

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

February 2019 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Le Château, Angers Photograph by David Brennan

Do Not Forget!
G.T. A.G.M. – Monday 11th February
Come Along and Support Your Committee
Further details inside the Newsletter

[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. *Beryl Brennan*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Book Library	Mon 4 th Feb	2-4 pm	St Pardoux
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 5 th Feb	11.30 am	Exireuil
Southern Walk	Sat 9 th Feb	10.30 am	Saint Neoyame
AGM	Mon 11 th Feb	11.00 am	Mazieres en Gatine
Photo Group	Mon 18 th Feb	2.00 pm	La Motte St. Heray
History Group	Thurs 21 st Feb	3.00 pm	Menigoute
Northern Walk	Fri 22 nd Feb	10.30 am	Craon
First Reading Group	Mon 25 th Feb	2.30 pm	
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 5 th Mar	11.30	Benet
Southern Walk	Sat 9 th Mar	10.30 am	St Vincent la Chatre

- **Next Committee Meeting** To be decided at the A.G.M.
- **Final Copy Date for Newsletter Items** Monday 25th February (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Book Library **Mon 4th Feb** **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 5th Feb** **11.30 am** **Exireuil** **Diane & Keith Mousedale**

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.

Southern Walk **Sat 9th Feb** **10.30am** **Saint Neomaye** **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 then back up via 3 flights of steps. Please note this is a walk with hills, steps and muddy stony 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. 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.

AGM 2019 Bring & Share Lunch Form

Name:.....

Number of People Attending:.....

Phone Number:.....

Email Address:.....

Dish:.....

<u>Photo Group</u>	<u>Mon 18th Feb</u>	<u>2.00 pm</u>	<u>La Mothe St. Heray</u>	<u>Steve Marshall Roger Amsden</u>
--------------------	--------------------------------	----------------	-------------------------------	--

The theme we agreed was 'Food'. In due course please let me have one photo from those taken yesterday and a maximum of three on the subject of food.

Please let Jackie and me know whether or not you will be attending.

The technical subject we will be looking at in February is Aperture - the hole that lets the light in to create a photograph. If you know how to set your camera to Aperture Priority and then change the Aperture, then fine. If you are not sure can you please check your manual for these features? Some compact cameras - such as the one I was using yesterday - do not have this function. We will discuss ways you can affect the aperture even if your camera is similar. Feel free to bring manuals (paper or memory stick) so we can work out the options each camera has. Any questions before then do drop Roger or myself an email

<u>History Group</u>	<u>Thurs 21st Feb</u>	<u>3.00 pm</u>	<u>Menigoute</u>	<u>Penny Taylor</u>
----------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------	------------------	---------------------

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.

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)). Charlotte speaks good English. NB. We have to confirm numbers to the Auberge one week before the meeting. As a result, we will be charged for anyone who does not turn up on the day and will have to charge this back to those members.

Walk **Fri 22nd Feb** **10.30 am** **Craon** **Ken & Lyn Chamberlin**



The month of February often throws up some cold and unpredictable weather and so we offer two slightly shorter 'randonnees' across our open agricultural hinterland that we hope you will find invigorating.

Our walks around 'Les Plaines de Craon' will start at the car park next to the Mairie, which is next to the church in the centre of Craon

86110 where there are toilet facilities. Two walks are available, the shorter, 3km... circumnavigates the village on stone tracks and tarmac, whilst the longer route, about 6km. follows stone roads, grass tracks and tarmac. The routes are basically flat as the invitation suggests and dogs are welcome as there is no outdoor livestock in this area other than the occasional deer.

Our house is only 75 meters from the car park and is available to those who do not wish to walk but would like a hot drink and somewhere warm to wait whilst the walkers return.

Lunch is at "Au Bon Temps" in Assais les Jumeaux, a 5 km. drive away, slightly north but back in Deux-Sevres. Do come and join us for lunch at 12.30 even if not participating in the walk. This village restaurant offers a 3 course Menu du Jour, with choice, at €12.90 with 1/4 wine and coffee included. The bar is open should you require something extra to warm you up when you arrive! If you prefer a fish main course please indicate when booking to avoid disappointment, otherwise make your choice on the day.

First Reading Circle **Mon 25th Feb** **2.30 pm** **Oroux** **Bernadine Smith**

The next meeting will be held chez Bernadine on Monday 25 February and the book to be discussed is *Heartburn* by Nora Ephron, a fictionalised romp through the story of real-life marriage break up.

Lunch & Wine Club **Tues 5th Mar** **11.30** **Benet** **Diane & Keith Mousdale**

The Lunch and Wine club for March will be held at Gloria & Brian's home at Benet. The theme for both the wine and the food will be Spain.

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact Diane & Keith. As there is a maximum number of 14 attendee, bookings are on a first come

Mince Pie Special

Fri 28th Dec

St Jean de Sauves

Report by Ken Chamberlin



In the December edition of the GT Newsletter, Kate and Grant extended an invitation to members and visitors to come and play with and watch trains or simply enjoy a cuppa, a mince pie and a chat at their home in St. Jean de Sauves.

From before three o'clock, the doors were opened and the log fire lit to welcome all. The tea and coffee were made and served with not just mince pies, but chocolate biscuits and stollen, which were there for everyone to help themselves.

As 3.30 approached, Grant announced that the 'Mince Pie Special is coming down the line and the Mince Pie Special was right on time' Many scuttled up to the upper floor to see the O-Gauge layout in action. Train enthusiasts asked searching questions of Grant whilst many of us simply admired the model locos of yesteryear moving around the double track.



Grant had been busy in the days previous ensuring that all ran smoothly during the afternoon and Kate had covered her table with food for all, as well as her kitchen with cups and teapots.

We all sincerely thank them both for their hospitality and their generosity for they had invited us all to the Mince Pie Special.

Southern Walk

Sat 12th Jan

Limalonges

Report by John Chard



It was one of those January days when the sun shines (not) and the wind blows cold. It was a bit grey and overcast, but the company brought about a cheer. And so it was for the January walk for the Southern Group. Altogether there were 23 for the walk which included 8 non-members who were invited along to get a taste of the GT Group, so after a quick introduction and a photo we set off on our walk from the centre of Limalonges. By the time we got to the separation point for the short walkers the temperature had risen perhaps a point or two, now it was uphill for the long walkers. The short walk was mainly in open ground so not much scenery, but for those who chose to go the distance the reward was a very scenic route. We passed many properties with very large wood piles and so I christened this the 'woodpile route'. 4 kilometres for the short walk and 8.5 for the longer distance, both of which led directly back to the centre of Limalonges and the Trois Fleurs restaurant. I have eaten in this restaurant a number of times and have always been impressed with the quality of the food, I was not disappointed this time. All who ate (26 of us) said how good everything was and no shortage of wine either, and all for €19. I got the feeling that the invitees were impressed and so it may be that we will have a few new members soon, they all received a card from Julia and as such have the contact details. All in all a good day.

Photo Group

Mon 14th Jan

Sanxay

Report by Martin Hughes



Eleven of us met at Steve Marshall's old mill house under the aegis of Steve and Roger Amsden our new coordinators.

We first had a run through about the technique and importance of focusing. All modern digital cameras have a box system that presents itself on first half depressing the button, showing the plane of focus. This can be retained even though the camera is pointed elsewhere before taking the final photograph.

We also had pointed out the importance of having the camera steady, especially in low light when camera shake may occur. Outside we went to practice, including taking close ups.

Then back inside to vote for the best picture, animals being the topic. Well done to Caz Bray who won with her profile of a raptor.

Many thanks to Steve and Roger for developing our skills.

Bowling Night

Wed 16th Jan

Niort

Report by Chris Parsons



At 5.00pm 15 keen bowlers arrived at the Bowling de Chauray near Geant to take part in the 2019 annual tournament. After paying for our 2 games, which included a free drink, we gathered together for the warm up before the competition, trying on bowling shoes and chatting, catching up with all our news. Once hydrated and suitably shod, we split into our 3 teams and prepared to commence the games. A bit of time was taken up with choosing the correct weight of ball from the many sizes and colours on offer and then we were off! There were lots of smiling faces and supporting cheers from team members as well as groans when the bowling balls seemed to have minds of their own and went anywhere but where the player wanted them. We then repaired to Les Pyramides Restaurant just along the road where a substantial meal was enjoyed by all from the broad selection of all courses available (especially the desserts!) After we were replete, Martin Hughes stood and gave our thanks to Lesley and Neil Ritchie for organising a superb evening for us. Then came the announcement of the best score prizes. Leslie Green with a score of 284 won a bottle of Gamay for the best overall score for the men and Chris Parsons won the same with 220 best overall score for the ladies.



Thank you again to Lesley and Neil for organising this fun filled evening.

Our worthy winners – Leslie and Chris



**First Reading
Circle**

Mon 21st Jan

St. Jean de Sauves

**Report from
Bernadine Smith**



We were a full house of nine for Kate's meeting to discuss her book choice: *The Surgeon of Crowthorne* by Simon Winchester. An intriguing factual account of the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary, the story behind this huge endeavour could not have been more incredible if had indeed been fiction. This book was intriguing on another level as well: it was a 'hit' with every single reader, even though the reasons for enjoying the book were so varied. A great success, as were the delicious refreshments and the roaring fire. Many thanks Kate.

Northern Walk

Fri 24th Jan

Sanxay

**Report by Annette
Green**



On a slightly chilly day, well it is January! 18 stalwart walkers and 4 eager dogs met in central Menigoute to start our walk

We soon found ourselves walking along country lanes, which were a tad muddy due to the inclement weather the days before. The walk had lots of interesting information posts on birds, wildlife, trees and plants to be found along the route. Generally the walk was fairly flat with the exception of one steep climb, which certainly got the heart thumping, it was good exercise for us all. 5 walkers peeled off

to do the short walk and then enjoy a coffee at Martin's, the rest of us continuing to enjoy more of Menigoute's delightful views. Towards the end of the walk we crossed the very pretty la Vonne river before heading back up to Menigoute and lunch.

We had a further 4 join us at Bistro des Amis in Fomperron, a very hearty lunch with wine, all for 11, 50 €, excellent value!

A big thank you must go to Martin for organising this lovely January walk at such short notice and making it all very enjoyable

[Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS](#)

John & Rosslyn Kent

St. Germier

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.

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