

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

April 2018 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Campervan in Augé Photograph by Anne Amsden

[Date for your Diaries](#)

Please note that there will be an additional History Group meeting on Thursday 17 May at 3.00pm and the talk will be given by **Anthea Libby** entitled: -

Impressionism-The Art of late 19th century France

An introduction to the Avant garde painters of the late 19th century in Paris, the inventions and changes in society of the time, how they responded and led the way into 20th century modern Art.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book Library	Mon 2 nd Apr	2-4 pm	St Pardoux
The First Reading Circle	Fri 6 th Apr	2.30 pm	Aubigny
Photo Group	Mon 9 th Apr	2.00 pm	Saivres
Family History Group	Thurs 12 th Apr	2.30 pm	Saint Jean de Sauves
Walk	Sat 14 th Apr	10.30 am	Foret Domaniale de St. Sauvent
History Group	Thurs 19 th Apr	3.00 pm	Menigoute
Additional Walk	Fi 20 th Apr	11.00 am	The Bluebell Walk Menigoute
Craft Club	Tues 24 th Apr	2.00 pm	Scille
Walk	Fri 27 th Apr	10.30 am	Veluché
Curry Club	Mon 30 th Apr	12 noon	Moncoutant
Quiz Night	Thurs 10 th May	7.00 pm	Menigoute
Walk	Sat 12 th May	10.30 am	Chenay
History Group	Thurs 17 th May	3.00 pm	Menigoute
GT Garden Party	Sat 23 rd Jun	T.B.A.	

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thursday 12th April Chez Ritchies**
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items** **Friday 27th April**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Book Library **Mon 2nd Apr** **2–4.00 pm** **St Pardoux** **Beryl Brennan**

April's library day will be as usual at Chez Brennan at St Pardoux. There will be tea & biscuits plus the usual selection of paperbacks. We are always pleased to receive donations of paperbacks in good condition!

The First Reading Circle **Fri 6th Apr** **2.30 pm** **Aubigny** **Bernadette Smith**

Diana has chosen *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett.

Photo Group **Mon 9th Apr** **2.00 pm** **Saivres** **David Brennan**

Roger will host the meeting and, in David's absence, will be developing the focussing theme but this time concentrating on macro or close-up focussing and how to achieve the perfect close up. For catering purposes would you please let Roger know in advance whether you will be able to attend the meeting or not. Come and join in and learn how to use YOUR camera!

The meeting will be held, as usual, at L'Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute. The cost will be €5 per head to cover refreshments, hire of the room and heating (if required)

Additional Walk

Fri 20th Apr

11.00 am

The Bluebell Walk Menigoute

Martin Hughes

Additional April walk followed by a bring your own lunch

As so many enjoyed the bluebell walk last year we will have an extra walk in April, in the woods near Menigoute. This will be a gentle walk of around 5 kilometres starting from the car park by the Etang de Bois Pouvreau. The entrance to the car park can be found off the D58, St Maixent to Menigoute road, some 2 km SW of Menigoute. The walk is pretty flat though some paths in the wood are typically rugged and proper footwear is recommended.

Lunch will be bring your own but wine will be provided. There will be about 14 seats plus tables available but you may prefer to bring your own. If the weather is unkind we will be indoors and being very cosy!

Craft Club

Tues 24th Apr

2.00 pm

Scille

Beryl Brennan

All are welcome at the next meeting for a workshop on cross stitch. There will be a demonstration of the basic technique, how to follow a chart and an opportunity to make an individualised greetings card featuring a cross stitch design.

Walk

Fri 27th Apr

10.30 am

Veluché

Lyn & Ken Chamberlin

We have arranged a comfortable walk of about 7kms. and a shorter route of 3.5km. starting from the Mairie at Veluché. Both walks are on mixed surfaces with grass lanes, stone roads and tarmac so do wear appropriate footwear. The short walk is flat but the longer has a rapid descent and a more gradual ascent return, both on tarmac.

Veluché (the village is a commune of Assais-les-Jumeaux) is situated just 3km. south of Airvault and the address of the Mairie is 17 Rue de La Croix des Jumeaux and is located at the extreme NE end of the village.

Directions To reach the village, - from Parthenay take the Thouars road ,D 938, (about 14k) turn right on D46 to St. Loup/ Airvault.

As you rise out of St. Loup the first right D29 leads to Veluché past the cheese factory, so does the next right hand junction, 1.5k after Fief Barreau, D170. (Both roads sign to Veluché)

From La Ferriere ,Ayron or Poitiers head to Thenezay and then on D141 (Assais), just a kilometre or so out of town turn left D170 signed Veluché follow further signs to the village.

Co-ords for Mairie. — 46°47'43.6"N. 0°07'10.1"W

Lunch after the walk will be in St. Loup-Lamairé at Le Relais du Chapeau Rouge where the menu du jour is three course at €14 . Choices will be available but we will ask for your selection somewhat nearer the time.

Curry Club **Mon 30th Apr** **12 noon** **Moncoutant** **Fiona Green**

The next curry club will be at Chez Louise & Mish Tamblin. near Moncoutant
Guests will be asked to bring a starter, side or dessert and whatever they wish to drink. The host provides the main and rice etc. Vegetarians are well catered for and the food is always delicious! Bookings are taken on a first come first served basis and if you aren't lucky enough to secure a place you go to the top of the list for the next lunch.

Quiz Night **Thurs 10th May** **7.00 pm** **Menigoute** **Martin Hughes**

7pm prompt start [bar open 6.30] in Les Voyageurs in Menigoute. Teams of 4 anticipated with entry at €2 per head, payable on the night.

A meal will be served in the middle at €11 per head, paid direct to Charlotte. Main course with a choice of meat or vegetarian plus dessert and a coffee corner.

Points will mean a plethora of prizes can be won.

And that includes the individual prize for who guessed the winter Olympic medal count for the Scandinavians!

Come enjoy the fun as you test your memory of general knowledge, of music, places you may have been, or not, and so much more.

Les Voyageurs is right in the middle of Menigoute, opposite the old chapel, with main parking opposite, outside the Mairie or in the Place de Cloitre behind the church.

Walk **Sat 12th May** **10.30 am** **Chenay** **Jane & Fred Oram**

The walk will be mostly on flat ground on roads and tracks with an option for an 8 km walk or a 4 km walk. Stout footwear should be worn. The walk will start at Chenay which can be found on the D950 road between Melle and Lusignan. If coming from Melle direction, when in Chenay take a right hand turn onto the D307 signposted Vancais and meet in the car park on the left. There is a public toilet on the main road in the centre of Chenay. Lunch will be in Chenay at Les Trois Pigeons restaurant and will consist of three courses, wine and coffee for €14.

History Group **Thurs 17th May** **3.00 pm** **Menigoute** **Penny Taylor**

Please note that there will be an additional History Group meeting on this date and the talk will be given by **Anthea Libby** entitled: -

Impressionism-The Art of late 19th century France

An introduction to the avant garde painters of the late 19th century in Paris, the inventions and changes in society of the time, how they responded and led the way into 20th century modern Art.

More details to follow

GT Summer Garden Party **Sat 23rd Jun** **T.B.A.** **Noreena & Steve Parker**

Full details to be in next month's Newsletter

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

First Reading Fri 2nd Mar
Circle

Cherveux

Report by
Bernadine Smith

There was a good turnout for Lesley's meeting on Friday 2 March. Lesley had chosen *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, a journalist and novelist who combined both skills very effectively in this well researched and unusual tale of a beautifully illustrated Haggadah (a Jewish text) and the story of its 'life' and the people who had owned or cared for it: "The idea of the various samples lodged within the Haddagah's structure, hair, butterfly wing, staining etc. providing the narrative impetus is a really strong and clever ploy and these particular chapters are beautifully written and paced" said Gaynor. However we all agreed that the secondary story about Hannah and particularly her relationship with her mother didn't add anything to the book and that their relationship wasn't even very believable. Overall a good read.

Many thanks to Lesley for her hospitality and the cake which despite her claims was delicious and beautifully risen (we all agreed about that as well!).

Lunch & Wine Tues 6th Mar
Club

Benet

Report by Martin
Hughes

Fifteen of us travelled to the west of the region to the home of our hosts, Gloria and Brian in Benet.

To maximise our taste buds we normally sample the wine first. On this occasion as we were imbibing some very pleasing Riojas we started with a white and then proceeded to feast and make merry on our wines at the same time.

With mainly vegetarian dishes, but with a little meat thrown in, duly spiced, followed by three authentic Iberian puds we were quite sad to leave satiated and a little wiser on the wines of Spain.

Many thanks to Gloria and Brian and of course Diane and Keith for a very fine day.

Family History Thurs 8th Mar
Group

St Jean de Sauves

Report by
Lyn Chamberlin

It was a small group of determined Family History Groupies that arrived at Kate's house this month to hear all we needed to know about military history - unless of course you were in the Navy - Kate had not yet braved the high seas! However, we were all keen to award Kate with a medal for the reams of information and contact addresses she supplied in the short space of time.

When researching families over the last 100 years, everyone has had some connection with a conflict, either World War I or World War II and also events in Europe and further afield in the not too distant past. Apart from taking in all the information that Kate was able to supply, we had discussions about trying to build military histories from photographs of family in military uniforms - can you recognise the insignia? What rank, etc. and what medals were awarded. Those who perished would be remembered in the War Graves Records and 'certificates' were available from these records which noted where they were buried and usually details of their immediate family.

As always, Grant rose to the occasion with the kettle and more individual anomalies were discussed and suggestions made over tea and cakes before returning home to once again hit the keyboard on the computer and continue the search for the facts to back up the family stories about Grandad during the war. Thanks Kate for keeping us on track! We look forward with interest to next month's meeting - the last before the

summer recess.

Walk

Sat 10th Mar

La Foret de Tesse

Report by Peter Murray



John asked me to write this review of the walk, even though I said it would not be coherent, however he was silent to my response so here I go. The format as I see it is to spin it out by mentioning the following by informing readers that the number of walkers equated to 22 people and 3 dogs that behaved impeccably (Dogs that is not humans). The meal was excellent with 3 puddings. Now that's out of the way I spoke to some new members on the walk that have only arrived in France

a few months ago after living in new Zealand.



There was a sign of spring emphasized by a very impressive display of daffodils in the back ground for our regulatory walk photo and of course this puts a lot of pressure on Peter to come up with the goods.

Excellent walk in the grassy lanes and woodland and past renovated properties as we have come to expect in the place we have decided to live.

Peter appeared to be able to command the weather, but alas seemed frustrated at being unable to instruct walkers to do his bidding. Not sure what to make of that!

Excellent meal at Montjean that is known for steak and chips on Thursdays which I'm going to try soon.

Photo Club

Mon 12th Mar

La Mothe St Heray

Report by Jackie Lockett

Eight of us came together to review our photos on the theme of "silhouettes" and then to discuss further the complexities of focussing. We were treated to a wonderfully varied selection of shots taken by members and David was able to offer guidance as to enhancing our shots so as to sharpen the often dramatic effect of the dark against light contrast of a silhouette. Steve's beautiful composition of a brass model of a couple sitting side by side against an almost luminous background was voted shot of the month. We then turned our minds to focussing, with members sharing their expertise and ideas and David helping out with the technical bits. I'm sure we all came away having learnt something new about this vast topic and keen to go out and practise our bit of extra knowledge.

Roger will host the next meeting on Monday, 9 April and, in David's absence, will be developing the focussing theme but this time concentrating on macro or close-up focussing and how to achieve the perfect close up. For catering purposes would you please let Roger know in advance whether you will be able to attend the meeting or not.



It was also agreed at the meeting that submissions for "photo of the month" should be limited to three per person in order to allow time for sufficient discussion on other topics. Macro / Close-up photos should be e-mailed to David as usual for collation and giving to Roger prior to the meeting, so please send David your shots before Tuesday 3 April.

[Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS](#)

Susan & Peter Woods

Souvigne

[Non GT Items of Interest](#)

[Theatri Vasles](#)

G'day Possums!

It's been four months since our last production and here we are again, knee-deep in tinnies and wallabies, and in the middle of rehearsals for 'Ladies Down Under' by Amanda Whittington (by arrangement with Nick Hern books) and directed by David Telfer.

Picture the scene... the sun's beating down and the surf's up, the snags (sausages to you and me) are roasting on the campfire and into this we throw four northern lasses, setting out on the trip of their lives. They're down under and up a billabong without a paddle!

The show is the sequel to 'Ladies' Day', performed by TheatriVasles in May 2017, and catches up with Pearl, Shelley, Jan and Linda, the four fish packers from Hull a year after they won big on the horses at Royal Ascot.

As the four fish-filleters embark upon a road trip across Australia secrets are revealed and truths are exposed. But even though they are half a world away from home, they each discover that their problems have travelled the ten thousand miles with them. We have moments of hidden heartache, vulnerability and thwarted ambitions, all against a backdrop of laughter, bush tucker and dingoes, climaxing at...well, you'll have to join us to find out! We can assure you it'll be a blast!

Performances will take place on **Friday 13th April at 8pm** and **Saturday 14th April at 8pm** at the theatre in Vasles, 79340.

Fête Des Plantes

Gardeners, nature lovers, those interested in local history: there is something for everybody at the Fete des Plantes at Le Beugnon on May 1. Among the 60 stallholders there are 30 nurseries - all those who grow their own stock rather than buying in. There are also craft stalls and stalls selling garden related products. If you grow your own tomatoes you might want to check out the 26 different varieties available, this year representing tomatoes whose names are in some way related to fruits!

There are also birdwatching and nature walks on offer. There are workshops covering cookery using foraged ingredients and flower arranging (led by Carl Wild a flamboyant TV florist that some of you may know from his work on Channel 4. You may have seen a recent film "Trait de Vie", documenting the lives of local farmers who use traditional methods with a modern twist. The producers and stars of the film will be at the Fête to show how traditional agriculture can be viable today. Running from 9.30 -6, with a bar and catering offering snacks and full meals, this could be a wonderful day out.

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

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,

[**gettogether-france.org**](http://gettogether-france.org), move your mouse to 'information', then click on 'Useful Links'. You will find the ICE leaflet at the top of the list. Why not keep a copy by your phone and in your car.

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