

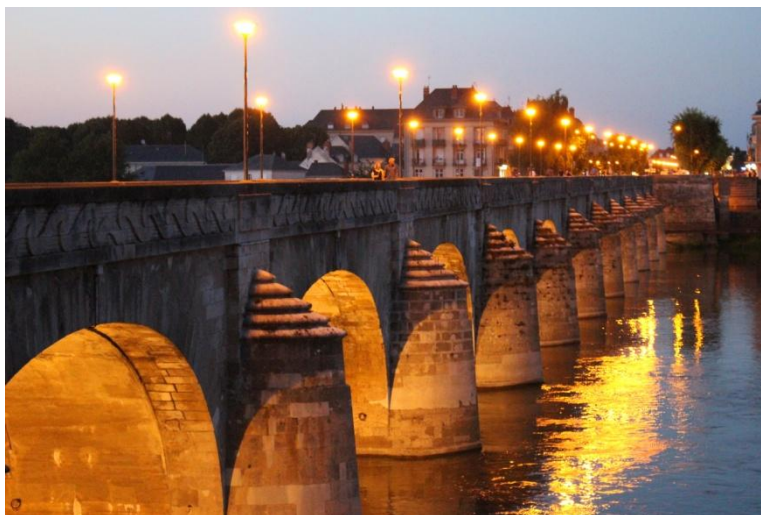
Founded
1989



French
Association
3035

November 2015 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Evening in Saumur

2016 Renewal Form

Don't forget to download the **2016 Get Together Renewal Form** which is with this email (or at the back of the newsletter if you receive it by post).

Please note there is a discount if you send it back with your 2016 subscription before 31st December 2015.

2016 Calendars

Look out for details of the bigger and better Get Together 2016 Calendar coming soon.

As soon as the information has been finalised we will email details and an order form.

They are a great idea for a Christmas present!

Get Together Needs YOU!

Well as we received **NO** calls after my appeal last month, John has agreed to stay on for one more year as Southern Co-ordinator, thank you John.

Which means there is only one Committee place now left to fill.

Roger will be vacating his post as President at the AGM in February.

We need this position to be filled for the association to carry on.

Everybody enjoys GT and all it offers, so please think if YOU could give that little EXTRA?

Could YOU take this task on? Could YOU share it?

Being on the committee does take a small amount of time, but it is very rewarding – and fun!

We all have other commitments – family, UK responsibilities and such-like but we support each other – and the association.
Don't leave it for someone else to call, please telephone Roger on 05 49 28 98 69 to find out what this post involves.

History Group Library

Recently, 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.gettogether-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 2 email addresses.

One is david.sewell@orange.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. To request books use a different e-mail address: this is: hglibrary0@gmail.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 history committee hopes you all get lots of benefit and enjoyment from the books.



WALK ORGANISERS NEEDED FOR 2016

A very big thank you to all those who have volunteered to organise walks in the North and South for 2015.

As we move towards the end of 2015, it is time to think about walks in 2016!

For both **north and south walks**, we very much need and welcome volunteers to plan routes and organise meals.

NORTHERN WALKS – Annette urgently needs walk organisers for January, February and March.

SOUTHERN WALKS – John urgently needs walk organisers for February and March

As ever, Annette and John would be very happy to help organise the meal if that should be needed.

Just to remind members, Annette is the Northern Co-ordinator and looks after Deux-Sevres to the north of the A10, whilst John takes care of the area south of the A10.

This is merely an administrative convenience and where members live doesn't, in any way, preclude attendance at any event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book Club	Mon 2 nd Nov	2 – 4.00 pm	Verruyes
Walk	Sat 7 th Nov	10.30 am	Montjean, Charente
Photography Club	Mon 16 th Nov	2.00 pm	Fenery
History Group	Thurs 19 th Nov	3.00 pm	Menigoute
Xmas Walk & Lunch	Sat 5 th Dec	10.30 am	Rom
Book Club	Mon 7 th Dec	2 – 4.00 pm	Seran
Xmas Walk	Fri 11 th Dec		Menigoute
Xmas Social Happening	Mon 14 th Dec	2.30 pm	Chey
Bowling	Thurs 7 th Jan	5.00 pm	Niort

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Tuesday 17th November, Chez Ritchie**
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items** **Friday 27th November**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Book Club **Mon 2nd Nov** **2 – 4.00 pm** **Verruyes**

On the same day you will be able to purchase Phoenix cards in aid of the MacMillan Nurses.

These will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m – together with tea and coffee.

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.

Photography Group **Mon 16th Nov** **2.00 pm** **Fenery**

The 2nd Photography group meeting will meet at Rebecca Sewell's house in Fenery. Bring your camera, any questions and a sense of humour!

We will possibly walk out onto Le Voie Verte (old railway line) so bring outdoor shoes (and a bin liner).

History Group

Thurs 19th
Nov

3.00 pm

Menigoute

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!

Xmas Walk & Lunch

Sat 5th Dec

10.30 am

Rom

The walk this year will start in Rom which is on the D14 between Lezay and Couhe. The lanes and tracks around the village are well made and fairly level but as normal be prepared for inclement weather.

The walk is 8km long with the option of breaking off and doing 5km.

We will meet in the car park below the cemetery, where 31 members of the S.A.S. and an American airman are buried after being executed by the Nazis in 1944.

The entrance to the car park is opposite the church in the centre of the village. Toilets are available nearby.



A traditional Christmas lunch is booked for 1pm at The Mad Hatter's Restaurant in Caunay. It will consist of an aperitif, Kir Royale or fruity mulled wine, a choice of starter, main course and dessert, coffee and 1/2 litre of wine each at cost of 20 Euros. The full menu will be published as soon as possible in order to select your choices.

Book Club

Mon 7th Dec

**2 – 4.000
pm**

Seran

Xmas Walk

Fri 11th Dec

Menigoute

The Christmas 'Get Together' – Save the date in your diary!

Full details will be emailed and in next month's newsletter. There will be a walk followed by a meal at the Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute.

**Xmas Social
Happening**

Mon 14th Dec

2.30 pm

Chey

The annual event Chez Seager. Just a chance to gossip and savour some booze made to an ancient recipe (Delia's, and she's certainly getting on a bit). Mince pies will be just like last year, none of your bought in rubbish, but home made by Maureen, so come in your droves.

Bowling Night

Thurs 7th Jan

5.00 pm

Niort

Lesley & Neil have planned another bowling night for Thursday 7th Jan in Niort. Please contact Lesley if you are interested.

It will be approx 5.00 pm start at the bowling alley followed by a meal at Les Pyramides at 7.00 pm.

Times and costs will be confirmed nearer the date when we have an idea of numbers.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Walk

Sat 10th Oct

Chenay

Report by
Bob Seager

The secret of organising a good walk is first, find a good restaurant, second, find a pleasant bit of countryside not too far away.

Wrong!

The first thing is to choose a fine day for your walk. Tricky, I grant you, but Chris and Bob Parsons managed all three parameters superbly. On a sunny Autumn morning 25 of us gathered with two dogs in Chenay. In ideal



walking conditions we went through the village and on down a succession of roads and tracks across rolling (but not very big rolls) countryside. After a bit, four walkers decide that 4km was their limit and were led off by Christine. The rest of us passed through the village of Bagnault, where we were told off in no uncertain terms by various hounds, so we left and continued on our merry way back to Chenay.

In the village we added four non walkers and repaired to the Trois Pigeons restaurant. This establishment used to be noted for a slightly pretentious, nouvelle cuisine type of menu, which never seemed to change and was a bit pricey, and as a result, went out of business some years ago.

It's recently been re-opened by a young couple after a face lift and is now a pleasant sort of bar/restaurant/hotel serving very edible meals at the sort of prices that the grumpiest GT walker couldn't complain about – not that there are really any grumpy GT members, and they never complain.

Our thanks to Chris and Bob for another pleasant event.

Photography Club

Mon 19th October

St Pardoux

Report by
Peter Murray

I have the pleasure of reporting on the first photography group which was created by David Brennan and because I was lucky enough to be sitting on the left of Rebecca, who using her selection policy, enabled me to volunteer.

Nine enthusiastic people attended with cameras ranging from the basic to semi professional or in my terms "little ones and big ones."

David started the session off with an idea in mind, but the group was not able to stay focused, which then lead us to light meters and flash fill-in. We practiced the technique and discussed the results. The more knowledgeable of the group did a very good job of explaining things in a practical way.

I knew my camera (little one) could do a lot of things and found the practical explanations clarified features far better than the 200 page manual (larger than the camera).

The group decided to meet again so all in all it went well

I would like to thank David who suggested and hosted this first session and to the more knowledgeable members for their patience.



Walk

Fri 23rd Oct

**La Chappelle
Baton**

**Report by
Kate Sangster**

Fourteen walkers and two dogs set off clad in several layers of clothes as it was a cloudy, murky start but soon we were regretting all these layers as the sun came out and we were very quickly feeling far too warm.

The day became very clear and although we, as promised, only had to tackle undulating countryside with no steep hills there were some beautiful views to stop and admire.



The walk was a mixture of tracks and very quiet country roads. During the first part we walked alongside the railway line that transports the stone from the nearby quarry, but sadly no trains were spotted! We saw cows with long horns, several dogs that Bess (the Matthews' dog) seemed unable to hear and ignored, plenty of interesting farm buildings and of course there was also lots of chatting going on. Keith had also planned a short walk that Grant and I took, aided by clear instructions and a map. Holly (Keith and Diane's dog) looked ready for another round when everyone returned but the rest of us were ready to go on to the "Restaurant de la Gare" at Montplaisir where we were joined by six other members and where had a very good meal.

We would all like to give our thanks to Keith and Diane for arranging such a very enjoyable day.

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05.49.17.11.20 2ritchies@orange.fr

Produced by: Rebecca Sewell, 6 Allée de Longeville, Fenery 79450
05.49.95.43.73. gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

Website: Andy Walmsley, 5 Jarzay, 79200 St Germain de Longue
Chaume jarzay@gmail.com