

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

November 2019 Newsletter



River at Pontivy (Photograph by Sally Warden)

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

GT CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The GT Calendar for 2020 is now available to purchase. It features yet another wonderful selection of views taken by our members, from worldwide venues.

The price remains the same at a very reasonable €5 per copy and these can be ordered using the order form which will be attached with this Newsletter.

The calendars can be collected from Committee Members at all the events between now and Christmas – Walks, Any of the Activity Groups or either of the two Christmas Lunches. If you do not wish to post an order form, just take a crisp €5 note to any of the events and we will be happily hand over a copy!

GT QUIZ – HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR TEAM?

The bi-annual GT Quiz is taking place on Thursday 7th November – do not forget to book in your team for this evening of intellectual head-scratching and frivolity. Details can be found further down in the Newsletter. Come and step up to the challenge.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lunch & Wine Group	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
Photo Group	Mon 11 th Nov	2.00pm	La Motte St. Heray
Spice Club	Wed 13 th Nov	11.30 am	Scille
Southern Walk	Thurs 14 th Nov	10.30 am	St. Soline
Library Club	Wed 20 th Nov	2-4pm	Scille
History Group	Thurs 21 st Nov	3.00 pm	Menigoute
Northern Walk	Fri 22 nd Nov	10.30 am	Gourge
Lunch & Wine Group	Fri 6 th Dec	11.30 am	Exireuil
Southern Walk & Christmas Lunch	Sat 7 th Dec	10.30am	Grand Champ Lezay
Spice Club	Wed 11 th Dec	11.30 am	Menigoute
Northern Walk & Christmas Lunch	Fri 13 th Dec	TBA	Menigoute
First Reading Circle	Mon 16 th Dec	11.00 am	Oroux

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Wed 20th November**
- **Final Copy Date December Newsletter Items** **Fri 22nd November**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- **for publication on** **Sunday 24th November**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lunch & Wine Group

Tues 5th Nov

11.30 am

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 being 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** **2.30pm** **Craon** **Lyn Chamberlin**



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

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** **6.30 pm** **Fomperron** **Martin Hughes**
Jonathan
Townsend



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 email Martin Hughes on **martinhughes88@aol.com** 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

Photo Group **Mon 11th Nov** **2.00pm** **La Mothe St Heray** **Steve Marshall**
Roger Amsden



We will be meeting on the second Monday in November at Jackie Lockett's house.

Please let both Jackie and Steve Marshall know if you are attending.

The subject to be discussed will be using your camera without 'auto' settings! If attending please let Steve have details of your camera so he can be prepared with information.

Those attending last time to supply up to 3 photos to Steve please on the subject of Light, Shade and Shadow. .

Spice Club **Wed 13th Nov** **11.30 am** **Scille** **Joyce Roberts**



With autumn upon us, the lure of hot/spicy lunches has called us to resurrect an evolved Curry Club. We have named this Spice Club to enjoy a broader range of dishes from countries along the Spice Trail, beginning with India for old times' sake.

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month we will meet at at Joyce Roberts' home in Scillé. Please contact Joyce to confirm if you would like to come along with a starter, rice or a pudding and whatever beverages you would like to enjoy over lunch.

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.

Library Club **Wed 20th Nov** **2-4 pm** **Scille** **Joyce Roberts**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th November at Joyce Robert's house . You will have the full selection of books from the library together with a well-stocked history library feature.

History Group **Thurs 21st 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

This month's lecture will be given by Keith Mousdale - the subject - 'History of Wine'.

The Meeting will be held at L'Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute at 3.00pm. The cost will be 5€ per head.

Please book by **Thursday 14th November**

The new Proprietor is called Elisabeth who speaks excellent English so if you wish to book lunch - the telephone number is 0549 69 03 51.

Northern Walk

Fri 22nd Nov

10.30 am

Gourge

Geoff & Andrea Cornwall



Please note the change of date for the Northern Walk – a week earlier than normal. It is to be held on the fourth Friday, the 22nd November. This is to accommodate the Christmas Walk and Lunch which will be held early in the month, on the 13th December.

The November walk will take place around the pretty village of Gourge, starting from Geoff and Andrea's house and will cover tarmac, stone lanes, grass paths and one or two inclines! Wear appropriate footwear for the walk on the day. The main walk is approximately 7 km and a shorter walk of 3.5km. Lunch will be provided at Panda Wok, the buffet style Chinese Restaurant in Parthenay, a short drive away. The cost of the menu is approximately €16, inclusive of drinks, etc. No menu choices are needed. Gourge is situated 10km North East of Parthenay on the D134, off the Parthenay Bypass.

Lunch & Wine Group

Fri 6th Dec

11.30

La Gaconniere

Annette Green



Please note the change of day for the Lunch and Wine Group for December which will be held at Annette's home near Exireuil. The wines for the lunch will be from the French Mediterranean coastal region, with food from the same areas.

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 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.

Southern Walk & Christmas Lunch

Sat 7th December

10.30

Grand Champ Lezay

Maureen & John Buckley



Please note closing date for restaurant reservations. No later than 1st December.

There will be a short walk of about 4kms and a longer walk of just over 7kms. The terrain is mostly as flat as a billiard table and will be on minor roads and tracks. However, as sections of it could be muddy, suitable footwear should be worn.

The walk starts in the layby situated just east of Grand Champ on the D14 going towards Rom from Lezay. GPS reference 46° 16' 36" N 0° 01' 02" E. There are no

toilets at the start. The walk will be followed by lunch at L'Assiette Restaurant in Lezay, which can be found to the left of the Mairie, with parking over the way.

The Menu for lunch at L'Assiette is:

Salade de saumon confit et sa marinade
Filet mignon de porc à la graine de moutarde
Assiette de fromages
Croquant poire / caramel

Lunch is 25€ which includes an apéritif, a bottle of wine for 3 people and a hot drink. If anybody has a problem with this menu please contact John Chard who will talk to the restaurant.

Please book no later than 1 December.

**Northern
Walk &
Christmas
Lunch**

**Fri 13th
December**

TBA

Menigoute

Martin Hughes



The Northern walk in December will be on Friday, 13th and will take place in and around Menigoute, followed by a Christmas lunch at the newly re-opened Les Voyageurs afterwards.

Full details will follow, including details of the menu which is being finalised, when your choice can be made. The anticipated cost will be similar to last December [23€].for an apero, three courses,

coffee and wine.'

**First Reading
Circle**

Mon 16th Dec 11.00 am

Oroux

Annie Emmett

We will be reading *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson. A romp through the incredible life of Allan Karlsson who instead of going to his 100th birthday party decided instead to climb out of the window and disappear...

NOTE: a late morning meeting at Annie's, followed by Christmas lunch at the Panda Wok, when we hope members past and present will meet up again.

**Northern
Walk**

Fri 31st Jan

10.30 am

TBA

Annette Green

We URGENTLY require a Northern walk organised for **31st January 2020**.

Please contact Annette Green on ajg.arranetoile@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer. Many thanks.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Northern Walk

Fri 27th Sept

St. Pardoux

Report by Anne
Amsden



Today's walk was in and around the pretty ville of St Pardoux. Nine of us and four of our four legged friends met in the car park next to the Mairie. With rain threatening we set off and soon found ourselves along the country lanes. Unfortunately farmers were harvesting and we all had to scuttle for safety as a huge tractor and trailer almost toppled over, thankfully it didn't and we were soon away from the area. The weather was kind to us, the rain held off and we all

started feeling rather warm. It was a very pretty ramble through the countryside and we all enjoyed chatting and catching up. Lunch was held at the Restaurant de la Gare at Monplaisir where we were joined by Lesley and Martin. We all enjoyed an excellent lunch with wine aplenty and lots of laughter. Many thanks to Keith and Diane for organising such a lovely walk and excellent lunch.

Lunch & Wine Group

Tue 8th Oct

Benet

Report by Julia
Murray



Ten people gathered around the table at Gloria and Brian's house for our first lunch club after the summer break.

The theme was Bourgogne. There was a mix of meat and vegetarian dishes, followed by cheese and puddings.

To help wash down all the delicious food we had 4 varieties of Bourgogne wines chosen by Keith, with a short introduction to each wine.

If you like food, wine and talking, come and join us, this is a great way to spend an afternoon.

Thank you to Keith, Gloria and Brian for hosting this gathering.

Southern Walk

Sat 12th Oct

St. Coutant

Report by Jan
Baxter



The early morning began with heavy, unexpected rain and I thought maybe I will go back to bed and look forward to lunch. However, the skies brightened and we arrived all set for the walk around St Coutant. I had planned to do the shorter walk but began to realise there perhaps wasn't one. However, we continued along country tracks, some hill slopes (well, not really hills some would say). There were 16 of us with 3 dogs and gradually the space between those ahead and the two of us began to

widen. The fit walkers eventually looked back and waited for us when John pointed out a road which would lead to St Coutant a little quicker. Two of us took this quiet route which we really enjoyed and were the first to arrive at Berlands for lunch. The weather was lovely so, thank you John for organising everything for us, finishing with a welcome drink and meal at Lezay.

Photo Group

Mon 14th Oct

Vernoux en Gatine **Report by Caz Bray**



The Photo Group met at Caz Bray's house buried in a small hamlet. There were 12 intrepid photographers all praying the rain would hold off.

After the initial welcoming etc. the subject of the month was then presented by Steve & Roger. The Subject was light, shade & shadows. We learnt from the example photo's projected on the screen how each of those elements can be used to enhance our photos and how easily too much of any of them can result in images not up to our standards. All of those elements are important in their own right and we all benefitted from the expertise and advice from Steve and Roger - so a big thank you to both of them.

We decided to go outside and take some photos just as the sky began to darken and within minutes one of the most spectacular storms decided that today was not a photography day! The rain lashed almost horizontal, blown by a fierce wind as the sky darkened to almost night-time dark, then to add to the excitement, the thunder & lightening started, adding to the thrill of the storm. I hope a few members managed to photograph the lightning

After tea, coffee, biscuits and cake, we reconvened by viewing the photo's sent in from last month's subject; 'portraits' All the images were of a very good standard and we had the difficult task of choosing just one as the photo of the month and this month it was Steve's black & white study, very different but full of atmosphere, a very powerful and thought provoking image. Well done Steve.

The meeting finished just as the sun came out and we were treated to some more printed pictures by one of our new members, whose animal shots are exceptional. The next month's project will be use of the camera without auto mode - the meeting will be on the 11th November.

The Library Group

Wed 16th Oct

Verruyes

**Report by
Lyn Chamberlin**



Once again The Library went on its travels, this time to Anne and Gerry Riley at Verruyes. A small but extremely well versed group of reading enthusiasts joined to share the delights within the boxes of books and shared a convivial cup of tea and cakes with our hosts.

The weather was not best behaved, but when surrounded by books, who worries

whether it's raining or not!

Thank you Anne and Gerry for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Northern Walk

Fri 25th Oct

Puy de Serre

Report by Annette
Green



Well I must say the weather on my drive to the walk didn't look promising, low cloud and drizzle, a very grey day. However, on arrival the clouds lifted and it stopped raining – fantastic. Today was a six doggy play date walk with ten humans!

The walk took us through the Bois du Roc, near to Puy de Serre along quiet forest tracks with beautiful autumn colours of the oaks, ash, birch and maples. The lumberjacks were busy too. It was a good chance to catch up with old friends.

Returning to base camp we were all very happy that our daily steps had been achieved and were ready for lunch. The dogs had had a fantastic walk too with their friends and were ready for a snooze. Strangely, as we were driving to the restaurant the heavens opened again!

Lunch was at the Lion d'or in St. Hilaire de Voust, an excellent 4-course meal, with aperos, wine and coffee all for €15!

A big thank you from all of us to Louise and Michel for taking time to organise such a lovely walk and a great meal.

[New Members - Welcome](#)

Gordon & Mary Campbell Chenay (79120)

Karen Soulard Puy de Serre (85240)

[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.

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