

*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*

## Sept 2021 Newsletter

*Events, activities, news  
and reports for members*



*Keeping Cool by Carol Andrews 1*

Hello again - Where did August go?! There are a few walks and events starting to fill up the GT calendar, which is great to see. I know quite a few of you are missing the History Group talks, but with the illness and sad passing of Jonathan, talks were put on hold. The History Group Committee are now endeavouring to get the first 'in person talk' since Covid arranged for your enjoyment – watch this space!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Photo Group	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	14.00 hrs	Sanxay
Reading Group	TBC	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
Photo Group	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	14.00 hrs	ZOOM
Long Walk	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	10.00 hrs	Saint Neymaye
Southern Walk	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30 hrs	St Leger
Northern Walk	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	10.30 hrs	Cherveux

- **Next Committee Meeting** **Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Oct**
- **Final Copy Date May Newsletter Items** **Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Sept (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)**
- **for publication on** **Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Sept**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Photo Group - Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021 - 14.00 hrs - Steve Marshall and Roger Amsden

The next photoshoot will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> when we will be going to Sanxay. The next zoom provisionally will be on the Monday 13<sup>th</sup>. September at 2pm. If you would like to join the group and would maybe like advice with your photography or just come and take pics., give me or Steve a ring you would be most welcome.



### Reading Group TBC 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**

### 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 a cross the plains of Chauray.

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

**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 on [southerncoordinator79@gmail.com](mailto:southerncoordinator79@gmail.com) 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 1889 à 1910. Tantôt on nous y fit découvrir et reconstruit après la guerre de 1899-1915 grâce à des emprunts aux voisins, des donations d'un riche de l'Agriculture et de la commerce et les recettes des fêtes organisées en 1917.

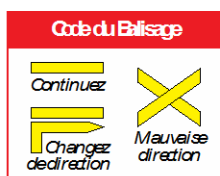
- Les cimetières protestants ;

A l'origine c'était une paroisse de protestants et il était dédié à sainte Marie. Si par la suite aux réformés de la paroisse, ne leur arrivait aucun curé, François était une paroisse catholique de protestants. C'est ce qui explique le grand nombre de cimetières protestants. Il s'agit le plus souvent entourés de murs en pierres sèches ou de plantations de buis, d'ifs ou de cyprès.

- Le pigeonnier du Fief ;

Ce pigeonnier complet est édifié au fief. La table du pigeonnier (en nombre de tables = trou de la table, où il y avait un nid) est la fonction de la paroisse 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 avoir la paroisse du domaine, rien qu'en comptant le nombre de tables et le pigeonnier. Le pigeonnier du fief compte 108 tables.

*Et maintenant... ..*



- © 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

Avec le soutien de la commune de François - 05-49-23-03-89

## 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 D6 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



## 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, plus other donated prizes. Please read the inoformation below.....

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!

## **Charity Raffle at the GT Picnic on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**By Diane & Keith Mousdale**



Those members who were at the unfortunately wet Picnic, earlier in the year at Michele and Eric's will know the story behind these 2 charity raffles, which have kindly been allowed by Martin and the committee, in memory of our beloved grandson who we lost in February.

Our daughter Caroline would like to thank all of those who contributed to the fund at **Young Lives vs Cancer [previously CLIC Sargent]** by taking part in the raffle. This particular fund was initially opened by our grandson, Bradley as his grateful response to the wonderful way in which this charity supported him and his mother during his illness, particularly in view of the way he was as near as abandoned by the Social Services at the time of his greatest need. His period of permanent employment since leaving University was considered too short for him to qualify for Social Payments and so he fell through one of those "loopholes" engineered by a cost saving government!

As well as advice and counselling they were able to provide some financial support to help him try to lead a near as possible normal life during the difficult treatments he received. It was this more than anything else that triggered his response in wanting to pay back the money they had given him when he got back to work

We recently returned to the UK to be present at two special events arranged by Caroline, with much help from friends, family and so many other sources too numerous to mention.

The first a charity football match at which the team in which Bradley played were against a team arranged by the Manager of The Ship, bar and restaurant, Langstone, Hampshire where Bradley worked part time. Following a tribute to Bradley the two teams played 90 minutes of a 'take no prisoners' match ending in a penalty shoot-out. All players wore a shirt with Bradley's name and his number 8 on their backs as a token of their respect for him.

The second event was a barbecue arranged at The Ship Langstone as a celebration of Bradley's life with friends, family, school teachers and just a lot of people who knew him, all having a joyful evening tinged with sadness in which a Charity Auction took place and the draw of a grand raffle. Prizes for both were donated from large and small local companies, as well as M&S Food, Asda Supermarket, Dyson Vacuums, Chelsea FC, Tottenham FC, Fullers Pubs, etc

Caroline has picked up the torch that Bradley lit before he left us and now the fund, in Bradley's name has collected around £22,000 and is still rising toward her goal of £23,000, being a £1,000 for every year he was with her.

For those wishing to know more of this Charity dedicated to helping young sufferers of cancer together with close members of their family, either of us will be only too happy to provide you with more information. We hope that you will be to support this worthwhile cause at the Late Summer Picnic when a further raffle

will be held dedicated to this worthwhile Charity, for which the prizes, a £25 John Lewis voucher and 6 bottles of alcohol from M & S, have been donated so all ticket monies will go to the charity.

**Raffle tickets are 5 euros for 5 tickets – please give generously for such a worthy cause.**

**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 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.

**Long Walk - Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021 – 10:00 hrs - Sainte Neomaye - Peter Murray**

The walk on Wednesday the 6th October starts at 10h00 in the centre of sainte Neomaye 79260 (8 km south west of St-Maixent-l'ecole.

10km (very hilly walk) through mainly forests, the route takes us along stony lanes so good footwear is essential. Interesting hilly walk passing interesting sites.

There is a toilet at the parking area, dogs will be on leads about 30% of the time.

Restaurant to be organised.

This walk is another Rando Pedestre and the full details can be found on [www.deux-sevres.ffrandonnee.fr](http://www.deux-sevres.ffrandonnee.fr).

**Walk - Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021 - St Léger de la Martinière - 10.30 hrs - Bob Seager**

This is a gentle walk between Melle and Lezay, about 6km on grassy tracks and quiet roads over undulating countryside. (That means there are some hills, maximum gradient 5%, whatever that means). Quite a lot is shaded, in case summer finally arrives, and there is a possible shorter cut off available.

Start at GPS coordinates N46.22651 W0.10271.

From St Léger take D305 sign posted St Vincent and after about 3km turn left at small sign post

Bourneveau. Park by iron gates after about 100metres.

Lunch will be available at the Restaurant du Marché in Lezay, three courses, wine and coffee for around 16€. This will be a fond farewell to the retiring management of this restaurant, which is where lunch was taken after the first GT Southern Walk some 21 years ago, and who have entertained us many times since.

Please advise attendance by Sunday Oct. 10th

### **Northern Walk - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct - 10.00 hrs - Cherveux – Neil Ritchie**

**More details to follow, but a date for the diary!**

## **Event Reports**

### **Photo group - 28<sup>th</sup> July and Zoom 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021 by Roger Amsden**

Here is the report for last Mondays the 9th zoom meeting and meet at Parthenay on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> July.

The group 7 in number, took ourselves out to Parthenay for a photo shoot, to ostensible take water theme pics., and to that end took a route alongside the river. I had visited here many times in the past but had not gone upstream before from the bridge , here the scenery was quite stunning as you can see from the two pics that got the most votes on our subsequent zoom meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We all stopped for a catch up at

a nearby café to round off the day. We were blessed with good weather if rather a hot afternoon. On the 9<sup>th</sup> when we viewed our efforts on zoom, I was this time taking the meeting as Steve was away. I commented on the excellent quality of the pics., they were all very good and it was difficult to pick who's was the best. However Carol's and Martin's got by far the most votes. I rounded off the session continuing the theme of Steve's last tutorial on taking moving subject, pictures and showed a number of pics., that I had taken on that subject.

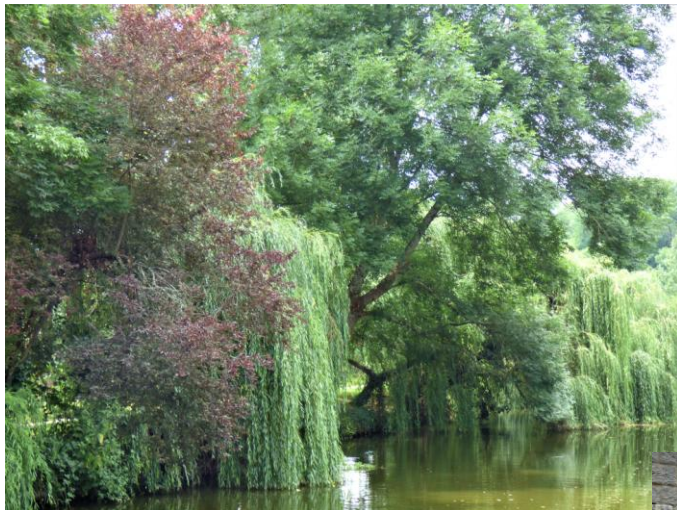


Photo by Carol Andrews 1



Photo by Martin Hughes 1

## **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 HAVE NOT 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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