

*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*

## **March 2019 Newsletter**



Saumur Photograph by Jan Howse

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

### [Message from your new President](#)

Welcome to your first edition of the newsletter under our capable new editors, Lyn and Ken Chamberlin, and we wish them *bonne chance*.

To our retiring committee members many thanks for your time on the committee and enjoy your retirement!

We are a new look committee, with four new incumbents. Some old hands and some new have offered their services and we all look forward to the continuing good running of Get Together. By now you probably know who we are and what we look like. Our mug shots are on the website [or soon will be].

New to this year's committee are;

Carol Andrews, past president, who takes on the role of Secretary.

Ken Chamberlin, with Lyn supplying the technical expertise.

Gloria Miles and Brian Miles as Northern co-ordinator[s]

Ali Sherwin continues as Treasurer, Julia Murray as Membership Secretary and John Chard as Southern co-ordinator.

I have been appointed President and look forward, along with the rest of the committee, to providing the outlet for your fun, enthusiasms and energies.

Martin Hughes



**Second Reading Group**      **Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March**      **10.30 am**      **Cherveux**      **Lesley Ritchie**

Meeting at Lesley Ritchies' house in Cherveux. The book we will be reading will be Lauries Lee's *As I Walked Out One Summer's Morning*, about his experiences in the Spanish civil war.

**Southern Walk**      **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Mar**      **10.30am**      **St Vincent la Chatre**      **Chris & Bob Parsons**

St Vincent la Chatre can be found by following the D105 from Lezay or the D305 from Melle. When arriving at St Vincent from Lezay there is a roundabout, take the first exit and immediately on you left is the car park by La Post and church. From Melle on the D305 the car park will be on the right.

Our walk is on the small roads and grassy tracks around the village on a fairly flat terrain. Stout footwear is recommended as usual. The main walk is approx. 8kms and there will be a shorter walk of approximately 5kms.

Lunch will be at L'assiette Restaurant in Lezay. There is a choice of menu at 20€ per person.

**Entree** – Salade de Gesiers      ou      Salade Mixte (non méat)  
**Plat** – Fricassee de Porc à la Graine de Moutarde      ou      Croustillant de Lieu Noir Sauce Beurre Rouge

**Fromage**

**Dessert** – Tarte fine aux Pommes et Caramel      ou      Croquant au 2 Chocolat  
One bottle of wine between 3 (please pay for any additional bottles separately) and one hot drink per person at the end of the meal.

We **MUST** have your choice of menu by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to allow the restaurant time to cater for us. Thank you.

**Photo Group**      **Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Mar**      **2.00 pm**      **Chantecorps**      **Steve Marshall**  
**Roger Amsden**

The March meeting will take place at 14.00 on Monday 11 March and will be hosted by Anthea Libby. If you are attending please let her and Steve Marshall know.

Up to three photographs to me on the subject 'Out of Place'. As agreed we want to avoid rules and the aim is to take some new photographs but if you have archive shots some can be included. Three is also a slightly flexible number.

We will be looking at Shutter Speed and Shutter Priority during the meeting, so if you are unsure how to control this check your manual or bring it with you so Roger and I can help. Any questions do get in touch with me or Roger.

**Northern Walk****Mon 29<sup>th</sup>  
Mar****10.30 pm****Le Beugnon****Michelle & Eric  
Hansford**

We have based our walk around one of the newer 'Randonnée pédestre dans les Deux Sèvres' sheets. It promises us fantastic views and you will not be disappointed (weather permitting). Of course in order to enjoy the views it is necessary to climb a bit but none of the inclines is too challenging. There are some very muddy patches and it will be essential to have decent footwear. We plan a long walk of 8km and a short walk of 4km, on a mix of track and tarmac starting from the church in Le Beugnon 79130 which has a small carpark but there is more parking available at the "Salle Nelson Mandela!" around the corner, or at the football field. There are toilets at the church.

Non-Walkers are welcome to join Audrey at our house for a hot drink and a chat.

Lunch will be at Chez Chantal in L'Absie at about 1pm. As usual they are offering a 4 course meal with wine and coffee for €14.20. I will need to know whether you want the meat, fish or vegetarian option.

**REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS****Southern Walk****Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Feb****Exireuil**

Unfortunately due to illness the Southern Walk had to be cancelled.

We do hope that all are now up to full fitness and are looking forward to the next walk in early March.

**Photo Group****Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Feb****La Motte St.  
Heray****Report by Lesley Ritchie**

Once again the meeting was well attended. This time, the topic was 'Apertures', so Roger and Steve began by explaining what the aperture actually is (i.e. the hole in the lens). They then demonstrated the possible range and how changing the size affects the photograph, either giving a photo a blurred or sharp background – good explanations and patience were needed!

We then went outside into the bright sunshine to take photos with a high and low aperture size to see for ourselves what effects we could achieve, which we hope will become even more evident

when seen on a computer screen.

As usual, we looked at and discussed the photos we had already submitted on the topic 'food'. For me, this is of particular interest, as it's an opportunity to see what other people

have produced and to discuss effects, composition etc. - very enlightening and motivating. The meeting was again very informative, well prepared and enjoyable, so thank you Roger and Steve and of course, Jackie for your very warm hospitality and cake.

**History Group**    **Thurs 21 Feb**    **Fomperron**    **Report by Diana Hooker**

All change for the history group. Unfortunately the Voyageurs hotel in Menigoute has closed but we were made very welcome at le Bistro des Amis in Fomperron. After many years as chairman of the History Group Jeremy Luckett has retired. A vote of thanks was given by our new chairman, Jonathan Townsend, for all his hard work in providing over 40 speakers during this time. Our talk this month by our resident archeologist, Nick Wells, was about Julius Caesar and the Gallic Wars from 58-50 BC. It was presented with enthusiasm and knowledge as he explained about the rise of Caesar from a lowly foot soldier to becoming a great leader of men, admired and respected by his soldiers. He was a very clever strategist who managed to defeat many of the tribes of Gaul and Germany with fewer men than his enemies and became known as the Governor of Gaul. As we know he eventually became Emperor of Rome. After the talk the friendly staff at the Bistro provided us with coffee or tea and a delicious selection of cakes.

**Northern Walk**    **Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**    **Craon**    **Report by Martin Hughes**



We met in the picturesque car park next to Craon church, some sixteen walkers and attendant dogs. Our walk was to be to the east of the village and was actually in Vienne.

The weather was exceptional for February, shirt sleeve warm, and the sky with that light that we know so well in this part of L'Hexagon.

Our route took us over the gentle plains that surround the commune, along tracks and by roads, passing through large open fields. Deer and ruined

buildings kept their distance. The scenery was varied here and there by the odd hedgerow or copse as we returned to the village and its canine guardians. More on that another time.

A very pleasing lunch was had in the restaurant in the nearby village of Assais le Jumeaux.

Many thanks to Lyn and Ken Chamberlin for organising our February walk, and coaxing the weather gods into treating us so benignly.

**Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS**

Suzanne & Rob Parkins

## [Non GT Announcements](#)

### **Speaker Wanted Please**

We have been asked by Monique Reigner, a long-standing French member of GT and History Group if someone from GT would be willing to give a talk in English to an association of which she is a member which is twinned with Wellingborough and based in Niort. The subject would be along the lines of the implications and consequences of Brexit for the English speaking community. The members of the twinning association have different levels of English but are keen to understand how the changes arising from Brexit will impinge on us, the English community who have chosen to live in France. The talk should be 30-45 minutes to include opportunities for questions.

I have suggested to Monique that a talk of this kind to be meaningful should take place after the end of March by which time we "should" know whether there is likely to be a deal or we leave the EU without a deal. A date in mid April has been suggested but the association is flexible about this.

If any members are interested in giving a talk of this kind or wish to know a little more could they please contact Monique Reigner ( [mreigner@wanadoo.fr](mailto:mreigner@wanadoo.fr) ) or myself, Jeremy Lockett ( [jackieandjeremy@aol.com](mailto:jackieandjeremy@aol.com) ) Tel. 0549753764

## [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.

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