

*Founded
1989*



*French
Association
3035*

Notre Dame La Grande, Poitiers - A Green

Dec 2021 Newsletter



The Committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, in this our second year of the pandemic!

We are working hard to give you all a chance to attend something to enjoy, whether it be walks, meals out with wine, history talks or a quiz.

We would also like to thank everyone who has contributed to GT either by organing walks, clubs, talks, venues and attending events.

We look forward to welcoming in 2022 and hope that this season ends on a joyful note and continues into a safe and prosperous New Year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Long Walk	Thurs 2 Dec	10.00 hrs	Souvigne
Wine and Lunch Club	Tues 7 th Decemeber	11.30 hrs	Souvigne
Christmas Walk and Lunch	Fri 10 th Dec	10.30 hrs	Niort
Southern Walk	Wed 12 th Jan	10.30 hrs	Suaze Vaussais
Reading Circle	Mon 17th Jan	10.00 hrs	Cherveux
Quiz	Wed 19 th Jan	18.30 hrs	Fomperron
Northern Walk	Fri 29 th Jan 22	10.30 hrs	La Bourse
Wine and Lunch Club	Tues 1 st Feb 22	11.30 hrs	Sauze Vaussais
Long Walk	Mon 3 rd Jan	09.30 hrs	La Mothe

- Next Committee Meeting Wed 1st Dec
- Final Copy Date May Newsletter Items Not sure as its Christmas and New Year!
- (gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)
- for publication by

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – LAST REMINDER!!

It's that time year when we start asking for you to renew your membership. Please renew your membership by **15th December 2021**.

Simply send a cheque made payable to 'Get Together' to:

Julia Murray (membership secretary) or give cheque or cash to a committee member. THERE IS NO NEED TO FILL IN THE RENEWAL FORM UNLESS YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED

10€ for a family
7€ for a single person.

Thank you
Julia – Membership Secretary

Photographic Competition

Despite a lower than average number of photographs submitted, there are some excellent photographs for you to make your choices from.

Photos are up now on this page <http://www.gettogether-france.org/calendar-competition/>

Send your 12 choices to gettogetherfrance@yahoo.com by **Wednesday 15th December 2021**

There will be 3 voucher prizes this year - for 1st20 euros, 2ndand 3rd10 euros each. 12 photos will be chosen in total and will be used on the monthly GT newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Long Walk - Thurs 2nd Dec - 10.00 hrs - Souvigne - Julia Murray

The Six Fontaines, Souvigne will be an 8.5 -10 km walk starting at 10am.

As the title suggests you will pass 6 fountains, it should make for a very picturesque walk!

Lunch is at le p'tit toque, Nanteuil - approx 15€

Please contact Julia to book your place or for more information



Wine and Lunch Club - Tues 7th Dec - 11.30 hrs - Chez Peel - Annette Green

To be held at Dorothy and Alan's in Souvigne (Nr St Maixent L'Ecole).

The theme will be Alsace who are well known for their Christmas fare, the wine will likewise be from the Alsace/Lorraine region to compliment the food.

Please contact Annette to book your place or if you want to find out more call her.

GT Christmas Walk – Friday 10th Dec 2021 – 11:00 am - Niort - Michele Hansford

We thought it would make a change for all (north and south) of us to meet up for our Christmas walk and lunch.

For those wishing to walk, we ask that you meet us at the entrance to le Donjon (the keep not the restaurant!) at 11.00 am. It will be a slow meander around historic Niort, its approx 2 kms over 90 minutes, but very interesting.

We need to be sitting down to eat at Les Planches Restaurant, 18 Rue Pierre Antoine Baugier, Niort by 12:50 hrs.

Parking is best at Parking Moulin du Milieu or Biscara and the restaurant is close to the river and the outdoor theatre. We will have our own room. Maximum 40

The menu for 25€ without drinks is:-

Entrée: Oeuf cocotte comte et truff OU Saumon gravelax, condiments exotique

Plat: Marbre de lieu noir, beurre d'agrumes et achar de legumes OU Pave de boeuf facon tataki, salade thai OU un plat autour des cucurbitacees (courage, potron, potimarron)

Dessert: Dome chocolat cacahuete OU Entremet citron et poivre de timur

Afterwards you will have the opportunity to visit the Niort Christmas Market and if you have some fun in mind, a chance to go ice skating!

Please contact Michele to book your place, indicating your menu choices and whether you will be walking or not. We need to have numbers by Saturday 4th December 2021.

Long Walk – Mon 3rd January 2022 – 09.30 hrs – La Mothe St Heray – Julia Murray

The long walk, 3rd January 2022, La Mothe St Heray starting 9.30am, park at Moulin l' Abbé

January's long walk of 12.5 km starts at La Mothe St Heray and takes us through the surrounding countryside.

Lunch venue to be decided.

Southern Walk - 10am - Wed 12th Jan 2022 – Sauze Vaussais - Peter Murray

8km and 4km walk starting from our house, 3 Route du chateaux d'eau, peruse,79190 Sauze Vaussais

Those doing the short walk are welcome to have a coffee and wait for return of the other walkers.

The first 4km is on flat ground along calcaire roads and through the woods which might be muddy if it's been raining. As we pass our house we lose those doing the short walk and continue along the road and up a hill to a grassy track that descends down to the river Peruse. We cross the river via 2 narrow bridges and then climb a hill upto the road . A short walk along the road and then we take a calcaire track back to the house.

Lunch will be at La Peruse at Montjean - approx 16 euros

Please book by Saturday 8th January 2022

Reading Circle - Mon 17th Jan 2022 - 10:30 hrs - Chez Ritchie - Lesley Ritchie.

Our next meeting will be at 11.30am on Monday 17th January, at Lesley Ritchies house in Cherveux.

We will be discussing the 2011 Man Booker Prize winner, *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Lesley.

New members are very welcome.

QUIZ - Wed 19th Jan 2022 - 18.30 hrs - Fomperron – Michele Hansford

After a very successful return to quizzing in November, we are organising round 2 at Le Bistrot des Amis in Fomperron.

Fish and chips (13€) will once again be on the menu, plus a meat and veggie option (11 euros). Teams of 4 should contact Michele

Should you find that you cannot put a team together, please contact Michele who may be able to pair you up.

Northern Walk - Friday 29th Jan 2022 - 11.00 hrs - La Bourse (L'Absie) – Helen Horton

The January northern walk will be on Friday 29th January 2022, starting at La Bourse (near L'Absie) and will be a gently undulating walk of approx 6km.

Please meet at 11am at 14 La Bourse where there is ample parking and a toilet. Please wear appropriate clothing and boots as it could be muddy/wet.

The meal will be at 1pm at Chez Chantal on the outskirts of L'Absie where there is also ample parking. The meal will be 14 euros for 3 courses but does not include wine or coffee. The restaurant is open from 11 for anyone just wanting to meet for coffee and to join for the meal only.

Full details of the menu will be provided later and vegetarians/pescetarians will be provided for.

Please contact Helen Horton to book a place.

Please state whether for walk + meal or meal only and any dietary requirements.

Wine and Lunch Club - Tuesday 1st February 2022 - 11.30 hrs - Chez Murray – Diane Mousdale

The theme for February will be Spain and Keith will be providing a selection of spanish wines to sample and compliment the dishes produced.

Please email Diane to book your place and whether you intend to bring a starter, dessert or cheese.

Event Reports

Report on Northern Walk, 29 Oct at Cherveux arranged by Neil Ritchie by Keith Mousdale



Photo by Lesley Ritchie

After a few days of good weather, we were promised a dull morning turning to rain mid-morning and so it proved to be correct. However, a group of intrepid walkers left the car-park of the Chateau Coudray-Salbart, prepared suitably to counter all weather conditions preceded by four dogs who went ahead, making sure that the undergrowth was free of snakes and other dangers, and possible GT members who had also become lost in searching for the Chateau.

Neil had planned a route that admirably suited the conditions so that as we remained close to streams, only the dogs seeming to believe that crossing a stream was part of the walk. In general, the walk

was level and varied from open farmland to narrow ways through wooded areas. One such wide and firm track was used by a high-speed dog team pulling a family on a road version of a dog sledge, the gained benefit of a little “carbon footprint” but undoubtedly with another form of pollution produced instead!

A fine lunch was had at “Café des Sports”, St Gelais attended by 8 members.

Whilst the weather was a minor disappointment, the major disappointment shared by the 6 **[yes! Only SIX]** walkers, plus four dogs, was the extent to which the membership had failed to support this walk and to appreciate the effort Neil Ritchie had put towards the enjoyment of so few. We hope that this poor turn-out does not deter him in the future from arranging such an enjoyable event.

Wine and Lunch Club – 9th Nov - Chez Moulesdale Report by Michele Hansford

Our theme this month was very broad: Outre Mer (as in the wide wide world outside France!)

We started with an Australian McGuigan white wine for our apero, which was delicious.

Our 3 starters were leek and potato soup: creamy and very tasty, a cheese and pepper tart that was melt in the mouth and a spicy chick pea soup from Mexico which was lovely.

All recipes I'd love to add to my repertoire.

Our cheese course was Italian and Corsican. To accompany we had wines from Spain, Argentina and Italy all of which demonstrated that enjoyable wine isn't just from France.

Our desserts were the very English treacle tart and Carrot cake. We were very satisfied with our meal.

Huge thanks go to Keith and Diane for being both hosts and wine providers. If you weren't there, you missed a treat!



QUIZ - Wed 17th Nov 2021 - Bistrot des Amis – Fomperron report by Annette Green

Five teams of four, plus a team of three came to Fomperron to claim the title of Best Quizzers for the evening. With 7 sets of ten questions on various subjects, jokers were played with relish and to get everyone into the mood some pre-quiz questions were set eg who and in what program said 'shut that door'? It's meant to be a fun evening after all.

At 8pm we stopped for a well earned break allowing for a restock of drinks and a delicious meal from the resident chef at Les Bistrot des Amis.

The winners were 'The Ever Hopefuls', followed by 'les quatre amis' and in third place 'The Hardly Doubt its'. The all received a prize of some very nice red wine, Cremant and chocolates. It was a great evening, with lots of laughter and scratching of heads.

Thank you to Annette for organising the whole event and to James (her son) for providing most of the questions!

Photo Group Report Thurs 18th Nov 2021

On Thursday the 18 last a number of us met on zoom ostensibly to view our efforts of photographing birds at the bird festival in Menigoute. We picked the wrong day as typically the festivals do not really start on time here in France. We found that the only bird on view in the otherwise largely empty tents was a stuffed parrot . After a cuppa and a chat we all went home. However, we were now charged with sending up to five pics of a selection of our favourites or recent pics, several members did the latter. The meeting commenced with Steve giving us a very informed talk on wide angle lenses with tips, suggestions on taking and use of wide angle photography and problems to look out for. Food for thought. Then on to look at our efforts . Howard produced a number of excellent bird pics from his collection and indeed won the best picture of the day, which at least gave us some of the original challenge. Everybody produced some great shots and all deserve a mention . Great work everybody. The group will now meet again in the New Year.

Let's have some nice Christmas shots anything tinsel, lights, reflections, snow if we get any. See you all then.

History Talk - Sat 20th Nov – Louis XIV – Robert Pierson – Report by Alan Peel

At last a resumption of face to face history talks and it was appropriate that the first speaker of the "new era" should be a founder member of the History Group, Robert Pierson,

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Neil and Lesley Ritchie for finding the perfect venue. The



Photo by Annette Green

Chateau de Cherveux is a magnificent old building, now owned by Inezita Eckel who has kindly agreed to us hiring the large hall with its imposing (and much needed on the day) fireplace. The former owner of the chateau, François Redin, stood in as our host and after the talk gave us a much appreciated guided tour.

Robert kindly sacrificed some of his limited free time from

his studies at the Sorbonne to give an excellent talk on Louis XIV in his own inimitable style. The subject was fascinating and Robert's discourse very enlightening.

The meeting ended with the aforementioned guided tour and a calorie fest of cakes and biscuits provided by some of the ladies of the group.



Photo by Annette Green

Reading Circle – Monday 22nd Nov – 10.30 hrs Chez Martin – report by Lesley Ritchie

We met to discuss *The Hour of Separation* by Katharine Mc Mahon, best known for 'The Rose of Sebastapol'.

It is a novel mainly set in occupied Belgium during the Second World War that combines a largely realistic, detailed, evocative depiction of what life was like in a country overrun and occupied by the nazis with a compelling story of a particular family marked by tragedy, fear and betrayal.

It provoked an interesting discussion about what it must have been like for ordinary people living under such a cruel and brutal regime, and particularly for the jewish community and the resistance movement. The book ends as work and concentration camp prisoners start to arrive back to a very different world.

We could have talked more and hardly touched on the individual stories that I found made the book so compelling, but we ran out of time and lunch called.

[NON GT](#)

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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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