

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

October 2019 Newsletter

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



Villeneuve-sur-lot

Photograph by Jan Howse

[GT CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION](#)

Well it was a closely contested competition and the 12th place photo was a tie between 4 entries.

The top 11 places were:

Cabane, Nouvelle Aquitaine – Steve Marshall
Fussen, Bavaria – Ann Amsden
Fishing boat in Quatiera, Portugal – Carol Andrews
Millau Bridge, Aveyron – Vinny Galloway
Impromptu Band on bridge, Prague – Carol Bray
Ducks at Coulon – Keith Mousdale
Bee, Nouvelle Aquitaine – Steve Marshall
Assos in Greece – Jackie Lockett
Lake Como in Italy – Sally Warden
Storm Clouds over Saumur – Sally Warden
Fjord near Flam in Norway – Eric Hansford

The tie for 12th place was between
Marrakech market – Sally Warden
Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road – Carol Andrews
Kalbarri, Western Australia – Jan Howse
Sanxay – Martin Hughes.

After lengthy discussions and a secret vote amongst the committee, it was decided that Sanxay should take the 12th spot and there's a rumour that the three remaining photo will appear somewhere within the calendar! Well done to all who took part and look out for the Calendar Order form which will be published with the November newsletter.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lunch & Wine Group	Tues 8 th Oct	11.30am	Benet
Southern Walk	Sat 12 th Oct	10.30am	St. Contant
Photo Group	Mon 14 th Oct	2.00 pm	Vernoux en Gatine
Library Group	Wed 16 th Oct	2-4pm	Verruyes
Northern Walk	Fri 25 th Oct	10.30 am	Puy de Serre
Second Reading Group	Mon 28 th Oct	2.30 pm	Chez Elizabeth Draper
Lunch & Wine Club	Tues 5 th Nov	11.30am	Exireuil
First Reading Circle	Thurs 7 th Nov	2.30pm	Craon
GT Quiz	Thurs 7 th Nov	6.30 pm	Bistro des Amis, Fomperron
Southern Walk	Thurs 14 th Nov	10.30 am	St. Soline
History Group	Thurs 21 st Nov	3.00 pm	Menigoute
Northern Walk	Fri 29 th Nov	10.30 am	Gourge

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Wed 20th November**
- **Final Copy Date for November Newsletter Items Fri 25th October** (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com) for publication on **Monday 28th October**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lunch & Wine Group

Tues 8th Oct 11.30 am Benet

Keith & Diane Mousdale



The October meeting will be held at Gloria and Brian Miles' home at Rue de Mervent, Benet, commencing at 11.30am. The theme for the wine is Bourgogne with appropriate regional food.

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.

Southern Walk

Sat 12th Oct 10.30am St. Coutant

Pat & John Chard



This walk is around the St Coutant circuit. The walk starts at the Salle des Associations car park which is well marked in the village.

The walk is 8 km long with and an option of a shorter walk of 4km. It takes place along firm tracks but as always be prepared for inclement weather with the

appropriate footwear and clothing.

There are no toilets anywhere on this walk.

Lunch, the full Monty, is to be taken at Le Petit Berland in Lezay, a restaurant well known to members. The cost is 20€ per person. When ordering please state a preference for meat or fish.

Photo Group **Mon 14th Oct** **2.00pm** **Vernoux en**
Gatine **Steve Marshall**
Roger Amsden



We will meet on the second Monday in October at Caz Bray's in Vernoux-en-Gatine

Up to 3 photos to me please on the subject of outdoor portraits.

Group Co-ordinators
Steve Marshall & Roger Amsden

Library Club **Wed 16th Oct** **2-4 pm** **Verruyes** **Ann & Gerry**
Riley



The next meeting will be at the home of Ann and Gerry Riley near the village of Verruyes. Those who have boxes of books are invited to bring them along to exchange boxes and choose books to read. Also any GT members are able to enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and have a chat.

Northern **Fri 25th Oct** **10.30 am** **Puy de Serre** **Louise**
Walk **Tamblin**



Meeting place: 'Bois du Roch' car park which is about 2 kilometres outside Puy de Serre 85240. Leave Puy de Serre on D67 signed to St Maurice de Noues and Vouvant. D67 becomes D89. At the point where D89 bends to right there is a left fork with a green sign 'Bois du Roc'. Drive along this to the barrier, where there is a big car park, with toilets, on the right

hand side. Co-ordinates: 46.566186 -0.690378

Walk: 1 hour or 2 hour walk options. Woodland walk, no roads and flat walking. Could be muddy if rainy?

Restaurant: Le Lion D'Or at Saint Hilaire de Voust (5 minute drive from walk)

Lunch details: 3 courses plus wine 13€. Please advise fish, meat or vegetarian main course by Sunday 20th October. The restaurant orders food on Mondays, hence the need to know main course preference by Sunday 20th

**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 Han'* by Guenevere Glasfurd.

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

If you are interested in joining us and would like more information please contact Lesley Ritchie.

**Lunch & Wine
Group**

**Tues 5th
Nov**

11.30 pm **Exireuil**

**Keith & Diane
Mousdale**



The Lunch and Wine Group for November will be held at Annette's home near Exireuil. The wines for the lunch will be red Bordeaux, including Merlot blends with the pre lunch tasting beings Merlots from other areas of France. As Bordeaux is not an area known for traditional regional food any French dishes will be tasted.

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact Diane & Keith. If anyone needs directions to the venue these will be sent upon request. As there is a maximum number of 14 attendees, 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.

**First Reading
Circle**

Thurs 7th Nov **2.30 pm** **Craon**

Lyn Chamberlin



The First Reading Circle is this month reading a two for one, novel within a novel by Anthony Horowitz, entitled *Magpie Murders*. It has tinges of Agatha Christie within its multi-layered chapters.

Unfortunately, due to many commitments, several members of the Reading Circle have had to say farewell to the Group. Long standing members, they will be missed. If any members of GT would like to spend a few hours discussing the ins and outs of various styles of writing, please feel free to come along.

GT Quiz

Thurs 7th Nov

6.30pm

Fomperron

Martin Hughes

Our next quiz returns to 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 May'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€. For the main course there is a choice of meat, fish or a vegetarian dish. Drinks are extra

As usual the result of your inspiration and perspiration will result in an avalanche of prizes.

We are looking for teams of four and to book your place please contact Martin Hughes detailing the team name, the team member's names and their choice of main course.

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

PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Southern Walk

Thurs 14th Nov

10.30 am

St. Soline

Jane & Fred Oram



This walk starts at the church car park in St Soline. It takes place along firm tracks but as always be prepared for inclement weather, with the appropriate footwear and clothing. There are no toilets anywhere on this walk.

A lunch of fish and chips with mushy peas followed by apple and blackcurrant crumble, glass of wine and a coffee for 18€ will be at Le Petit Moulin in St Soline. Lunch is limited to 20 persons due to accommodation at the restaurant.

**History
Group**

**Thurs 21
Nov**

3.00 pm

Menigoute

Penny Taylor



HISTORY OF WINE

1. Introduction
2. What is Wine?
3. How, when and where was it discovered?
4. GrecoRoman Period
5. The Middle Ages [to c1660]
6. The Evolution of Modern Wine.
7. Phylloxera and Other Diseases.
8. French and EU Wine Laws and Other Classifications.
9. Wine and War.
10. Final Thoughts

The History of Wine

The November Meeting will be at L'Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute at the usual time 3.00pm....exact details will appear in the November Newsletter. Keith Mousdale's talk will be narrating historical events which have "got us where we are now" with wine.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

**First Reading
Circle**

**Thurs 12th
Sept**

Oroux

Report by Vernon Wells



A small group – just five of us – met at Chez Richard and Bernie to discuss J.B.Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. Apologies were received from Kate, Wendy, Glynis and Lyn, who missed a lively meeting and some excellent tea and cakes! - but more on that later. Thanks to Lyn, who sent a thoughtful written review, and to Kate who commented on the play from her hospital bed! I'm sure all at *Get Together* will join us in wishing her a full and speedy recovery.

The afternoon began with an introduction to the author and the play, delivered by Richard with his usual mix of informative comment laced with humour. There was also a viewing of two short excerpts from different televised versions of the play, which allowed us an insight into the characters from an actor's perspective – a first for the Reading Circle, I believe. The stage set, there followed a wide-ranging discussion on the role of time within the play, with particular reference to the 'Inspector' and his sudden appearance and – indeed – disappearance. In general, we were all agreed that the play contains a wealth of political, social and economic comment written in a year (1945) when the old and new social orders were about to collide. In summary, a short play, but a truly gargantuan work: an excellent choice Richard!

Exhausted by our endeavours, we were then treated to a fresh strawberry tart and

some Millionaire's Shortbread, impressive enough to have been professionally prepared, although the amount of flour on Richard's nose and forehead proved otherwise. I stand in awe of such culinary talent. Unfortunately, we forgot to take photographs, so the attached picture of a plate of crumbs is the best I can offer. All in all, a most enjoyable afternoon.

Photo Group

Mon 16th
Sept

Craon

Report by Lyn Chamberlin



The weather on the day was exceptional – which was perfect for the topic of the day – Outdoor Portrait Photography. A host of eager photographers followed the ‘ model of the day’, Anthea, around the garden finding areas of sunshine and shade, suitable pieces of stonework to achieve languishing poses and the use of reflective screens to change from golden to white light at the flick of a wrist!

Indoors we perused the architectural photos taken last month and our model of the moment, Anthea, took the prize for a haunting

window shot.

Library Club

Wed 18th
Sept

Scille

Report by Martin Hughes



The club met at Joyce Roberts' house for the second time, following the successful introduction of the new arrangements whereby one month we meet at Joyce's with alternate months meeting at a member's house.

Around a dozen of us met over tea and biscuits, swapped stories, news and faux news whilst managing to choose new titles and for some of us changing our boxes of books for new ones.

All agreed that things are going well and many thanks to Joyce for holding the mother library, even though on this occasion she could not be present.

History
Group

Thurs 19th
Sept

Menigoute

Report by Jackie Lockett



Robert Pierson once again entertained his audience with a lively illustrated presentation on Napoleon III and the Second Empire. Rather in the shadow of his more notorious uncle, Napoleon I, this Napoleon nevertheless oversaw many changes, social, cultural and economic, during his reign as last monarch of France and aimed to reassert French influence in Europe. Mechanisation was taking hold. He oversaw the rapid expansion of the French railway system; he

engaged Hausseman to plan his grand boulevards; he sent his wife and son to attend the opening of the Suez canal. Robert touched on many of these aspects so as to give us a broad brushstroke of the man and his times, including the influences of his mother, Hortense de Beauharnais and wife, the Empress Eugenie. For those who would like to read more about Napoleon III, Robert has suggested "The Shadow Emperor" by Alan Strauss-Schom...(Ambersley Publishing).

We once again returned to our usual venue at L'Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute for this meeting. Denis and Elisabeth, the new proprietors, made us most welcome and in spite of a long wait, lunch when it was eventually served was tasty and copious. Not easy serving 24 meals in a kitchen and restaurant which were still under construction! Our next meeting in November should run much more smoothly and begin on time!

Southern Walk

Sat 21stSept

Monjean

Report by Tony
Scott



Organised by Linda and Peter Bains, 21 of the usual suspects from the Southern GT Group accompanied by three enthusiastic dogs set off from Montjean at 10.30am along farm tracks and minor roads that revealed all the charms of rural France in late September.

Strolling through a sheltering tunnel of overarching trees, often an agreeable feature of these walks, we arrived in freshly harvested fields with pleasantly warm sunshine enriching the colours of autumn. Occasional plots of sunflowers still stood with their once golden faces now sadly drooping, silently awaiting their fate.



After nearly two hours and dodging the occasional tractor and truck, a reminder of the realities of life here, we arrived back at our starting point ready for lunch at Le Relais De La Peruse. Pleasant conversation, mercifully absent at our table at least any mention of BREXIT, continued over a meal that can only be described as absolutely amazing value at 15euros

New Members - Welcome

Philip & Diane Carlton St. Soline 79120

Richard & Sally Elam Theil Rabier 16240

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

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.

Produced by: Ken Chamberlin, 2 Rue du Prieure, 86110, Craon 05 49 36 07 43. gtnewsletter79@gmail.com
Website: Andy Walmsley, 5 Jarzay, 79200 St Germain de Longue Chaume jarzay@gmail.com