

*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*

## December 2020 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news  
and reports for members*



Impromptu Band on Bridge, Prague  
Photo by Carol Bray

### *Message from the President of Get Together*

Dear All,

It is self-evident we live in troubled times as we continue to be subject to the edicts of the authorities on the way we have to safely conduct our lives.

However there is light at the end of the tunnel as it appears that vaccines are on the horizon as well as therapies to treat the virus.

With Christmas fast approaching we may need to think outside the box as to how we celebrate, but celebrate we should. Whether that is through a religious faith or secularly there is still much to find joy in.



As Charles Dickens wrote in 'A Christmas Carol:

'He had no further intercourse with Spirits, but lived upon the Total Abstinence Principle, ever afterwards; and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!

And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!

[PS Not sure about the total abstinence!]

So have a Happy, Joyful Christmas everyone and don't forget to keep in touch.

Martin Hughes

## *A CHRISTMAS CRACKER !!*

We are pleased to say that Louise - of Northern Area Co-ordinator fame, has produced a couple of Christmas quiz tests for you and these are added at the end of the Newsletter. There are no prizes, but the answers will be revealed in the January edition of the Newsletter - Enjoy !!



You will notice that the Calendar of Events is still seriously compromised. This is due to our ever present Covid 19 regulations. We have left in the events that have been cancelled, to ensure everyone is aware of the situation. The items that have been left as possible events will obviously be subject to further review in the light of the current rules appertaining to the area.

## *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Lunch & Wine Group	Dec20/Jan21	11.30 am	<b>CANCELLED</b>	Diane & Keith Mousdale	05 49 70 04 42
Photo Group	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3.00 pm	Via Zoom	Steve Marshall Roger Amsden	05 49 50 95 26 05 49 28 98 69
Lunch & Wine Group	February 2021	11.30 am	TBA	Diane & Keith Mousdale	05 49 70 04 42
AGM	Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	TBA	Via Zoom	GT Committee	

- **Next Committee Meeting** **TBA**
- **Final Copy Date January Newsletter Items** **Wed 23rd Dec** (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- **for publication on** **Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Dec**

## *FORTHCOMING EVENTS*

Photo Group                      Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Dec    3.00 pm                      Via Zoom                      Steve Marshall  
Roger Amsden



The next meeting of the Photographic Group will be taking place on Monday 14 December at 3.00 pm via Zoom. The challenge for the members is to photograph interiors - three shots from each person to be sent to Steve in advance of the meeting.

Group Co-ordinators  
Steve Marshall - [stevemarshall128@gmail.com](mailto:stevemarshall128@gmail.com) 0549509526  
Roger Amsden - [roddy.ra2@gmail.com](mailto:roddy.ra2@gmail.com) 0549289869



In view of the current and seemingly ongoing situation it has been decided that it would be more sensible to hold the 2021 AGM via Zoom. Steve Marshall has kindly offered to host the meeting as he does the monthly photo group. We are allowed up to 100 participants, that should be plenty considering there were only 19 attending this year's AGM.

Help and advice will be available prior to the date for those who are not familiar with Zoom and how it works . Thank you all for your understanding in these difficult and challenging times .

Note - if you search for image for get-together - this is the result - try and empathise with one of these participants!!



### Information Regarding Next Year's Committee Requirements

As in all Committees, changes are made on a regular basis - for various reasons - but mainly to encourage members to participate in the running and decision making of the Group.

One change which has already been made, prior to the end of the current year, is the change within the Newsletter Team. Unfortunately, due to long term health issues of the main man, we as the Newsletter Team have decided to bow out but we are pleased to say that Annette Green has stepped in as Newsletter Editor as of January 2021. We have very much enjoyed our time bringing you all the news and wish Annette all success in her new venture.

The Group will also require a new Southern Area Co-ordinator to replace John Chard, who has completed four years in the position and we are looking for someone to manage the events taking place in the south. This will take effect after the AGM in February and if you wish to put your name forward, please contact one of the Committee members by January 2021. John has done a sterling job during his time and we hope there is someone out there that can take up the baton!

### REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Photo Group

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> November

Via Zoom

Report by Steve Marshall



The Photo Group met on Zoom on 9 November.

Roger took us through a collection of photographs of buildings to help everyone understand some of the complexities that can arise and how changing shooting position can dramatically alter a picture.

Steve talked about one of his favourite photographers, Ansel Adams, and his photographs of Yosemite. He slipped in a couple of his own taken there some years later but failed to fool anyone.

We looked at and discussed everyone's submissions on the subject of water discovering a wealth of great pictures and some very different perspectives.

Best shots were chosen as Steve Marshall's coastline and Howard Needs' watermill.



### Photo Group

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Via Zoom

Report by Steve Marshall



The Photo Group met on Monday 23 November.

Roger ran a session on Interiors and Anthea took us through some of the photographs of Annie Leibowitz.

We looked at everyone's photographs on last meeting's challenge which was the same image in both colour and black & white. We decided to vote on the best photographs transformed into black & white and the winners were Roger's shot of tree branches and countryside and Vinny's of a mahonia.



### Second Reading Circle

November

Via Zoom

Report by Martin Hughes



#### **The Offing by Benjamin Myers.**

Our November read followed the fictional travels of young sixteen year old Robert Appleyard as he set out from his Durham mining village on a Laurie Lee type escapade. The story is written by Robert in his old age looking back on his youthful adventure one summer, just after the end of WW2.

His proposed walk to cover a large stretch of the country is waylaid by Dulcie, an eccentric older woman with a worldly knowledge of life, with whom he establishes an unlikely friendship. She herself has a tragic secret which we understand as a group was based on a true story set in Robin Hood's Bay.

The first 10% of the book is written in a lyrical/poetical style which was quite dense. One needs to work one's way through the opening chapters before being drawn into the story proper, that deals with his coming of age, discovering there is a greater world out there.

For Robert was it to follow your father down the pit or as Dulcie puts it: *After all, there are only a few things truly worth fighting for: freedom, of course, and all that it brings with it. Poetry, perhaps, and a good glass of wine. A nice meal. Nature. Love, if you're lucky.*

Overall we felt this was an enjoyable read, to be recommended.



### [More Thoughts on our Reading and Viewing Habits ?](#)

We all are likely to be reading more books or watching more films. The newsletter would like to feature your feedback on anything that you have found enjoyable in the form of a thumbnail sketch and your enjoyment on a 1 to 5 score. Looking forward to receiving your submissions."

## [NEWS REPORTS FOR GT MEMBERS](#)

We are sorry to announce the following news. Members may well remember George and Lorraine Menzies who returned to the UK not long ago. We have received sad news that Lorraine has recently passed away. Lorraine had remained positive and courageous throughout her illness and we offer all our thoughts to George and the family at these difficult times.

## [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.

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## A Twelve Month Quiz

2020 has been a very strange year and many annual events were cancelled or delayed.



But in which month do each of the following 12 French events **usually** start?

- The Tour de France
- 
- The Paris Marathon
- 
- 24 hours of Le Mans/24 heures du Mans
- 
- French Open tennis champions (Roland Garros tournament)
- 
- The Lavender festival/Corso de la lavande at Digne-les-Bains, Provence
- 
- Beaujolais Nouveau celebrations
- 
- The Marathon du Medoc
- 
- Bordeaux International Show Jumping competition
- 
- Winter sales/Les soldes d'hiver
- 
- Annual pepper festival/Fete du piment in Espelette
- 
- Lyon's Festival of Lights/Fete des Lumieres
- 
- The violet festival in Tourettes-sur-Loup

The second part of the Quiz section is contained in the separate Pdf attachment. – Father Christmas

