

Founded  
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**get together**  
A friendly association of English speakers

French  
Association  
3035

## August 2018 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news  
and reports for members*



Sarlat-La-Canéda Photograph by Michele Hansford

### [A Gentle Reminder](#)

#### [Photographic Competition for the GT Calendar 2019](#)

The theme for this year is "Seasonal with obvious French content".

Seasonal views of:-

*Landmarks, local wildlife flora and fauna, French food and wines, markets, heritage sites, village, town and city views, in fact anything reflecting French Life and Events. Your photographs must be clearly definable as having been taken in and of France".*

Over to you!

Each family member may submit up to four photographs.

Photographs must be in landscape format (rather than portrait) and your entry must specify where in France each photograph was taken. Please email your photographs to [gtphotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:gtphotocomp@gmail.com)

Closing date for submission of entries will be **midnight 30th September 2018**.

So don't forget to take lots of photos as the deadline gets ever closer!

### [A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY](#)

History Group will be having a **special meeting on 10 November** to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice which brought an end to the First World War. Under the heading of 'Nothing to Report....Women's Voices and the Great War ...' the presentation explores the contribution of the female voice to wartime propaganda and protest.

**The meeting will be held in the theatre in Vasles**, and comprises the presentation followed by a short remembrance ceremony at the War Memorial in the village, held in conjunction with the local branch of the Union Nationale des Combatants. There will also be an exhibition of Great War propaganda and associated artwork in the salle below the theatre, where drinks will be served.

The doors will be open from 14.30h and the performance begins at 15.00h.

It will be possible to book places for this event in the usual way, and more details of this and of the Event itself will be published in due course.

No action is required at this time but please make a note of this date in your diaries.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                             |                             |          |                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| First Reading Circle Group  | Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug     | 2.30 pm  | Chez Joyce Stebbing |
| Book Library                | Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug     | 2-4 pm   | St Pardoux          |
| Walk                        | Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug    | 10.30 am | Sevret              |
| Photo Club                  | Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug    | 2.00 pm  | Menigoute           |
| Second Reading Circle Group | Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug    | 10.30 am |                     |
| GT Horse Racing             | Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug    | 12 noon  | Lezay               |
| Walk                        | Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | 10.30 am | Melle               |
| History Group               | Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept | 3.00 pm  | Menigoute           |

- **Next Committee Meeting**                      **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at Chez Ritchie**
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items**   **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)**

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**First Reading Circle Group**    **Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug**    **2.30 pm**                      **Chez Joyce Stebbing**    **Bernadine Smith**

The August Meeting takes place on Friday 3 July chez Joyce Stebbing and her chosen book is *The Dressmaker of Dachau* by Mary Chamberlain. Spanning the intense years of World War 2, it is one young woman's story of love, conflict, betrayal and survival.

**Book Library**    **Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Aug**    **2-4 pm**                      **St Pardoux**    **Beryl Brennan**

August'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!

**Please Note: There is NO Book Library in September.**

**Walk**                      **Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Aug**                      **10.30 am**                      **Sepvret**                      **Bob Seager**

This walk will be along the valley of the Sèvre Niortaise just below its source, crossing the river four times. It will be on grassy and woodland tracks and quiet roads, much of which are shaded, and there are some hills. It is unlikely that there will be any mud unless we get very unseasonal weather. However, the usual advice to wear stout footwear applies. The long walk is just over 7km, while the short version is around 4 km.

Sepvret is about 10 km NNE of Melle and lies on the D108 2km to the west of the D950 (Melle - Lusignan) The start will be in the centre of the village opposite the School and the Mairie. GPS ref N46° 17.151', W0° 05.416' There are toilets available at the start, assuming they will be open on the day.

Lunch will be at Les Trois Pigeons restaurant at Chenay, a few KM further up the D950, three courses, wine and coffee for around 15€. Please advise whether you wish to eat meat or fish.

**Photo Club**                      **Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Aug**                      **2.00 pm**                      **Menigoute**                      **David Brennan**

The next meeting is planned to be held at the home of Richard and Diana Hooker. The project for this month is "**moving water**" which should get your creative juices flowing. A maximum of 3 shots per member, by 9th August please.

**Second Reading Circle Group**                      **Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Aug**                      **10.30 am**                      **Leslie Ritchie**

The next book is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and the meeting will be held chez Joyce Roberts. We've also set a date for the October meeting, well in advance as we have chosen a long book - George Eliott's *Middlemarch*.

**GT Horse Racing**                      **Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Aug**                      **12 noon**                      **Lezay**                      **Maureen & John Buckley**

A fourth 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, croquet, petanque on our purpose built court, which is designed to even out the odds, and Molky. 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!

**Walk**                      **Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept**                      **10.30 am**                      **Melle**                      **Julia & Peter Murray**

A walk in 2 parts. Parking in the Halle/ market carpark. Toilets available.

First part of the walk approx. 4.5 km will be around the Melle arboretum. Starting the walk through the town there are a few good descents, levelling out straight on good paths. There is only one good short climb upwards halfway around then just a gentle long ascent back to the car.

Then we have part 2 of the walk which is around the old town itself, with its unesco church St Hiliare. This part of the walk will be hilly!!!!!!

For those not doing the 2nd walk there is parking outside the churches if you want to go and see them.

A very interesting "home decor" shop in the centre (open 10-12 & 14- 17) and 2 nice cafes.

Lunch will be at Le Sporting in St Romans les Melle at 13 h

Please ask if you need directions.

3 courses 13 euros

Coffee 1.50

Wine 1 euro

Choose from the menu on the day and pay at the till.

**History Group**   **Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Sept**                      **3.00pm**                      **Menigoute**                      **Penny Taylor**

On the subject of 'Creçy'.

Peter Hoskins, author of 'In the Steps of the Black Prince', 'The Road to Poitiers 1355-6', and of guide books on the battles of Crécy and Agincourt, will talk about the battle of Crécy in 1346.

Peter, who has already talked to us about Edward the Black Prince, will take us through this first great campaign in the Prince's life, culminating in one of the most famous battles of the Hundred Years War."

Booking details will appear in the September Newsletter.

## **REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS**

**First Reading**                      **Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Jul**                      **Aubigny**                      **Report by Bernadine Smith**  
**Circle Group**

The July meeting was held at Diana Stubb's and her chosen book was *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett. Although a couple of people liked it less than his other books, the majority thought it was very good, tackling the subject of reading in a light hearted but thoughtful way. His portrayal of the Queen was respectful even though it was a caricature. It was just the right length, anymore and it would have laboured the point. "I loved his portrayal of all the officials being just a tiny bit dim" was a comment that resonated with some. Unsurprisingly, a lively discussion about the role of the monarchy ensued. Many thanks to Diana for hosting and sorry it took so long to get to your book.

**Photo Club**

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Jul**

**Mazière**

**Report by Steve Marshall**



Holidays and visitors amongst other things kept us to a select group who met at Carol's to review photographs on the subject of 'interesting buildings and a detail thereof'.

The range of photographs was extensive - from near to home to the other side of the world. There were a substantial number of shots from the History Group visit to Château de Brézé on 21 June. Cloisters, towers and capitals (of columns) all featured but the winner of the

month was Martin's pair of shots - one of a wing of the Château taken from under an arch of the cloisters and a detail of the weather vane on top of the building. We never did work out from where the detail shot was taken.



The strong lighting of many photographs created some deep shadows. Rather than go out shooting in the hot afternoon sun we chose to look at how these could be manipulated in some free photo-editing software - FastStone Image Viewer. Bringing out the detail in some shots made them much more interesting and lead to a discussion on black and white photography.

One of the advantages of digital pictures is that switching between colour and black and white is very easy. Again, the variations this offered for different perspectives on images was greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to Carol for hosting.

**Second Reading** **Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Jul**  
**Circle Group**

**Menigoute**

**Report by Eric Hansford**

The book this month was *A Man Called Ove* by Fred Backman. The book was a welcome surprise and everyone enjoyed reading it right to the emotional end. The book had been very well translated from the original Swedish and managed to convey a very British sense of humour. The trials and tribulations of Ove are entertainingly described as his sad past is revealed through a series of bizarre incidents reminiscent of Victor Meldrew. Ove has lost his wife and job and attempts to commit suicide on several occasions. This may sound a bit depressing but each attempt is interrupted by one of his neighbours needing assistance for one family crisis or another and gradually it is revealed that Ove is in fact a loving man and reluctant hero with a great line in put downs.

**Walk**

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jul**

**St Coutant**

**Report by John Buckley**



Twenty one of us (and obligatory dogs (5 in number)), set off under a cloudy bright sky on what proved to be a delightful walk. With summer in full bloom, we followed quiet roads and tracks through the gently rolling wooded countryside which surrounds the historic village of St Coutant. The village can be traced back to Roman times, demonstrated by numerous information panels which we saw on our way. The

weather was extremely kind to us, with the light cloud giving shade from the hot sun. After a while, 5 of our number (and one dog) took the short walk and headed off back to the village; the remainder continuing the longer walk. Lunch was taken in the picturesque surroundings of Le Moulin Petit in neighbouring village of Ste Soline. A number of our company were entranced by the puppies and ducklings, not to mention the pot-bellied Vietnamese pigs, which were to be found there.

A very pleasant meal was enjoyed by all in the fresh air. Many thanks to Brian & Joan Stead for organising a thoroughly enjoyable walk and meal.



**Walk**

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Jul**

**Allonne**

**Report by Julia Murray**



An exclusive group of 13 walkers and 1 well behaved dog on Friday's walk around the village of Allonne. The sky was a little hazy giving us a break from the blistering sun and making the walk of 7.5 km very pleasant. Beryl who did not accompany us on the full had kindly left arrows on the road and a map for us to follow. Unfortunately we missed the turning past the cemetery instead coming through the village. Beryl suggested we went past the cemetery as the commune had put a lot of effort into the garden at the entrance,

so we went past on our way home to find a scarecrow family, wind mill, tyre animals , a dove and a insect hotel !!!!.

Lunch was at Le regal'on in the village centre, We sat outside in the garden and had an excellent meal. The restaurant that holds live music evenings and excellent fish and chip on Fridays.

**Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS**

Jane Saunders

Louin

**Non GT Items of Interest**

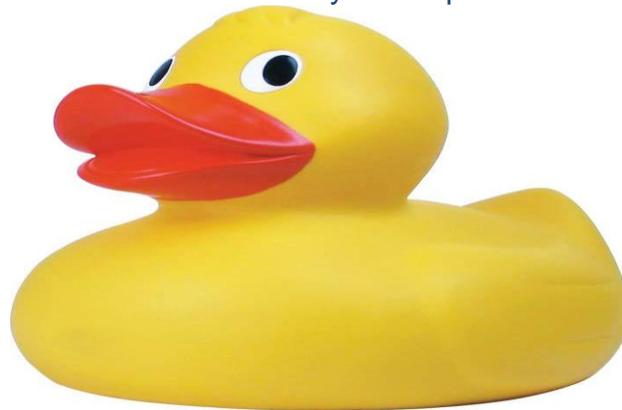
"**THE MEMORY LANE SHOW**" are appearing at Cafe Des Belles Fleurs, Fenioux on Saturday **29th** September starting at **8pm** prompt. Admission **10** euros per person and includes plated buffet plus dessert. Places limited so book early - phone Joy on 05 49 28 12 39.

If you love music from the 50s/60s/70s and can remember Caramacs, bell bottom trousers and beehive hairdos then this for you!

This is not a GT event, but "Memory Lane" are making a generous donation in support of the GT History Group Commemoration of the Great War Armistice of 1918 to be held in November.

THE GREAT DUCK RACE  
AND  
**Country fair**  
LIVE MUSIC, GAMES, classic vehicles, stalls and bbq AT

**LE petit Moulin, Sainte- Soline 79120**  
Saturday 1st September



12 till 6pm

**FREE ENTRANCE**

Grill and chill at the mill bbq and bar  
Food from around the world

**All Proceeds to the Rbl poppy appeal**

For further information contact

[www.lepetit-moulin.com](http://www.lepetit-moulin.com)

[www.rblpoitou-charentes.fr](http://www.rblpoitou-charentes.fr)



**Royal British legion Linazay Branch Poitou-Charentes**

**Branch No BR3582 National Charity No 219279 French Association No W86200079**

### 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.

**Published by:** Get Together, 10a Rue du Four a Tuiles, 79410, Cherveux 05.49.17.11.20  
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