

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

November 2018 Newsletter

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



Autumn, Etang de Bois Pouvreau Photograph by Martin Hughes

[New blood needed](#)

We now begin the annual ritual of endeavouring to persuade you that you are the ideal person to become an officer of GT and thereby give something back to the association which you know and love and could not possibly do without.

Come the AGM early next year several positions will become vacant, the present incumbents having completed (or exceeded, in some cases by a country mile) their two-year term of office. This will be true of both Northern and Southern co-ordinators and the Newsletter Editor, each of whom was first appointed in 2017. Then there's the President who has been in post since 2016. And finally, the poor old Secretary who first started labouring in the GT vineyard in 2014.

If you are willing and able to replace any of these tired old has beens please do signal your availability. Any of the existing officers will be pleased to tell you about what's involved and to reassure you that if they can do it you most certainly can. You can find the details you need at:

<http://www.gettogether-france.org/committee/>

[GT Membership](#)

It's coming up to the time to renew your GT membership so I am sending the new application form with this newsletter.

[GT 2019 Calendar](#)

Please find an order form for the 2019 Calendars with this Newsletter. Prices are the same as last year with the Winning Photographs and member's names being announced soon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Walk	Sat 3 rd Nov	10.30 am	Montjean
Book Library	Mon 5 th Nov	2-4 pm	St Pardoux
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 6 th Nov	11.30 am	Benet
History Group Commemorative Event	Sat 10 th Nov	2.30 pm	Vasles
Photo Club	Mon 12 th Nov	2.00 pm	Chanay
Quiz Night	Thurs 15 th Nov	6.30 pm	Menigoute
First Reading Circle Group	Thurs 15 th Nov	2.30 pm	Chez Annie
Curry Club	Sat 22 nd Nov	12.00 noon	Benet
Walk	Fri 30 th Nov	10.30 am	Cherveux Area
Southern Walk & Christmas Lunch	Sat 8 th Dec	10.30 am	Ste. Soline
Northern Walk & Christmas Lunch	Fri 14 th Dec	10.30 am	Menigoute
Bowling	Wed 16 th Jan	T.B.A.	Niort
A.G.M.	Mon 11 th Feb	11.00 am	Mazieres en Gatine

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thursday 6th December Chez Hughes**
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items** **Tuesday 27th November**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Walk **Sat 3rd Nov** **10.30 am** **Montjean** **Linda & Peter**
Bains

This walk starts at the Salle de Fete in Montjean and the route will be decided on the day depending on the weather.

Lunch will be at La Peruse in Montjean. Four courses including wine, coffee and chocolate for 15€. Lunch as 12.30

The usual advice to wear good footwear should be followed.

Anyone walking but with partner who isn't but wanting lunch, the partner is welcome at ours for coffee, but I don't do dogs in the house.

Book Library **Mon 5th Nov** **2-4 pm** **St Pardoux** **Beryl**
Brennan

November'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 and Wine Club **Tues 6th Nov** **11.30 am** **Benet** **Diane & Keith Mousdale**

The Lunch and Wine club for November will be held at Gloria and Brian's home at Benet, north of Niort. The theme for the food is British but as we have tasted the few British non fizzy wines previously this meeting we will be tasting wines from our region of Poitou Charente.

History Group Commemorative Event **Sat 10th Nov** **2.30 pm** **Vasles** **Penny Taylor**

HISTORY GROUP – WW1 Presentation on the 10th November at Vasles.

Lest we forget: 100th Anniversary of the Great War Armistice - please join us!

The cast and backstage team of History Group are getting very excited as the date of our Commemoration presentation 'Nothing to Report: Women's Voices from the Great War' draws ever closer. Preparations for this important anniversary seems to have taken over the lives of so many people, not only of us here in France, but also in many different and unique ways in other countries of Europe and beyond. We are not alone! Daily it seems the media informs us of the myriad ways in which the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice is being remembered, with

snapshots appearing on TV and in the press of

creative works in progress. Just a few days ago we made our own 'snapshot' when History Group founding member, Robert Pierson, gave an interview to the British Forces Broadcasting Service in which he discussed the details of our presentation taking place in Vasles on the 10th. When Robert's talk is aired throughout the armed services' network it will join with others to add to the wide ripples of remembrance taking place around Armistice Day.

The History Group presentation team has received wide support, advice and encouragement in their ambitious undertaking from a great many individuals and groups, our generous sponsors, commune officials and well-wishers. We are also immensely proud to have received a letter of support from Baroness Williams of Crosby (Shirley Williams). Vera Brittain, Lady Williams' mother, is a well-known author and poet, and her experiences and memories inspire and form two of the segments of 'Nothing to Report: Women's Voices from the Great War' the title of our presentation.

The History Group look forward to your participation in this unique and free event, and remind you that to attend the presentation, exhibition and vin d'honneur reception it is necessary to book by email to gthistgp3@gmail.com as soon as possible. Penny will acknowledge your booking and allocate you a booking reference



which should be quoted at the Reception point.

Should you choose to attend the wreath-laying ceremony at the Vasles War Memorial that follows the presentation, you would be most welcome to join us. We then plan to adjourn to the Salle to view the exhibition and to enjoy the vin d'honneur.

Photo Club **Mon 12th Nov** **2.00 pm** **Chanay** **David Brennan**

We look forward to our next meeting at chez Jan Howse when the subject will be following on from last month's subject of Autumn. A maximum of 4 shots per member being 2 taken from Jackie's at last month's meeting and 2 of Autumn colours, by 7th November sent to David please.

Quiz Night **Thurs 15th Nov** **6.30 pm** **Menigoute** **Martin Hughes & Jonathon Townsend**

Please note the new start time. With a slight change to the format, ah the mystery. Tables running out fast

Quiz night. Thursday, November 15th, **6.30pm** prompt start [bar open 6.00] in Les Voyageurs in Menigoute. Teams of 4 anticipated with entry at 2 euros per head, payable on the night.

A meal will be served in the middle at 12 euros per head, paid direct to Charlotte. Main course with a choice of meat, fish or vegetarian plus dessert and a coffee corner.

Points will mean a panoply of prizes can be won.

And that includes the individual prize for who guessed the correct number of goals at the World Cup. Who was it? You can only find out by being there on the night.

Please email Martin Hughes on martinhughes88@aol.com **by Friday, November 9th** with team name, team participants and choice of meat, fish or vegetarian for the meal for each team member.

Come enjoy the fun as you test your memory of general knowledge 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.

First Reading Circle Group **Thurs 15th Nov** **2.30 pm** **Chez Annie** **Bernadine Smith**

The book for review will be *Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky.

Curry Club **Sat 22nd Nov** **12 noon** **Benet** **Leonie & John Henstridge**

The next Curry Club has been arranged at Gloria and Brian's home in Benet.

Walk **Fri 30th Nov** **10.30 am** **Cherveux**
Area **Lesley & Neil**
Ritchie

Full details to follow

Southern Walk & **Sat 8th Dec** **10.30 am** **Ste. Soline** **Maureen &**
Christmas
Lunch **John Buckley**

This year's Christmas walk and meal will be held in Ste. Soline. From the Lezay "ring road" take the D15 towards Ste. Soline and Chaunay. On reaching the village, pass the Plan d'Eau on the right and then look for the blue "P" sign on the left. Take this left turn and park outside the church. There are toilets close to the parking area.

The walk is on level ground along quiet roads and tracks. The short walk is about 4km and the longer one 8km approximately. As it is December, stout footwear is recommended.

Lunch will be at Le Moulin Petit on the outskirts of Ste Soline. From the parking, turn right on to the D15 and just after the Plan d'Eau turn left towards St Coutant, passing the cemetery on your right. After about a kilometre, turn left at the first crossroads and the restaurant is at the end of the road on the right.

It will be necessary to choose each course in advance – and include details when booking.

Starters

Home-made tomato and roasted red pepper soup or home-made mulligatawny soup served with home-made baguette.

Or

Large mushroom stuffed with Roquefort or Camembert served on a large garlic crouton.

Mains

Roast turkey served with roast potatoes, sprouts and bacon, pigs in blankets, honey roasted parsnips, carrot puree, cauliflower cheese, stuffing balls and gravy.

Or

Roasted cod fillet cooked in lemon butter, with a creamy horseradish sauce served with dauphinoise potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Desserts

Home-made Bailey's bread and butter pudding

Or

Traditional Christmas pudding served with home-made Bailey's ice cream

Price is 20 euros per head including 25cl of wine per person
Red, White or Rose.

Extras

Aperitifs 2.00 euros

Beers from 2.00 euros
1 litre carafe of wine 10.00 euros
½ litre carafe of wine 5.00 euros
By the glass 2.50 euros

Bookings should be made by contacting John or Maureen Buckley no later than Friday 30th November. Email confirmation of bookings will be sent.

Northern Walk & Christmas Lunch **Fri 14th December** **10.30 am** **Menigoute** **Martin Hughes**

'Watch your emails within the week for full details'

Bowling **Wed 16th Jan** **T.B.A.** **Niort** **Lesley & Neil Ritchie**

More details to follow

A.G.M **Mon 11th Feb** **11.00 am** **Mazieres en Gatine** **The Committee**

Full details to follow

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Walk **Fri 28th Sept** **La Chapelle Baton** **Report by Julia Murray**



We all set off from the Mairies on a lovely September day. 14 walkers and 2 dogs strolled around the countryside on mainly quiet roads and tracks. Along the way we saw a lot of beautiful golden brown cows and one small white pony.

We travelled in a convoy to the Gare Restaurant at Monplaisir where we enjoyed a very good meal.

Many thanks to Keith & Diane for organising it.

Lunch & Wine Club **Tues 2nd Oct** **Scille** **Report by Martin Hughes**

After a long, hot and very dry summer a baker's dozen of us met at Eric and Michelle Hansford's 'in La Bourse' near Scille for a Zorba themed meal [sort of].

First to the wine tasting, four in number and all fizzy, to celebrate the resumption of two of the pleasures of life.

A Cava, a Prosecco, a Vouvray and finally a Cremant de Alsace. A vote was held, with three winners first passed the post and one that was a bit of a slowcoach.

No plates were smashed but we really did ourselves proud in the culinary stakes as dish after dish appeared, a veritable Greek tapas.

Tiropitakia - feta triangles in puff pastry, spanakopitakia-[sounds like a Liverpudlian dish] but was actually another triangle filled with a secret spinach recipe. Lamb Kofta in a tomato sauce. Avgolemono, a chicken/lemon soup [dead simple].

Then on to cheeses galore.

Then two variations of Yiaourtopita, a Greek cake, one with yoghurt, the other cream, each cooked differently giving a different texture and moisture.

I can't remember anymore, but to those who provided a dish [all superb] a humble apology.

Finally many thanks to Michele and Eric our hosts and to Keith and Diane for arranging our gathering and rooting out the wines.

First Reading **Thurs 4th Oct**
Circle Group

Chez Gaynor
Mickleborough

Report by Wendy
Greenfield

Not such a large turnout for our meeting on 4th October at Gaynor's when we met to discuss *The English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje. Selected for the **Golden Man Booker prize 2018**.

We agreed it was not the same as the adaptation for the screen. Overall a good read even though a valid comment 'it was a little heavy at times, trying to tread through treacle'. It is certainly worth a re-read, as so much detail is easily lost....if you don't spend concentrated periods of time to take it all in.

Four complex characters their lives interweaving and their stories developing, as they live in an old monastery that has been bombed and booby trapped when the defeated forces were retreating. Yes, the title leads you to believe it is all about 'the patient' but in fact he is the catalyst or the glue that things tend to revolve around. For me the strongest character was Kip, a Sikh bomb disposal expert, who becomes attached to Hana the patient's nurse...though equally, Caravaggio's story as it unfolds is equally intriguing.

Photo Club

Mon 8th Oct

La Mothe Saint
Heray

Report by Martin
Hughes



A well attended number of us met at Jackie's house to review our submissions of photos on the theme of 'The coming Autumn'.

After reviewing a goodly number of photos we agreed that Carol Andrews still life composition of horse chestnuts against an impressionistic backdrop of a sheet [yes really] was the worthy winner.

We then repaired outside to the Protestant cemetery behind the house to practice a newly acquired skill of reducing the 'f' stop down to

darken or lighten the image to compensate for background light etc.

Many thanks to David for his enthusiasm in taking us forward as we learn more about how to take a better photo and to Jackie for being our host and provider of refreshments [much needed, especially the one bite buns]

Second Reading Circle

Tues 9th Oct

La Bourse

Report by Martin Hughes

We met on a beautiful late summer's day to discuss our latest book *Slow Horses* by Nick Herron.

For a change we sat around Annette's substantial glass table outdoor while we dined and wined, not necessarily in that order.

Whether it was the sunstroke, the alcohol, the feeling of bonhomie or the headiness of the fresh air out in the country not much discussion about the book followed. Save it to say that a number felt it was difficult to get started but with perseverance we were rewarded with an entertaining spy novel.

Were there any heroes. One, maybe, but the rest of the characters were all flawed including one that put Victor Meldrew to shame.

We agreed unanimously that it was a good read and one to be recommended.

PS Note to organiser. Do not allow Annette to host another outdoor lunchtime read.

Walk

Sat 13th Oct

Clussais-La-Pommeraiie

Report by Beverly Talbot



On Saturday 13th October 22 walkers plus 5 dogs, set out around the roads of Clussais- Pommeraiie, It was a very pretty walk, the sun shone for us, also there was a breeze which kept us cool for it..

The tracks were nearly all flat and not too muddy, the scenery was beautiful we enjoyed a few laughs between ourselves.

We all ended up at La - Petit Berlands in Lezay and met up with 5 non walkers Whom joined us for lunch.

The meal was very good with plenty of wine circulating.

So thank you Jon/Pat for organising such a great day.

Curry Club

Thurs 18th Oct

Mengoute

Report by Martin Hughes

Held at Chez Martin in Menigoute

First we were eight, then we were nine but ultimately ended up as seven as we sat down for the first curry club of the season and under the benign eyes of our new organisers, John and Leonie. With a changed format of two side dishes with the host providing rice and if possible naan bread and/or poppadum's.

One of our number, an ancienne, celebrating his birthday meant we had a copious quantity of fizz to drink.

Unfortunately your correspondent did not retain the dishes names, [please see reason above] save to say that we were royally plied with some very tasty dishes and all agreed that it was a very successful start to our winter sit downs.

[Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS](#)

Terry Gallagher

St. Genard

[Non GT Items of Interest](#)

[TheatriVasles Presents... Relatively Speaking by Alan Ayckbourn](#) [Friday 7th December 8pm and Saturday 8th December 8pm](#)

As the beats of the Beatles and the Small Faces ring out across the theatre, here at TheatriVasles we've been busy rehearsing our upcoming production of Alan Ayckbourn's Relatively Speaking. With our costumes and interior design, our music and miniskirts, we're stepping back fifty years to the swinging sixties to bring you classic Ayckbourn - a wonderfully characteristic mix of humour and sharp observation. We promise you a fabulous night to remember.

Come and join us at the theatre in Vasles 79430 on Friday 7th December at 8pm and Saturday 8th December at 8pm. Tickets are available from theatrivaslestickets@gmail.com or by ringing Dorothy on 05 49 05 67 41.

So what a brilliant way to start the festive season! Come along to the theatre in Vasles, 79340 and have a great laugh, a drink and a catch up with friends. Le Zinc, the bar opposite the theatre will be doing their usual theatre-goers early bird menu so why not make a night of it!

We look forward to seeing you there!

[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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2ritchies@orange.fr

Produced by: Jan Howse, Lieu dit Chanay, 79340 Fomferron 05.49.69.78.62.
gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

Website: Andy Walmsley, 5 Jarzay, 79200 St Germain de Longue Chaume
jarzay@gmail.com