

*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*

## **July 2019 Newsletter**



**Château de La Flocellière  
Photograph by Kaye Scott**

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

### **Message to update all our members – both old and new – regarding The Library Club**

The library has been relocated to Scille and now includes the history section and further donations of some 500 to 600 books. There are over two thousand titles in all.

Importantly we have decided to revert in part to a previous arrangement whereby members can take home with them, say, three boxes of books and have a sub-library, which it is intended will be in place of the usual monthly gathering. This is intended to spread the geographical location more and save lengthy journeys.

The boxes will be rotated by taking them back in exchange on a subsequent date. For details of the date time and place consult the newsletter as usual.

I strongly recommend the use of the library and meeting fellow GT members over coffee/tea and nibbles.

The Library Club is one of many GT events as noted each month in the Newsletter.

Over the years the various committees have built up and organised all the events for you to enjoy and this is a good time to remember that all the groups are open to new participants, whether it be reading, eating, etc., and they are a good time to meet your fellow members.

Martin

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Photo Group	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> July	2.00	Menigoute
Library Club	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> July	2-4pm	La Touche
Southern Walk	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30	Sainte Neomaye
Northern Walk	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30	Cherveux
Horse Racing & Games	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Midday On	Grand Champ
Second Reading Circle	Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30	Menigoute
First Reading Circle	September		Happy Holidays
Calendar Photos	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Deadline for Entry

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> July**
- **Final Copy Date for August Newsletter Items** **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July**  
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com) for publication on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Photo Group** **Mon 15th July** **2.00pm** **Menigoute** **Steve Marshall**  
**Roger Amsden**



Our next meeting will be on the third Monday in July - 15 July 2019 at Martin Hughes's - (please say if you need directions) - 10, Impasse des Jardins. Menigoute 79340.

Please let Martin and myself know if you are attending.

The theme for this month's photos is close-up and macro and I look forward to seeing 3 photos from the attendees sent to me please on the subject, before the meeting.

**Library Club** **Wed 17<sup>th</sup> July** **2-4 pm** **La Touche** **Joyce Roberts**



The next library club will be at one of our 'sub-libraries', namely at Jan and Ans in La Touche

There will be a limited selection of books, along the lines of the previous library arrangements, around 400 titles At the request of members every other month the sub- library will move around the department.

**Southern Walk** **Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July** **10.30 pm** **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 Les Pryamides near La Creche, choose from the menu on the day 15€. Please book lunch before the 18th July, although the restaurant is very flexible should you get unexpected guests or decide last minute.

**Northern Walk**

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**10.30 am**

**Cherveux**

**Neil & Lesley Ritchie**



The July walk will be around the Plan d' Eau de St Christophe, meeting at 10.30 in the car park at the old temple in Cherveux (on the D8 opposite the school).

As the weather might well be very hot, there will be various options, to be decided on the day, but bring hats and water. You can use the toilet at our house just up the road if needed.

We will eat at the Cafe des Sports at St Gelais, reservations from 12.30 to 1.00pm. There will be the usual options of meat/poultry, fish or vegetarian.

If you would like to reserve places or need directions, please contact Lesley and Neil Ritchie.

### **HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH**

**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 Molky. 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.

**Second  
Reading  
Circle**

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 am**

**Menigoute**

**Lesley  
Ritchie**



The next meeting will be held at Martin Hughes's house in Menigoute on 29th July at 10.30am, where we will be discussing *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.

**First Reading  
Circle**

**September**

**2.30 am**

**TBA**

**Bernie Smith**



The First Reading Circle will be taking a break for the summer and will regroup in September. The dates and venues are in the melting pot, along with the literary plots and all will be revealed in the August Newsletter

**REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS**

**Northern Walk**

**Fri 31<sup>st</sup>  
May**

**Port Romain**

**Report Julia Murray**

With a beautiful blue sky and sunshine we set off on the walk from Pont Romain. 16



walkers and 6 well-behaved dogs, who listened to their owners until they found a muddy puddle and then they turned "a deafun"!!!!

We wandered our way down lovely woodland tracks and lanes passing by an interesting herd of red cows with impressive horns. Crossed a small ford where the dogs had a refreshing drink.

We passed through a village, with lots of old Renault cars in a garden and a house that had a beautiful river

running through the garden.

Lunch was at Monplaisir, where as usual we had plenty to eat and drink.

Thank you Roger and Ann for leading the walk and organising the good weather and a great lunch.

**Lunch & Wine  
Group**

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup>  
June**

**Menigoute**

**Diane Mousdale**



The last meeting of the Lunch and Wine Group before the summer recess was a food and wine visit to Italy.

Being Italian themed most obvious choice for an apero was of course a Prosecco, extra dry with a few nibbles to accompany. The next 2 wines were served with the 4 delicious varied Italian style entrees. First to be tried was a Chianti from the vineyards of Puccini followed by a Rossi di Montalcino from Frescobaldi.

Following the imbibing of the above 3 wines and consuming the entrees it was time for the cheese course of 3 cheeses, a gorgonzola, pecorino and a taleggio accompanied by the last wine a Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. Then came the finale of 2 desserts. This veritable feast, albeit small portions of everything, was enjoyed by a smaller group this month of 11 of us.

Now we look forward, after hopefully a long hot summer, to the next instalment of the Lunch and Wine group in October.

**Southern  
Walk**

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

**Montjean**

**Report John Chard**



On a dull day 12 walkers and 3 dogs set out from the centre of Mountjean. Our guide Peter had originally intended to take us for a walk in the forest but, after the recent rain, he decided that it would be too muddy. The walk then continued on roads and tracks. It was a pleasant morning and members enjoyed the walk. Two walkers left the group halfway and returned to base. Members then enjoyed a good lunch in Le Relais de la Peruse. Thanks to Linda and

Peter for organising this walk.

**Photo  
Group**

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

**Sanxay**

**Report Martin Hughes**



Jonathan hosted our latest meeting, plying us with cake supplied by an outside caterer, and washed down with the usual. Wine was to come later.

The first part of our meeting was to discuss how to take macro/close up photographs. The discussion revolved around taking your standard settings through to aperture priority as against more technical aspects of additional equipment. We then took such photos inside or out with the

results to be viewed at our next meeting.

We then viewed photos taken at the previous meeting on the topic of landscapes [with a wide interpretation of the term] along with other photos forming part of our own portfolios. We had full discussions on what we found appealed, sparked new ideas etc. After further refreshments we decided that Steve Marshall' photo was worthy winner.

And so to the next meeting where we welcome any further members who may be interested in developing their photographic skills.

### **History Group**

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Bougon**

**Report Michele  
Hansford**

The History Group day out this year seems to have coincided with the first day of summer! (maybe!)

29 members gathered at the Musée des Tumulus de Bougon to picnic in the shade. Others preferred to arrive later so that in the end 34 of us gathered round our guide, Lisa, for a tour of the tumuli learning their history, how they were constructed and what they were used for: storing the skeletal remains of prehistoric families. We were able to walk inside one tumulus and to crawl inside another. This part of the tour was fascinating but for me the highlight of the afternoon came in the museum. We stopped first at a glass fronted case full of flints of various sizes and I must confess my heart sank a little. However our knowledgeable guide was able to explain how the stones were crafted, used and how they developed over the centuries. . We then went on to see a wooden reconstruction of a house. Lisa explained how a mud slide at a site in SW France had buried and thus preserved a 'wattle and daub' construction along with its contents. I had never imagined prehistoric man in anything other than animal skins so it was stunning to be shown a loom used to weave linen, examples of linen thread dyed using a variety of different plants. There was also a stick used to churn butter, a variety of pots and even a fishing net. My eyes have been opened to the level of skill of prehistoric man. This was a really interesting afternoon. If you haven't visited the museum before I thoroughly recommend that you go with a guide as knowledgeable as Lisa. Our thanks go to her and to the History Group committee for organising the visit.

### **Summer Garden Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June Party**

**Chez Noreena & Steve** **Report by Lyn  
Wilson**



Carrying on the song title theme of Noreena's very challenging quiz, this was definitely a 'Perfect Day'. The weather was divine with 'Blue Skies', Steve and Noreena's hosting was, as ever, 'Unbelievable' and their resplendent garden was truly 'Unforgettable'.

'Congratulations' to the Three Musketeers whose extensive floral knowledge secured them victory in the quiz, to Fred and Bob who were the supreme Pétanque team and the Talbot youngsters who ran away with the Molki crown.

After a wonderful day in charming company we all agreed that 'Memories are made of this'.

First Reading Mon 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Circle

La Chaussee

Report by Richard Smith



*Coming Up for Air* by George Orwell

George, our protagonist, while on his way to collect his new false teeth, reflects on his childhood playing in the woods and fields and fishing in the ponds around his village home. 40 years have passed by and now, just before the Second World War, George wins some money on the horses and decides to return to his old village haunts.

The return does not go how he was hoping as the village is now a town, the fields are a housing estate and the fishing pond is being used as a rubbish tip. Orwell's book was well received by everyone that attended in different ways. Some enjoyed the dry humour, the wonderful description of fields and countryside. Most agreed that it was a book that will stay with them for a long time, comparing the problems, political and environmental, of that time (1938) to the ones of today. The dread of an impending war featured heavily; today we have a similar dread of an impending Brexit. We also agreed that visiting the good old days of your youth often rarely turns out well or the way you hope.

After two and a half hours stimulating discussion, we enjoyed our host's cakes and hospitality. Thank you Vaughan.

Second Reading  
Circle

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> June

Gatine

Report Martin Hughes



The book up for consideration was *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese.

Held at Elizabeth's house in sunny Gatine, over tea and biscuits we had a very spirited discussion about the qualities of this book,

Set in Ethiopia and then finally sweeping across to America this story is a tale of lust, politics, betrayal and the interactions of family. Have I left anything out to get your attention? Missed taxes. Damn.

Overall the meeting felt this is a book to recommend though be prepared for some medical procedures to be described in fine detail. It was written by a surgeon.

## [Welcome to New Members](#)

**Ian and Helen Hall**

## [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

## [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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