

Founded
1989



French
Association
3035

May 2021 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Cathar Castle taken by Martin Hughes

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2021

The theme for 2021 will be '**WATER IN ALL ITS FORMS**'.

The photographs MUST be taken in FRANCE ONLY and can be landscape or portrait.

There will be 3 voucher prizes this year - for 1st 20 euros, 2nd and 3rd 10 euros each. 12 photos will be chosen in total and will be used on the monthly GT newsletter

Entries must be in by 31st October 2021 and details of where to send them will be provided towards the end of the summer.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Photo Group	Mon 10 th May 2021	14.00 hrs	Via Zoom
GT Zoom Quiz	Thurs 13 th May 2021	20.00 hrs	Via Zoom
Reading Circle2	Wed 19 th May 2021	10.30 hrs	Via Zoom
GT Midsummer Picnic	Sunday 20 th June 2021	TBC	Bois Pouvreau, MENIGOUE

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Wed 12th May**
- **Final Copy Date May Newsletter Items** **Wed 26th May**
(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- **for publication on** **Fri 28th May**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Zoom Quiz – Thurs 13th May 2021 - 8pm – Michele Hansford

Above are the details for the next Zoom quiz, if you wish to participate please contact Michele.

This will be the last Zoom Quiz, so we hope that all past teams will participate and anyone else who is interested of course. It is hoped that our next GT quiz will be in person – sometime in October/November, (unless circumstances in France change).

Some members asked for 8pm due to commitments at home, hence the slight change of time.

The quizzes are taking approximately 1:30 hrs with a short interlude of 10 minutes halfway through. It is a lot of fun and something different to do, so I would encourage you all to participate.

Photo Group Mon 10th May 2021 14.00 hrs Via Zoom Steve Marshall
Roger Amsden

The challenge is to take up to four shots in black & white or close to black & white.

Second Circle Wed 19th May 2021 10.30 hrs via Zoom Lesley Ritchie



The next Second Circle meeting will be on Wednesday 19 May at 10.30 am in the garden chez Eric and Michele, to discuss “ Away with the Penguins” by Hazel Prior. This is described as “unflinching, stubborn, funny and moving”, A curmudgeonly but charming old woman, her estranged grandson, and a colony of penguins proves it's never too late to be the person you want to be in this rich, heartwarming

story.

If you fancy doing something different during these unusual times and maybe try books that you wouldn't normally read,

As ever, contact Lesley Ritchie if you are interested in joining us.

[GT Midsummer Picnic Sunday 20th June 2021](#) [By GT Committee](#)

A FIRM DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES.

GT TO RE-OPEN

SUNDAY 20TH JUNE, LATE AFTERNOON, A MIDSUMMER PICNIQUE

FULL DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

[obviously subject to the Elysee]

Reports from recent events

Zoom Quiz

8th April: All over Deux Sèvres

Report by Martin Hughes

It feels strange writing a report when you have just won by one half of one point! That was two new experiences arising from the same occasion in my life, being a third of the team of the Richies et moi.

All conquering would be an exaggeration given the half point but we do like to think that changing two correct answers to the wrong ones made for a more exciting contest.

Having padded out this report with the opening paragraphs some twenty odd GT member had a very pleasing evening wracking our brains on such diverse topics as wine [we all got a full house of points on that round didn't we?], the Olympics, some famous buildings etc.

The winners, us, won the right to compose this report which was handed to the newest member of the team.

Suffice it to say we all enjoyed ourselves and thanks again to Michele and Eric for acting as the Torquemada twins..

History Talk

Thurs 15th April via Zoom

Report by Alan Peel

I suppose that it's to be expected that a history group would be rather tardy in adopting new technology but finally the day arrived and rather successfully to boot.

A very encouraging number of people participated (albeit with varying degrees of visibility and audibility) and were treated to a fascinating talk by the group's old friend and founder member, Robert Pierson.

Robert's subject was "An introduction to Charles de Gaulle" and his presentation was most informative and interesting. It was fascinating to see past the facade that we all are familiar with and to learn something of the man himself.

An appeal for volunteers to do short future presentations on Zoom was greeted with resounding silence but happily we do have a healthy list of presenters for future meetings.

Details of our next meeting will be announced shortly.

The proposition that the summer visit should be held in September being a visit to the control bunker associated with the U boat pens at La Rochelle and the maritime museum was well received.

Many thanks to Michele for facilitating the technical stuff!

Finally, I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Jonathan a swift recovery from his recent operation.

Photo Group

Mon 26th April via Zoom

Report by Steve Marshall

Steve presented some tips and ideas on taking landscape photos.

We looked at everyone's submissions on the subject of 'a dominant colour' - where colour included black, white and shades of grey. And what a range of pictures we got.

This meant a lot of photographs got votes. The top two were both by Steve - one of a door bolt and one of a dandelion.

Close behind were Martin's tree in a blue sky, Caz's green fungus and golden dandelion; and two of Anthea's flowers taken on her scanner!



Steve



Steve



Martin



Above photos taken by Caz and below photos taken by Anthea





In our Zoom meeting we discussed Geraldine Brook's 2008 novel about a fictional book conservator who comes to Sarajevo in the aftermath of the civil war to restore a mediaeval illustrated Haggadah. The story is loosely based on real events and follows the possible story of the book from its rediscovery in the ruins of war-torn Sarajevo to its creation in the last days of the Moorish rule in fifteenth century Spain.

On the whole the group enjoyed the book. The novel is based on the true story of an ancient Jewish religious book saved from destruction in both World War II and the break up of Yugoslavia - each time by a Muslim librarian. We all found the descriptions of war torn Sarajevo very moving. This was not surprising as the author was a war correspondent in Bosnia in the 90s. We found the modern day sections of the book well written but as the story moves back into the past there was some dissatisfaction with the storyline and with the style of writing which seemed at times to be too journalistic.

I would say that we would recommend the book but as 3/4* rather than a whole hearted 5*.

SOUTHERN COORDINATOR VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

We are looking for a new volunteer to take over this role with immediate effect. The role is primarily to ensure that walks are organised (so very easy at the moment!)

If possible attend the walks, plus organise a write up and attend committee meetings, which are usually around once a month via ZOOM at the moment and last approximately an hour.

You could also consider sharing the role with your partner or a friend.

If anyone is interested in the role and/or would like to find out more please contact Annette or Martin via gtnewsletter79.com and we can phone you back.

Useful websites

A GT member has provided a list of online shops that you may want to use to buy items that are difficult or expensive to buy here e.g. Marmite.

Please note that these website are for you to check out, GT has not vetted any of the sites.

www.thetradingpost.fr

www.allirelandfoods.ie

www.ardkeen.com

www.baconbythebox.com

www.paddybox.com

www.asiamarket.ie

www.youririshshop.com

www.giftedfromireland.com

www.foodsofathenry.ie

www.fabre.fr

www.brittains-direct.com

www.avoca.com

www.aprilandthebear.com

www.britishcornershop.co.uk

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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