

*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*

## August 2020 Newsletter



Sanxay, France  
Photograph by Martin Hughes

*Events, activities, news  
and reports for members*

Time to Shine – for It's Calendar Photography Time !

We are again holding a competition for submission of photographs for inclusion in the 2021 calendar.

The theme for this year is **Natural France**. Please feel free to interpret that as you see fit.

The more submissions the merrier, and you are only limited to a maximum of four photos per person.

It is strongly recommended that you submit your photo in 3x2 format, equivalent to the calendar format. It can help to use a photo editing programme. Many members use Faststone Imagery, a free app.

Your photos should be submitted by midnight on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> September. The photos will appear on the website very soon after when you will be able to choose your favourites for inclusion in the calendar. Full instructions on making your choice will be available when the photos are viewable on the website. The cut-off date for your choice will be Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. The result will be declared not long after.

Photographs must be in landscape format (rather than portrait) and your entry must specify where in France each photograph was taken. Please email your photographs to [gtphtocomp@gmail.co](mailto:gtphtocomp@gmail.co)



**G T B B Q**

**Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 5.00 pm**

**Exireuil**  
**79114**

**Annette Green**



We are looking forward to seeing as many members as possible on our return from lockdown barbecue.

This is to be held at Annette and Leslie Green's house, outside Exireuil. There will be plenty of space for parking and, more importantly, for social distancing.

GT will be providing the cooked element of meat and fish for free, along with an apero and nibbles. Members are asked to bring along any accoutrements to the BBQ along with a dessert. Please bring your own cutlery, plates, glasses, cups, etc. GT will also be providing coffee and tea.

Please can you also bring your own table and chairs, if possible, though there will be a number of tables with chairs available.

As light relief from eating and drinking there will be a cut down version of running our horse racing jollies along with other distractions to add to the fun. Some will be mildly cerebral, others requiring certain skills. Prizes galore to be won.

And music in the background. Nostalgia much!

The committee are very mindful of the times we live in and will be taking all practical precautions against the virus. e.g. Hand cleanser, etc. and ask everyone to follow the official guidelines.

**Southern Walk**

**Thur 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sept**

**10.30 am**

**Rom 79120**

**John Chard**



As the Covid situation is improving I propose to re-run the last walk if enough people are interested. The walk will start at the plan d'eau in Rom. The walk is around 8 km long with 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.

If there is enough interest I will try and get a lunch booking at the Market Restaurant in Lezay. This will of course be subject to whatever restrictions are in place at that time.

In an effort to resume normality I would also like to ask members if they are prepared to organise walks in the next few months of 2020.

**Northern Walk**

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sept**

**TBA**

**Gourgé**  
**79200**

**Geoff & Andrea**  
**Cornwall**



Geoff and Andrea Cornwall will be organising a walk in the Gourgé area which will cover a distance of 7.5 km with a shorter walk option of 3.5 km.

Full details of the route and starting point and contact details for booking in to the walk will be available in the September issue of the Newsletter.

Book the date and watch the space!

**Lunch and Wine**  
**Group**

**October**

**11.30 am**

**TBA**

**Keith and**  
**Diane**  
**Mousdale**



The Lunch and Wine Group will restart their monthly events in October. Full details will be available in the September Newsletter so be prepared to take your taste buds for an outing!

**History Group**

**Oct / Nov**

**3.00 pm**

**Menigoute**  
**79340**

**Penny Taylor**



The History Group will be restarting their presentations in October and have two events planned for both October and November. What follows is a taster of the subjects and full details will follow in the September Newsletter.

Thursday 15th October at 15h **Robert Pierson** will be coming over from England to give us his long-awaited presentation on "Louis XI<sup>th</sup>".

Thursday 19th November at 15h **Jocelyn Simms** will present a talk on 'George Simenon' a fascinating author who amongst other things, wrote the Maigret series.

Our meetings will be in the L'Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute - more details will follow.

## REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

### Second Reading Circle

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> July

Scillé

Report by Eric Hansford



The second reading circle met face to face (with Helen present on zoom) on the first of July to discuss *A Thousand Splendid Sun* by Khaled Hosseini. The meeting went OK with people maintaining distance despite having to meet indoors due to the wet weather on the day. The book was generally well received and was a remarkable depiction of life in Afghanistan over the

last 40 years.

The setting is similar to his previous book *The Kite Runner* but this time from the perspective of two women who are caught up in the events, politics, religion and repression of the times. It is a harrowing story with some light at the end but as it concludes in the noughties one wonders what might have happened since. A book to be recommended and a timely reminder of the mess that foreign powers and local warlords have made of Afghanistan.

### Book Library

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> July

Scillé

Report by Martin Hughes



In the face of the virus the library opened up again, with due consideration for our personal safety. Face masks, sanitizer etc, being used.

Eight of us converged on Joyce's to return boxes of books, to take new ones or another box.

After the usual greetings and conversations post lock down we felt it prudent to disperse again, rather than prolong proceedings. It was agreed that for the rest of the summer we meet at Joyce's and then reconsider reverting to our original arrangement.

Once again, thanks to Joyce for her generosity being the guardian of books.

### Lunch and Wine Group

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Menigoute

Report by Joyce Roberts



Eighteen of us met at Eric and Michele's for our last lunch before October, seated at a long 'table' reminiscent of those seen in the ads, that last for hours.

On this occasion we sampled a fine fizz from Bourgogne followed by four red wines from the Languedoc between Nimes and Carcassonne. Keith kindly gave us his usual concise description of each which we savoured for their various properties.

Dining started with a gazpacho soup, followed by various savoury and vegetarian dishes, and ending with three fine tarts.

So all that food, washed down with plenty of wine [we even had refills] and unrestrained chatter led to a realisation of those ad dreams. I think we dispersed after about 4-5 hours.

The only thing missing was a long conversation on French philosophy.

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

### Photographic Group



### Various in July

### Via Zoom & in Person

### Report by Steve Marshall

The Photo Group met in early July on Zoom and looked at the photographs that had won the Sony World Photography Awards. Some very interesting images and very much not just snapshots.

Anthea Libby won shot of the fortnight with an unusual flower shot.

Later in July seven of us met at the Etang de Bois Pouvreau near Menigoute to take pictures of the lake and woods. We then put up the screen and projector in an open garage and looked at the results.

## THINGS TO PONDER

Last month we gave you a few anagrams and cryptic sentences to sort – We have not received any written comments, but will probably get a flood of responses as we now reveal the answers!

We hope you enjoyed scratching your heads over these.

### ANAGRAMS

Sorting out and putting away	– 7 letters	STORING
A driver went astray but completed the course	– 7 letters	ARRIVED
Possibly get Ray to go round	– 6 letters	GYRATE
Be all atremble, but brave it somehow	– 7 letters	VIBRATE
Truce – it's a crime if one breaks it	– 9 letters	ARMISTICE
Couples from Paris	– 5 letters	PAIRS

### CRYPTICS

English invader who could be obtuse	– 5 letters	ANGLE
Agree to study a dog	– 6 letters	CONCUR
Gymnastic animal	– 5 letters	HORSE

Insect with a lot to learn  
Shorten a game of cards  
Now is the time to be generous

– 8 letters GREENFLY  
– 7 letters ABRIDGE  
– 2 words 10 letters in total PRESENT DAY

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)

**Website:** Andy Walmsley, 5 Jarzay, 79200 St Germain de Longue Chaume  
[jarzay@gmail.com](mailto:jarzay@gmail.com)