

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

September 2020 Newsletter

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



**Assos, Greece
Photograph by Jackie Luckett**

What Tough Times We Are Going Through

Dear All

It seems that life is going along in a very haphazard way! We are all safe within our own homes, but hesitant about what to expect when we get outside our own gates. The news does not give a lot of promise, but we can take comfort in knowing that we can pick up our phone and call our friends within GT and have a chat and spread a bit of cheer amongst our fellow members – that is if you have a good phone signal – just saying Mr President ?!

We are entering a more productive time, with a few carefully arranged walks, opportunities to exchange our books, a chance to review photos and soon time to return to our Historical and Wine exploits.

Do not forget the deadline for your photos for the Calendar competition – requirements for the photos were highlighted in the August Newsletter – Sunday 13th September is the final day for entries.

Whatever happens, enjoy the French life and keep in touch with your friends – and keep looking for that light at the end of the tunnel – unless like us the Newsletter Team - as keen Railway Buffs – we might expect to see a train!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Photo Group	TBA	TBA	Via Zoom
Book Library	Wed 16 th Sept	2-4 pm	Scillé 79240
Calendar Comp.	Sun 13 th Sept		Deadline for Entries
Second Reading Circle	Mon 21 st Sept	2.30 pm	La Bourse 79240
Southern Walk	Thur 1 st Oct	10.30 am	Rom 79120
Northern Walk	Fri 25 th Sept	10.15 am	Gourgé 79200
Lunch & Wine Group	Tue 6 th Oct	11.30 am	Menigoute 79340
History Group	Thur 15 th Oct	3.00 pm	Menigoute 79340
Northern Walk	Fri 30 th Oct	10.30 am	TBA
History Group	Thur 19 th Nov	3.00 pm	Menigoute 79340

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Photo Group **Mon 31st** **2.00 pm** **Via Zoom** **Steve Marshall &**
Aug **Roger Amsden**



The Photo Group is meeting on Zoom on Monday 31 August. One of the subjects for discussion will be how we continue - with Zoom, with outdoor meetings and what mixture of the two. So if you are interested in joining or re-joining or a regular please make sure Roger and Steve know what balance you would like, what sort of locations, etc. or just to be informed of when meetings are happening. Please make contact as follows:

Book Library **Wed 16th** **2.00-4.00** **Scillé** **Joyce Roberts**
Sept **pm** **79240**



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.

We look forward to seeing old and new faces for our monthly meet to exchange old for new books to read. We will also be discussing the way forward given the impositions of the effects of the pandemic.

Southern Walk

Thur 1st Oct

10.30 am

Rom 79120

John Chard



It would seem that, despite no response from members, there is some interest in a GT southern walk soon. Due to a clash with the “Old Gits” dining club I have decided to move the date of this walk to the 1st October. In the meantime I will visit the Market restaurant in Lezay and make a booking.

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.

Booking before 26 September.

Details of the lunch will be circulated when finalised.

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 21st
Sept**

10.15 am

**Gourgé
79200**

**Geoff & Andrea
Cornwall**



Both long and short walks begin and finish here. There is a toilet available here if needed. Those on the short walk awaiting the return of those on the long walk are welcome to wait in our garden (socially distanced, of course)

The short walk is approx 3.5 km and the long walk approx 7 km. Both involve on and off road so suitable footwear is important. These are not flat walks but all gradients are steady.

NB. The long walk includes crossing the river via a stepping stone bridge. See photo.

Lunch: We have not made any formal lunch arrangements as your personal take on Covid restrictions will determine with what you are comfortable. We make the following suggestions and leave you to book for yourself if appropriate.

1. There is a picnic area under the trees by the river at The Pont
2. The village restaurant, L'Auberge la P'tite Marmite has **outside dining** and is in the square next to the church. They serve a Menu de Jour for €13 plus drinks plus has alternative menus at €20 and €24 plus a la carte
Telephone 05 49 94 19 54
3. There is Panda Wok in Parthenay but they only have **indoor dining**.
Telephone 05 49 71 63 57

Look forward to seeing you.

Andrea and Geoff

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. 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.

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

Thurs 15th
Oct

3.00 pm

Menigoute
79340

Penny Taylor



Next History Group talk will be (hopefully) Thursday 15th October 3.00 pm Menigoute at L'Auberge des Voyageurs.

It will be given by Robert Pierson - The subject: -

Louis XIV

France has engendered those who claimed not only to lead the nation but to embody her very heart and soul. Saint Joan of Arc comes to mind as does Charles de Gaulle and, of course, Louis XIV. Louis taught his son all that he, his father, had learned about government, his personal follies, and the folly of war. That son died, aged fifty, in a hunting accident. Had he lived, France might well have become a liberal, constitutional monarchy; might have learned the lessons of Charles 1st, the institution of a constitutional monarchy and changed the history of Europe. Robert Pierson looks at what was and what might have been.

The Meeting will be held at L'Auberge des Voyageurs in Menigoute at 3.00pm. The cost will be 5 euros per head. Please book by Thursday 8th October by email to Penny Taylo.r

We will follow with a meeting on Thursday 19th November at 3.00 pm. **Jocelyn Simms** will present a talk on 'George Simenon' a fascinating author who amongst other things, wrote the Maigret series.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Second Reading
Circle

Wed 29th July

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Report by Martin
Hughes



'The Prophets of Eternal Fjord' by Kim Leine

The story in this book,, set in the late 1700's, is based around the exploits of a missionary to Greenland, looking to convert the local Inuit population.

Whilst it had some interesting historical and fictional passages portraying the grim life of the pastor the group overall did not like the book given that the author's highly descriptive pages referring to the 'hero's bowel movements and sex were far too long and off putting. A lighter read next time please!

Second Reading
Circle

Tue 25th Aug

Scillé

Report byMichell
Hansford



A healthy group of 8 of us met in the garden to discuss this month's selection. We had chosen "Sweet Sorrow" by David Nicholls, recommended by Lesley Ritchie and Louise Tamblin. Of those who had read the book (75%) the vast majority thoroughly enjoyed it, although one described it as 'a bit of fluff'! I prefer Waterstones description: a bittersweet and brilliantly

funny coming-of-age tale. Told over one life-changing summer, *Sweet Sorrow* explores the transformative impact of first love in an ordinary life, masterfully conveying what it truly feels like to be young and alive. Not a masterpiece but a very enjoyable, easy read perfect for summer. We felt the characters were beautifully drawn, the story flowed and was very credible.

Our next meeting we will be discussing 'Soldiers of Salamis' by Javier Cercas - set in the aftermath of the Spanish civil war.

The meeting is at La Bourse 79240 – What3words Contact : scared.area.mockery (see article in Things to Ponder)

Book Library

Wed 19th Aug

Scillé

Report by Martin Hughes



Our numbers were down to six this time as we met to exchange books from the large collection of books that Joyce curates in here hangar.

As usual we spent more time talking than exchanging whilst consuming tea and biscuits and looking forward to the next time.

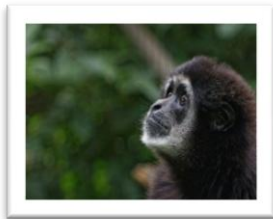
Many thanks to Joyce again

Photographic Group

Various in August

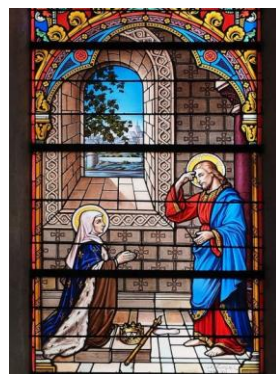
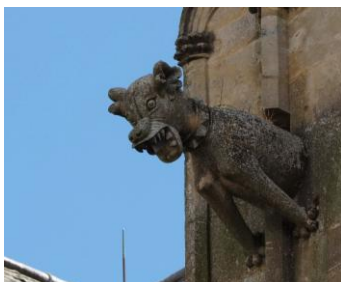
Via Zoom & in Person

Report by Roger Amsden



On the 4th of August the photo group met on zoom to review recent photos that we took on the subject of 'drama' Howard sent a winning photo of this excellent photo of a chimp. Carol also reviewed photos of one of her favourite photographers ,John Denver, yes the singer who is a fanatical amateur photographer, which we very much enjoyed thanks Carol.

I hosted a live session at the cathedral in St Maxient on the 18th @ 2pm. Plenty of good light, not too hot and not too many people, we had the place virtually to ourselves, so social distancing was not a problem and as you see from my sample enclosed pics, some amazing possible photos. For those who couldn't make it see what you missed.



Views from St Maxient

GT BBQ

Sun 30th Aug

Exireuil

Report Julia
Roberts



What a wonderful wet time we all had at this year's bbq. Table, chairs and bbqs arranged in Annette's lovely garden, music playing and aperos waiting. A few people arrived early in time for the first shower, after which chairs were towelled dried, soggy crisp thrown out and the bbqs lit.

39 people attended, Martin gave his traditional speech early while the sun was shining. We were enjoying excellently cook bbq of sausages, turkey steaks and salmon, when the big black cloud we had all been watching brought a heavy down pour. Some of us took our plates into the games rooms while the brave stayed at their tables sheltering under umbrellas. Martin had given out a quiz and treasure hunt papers and being soggy didn't stop them being scored and the winners received their boozy prizes.

Annette and Helen won the quiz.
Phil and Rose Marie the treasure hunt.

Molky otherwise known as the stick game was won by John Buckley, Peter and I. Second game by pat and Jon Chard. Quite a large group played croquet, along with the 5 dogs joining in and chasing the balls. Being mainly British and being used to this kind of bbq weather it didn't stop us having a great afternoon.

A big THANK YOU to Annette and the committee members and their partners who took the time to organise another successful GT event.

Annette... House and garden
Martin...president, chief organiser and quiz master.
Pat and Jon Chard... Aperos
Eric and Michelle... Bbq provider and food.
Peter and Eric... Bbqs
Roger... Music



Views from the rather damp BBQ – but all smiles !!

THINGS TO PONDER

Michel Hansford has been trying out a new app to enable reliable access to places – known as What3words. She has included it for the next Second Reading Circle Meeting - read on and see if it might be useful for you.

A useful app for your Smart phone.

I don't know about you, but at times we have found it difficult to describe the start point of walks we have organised when they are a bit remote. It can be difficult telling visitors how to find our house, since GPS isn't always reliable. This app could solve your problems. Add 3 words to your walk description!

What3words is a free download. Every 3 metre square of the world has been given a unique combination of three words. Once you know the 3 words you need, type them into the app, then use google maps or [maps.me](https://www.maps.me/) or another route planning service and the route will appear on your phone.

As an example, Michelle is currently typing in her sitting room and her 3 words are scared.area.mockery

Download the app , type in the words and you will know exactly where I am and quickly find how to get here.

All the UK emergency services now use it and it has proved a life saver (not sure about France!)

[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.

Produced by: Ken Chamberlin, 2 Rue du Prieure, 86110, Craon 05 49 36 07 43.
gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

Website: Andy Walmsley, 5 Jarzay, 79200 St Germain de Longue Chaume
jarzay@gmail.com

