

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

January 2020 Newsletter



Fussen, Bavaria
Photograph by Anne Amsden

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



A Happy New Year to One and All

May I and the committee wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year and wish the world to be more at peace with itself.

We encourage you to be as active as possible given the plethora of activities and events available and look forward to seeing many of you. If you have any proposals to increase the number of regular activities we would be pleased to take your ideas forward wherever possible.

Martin Hughes

Annual Subscriptions

You are receiving this Newsletter irrespective of whether you have renewed your subscription or not – but we regret that this is a bonus and it will not be repeated in February! We have attached the subscription form again this month and hope that we can work on a full house for 2020. After all, this is part of your planning for 2020, to keep up to date with all that is happening in the GT Calendar.

The First Reading Circle

You may recall that we put forward a request for new members in November. This was due to a reduction in numbers as a result of other commitments. We are all aware of the busy lives that we lead and the time that we can allocate to leisurely activities, but the Reading Circle would like to appeal to all in GT to consider spending time in the discussion of good books over a cup of tea and a piece of cake. To this end, we invite members to join us on an ad hoc basis. Consider the books on offer each meeting and if you have read it in the past or would like to read it before the date set, then please give the host a call and book a chair. We would be very happy to welcome you whenever you are available to share opinions on our wide range of reading choices.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lunch & Wine Group	Tues 7 th Jan	11.30 am	Scillé 79240
Photo Group	Mon 13 th Jan	2.00 pm	Le Petit Moulin, Sanxay 86600
Spice Club	Wed 15 th Jan	11.30 am	Phone for directions
Southern Walk	Thurs 16 th Jan	10.30 am	Pouffands, 79500
Second Reading Circle	Fri 17 th Jan	10.30 am	Scillé 79240
Library Group	Wed 22 nd Jan	2-4 pm	Menigoute 79340
Northern Walk	Fri 31 st Jan	10.30am	Le Beugnon 79130
Lunch & Wine Group	Tues 4 th Feb	11.30 am	Le Tallud 79322
GT Ten Pin Bowling	Wed 5 th Feb	5.30 pm	Chauray 79180
History Group	Thur 20 th Feb		Full details to be advised in Feb.
Get Together AGM	Fri 21 st Feb	10.30 for 11.00	Maziere en Gatine 79172
First Reading Circle	Mon 24 th Feb	2.30 pm	Craon 86110
Northern Walk	Fri 28 th Feb	10.00 am	Exireuil 79114

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Thurs 30th January 2020**
- **AGM** **Fri 21st February 2020**
- **Final Copy Date January Newsletter Items** **Fri 24th January**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- **for publication on** **Tue 28th January**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lunch & Wine
Group

Tues 7th
Jan

11.30 am

Scillé

Keith & Diane
Mousdale



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THIS MONTH'S MEETING

The first meeting of 2020 of the Lunch and Wine Group in January will be held at Michele & Eric's home at La Bourse near Scillé. The wines for the lunch will be from the Beaujolais region, with food from the same areas or anything French.

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.

Photo Group

Mon 13th
Jan

2.00 pm

Le Petit
Moulin
Sanxay

Steve Marshall



We will be continuing on the theme of editing photos to bring them to their best. Up to 2 photos as taken and the same 2 as you have edited them to Steve please. If you cannot edit them please send your chosen two and we will see how they might be edited.

The Spice Club

Wed 15th Jan

11.30pm

Chez
Rose-Marie

Joyce Roberts



Normally on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, we've moved this to the 15th so as not to overeat the day after Lunch Club! We will be learning about a range of Caribbean starters and puds this month so come along at 11:30 to take part in a fun food-fest at Rose-Marie's house.

Southern Walk

Thurs
16th Jan

10.30 am

Pouffands

Bob Seager



Yes, this walk is on a Thursday, as the restaurant isn't open on Saturdays. It starts from the Salle Polyvalente and Mairie in Pouffands.

Take the D948 from Melle direction Sauzé Vaussais and turn right after about 3 km, and the start is at the far end of the village. GPS reference N 46.20356°, W 0.11656°

The walk is about 8km long, with a shorter version of about 4km. It is on quiet roads and tracks, part of which is through woodland, and wasn't too muddy even after a long wet spell, but waterproof footwear is strongly advised. There are some hills, not too long,

Lunch will be on offer at the Auberge de Cerizat, situated just after the turning for Pouffands at the junction of the D948 and the D737 (SP Chef Boutonne). Three courses, wine and coffee for about 15€.

Second Reading
Circle

Fri 17th
Jan

10.30 am

Scillé

Leslie Ritchie



Second reading circle meeting chez Joyce Roberts

We would be pleased to see you if you would like to join. Our book is by Lars Mytting's *The Sixteen Trees of the Somme*

"An intricate story about war, family, secrets and yes, wood ... An engaging, satisfying read" *The Times*

"So cleverly plotted, and it builds up such effortless dramatic momentum as it zeroes in on its conclusion" *Scotsman*

Mytting's book is as much a romantic historical thriller as it is a book of promise, a page-turner as it is a reflective journey into selfhood, history, life's meaning and individual moral responsibility - Mika Provata-Carlone, *Bookanista*

Library Group

Wed 22nd Jan **2-4 pm**

Menigoute

Martin Hughes



The Library will this month be open in Menigoute at the home of Martin.

There are a wide variety of books available, all can be browsed whilst partaking of a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit or three.

Northern Walk

Fri 31st Jan **10.30 am**

Le Beugnon

Eric & Michele Hansford



The January walk will be a repeat of the walk in March 2019. If you missed that walk you won't want to miss a second opportunity to appreciate some of the best views in the Deux Sevres. Of course in order to enjoy the views it is necessary to climb a bit but none of the inclines are too challenging. There are some very muddy patches and it will be essential to have decent footwear. We plan a long walk of around 8km and a short walk of 4km, on a mix of track and tarmac starting from the church in Le Beugnon, 79130 which has a small car park but there is more parking available at the Salle Nelson Mandela! Around the corner, or at the football field. There are toilets at the church. Non walkers are welcome to join Audrey at our house for a hot drink and a chat. Lunch will be at Chez Chantal in L'Absie at about 1pm. As usual they are offering a 4 course meal with wine for €15.00 I will need to know whether you want the meat, fish or vegetarian option.

Lunch & Wine Group

Tues 4th Feb

11.30 am

Le Tallud

Diane & Keith Mousdale



The February meeting of the Lunch and Wine Group will be held at Diane & Keith's home at La Revaliere near Le Tallud. The wines for the lunch will be from the eastern end of the Mediterranean region, with food from the same areas or anything French.

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact Diane & Keith 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.

GT Ten Pin Bowling

Thurs 5th Feb

5.30 pm

Chauray

Neil Ritchie



You could be heroes- just for one day. Unless you're the defending champion or a previous winner in which case it will be two days. Anyway come and show us all your scintillating curveball on Wednesday 5th February at 17.30 at the Chauray bowling alley. The usual one, next to the Geant supermarket, if you've been before. 23 Rue de Gay Lussac, 79180, Chauray if you haven't. Entry will cost you 6€.

Winners (one female, one male, will be toasted afterwards (19.30 ish) and presented with their trophies at Les Pyramides, the de luxe transport cafe just up the road, This will set you back a further 14€ or so but you will wine and dine like royalty in the company of your fellow GT members.

Historically this has been a very enjoyable night out and you won't want to miss it.

History Group

Thurs 20th Feb

TBA

Penny Taylor

Archaeology; What it is...Why we do it ...And how it is done' Presentation by Nick Wells



Full details of the talk and its exact location will be given in the February issue of the Newsletter.

GT AGM Committee

Fri 21st Feb

11.00 am

Maziere en Gatine

The

The Get Together AGM will be held at La Maison Pour Tous, Maziere en Gatine at 10.30 for 11.00 am, followed by a Bring and Share Lunch at 12.30 am
All members who have paid their 2020 subscriptions are welcome and entitled to attend the AGM without giving prior notice.

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and apologies
- 2 Minutes of AGM 2019
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 President's report
- 5 Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts
- 6 Reports of North and South co-ordinators

- 7 Election of officers (current bureau all have one more year left to serve)
- 8 AOB , membership subscriptions/fees to be discussed and voted on

Members are requested to forward items pertinent for an AGM, for discussion under Any Other Business, to the President, Martin Hughes by 24th January 2020

At 12.30pm after the AGM there will be as Bring and Share Informal Lunch.

Wine, juice, tea and coffee will be provided free but please bring a plate of food to share.

There is no need to say in advance if you are coming to the AGM but if you are staying on afterwards, please fill in the booking form attached and return it to Julia so that she can pre-plan.

Do not forget to provide your own crockery, cutlery, glasses, cups, etc.

First Reading Circle



Mon 24th Feb

2.30 pm

Craon

Lyn Chamberlin

The Reading Circle will have had a lengthy rest from sharing book reviews, but this month will be discussing *The Walls of Lucca* by Steve Physioc. The story is based in Lucca, Italy starting in 1914, telling the tale of Isabella, a young 12 year old, raised by nuns in the Convent and her progression through life, working amongst the olive groves during hard economic times, her life, her loves and

heartaches. A warming story for the cold winter months – come and join us for tea and cakes and company.

North Walk



Fri 28th Feb

10.30 am

Exireuil

Annette Green

Our walk will start at La Gaconniere, Exireuil, nr. Maixent L'Ecole. The 7km walk is mainly country lanes and quiet roads, there will be an incline or two along the way but nothing too strenuous, please wear appropriate footwear in case it is wet and possibly muddy. Parking and toilets are available at the house. For those that would prefer, there will

be a slightly shorter walk of around 5kms or even shorter 2 kms.

For non walkers travelling with walkers, you can stay by the fire at the house and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee until the more adventurous return!

The restaurant is some 5 minute's drive away and is well known to those of you who watch *Escape to the Chateau*, Chateau de Sauge in Saivres.

The menu is Carrot and coriander soup, Meat or vegetable lasagne, Chocolate or lemon drizzle cake, a glass of wine € 15 plus € 1 for coffee.

Non walkers and any guests you may have staying are more than welcome to attend, please arrive just before 12.45 hrs. All I need you to do is make your choice of either meat or veggie lasagne when booking your place.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Southern Walk

Sat 7th Dec

Grand Champ Lezay

Report by John
Chard



The last southern walk of 2019 started from a lay-by on the D14. The group of 21 walkers and 4 dogs set out on a dull morning on a route around the villages of Grand Champ (there are two of them) near to Lezay. It was not long before a small group separated from the main party and took a short cut. The route continued on small roads and tracks across flat farmland. The group of short walkers rejoined the main party near the end of the morning we all went for lunch at L'Assiette in Lezay. The restaurant served an excellent meal with a bit of Christmas cheer being added by the GT crackers.



and

Photo Group

Mon 9th Dec

Maziere en Gatine

Report by Lyn
Chamberlin



A hearty number of members turned up to Carol's home to hear a talk about working with FastStone Image Viewer – a wonderful app which takes doubtful photos and transforms them into ones suitable to share with others! A very happy time was had, using members' own images, changing colour, lighting and exposure to enhance the holiday snaps and family memories. Many thanks to Steve and Roger for their insight, but even more thanks to Carol who supplied refreshments in the form of mulled wine and mince pies – a lovely way to get Christmas underway. Carol also won the prize for photo of the month – a contented moggie.

The Spice Club

Wed 11th Dec

Menigoute

Report by Joyce
Roberts



On the 11th of December, 8 of us were lucky enough to celebrate the festive season on a global scale! Everyone made an enormous effort to find spicy ways from across the world, to spoil each other at Martin's, who rose to the occasion with mulled wine and champagne and a grand finale of Peruvian hot chocolate you could eat with a spoon, following his cherry clafoutis. Devilled eggs, crab parcels, vegetarian sausage rolls and samosas left us already feeling happily replete, but we couldn't resist cherry cheesecakes and Speculoos meringues. What a feast!

Northern Walk

Fri 13th Dec

Menigoute

Report by Lyn
Chamberlin

It was a crisp morning when the intrepid Northern Walkers set off on a walk around Le Bois Pouvreau. The options for walking were curtailed due to the extremely wet weather that had preceded the walk and the short walkers were rewarded with dry roads whilst those in for the long haul had a slippery but very picturesque walk along the side



of the Etang and eventually returned to the cars, where short walkers were having a good old natter! We followed our exertions with a Christmas Lunch at the Voyagers in Menigoute where silly hats and even sillier jokes were the order of the day. A short competition was held to award Gift Vouchers picked up at the last Northern Walk event at Panda Wok in Parthenay and

Audrey was the lucky winner.

First Reading Mon 16th Dec
Circle

St Jean de Report by Lyn
Sauves Chamberlin



We were a very elite group, meeting at Kate's for the December get together.

The *Tenant of Wildfell Hall* had raised a lot of comments, eyebrows and questions, not least from Kate, who had forgotten how the language of the Bronte sisters had fallen by the wayside in her recent readings. We agreed that it did take some getting used to, but once the plot took shape, it was a book that you wanted to continue with to the end. Lyn needed a brief resume of the Bronte era as history and reading historical novels were not high on her agenda during her younger years. Kate was able to fill the gaps and Annie related her interest in such writings during her time at college.

The story gave a good insight into the lives of women in a man's world with many references to the placing of women at a lower level, even to the extent of the horses and dogs so beloved by the male hunting fraternity. It was a tale of 'all comes good in the end' but also a tale of loneliness and dark forbidding skies, which apparently was very relevant in all Bronte novels. The knowledge of places and life outside the moors was limited, in keeping with the life of the author but the book was received well, with the comment that perhaps Lyn ought to venture into the more well known Bronte novels for comparison. Thank you Kate for your hospitality and we ventured out to The Bacchus Restaurant for a very pleasant lunch after the meeting.

Unfortunately, due to many commitments over the next few months, the First Reading Circle will be taking a back seat until the end of February, Monday the 24th actually with a venue of Craon. For this meeting Lyn has chosen 'The Walls of Lucca by Steve Physioc. This is a tale set in the walled city of Lucca in Italy at the beginning of the First World War. It follows the life of young Isabella, brought up by the sisters in the convent of Lucca and her eventual life into adulthood amongst the Italian olive groves. A warm climate and a warming story, something we could do with in the dark days of January/February.

Anyone is welcome to come and join us and enjoy a friendly chat around the log fire with a cup of tea and cake!

[News from Overseas](#)

Gloria and Brian Miles hoped everyone had a great Christmas and wish you all the best for the New Year. From America.

Welcome to New Members

Philip & Rose-Marie Holmes Fomperron 79340

Donna & Paul Newman Saugé 79400

Polly Cherry Vasles 79340

Non – GT News

Opera and Ballet at the Cinéma Le Foyer de Parthenay

I, rue Denfert- Rochereau, 79200 Parthenay 0549640530 <http://cinema.foyer.cc-partenay.fr>

For those of you who enjoy the excellent Royal Opera House performances of ballet and opera I alert you to the following programme:-

'Coppelia' (Bal) Delibes 26th January 2020

'The Sleeping Beauty'(Bal)Tchaikovski 16th February 2020

'Fidelio' (Op) Beethoven 19th April 2020

'Swan Lake' (Bal) Tchaikovski 17th May 2020

Tickets are 13€ and this includes drinks and nibbles in the interval.

All performances are on a **Sunday afternoon** and start at **15h**. Submitted by Jonathan Townsend

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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