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*French
Association
3035*

February 2021 Newsletter

***Events, activities, news
and reports for members***



Etang du Lambon
Photograph by Roger Amsden

Welcome to my first newsletter, which I hope you will find interesting.

First of all I would like to say a huge thank you to my predecessors, Lyn and Ken Chamberlin who despite a very trying year for them both, continued to put together and send out our newsletter. We can't thank you enough and hope that 2021 brings improved health and better times.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GT ZOOM QUIZ	Thurs 4 th Feb	19.25 hrs	Via Zoom
Photo Group	Mon 8 th Feb	14.00 hrs	Via Zoom
2 nd Reading Group	10 th Feb	14.00 hrs	Via Zoom
AGM	Thurs 25 th Feb	11.00 hrs	Via Zoom

- **Next Committee Meeting** **TBA**
- **Final Copy Date December Newsletter Items Wed 24th Feb**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- **for publication on** **Sat27th Feb**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



GT ZOOM QUIZ Thurs 4th Feb 19.25 pm Via Zoom Michele Hansford

After a year of family quizzes on Zoom, we have quite a store of quiz rounds and thought it would be fun to try and organise a GT quiz night. Clearly it is currently out of the question to get together in person so Zoom it shall be!

To take part, you will need to download the **Zoom app** to your computer/phone/iPad/android, if you haven't already. (This is free of charge)

Let me know that you would like to take part and shortly before the due date I will email you the Meeting ID.

On February 4 at 19.25 hrs, open Zoom, sign in using the login and we will set off.

If you have never used Zoom before and would like a trial run, let me know and I will organise a short 'training session' - please don't be put off by the need to download an app.

As far as I know, it is possible to have up to 25 'teams' on screen at any one time so all who wish to should be able to join us.

There will be no prizes, just prestige for the winners!

Clearly, as we will be post curfew and possibly back in Lockdown (who knows?!) it will be difficult or impossible for different households to gather together physically to make a team but I can suggest a way round that if you also have WhatsApp downloaded. Up to 4 can set up a video chat using WhatsApp so you can discuss the questions and then put forward your answers. During each round you will be muted so other teams cannot hear your conversation!

At the end of each round we will give the answers and collect in the scores - we trust your honesty.

For the first quiz we will have 4 rounds, with a short break between rounds 2 and 3 to refresh ourselves. It will probably take around 1:30 hrs.

For the first zoom GT quiz there will be no picture or music rounds as that is harder to set up, we will keep it easy for the first attempt given the possible numbers. If all goes well, we can be more daring next time!

If you would like to take part please contact Michele.

Photo Group

Mon 8th Feb

2.00 pm

Via Zoom

**Steve
Marshall**

The next Zoom meeting will be on Monday 8th February and thereafter will be held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.

We are asking photographers for their 6 best photos of 2020 - any subject you want.

The group will then discuss them and may make friendly suggestions. We will then vote for the best shot by each photographer.

Current members and old members are welcome to send their shots to Steve This is a great opportunity to have some constructive feedback on your photography and see if you might wish to join the group.

Meeting to discuss '**Unseen Academicals**' by Terry Pratchett.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Lesley Ritchie,

We are currently putting together our programme for the next few months and would welcome any recommendations.

AGM Thurs 25th February 11.00 hrs Via Zoom Martin Hughes – President

The **AGM** is fast approaching and in true bulldog style we will not be deterred!

I encourage everyone to join in the AGM which for the first [and hopefully last] time will take place over ZOOM. This places some restrictions on us, which we think will not be a problem.

In the first instant please will you register your intended participation by emailing Carol Andrews with a copy to Steve Marshall, who is hosting the meeting.

So, please register, and remember you won't have to drive!

The AGM will be run on Zoom by Steve Marshall, using the GT Zoom licence, so up to 100 connections can participate.

If you do not have Zoom then it can be downloaded from <https://zoom.us/download>. Make sure you download for your device - PC, Mac, iPad, smartphone.

If you already have Zoom then updating it regularly is a good idea. Assuming you have the downloaded app then clicking on your icon/initials near the top right will bring up a menu. Select *Check for Updates* and follow the instructions.

If you have little or no experience of Zoom and would like to make sure you know how to use it so you can speak and vote at the AGM, Steve will be running a learning session at 1400 on Thursday 11 February.

At the AGM you will be asked to keep yourself muted unless you need to speak. If you wish to ask about something such as a Committee Report please use the Raise Hand option. This is usually found under *Reactions* or *Participants*. If you cannot find it please use the chat to tell Steve of the issue. Steve as the Zoom host will ask each 'Raised Hand' to speak in order with the Committee responding where necessary.

For votes the Committee will ask all participants to unmute themselves so they can ask for *those in favour, those against and for abstentions*.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Steve ran a session on reflections and this is the challenge for the next meeting - up to three shots taken between now and then, plus one archive shot to Steve.

We looked at everyone's photographs on macro and close-up and agreed that the standard of photos members are submitting are getting better and we are all learning from each other's work.

The winner was Roger with a shot of frost melting on a leaf.



There were five joint runners-up:

Caz – Berries and Ice



Howard - Nativity 1 and Nativity 2



Vinny – Azalea



Second Circle Zoom meeting – Wed 13th January Repost by Lesley Ritchie

'Juliet' by Anne Fortier.

A very well-reviewed historical mystery / romance which explores the various versions of the Romeo and Juliet story, 'the star-crossed lovers' of Shakespeare's play.

Julie, the central character, is a young American woman who, in the course of the book, discovers that her family's origins reach all the way back to medieval Siena, where the original version took place, that she is descended from Juliet and that their fates are interlinked.

After the death of her aunt in America, and the shocking revelation that has her entire estate has been left to her estranged twin sister, Julie receives a key to a safety deposit box in Siena. This was found in the possession of her mother on the day she died while researching the original story, along with the suggestion that it will lead to a priceless hidden treasure.

This sends Julie on a life-changing journey into the troubled past of her ancestor Giulietta Tolomei, the original Juliet.

The deeper she delves into her family history, the violence, ruthlessness, superstitions and blood feuds between warring families, the stronger the sense of personal danger grows, and she begins to sense that the curse 'a plague on both your houses' is still at work.

We all agreed that the plot was very promising at the beginning, and really loved her very evocative descriptions of medieval and modern Siena and the surrounding Tuscan countryside, and the enormous significance of the annual Palio horserace to rival families. Then our views of the novel polarised, as some of us really enjoyed it, and others were disappointed and thought that the plot became too convoluted and implausible - very 'Dan Brown', and that the characters were unreal and poorly drawn.

Interested by this divergence, I looked at readers responses on Goodreads and found the same divergence as it was rated from one to five stars.

You need to read the book to decide for yourselves.

Photo Group Monday 25th January Via Zoom Report by Steve Marshall

We looked at the photographs members had submitted on the subject of 'Reflections' and all agreed that two votes each was insufficient as the range and quality was so good.

We finally agreed a winner - Anthea's picture of garlic. Close runners-up were Vinny's river, Tim's shop window and Howard's willows.

Steve also took us through the concept of a random photoshoot - go somewhere with your camera and take whatever strikes you. The aim is to see what works on the day with the light and shoot that. Optionally a little work with a photo editor such as FastStone, which is free, can enhance the aspects that most appeal.

Anthea



Vinny Tim



And Howards



Lazy Cook's Aubergine Bake



A really quick, cheap and healthy hot vegetarian starter or main course if served with salad and bread.

Judge quantities according to numbers. It will warm up. Slice aubergine into 1cm slices. Bake in olive oil in hot oven til soft. (around half an hour)

Transfer to a shallow baking dish big enough for just one layer.

Thinly spread with tomato sauce. (You can use home-made but I tend to use a really small jar of bio ready-made sauce. Don't use too much.)

Cover well with a thick layer of cheese. (cheddar works really well)

Bake until well cooked and starting to brown,. (at least half an hour. Don't be tempted to under-cook as flavours need to meld together and much tastier if well cooked.

INFORMATION OF NOTE FOR GT MEMBERS

Vaccinations IF you do not have a Carte vitale - info from thelocal.fr

Registration within the French health system is not necessary to make a vaccine appointment, although you will have to pay for the injections if you don't have a *carte vitale*.

If you are in the process of registering for a *carte vitale* but have not yet received the card, ask for a *feuille de soins* - this form will allow you to claim the cost of the vaccine back later when you get the card.

For people with a card, the vaccine is free.

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](http://www.gettogether-france.org), move your mouse to 'information', then click on 'Useful Links'.

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Can you name the famous book?

1. The Geezer And The Caribbean
2. An Elm Develops From A Sapling Where The Dodgers Once Played
3. Brilliant Red Communication No One Writes Anymore
4. While I Was In The Bed Croaking
5. The Muscadines Belonging To Anger
6. Armed Conflict And The Kind Of Train Cat Stevens Used To Ride
7. Out Of Here In The Current Of Air
8. The Purple Rain Singer Associated With the Rising & Falling Of The Ocean
9. Tremendous Anticipations
10. What Comes Before A Fall & Preconceived Judgement Towards A Group
11. Mitt-Wearing Home Plate Squatter Enclosed By Reuben Sandwich Bread
12. Murder A Derisive, Taunting, Feather-Covered Creature
13. An Au Revoir For Everything Inside The Shirt Sleeves
14. Y2K Minus Number Of Candles On Molly Ringwald's Cake
15. Felonies And Misdemeanors Coupled With Spankings
16. That Audio And That Rage
17. Toward What Person Or Persons A Recess-is-Over Sound Is Directed
18. One Who Domineers Over Things Stuck To The Swatter
19. Scoliosis Sufferer At The Fighting Irish School
20. Courageous Globe With The Tag Still On It
21. Pirate Loot / Counter In The Center Of A Kitchen
22. Story Of A Duo Of Municipalities
23. About Little White Rodents And Grown Boys
24. Ruby-Colored Nametag Indicating Bravery
25. The Star In Our Solar System Comes Up, Too

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Christmas Quiz - Authors and Book Titles

The initials of 40 authors, and titles of novels they have written, are listed below.
Can you work them all out?

No.	Author	Title	Author	Title
1	SR	NP		
2	HM	TTOA		
3	JM	MBY		
4	SP	TBJ		
5	HM	TMATL		
6	RO	TTMC		
7	CSL	TLTWATW		
8	CD	ACC		
9	DDM	Jl		
10	DN	OD		
11	AG	MOAG		
12	KH	TKR		
13	MT	TOHF		
14	AS	TLB		
15	SL	GWTDT		
16	GO	NE-F		
17	JKR	HPATOOTP		
18	SR	MC		
19	HK	TBOS		
20	HL	GSAW		
21	AF	TDOAF		
22	LMA	LW		
23	MZ	TBT		
24	KS	TH		
25	FHB	TSG		
26	MA	THT		
27	AW	TCP		
28	TC	ICB		
29	GRRM	AGOT		
30	EH	TOMATS		
31	SMK	TSLOB		
32	AN	TTTW		
33	AC	ATTWN		
34	HH	S		
35	CM	TR		
36	TM	B		
37	KV	S-F		
38	VH	THOND		
39	NS	NH		
40	LL	CWR		

The answers will be published in the February edition of the magazine.