

get together

A friendly association of English speakers

**Founded
1989**



**French
Association
3035**

Photo Comp Winner 1 by Margaret Baldwin

Feb 2022 Newsletter

Annual General Meeting

Hi everyone.

2021 has passed.

Covid morphed into its third or was it its fourth iteration.

Important people around the world have been overtaken by a certain collective madness called 'truth' and Get Together has its AGM on the 24th February!

For everyone's safety, given France's current high numbers, a straw poll revealed it was safer to have it by ZOOM again.

So the date for your diary is the 24th February at 11.00 hrs with full details and joining instructions to follow.

It's your chance to pontificate etc and choose the next committee. Their names were in the last newsletter.

See you there.

GT would like to welcome two new members, Rob and Maria Portbury who live near Menigoute. We hope that you will both have fun.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Long Walk	Thurs 10th Feb	10.00 hrs	Montjean
AGM	Thurs 24 Feb	11.00 hrs	Via Zoom
Northern Walk	Fri 25 th Feb 22	10.30 hrs	St Gelais
Wine and Lunch	Tues 1 st Mar	11.30 hrs	Cherveux
Quiz	Wed 9 th March	18.30 hrs	TBC
Reading Group	Mon 14 th Mar	11.30 hrs	La Bourse
History Talk	Wed 16 th March	15.00 hrs	Chateau de Cherveux

- Next Committee Meeting Wed 9th March
- Final Copy Date May Newsletter Items 24th Feb
- **(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)**
- for publication by 28th Feb – maybe a delay as NL Editor is on holiday!

Southern Co-ordinator role

Following advice from the current Southern Coordinator, it has been decided by the committee, that this role will be suspended until such times when the southern membership increases sufficiently.

In the meantime the Northern Coordinator has agreed that she will assist any member who wishes to organise a walk in the south and we will endeavour to try our best to organise some centralised walks too.

There will however be a new role of Facebook Coordinator.

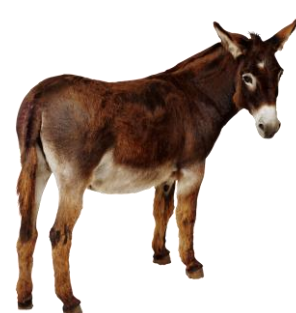
The Long Walks will continue as before.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Long Walk – Thurs 10th Feb 2022 – 10.00 hrs — Montjean Julia Murray

Starting 10am at Montjean near Sauze Vaussais, parking opposite the restaurant "la Peruse" where we will be having steak and chips after our walk, vegetarian option available.

A 12km walk through the woods and along tracks over the fields, a reasonably flat walk at a good pace expected.



Non walkers welcome to join us for lunch.

AGM - Thurs 24th Feb – 11.00 hrs – Via Zoom – Martin Hughes

As our President said at the beginning of the newsletter, we have opted for a ZOOM AGM given the high Covid numbers in France.

An agenda and the accounts will be sent out prior to the AGM.

We hope that as many of you as possible will participate in this important meeting.

Full details on how to register and how to join the zoom meeting will be sent out asap.

Northern Walk - Friday 25th Feb 2022 – 10.30 hrs – St Gelais – Neil Ritchie

We will meet at 10.30am on the car park opposite the Mairie in St Gelais, on D8 near Cherveux, and eat at the very reasonably priced *Cafe des Sports* just opposite (238 rue des herpens 79410).

As ever, non walkers are welcome. Please let us know whether you want meat, fish or vegetarian food.

If you need directions or more information, please contact Lesley and Neil Ritchie.

Lunch & Wine Group Tues 1st March 11.30 am Lesley & Neil Ritchie

The next Lunch & Wine group will be held at Lesley & Neils home in Cherveux.



If you have never been along to one of these meetings why not come for an enjoyable convivial lunch and to taste some wines. Usually there are small portions of starters, cheeses and desserts with aperos and another couple of wines to taste.

You just need to bring along a starter, cheese or dessert, as agreed with the organiser, if possible of the theme with approx. 7 portions and around €2 to €3 pp to cover the cost of the wine.

The theme for this meeting will be **Spring in the Mediterrean**, for both the food, and wines with a description of each wine by Keith.

If you require directions to the venue please let us know when you book.

If you are interested in coming along or would like any more information, please contact Diane or Keith Mousdale

QUIZ - Wed 9th March 2022 - 18.30 hrs - TBC – Michele Hansford

Sadly, the chef and manager Leonard of *le Bistrot des Amis* in Fomperron passed away suddenly a couple of weeks ago.

We are currently awaiting a response from a different venue in Nanteuil and will send out details once everything has been confirmed. We are still hoping that the date will remain the 9th. Be assured we will keep you posted.

Reading Circle - Mon 14th March 2022 - 11:30 hrs - Chez Hansford - Lesley Ritchie

Our next meeting will be hosted by Michele and Eric Hansford at La Bourse near L'Absie. We will be discussing *Girl, Woman Other* by Bernadine Evaristo, the 2019 Booker Prize winner, followed by a bring and share lunch.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lesley Ritchie.

Car sharing may be possible.

History Talk - Wed 16th March 15.00 hrs Chateau Cherveux Martin Hughes

Here are details of our 2nd History talk to take place at Le Chateau de Cherveux.

Title: *The Birth of French Aviation*

This talk will trace the development of aviation from a French perspective. It will start with the Montgolfier brothers and end between the wars, touching on some of the successes and failures of this pioneering age.

Tea, Coffee, cakes and biscuits will be included in the price of 5 euros per person.

To book your place for this very interesting talk by Eric Hansford, please email gthistoire@gmail.com

[Event Reports](#)

Long Walk - Wed 5th January Puits d'Enfer - Julia Murray



I think this is the most picturesque walk we have done so far. The Puits d'enfer is a hidden gem near St Maixent L'ecole, a beautiful river that flows through the ravine.

We started our walk from "the Greens" residence along grassy and calcaire lanes passing some lovely horses and a little donkey.

We had great panoramic views across St Maixent. The only historic building we passed was a cabanne de vigne, this is where the trail started heading downwards. This part of the route is not for the faint hearted, about 30 rickety steps down into the ravine where the river flows. This river varies from dry to flooding, today it was just passable as we made our along the river bank to a picnic



area with a barn for shelter. From here we headed up a steep muddy path back to the top where there's a "arbre remarquable" which is more than 250 years old and then home along easy grassy lanes.

Lunch was at Le p'tite torque, in Nanteuil our 3rd time and excellent again for just 14€.

Photographs taken by Peter Murray

Photo Group Report Monday 11th Jan Via Zoom Steve Marshall

The Photo Group met on Monday 11 January on Zoom. Roger discussed some examples of wide angle shots demonstrating the distortions that can happen with this type of photography.

Steve looked at examples of photographs taken into the light, examining some of the problems that can arise and how they might be addressed. He also looked at some of the ways backlighting can enhance photographs with different effects.

We looked at the submissions from members on the subject of 'Christmas'.

The chosen winner was Steve's 'Natural Christmas Decoration'. Runner-up was Carol's 'Tree Tunnel'. Joint third were: Vinny's 'Breakwater'; and Howard's 'Bird'.

Southern Walk Report 12th January - Suaze- Vaussais Maureen Buckley

On a bracing January morning 7 intrepid, well wrapped up walkers and 2 dogs gathered at the home of Peter and Julia near Sauzé-Vaussais, ready to venture out into the surrounding countryside.



It was a walk of two halves. We set off up a gentle slope through the nearby woods, then along country roads and tracks followed by more pretty woodland, alive with busy woodcutters. After about four and a half kilometres we arrived back at our starting point, where two of our number left us. It was still only about 1° but the sun gradually emerged from the mist as we continued in a different direction which led past the water tower, then turned left down to the river Peruse where we admired the new wooden bridge and weir. Leaving behind the sound of rushing water, we headed up a slightly less gentle hill to tracks and lanes leading back to Julia and Peter's, where good use was

made of the facilities.

We rounded off the morning with a lovely lunch at Le Sons in Mairé-Levescault, where we were joined by two more members who had just been released from their need to quarantine on their return to France.

Many thanks to Peter and Julia for a delightful walk and meal.

Hope a few more people can join us on the next walk, though at the moment nobody has volunteered to organise one.

Photograph taken by Peter Murray

Walk fitness

We have been advised by our insurance company that we do not need a doctors certificate from each member to participate in physical activities, for us that is mainly walks, but could include bowling etc.

However, it is each members responsibility to ensure that they are fit enough to partake in any physical activity organised by GT.

NON GT

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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