

*Founded
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*French
Association
3035*

April 2019 Newsletter

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



2CV near Rom Photograph by Julia Murray

GT Calendar Photo Competition 2019

What ?! I hear you cry! It can't be that time already. Unfortunately, we are leading an early march on the competition this year due to an earlier than usual finish date. Sorry folks, but it's time to get out of those cosy armchairs and dust off the Pentax or Box Brownie in readiness for your entry into the halls of photographic fame.

Fortunately, the requirements this year have been eased – we are not specifying a theme – the world is your oyster and you can submit a photo of whatever takes your fancy – so long as it is suitable for publication!

You can submit a total of four photographs for consideration and the earlier closing date is Friday 6th September 2019.

We look forward to being able to offer the members a wide range of photographs from which to make their choice for the GT Calendar for 2020.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

First Reading Group **Mon 8th April** **2.30 pm** **Craon** **Bernadine Smith**

The next meeting of the First Reading Group will be taking place chez Wendy Greenfield. The book is *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

Photo Group **Mon 8th Apr** **2.00 pm** **Mazieres-en-Gatine** **Steve Marshall**
Roger Amsden



The next meeting will be at the home of Carol Andrews. Please let Carol and Steve know if you are attending.

We will be taking a first look at composition - a huge subject we will visit more than once. I will have some notes and will pass on to anyone who cannot be there who would like them.

Up to 3 photographs on the subject of 'Patterns' to me please.

South Walk **Sat 13th Apr** **10.30 am** **Clussais-la-Pommeraiie** **Pat & John Chard**



Due to circumstances this walk is a repeat of the one in October last year.

This walk is around tracks and roads of Clussais-la-Pommeraiie.

Directions: In La-Pommeraiie take the D110 towards Vanzay. Turn right around 100m after the La-Pommeraiie exit sign. There is a white road around 300m on the right. The walk starts here so find somewhere to park. There will be short walk for those who wish.

Lunch will be at The Voyagers in Chef-Boutonne, see menu attached.

The walk is on good surfaces but the usual advice to wear good footwear should be followed.

MENU 20,00 EUROS

Crumble de Saumon et poireaux OU Salade de Chevre Chaud

Croustillant de Canard, Sauce au Poivre, Ecrase de P de Terre
OU Filet de Dorade roti au Beurre Blanc, Petit Legumes

Tarte fine au pommes, Caramel beurre Sale OU Moelleux au Chocolate, Glace Vanille.

Forfait boissons

Aperatif :Kir, Rose Pamplemousse, Demi pression kronenbourg, Coctail de Fruits
¼ vin par pers ; Boissons Chaudes: Cafés, Thes ou Deca

Charcuterie OU Salade tomate et oeuf

Cuisse canard avec ratatouille et frites OU

Galette Provencale (grilled aubergines, chevre, tomate, basilic, huile d'olive et salade vert)

Ile Flottante

Bol de cidre et café = €15

As always you are more than welcome to bring friends and family along for the walk and/or meal.

Second Reading Group

Fri 3rd May 10.30 am

Scille

Leslie Ritchie

We are meeting on May 3rd Chez Hansford. Our book is *Washington Black* by Canadian author Esi Edugyan. This was published in 2018 and long listed for the Man Booker prize. New members are welcome. Please contact Lesley Ritchie for details.

Lunch and Wine Club

Tues 7th May 11.30 am

Cherveux

Diane and Keith Mousedale



The Lunch and Wine club for May will be held at Lesley and Neil's home at Cherveux. The theme for the food will be Mexican with appropriate wines .

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

GT Quiz Night

Thur 9th May 6.30 pm

Fomperron`

Martin Hughes



Our next quiz is to be held in Le Bistro des Amis in Fomperron. Please note the start time of 6.30 prompt. The bar will be open from 6.

The format will be similar to last November's quiz with conundrums, music and pictorial rounds along with 60 general knowledge questions. There will be a meal

somewhere in the middle, which will consist of a main course [plenty of veg], dessert course followed by coffee, all for the price of 12 euros. For the main course there is a choice of meat, fish or a vegetarian dish. Drinks are extra

As usual there will be a veritable treasure trove of prizes!!

We are looking for teams of four and to book your place please email Martin Hughes the team name, the team members names and their choice of main course.

There will be an entrance charge of 2€ per head payable on the night.

P.S. We have a new venue as Les Voyageurs has closed for the time being.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Northern Walk **Fri 22nd** **Craon** **Report by Martin Hughes**
Feb

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.

First Reading **Mon 4th** **Oroux** **Report by Wendy Greenfield**
Group **Mar**

Lots of words were used to describe our thoughts about our latest book, when we gathered on Monday at Bernies. Whitty, quirky, very 'class American' disappointing, light, humorous, laugh out loud, uncomfortably non p.c.....wow!! The last comment was not about the book!!



Nora Ephron wrote 'Heartburn' back in 1983, 3 years after divorcing her second husband, Carl Bernstein. It is purported to be an elaborated account of her (Rachel) and her husband (Richard) infidelity with the then wife of Jonathan (Peter Jay, British Ambassador to the USA)

The heroine (?), Rachel is a cookery writer with her own TV show who is 6 months

pregnanther second child. Thelma - **the other woman** - is known to be having a much talked about affair and there is much speculation as to 'who it could be'! Ultimately Rachel finds out it is **her** husband and finds solace in her cooking (many recipes listed in the book for everyone to try) and also in returning to her therapy group for help and advice.

The plot involves much about being Jewish; different foods and way of life; many famous/infamous people (thinly disguised!) and obviously the American Dream - therapists!

Most people liked it, one person loved it, nobody hated it! Having said that two of our group both would like to read it again in the sunshine relaxed in the garden ! Summary thoughts...worth reading, but not necessarily a book to keep.



Finally, we were treated to two recipes from the book, a totally delicious cheesecake, page 50 and an equally delightful peach pie, page 112. Thank you Bernie they were delicious.

Lunch and Wine Club Tues 5th Mar Benet

Report by Diane Mousedale

The Lunch and Wine club met for a very enjoyable March lunch in the home of Brian and Gloria Miles at Benet. The theme for the event was “Spain” and our members provided a host of different dishes and desserts with a Spanish flair. The cheese course was a selection from the Pyrenees being the nearest appropriate region as very difficult to buy anything but French cheeses here.

Before and during the meal Keith presented a selection of Spanish wines chosen from the four of the areas known for their superior wines, namely Ribera del Duero, Rioja, Penedes and Priorat all proving the high standard of Spanish wine. Following the tastings as would be expected a varying choice as to the favourite.

If you would like to join us on an occasional or regular basis or would just like more information please contact Diane & Keith.

Second Reading Group

Thur 7th Mar

Cherveux

Report by Michelle Hansford

The Second Circle met on March 7 to discuss Laurie Lee’s classic account of his experiences walking through Spain shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War, “As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning”. This is the second volume of his autobiography following “Cider With Rosie”. All our members thoroughly enjoyed the book, some for the first time, others paying a very welcome revisit. Our discussion as always was far reaching, ranging from Spanish Geography, Spanish History, poetry, socialism and a comparison between the poverty he describes in Spain - which was third world in nature - and the poverty in England at that period. This was an inspiring read and we would recommend it to anyone who has not come across it before.

**Southern
Walk**

**Sat 9th
Mar**

**St. Vincent la
Chatre**

Report by John Chard



On a grey morning, ten walkers and four dogs set out from the carpark in St Vincent la Chatre. The going was soft in places but firm on the roads and farm tracks. The advice to wear sensible footwear was certainly appropriate. Five walkers opted for the short route leaving the others, and only one, dog to complete the course. We managed to complete the walk without any rain. Two more members joined us for a very good lunch at the L'assiette Restaurant in Lezay. All in all a most enjoyable morning. Thanks to Chris and Bob for organising the whole thing.

Photo Group

**Mon 11th
Mar**

Chantecorps

Report by Caz Bray



There were ten budding photographers who were warmly welcomed at Anthea's home. Once the initial and inevitable chat had died down and the equipment had been set up, it was over to our two chair people Steve & Roger to guide us through this month's subject; the mystery of shutter speeds! We all listened and asked questions and the subject did become much clearer with the help of examples shown on the screen of different shutter speeds and with clear guidance from our resident experts.

We all then took advantage of the fine weather and gathered around a scarf waving group member to take photos, at varying shutter speeds, of a scarf being waved in the somewhat boisterous wind. This proved quite difficult for some until the scarf was tied to the washing line, a great idea, and although we were more at the mercy of the wind, we all took 'moving shots' to a greater or lesser degree of success!

We all went back inside for tea & biscuits and further discussions on how our practical session had developed.

We then judged last month's photo challenge which was titled; "Things in the wrong place"

The winner was 'yours truly' with an amusing photo taken over the wall into the mud at La Rochelle. It was as always, a difficult choice as all the photos were very good. We all left with a little more knowledge than we arrived with, thank you Steve and Roger.

Many thanks to our 'hostess with the mostest' Anthea, whom we left with no biscuits and the washing up!

Our next meeting will be on Monday the 8th April at Carol Andrews house. The photo subject will be "Patterns".

If anybody would like to come along to the group meetings you will be very welcome, it doesn't matter if you are a complete beginner with a 'phone camera or a competent photographer, we all learn from each other, make some photographic improvements and have fun

Welcome to our NEW MEMBER

Marian Scales Lezay

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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