

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

September 2019 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Grape Harvest Château Cantenac Brown
Photograph by Roger Amsden

GT CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Have you placed your Vote?? !!

There are a whopping 80 photos submitted for the 2019 Calendar Competition! Voting has been taking place over the past few weeks but there is still time if you have not got round to doing it. Just go to the gettogether-france.org website and make a choice of your

12 favourite photos and email the numbers allocated to the photos to gtphotocomp@gmail.com.

You have until midnight on Friday 6th September to place your vote and good luck to all those who contributed such superb photos this year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar Photos	Fri 6 th Sept		Deadline for Voting
First Reading Circle	Thur 12 th Sept	2.30pm	Chez Bernie
Photo Group	Mon 16 th Sept	2.00pm	Craon
Library Club	Wed 18 th Sept	2-4pm	La Touche
History Group	Thur 19 th Sept	3.00 pm	Menigoute
Southern Walk	Sat 21 st Sept	10.30 am	Montjean
Northern Walk	Fri 27 th Sept	10.30am	St Pardoux
Lunch & Wine Group	Tues 8 th Oct	11.30 am	Benet
Second Reading Circle	Mon 28 th Oct	2.30 pm	Chez Elizabeth Draper
GT Quiz	Thur 7 th Nov	6.00pm	Bistro des Amis, Fomperon

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thurs 19th September**
- **Final Copy Date for October Newsletter Items Wed 25th September**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com) for publication on **Saturday 28th September**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

First Reading Circle

Thur 12th 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 16th 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.

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

Library Club Wed 18th 2-4 pm Scille Joyce Roberts
Sept



The next meeting will be on Wednesday the 18th September at Joyce's Roberts house, at 2 to 4 p.m..

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 Thur 19th 3.00 pm Menigoute Penny Taylor
Group Sept



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 3rd, 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.

The meeting will be held, as before, at L'Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute. The cost will be 5€ per head.

Please book by **Thursday 13th September**

The Auberge is now under new management – they are due to reopen in early September. The new Proprietor is called Elisabeth so if you wish to book lunch the telephone number is 0635264994

NB. We have to confirm numbers to the Auberge at the beginning of the week before the meeting. As a result, we will be charged for anyone who does not turn up on the day and will have to charge this back to those members.

Southern Walk
Peter Bains

Sat 21st Sept

10.30 am

Montjean

Linda &



This walk is a repeat of the walk held in June. It will 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, we can 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.

Northern Walk
Diane Mousdale

Fri 27th Sept

10.30 am

St. Pardoux

Keith &



The walk of approx 8km with a shorter option of 3km is along tracks and lanes through undulating countryside with a just some inclines. At the moment the tracks are dry and a little stony but if wet, could be muddy so stout footwear is advisable. St Pardoux is a left turn off the main Niort to Parthenay road, D743 approx 13Km north of the roundabout at the junction of the D6 and

D743. After leaving the main road go through the village until you pass the Mairie on the right where you immediately turn right and just a few metres on the left is the car park. There are toilets nearby.

Lunch will be at Restaurant de la Gare at Monplaisir just off the roundabout described above. It will be a 4 course meal with wine and coffee for €14.00, excepting for the main course it is all buffet. Please let us know when booking lunch if you require fish or meat for the mains.

Lunch & Wine Group
Diane Mousdale

Tue 8th Oct

11.30 am

Benet

Keith &



After the Summer break, the current fourth season of the Lunch and Wine group will restart in October, [see *details below*] open to all food and wine lovers. We are a group of GT Members who meet regularly to enjoy dishes which each member brings to the lunch, usually to an agreed theme.

Before the start of each lunch, Keith presents a number of wines and talks about each and then further wines, paired with the chosen dishes, are enjoyed during the lunch with further information on each presented by Keith.

The Lunch and Wine Group is not an independent club – it is open to all GT Members for either regular or occasional attendance, the only condition being that, as we are limited by the seating arrangements of each of our hosts, places have to be booked through Diane who also agrees on which dishes, either starters, cheese or desserts are brought by each person attending.

If you would like to spend an enjoyable and convivial meal with the group, many of

whom you will know, or would like further information please contact the organisers.

The 8th October meeting will be held at Gloria and Brian Miles home in Benet commencing at 11.30am. The theme for the wine is Bourgogne with appropriate regional food.

If you would like to join us 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.

Second Reading Circle

Mon 28th Oct

2.30 pm

Chez Elizabeth Draper

Lesley Ritchie



The Reading Circle will be meeting to discuss, firstly *The Eyre Affair*, a short, light book by Jasper Fforde and then *The Words in my Hand* by Guenevere Glasfurd.

(2 books as we can't manage a September meeting.)

GT Quiz

Thurs 7th Nov

6.00pm

Fomperon

Martin Hughs

The next GT Quiz will be taking place at Le Bistro des Amis, Fomperon on Thursday 7th November. Make a date in your diary and full details will be available in the October Newsletter

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Northern Walk

Fri 26th July

Cherveux

Report by Neil Ritchie



As the weather was scorching hot, and lots of people were away, numbers were much lower than usual.

However, eight intrepid walkers set off from Cherveux to the Plan d' Eau de St Christophe and back, while the infirm or lazy drove there then walked around it, admiring the views while trying not to stand on the tiny frogs crossing the path and making a break for freedom.

We ate at the Cafe des Sports in St Gelais, joined by Gloria and Brian - nice enough food very reasonably priced. As ever, we all enjoyed the exercise and the very good company.

GT Race Day Sat 27th July Grand Champ Report by Martin Hughes



Some thirty excited racegoers descended on the quiet countryside surrounding Lezay, fighting their way into the car park adjacent to the grandstand [known as a barn]. After the searing heat that did for a French victory in the 'Tour' it was a welcome relief to consume our picnics in the cool of a cloudy day that had a promise of more rain. Champagne bottles emptied, I wish, the important proceedings of the day began. The card contained five races with the exotic names of 'Dipso's Stagger, Fillies Frolic and so on.

For the 'Space Stampede' race six worthies ended up bidding to own a horse for the day. Once the horses were saddled and the race run Lynda Wilson became the winning owner of Cassiopeia, and promptly donated half her winnings to our charity for the day. Many thanks Lynda.

With the final race run the storm clouds gathered, but not before a breakaway party had retired to play the new game of field croquet.

All in all a very happy and successful afternoon in which 150€ was raised for Medecin Sans Frontieres.

Again many thanks to Maureen and John Buckley who were our perfect hosts for the day.

**Southern Thurs 22nd La Martiniere Report by The Newsletter Team
Walk Aug**



Well folks, here we have a very happy bunch of walkers about to start out on their walk at La Martiniere – the sun is shining, the dogs are raring to go and all is well. However, it was such an enjoyable day that no-one could remember who should be writing the report. So we will assume that everyone that started, did in fact finish and the meal was well worth all the toiling up and down the footpaths.

Well done to you all – the only physical activity undertaken in the name of GT during the month of August !

**Second
Reading
Circle**

**Thurs 22nd
Aug**

Menigoute

Report by Lesley Ritchie



On 22nd August we met at Martin Hughes's house to discuss this month's choice, *Soot* by Andrew Martin, the Times historical novel of the month, which was set in the eighteenth century and written in the form of letters and journals.

None of us had read it before and I think we all had high hopes as it had won a prize. However, I think, though none of us actually disliked the book, we were all rather disappointed. We found the plot rather thin, and implausible in places, the characters weren't particularly interesting or engaging, the 18th century language didn't always ring true and we thought it just fizzled out at the end, as if the author had got bored with it himself.

As ever, there was lots of interesting conversation - just not all about the book!

NOT SO URGENT REQUEST FROM NORTHERN WALK ORGANISERS – Gloria & Brian Miles

We are very pleased to announce that following our request for a Northern Walk to take place in November, Geoff Cornwall has agreed to arrange a walk to fill the slot. This means we are fully booked for 2019 but if anyone wishes to volunteer a walk for the early part of 2020, please contact Gloria & Brian.

[New Members - Welcome](#)

Joe & Sally Blaney Souvigne 79800

[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

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

Charity Race Day – Saturday 7th September – 1.00pm onwards La Chapelle Thireuil 79160

Brad and Sally Warden are holding a fundraising event at their home 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 racing of the wooden horses at 2.00pm. Our address is 9 route de la Barre. There is plenty of parking on the road outside the house, please park partly on the grass verge if you can.

There will be a tombola with some super prizes including whisky and champagne and we will also have cupcakes and ice-cream for sale too. We invite all GT members to come along and family and friends are welcome. You can find more information about the association in the DSM magazine, or at walkingforviolet.com.

[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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