

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

October 2020 Newsletter



Millau Bridge, Aveyron, France
Photograph by Vinny Galloway

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*

Message from the President

2020 is certainly proving the most unusual in GT history given the strains and stresses imposed by the covid19 virus.

We, on the committee, are doing what we can to ensure some events take place but are hamstrung by any regulations. This includes meetings via Zoom.

The newsletter remains our constant and I would encourage everyone to check it out, especially for any new features.

If you have any ideas to help GT and its members face this pandemic please let the committee know. My email address is martinhughes88@aol.com.

Calendar

The calendar photo competition is in its final stages and a reminder to vote. Just go to the GT website <http://www.gettogether-france.org/> open the 'events' tab et voila calendar competition. Difficult choices but fun to do. Deadline - midnight on Sunday 4th October for final votes.

Regrettably we are postponing the calendar production for reasons connected to covid19. All photos submitted this year will be carried forward to the 2021 competition to be voted on along with fresh submissions for 2021. Meanwhile the 12 best shots chosen now will be included in a monthly newsletter in 2021. The most popular entry for this year will be suitably rewarded

Quiz

Our usual quiz has had to be cancelled for obvious reasons.

We are looking at other ways of involving members in quiz type activity as we have heard of a number of people who are doing this regularly.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Southern Walk	Thur 1 st Oct	10.30 am	Rom 79120	John Chard	05 49 29 65 90
Photo Competition	Sun 4 th Oct	Midnight	Online voting deadline	Your Goodselfes	www.gettogether-france.org
Photo Group	Mon 5 th Oct	2.00 p.m.	Via Zoom	Steve Marshall Roger Amsden	05 49 50 95 26 05 49 28 98 69
Lunch & Wine Group	Tue 6 th Oct	11.30 am	Menigoute 79340	Martin Hughes Annette Green	06 02 39 15 20 06 69 40 12 94
History Group	Regrettably	Cancelled	Menigoute 79340	Penny Taylor	gthistgp3@gmail.com
Second Reading Circle	Tues 20 th Oct	1.30 pm	Menigoute 79340	Leslie Ritchie Michele Hansford	2ritchies@orange.fr michelehansford@gmail.com
Book Library	Wed 21 st Oct	2-4 pm	Scillé 79240	Joyce Roberts	06 44 10 20 34
Northern Walk	Fri 30 th Oct	10.30 am	Faymoreau 85240	Helen Horton	esthmc2@gmail.com
Lunch & Wine Group	Tues 3 rd Nov	11.30 am	Souvigne 79800	Diane & Keith Mousdale	05 49 70 04 42

- **Next Committee Meeting** **TBA**
- **Final Copy Date October Newsletter Items** **Sun 25th Oct** (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- **for publication on** **Wed 28th Oct**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Southern Walk **Thurs 1st Oct** **10.30 a.m.** **Rom 79120** **John Chard**



The walk will be around the countryside near Rom. 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.

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 Cafe in Lezay. The menu is;

Buffet starter
Choice of 2 meat plat de jour with vegetables
Cheese
Dessert
wine 25 Cl, cafe

At the moment there are 9 people booked for lunch. Anybody who wants to join us please advise me before Tuesday 29th September on jonchard@aol.com or 0549296590.

Photo Group

Mon 5th Oct

2.00 pm

Via Zoom

Steve Marshall



The Photo Group will once again be meeting via the services of Zoom. In September several members met in the heart of historic Parthenay to spend time photographing the many aspects of architecture and life which could be found in the town centre. These photos will be reviewed on screen at the meeting.

The Shot of the Month will also be reviewed - the subject being 'Recent Times' and two photographs are required to be submitted in good time before the meeting.

Lunch and Wine Group

Tues 6th Oct

11.30 am

Menigoute 79340

Martin Hughes



The October meeting of the Lunch and Wine Group will be held at Martin's home in Menigoute

The wines for the lunch will be different grapes from the d'oc region.

Red and rosé: Merlot, Cabernet-Sauvignon, Syrah, Cabernet-Franc, Malbec, Mourvèdre.

White: Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Viognier, Chenin, Colombard, so could be interesting....please provide a starter or dessert from that region (if possible!) or anything French.

'Au cause de COVID-19' does mean that a maximum of 10 members can attend. Unless we have one of those lovely warm autumn days and we can eat outside!

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact Annette by telephone on 0669401294 or email ajg.arranetoile@gmail.com. You do not need to be a culinary expert, it's just a fun gathering with lots of chat and plenty to eat and drink, so why not give us a try?

Please contact Martin directly for directions on +33 6 02 39 15 20 or martinhughes88@aol.com

As there is a maximum number of 10 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 meeting in November.

History Group

Regrettably
cancelled

Menigoute 79340

Penny Taylor



HISTORY GROUP OCTOBER MEETING

It is with great regret that the GT History Group Committee, due to the present circumstances, have to announce that we are postponing future lectures until next year. It is most unfortunate, but we feel it's only fair to those speakers presently booked, that they should not have to prepare and give their lectures to what may be a very small audience.

It's even possible we may not even be allowed to hold the meetings and we would then have to cancel at very short notice.

Our postponement means that next year we can look forward to a full and interesting programme when we recommence our meetings again.

Jonathon Townsend, Martin Hughes, Penny Taylor

Book Library**Wed 21st Oct****2-4 pm****Scillé 79240****Joyce Roberts**

The Book Library will once again be held at Joyce's house. There is plenty of space to view the boxes of books and social distancing and the usual precautions can be adhered to.

Instructions to get to Joyce's house are as follows: From the north (L'Absie), take the D744 towards Niort/Coulonges. After 4km, bear left onto the D128 in the direction of Le Beugnon. Immediately you will pass through Scillé village and continue for a further kilometre where at the next junction there is a large cross. Turn right onto the C1 in the direction of Chapelle Thireuil and almost immediately turn right, signposted La Marietiere/Chat-eau. From the south come through Le Beugnon on the D128 towards Scille/L'Absie. After about 4 miles turn left at the large cross as described above. Any problems please contact Joyce on 06 44 10 20 34 or Chat-eau@hotmail.fr

Northern Walk**Fri 30th Oct****10.30 am****Faymoreau 85240****Helen Roberts**

The walk is being organised by Helen Horton and will consist of an amble of approximately 7km in the undulating terrain around Faymoreau. The walk will begin at 10.30 and we will be meeting in the car park adjacent to the Hotel des Mines. On this occasion, due to Covid restrictions the number of walkers is being limited to 10. Please contact Helen either by email: esthmc2@gmail.com or mobile: +447779333256 to confirm your place. If the numbers exceed 10 a reserve list will be held (there is no limit to the number of canine friends)..

The Hotel des Mines in Faymoreau is able to cater for these numbers and offers a set lunch for 13 euros. The main course is a meat dish but a fish alternative is available on request. For any vegetarians, please ask separately. Because of the uncertainties about the Covid restrictions you are requested to arrange your own booking with the restaurant (Hotel de Mines, 5 Allee de la Verriere, Faymoreau, 85240, Tel: 0244376243). This way you can ensure your own 'bubble' and also any dietary requirements. If, however, you would like any support with the booking, please contact Helen (details as above). We expect to be back from the walk at 12.30.

Please also note that at this stage the walk is still planned to go ahead, subject to no changes to Covid restrictions. A final confirmation will be sent out a couple of days before the event.

Lunch and Wine Group**Tue 3rd Nov****11.30 am****Souvigne 79800****Diane & Keith Mousdale**

The November meeting will be held at Dorothy and Alan's home at Bois Pineau, Souvigne. The wines will be wines from various parts of France made from the Gamay grape. Food, a starter, cheeses, or a dessert can be anything French.

Due to the Covid restrictions means that a maximum of 10 members can attend, bookings are on a first come but in the event of oversubscription anyone who cannot be accommodated will be offered first refusal on the following meeting.

If you would like to join us or would like more information contact Diane & Keith on 05 49 70 04 42 or email dandkmousdale@gmail.com. You do not need to be culinary expert, it is just a fun social gathering with a lot of chat and lots to eat and drink so why not come along and give it a try?

Please contact Dorothy and Alan directly for directions at enquiries@saule-des-bois.co.uk

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Second Reading Circle

Mon 21st Sept

La Bourse 79240

Report by Eric Hansford



"Soldiers of Salamis" by Javier Cercas

Winner of the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2004. The back cover of this book sold it to us as a 'remarkable book', 'a great read and a moving epitaph', 'it demonstrates how eloquent and exciting fiction is still capable of being'. Unfortunately no-one in the group felt these were accurate descriptions. It felt like a blend of history and fiction and left us uncertain what was invented - either by the author or by the main protagonist - and what was truth. We felt that Spanish readers would have found the book more enjoyable because they would have the necessary background knowledge. If you have an interest in the Spanish Civil War and in the Franco years you may well enjoy this but otherwise, not recommended.

Photo Group

Mon 21st Sept

Parthenay

Report by Roger Amsden



On Monday the 21st last the photo group paid a visit to Parthenay for an afternoon to take some pics and get a bit of outdoor exercise . We set off towards the walls and into the nearby church which had some beautiful stained glass windows .

The sun was out and we had some spectacular views from the walls. Then down to the old town for a social distancing coffee and some memorable pictures. I've enclosed a few pics for those who missed it.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Yorath and Abla Trebble Argenton Les Valleees 79150

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Subscriptions

The committee have reviewed the annual subscription and decided in these exceptional times when we have not been able to fully function as an association that the 2020 subscription should be extended to include our activities in 2021.

So the next subscription request will be made in October 2021.

We hope that this is satisfactory to all members.

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

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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