

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

July 2016 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Deux Sèvres Cycle Race Photograph by Sally Coppack

SUMMER EVENT – BOOK NOW!

Full details of the Summer BBQ are on **PAGE 4**. The event is at Le Tallud on 17th July. Numbers are limited to 60 – so please book as soon as possible ‘first come, first served’ as they say.

There is a separate booking form available.

It's always a fun day with lots of opportunities to catch up and chat with old and new friends!

See you there – don't miss it!

Don't Forget the GT Photographic Competition 2017

The theme for this year is *La Vie Française*. Photographs must be in landscape format (rather than portrait). Closing date for submission of entries will be **midnight 30th September 2016** please email your photos to [**gtphotocomp@gmail.com**](mailto:gtphotocomp@gmail.com) including your name and stating where in France the picture was taken.

After the closing date the members will be invited to vote for their favourites. The 12 photos with the most votes will be chosen for the 2017 calendar. There will also be a prize for the picture that receives the most votes.

Full terms and conditions on GT Website www.gettogether-france.org click on the EVENTS Tab, then click on Forthcoming Events and scroll to the bottom and find Calendar Competition Rules.

Reminder to Both Organisers of Events and Attendees

From time to time problems have arisen because people have not followed up bookings once made if no acknowledgement received from the event organiser. If you make a booking, but do not receive a confirmation, either at the time if made by phone, or in a reasonably short time if the booking has been made by email, then it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure that the event organiser has actually received it.

Conversely, if you are organising an event, you must acknowledge event bookings in a reasonably short time.

There have been instances of people making bookings by phone by leaving a message on an answer phone, which has never "arrived" and other cases of emailed bookings never reaching their intended destination.

In Case of Emergency Leaflet

In the event of an emergency, do you have sufficient French language to cope?

Why not download the 'ICE' leaflet from the GT website and keep a copy in your car and another copy by the phone. It gives you the number to call and some useful basic vocabulary.

On the back page you can fill in your personal details. Why not translate your phone number and address directions into French now?

It could make that emergency phone call so much easier to deal with!

Find it on: gettogether-france.org, move your mouse to 'information', then click on 'Useful Links'. You will find the ICE (In Case of Emergency) leaflet at the top of the list.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book Library	Mon 4 th July	2 – 4.00 pm	St Pardoux
Walk	Sat 9 th July	10.00 am	Sepvret
Summer Event/BBQ	Sun 17 th July	12.30 pm	Le Tallud
Walk	Fri 29 th July	10.00 am	Cherveux
Reading Circle	Thurs 4 th Aug	2.30 pm	Cherveux
Garden party	Sat 6 th Aug	1.00 pm	St Coutant
Photo Club	Mon 8 th Aug	2.00 pm	Fenery/Clessé
Walk	Sat 13 th Aug	10.30 am	Pamproux
Horse Racing & Games Afternoon	Sat 20 th Aug	12.00 Noon	Lezay
Historical Walk & Picnic	Wed 21 st Sept	10.00 am	Scillé
Vineyard Tour & Lunch	Sat 24 th Sept	12.00 Noon	Domaine d'Enchantoir

- **Next Committee Meeting** Thursday 7th July, Chez Ritchie
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items** Sunday 24th July
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Book Library Mon 4th July 2 – 4.00 pm St Pardoux

The next library day will be on Monday 6th June at Chez Brennan at St Pardoux.

It's a great way to spend an afternoon, including a cuppa and biscuits.

We are always pleased to receive donations of paperbacks in good condition!



Walk Sat 9th July 10.00 am Sepvret

The walk will be around 8kms on a combination of tracks, minor roads and woodland paths. The longer walk has a couple of climbs but always on good surfaces.

There will be an option for a walk of approx. 4kms. Suitable footwear should be worn as part of the walk can be muddy after rain.

Directions

Sepvret can be found about 1.5kms off the D950 Melle to Chey road.

From Chey take the D950 towards Melle and turn right onto the D108 to Sepvret and park by the Mairie.

(This road may be closed due to roadworks. If so continue on the D950 for 2.2kms then turn right to Sepvret, Follow this road to the T junction then turn left for the Mairie).

From Melle take the D950 towards Poitiers/Lusignan. Pass through La Barre de Sepvret and 200m later turn left to Sepvret. Follow the road to the T junction then turn left for the Mairie.

There are toilets at the Mairie.

Afterwards lunch will be at Les Trois Pigeons restaurant situated on the D950 in Chenay and will cost €15.

There is a choice of starter, main and dessert which must be indicated at the time of booking.

Starter

Melon et son jambon cru Or Terrine de campagne.

Main

Saute de dinde, haricots verts Or Saumonette sauce du chef, riz basmati

Fromage et salade verte.

Dessert

Salade de fruits Or Gateau aux pommes.

Café et ¼ vin compris

**Summer
Event**

Sun 17th July

12.30 pm

Le Tallud

This year's GT summer event will be a BBQ on Sunday 17th July at 12.30pm and will be held at the beautiful riverside setting La Buvette, Parc de Loisirs, at Le Tallud, the same venue as last year.

This is a lovely wooded riverside setting with good facilities and a large covered terrace overlooking the river so plenty of shelter from rain or shine.

The Committee will provide a welcome aperitif and nibbles, meat & fish for the BBQ, a vegetarian option, wine, beer, soft drinks, bread, cheese, tea and coffee.

It is hoped that each family will buy their tickets and also bring along a large accompanying salad or dessert.

Also please don't forget to bring your own crockery, cutlery, glasses & mugs. There are tables and chairs at the venue. The cost per ticket is 8€ for members and 10€ for non-members.

There are boules pitches at the salle, so bring your boules set along and enjoy a friendly game.



Raffle tickets will be for sale on the day and all proceeds will go to Brad and Sally who are Fundraising for Cancer Support Deux-Sevres. The following week they are taking part in the Monte Carlo or Bust Banger Rally Challenge, driving an old Saab which cost 100€ and has needed a lot of sellotape and TLC, from northern France to Monte Carlo! See www.montecarloorbustrally.com

Directions: Le Tallud is on the D949bis Parthenay to La Roche sur Yon road. From the roundabout in La Tallud centre follow the main road in the direction of Secondigny and take the second turning on the left, Ave de la Vernière which has a small sign to Parc de Loisirs. Follow this road to its end which will be Parc de Loisirs. Continue into the Parc for approx. 200 metres where the Buvette is found in a small turning on the left with plenty of parking. For those coming from the Secondigny direction after passing the village sign for Le Tallud take the first turning right, Ave de la Verniere and follow directions as above.

Walk

Fri 29th July

10.00 am

Cherveux

This will be an easy walk with the usual shorter option. Wear stout footwear etc as ever, as even though we are hoping for hot dry weather, who knows!

Please park next to the temple, facing the school on the D8. There are no public toilets but our house is 2 minutes down the road.

Lunch will be at 12.30 in St. Gelais at The Café des Sports for 12 Euros, with the usual choice of meat, fish or vegetarian – simple but usually good. Non-walkers are welcome. The bar is open throughout the morning, or you are welcome to sit and drink tea in our house while we walk.

Directions :

From Parthenay or Niort :

From the D743, take the Cherveux turning (D8) and keep going until you pass the chateau on left and see temple on right.

From St Maixent :

Take the D8 Cherveux road between the Leclerc store and garage and keep going until you pass the school on the right and reach the temple on the left.

**Reading
Circle**

Thurs 4th Aug 2.30 pm

Cherveux

At this meeting we shall be reviewing *A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson. This tells the story of Trevor Todd - would be poet, heroic WWII bomber pilot, husband, father and grandfather - as he steers his way through the 20th century, learning to live in a future he never thought to see. Described as gripping, funny and emotionally devastating, the book looks at war and the effect it has on those who lived through it and on their subsequent generations. All our previous book reviews can be found on the GT website.

Garden Party

Sun 6th Aug 1.00 pm

St Coutant

Fortunately Noreena and Steve have kindly agreed to hold their postponed Garden Party on the 6th August and we hope that there will be wall to wall sunshine rather than the deluge at the end of last year's event, albeit creating a lot of fun.

A topical competition will run throughout, as well as an opportunity to show off your boules skills after your picnic. It is hoped that their English gardener will also be offering a selection of unusual plants for sale along with any advice you may need. Please bring your own picnics, cutlery, plates and glasses although plastic glasses and paper plates can be provided if need be. Get Together will provide an "apero", nibbles and a glass of either red or rosé. After that it's up to you!

Your own parasol and chairs will ensure your comfort although some will be provided.

Photo Club

Mon 8th Aug 2.00 pm

Fenery/Clessé

The August Photography group meeting will be at Fenery, chez-Sewell. Then we will drive to the Plan d'Eau at Clessé (approx 4 k away) for a photo-shoot.

We are also looking into a possible photo-shoot one late afternoon/evening in July in Parthenay.

We could shoot the historic buildings, river famous bridge etc. Then finish with a glass or two of wine! Let David know if you are interested.

Walk

Sat 13th Aug 10.30 am

Pamproux

This walk will take place in and around the village of Pamproux, which is situated to the NE of La Mothe St Heray. We tried to do it in February – well seven of us and two dogs tried, but got so wet that the dogs asked to quit, so we only did half of it.

Hopefully the weather in August will be more agreeable.

The walk is about 8km on quiet roads and tracks, with optional cut off at 4km and no, it's not flat. There are some short, sharp slopes, but not very steep or very long. The going is generally very good, but there is a short stretch that could be muddy after a lot of rain, and strong footwear is recommended as usual.

The start will be from the car park in the centre of the village, opposite the Mairie and the Auberge du Trefle à Quatre Feuilles, where we will partake of lunch for 14€, including wine and coffee. GPS ref N46°23.71', W 0°03.325'

Horse Racing **Sat 20th Aug** **12.00 noon** **Lezay**
& Games
Afternoon

A second, exciting afternoon of uproarious fun and games will take place Chez Buckley, incorporating the annual Get Together Horse Racing meet, where your fate and fortune will be totally dependent on the roll of the dice! There will also be table tennis, darts, petanque on our purpose built court, which is designed to even out the odds, and Molkky.

In addition, if the day is warm, a small heated pool will be available for the

more adventurous - bring your own cossie & towel - no skinny dipping! For the less active, a variety of board games will also be available.

The Committee is pleased to offer "un pot d'amitié".

Please come equipped with a picnic lunch and whatever you wish to drink. A gas bbq can be made available if required. Tables, chairs and parasols would be appreciated, though we can supply quite a few. And, as it is that season of the year, your summer visitors will be very welcome!

From Lezay take the D14 towards Rom and Couhé. After about 2km turn left onto the D17 signed to Courgé and St.Sauvant. Keep left to Grand Champ. After 1km from the junction you will see a wooden bus shelter on the left opposite a right turning to Le Logis. Our land begins behind the bus shelter. Continue to a small turning on the left opposite a lamp post and next to a grey communal rubbish skip with a yellow lid. Turn left here and through the black gates on left.



Historical **Wed 21st Sept** **10.00 am** **Scillé**
Walk
& Picnic

Joyce Roberts is organising a walk with a difference which will begin with around 5km in the morning to see Chateau La Verdonniere and La Touche-Paris (now in a hamlet called La Fouctiere), followed by a bring-your-own picnic lunch.

After lunch there will be a 6 or 7km walk in the afternoon to see Saint-Marc, the church at Scillé and La Volette.

The theme is local history, concentrating on the Vendée War in 1793-5.

Vineyard Tour **Sat 24th Sept** **12.00 Noon** **Domaine**
d'Enchantoir

Visit to Domaine de l'Enchantoir, Chavannes, 49260, Le Puy-Notre-Dame. See www.enchantoir.fr

Price 15€ per person. We will meet at the Domaine at 12.00 noon for a buffet lunch of local produce plus 2 wines from the vineyard.

After lunch we will have a conducted tour of the vineyard to include an explanation of the vine growing and soil working, and a visit to the cellar with an explanation of the wine making process.

We'll also go into the troglodyte cave where there is a pictorial explanation of the 'methode traditionnelle'.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Photography Club

Mon 23rd May

Cherveux

Report by Eric Hansford

The May meeting of the photo Club was a special event as it included a guided visit to Chateau of Cherveux. Eight of us met in the main hall of the chateau for our usual meeting and a bit of instruction from David about low light photography followed by an interesting introduction to the chateau and its history from Jim and the owner Francois followed by a sample of his home brewed pineau - delicious. We then repaired to Jim's house nearby for a picnic (thanks to Julie and Jim for hosting us in the sunshine).



In the afternoon Francois took us on a fascinating tour of the chateau from the very top to the bottom so that we could take pictures of roof structures, rude gargoyles and great views. Back in the main hall we concluded the meeting and voted Vinny Galloway's photo of a typical French frog as the best photo. Altogether a really successful day and we would recommend a visit to the chateau.

Walk

Fri 27th May

Secondigny

Report by Beryl Brennan



In the wettest Spring on record in France, the sun shone on some 24 walkers and 1 dog, Holly, who gathered in the main car park in Secondigny to enjoy a walk round the lake and forest.

It's a picturesque setting, lovely easy terrain around the lake – strict instructions from Keith NOT to let Holly swim in the water – then across the road into the shade of the forest. A couple of us opted for the shorter route, whilst everyone else zig zagged along the

forest tracks.

29 sat down for a pleasant lunch in L'Ecu de France joining in a chorus of Happy Birthday to David Brennan on achieving sixty years and ten! Thank you to Rebecca and David for organising a day of sunshine in many ways.

For any dog owners who walk their pets round lakes and rivers, there's a word of warning on this link.

<http://www.podencopost.com/2016/06/a-word-of-warning-from-jane-brian-of-pepis-dog-refuge-this-may-be-of-some-help-just-to-let-you-know-what-happened-to-som.html>

Walk

Sat 11th June

Coutant

**Report by Bob
& Chris Parsons**

Twenty-three walkers and assorted dogs met in the car park of the 'Salle des Associations' in St Coutant to start the walk. We all hoped, by now, our group would have been decorated by colourful tee-shirts and shorts but, unfortunately due to the weather, we didn't quite manage that. However, they were replaced by our enthusiasm and chatter! We set off ready for some inclement weather but luckily we experienced only one short sharp shower with some of us not even bothering to don our wet weather clothes or use umbrellas.

Brave huh?

The walk took us up, down and around and about through some woodland, fields of crops and pathways giving us some delightful views. The ground underfoot in the woods was a little damp and was bejewelled by some very orange slugs (a very odd spectacle!) which made us careful where we placed our feet as we were walking in single file. We returned through the pretty village of St Coutant. Sixteen of us took on the full 8km walk, led by Jon with the others in our number cutting off the corner by walking the 4km, led by Pat.

After the walk we all assembled at 'Le Petit Berland' in Lezay joined by another four of our members to eat a very enjoyable, substantial meal which started with an aperitif of Punch. The restaurant was filled with animated chatter and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Jon and Pat Chard for organising an enjoyable walk and lovely meal.

History Group Day **Thurs 16th June**

Fontevraud

**Report by
Keith Mousdale**

On Thursday 16 June the annual visit was made by 43 members to the Abbey at Fontevraud this being the popular choice of the members this year. The Abbey is situated in the Loire Valley some 7km west of Chinon.

A conducted tour of the Abbey had been planned and this would require sustenance before we could start.

This had been arranged at *Restaurant l'Abbaye Le Delice* where we enjoyed a fine meal following which we took an easy walk to the Abbey entrance. A walk we made through the small town of Fontevraud, which is built of the same cream coloured tuffa stone as the Abbey.

Our guide for the afternoon was a young lady who started by confessing it to be her first guided tour in English but after that she treated us to a fault-less tour with details of the history of the construction of the Abbey which commenced in 1101, its simultaneous occupation by monks and three convents of nuns, its destruction during the Revolution, through to its damaging use as a prison from 1804. In 1975 it became a National Monument and subsequently received the status as a UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The central theme of the Abbey Church was its association with the Plantagenets, four of whom were buried somewhere in the Abbey grounds. The stone images of Henry II, his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, his son Richard the Lion Heart, and Isabelle of Limoges second wife of Henry's son King John, were exhibited in the Church although there is no record of the exact location of their remains [*excavation of the local car park is not on the*

agenda]. This association was due to their financial gifts made to the Abbey and to the proximity of their home Chateau in Chinon, Henry Plantagenet being Count of Anjou, Duke of Normandy and of course, King Henry II of England by direct line from the Norman Kings.

After this highly successful tour, each of us having been “wired for sound” directly to our tour guide, we were then free to continue to visit other parts of the Abbey and its grounds before leaving for home, some taking advantage of the very rare sunshine to enjoy a drink in the town square at a local hotel/bar.

Thanks and congratulations must be given to the History Group Committee for the success of the entire day and visit.



A Word from the President

After the meal at Fontevraud on Thursday, 16th June people were upstanding to visit the WC and/or leave for the Abbaye, so I didn't have chance to say a big THANK YOU to the GT History Group Committee for organising the day. In a small town like Fontevraud it's not easy finding a restaurant to seat 40 people for lunch; add to that organising an English speaking guide at the Abbaye.

A lot of hard work went into making sure the day ran smoothly and everyone enjoyed themselves. We certainly did. So thank you all again.

Beryl Brennan

Race Meeting

Sun 19th June

Niort

Report by David Sewell

We didn't have the normal GT numbers at the Niort race meeting, but those that came certainly enjoyed themselves. It wasn't the usual racing over jumps or on the flat, it was trotting!

The Hippodrome was very busy, so the French must love their trotting. The horses trot round the track with little carts behind them, these carts carry the 'riders', it looks very uncomfortable. One race actually had mounted jockeys, which looked even more uncomfortable!

The horses really move, even though it was 'only' trotting. If the horse breaks out of the trot it is disqualified, so even if your horse goes through in the first 3 - you're never sure if it's a winner!

To add to the day there was a beauty pageant.



I think it was Miss Elegance de Niort! 9 girls wandered onto a stage in short shorts where they were interviewed. Later they appeared very self-consciously in bikinis - lucky the weather was good! Then finally they came out in long dresses. So 1960's!! Anyway I had a strategy that I would bet 2 Euros on each race and by total luck I got 1 winner and one place.

Did my winnings cover my losses and pay my diesel to get there???

Hmmmmmmmm

Photo Club

Mon 20th June

Scillé

**Report by
Rebecca Sewell**



7 of us met at the home of Eric & Michele.

As it was half past June, we had expected to get outside but the weather was grey and miserable, so we stayed in and talked.

The grey weather started a discussion on how to get the best out of pictures on an overcast day and as ever David Brennan and Jim Hutchison were very helpful with hints and tips. Jim also told us of his early career as a professional

photographer – and how different the world is now with the technology available.

We then looked at the wonderful photos from the last meeting at Chateau de Cherveux. Jim's pic of the chateau from out outside won the vote as photo of the month.

David will put a collection of the best photos together and give them to M Redien (the owner) who I'm sure will be very impressed.

We are also considering a potential photo-shoot in Parthenay in July, it has lots of old buildings, roof structures and the river to discover. Contact David if you want to more information.

Second Circle Reading Group

Mon 27th June

Scillé

**Report by
Michele Hansford**

We discussed *Shantaram* by Gregory Roberts. This is an epic novel based on the author's life as an escaped Australian convict who fled to India in the 1980s and lived among the poor and criminal residents of Bombay before moving on to Afghanistan. It is a philosophical adventure story covering several years and shows clearly how much the author's life was transformed by his experiences. It provoked a very interesting and wide ranging discussion.

Our next meeting is on August 1st. We will be reading *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Anne Schaffer.

Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

Ali Sherwin & Vinny Galloway	Sourches
Jan and Malcolm Howse	Chanay
Anthea Libby	Chantecorps

Non GT Items of Interest

If you know of an event that you think other members might be interested in – please email the details to **gtnewsletter79@gmail.com** and we can publicise it in following newsletter – if space permits.

CSSG Grand Summer Market and Garden Party – 10th July 2016 – 11.00 to 16.00

Reel Fish & Chips, Tea, Coffee & Cakes, Numerous Traders Including Crafts, Gifts, & British Products

Splat the Rat, Hoopla & Hook-a-Duck, Archery Demo, Plus Sing-a-long with 3+1 And Keynotes Choir

Chambord, 79130 St Pardoux (N46 32.557 E003 06.123)

To book a table or for further details contact terri.laverick@outlook.com

Charity Association Number W793001446

5th Fun Dog Show at St Pardoux

Sunday 4th September 2016. Watch out for further details.

Emergency Phone Numbers

15 SAMU (Medical)

17 Gendarmes

18 Pompiers (Fire Service – also trained for Medical Emergencies)

112 European Emergency Number

Don't Forget to Download the 'In Case of Emergency' Leaflet off the Get Together website,

full details are on page 2. Keep a copy by your phone and in your car.

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