

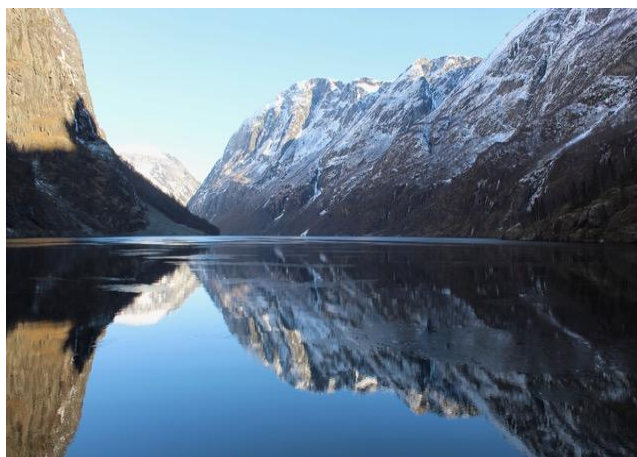
*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

March 2020 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Fjord near Flam, Norway
Photograph by Eric Hansford

Following the successful AGM welcome to the GT 2020/21 year.

May you all have an enjoyable and fruitful year as winter passes into spring and into a hot summer.

As usual many clubs and groups will be meeting and activities taking place and I would encourage you all to join in as much as possible, notwithstanding our busy lives. Your participation makes it all worthwhile to the many members who are all involved in the smooth running of our association.

Martin Hughes - President

Brief Report on the AGM – Friday 21st February 2020

Martin welcomed 19 intrepid souls to the AGM, on February 21st in the Maison Pour Tous, Mazieres-en-Gatine. In his report he thanked all volunteers for their hard work and continued support over the previous year, specific details you will find in the minutes to be published on the web site in due course.

We have had a good year and membership has increased slightly, organised events have continued to be well supported.

The new committee is as follows, President Martin Hughes, Secretary Carol Andrews , Newsletter editors Ken and Lyn Chamberlin (all of whom have one more year of a two year tenure) ,Treasurer Eric Hansford, Northern co-ordinator Louise Tamblin, Southern Co-ordinator John Chard and Membership secretary Julia Murray .

attending no later than Monday 2 March 2020.

We will be taking interior and exterior shots, and planning for a visit later in the year with better weather and flowers in bloom. The aim is that these shots may form part of the pictures the Chateau display in public rooms and use to decorate suites as well as on their website.

Pictures for 'shot of the month' should be three of your favourites from 2019 - please email to Steve.

Lunch and Wine Group



Tues 10th Mar

11.30

Scillé 79240

Annette Green

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. If anyone needs directions to Joyce's can you contact her directly. 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.

Southern Walk

Thurs 12th Feb

10.30 pm

Rom 79120

Pat & John Chard



Pat and John invite you for a walk around the countryside near Rom. The walk will start at the plan d'eau in Rom. The walk is around 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.

The starting point is the plan d'eau in Rom which is the right turn immediately after the bridge over La Dive when approaching Rom from Lezay. There are no toilets anywhere on this walk.

Lunch will be at the Market Restaurant in Lezay at 18€ per person

When ordering please state a preference for meat or fish.

Booking before 8th March.

Second Reading Circle

Fri 13th Mar

10.30

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.

to eat and drink, so why not give us a try?

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

First Reading Circle

Thur 9th Apr

2.30 pm

Oroux 79197

Annie Emmett

The First Reading Circle will be meeting at the home of Annie Emmett in Oroux to discuss the book 'The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson – a thought that many of us of a certain age might be contemplating in the not too distant future.



If you would like to come along to discuss the options, please contact Annie to book your place.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Northern Walk

Fri 31st Jan

Le Beugnon

Report by Martin Hughes



It was a pleasure to see old and new members on this walk that started from outside the blue stain glassed windows of Le Beugnon church. The perennial dogs were there to accompany us.

The day was one of mist and dampness as, once orientated, we made our way downhill past Salle Nelson Mandela [yes, really] and along a watery track.

Once in a valley of fish ponds we paused for our group photograph before taking the long incline out and onto the top of the next hill, then followed further tracks into another valley and out again. Our footwear was certainly tested for water and mud-resistance and coped admirably well.

We finally found our way back across the village playing field where the Le Beugnon festival of plants will take place on May the 1st, twenty varieties of tomato plants for sale sold out by 10a.m.- you have been warned.

To L'Absie at Chez Chantal we repaired, where we were joined by further members, such that 24 of us sat down to a very pleasant lunch. Many thanks to Michele and Eric for organising this enjoyable walk and lunch.

Lunch and Wine **Tues 4th Feb**

Le Tallud

Report by Martin Hughes



A coterie of eight of us sat down admiring the sunny winter's view across the valley.

The wine was French and we enjoyed tasting a white apero, a Bourgogne Alegeole, followed by a red Cote de Provence and then a red Bandol.

Being French wines we all created French dishes for the occasion and had a most enjoyable few hours conversing across the table.

Many thanks to Keith and Diane for their hospitality and Keith's guidance.

GT Ten Pin Bowling

Wed 5th Feb

Chauray

Report by Martin Hughes



Twelve of us, well ten in body and two in virtual reality, descended on the Niort rink to fight it out in teams of four.

I would like to write 'with many a ferocious strike or spare', but whilst we recorded a fair passing of those the scoring was a little lower than usual [No Greens, I guess].

Ultimately Eric Hansford was the male winner with 264 points and Louise Tamblin the ladies champion with 170 points.

Afterwards we repaired to Les Pyramid where our virtual reality players became flesh, and we enjoyed an excellent meal, as per usual. Prizes were presented and all departed happily though with joints that required care for the next few days.

Many thanks to Neil for his organisation of our highly pleasant annual outing.

Photo Group

Mon 10th Feb

Chantecorps

Report by Caz Bray



Nine intrepid photographers braved the elements on Monday 10th Feb for the second rendezvous of the year. We all assembled at Anthea's for the most wonderful cakes, oops, I mean an informative meeting; we are a group of mixed abilities and equipment, so this meeting was Part 3 of 'how to use our 'photo editing software''.

Our task last month was to send three photographs which we had either enhanced ourselves, i.e. sharpened the focus or even used special effects, or for others in the group to offer advice on; nothing was prohibited and some fantastic results were achieved and admired. We took no photos on Monday as the weather was not conducive to outside activity and the subject of the software was so absorbing, we ended up just having an open discussion, swapping ideas and learning the capabilities of this easy to use programme. It is one of those programmes which with only a little practice, a lot can be gained, but if you want to invest more time some amazing effects

can be achieved.

The photo of the month was taken by Lesley Richie, it was a difficult choice as the standard is getting increasingly higher, so big congratulations to Lesley.

The next meeting will be on March 9th at 2 p.m. at Château de Saugé. Watch this space for exiting information.

Thank you to Steve for all his preparation and to both Steve and Roger for their help, guidance and polite critic, always positive!

Don't forget, the photo group is open to anyone within GT who is, or thinks they may be interested and to reiterate; we are a friendly group of mixed abilities from expert to 'point, shoot & hope', so why not come and join us for our monthly meetings?

The last word goes to Anthea for her wonderful cakes and hospitality. Thank you.

Spice Club

Wed 12th Feb

Puy de Serre

Report by Martin Hughes



Thirteen of us met at Karen's to celebrate Valentine's Day complete with heart shaped decorations and heart shaped food.

All had gone to town in preparing a large range of spicy, delicious dishes and should be commended for their interpretation of food with a love theme.

Many thanks to Karen, our hostess and to all the hard work in decorating the room and table.

I leave you with the musings of Jack Paar

'This is good news: of memory, hearing , all the faculties -the last to leave us is sexual desire and the ability to love. That means that long after we are wearing bi-focals or hearing aids, we'll be making love. But we won't know with whom or why'

Book Library

Wed 19th Feb

Scillé

Report by Martin Hughes



A select group of us met to exchange books and boxes of books. Joyce very kindly let us use her house whilst she went to Cuba to perfect her cigar rolling techniques.

We had a very pleasant afternoon conversing whilst consuming coffee or tea and biscuits, all to the setting of a roaring log fire.

Many thanks to Joyce for her ongoing generosity in looking after the library.



February's History Group talk was "Archaeology, what it is, why we do it and how it is done" given by our 'resident archaeologist' Nick Wells. As we have come to expect Nick's talk was both informative and extremely entertaining. We heard how as a youngster he had been inspired by Asterix and Raiders of the Lost Ark (but that the later Time Team was more realistic) and Michael Wood's "in Search of" Series. He told us about some of the international digs he had worked on and how he was now working on a site in Buckinghamshire which is in the path of the new HS2 railway line. We learned that there are different styles of approach and that both hi-tech and low-tech devices are used.

He reminded us that we had an interesting site nearby at Sanxay to visit and that there maybe an adjacent town to the already excavated site and that crops have been sown to help 'read' the remains.

Nick's talk finished far too soon but for those who wanted to continue with the theme he recommended two books to read. 'The Practical Archaeologist' by Jane McIntosh and 'Archaeological Theory; an Introduction' by Matthew Johnson. The afternoon finished with tea, coffee and cakes supplied by the Voyagers.

Our thanks to Nick for his excellent talk and to the History Group organisers for giving us such an interesting afternoon.

First Reading Monday 24th Feb

Craon

Report by Jane Sanders



On Monday 24th the Book Club met at Lyn's abode in Craon. We spent an amiable couple of hours discussing books, particularly the latest book we had read being The Walls of Lucca by Steve Physioc. It necessitated tea and coffee to be drunk and cake to be eaten!

Of the book the consensus was that some were not happy with the writing style and the depiction of the First World War. It is set mainly in Italy around and after the First World War and relates to families involved in wine and olive oil production, the trials and tribulations of these people. On the whole the group enjoyed it and although the ending was deemed to be quite unsatisfactory, some members were interested in reading the sequel - Above The Walls.

All are welcome at the reading group. Would be lovely to see a few more book/kindle worms !

[GT News](#)

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

Thanks from Chris Parsons

Chris and family would like to say a sincere thank you to the friends and Get Together members who were able to join them at Bob's funeral at Poitiers Crematorium to say farewell. The kind words about Bob and the offers of help were overwhelming as were the number of people there. We asked for a donation to Save the Children, in lieu of flowers, and a very generous £125 and 550 euro were given. I sent the donation to the Save the Children Fund office in London on 6th February in Bob's memory and have asked for a receipt. I hope to receive this soon and will post it in another newsletter.

Thank you, Chris Parsons

[Welcome to New Members](#)

Evelyne Oliver Parthenay 79200

[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:-

'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

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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