

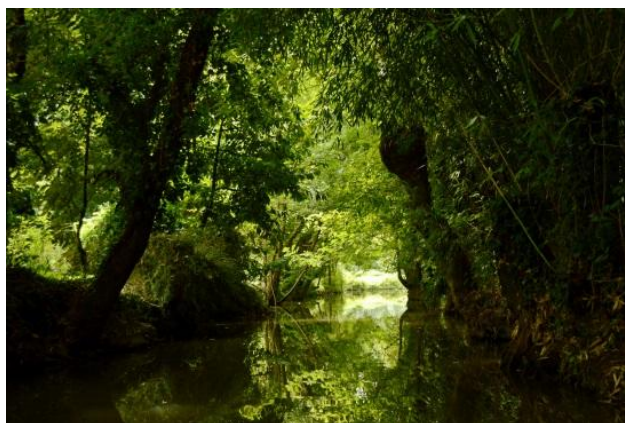
*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*

## August 2019 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news  
and reports for members*



Marais Poitevin  
Photograph by Steve Marshall

### [GT CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION](#)

You have to move quickly on this one – sorry for the rush, but our Calendar Girl is due a holiday and we need to get all the photos in, sorted and voted for before the beginning of September. Not a problem as we have been reminding you of the various requirements for a few months now, namely

The theme is open ended – anywhere in the world

You can send in four photos – submit to [gtphotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:gtphotocomp@gmail.com) with your name and where in the world it was taken.

Please ensure that the photos are in landscape format and of a high quality resolution

Last date for entries is **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August** when they will be put on to the GT Website

[gettogether-france.org](http://gettogether-france.org)

You will then have the opportunity to vote for your 12 favourite photos to be included in the competition. This year, the photo with the most votes will appear on the front cover as well.

Voting will close on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Good Luck to one and all.

Well, the heat of summer is here and with it come the visitors and the many other distractions for us lucky enough to live here in France. However, the downside of this is that there is very little for the team to report of forthcoming events in the month of August – there is a lovely walk organised for the middle of the month, but regrettably very little else from the GT organisers. Do, however, get a head start on the events for September and read the reports of what has happened in the long hot days of July. There are two non GT events listed and we welcome two new members to the association. Happy holidays to one and all.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar Photos	Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug		Deadline for entries
Southern Walk	Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	10.30	La Martiniere
Calendar Photos	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Deadline for Voting
First Reading Group	Thur 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Chez Bernie
Photo Group	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2.00	Craon
Library Club	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2-4pm	La Touche
History Group	Thur 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept		T.B.A.
Northern Walk	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30	T.B.A.

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> September**
- **Final Copy Date for September Newsletter Items** **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August**  
([gtnewsletter79@gmail.com](mailto:gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)) for publication on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Southern  
Walk**

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Aug**

**10.30**

**La Martiniere**

**Bob Seager**



Yes, this walk really is on a THURSDAY. Getting any restaurant in August is hard enough, Saturday just made it worse. Having carried out an in depth survey (I asked around on the last walk) Thursday seemed acceptable, and anyway half of GT walks are on a Friday so during the week seems to work.

This walk starts at La Martinière (NOT St Léger de la Martinière) which is situated about 4km NE of Melle. Take the D950 road from Melle (direction Poitiers) and after about 3km turn left onto D10 signposted Beaussais and La Martinière. Park under trees in centre of village GPS ref:N46° 15.272' W0° 06.572'

Walk is about 8km long with a 4km shorter version. On quiet roads and tracks, not flat but no serious hills. Part shaded

Lunch will be available at the Restaurant du Marché, next door to Intermarché in Lezay. Four courses, wine and coffee for around 16€

Entries to Bob Seager, specifying meat or fish, by Sun 18<sup>th</sup> August

**First Reading Circle**      **Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Sept**    **2.30 pm**      **Chez Bernie**      **Bernie Smith**



A book chosen by Richard Smith - *An Inspector Calls* by J B Priestley.  
A play - a first of this genre for us - set in 1912 and considered a classic, yet with themes that are still very relevant today.

**Photo Group**    **Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Sept**    **2.00pm**    **Craon**      **Steve Marshall**  
**Roger Amsden**



We will meet on the third Monday in September - 16 September 2019 at Lyn and Ken Chamberlin's in Craon.  
Please let Lyn and Ken and Steve know if you are attending.

Up to 3 photos to Steve please on the subject of architecture and man-made structures.

**Library Club**    **Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept**      **2-4 pm**    **Scille**      **Joyce Roberts**



There will be no official library club meeting in August, though Joyce will be around to receive any calls or queries.

The next library club in September will be at home with Joyce in Scille.

You will have the full selection of books from the library, together with a well stocked history library feature.

Please come along and enjoy a browse through the many books and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with fellow attendees.

**History Group**      **Thur 19<sup>th</sup> Sept**      **T.B.A.**      **T.B.A.**      **Penny Taylor**

**Waterloo: the boxed set.**

From 1815 onwards the power of the British Empire approached its zenith while that of France hinged, mainly, on Britain's acquiescence and support. The alliance between France and Britain lasts to this day. That kinship successfully fought

Russia in the Crimea and confronted Germany in two World Wars. However, in 1871, France, under Napoleon 3rd, and lacking British support, attacked Prussia with disastrous consequences. Here's the story of Napoleon III, of the Second Empire, and of Napoleon's wife, the Empress Eugenie. It concluded, not with a bang but a whimper, in a little mansion in Chislehurst. The Emperor and Empress are buried, not in the grandeur of 'Les Invalides', but in Farnborough, in the tucked away Abbey of St Michael. There and in the same crypt rests the tomb of their only son, the Prince Imperial.  
**Former HG Chairman, Robert Pierson presents.**

**REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS**

**Northern Walk      Fri 28th      Parthenay      Report by Geoffrey & Margaret  
June**



'Mad dogs and Englishmen.....' Well the dogs weren't mad, they stayed at home, in their baskets, reading the Bonio Weekly Magazine, but the Englishmen, all 19 of them, did venture out into the heat of the day. A stroll by the River Thouet, keeping in the shade made a pleasant start and took us to the old Town where the group were given the opportunity to have a short walk – but No. The stalwart British opted to carry on, well why not, the temperature was only hovering around 36 degrees ! 16 continued across the river and along the park by the ramparts where they had a good view of the resident goats, including One Horn Billy. It was not long before they reached the piece de resistance. Approximately 168 steps which took them to the top and into the square by the Marie. From there it was a short walk back to the Car Park and off to the Panda Wok. Here it was air conditioned and the heat of the day was soon forgotten as walkers could help themselves to whatever they wanted to eat or drink. A rather warm, but enjoyable day.

(In the absence of a photo, we have 'Shadowman Walks on a Sunny Day' – it seemed an apt image!)

**Southern      Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July      Saint Neomaye      Report by Tanya Lazar  
Walk**



Perfect walking weather welcomed our group of 17 for a 4.69 mile "long" walk (thank you, Bob Seager, for that data) and approximately 3k "short" walk around Ste Néomaye, led by Julia and Peter. We had no dogs on this outing, as parts of our route would have been unsuitable for our faithful friends. We passed one garden in town where a family enjoying brunch greeted us with enthusiastic "hellos", as if we were heroes on a major expedition! Shortly after, we walked by a yard

with lots of white ducklings, ominous, because when Julia and Peter passed that way a week earlier, it had been full of grown ducks, all gone now. Not a promising future for

the current flock. Later, we saw in a small paddock a sleek mare and her sweet foal, who came to the fence for a nose rub. We paralleled train tracks just as a rather long TGV rushed by; then crossed under via tunnel. As the “short” walkers split off, “long” walkers headed down a wooded path at a good pace, continuing downhill on quiet roads and tracks. What goes down must come up, so we ended with a flourish: up a stairway in a very dark tunnel, and a short climb back to the parking lot. We were joined by 6 more for a convivial gathering of 23 at les Pyramides in la Crèche. Their extensive buffet and various plates provided plenty of food for all.

**Photo Group**

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> July**

**Menigoute**

**Report by Jackie Lockett**



Ten of us gathered round Martin's table to listen to Steve's hints and tips on taking photos of buildings. Ten of us learnt lots on angles, perspectives and lighting etc., but Alfie remained curled up under the table, singularly unimpressed. We then spent an hour in the sunshine wandering around some of the older buildings in Menigoute looking for that unlikely unique shot that nobody else spotted - our best efforts will be reviewed at the next meeting. Over tea and biscuits (for which many thanks Martin) we then went through our submissions for this month - close ups/macro shots. These sessions enable us to review and comment on our own and others' photos and for Steve to show how with just a little use of photo processing you can really enhance almost any shot. It was a close call but Caz' photo of a bee resting on a sprig of blue buddleia came out top.

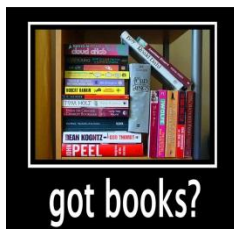
There will be no meeting in August: the next session will be on the third Monday in September, ie 16th at 2.00 pm at Ken and Lyn's home in Craon. Steve and Roger will discuss the art of taking portraits outdoors and our three submissions to Steve before that meeting should be based on the theme of 'architecture'. Jonathan also agreed to put together some ideas for a group day out.

**Library Club**

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

**La Touche**

**Report \_\_\_\_\_ by LynChamberlin**



The day dawned bright and clear, as it had for several weeks but we had no fear, because the garden of Jan & Ans was a haven of shady spots where we could peruse numerous supplies of books. This was my first time visit to the Library and I was like a kid in a sweet shop! Lots of books, of different genres and all available for me to take away for a read. The only limitation was the space in Kate & Grant's car – they kindly acted as my transport – and they too found several of interest!

Thank you so much to Jan & Ans for supplying such lovely surroundings, supplies of tea, coffee and cold drinks and sweet treats to tempt us all.



## **URGENT REQUEST FROM NORTHERN WALK ORGANISERS – Gloria & Brian Miles**

On reviewing our calendar, we find that we are short of a Walk in the Northern Area for the month of November. If anyone is prepared to arrange a walk, with lunch, on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, we would be very happy to hear from them. A walk is being planned for December, followed by Christmas lunch, but we would love to fill in the gap in November. Any volunteers, please contact Gloria & Brian.

### **[Welcome to New Members](#)**

***Jane Vernoit & Colin Hendon***

***Graham and Jane Butcher***

### **[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

#### **Horse Racing Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 1.00pm Le Regal'on Allonne 79130 05 49 62 07 61**

A charity event in aid of the French registered charity, Association Violet No W793005002,, better known as Walking for Violet, kindly being hosted at Le Regal'on by Heather & Eddie. It is limited ticket only event at just €5 a ticket which will include a Kir, but with all proceeds going to the charity There will be a Bar with BBQ available for anyone wishing to partake followed by the Horse Races.

Tickets available from Heather phone 05 49 62 07 61. There is also a raffle during the afternoon.

Please do come along for a fun afternoon to support this worthwhile charity for a very bright 4 year old with multiple health problems. Please dig deep as every € raised will be equally matched by an anonymous donor.

Further information may be found on the website [www.walkingforviolet.com](http://www.walkingforviolet.com)

#### **Charity Race Day – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September – 1.00pm onwards La Chapelle Thireuil 79160**

Brad and Sally Warden are holding a fundraising event for the association Walking for Violet. Those of you who have previously attended a fun horse racing day will be familiar with the format which starts with a bring your own picnic at 1.00pm, followed by

the racing of the wooden horses at 2.00pm. There will also be a raffle. We would like to extend an invitation to all our friends and GT members to come and join us for an afternoon of fun and fundraising. You can find more information about the association at [walkingforviolet.com](http://walkingforviolet.com).

If you would like to attend, we would be grateful if you could let us know so that we can make sure we have sufficient shade/shelter on the day. Please contact Sally at [sallycoppack@orange.fr](mailto:sallycoppack@orange.fr) or on 05 49 76 15 30 to confirm your attendance.

### 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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