

*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*

## July 2021 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news  
and reports for members*



Butterfly at Perre taken by Roger Amsden 1

At last some decent weather!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Photo Group	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> July	14.00 hrs	Parthenay
Reading Group	Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	10.30 hrs	Menigoute
Long Walk	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	09.30 hrs	Francois
GT Late Summer Picnic	Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	12.30 hrs	Menigoute
Wine and Lunch Club	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11.30 hrs	Benet
Southern Walk	Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30 hrs	Montjean
Northern Walk	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30hrs	TBC
Spice Club	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	12.00 hrs	TBC

- **Next Committee Meeting** Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Aug
- **Final Copy Date** May Newsletter Items Wed 25th Aug (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- **for publication on** Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Aug

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Photo Group - Mon 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 - 14.00 hrs - Steve Marshall and Roger Amsden

Some of us are hoping to meet, most probably by the river in Parthenay on Monday 26 July. **If you are interested in attending please contact either Roger or Steve for the meeting point in Parthenay.**



### Reading Group Tues 31st Aug 2021 10.30 hrs Chez Martin – Menigoute Lesley Ritchie

Our next book is by a lady called **Margaret Baldwin** - known to many of you - called '**It's a Start**'. Please feel free to join us.

In 1963, having reached the statutory age of 22 years, and passing her entrance examination, she was sent to Ryton-on-Dunsmore for three months' training, then posted to a Home Counties Constabulary. However, she quickly learned that female officers were there to deal with women and children and fill in when and where required. Meals and coffee breaks were to be taken in their office, so there would be no social fraternising with male officers!

We welcome new members. We are currently 6 women and 2 men, with a few other less regular attendees. We meet in each others houses approximately once a month for a discussion about all sorts of books.

**If interested please contact Lesley Ritchie**

### Long Walk Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2021 09.30 hrs Francois, Chauray - Peter Murray

The long walk... 9.30am at Francois 79260, Chauray, near Niort.

Please note there is **no short walk**

**A brisk 13km** walk (expected to be done in 2h30) that takes us through the three valleys near Chauray, Niort.

The walk starts in the small village of François, parking by the small church. and takes us along quiet tarmacked lanes and tracks. As we are going through the valleys there are a few ups and downs!. Once up the hills you get a good view across the plains of Chauray.

Dogs are welcome but will need to be on the lead 50% of the walk.

**NOTE** I did not come across any public toilets.

**Lunch is at Les Pyramides** – Central Routiers, La Creche 13.50€ for buffet starter, cheese and dessert – choice of main. No wine included.

**Non walkers welcome to joins for lunch at 13h00.**

**Please contact Peter to sign up for the walk.**

## FRANÇOIS

### *Vous découvrirez au cours de ce circuit :*

- Au Breuil de François ;

Le temple abbatial est édifié et situé face à la nef. Il a été construit de 1888 à 1920. Tout est en ruines, il fut désaffecté et reconstruit après la guerre de 1939-45 grâce à des emprunts aux voisins, des bourses du ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Colonie et de la vente des parcelles organisées en 1947.

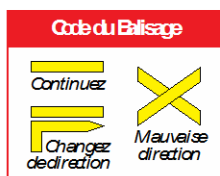
- Les cimetières protestants ;

A l'origine c'était une paroisse de protestants et il était dédié à sainte Marie. En 1877, si l'on parvient à accéder à l'église, on se rend compte que c'est un édifice de protestants. C'est ce qui explique le grand nombre de sépultures protestantes. Il s'agit le plus souvent entourées de murs en pierres sèches ou de plantation de buis, d'il y a eu des

- Le pigeonnier du fief ;

Ce pigeonnier complet est le fief du fief. Le fief du pigeonnier (le nombre de boulins = boulins de terre, où il y avait un nid) est la superficie du domaine. On comptait 3 arpents (un arpent est une unité de mesure qui représente sur la commune de François 50 ares) par où on pouvait donc connaître la superficie du domaine, rien qu'en comptant le nombre de boulins du pigeonnier. Le pigeonnier du fief compte 108 boulins.

### *Bonne nuitée...*



- © Comité Départemental des Deux-Sèvres de la Randonnée Pédestre
- Comité Départemental de Tourisme en Deux-Sèvres  
[www.tourisme-deux-sevres.com](http://www.tourisme-deux-sevres.com)  
Tél. 05 49 77 87 79

Cette fiche est éditée par le Conseil Général des Deux-Sèvres en conformité avec les dispositions de la charte qualité "Randonnée en Deux-Sèvres".  
Tél. 05 49 06 77 65

Mairie de François - 16160 - 05 49 21 03 88

## FRANÇOIS



## Les trois vallées

*Situé à la confluence de la Sèvre Niortaise, du Chambon et du Mousson découvrez au fil de leurs méandres, lavoirs, ponts, barrages et paysage typique de plaine et bocage.*

*Accès :* à 12 km de Nort, par la N11 puis la D5 et la D107

*Départ :* dans le centre de François à proximité de l'église et du lavoir de François

*Distance :* 13 km

*Durée :* 3 h 30

*Balisage :* jaune

**Rando** pédestre  
*en Deux-Sèvres*

## GT Late Summer Picnic – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 12.20 hrs Menigoute – Julia Murray

Exciting news, Diane and Richard Hooker, who live near Menigoute are hosting our next GT event, it is pretty central to the Deux Sevres so should be within easy reach of most members.

Our Late Summer picnic will be a good chance to catch up with everyone. We will be having a few games including our own horse racing – 4 races, croquet and molkky.

With Covid still the main topic of conversation (sadly) we felt that it was best to keep things simple, therefore we are asking you to bring your own picnic, crockery, glasses, plus tables and chairs etc. As an idea you could contact friends and do your own bring and share picnic.





Come for 12:20 hrs so you can set up and get comfortable, then at 12:30 hrs we will kick off the event with aperos courtesy of GT, who will also provide wine, red, white and rose. No nibbles.

Should it rain, there is a large barn we can retreat to. No dogs, the owners have three cats.

For something different and for a bit of a laugh, we are asking that attendees send in a photograph of themselves when they were 18 ish to Julia via email. Julia will print them off for the picnic and you will need to guess the different members over the course of the afternoon!

We will be holding a raffle for Young Lives and Cancer (formerly know as CLIC) with lots of prizes to be won including a £25 John Lewis voucher and M and S wine.

So all you need to do now is to sign up by emailing Julia via [gettogetherfrance@yahoo.com](mailto:gettogetherfrance@yahoo.com) Also use this email to send in your photographs. We need to know numbers so we have an idea as to how much wine we need!

### **Wine and Lunch Club Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 11.30 hrs Benet Annette Green**

Our first wine and lunch club for some time.

To be held at Gloria and Brian's in Benet, the theme will be Italian with wines selected by Keith to compliment the food!

Please contact Annette via [gtnewsletter79@gmail.com](mailto:gtnewsletter79@gmail.com). If you are interested in attending future events or want to find out more.

**DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND SEPTEMBERS GATHERING IS ALREADY FULL!**

### **GT Southern Walk - Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 10.30 hrs Montjean – Linda and Peter Bains.**

The route of the walk will be relatively level and be some variation on the walks we have done in the past depending on weather and mud conditions. It will leave from and return to the restaurant. Walking will start at 10:30 am and lunch will be at 1pm.

Lunch will be at le Relais de la Peruse Montjean .

The 4 course lunch including wine will cost 15€.

At the moment the restaurant is limited to 20 people but there is every chance this will increase later.

Car parking is available opposite by the tennis court. The bar will be open in the morning for non-walkers.

The renovated Salle des Fetes is reopening in July so there should be decent public toilet facilities, probably better than in the bar ?

Please contact Peter or Linda to book your place.

## **Event Reports**

### **Photo Group – 12<sup>th</sup> July Report by Steve Marshall**

The challenge for the Zoom meeting on 12 July was gentle landscapes and still waters. This was based on the planned gathering at Lac de Verruyes on 28 June. This was moved to 5 July due to the poor weather and five of us made it.

Steve presented a session on different ways of capturing movement.

We looked at the photographs submitted by members. Joint winners were Carol's plant and Caz's landscape. Runner up was Martin's egret with Caz's reflection and Steve's bramble close behind.



Photograph by Carol Andrews 1



Photograph by Caz Bray 1



Photograph by Martin Hughes 1



Photograph by Steve Marshall 1



Photograph by Caz Bray 2

### **Fine wine tasting 30<sup>th</sup> June report by Roger Amsden**

First a big thank you to Keith and Diane Mousdale for hosting this event. Keith who searched the whole of France/Spain to find great wines at reasonable prices to please our pallets . Diane, who prepared special nibbles to match the wines and even identity tags for the glasses, "Covid safe" or to keep mucky mitts off each other's glasses. So after a brief informative introduction to the wines the twelve eager group of us were ready to be offered our first wine to sample. Chateau Soclando-Mallet 2012 . 55% Cabernet, 40% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. This wine is from the left bank of the Gironde a relatively small producer not included in the Crus Bourgeois by the

owner Jean Gautreau because he considers it to be worthy of standing on its own, this wine now coming into its prime after 8 years . Costing from around 35€ and up to 45€.  
We found it a soft sophisticated wine for a Bordeaux with only a trace of tanning and a light length/finish .

Next a Chapoutier Cornas 2013. Syrah 100%. From the North of the Rhone valley regarded as one of the best, these wines are never cheap but worth paying a little more for, around 30€.

The jewel in the crown is “Hermitage” where the owner Chapoutier also has a vineyard. This we agreed was a much fuller flavour very fruity and becoming sharper towards its finish.

Thirdly we were treated to a Salmos 2016. Cepage: Carinena, Garnacha and Syrah. This was one of the very good wines produced by the Torres Family based near Barcelona, Spain. It is grown on slate hills designed for rock climbers and as it is produced by the Torres Family its quality is never in doubt. It

needs at least five years to mature to lose its original harshness. This impressed with its robust full depth of flavour and leaving a short but lasting finish costing around 28€ or less .

Finally Romain Duvernay Chateauneuf-du-Pape 2016. Cepage 75% Grenache, 15% Syrah, 10% Mourvedre. A deep red colour with intense bouquet of red fruits with a layer of spiciness.

Each wine presented seemed to me to go up a notch in depth and robust flavour from the softer Mallet with its sophisticated delicate flavour to the Spanish robust depth refusing to be ignored to this full flavoured wine with Intense noted Bouquet and lasting finish. From the north of the Rhone valley costing around 28€ upwards. We must congratulate Keith with his well-informed wine knowledge and presentation, Very much appreciated by us all can't wait till the next time. Prices will vary.



Photograph by Keith Mousdale 1

Reading Group      Wed 21st July      Chez Hansford    Report by Michele Hansford

We met together in a select group of 5, other members having been enticed away by the pleasures of music, grandchildren and, less pleasurably, hospital! Our book of the month was ‘The Frequency of Us’ by Keith Stuart. As I had recommended it, I am delighted to report that all of us had thoroughly enjoyed the read. We were led through our discussion by some helpful questions written by the author himself. This resulted in a very interesting conversation on topics ranging from WW2, radios, the treatment of elderly people in our community and parallel universes! All of these had some connection with the story - you need to read it to find out why. We recommend it very strongly as an interesting read.

### **Request from your Southern and Northern Coordinators**

If anyone would like to organise a future walk, please contact Peter (Southern) or Louise (Northern) directly



Peter would also like to start offering longer walks from September in a central location to the Deux Sevres (to start with) please contact him if you have any suggestions or you would like to organize one.



## **Spice Club?**

Martin would like to get Spice Club up and running again. If anyone is interested in attending or offering to host please contact Martin. Its is usually held the third Wednesday in the month.

## **GT photograph competition 2021**

**Theme: Water in all its forms – any how and anywhere - taken in France**

### **Rules:**

1. The competition is open to all paid up members of Get Together, Each family member may submit up to four photographs.
2. Photographs can be in either landscape or portrait format and must state where in France they were taken.
3. The closing date for submissions is 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021. Entries received thereafter will be excluded.
4. By entering the competition members are accepting the terms and conditions as laid out.
5. The photographer will own the copyright at all times.
6. By entering the competition you give Get Together:

**Permission to use your entry in the association's newsletter and on its website with a non-exclusive, royalty free, worldwide licence in hard copy and electronic format for the sole purpose[s] of the competition.**

- a. The right to use your name for the sole purpose of identifying you as the author of your entry.
  - b. Get Together will use reasonable efforts to assert your moral rights in the photograph.
  - c. You acknowledge that Get Together may use any editing process to permit any presentation of the photograph in connection with the competition or its publication subsequently in its media.
  - d. You acknowledge that in the process of presenting the photographs for selection no name will be credited with the photograph, only once the winning photographs have been selected.
7. Your entry must be all your own original work and conform to the Laws of France, both moral and legal. You warrant that any consents have been obtained or rights waived.  
Where any person is under 16 the consent of that person's parent or guardian must be obtained.
8. Any divergence from the rules will grant Get Together the right to disregard any submission.

### **Selection of winning entries:**

After the closing date all entries will be displayed anonymously on the Get Together website for the purpose of voting for members' favourite entries and thereafter full accreditation will be given to the photographer.

The twelve most popular entries will be used in the monthly newsletter in 2022.

The twelve photographs will also remain on the website.

**FRENCH RESIDENCY**

ALTHOUGH THE DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021, IF YOU HAVENT DONE SO ALREADY - WE URGE YOU TO REGISTER AND APPLY FOR RESIDENCY IF THIS IS YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE.

**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](mailto: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://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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