

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

June 2018 Newsletter

***Events, activities, news
and reports for members***



Bridge at Terrasson-Lavilledieu (Photograph by Vinny Galloway)

Dates for your Dairy

GT Summer Event will be once again held at Verruyes on Saturday 28th July. More details to follow next month.

GT Horse Racing extravaganza will be taking place on 18th August. Maureen & John Buckley have kindly offered their garden for the venue again this year – unfortunately I will not be able to attend as we are returning from the UK on that day so I won't be winning all the money –ha ha!!!

BABY EQUIPMENT

Unfortunately Jonathan Townsend is unable to look after the baby equipment any longer. No list was kept, but if anyone would like to reclaim their contribution to the baby equipment collection please could they contact him by email, see below for the address. He will then agree a mutually convenient time to hand the item back.

Any items not reclaimed by the end of June will be donated to the Croix Rouge.

Apparently they have large quantities of baby items as cheap as chips but quality cannot be guaranteed. Bit like the Antiques Roadshow gems become available.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The First Reading Circle	Fri 1 st Jun	2.30 pm	Aubigny
Book Library	Mon 4 th Jun	2-4 pm	St Pardoux
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 5 th Jun	11.30 am	Le Tallud
Photo Club	Mon 11 th Jun	2.00 pm	
Walk	Sat 16 Jun	10.30 am	Chaunay
Craft Group	Tues 19 th Jun	2.00 pm	St Pardoux
History Group Day Out	Thurs 21 st Jun		Château de Brézé
GT Garden Party	Sat 23 rd Jun		
Walk	Fri 29 th Jun	10.30 am	St Maixent L'ecole et Le Servres Niortaise
Walk	Sat 21 st Jul	10.30 am	St Coutant
GT Summer Event	Sat 28 th Jul	T.B.A.	Verruyes
GT Horse Racing	Sat 18 th Aug	T.B.A.	

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thursday 24th May at Hotel de Hughes Menigoute**
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items** **Thursday 28th June**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

Diana has chosen *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett.
This is the re-arranged meeting from 6th April

Book Library **Mon 4th Jun** **2 – 4 pm** **St Pardoux** **Beryl Brennan**

June'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!

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.

Photo Club **Mon 11th Jun** **2.00 pm** **T.B.A.** **David Brennan**

This months' subject is "Landscapes". Venue to be confirmed. If anyone is interested in learning about their camera and coming to the next meeting please contact David Brennan.

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. Please state choice when booking by Tuesday 12th June. The meal will be 3 courses with a bottle of wine between 4 persons, costing 17€ per head, coffee will be extra.

Craft Group **Tues 19th Jun** **2.00 pm** **St Pardoux** **Beryl Brennan**

This is the May rearranged meeting. If interested in joining the Craft Ladies please contact Beryl

History Group **Thurs 21st Jun** **Château de Brézé**
Day Out

This month's meeting is the annual day out and this year it has been chosen to visit the Château de Brézé.

GT Summer **Sat 23rd Jun** **Noreena & Steve Parker**
Garden Party

This is an open invitation from Noreena & Steve Parker to all GT members.

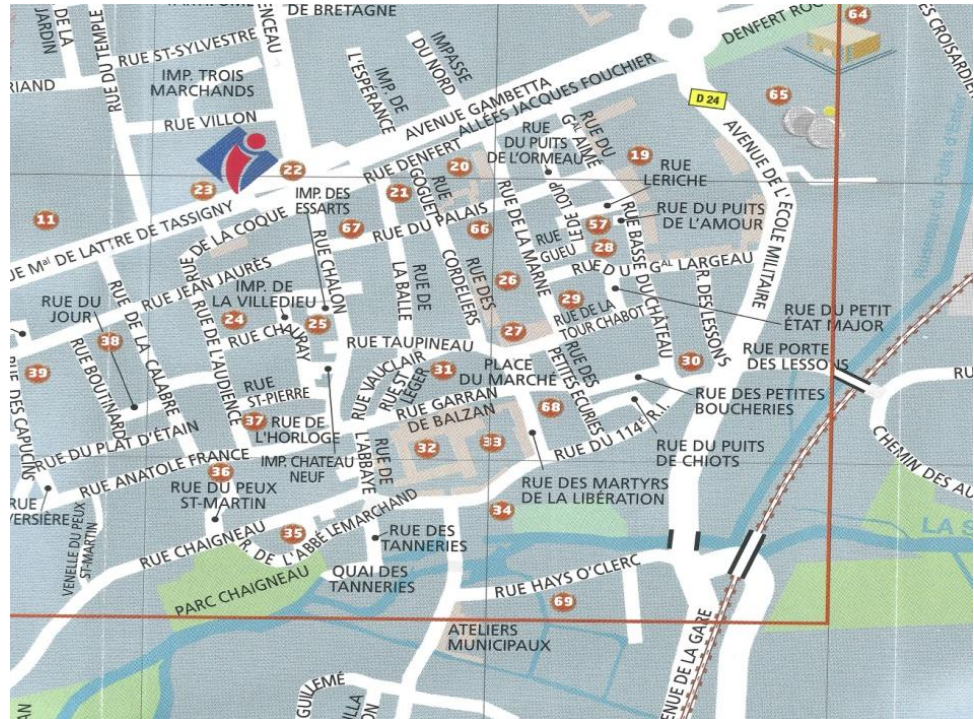
Walk **Fri 29th Jun** **10.30 am** **St Maixent** **Annette & Leslie Green**
L'école & Le
Sèvres
Niortaise

This very picturesque 8 kms walk starts in St Maixent, walking along the Quai des Tanneries, past the Hotel de St Martin and along the Sèvres Niortaise. There is a bit of a climb out of St Maixent but after that it is fairly flat, initially along a quiet road, then once we cross the river at Ricou we walk along a path back towards St Maixent. There will be a shorter 4 kms walk available too.

As usual please wear suitable footwear, some of the walk could be a little muddy if inclement weather beforehand.

We would also strongly advise that no matter the weather you wear long trousers as some parts of the path may be overgrown by June.

Please park at the car park in **la rue de l'abbaye, St Maixent**. See between 32 and 35



Toilets can be found at parking du marche (we are not parking here as it gets very busy and cannot guarantee enough available spaces).
 Lunch will be at Restaurant de l'abbataile, 27 Rue des Petites Boucheries
 79400 Saint-Maixent-l'Ecole a short walk from the car park, there is limited parking
 nearer to the restaurant for those wishing to get a little closer.
 For non-walkers wishing to join us, lunch will be at 13:00, so please arrive from
 12:45 onwards.
 Please send your choices from the menu below when booking your place.

Assiette crudités Ou
 Tarte courgette, chèvre

Dos de Cabillaud à la provençale ou
 Araignée de Porc, pomme de terre sauté ou
 Tarte courgette, chèvre

Trois Fromages

Dessert Maison

Café et vin
 14€ compris

Walk **Sat 21st Jul** **10.30am** **St. Coutant** **Brian & Joan Stead**

Note that this walk is a week later than normal due to that date being the 14th and many other events taking place.

The start of the walk is at the Salle in St. Coutant. There is an 8km walk and shorter walk about 4.5km. It is mostly on the flat on dry routes but be prepared for hot or even inclement weather.

The Salle can be found from Lezay by taking the D105, signed 'St. Vincent le Chartre/Chef-Boutonne'. After 2km turn left, signed St. Coutant, after a further 1.8km turn right at the sign 'Salle des Association Parking' and then turn left into the car park.

The lunch at 12.30pm, is at the Petit Moulin in Sante Soline.

Non walkers are as always very welcome and for those not familiar with the location, take the D15 South East out of Lezay for 5 kms. Turn right immediately after passing the '**SAINTE SOLINE**' sign. The restaurant is along the first lane on the left.

If the weather allows us we will eat al fresco.

There will be a complementary beer or kir on arrival and the menu is a starter of homemade pate or quiche, mains of BBQ chicken or trout, both with minted potatoes and salad and desert of chocolate tart or poached pear.

1/4 litre of wine per person and coffee included. The cost is 18€ per person.

Any extra drinks to be paid for individually.

If anyone has a dietary need please book early with your requirement.

[REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS](#)

Lunch & Wine **Tues 8th May**
Club
Gourmand
Meal

Exireuil

Report by Martin
Hughes

On a cloudless Deux-Sevrian blue skied day 16 of us descended on the Green's of Exireuil, to dine in their salon de soleil. I am obliged to report that the floors were gleamingly clean that even Oliver could have licked soup off them.

The giant buttercups filled the meadow, the birds sang undisturbed and peace was in the world as we sipped our aperos and nibbled our nibbles.

Lunch was served and as we proceeded the weather gods who have plagued us this year decided to have a bit of fun. Suffice it to say we were well into our third hour when the heavens opened and Zeus smote us with a bolt directly overhead. The lane outside became a river.

But the British are unfazed by this sort of supernatural behaviour as we enjoyed onion soup and onion tartlets for entrees. Then onto plats of boeuf bourguignon, chicken basque and vegetarian chestnut and sage cobbler. Cheese was to follow and then desserts [five] of tarte tatin, pears in pineau and clafouti. Coffee to follow.

All this accompanied by some fine wines: Picpoul de Pinet from the Languedoc, a 'Villa Maria' Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand, a Beaujolais Village, an 'Atrium Merlot' from Penedes, a Chateauneuf-du-Pape from the Rhone valley and finally a dessert wine 'Sainte-Croix-du-Mont from the Garonne.

Our great thanks to Annette and Leslie for their hospitality, to Keith and Diane for choosing the wines and a pat on the back to the chefs for this our annual gourmand meal. PS It didn't rain in Menigoute!

Quiz**Thurs 10th May****Menigoute****Report by Malcolm Howse**

Ten teams descended on Les Voyageurs in Menigoute for the GT Spring version of 'University Challenge'.

After a technological glitch [that rendered the music round being verbal rather than aural], with blood sweat and tears spilt by the contestants the Green/Hansford combo of Les Etoiles won with a score of 87 out of 106. For the first time we had a three way split for second place that emergency decider questions were unable to separate. It was pleasing that the team in last place scored 67 1/2, with all points between.

Beryl very kindly gave out the prizes and bottles of wine to the winners, chocolate to the in-betweeners and jams for the last prize.

Everyone enjoyed a really good Scottish curry [chicken, fish or vegetarian] for the interval meal.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all and sincere thanks to Martin for all his research for the questions and Jonathan for his deliverance of said questions

Walk**Sat 12th May****Chenay****Report by Peter Bains**

After a beautiful sunny day on Friday approximately 26 people assembled for the start of the walk looking at the threatening clouds. Even before we started on the walk the promised rain began. Fortunately it was rather warm and there was no wind. We continued on a pleasant straight track for 2 kilometres with no let-up in the rain.

When we reached the point for the short walk most of us voted with our feet, turned round and retraced our steps to the start point. The rain continued throughout but the

track was well compacted resulting in no problems with mud. 6 intrepid people followed our leaders on the longer walk but the majority returned in good spirits to our cars and the restaurant. The official photographer decided to dispense with the usual photograph on the walk and took pictures inside the restaurant. Most peoples who lived in a short distance returned home to dry off and change before returning to the restaurant.



Many thanks for avoiding a muddy or hilly walk to our organisers Jane and Fred; pity about the weather.

The Impressionists



Renoir - luncheon of the boating party Monet - any number of water lilies Degas - the dancing class II

We had a full house to listen to our very own Anthea Libby giving a very different talk from the usual one on blood, sex or war. [Well not the first and third].

In a very short space of time we were introduced to the timeline leading up to creation of the movement, and its disparaging by the critics of the time, and it's very swift fading away in the space of less than 25 years in 1886. However brief the movement it gave us some of the greats of French painting in the guise of Monet through to Renoir.

There were a considerable number of painters but Anthea gave us glimpses of the lives as well as the art of the six most influential artists, some such as Monet who exhibited the well-known trope of the artist suffering for his art, what with destroyed canvasses and the wine, women and one guesses the song. An age of excess.

There was an interesting political slant that the artists ranged from far left to far right but were bonded by their shared passion.

In passing we were also given a hint of how one can read a painting, with the flow of lines through a canvas, the inception of modern oils in tubes and much more.

Many thanks to Anthea for an inspiring talk. Apparently the Impressionists are her favourites.

Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

Bob & Chris Maloney

St Loup Lamaire

Non GT Items of Interest



Boule en Bois

Looking for some gentle exercise in friendly company? Enjoy playing Petanque? Why not think about coming along to Le Tallud on a Wednesday afternoon and have a taster of Boule en Bois? It's not petanque, it's not crown green bowling, but it's a game the French are passionate about – and some of us Brits are too.

You don't need any boules to begin, we've spares we can lend you. We don't take ourselves seriously – really?! If you get

hooked, then there are team competitions organized by the French clubs on a Saturday and Sunday. Practice on a Wednesday is free but if you want to join a team, there is a small fee to pay.

We meet at the Boulodrome by the Salle de Fete in Le Tallud (signposted through the village) from 2.30-4.30.

For more information contact Terry Hawker on terryhawker@orange.fr

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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