

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

February 2020 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Storm Clouds over Saumur
Photograph by Sally Warden

Date for Your Diary

A note for all diaries – the AGM of the Get Together Group will take place on Friday 21st February 2020 at Maziere en Gatine 79172. The full details and a copy of the Agenda are featured in the Forthcoming Events. The day will start with coffee at 10.30 before the AGM commences at 11.00 am. It will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch starting at 12 until 2. Full details on participating in this Lunch are also given in the article.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible on the day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
Photo Group	Mon 10 th Feb	2.00 pm	Chantecorps 79340
Spice Club	Wed 12 th Feb	11.30 am	Puy de Serre 85240
Library	Wed 19 th Feb	2-4 pm	Scillé 79240
History Group	Thur 20 th Feb	3.00 pm	Menigoute
Get Together AGM	Fri 21 st Feb	1030. for 11.00 am	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
Lunch & Wine Group	Tues 10 th Mar	11.30 pm	Scillé 79240
Second Reading Circle	Fri 13 th Mar	10.30 am	Scillé 79240
Spice Club	Wed 18 th Mar	11.30 am	Fomperron 79340
Northern Walk	Fri 27 th Mar	10.30 am	Cherveux Details to follow

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Lunch & Wine Group **Tues 4th Feb** **11.30 am** **Le Tallud** **Annette Green**



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 Annette Green. 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.

Ten Pin Bowling **Wed 5th** **5.30 pm** **Chauray** **Neil Ritchie**
Feb



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 six euros.

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.

Photo Group **Mon 10th Feb** **2.00 pm** **Chantecorps** **Anthea Libby**



We will meet on the second Monday in February at Anthea Libby's in Chantecorps

Please let Anthea and Steve know if you will be attending. Existing participants – only if you cannot make it.

We are going to continue with the editing theme with more hands on work to bring them to their best.

Please let Steve have 3 versions of one photo - either the original and two different edits or three different edits. If you cannot edit them please send up to three photos that are distinctly different.

Spice Club **Wed 12th** **11.30 am** **Puy de Serre** **Joyce Roberts**
Feb **85240**



Please contact Joyce Roberts to book your place at this month's romantically-themed Spice Club luncheon just before Valentine's Day. The world's your oyster, so whether you'd like to choose an aphrodisiac, a pink pud or arrange your canapés into a heart shape for example, we are counting on you to apply your imagination along with some interesting spices to create finger food from anywhere along the Spice Trail.

Subject to space at each host's home, we would be pleased to see you if you book early enough. All you need to bring is your appetite, a starter or pudding and whatever drinks you'd prefer to enjoy alongside. The fun will begin at 11:30 for a food lovers' heaven this month at Karen's house in Puy de Serre.



1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM.
3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes.
4. President's report.
5. Treasurer's report, adoption of the 2019 accounts
6. Other Officers' reports.
7. Election of Officers
8. Membership fees for 2021
9. Any other business.

The elected committee consists of the following positions: President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 other members (one of the three other members is appointed by the Committee to serve as Vice President). No committee members are standing down this year.

The President - Martin Hughes, the Secretary – Carol Andrews and the Newsletter editor - Ken Chamberlin will be executing their duties for a second year as laid out in clause 9a of the Constitution

The Treasurer – Ali Sherwin, Membership Secretary – Julia Murray and Southern Co-ordinator – John Chard have all agreed to continue as laid out by clause 9c of the Constitution.

The Northern Co-ordinator's position is vacant following resignation for health reasons and has been filled in the meantime by Annette Green. A nomination has been received from Eric and Michele Hansford for election to this post.

Members are requested to forward items pertinent for an AGM for discussion under Any Other Business to the President, Martin Hughes, by Sunday, 9th February, 2020.

After the AGM there will be a Bring and Share Informal Lunch.. We will be having a bring-and-share lunch after the AGM, from 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm. Wine, juice, tea & 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 please email Julia as she needs to do some pre-planning. **You will also need to provide your own, crockery, cutlery, glasses, cups etc.** Please let Julia know if you are willing to help set-up and /or clear up the room.

First Reading Mon 24th Feb 2.30 pm Craon Lyn Chamberlin
Circle



The First Reading Circle will have had a lengthy rest from sharing book reviews, but this month we 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.

Northern 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.

**Lunch & Wine
Group****Tues 10th Mar****11.30 am****Scille 79240****Joyce Roberts**

The March (please note the change of date) meeting of the Lunch and Wine Group will be held at Joyce's home in Scillé.

The wines for the lunch will be from along the Loire, with starters and desserts from the same areas (if possible!) or anything French.

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact Annette. 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 lunch.

**Second
Reading Circle****Fri 13th Mar****10.30 am****Scillé 79240****Michele
Hansford**

The next meeting will be held Chez Michele and the book of choice is *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett. Please email Michele for further information.

Spice Club

Wed 18th Mar

11.30 am

Fomperron
79340

Joyce Roberts



Normally on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, we've moved this month's spicy extravaganza to the 18th so as not to overeat the day after Lunch Group at Joyce's on the 10th. The theme will be chosen by those attending on the 12th of February, food based on a country or style of cuisine from along the Spice Trail. Do please book early to avoid disappointment, as we will be limiting numbers to a reasonable size on a first come first served basis.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Lunch and Wine **Tues 7th Jan**

Scillé 79240

Report by Martin
Hughes



Twelve of us [can we call ourselves apostles?] met at Michele and Eric's for our monthly wining and dining indulgence.

The wine theme was based on the ten crus of the Beaujolais region, sampling Brouilly, Julienas and Morgon. Keith expertly led us through the different wines that Beaujolais can produce, with the determining geology that give us the subtle differences between the terroirs, varying granites and other stones appearing to be the driver. This was NOT about Nouveau.

As morning turned to afternoon various dishes appeared, the result of our individual culinary skills, and hours later we rose from the table very satisfied from the various dished we had enjoyed.

Many thanks to Keith for his enthusiastic guidance and to Michele and Eric for their hosting.

Photo Group

Wed 13th Jan

Sanxay

Report by Martin
Hughes



On the 'Dummies guide to how to improve your photographs'

Nine of us met at Steve's old mill down by the Le Saint Germier river for coffee and the second session on Faststone Image Viewer familiarisation.

This was our second guide to getting to know the further features of this app both as to theory and then practice on one of Roger's doctored photographs. We had to emulate his results from enhancing a number of his photographs. Nothing like practice makes perfect.

We reviewed our own photographs that we had altered since the previous meeting, explaining what steps we had taken to achieve our altered images and ended up with choosing the favourite of the month. Martin was the winner and duly received the coveted trophy.

Many thanks to Roger and Howard who helped us through our training and Steve for both guiding and hosting.

Spice Club

Wed 15th Jan

Fomperron

Report by Joyce Roberts



On Wednesday the 15th of January, we began the Spice Club year with a Caribbean feast. We were on a sunny Spanish beach (in spirit, before half of GT heads over there next month) sipping Island Rum minty Mojitos. The pungent flavours of Jerk Cauliflower, Caribbean Chicken, Jamaican Patties and Spicy Skewered Prawns, followed by a gorgeous Brazilian Curry were brought to a sumptuous end with Rum infused fresh Pineapple accompanied by a nutmeg cinnamon fromage frais and (yet more) Rum and Raisin Ice cream!

We decided to make Rum Club, I mean Spice Club's next theme, a spicy Valentine's food theme at Karen's on Wednesday the 12th of February.

Second Reading Circle

Fri 17th Jan

Scillé

Report by Joyce Roberts



On Friday the 17th of January, we had our first Book Club meeting of the year and welcomed Mish to our happy bunch. All of us enjoyed *The Sixteen Trees of the Somme* by Lars Mytting, which prompted some fascinating conversation, such as Vendéan schoolchildren being taught that France won the war and the English and Americans took the credit! This book is both a mystery and a description of a family's history, touching on the war in France, woodworking, and life in Norway and the Shetland Islands. To avoid giving away the story, which has surprising turns none of us saw coming (he finally marries Anne, whose grandmother killed his great aunt with a bowstring, just kidding), we will simply recommend this as a great read about interesting inter-relationships across generations.

GT News

The Sad Passing of Bob Parsons

There was a large turnout for Bob Parson's funeral at Poitiers with strong support by family, friends and Get Together members.

We are giving a donation to Chris' nominated charity, Save the Children.

Mobile Phone Communication

Could all members ensure that Julia Murray, the Membership Secretary, has a note of your mobile number for ease of communication. Email to murrayjulia79@gmail.com

Welcome to New Members

Yvonne & Stephen Pond Le Retail 79130

Elayne Jonas & Mervyn Clements Oroux 79390

Howard Needs Largeasse 79240

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:-

'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.

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