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French
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June 2021 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news
and reports for members*



Poppies in Calvados taken by Sally Warden

Welcome to the GT June newsletter. With restrictions slowly lifting in France, events in GT will start to gradually appear and for once the events calendar will say more than ZOOM!

First of all though before we leave zoom behind us (fingers crossed) we would like to thank Steve Marshall for hosting the AGM and Photographic group and Michele and Eric Hansford for hosting the GT Quizzes, 2nd Reading Circle, History Talk and more recently committee meetings. You have really helped us to keep our sanity, so a BIG thank you once again!

We would like to offer a warm welcome to two new members, Michele Woodcock from Coulonges sur L'Autize and Tim Carlyle from Kent. We hope that you will start to enjoy the many activities that will start to appear in the calendar and hope that we will see you soon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GT Midsummer Picnic	Sunday 20 th June 2021	12.30 hrs	Bois Pouvreau, MENIGOUTE
Photo Group	Mon 14 th June 2021	14:00 hrs	Via Zoom
2 nd Reading Circle	Wed 16 th June 2021	10.30 hrs	Chez Draper La Chapelle Theuil
Northern Walk	Fri 25 th June 2021	11.00 hrs	Fenioux
Fine Wine Tasting	Wed 30th June	19:45 hrs	Chez Mousdale, La Tallud
Wine & Lunch Club	Tue 7th September	11.30 hrs	Chez Miles, Benet

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2nd Reading Circle - 16th June at 10.30 - Chez Draper
Book: Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky.

The first two stories of a masterwork once thought lost, written by a pre-WWII bestselling author who was deported to Auschwitz and died before her work could be completed.

By the early 1940s, when Ukrainian-born Irène Némirovsky began working on what would become *Suite Française*—the first two parts of a planned five-part novel—she was already a highly successful writer living in Paris. But she was also a Jew, and in 1942 she was arrested and deported to Auschwitz: a month later she was dead at the age of thirty-nine. Two years earlier, living in a small village in central France—where she, her husband, and their two small daughters had fled in a vain attempt to elude the Nazis—she'd begun her novel, a luminous portrayal of a human drama in which she herself would become a victim. When she was arrested, she had completed two parts of the epic, the handwritten manuscripts of which were hidden in a suitcase that her daughters would take with them into hiding and eventually into freedom. Sixty-four years later, at long last, we can read Némirovsky's literary masterpiece

If you wish to join the monthly held 2nd reading circle please contact Lesley Ritchie

Northern Walk.....Friday June 25th at 11.00 o'clock by Louise Tamblin

Well, after a year without a walk, we are planning a Northern walk for June! It will be a gentle forest walk, with no hills to climb and no roads to cross, so also a very dog friendly walk!

Here are the details:

Date: Friday 25th June

Meeting time: 11.00 a.m.(not that this is slightly later than usual!). Walk is 1hr30mins at a gentle pace.

Meeting place: Just off the D25 (between Fenioux and Secondigny) at the carpark 'Route Forestière de la Reculée'. This road name is not found by Google maps, so it may be that your sat nav won't find it either. The coordinates are 46.578539 and - 0.446896. If you are a 'what3 words' user, then the 3 words are 'sheared.scrawls.flashlight' There is a street sign on the actual road. The car park location is indicated on the map below with a red star. **A short walk is available.**

Lunch: Lunch is at the Cafe des Belles Fleurs, 1 Place d'Eglise, Fenioux. (So also on the D25 and 6 minutes from the forest) and is booked for 1.00 p.m. The price for 3 courses, house wine and coffee or tea is 13 euros per head. There are meat/fish/veggie options for the main course. The veggie main course option will NOT be omelette.

Toilets: There are no toilets in the car park, but there are lots of trees.....

Non walkers: The Cafe des Belles Fleurs opens at 8.00 am., so non-walkers can go there/be dropped off there any time after that! There are also a few picnic tables in the meeting carpark, if anyone wants to wait there while others walk....

Booking your place: Please let Louise know if you are coming, and whether you are walk and meal, walk only or meal only. If you are eating please say if you want fish, meat or veggie main course.

Please let her know before Monday 21st June, as she is confirming numbers with the restaurant then.
Thanks!



GT PICNIC – SUNDAY 20TH JUNE 2021 - 12.30PM



Midsummer is only a month away!

By now your diaries should have a red ring round the **20th June** when the **Great British Picnic** takes place in the Bois Pouvreau, just outside Menigoute.

So please advise Michele, our grand organiser, that you would like to attend.

Details are as follows:

The event will take place on Sunday 20th June 2021 at 12.30 hrs

for aperos.

It is to be toilet and you that almost

To get the These will be



held at the camp site in the Bois Pouvreau where there are washing facilities and the car parking is ample. For those of know Le Restaurant DONJON on the lake, we are meeting directly opposite – a very pretty location.

party started GT will be serving an apero and providing wine! dispensed into your own glass.

Please bring your own picnic including nibbles for the aperos, cutlery, crockery and glasses. This is to keep things simple. As an idea, if you are forming a table of six, perhaps you can bring a picnic to share. The GT urn will be available for hot water for teas and coffees.

There are only two tables and benches only be used for six. Therefore we highly recommend that you bring your own tables and chairs. There is plenty of flat space to sit under the canopy of trees. Just in case put a brolly/parasol in



fixed under cover which can really help each. recommend that tables and chairs flat space to sit trees. Just in case the car!

There will be a raffle.

We are looking to run horse racing to add to the fun and excitement along with boules, plus any outdoor activity you fancy bringing.

Due to Covid we are taking certain precautions: Sanitiser will be provided as appropriate but feel free to bring your own. All of us will need to provide all our own food and drink along with crockery, cutlery and glasses etc.



Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on their leads at all times due to local by laws.

The picnic is being organized subject to any COVID restrictions that may be in place so we will update you of any significant change of plans if necessary.

The directions to Camping Bois Pouvreau:

The campsite is just off the minor road between Menigoute and Coutieres [to the west of Menigoute]. At the final junction for the campsite the 'GT' signs will help direct you. There are signs for the camping.

From Menigoute centre, at the top of the hill, take the road beside the pharmacy, signposted 'camping 3' and 'IFFCAM'. Follow this road, over the river and after ~300m take the next left, signposted for the campsite. This will come up ~200m on your left. GT signs should help at this point.

From the D524 on the edge of Coutieres, opposite a little grotto with a cross on top, take the road signed for IFFCAM. After about 2KM IFFCAM will come up on your left. Drive past it and at the second right [~1km] take this road, signposted for the campsite. This will come up ~200m on your left. GT signs should help at this point.

Fine Wine Tasting - Wed 30th June 19.45 hrs - Chez Mousdales - Annette

As things start to get back to some sort of normality Wine and Lunch club are looking to kick things off with our Fine Wine tasting event, which we had to postpone from November last year.

It will take place on the evening of Wednesday 30th June 2021 at Diane and Keith's home, 19:45 hrs for a 20:00 hrs prompt start! The cost is €10 per head, including nibbles and of course three fine wines. There is a limit of 10. Currently 2 places left!

In addition, we are proposing to begin our usual get together on **Tuesday 7th September at 11:30 hrs**. All we require is a volunteer to host the event and some suggestions for a theme.

Please contact Annette for fine wines and/or September- many thanks.

Wine and Lunch Club – Tues 7th Sept – 11.30 hrs - Chez Miles – Annette Green

Just a note for the Diary at this stage, full details on the wine and numbers allowed to follow in due course.

We will meet at Gloria and Brian's in Benet. The theme will be ITALIAN

EVENT REPORTS

GT Zoom Quiz Thurs 13th May: All over Deux Sèvres Report by Neil Ritchie

The third virtual GT quiz, held on Ascension day (tut tut), saw a titanic struggle take place between teams drawn from the cream of GT intelligentsia on a night of increasing drama and unbearable tension (tee hee). And the outcome was a tie!

The defending champions, President Hughes and the Ritchie acolytes, were a woman down on the night which proved a severe handicap when it came to answering the girly questions. Consequently team Green were able to match their score, probably because their royalist affiliations meant that they they knew the answer to a question about the names and ages of the many princes and princesses we republicans are obliged to put up with.

As we all know history is written by the winners. In GT circles a perverse tradition has emerged in which the winners are no longer acknowledged by the award of alcoholic prizes. Instead they get lumbered with having to write a report for this newsletter. On this occasion 75% of them had some lame excuse but my personal protestations were felled by the fact that I had failed to turn off the mute button. This calamitous lack of Zoom management skills was happily not shared by the Hansfords, to whom thanks are due for facilitating the whole event and setting the questions. Rumour has it that they are also capable of walking and talking simultaneously.

After all this excitement it has been decided that a period of repose in a darkened room is in order. The next quiz is therefore delayed until summer finally arrives and then departs. But the intention is to resurrect the old practice of meeting in person. What a nostalgic occasion it will be.

Southern walks ANY VOLUNTEERS?

As you are probably aware as yet we do not have a co-ordinator for the Southern walks, so if anyone is interested in this role please let me know asap.

Meanwhile, we are hoping that there are Southern members who can volunteer to organise a walk and lunch. Martin and Louise can answer any questions you have about deadlines, length, numbers etc. Basically, you simply need to identify a walk and a restaurant and lead the walk on the day. Normally – (bit not set in stone) the walks are held on the second Saturday of the month. Let me know if you can offer this and Louise or Martin will be in touch.

And if you want to repeat a previous walk then that would be great - after all we haven't really had a walk since 2019! - or a new walk would be brilliant too. Either is very welcome!

Unfortunately no volunteers= no Southern walks..... ☐.....so please, dig out your walking boots, identify a walk, and get in touch via gtnewsletter79@gmail.com

Photo Group Mon 10th May via Zoom Report by Steve Marshall
Report

The Photo Group met via Zoom on 10 May and looked at black and white photography.

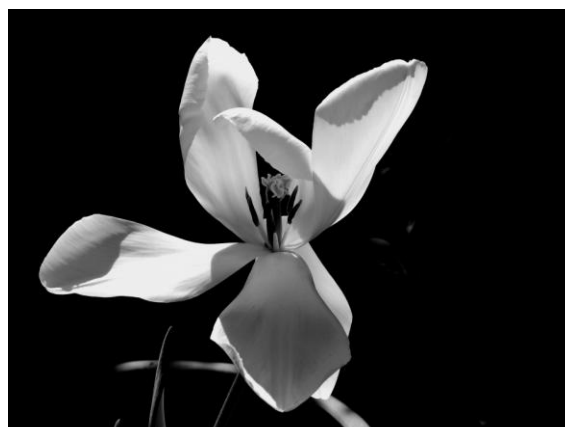
We looked at the black and white shots members had submitted and voted for the best.

The winner was Martin's picture of a wood with close runners up being Vinny's dog and Tim's tulip.

Second runner's up were Caz's tree bark, Howard's tree and Martin's lane.
Next meeting will be on Monday 14th June at 14:00 hrs – full details to follow.



By MARTIN HUGHES



By TIM CARLYLE



by CAZ BRAY



By VINNY GALLOWAY



By HOWARD NEEDS



By MARTIN HUGHES

We discussed ***Away with the Penguins*** by Hazel Prior.

Short version: Silly but enjoyable

Longer Version: This book is a previous Richard and Judy pick and is described on various as heart-warming, reassuring and uplifting. The plot revolves around 85 year old Veronica McCreedy who lives an orderly life until she watches a wildlife programme on TV and decides to visit an Antarctic research centre that studies penguins and have an adventure. As the story progresses she learns not only about penguins but builds a relationship with her estranged grandson and acknowledges episodes from her past. The book is also packed with very cute penguins!

Although we found the story to be cliched and predictable in parts, it still made most of us smile and it highlights how easy it is to make instant judgements about others that may not be accurate, and how early life events can have a major impact on later behaviour and disposition. Although the story is joyful, our discussion touched on the use of prisoners of war as labour during WW2, forced adoption and the rise of fascism, so it certainly got us talking! It was lovely to have a face-to-face meeting after several months of zoom and the lemon drizzle cake went down a treat

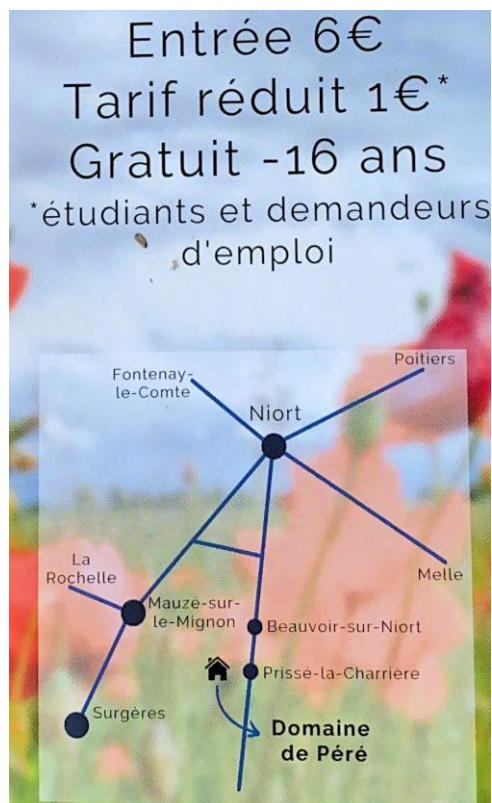
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2021

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.



[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 eg 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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