

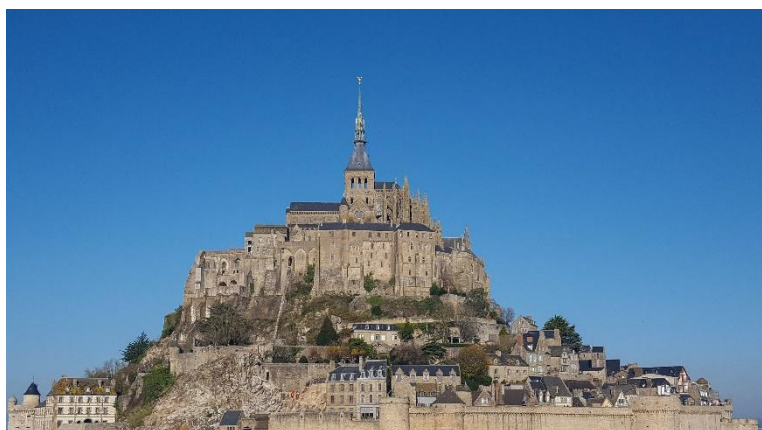
*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

January 2019 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Mont St Michel Photograph by Sally Warden



[GT Membership](#)

The time for GT membership renewal is looming. Please complete the form sent along with this newsletter and post it along with your cheque ASAP to **Julia Murray 7 La Coiraudière 79120 Rom.**

Prices are on the renewal form.

[GT 2020 Calendar Competition](#)

The theme for the 2020 GT Calendar has been discussed by the Committee and we have decided that there will not be an actual specific theme but just send in your Best Photos from Anywhere in the World.

[Walk Organisers Needed](#)

Martin Hughes has asked that someone volunteer to arrange the February Northern walk on Friday 22nd. If no one comes forward then it has been suggested we have a joint walk with the South on Saturday 9th February. Martin would like to hear from you on martinhughes88@aol.com

[GT Book Library needs a new Librarian](#)

The Book Library (club) started some 20 years ago when an assortment of English language paperback books were collected and over tea and biscuits at a host member's home, keen bibliophiles could choose a selection for whiling away the quiet moments. I took over from Margaret Baldwin in 2005 and each month visited a different host covering most of the north of the department; those south of Niort had their own Social Gathering with a selection of books. When I took over the Presidency of GT in 2016, I based the library at home as I spent a lot of time driving to so many other GT events. We've got about 1,500 books in the library and there are generally a couple of hundred out each month...David has a rota system so boxes may not come out again for 6 months! And as well as donations, I've sometimes received a small grant from GT funds to purchase more books from the 6-monthly Hope Book Sale. I feel it's now time to hand over to someone else...another bookworm? All you need is a small space as the boxes stack nicely on pallets. Maybe re-introducing the 'different host each month' format could be considered? Anyone interested contact me. Email banddbrennan@yahoo.co.uk tele 05 49 69 86 16

[Date for your Diaries](#)

The talk will be given by Nick Wells on Thursday 21st February – 3.00pm - Menigoute – the subject:-

'Julius Caesar and the Gallic Wars'

On a chilly morning in January 49 BC Julius Caesar stood on the northern bank of the River Rubicon contemplating his future. He had just returned from Gaul after a long and successful governorship but was threatened with prosecution and imprisonment if he returned to Rome as a private citizen. If he crossed the river with the single legion that accompanied him as protection, he would spark a civil war that would most likely rage throughout the Mediterranean and cost countless lives.....

Nine years earlier Caesar had been sent to the provinces as governor of the Gauls and Illyricum. During this time, he waged an unprecedented series of campaigns in Gaul and against the Germans pushing ever northwards and expanding the area of the nascent Roman Empire by its greatest amount, even probing into the distant barbaric lands of Britain.

This talk describes Caesar's exploits in Gaul from 58 to 50 BC, detailing the inter-tribal politics within Gaul, Caesar's campaigns and Vercingetorix's ultimately doomed attempt to unify the tribes to push the invaders out.

Booking details will appear in the February Newsletter.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book Library	Mon 7 th Jan	2-4 pm	St Pardoux
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 8 th Jan	11.30 am	Rom
Walk	Sat 12 th Jan	10.30 am	Limalonges
Photo Group	Mon 14 th Jan	2.00 pm	Sanxay
Bowling	Wed 16 th Jan	5.00 pm	Niort
First Reading Circle Group	Mon 21 st Jan	2.30 pm	Saint-Jean-de-Sauves
Walk	Fri 25 th Jan	10.30 am	Menigoute Area
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 5 th Feb	11.30 am	Exireuil
Walk	Sat 9 th Feb	10.30 am	Sainte Neoyame
A.G.M.	Mon 11 th Feb	11.00 am	Mazieres en Gatine

- Next Committee Meeting To be decided at the A.G.M.
- Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items Monday 28th January (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Book Library **Mon 7th Jan** **2-4 pm** **St Pardoux** **Beryl Brennan**

The monthly book library will meet as usual Chez Brennan at St Pardoux. Each month there are over 300 paperbacks to choose from, different ones each month as we've a total of over 2,500 books in the book store. There is a wide range of popular authors, with a lot to be said for holding a book in your hand rather than a Kindle! St Pardoux is within easy travelling distance from St Maixent, Lezay and Melle so members from these areas are very welcome to join us any

Lunch & Wine Club **Tues 8th Jan** **11.30 am** **Rom** **Diane & Keith Mousdale**

The Lunch and Wine club for January will be held at Julia and Peter's home at 7 Coiraudiere, Rom. The theme for the food is French winter warmers whilst the wine tasting will be Beaujolais.

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact Diane & Keith. If anyone needs directions to the venue directions these will be sent upon request. As there is a maximum number of 14 attendee 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 12th Jan** **10.30 am** **Limalonges** **Jane & Fred Oram**

The walk will start at the Marie in Limalonges, there is plenty of parking near the Marie and at the restaurant.

There will be two distances:

Short walk: 4 kilometres and flat, first half on tarmac second on a track.

Long walk: 8.5 kilometres, part tarmac, part track, some small hills, opportunities to let the dogs off the leash.

WE SET OFF WALKING AT 10:30 PROMPT

Lunch will be at the Trois Fleurs restaurant in Limalonges, 4 courses including wine and coffee for €19 per person (meat or fish).

Photo Group **Mon 14th Jan** **2.00 pm** **Sanxay** **Steve Marshall/ Roger Amsden**

The plan is to hold the next meeting on 14 January 2019, and keep to the second Monday of the month. The theme for photographs will be 'Animals'. Please email photographs to me and let both Roger and I know whether or not you will be attending.

Bowling **Wed 16th Jan** **5.00 pm** **Niort** **Lesley & Neil Ritchie**



Be the GT tenpin bowling champion.

The annual tournament is scheduled for January 16th at the bowling alley next door to the Geant supermarket where the trophy has been won several times before. Directions can be found here [/https://www.bowling-niort-chauray.com/](https://www.bowling-niort-chauray.com/) if you need them. As usual all the benefits of the athletic endeavour will be dissipated by the post tournament meal at Les

Pyramides (4 courses with wine for around 13€) which is a 5 minute car journey away.

First Reading Circle Group **Mon 21st Jan** **2.30 pm** **Saint Jean de Sauves** **Bernadine Smith**

Meeting to be held on Monday 14 January at 2.30pm chez Kate Sangster. Kate's book is *The Surgeon of Crowthorne* by Simon Winchester, a non-fiction tale of murder, madness and the Oxford English Dictionary.

Walk **Fri 25th Jan** **10.30 am** **Menigoute Area** **Martin Hughes**



This will be a walk in the Menigoute area. Full details to follow by email shortly.

Lunch & Wine Club **Tues 5th Feb** **11.30 am** **Exireuil** **Diane & Keith Mousdale**

The Lunch and Wine club for February will be held at Annette & Leslie's home at La Gaconniere, Exireuil. The theme for the food will be Caribbean with wines to be tasted being Cru Rhone Valley.

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact Diane & Keith.

Walk **Sat 9th Feb** **10.30 am** **Sainte Neoyame** **Julia & Peter Murray**

Our walk will start from the car park in the centre of Sainte Neomaye 79260. There are toilets there which hopefully will be open on the day.

The long walk of around 8km is starting off across the fields and then heading down to the valley and the back up via 3 flights of steps. Please note this is a walk with hills, steps and muddy Stoney tracks.

For the short walk we are taking a "bimble" around the village, avoiding as many hills as possible... with a short walk over the fields if the weather permits.

Lunch is at Les Pryamides near La Creche. Choose your meal on the day.

AGM **Mon 11th Feb** **11.00 am** **Mazieres en Gatine** **The Committee**

In accordance with article 11 of the constitution of Get Together, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday 11th February 2019 at 11.00am, at Maison pour Tous, Mazieres en Gatine.

All members who have paid their 2019 subscriptions are welcome and entitled to come to the AGM without giving prior notice.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM.
3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes.
4. President's report.
5. Treasurer's report, adoption of the 2018 accounts and appointment of an auditor to represent the membership for the 2019 accounts.
6. Other Officers' reports.
7. Election of Members to serve for a term of two years.
8. Any other business.

Members are requested to forward items pertinent for an AGM for discussion under Any Other Business to the President, Beryl Brennan, by Monday 14th January 2019.

The elected committee consists of the following positions:

President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 other members (one of the three other members is appointed by the Committee to serve as Vice President).

Beryl Brennan (President) Neil Ritchie (Secretary), and Jan Howse (Newsletter Editor) are all standing down this year.

The President welcomes expressions of interest from any members interested in filling these positions. The current post holders are happy to discuss what is involved and potential volunteers can be assured that appropriate training and support will always be available. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary and should be completed and returned to him by Monday 14th January 2019.

At 12.30pm after the AGM there will be a Bring and Share Informal Lunch

We will be having a bring-and-share lunch after the AGM, from 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm.

Wine, juice, tea & coffee will be provided free but please bring a Plate of Food to Share.

There is no need to say in advance if you are coming to the AGM but if you are

staying on afterwards please fill in the booking form below as Julia needs to do some pre-planning. If you would like some advice on what to bring, please call Julia 06 04 06 77 55 or email murrayjulia79@gmail.com

You will also need to provide your own, crockery, cutlery, glasses, cups etc.

Please let Julia know if you are willing to help set-up and /or clear up the room.

If you wish to attend the lunch please complete the form over the page and post it back, email the information to murrayjulia79@gmail.com before **Thursday 7th February 2019.**

Julia Murray 7 La Coiraudière, 79120 ROM

<p>AGM 2019 Bring & Share Lunch Form</p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Number of People Attending:.....</p> <p>Phone Number:.....</p> <p>Email Address:.....</p> <p>Dish:.....</p>

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Walk

Fri 30th Nov

Cherveux

Report by Martin Hughes



It was that type of autumnal day when given the weather forecast you dressed for the worst and hoped for the best. It turned out to be the latter, where we had warmth from the sun necessitating the discard of apparel to prevent overheating.

So a goodly number of us and canine friends followed a route circum -navigating three quarters of Cherveux starting from the old protestant chapel car park, watched over by the ancient and honey stoned chateau.

Striking south the topography was mainly kind to us as we followed the tracks through the open fields. A little road work and the departure of the 'short walkers' lead us into more varied landscape with more enclosed tracks and a gentle uphill walk as we returned towards the village.

Mention should be made of our journey skirting the back and front of the interesting

looking chateaux at the neighbouring village of La Carte with its gatehouse. Afterwards we retired to the restaurant at St Gelais where we were joined by the non-walkers for a very restorative lunch. Many thanks to Neil and Lesley for yet again organising a very pleasant Friday.

**Southern Walk
& Christmas
Lunch**

Sat 8th Dec

Ste. Soline

**Report by Martin
Hughes**



Eighteen of us and doggy companions departed the church car park under a sky that promised and delivered on occasion rain, but not of the inclement variety.

Given the topography we followed mainly level tracks out of the village and ended up returning via a road back amongst the houses.

Les chasseurs were out in force so the dogs could not be let off in places but incredibly, given the history of le chasse en France, we all returned safely.

Some excitement was felt as we watched a small herd of seven roe deer thunder across the fields, safely out of the reach of the hunt followed by a lone hare bouncing across the stubble.



Afterwards the party drove the odd two kilometres to the picturesque Le Moulin Petit just outside the main part of the village where a very pleasing Christmas lunch was had, our numbers having swelled to twenty eight. And this year the introduction of a gas turbine meant the old barn dining room was nice and cosy.

Many thanks to Maureen and John Buckley for organising another successful walk and meal.

Photo Club

Mon 10th Dec

**Maxieres en
Gatine**

**Report by Roger
Amsden**

This month David set us the task of uploading the 'faststone image viewer' a photo editing app. He could then demonstrate its use and hopefully

We could go on and edit all our photos as necessary. He showed us the basic principles of how to use it giving us a brief but thorough demonstration

Using a few photos taken from last month's task of stained glass windows. Conversely the winning shot of the month needed very little editing, being a very well composed and exposed shot well done Carol.



I am sorry to say David has decided after three years to stand down from the running of the photo club. He will I am certain be a great loss to our group. Our thanks to you David for all your very knowledgeable hard work. Steve Marshall and I will endeavour to fill his very large shoes. Meetings will continue to be the second Monday of each month, so any budding snappers out there give us a call and come along. Our task for this month will be 'animals' not necessarily 'cows'..... Many thanks to Carol for the lovely mulled wine, mince pies, coffee and cake it was very much appreciated.

**First Reading
Circle Group**

Thurs 13th Dec

St. Loup

**Report by Gaynor
Mickleborough**



Accepting the challenge to bravely go well out of their comfort zone the Get Together First Reading Group plunged into the graphic novel world of Sabrina by Nick Dsnarno. A first for the Man Booker 100 selectors as well as ourselves, we discovered a genre that had existed happily in France and Belgium since 1945 (bandes dessinees) and was well known to at least one of our intrepid explorers, whilst being a totally unknown species to most of us! But once we had mastered the navigational hazards the brave group discovered a tale of a disconcerting assortment of strange American beings who were indeed living on another planet, one which, although

we thought we recognised it, we would rather not inhabit ourselves. The group found a literary landscape of sombre colours, androgynous beings and such mysteries as fake news, strange social survivalist rituals and lost cats, before the group blasted off to once again return to a familiar venue just in time to land in the St Loup heliport to continue their Christmas lunch. Happiness was widespread as the group celebrated their return, and only a few experienced a strange nostalgia for the unknown regions of what we might jovially call 'Trumpland' in a world far, far away

**Northern Walk & Fri 14th Dec
Christmas
Lunch**

Menigoute

**Report by Malcolm
Howse**



Under a fair sky fourteen of us met along with four furry friends in the car park at IFFCAM, a few kilometres to the West of Menigoute, to walk the paths and woods of the institute which boasts it is 'sans pesticides'. These were the woods that are covered in bluebells in April time and the contrast could not be more striking as with the lack of leaves on the trees it was a totally different landscapes.

Of note during our walk were the giant mushrooms struggling to form a fairy circle, the crystal clear water of the stream we traversed twice and the other flora and the native fauna of the wood,

namely the deer.

The dogs enjoyed themselves being off their leads and thankfully exhausted themselves given that they covered at least twice the distance of their owners and friends.

The walk was a little shorter than usual but the day was more given to wining and dining, which we accomplished at Les Voyageurs in Menigoute, where we were joined by another eleven members. A very enjoyable and mirthful Christmas lunch was had by all and we were entertained by our new French member Martine who has a knack for comedy.

Many thanks to Martin for organizing a very pleasant walk & lunch.

[Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS](#)

Richard & Maureen Knight Chey

Barbara & Mike Britton La Chapelle Thireuil

[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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