

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

January 2021 Newsletter



*Misty Morning in Deux Sevres
Photo by Anne Amsden*

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



*New Year Message
from the
President of Get
Together
Happy New Year Everyone*

As we go into the New Year the committee wishes you all a Happy New Year.

2020 has been the world's annus horribilis which we wish to leave as a distant memory as soon as possible.

To that end we have the hope of early vaccination to give us protection against the virus, allowing us to start opening GT up again as soon as it is practical along the aims outlined in the Constitution.

I am sure you all wish to meet old friends again as well as new members and it would be good if we were all to look out for English speakers and encourage them to join Deux-Sevres largest English speaking association as a form of rebirth post Covid.

So, starting today, forget what has gone, appreciate what still remains and look forward to what is next.

Here's wishing you all a New Year of fizz, peace, love and laughter.

Photo Group

Mon 11th Jan 2.00 pm

Via Zoom

**Steve Marshall
Roger Amsden**



The challenge for January is close-up and macro - with camera or mobile phone.

I recommend trying out different subjects to see what works best. As always the key is light, so explore what happens if you add different lighting from flash to table lamp. Often the easiest is a pale piece of paper or card to act as a reflector - this can create a soft light. Have fun.

Group Co-ordinators

Steve Marshall - stevemarshall128@gmail.com 0549509526

Roger Amsden - rodgy.ra2@gmail.com 0549289869

Second Reading Group

Wed 13th Jan

2.00 pm

Via Zoom

Michele Hansford

The next meeting for the Second Circle Reading Group has been booked for January 13 at 2pm, via Zoom. We will be reading Juliet, by Anne Fortier. The Amazon intro reads as follows:

When Julie Jacobs inherits a key to a safety deposit box in Siena, she is told it will lead her to an old family treasure. Soon she is launched on a precarious journey into the true history of her ancestor Giulietta, whose legendary love for a young man named Romeo inspired Shakespeare's unforgettable story.

As Julie crosses paths with the descendants of the families who turned medieval Siena upside down, she begins to realize that the notorious curse - 'a plague on both your houses!' - is still at work.

Spanning centuries, Juliet is an unforgettable adventure that hopes to rewrite the fate of the star-crossed lovers, and reunite them at last.

Intrigued? Why not join us!!!

AGM

Thurs 25th Feb

TBA

Via Zoom

carolandrews7@orange.fr

A REPEAT OF THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED FOR THE AGM IN FEBRUARY 2021



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 an 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!

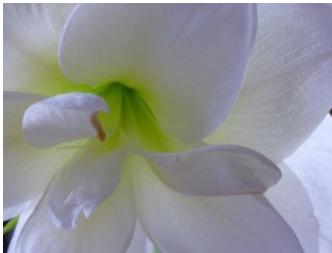
REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Photo Group

Mon 14th December

Via Zoom

Report by Steve Marshall



The Photo Group met on Zoom on 14 December to look at close up and macro photography with Howard and the possibilities of close up photography using a mobile phone with Steve.

We also looked at the interiors shots members had submitted. Favourites were Carol Andrew's Flower, Roger Amsden's Christmas and Steve Marshall's Chillis.



We all enjoyed Lesley's shot of one NHS Hospital's Christmas decorations.





We deliberately chose a light read for this month, to escape from the dark days of the pandemic which have dominated our lives this year. The decision was made to read 2 books, but most members forgot about the second so discussion was focussed on just one.

The Bucket List to Mend a Broken Heart by Anna Bell. This novel has 4.5 stars, given by over 1000 people on Amazon and is described as 'The laugh--out-loud love story of the year!' It looked like a must read which definitely met our needs. Shame! We are clearly a group of grumpy old men and women. I'm not sure any of us laughed out loud. We thought it very much fitted the category of 'chick lit'. The characters were not credible, the writing was not wonderful and the story was not involving. However we had a good discussion about our own bucket lists so the time was well spent.

Our second read was 'The Nightingale' by Kristin Hannah. The Hansford household dutifully read it, not so the other slackers! In our opinion, they didn't miss much. An interesting story was spoilt by poor research and weak writing. Oradour sur Glane is nowhere near Tours! As a group we have read much better novels about the experiences of ordinary French people during the Occupation, notably 'All the Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr. Another book set in the same period which is worth a read is 'The Sixth Lamentation' by William Brodrick.

[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."

[QUIZ RESULTS FOR GT MEMBERS](#)

Answers to the annual events quiz:

January - Les soldes d'hiver (the winter sales)

February - Bordeaux International Show Jumping contest

March - The violet festival in Tourettes-sur-Loup

April - The Paris Marathon

May - The Tennis Open champions (Roland Garros)

June - "Le Mans"

July - Tour de France

August - Lavender festival, Dignes les Bains, Provence

September - Marathon du Medoc (the worlds 'longest' marathon)

October - Annual pepper festival in Esplette

November - Beaujolais Nouveau day (November)

December - Lyon's Festival of Lights

Answers to the Father Christmas quiz:

1. Anthony Hopkins
2. Barack Obama
3. Boris Johnson
4. Chris Evans
5. Clint Eastwood
6. Craig Revel Horwood
7. Kim Jong-Un
8. Prince William
9. Richard Branson
10. Trevor MacDonald
11. Piers Morgan
12. Donald Trump

NON GT NEWS

Public Holidays in France for 2021 - For your Diary

- 1st January 2021 - New Year's Day
- 4th April 2021 – Easter Sunday
- 5th April 2021 – Easter Monday
- 1st May 2021 - Labour Day
- 8th May 2021 - Victory Day
- 13th May 2021 - Ascension Day
- 24th May 2021 - Whit Monday
- 14th July 2021 - National Day
- 15th August 2021 - Assumption Day
- 1st November 2021 - All Saints' Day
- 11th November 2021 - Armistice Day
- 25th December 2021 - Christmas Day

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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