

*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*

## June 2019 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news  
and reports for members*



La Limousiniere  
Photograph by Carol Andrew

### GT CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The sun is now shining and it's time for all the budding photographers to go out into the countryside and find a suitable subject for the Annual GT Calendar Photographic Competition (this will soon rival the also-ran Countryfile Calendar!)

This year, there are no limits as to what the subject is or where it was photographed so no excuse to not come up with a suitable shot and you can have four goes at getting it right

Remember, the earlier deadline of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Submit your entries to [gtphotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:gtphotocomp@gmail.com)

Good Luck !!

### GT Accounts for 2018

You may remember that the accounts for the Association were not available at the AGM, but they have now been signed off and have been sent as an attachment with your copy of this month's Newsletter.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the Treasurer

[alijsherwin@hotmail.com](mailto:alijsherwin@hotmail.com) with copy to the President [martinhughes88@aol.com](mailto:martinhughes88@aol.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Northern Walk	Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	10.30	Port Romain
Lunch & Wine Club	Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> June	11.30	Menigoute
Southern Walk	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30	Montjean
Photo Group	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June	2.00	Sanxay
Library Club	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> June	2-4pm	Scille
Garden Party	Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	Midday On	Le Tertre
First Reading Circle	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> June	2.30	La Chaussee
Second Reading Circle	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30	Chez Elizabeth
Northern Walk	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30	Parthenay
Photo Group	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> July	2.00	Menigoute
Southern Walk	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30	Sainte Neomaye
Horse Racing & Games	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Midday On	Grand Champ

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> July**
- **Final Copy Date for July Newsletter Items** **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**  
([gtnewsletter79@gmail.com](mailto:gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)) for publication on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Northern Walk

Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May

10.30

Port Romain  
Nr. Cerzeau

Roger & Ann  
Amsden



Our walk will start from the Pont Romain where there is plenty of parking but unfortunately no toilets. From St Maixent l'Ecole at the Lidl roundabout take the D8 to Cerzeau, then carry on for a further half a km after crossing a stone bridge on the right will be signs for Pont Romain. Follow this road for 500m on the right

again signs will be seen to Pont Romain. Turn in here and further down will be the car park and the start of the walk.

From the North take the D6 to Augé, then take the D174 from the centre signposted Coutant, after approx. 3kms at the crossroads turn left onto the D8 direction of Cerzeau, Valette & Mautre, after 1km Pont Romain signs will be seen on the left just before the stone bridge, follow as above.

The walk is about 7kms and there will be a shorter walk of approx. 4km. There are some hills, not too steep, could be muddy if there's been rain and there is an exposed section that could be windy. As always appropriate boots and clothing should be worn.

Lunch will be taken at the Restaurant de la Gare, Monplaisir on the rue de gatine Montplaisir, this is just off the D6 before it meets the roundabout on the main D743 Parthenay/Niort Road. The cost of lunch will be €12.90 and will consist of buffet starter, meat, fish or vegetarian main course, buffet cheese/dessert & wine. Coffee will cost a Euro extra. Order food on the day. The restaurant is open early so any non-walkers could pop in and have coffee if they so wanted.

**Lunch & Wine Club**

**Tues4th June**

**11.30 am**

**Menigoute**

**Diane & Keith Mousdale**



The Lunch and Wineclub for June, is the last one for this season, the next being October, will be held at Martin's home at Menigoute. The theme for the food and wines this month is Italy.

**Southern Walk**

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**10.30 am**

**Montjean**

**Linda & Peter Bains**



Start and finish outside the Relais da la Peruse in the centre of Montjean.

In the past the meal has been one of the best on these walks recently. Four courses and coffee, wine included for a mere €15!!

The surprise meat is usually very good, anyone wishing to have specific alternatives and I will ask, fish omelette etc.

The actual walk will be dependent on the weather, hopefully following woodland tracks but if too muddy will be on a mixture of farm tracks and minor roads. Most of the walk will be in Deux Sevres to the unique well at Chez Lion.

**Photo Group**

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup> June**

**2.00pm**

**Sanxay**

**Steve Marshall  
Roger Amsden**



We will meet on Monday 10 June 2019 at Jonathan Townsend's in Sanxay.

2 Photos to me on the subject of landscape.

**July**

Please note the July meeting will be on the third Monday of the month - 15 July 2019. Further details in July newsletter.

**Library Club**

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Jun**

**2-4 pm**

**Scille**

**Joyce Roberts**



I look forward to seeing you at my home in Scille. At this meeting, the range of books will be further enhanced by the arrival of the history library.

From feedback we will be looking to farm out a number of titles to volunteers to take home to be made available to other members who might find the journey to Scille rather a distance.

Additionally we are looking to offer a further distraction, so why not attend to find out the further plans.

So please, support your library club and enjoy the joy of books along with a cup and a cake!

**Summer  
Garden  
Party**

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Jun**

**Midday  
Onwards**

**Le Tertre**

**Nareena & Steve  
Parker**



Once again Nareena and Steve are pleased to invite GT members to their garden in Le Tertre. GT will be offering guests a welcome aperitif. Please bring all that you want for a picnic lunch. The party will start soon after midday.

Members are asked to park in the place indicated by the GT signs.

**First Reading  
Circle**

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup>  
June**

**2.30 pm**

**La Chaussee**

**Bernadine  
Smith**



The next meeting of First Reading Circle is on Monday 24th June at 2.30pm chez Vaughan Wells and the book is a classic George Orwell – *Coming Up For Air*

**Second  
Reading  
Circle**

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup>  
June**

**10.30 am**

**Chez  
Elizabeth**

**Lesley  
Ritchie**

The book for this month's perusal is *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Lesley Ritchie.

**Northern Walk**

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30  
Jun**

**Parthenay**

**Margaret  
Baldwin &  
Geoffrey Little**

The Walk will begin from the Place de Drapeau D134, Parthenay meeting at the bandstand. GPS N 46°38'50 W 0°14'52 As usual there will be one long and one short walk in and around the town of Parthenay

Lunch will be at the Panda Wok in Pathenay, 2 Boulevard de l'Europe N 46°38'51 W 0°13'11 Pay 15.90 euros on entry and this covers whatever you want to eat or drink. Mention 'Madam Baldwin' and you will be shown to the reserved area,

## **CALLING ALL WALKERS In the Northern Region.**

It's that time of the year again when we need people to come forward and offer to organise a walk and lunch. We are in need of organisers for the walks in November and December and then onward in 2020.

So would you all please see if you can help us to organise one of these dates.

Please contact Brian and Gloria Miles with any suggestions.

Many thanks

**Southern Walk**

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July**

**10.30 am**

**Sainte Neomaye**

**Julia Murray**

We will depart from the car park in Sainte Neomaye 79260 at 10. 30. Toilets are available.

The short walk of approx 3.5km is generally level along grassy lanes and through the woods. The longer walk of about 7km splits from the short walk and heads down a steepish track to the valley floor where we walk beside the train line before heading through the woods along narrow paths. **The final part is up 3 flights of steps and a short steep hill back to the car park.**

Lunch is at the Les Pryamides near La Creche, choose from the menu on the day €15.

**Horse Racing & Games**

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> July**

**Midday onwards**

**Grand Champ**

**John & Maureen Buckley**

A fifth exciting afternoon of uproarious fun and games will take place Chez Buckley, incorporating the annual Get Together Horse Racing meet, where your fate and fortune will be totally dependent on the roll of the dice! There will also be table tennis, darts, croquet, petanque on our purpose built court, which is designed to even out the odds, and Molkky. In addition, if the day is warm, a small heated pool will be available for the more adventurous - bring your own cossie & towel - no skinny dipping! For the less active, a variety of board games will also be available.

The Committee is pleased to offer "un pot d'amité". Please come equipped with a picnic lunch and whatever you wish to drink. A gas bbq can be made available if required. Tables, chairs and parasols would be appreciated, though we can supply quite a few. And, as it is that season of the year, your summer visitors will be very welcome!

Please let John & Maureen know if you are intending to take part by no later than Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

## REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

### Second Reading Circle

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Scille

Report by Neil Ritchie

The Second Circle book group met at Michele and Eric's to discuss *Washington Black* by the Canadian author Esi Edugyan, long-listed for the Man-Booker prize.

The story describes the early life of Washington, a young slave on a Barbados sugar plantation, and follows his travels and experiences.

Although the descriptions of life on the plantation are relatively brief, they are realistic and harrowing, whereas we felt that the rest of the novel is strange and fantastic. We also agreed that some of the characters and their actions were hard to understand, and the plot left many loose ends and unanswered questions.

Having said that, the book was easy to read and it stimulated an interesting discussion about slavery, race and the nature of freedom etc. so we felt that it was a good choice.

### Lunch & Wine Club

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> May

Chez Ritchie

Report by Martin Hughes

A large party on this occasion explained by the addition of three French guests who joined us to go Mexican. The apero was actually Argentinian but had a definite fruity Spanish connection being part Listan Prieto grape.

Following we had three wines from Baja California, that part of Mexico that is like a tear drop at the end of the Californian coast. Keith had specially imported these from London for the occasion and very fitting to the food. All were very well received, especially the last, a Nebbiolo, that gives a Borolo a run for its money. All was eaten with definitive Mexican food with the 'starters' getting hotter as we progressed, including the last which was actually a breakfast dish, sans fried egg. Gloria said she had toned down the spices. In Mexico they must eat it very hot! Two puds followed, including a rice pudding, which went down a treat with the brits.

Another successful meal and many thanks to Leslie and Neil as hosts and Keith and Diane for organising the wines.

### GT Quiz

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May

Fomperron

Report by Jackie Luckett

Twenty eight would-be quiz competitors gathered at the new venue at Fomperron to enjoy a fun evening with not a few challenges and head scratching ahead. Once again our quiz masters, Martin and Jonathan, set us a set of general knowledge questions and conundrums to get our grey cells activated and memory recall honed. Fortunately we stopped for supper halfway through. Laurent and Renauld provided us with a tasty meal served efficiently and with courtesy.

So, suitably refreshed we were able to tackle the remaining rounds with renewed alacrity. Final scores were totted up with every team coming away with a prize and the winning team - Who? - earning a couple of bottles of red wine for subsequent

delectation.

As usual the evening went smoothly and convivially, which belies the amount of preparation needed beforehand. Finding the right mix of questions is the 'easiest' part; there is then producing and printing the question and answer sheets, selecting the musical extracts and the picture rounds. The venue then has to be chosen, the meal agreed and tables/teams arranged.

So many thanks once again to Martin and Jonathan for another successful quiz night - long may it remain a regular event in the GT calendar.

**Photo Group**

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup> May**

**Menigoute**

**Report by Martin Hughes**



Our May meeting took place at the picturesque converted farmhouse of Richard and Diana Hooper overlooking the river Vonne, near Menigoute.

Under the watchful eye of Steve and Roger we first reminded ourselves of composition before emerging under a bright blue sky to take freescapes photos from their terrace and down the steps to their picnic area by the river.

The movement of the water over the weir gave us a point of interest to take multiple shots given the freshness of the foliage overhanging the river, such photos to be reviewed at our next meeting.

Back inside we reviewed submitted photos of 'light', for the beach photo of Caz to be voted the winner.

Many thanks to Richard and Diana for their hospitality and Steve and Roger for their guidance.

**Southern Walk**

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May**

**Chey 79120**

**Report by Roger Amsden**



On a very wet and windy morning thirteen walkers and four dogs set off in the hope of the weather relenting, fortunately it obliged apart from a couple of heavy showers.

Onward we trekked through the beautiful French spring countryside. John arranged for a number of paths to be cleared in advance even if he couldn't arrange the weather very well.

At one point three deer were disturbed by our dogs, one racing past us at warp speed, Further on a llama was spotted unperturbed by the hounds this time. Nestling in a small valley we came across a farmhouse that looked as if it was once a part of a monastery complete with ornate archways and arched

windows but looking a bit worse for wear as one would expect being somewhat neglected. On repairing to the restaurant 'The Three Pigeons' (not recommended), we were joined for lunch by four further members. Many thanks to Maureen and John for a very enjoyable walk.

**Library Club**

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**Scille**

**Report** **Joyce**  
**Roberts**

Last Wednesday, 15th May, we hosted the revitalised library club and it was very pleasing to see sixteen plus members giving their support. It has had further titles added.

Gloria summed up the occasion in an email - 'Just wanted to say thank you for a lovely afternoon spent on your terrace, chatting with friends old and new and eating cake, my idea of having a fun afternoon.'

**First Reading** **Mon 20<sup>th</sup> May**

**Circle**

**St. Jean de Sauves**

**Report** **Lyn**  
**Chamberlin**

Seven members of the First Reading Circle met at the home of Kate Sangster to give forth on the novel - *The Silver Pigs* by Lindsay Davis. This book was the choice of Lesley Ritchie, who has decided to concentrate her membership on the Second Reading Circle, but it was agreed that the synopsis was worth following through and therefore Kate offered to host the discussion.

It is the first in a long series of books about Marcus Didius Falco, a Roman 'detective' who became embroiled in a fraudulent operation which had him chasing beautiful women, fighting the hierarchy of the Empire and visiting the shores of Roman Britain - an experience he would have gladly done without (something about wet and dismal?!)

There were mixed reactions to the book - from 'liked enormously' to 'got through it at a push' but it was a unanimous decision that it was a light read and in some cases a light-weight read, which gave an insight into the lives and times of Rome in AD70. Some members felt that the information supplied lacked substance and took some believing - but apparently there were 6-storey buildings in Rome at that time and our intrepid sleuth had his offices at the highest point. This information had caused follow-up reading in factual books and therefore strengthened its *raison d'etre*. The lighthearted approach caused one comment that 'Frankie Howard came to mind in the opening paragraphs' but it was unilaterally agreed that the book could be described as 'a detective story wrapped up in a toga'!

A few members would not go further into the following 19 books in the series following Falco and his adventures or mis-adventures as the case may be, but several said they would follow up on another one or two because it was an era which had been thoroughly researched by Lindsay Davis and there would be something to glean from the stories about life and times, families and politics in the Roman era.

The afternoon finished with an excellent cup of tea or coffee and numerous calorific

cakes - although comment was made that perhaps we should have been lying on a couch or two whilst devouring them! Many thanks Kate for a lovely afternoon and Lesley for a book which raised so many varied comments.

## Welcome to New Members

Sue Coussins                      Chef Boutonne

Lesley & Tony Crook          Doux

## Non – GT News

### **Cancer Support Deux Sevres**

aims to improve the lives of people affected by Cancer in Deux Sevres

CSDS direct number is 06 40 77 27 35

or contact Cancer Support France on freephone number 0800 240 200

or email Cancer Support France on [helpline@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:helpline@cancersupportfrance.org)

Cancer Support France will forward your details if you need local support

## La Transhumance

On 4 - 8 June there will be a traditional Transhumance from Vasles to Parthenay involving 150 sheep and accompanying sheepdogs, horses, horse-drawn carriage and an expert team from Mouton Village and local sheep farms. It will take 5 days, stopping off at several villages on the way. At most stopovers there will be a local producers' market, a bar and food, plus music and various entertainments (see info below). Aim to be there for around 6pm ready to welcome the sheep and company.

**LA TRANSHUMANCE**  
**DU 4 AU 8 JUIN 2019**  
**DE VASLES À PARTHENAY (79)**  
**8 COMMUNES TRAVERSÉES**  
**58 KMS À PARCOURIR**  
TEL. 05 49 64 24 24

**Partenay**  
Creditoit Mutuel

**Joignez-vous à nous !**  
Ouvert à tous. **Les communes traversées :**

- **Vasles - Mardi 4 juin**  
Départ du centre bourg avec animations (scolaire, musique)  
Direction le parc de **Mouton Village** (animations, mini marché producteurs locaux et animation musicale).
- **Saint-Martin-du-Failloux - Mercredi 5 juin matin**  
Départ pour rejoindre **Saint-Martin-du-Failloux**. Pause déjeuner.
- **Saurais - Après-midi du Mercredi 5 juin**  
Départ pour rejoindre **Saurais** (animations, mini marché producteurs locaux et animation musicale).
- **La Ferrière-en-Parthenay - Matinée du Jeudi 6 juin**  
Départ pour rejoindre à midi la commune de **La Ferrière**.
- **Oroux - Après-midi du Jeudi 6 juin**  
Départ pour rejoindre la commune d'**Oroux** (animations, mini marché producteurs locaux et animation musicale).
- **La Peyratte - Matinée du Vendredi 7 juin**  
Départ pour rejoindre à midi la commune de **La Peyratte**.
- **Châtillon-sur-Thouet - Après-midi du Vendredi 7 juin**  
Départ pour rejoindre la commune de **Châtillon-sur-Thouet** (animations, mini marché producteurs locaux et animation musicale).
- **Parthenay - Matinée du Samedi 8 juin**  
Départ pour rejoindre **Parthenay** en passant par le quartier **St-Jacques** et traversée de la **rue Jean-Jaurès**, arrivée **Place du Drapeau** vers 12h15. Inauguration des Fêtes de Pentecôte, animations autour des moutons le samedi après-midi, avenue Pierre-Mendès-France.

TEL. 05 49 64 24 24

### 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.

**Produced by:** Ken Chamberlin, 2 Rue du Prieure, 86110, Craon 05 49 36 07 43.  
[gtnewsletter79@gmail.com](mailto:gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

**Website:** Andy Walmsley, 5 Jarzay, 79200 St Germain de Longue Chaume  
[jarzay@gmail.com](mailto:jarzay@gmail.com)