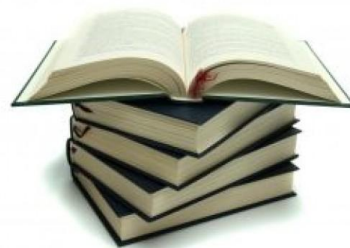
You will then receive a confirmation email and reference number to say you are now registered to use the library. The history book catalogue is available in pdf format to download by scrolling down the “request/returning a book or article” text and then click onto the **History Library Contents & Book List** or a hard copy can be viewed at History Group meetings.

To request books use a different e-mail address: this is: hglibrary0 (at) gmail (dot) com or by hand at HG meetings. To request a book you will need to include your user number, the author and the title; for articles please include also the reference number to be found on the right-hand side of the listing. The maximum loan period is two months, or one month if the book/article is in heavy demand: the maximum number of books/articles that can be borrowed at any one time is four.

A list of dates and times when books/articles can be collected/returned (usually at Menigoute) will be regularly updated under Forthcoming Events, on the GT Website.

The Library services are free of charge, and operated on a voluntary basis by the History Group Committee. Donations from GT/HG members are welcome, however, and will be forwarded on a six or twelve monthly basis to the cancer charity [CLIC Sargent] in memory of Keith Andrews.

The history committee hope lots of people will use the library and get many hours of enjoyment from it over the months and years to come.



KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!

After having held the GT summer event at Le Tallud this July and last year, we thought it would be nice to move to a new venue for 2016. Therefore would all members please keep an eye open for any local salles or other possibilities that would be suitable. We need a venue that can accommodate approximately 65 people – hopefully outside and under-cover. We need a kitchen (or decent washing up facilities at least), toilets of course and parking. Tables and chairs would be nice (but members could always bring their own if necessary).

Central Deux-Sevres would be ideal but we are willing to deviate for the right place! Any ideas ?

If so email me at qtnewsletter79@gmail.com and I will pass them onto the committee for discussion.

Book Club Hosts Needed

Beryl needs two hosts for the Book Clubs in November and December. Usually held on the first Monday afternoon of each month. Please contact her as soon as possible if you can help: banddbrennan (at) yahoo (dot) co (dot) uk

Gmail Problems

Just a quick note to say thanks to those members who offered help when the GT Gmail account seemed to decide to not send multiple emails to members. Maggie Asquith who used to be Newsletter Editor (and now lives in the South of France) sorted out the problem.....for the moment - let's hope it doesn't do it again!
Thanks Maggie!

Rebecca

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Second Circle	Mon 5 th Oct	10.30 am	La Bourse nr L'Absie
Book Club	Mon 5 th Oct	2 – 4 pm	La Touche
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 6 th Oct	11. 30 am	Le Tallud
Walk	Sat 10 th Oct	10.15 am	Chenay
Walk	Fri 23 rd Oct	10.00 am	La Chapelle Baton
Walk	Sat 7 th Nov	10.30 am	Montjean, Charente
History Group	Thurs 19 th Nov	3.00 pm	Menigoute

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thursday 8th October, Chez Hansford**
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items** **Monday 26th October**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Second Circle **Mon 5th Oct** **10.30 am** **La Bourse
nr L'Absie**

We will be discussing *Squares of the City* by John Brunner.

Book Club **Mon 5th Oct** **2 – 4 pm** **La Touche,
Cherves**

**Lunch & Wine
Club** **Tues 6th Oct** **11.30 am** **Le Tallud**

The theme for the next lunch club with wine tasting will be the Harvest Festival and Vendage with a tasting and explanation of Rhone Valley reds presented by Keith Mousdale. The cost of the wines will be split amongst those attending.
Anyone wishing to attend must bring along either a starter or dessert/pudding.



Walk **Sat 10th Oct** **10.15 am** **Chenay**

The walk is around the roads and tracks of Chenay, which can be found on the D950 between Melle and Poitiers. We will meet in the village car park opposite the Marie which is on the D307 to Rom - a very small turning at the centre of the village then approximately 100 metres along the road and it is on the left. Toilets are available at the church on the main road.

The main walk is just under 8kms of mixed form with no major hills. There will also be a short 4kms walk for those who would prefer it. Sturdy footwear should be worn due to the time of year and terrain.

Lunch is within a very short walking distance from the car park at Les Trois Pigeons in Chenay where there will be a three course meal (no cheese) with coffee and wine included for 13.50€. Please let us know if you would prefer meat or fish for the main course.

Walk **Fri 23rd Oct** **10.00 am** **La**
Chappelle
Baton

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT THE LAST FRIDAY IN OCTOBER.

La Chapelle Baton from the north is a left turn off the D743 Parthenay/Niort road approx 7Km south of Maziere en Gatine, opposite a small estate of factory units, signed La Chapelle B. Follow road for 2Km then turn right following signs to village. Shortly after passing village name sign there is parking on the left.

If coming from the south, from St Maxient take D6 towards Champdenier until approx 7 Km after Auge then take a right turn on to D122 for La Chappelle B. After entering village bear left up hill to Mairie and church, follow road around to left where parking is on right.

There are toilets available near start. Satnav coords N46.47448 W0.32944

The walk is approx 8Km with a shorter option available. It is on tracks and lanes through undulating countryside, no steep hills longer slow climbs, but if wet, could be muddy in places so appropriate footwear is recommended.

Lunch will be at La Gare restaurant at Monplaisir and consist of buffet starter, meat or fish main course, cheese, dessert, wine and coffee for €13.50.

Monplaisir is just off the roundabout for Champdenier on Parthenay/Niort road.

Walk **Sat 7th Nov** **10:30 am** **Montjean,**
Charente

Please note the date for this walk.

The walk starts in the village of Montjean in the northern Charente, a few kilometres south of Sauzé Vaussais on the D54. Ample parking can be found adjacent to the tennis court and the Salle de Fêtes, where there are toilets.

The walk will consist of open country and wooded areas along quiet country roads and lanes. As ever, given the time of year, suitable footwear should be worn. The main walk will be about 8 km in length, with a shorter option. There will be some small hills, but nothing strenuous.

Lunch will be taken at Relais de la Peruse in Montjean and will consist of 4 courses (buffet, main, cheese & dessert), wine and coffee included for 13€.

There will be a plat de jour and an option for non meat eaters.

History Group **Thurs 19th** **3.00 pm** **Menigoute**
Nov

France and the Great War: (2) Lions and Donkeys presented by Vaughan Wells

In the inaugural lecture of this series, we discussed one of the major controversies that continues to surround the origins of the Great War: simply put, could France have avoided war?

In August 1914, thousands of Frenchmen (whether rightly or wrongly) responded to that question with a resounding 'no!', and set off for the frontiers determined to defend their nation against the threat posed by German militarism. But the war they had been promised was not the war they got.

By November it was apparent that the 'battle of the borders' had been lost, as the war of movement atrophied suddenly into the stalemate of the Western Front.

Trench warfare cost the lives of 953 French soldiers per day in 1915 (the highest total for any single year of the war), and their horrified comrades blamed incompetent generals whose battles were, or seemed to be, futile and bloody failures.

Thus emerged the 'lions led by donkeys' thesis, which - although the cause of heated debate amongst students of the Great War from a British perspective - has seldom been applied with the French case in mind. Today's discussion attempts to redress that imbalance.

The cost is **€5.00 per head**, to cover refreshments, hire of the room & heating (if needed).

Please book by Thursday 12th November 2015,

Directions to Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute.

From North (Parthenay), exit towards Pompaire then via Vausseroux and La Pagerie, on mainly D176 and D21. **From South** (Lezay), via D45 and D5 through Chey, La Mothe Saint Heray and Saint Germier.

From West (Champdeniers), via Saint Georges de Noisne, Chantecorps and La Pagerie, mainly D329.

From East (Poitiers), via La Torchaise and Sanxay, mainly D3.

The restaurant itself is in the centre of the Bourg, opposite the small chapel.

N.B. We have to confirm numbers to the Auberge one week before the meeting. As a result we will be charged for any people who DO NOT TURN up on the day.

So, we will have to charge individuals for "No Shows" on the day, sorry about this, but we have no choice!

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Racing Day **Sun 6th Sept** **Niort** **Report by**
John Chard

The sky was blue with nice fluffy white clouds as we drove to the hippodrome in Niort. It was Sunday afternoon and the day of the GT day at the races. We arrived just before 2pm, in plenty of time for the first race at 2.30pm, and were amongst the first of the 35 GT members, their family, guests and one lonely dog, enjoying an afternoon of the sport of kings.

There were seven races, all run with the usual French precision and punctuality, the last race was only half an hour late. All the races were on the flat and the close finishes caused some excitement. Fortunes were mixed with some members leaving with cash in their pockets whilst others were not so lucky.



To round off the afternoon, around 21 members travelled to the Chinese restaurant nearby to relax with an early dinner. We enjoyed our day out immensely and will certainly go again next year.

Walk

Sat 12th Sept

St Leger de la Martinière

Report by Maureen Buckley

After the dire weather forecast of storms and heavy rain, we think Julia and Peter must have been sacrificing chickens to the weather gods all night, as, when we arrived at the “parking” in St Leger de la Martinière, the sky was beginning to clear and we even caught sight of the sun a few times.

Twenty two walkers and 3 dogs set off down country lanes and grassy tracks to enjoy the gently rolling countryside which surrounds the village, stopping to admire “La Mare des Canes” (female ducks). A notice told us that the clay from the pond had probably been used to make the bricks for the gendarmerie and that the pond and its’ surroundings had been restored to its’ natural beauty by the local primary school children – Well done them! It looked lovely.



After saying farewell to the three taking the short walk, we continued along the road, but we soon joined more tracks and lanes, including a walk through pretty woodland where we enjoyed the dappled shade and the sight of beehives.

Hungry, but still dry, we returned to the car park and were soon enjoying a pre-lunch drink on the new terrace at “Le Petit Berland”. Seven non-walkers joined us for a delicious 4 course lunch. Our thanks to Julia and Peter for organising a delightful walk and splendid lunch.

History Group

Thurs 17th Sept

Menigoute

Report by Penny Taylor



This month we listened to a lecture concerning a totally different facet of the history of this area.

Look up the name ‘Chansonier’ on Wikipedia and you are led to believe the word is translated as ‘Singer’; however in mediaeval times the name meant a tiny, exquisite songbook fashioned to be hand held and placed in a pocket.

Each little book was finely inscribed with music, words and superbly illustrated – some lavish and others simpler.

Professor Jane Alden enthusiastically led us through the intricate history of these portable musical libraries and she accompanied her talk with slides showing us the

magnificent illuminations. She played extracts of the songs that had been sung in the Burgundian courts of the 15th and 16th centuries in the Loire Valley. It was thought these beautiful, and what would have been expensive, little creations had been made only for royal and noble patrons; however, in those centuries, there was a rising class of bureaucrats serving the courts who were able to afford them, but maybe the less elaborate versions. A fascinating and scholarly lecture.

A big thank you must go to our guest presenter Professor Jane Alden for presenting to the History Group and sharing her expert knowledge with us.

NON GT ITEMS OF INTEREST

Winston Churchill Commemoration

On the 10th October at 10.30 am on the riverside in Parthenay (near the museum) the mayor of Parthenay has arranged a commemoration to Winston Churchill. A permanent walk has been set up with picnic areas and there will be permanent display boards with information about Churchill, his life and achievements.

On the 10th (at the time specified above) there will be speeches, the Keynotes choir will sing a few songs of the time, and after there will be aperitifs provided by the mayor, tea and coffee provided by the British Legion and cakes provided by Reaction Theatre members.

If you would like to join them please let John Blair know by 4th October on johnblair@btopenworld.com

Anyone prepared to bring a cake will be gratefully received!

TheatriVasles:

TheatriVasles is holding France's first ever 10-Minute Play Festival on 16, 17, 18 October at the theatre at Vasles with a fantastic variety of plays - comedy, drama, panto, musical. Festival Ticket 10€ for entry to all performances on Friday and Saturday; Gala Festival Ticket for entry to all performances on Friday and Saturday PLUS Gala Lunch on the Sunday with welcoming aperitif followed by performance of the winning plays and lunch with guest speaker and Celebrity Judge Edwin Apps.

For more information and tickets contact Sally on FestiVaslestickets@gmail.com or telephone 05 49 16 11 79.

Quiz Nights

Combined Services Support Group (CSSG) hold a quiz night at the Foyer Rural, St Pardoux, 79310 on alternate Monday evenings at 7.00 pm. Entry to the quiz is 2 Euros per person and an assortment of cakes and a few savouries with tea/coffee are available. You are welcome to bring your own alcohol.

We give prizes to the winners and losers. For more details please e-mail: cssgroup@outlook.com

Dates for October are: 12th and 26th.

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