

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

May 2018 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Peacock Butterfly Photograph by Sally Warden



[The Quiz Night is very nearly here!!](#)

Places are still available so remember to book your table now.

See below for details.

[Baby Equipment](#)

Unfortunately due to personal reasons Jonathan Townsend will no longer be the "Caretaker" of the GT Baby Equipment. The committee will discuss what to do with it at our next Committee Meeting and the outcome will be advised in the June Newsletter. We would like to thank Jonathan for looking after this equipment for us.

GT visit to Château de Brézé on 21st June 2018

www.chateaudebreze.com

All GT members are invited to the Château de Brézé near Saumur on Thursday 21st June; this visit is organised by the GT History Group.

The guided tour, in English, will take 2 hours and visit both the underground stronghold (hewn out of rock for the safety of the local people in time of war) and then the château itself, originally fortified but now a private residence.

Brézé is 5 minutes from Saumur, 73 km from Parthenay and 97km from Menigoute.

We will meet at Château de Brézé at 12 noon and then you can **either** enjoy a 4 course buffet lunch in the comfort and shade of the old stable restaurant, **or** you can take your own picnic and eat it in the grounds. The château visit will start at 14.00.

For those wishing to eat the Buffet lunch in the old stables, together with the guided tour, the price will be 36,90€pp. (21€ for lunch + 15,90€ for the tour)

Those wishing to take their own picnic, the visit will be the cost of the guided tour, 15,90€pp.

After the tour you can also taste the Château de Brézé wines (red, white and cremant) for a further 2.50€pp

Numbers are limited to 35 for the tour; we will need at least 20 for the lunch.

To secure your booking please send the attached form completed with a cheque of 15.90€pp payable to "Get Together" to Penny Taylor at 1 Chemin de la Frerie, 79420 VAUTEBIS.

The cost of the Buffet Lunch and the wine tasting will be paid separately by you at Bréz.

We look forward to seeing you; please reserve your places by returning the completed booking slip by **Tuesday May 15th**.

If you have any questions please contact Jonathon Townsend

Applying for a Carte de Sejour

The Committee have been trying to arrange for someone from the Prefecture in Niort to give a presentation on applying for a Carte de Sejour. For those of you who are thinking of applying for one, here is the information I have been given by someone who successfully applied for a CdS.

The telephone number to ring at the Prefecture in Niort is 05 49 08 67 40, which is the Bureau des Etrangers. (not Tuesdays and only afternoons)

The documents you need to supply are:

Birth certificates of all family members applying; Marriage Certificates; Passports; 5 years of utility bills; 5 years of tax d'habitation; 5 years income tax advices; Cartes vitals; Recent bank statements (to prove you will not be a burden on the French State); If you are in business, 5 years of business accounts; Proof of business registration; 3 recent photos

Advisable to photocopy each document x 3!

To read more, click on this link <http://79.accueil-etrangers.gouv.fr/demande-de-titre-de-sejour/>

Beryl Brennan, President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book Library	Mon 7 th May	2-4 pm	St Pardoux
The First Reading Circle	Fri 4 th May	2.30 pm	Cherves
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
Craft Club	Tues 22 nd May	2.30pm	St. Pardoux
Walk	Fri 25 th May	10.30 am	Scille
Second Reading Circle Group	Tues 29 th May	2.30 pm	La Bourse
The First Reading Circle	Fri 1 st June	2.30 pm	Aubigny
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 5 th Jun	11.30 am	Le Tallud
Walk	Sat 16 Jun	10.30 am	Chaunay
GT Garden Party	Sat 23 rd Jun	T.B.A.	

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thursday 24th May at Hotel de Hughes Menigoute**
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items** **Friday 25th May**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Book Library Mon 7th May 2–4.00 pm St Pardoux Beryl Brennan

May'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!

Directions: From Parthenay take the Niort road; after about 10km, X-roads Le Croix des Vignes

(just after the 70kmh speed camera.) Turn right, 2nd left opposite Celine Coiffure; T junction at the bottom, turn right immediately left, signposted Ateliers Municipaux and Les Metairies.

Pass the workshop, cross the little bridge, round the corner and we are the house on right.

Parking in the courtyard.

From the north – Secondigny, Allonne, Chateau Bourdin, St Pardoux – all signposted.

In St Pardoux, pass the church on the right, drop down the hill to Celine Coiffure on left.

Turn right opposite, directions as above. Tel 05 49 69 86 16.

The First Reading Circle **Fri 4th May** **2.30 pm** **Cherves** **Bernadette Smith**

The April meeting was postponed until 1 June. The May meeting will be held chez Margaret Stubbs on Friday 4th May at 2.30pm and the book is *The House of Orphans* by Helen Dunmore.

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

Quiz night. Thursday, May 10th, 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. Please indicate your choice of main meal and dessert from the list below.

Chicken and Chips
White fish in a sauce with rice
Chocolate mousse
Apple cake/tart
Fruit salad

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

The next meeting of History Group will be on Thursday 17 May at 3.00pm and the Talk will be given by Anthea Libby entitled: ***The Impressionist Movement***
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.

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)

As many members are now choosing to enjoy a social lunch at the Auberge before the meeting, Charlotte has asked that you book ahead (Tel: [05 49 69 13 66](tel:0549691366)).

Please Note: If any member is considering enjoying a social lunch prior to this

meeting Charlotte has advised that this is IFCAM week in Menigoute and as such will be very busy.

Craft Group **Tues 22nd May** **2.30pm** **St Pardoux** **Beryl Brennan**

It has been suggested that we work on projects already started and try to finish them before our summer break. Anyone wishing to join us they are more than welcome.

Walk **Fri 25th May** **10.30 am** **Scille** **Michele & Eric Hansford**

The walk will start from our house at leaving at 10.30. There is plenty of parking nearby and toilets at our place. Non walkers are welcome to sit and watch tv/drink coffee, and Audrey is there to keep you company. The walk is on tracks and small roads, with just one section on pavement on a fairly busy road. It is a little hilly and may be muddy in places depending on the weather! Stout footwear should be worn. The long walk is 8 km, with a shorter option of 4km. Lunch is at Chez Chantal, on the D744 as you leave L'Absie, costing 14€20 with 4 courses, wine and coffee. Please indicate meat, fish or vegetarian when booking.

Directions to our house 12 La Bourse, Scillé: from the south on the D744 from Niort to L'Absie, take the second right after Scillé (a small road leading in to the village, opposite a lay by and signed to a gite "La Clef des Champs"). Once in the village take the second right at the parking area and our house is on the left.

From the East, take the road from Secondigny D949bis to L'Absie. Turn left at the roundabout towards Niort. About 500m, shortly after you pass Chez Chantal on the right, take the left turn past VAT industrie and continue for 700m until you reach the village. At the crossroads take the first left after the parking area (you could park there).

From the west, turn right at the second roundabout in L'Absie in the direction of Niort and follow the instructions above.

The Second Reading Circle **Tues 29th May** **2.30 pm** **La Bourse**

The next meeting of the second reading group is at Helen's in La Bourse on Tuesday, May 29th. All new readers welcome.

The First Reading Circle **Fri 1st Jun** **2.30 pm** **Aubigny** **Bernadine Smith**

This is the re-arranged meeting from 6th April

Lunch & Wine Club **Tues 5th Jun** **11.30 am** **Le Tallud** **Diane & Keith Mousdale**

The Lunch & Wine club meeting for June will be held at Diane & Keith's home at La Revaliere, Le Tallud with an Italian theme for both food and wine.

If you wish to come along and join us or would like more information please contact Diane and Keith. At the time of booking would you please state whether you wish to

bring a starter, cheese or dessert. If anyone needs directions to the venue these will be sent upon request. As there is a maximum number of 14 attendees bookings are on a first come basis but in the event of oversubscription anyone who cannot be accommodated will be offered first refusal on the following meeting

Walk **Sat 16th Jun** **10.30 am** **Chaunay** **Bev & Jeff Talbert**

The walk is from Chaunay, about an 8km long walk and about 5 km short walk, quite flat ground hopefully not too wet by then.

Directions: From Poitiers N 10, come off at Junction 42 Chaunay, D 35, follow the Chaunay signs to the roundabout, taking the 3rd turning on the roundabout. Follow D 25 Grand Rue Chaunay.

GPS N 46 12' 23" E 0 9' 46"

Parking will be opposite The Hotel Restaurant Central, 18 Grand Rue, the meal will be at the hotel approx. 12.30 pm, the food will be a choice of meat or fish. The meal will be 3 courses with a bottle of wine between 4 persons, costing 17€ per head, coffee will be extra.

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

Full details to be in next month's Newsletter

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Walk **Fri 30th March** **Pont Romain** **Report by Annette Green**



The weather for Good Friday is always a little hit and miss and this one proved no exception, rain rain and more rain! However, 8 brave souls, plus two dogs put on our wet gear and carried on regardless. We start off at the Pont Romain, a pretty location walking alongside the River Chambon. The walk took us through little villages, along country lanes and the views would have been fantastic on a slightly better day (note to Roger to do it again in the summer!)

So once the dogs had washed themselves off in the river and we had changed footwear etc. we headed off for a well-earned lunch that was waiting for us at Restaurant de la gare, Montplaisir, as were a further 8 GT members (cowards!)

A big thank you to Roger and Anne for organising such a lovely walk and lunch, it was much appreciated.

Note to self, always read the walk time properly - never assume, otherwise you end up being late and having to write a report! Lol!

Photo Group

Mon 9th Apr

Saivres

Report by Martin Hughes



We met at Roger's house to view our photographs in the 'macro' area of photography.

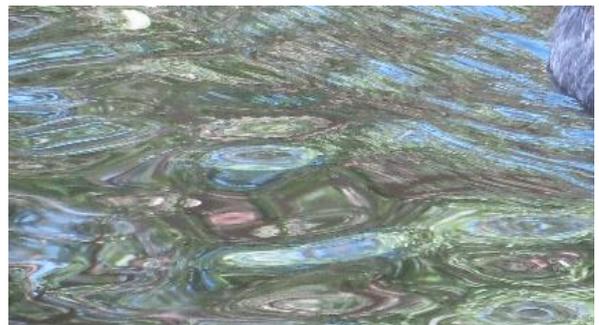
Fauna and Flora were the main area of interest and we were treated to some stunning examples of what can be achieved in close up. Some of us are equipped with some serious pieces of kit and this was demonstrated in the photos we sampled. Others of us have very adequate cameras, but without the features that are possible.

What we learnt was that the ability to focus in on subjects becomes far more difficult at such short range and that whilst rewarding a lot of practice is needed. Part of the problem is the restriction of the technical ability of your average camera. But practice makes perfect.

We judged our results and Jan was awarded photographer du mois for her swan. The photograph was captivating in its overall composition but what stood out were the macro features when viewing the photograph on a large screen and zooming in on the water features, especially in the bottom left corner.

Many thanks to Roger for leading us in David's absence and for cake and beverage.

We are due to photograph landscapes for our next meeting.



The Second Reading Group

Fri 13th Apr

Scille

Report by Martin Hughes

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

We met at Michele and Eric's to review this month's book, which coincidentally was the same as the first reading group's March choice!

The general consensus was this was a good choice, a good read [in one sitting even] and worthy of a Costa First Novel Book award.

Eleanor is a social misfit, a loner, but with the help of friendships from unexpected directions the novel charts her transition to a more accepting and rounded person with a life as she confronts the dark corners of that life. Moving and funny.

Our next book is an Icelandic murder mystery, set in the 1830. The diversity of books.

Many thanks to Michele and Eric for their hospitality, as always.

Walk**Sat 14th Apr****Foret Domaniale Report by Malcolm Howse
de St. Sauvent**

With the threat of showery periods, 28 walkers and 4 ½ dogs set off on the road through the forest before turning onto woodland tracks, these were quite good underfoot with parts a bit muddy and wet with a few flooded parts. I asked if anybody knew the name of the plants which looked like a type of lily what were very prolific along the edge one of the tracks, the answer I was given was (wait for it) Green ones! We reached the ruins of a village which was destroyed in 1944 and this is where the group split up, Maureen taking the short

walkers back to the carpark whilst the rest of the group continued for about another hour with no sign of the showers forecast (John must have a direct line to him up there) back to the carpark. On to the restaurant O'Poirion in St. Sauvant for lunch where we were joined by a couple of non- walkers. The meal was good with four courses and included wine a 'plenty, pity as I pulled the short straw and was elected to drive.

Many thanks to Maureen and John for a very enjoyable day.

History Group**Thurs 19th Apr****Menigoute****Report by Maria & Phil Taylor****THE REFORMATION REVOLUTION**

Many thanks to Robert Pierson for his presentation of the Reformation Revolution. Religion has been a cause of controversy and disagreement throughout the history of mankind and the early 1500s was an exceptional time of revolutionary ideas in the Christian world; - Martin Luther and Jean Calvin were two of the greatest leaders at this time of the revolutionary changes. Henry VIII had a great impact on the British aspect of all this but his motives were slightly different, a touch more political! It was a fascinating era and Robert highlighted the many events that occurred very well indeed. The invention of the printing press just a few years earlier in 1450 enabled versions of the bible to be available in German, English and then French all of which had a huge impact on the emergence of Protestantism. I am glad that I was able to make it!

Craft Club**Tues 24th Apr****Scille****Report by Beryl Brennan**

3 Ladies arrived in Scille to learn about cross stitch. Helen provided us with several books for us to look in and choose something we would like to have a try at. She then gave us all the necessary tools and equipment (needle, thread and the aida) We all had a lovely afternoon learning cross stitch, thank you Helen for your tuition and your hospitality

Walk

Fri 27th Apr

Veluché

Report by Wendy Greenfield



On a sunny morning 17 two legged and 4 four legged walkers assembled outside the Mairie and were about to start...then oops 3 more walkers turned up. After a group photo when nobody was even looking at the camera, we set off at a good pace down country lanes, past cows and green fields. Another group photo was taken...still no better than the first....and off we meandered until a split in the road...hah, short walk to the left and longer to the right. Yeah, finally everyone smiling for the photo...

A little wet in a couple of places, but dogs and humans alike managed the puddles and after a reasonably steep incline passed the bluebell wood on our right...well we should have been there last week, as by now, they had all 'gone over'. After a little more talking and walking we arrived back at the Mairie where a change of shoes before an orderly departure for St. Loup and the restaurant. The meal was excellent, though as always some of us would have preferred our neighbours choice(!) and with a lot of 'byes' and 'see you soon's' the outing came to an end. Lovely way to spend a Friday.

Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

Andrea & Geoff Cornwall Gourge

Non GT Items of Interest

Another Walk - May 1st at Le Beugnon. Part of the festivities of the Fetes des Plantes. Part organised by GT members. Around 6 kilometres. Starts at 10. Then enjoy all the fun of the fete. Stalls, plants for sale and food, plenty of food.'

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, 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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