



**Founded  
1989**



**French  
Association  
3035**

Photo Comp Winner 3 – Diane Mousdale

### Mar 2022 Newsletter



*Like the Commttee, we are sure you are all shocked and incredulous at what is happening in the Ukraine. The pain, suffering and heartache they must all be enduring is extremely hard to imagine. It makes any infraction or circumstance that annoys or upsets us seem trivial by comparison.*

*I know a lot of you are keen to help in any way you can, given how hopeless we feel sitting on the sidelines and watching all the events unfolding in the news. You will see in the newsletter information on how you can help with this crisis, mainly with the refugees in the countries that border Ukraine. I know you will give generously and it doesn't have to be money, to this worthy cause. See page 5.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Photo Group	Wed 9 March	TBC	Via Zoom
Reading Group	Mon 14 March	10.00 hrs	La Bourse
AGM + Bring and Share lunch	Wed 16 March	12.00 hrs Lunch 13.00 hrs	Chateau de Cherveux
History Talk + Bring and Share lunch	Wed 16 March	Lunch 13.00 hrs History talk 15.00 hrs	Chateau de Cherveux
Northern Walk	Fri 25 March	10.30 hrs	Parthenay
Lunch and Wine Club	Tues 5 April	11.30 hrs	La Bourse
Long Walk	Wed 6 April	10.00 hrs	

- **Next Committee Meeting** Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March
- **Final Copy Date May Newsletter Items** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- **(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)**
- **for publication by** 3<sup>rd</sup> April as NL Editor is away!

## NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS

We would like to welcome back some rejoining members:

Margaret Greaves

Jeannie Clark

David Oldroyd

We look forward to meeting you at a future event.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Photo Group - Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Mar - TBC - Via Zoom - Steve Marshall**

The challenge for next month is photographs involving candlelight. Up to 6 photographs to Steve please.

Group Co-ordinators: Steve Marshall and Roger Amsden

### **Reading Circle - Mon 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - 11:30 hrs - Chez Hansford - Lesley Ritchie**

Our next meeting will be at 11.30 am on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 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 please contact Lesley Ritchie

## AGM, Bring and Share Lunch and History Talk Wed 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- 1. FOR THE AGM, LUNCH AND HISTORY TALK PLEASE REMEMBER TO DRESS UP WARM, PLENTY OF LAYERS.**
- 2. THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR THE HISTORY TALK ON THIS OCCASION.**
- 3. GT WILL NOT BE PROVIDING WINE FOR THE AGM BRING AND SHARE LUNCH, BUT OF COURSE YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN.**
- 4. AS OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS DECREED THAT MASKS AND THE VACCINE PASS WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED – WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, BUT THIS ISNT ONE OF THEM!**
- 5. IT IS UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL IF YOU STILL WISH TO WEAR A MASK AS A PRECAUTION.**

### AGM – Wed 16<sup>th</sup> March 12.00 hrs Chateau de Cherveux Martin Hughes

You are reminded that GT's AGM is taking place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 12.00 hrs prompt. The agenda and accounts for the year 2021 are attached.

**Members are requested to forward items pertinent for the AGM for discussion under Any Other Business to the President, Martin Hughes, by Wednesday, 9th March, 2021.**

Please email Martin if you are attending the AGM and any AOB's

**We would encourage all members to attend the AGM on the 16th March.**

### Bring and Share Lunch – Wed 16<sup>th</sup> March - 13.00 hrs- Chateau de Cherveux- Julia Murray

If you wish to attend the Bring and Share Lunch please contact Julia Murray to book yourself in and to say the food item you are bringing – sweet or savoury. You are very welcome to attend all three events ie AGM, Lunch and Talk, but you are also free to tag it on to just the AGM or before the History Talk.

**You will need to bring your own cutlery, crockery, glasses, cold drinks including wine, and a picnic table, chairs will be available.**

**Tea and Coffee, including mugs will be available too.**

### History Talk - Wed 16<sup>th</sup> March 15.00 hrs Chateau de Cherveux Alan Peel

Here are details of our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**To book your place for this very interesting talk by Eric Hansford, please email Alan via [gthistoire@gmail.com](mailto:gthistoire@gmail.com)**

**Northern Walk - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 2022 – 10.30 hrs – Parthenay – Margaret Baldwin**

The Walk will begin from the Place de Drapeau D134, meeting at the bandstand.

GPS N 46°38'50 W 0°14'52

As usual there will be one long and one short walk in and around the town of Parthenay. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the weather.

Lunch will be at the Panda Wok in Pathenay, 2 Boulevard de l'Europe N 46°38'51  
W 0°13'11

Pay €15.90 on entry and this covers whatever you want to eat or drink. Mention 'Madam Baldwin' and you will be shown to the reserved area. **Non Walkers are very welcome, however you still need to book in.**

Please book by Monday, 21st March.

**Lunch & Wine Group      Tues 5<sup>th</sup> April      11.30 am      Eric and Michele  
Hansford**

The next Lunch & Wine group will be held at Michele & Eric's home in La Bourse.

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, for both the food, and wines will be **South Western France** 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.

**UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN AID APPEAL. THIS IS FROM THE SAINT MAIXENT L'ECOLE FACEBOOK PAGE.**



## CRISE HUMANITAIRE UKRAINE

### LISTE DE DONNS

#### Logistique

Lits de camp	Matériel électrique
Sacs de couchage	(Projecteurs, lumières, rallonges, générateurs)
Couvertures de survie	
Vêtements	

#### Hygiène

Gels & savons corps	Médicaments (non périmés)
Dentifrices	Rasoirs
Brosses à dents	Mousses à raser
Couches & lait maternel	Serviettes hygiéniques

#### Secours

Gants à usage unique	Lecteurs à glycémie
Masques chirurgicaux	Pansements hémostatique
Matériel de suture	Pansements
Blouses médicales	Solutions antiseptique
Bandages élastiques	Matériel médical
Garrots	(Respirateur, défibrillateur, moniteur...)



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mission.ukraine@protection-civile.org

Next information in the coming days.

#### Event Reports

#### **GT Wine and lunch club - Tues 1st Feb 2022 - Report by Eric and Gill Salt**

This month's wine and lunch was hosted by Julia and Peter in Sauze-Vaussais , attended by 12 people in total , the theme was Spanish , everyone was asked to provide a Spanish dish , the food was delicious with a great variety of Spanish cuisine , including cheese and several sweets to finish .

Keith Mousdale provided some superb Spanish wine to accompany the different dishes together with an explanation how and exactly where the different bottles of wine came from .

Many of you have expressed your desire to help the Ukrainian people.

-> Regarding the collection of materials, an organisation has been set up between @amf79 and Civil Protection. A collection point will be open in the town hall from Thursday, March 3 at the opening hours of the town hall. Please provide only the elements listed on the visual of this publication.

-> Concerning financial donations. Associations realise this. The AMF relays the civil protection initiative but this is not exhaustive.

=> <https://don.civil-protection.org/support>

Thank you all for your solidarity.

This months selection was Cava Do , Ribero Del Duero Do , Penedes Do and to finish a Rioja Do . All this lovely wine for a princely sum of only 3.50 Euros each .

Great company and lovely food and wine was enjoyed by all .

This was a great opportunity to taste some expensive good quality wines.



Photo by Julia Murray

### **Long walk – Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – 10.00 hrs – Montjean Report by Julia Murray**

There was only 4 of us for February's long walk of 10.5km in 2hrs.

We were in good form , good weather and lots to talk about ,that it didn't feel as though we had walked fast. Our route took us along calcaire roads, through the woods and around a small village. There were no inclines at all so a very easy walk. Arrived back at Montjean early so took a look around the "jardin de sens" not much to see this time of year. You can visit the gardens anytime throughout the year and ancient house in July and August with a guided tour. John and Maureen joined us for lunch at the restaurant "la peruse" for steak and chips which was excellent .



Photo by Peter Murray



## **The Photo Group met on Zoom on 14 February.**

Steve presented on the subject of candlelit photography. This included overcoming the problems of relatively little light by means such as using a tripod and reflectors.

We looked at members submissions from January's challenge - taking photographs into the light, also referred to as against the light and backlit photography.

The winner was Tim's Chinese weaver with Roger's dog coming second. Anthea's riverbank and Howard's trees were runners-up.

The challenge for next month is photographs involving candlelight. Up to 6 photographs to Steve please.

## **Northern Walk - Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Feb - St Gemais - Report by Martin Hughes**

A coterie of GT members, eight to be precise, and three of their dogs arrived en convoi at the Petit parking for a walk around the Iles de Cande. We originally met in Cherveux under the watch of the castle walls from there to be escorted on a minor magical mystery tour to our start point, a few kilometers west of La Creche.

The sun shone, the air became Spring like, the dogs were friendly and able to walk off their leads for a considerable length of time.

Our walk took us down a track skirting the river La Sevres Niortaise and its coppices with their burgeoning flowers, across foot bridges and beside the odd weir.

Our return back to the cars was along the south side, now on a quiet suburban road. Back over an old bridge and stop by the village wash house for the group photo.

Back in the cars we made our way to Auge to the reopened restaurant for a goodly priced lunch with wine. The locals appear to be patronizing the establishment such that its popularity reflected the value and quality of the fare.

Our thanks to Neil and Lesley for arranging the occasion and hopefully we can increase our numbers back to pre pandemic levels for our monthly walks.



Photo by Roger Amsden

### 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

### UK STAMPS

Royal Mail is overhauling its stamp system with new stamps featuring special barcodes coming into circulation.

These will replace stamps that have '1st' or '2nd' class written on them and from January 2023 these will be unusable.

The barcodes on the "reinvented" stamps are deemed to offer more security and will allow you to watch videos, messages, and access information on the Royal Mail App.

Royal Mail will let you exchange your older stamps for the newer type for free. The 'Swap Out' scheme opens via the Royal Mail website on March 31, 2022 and will run until March 31, 2023.

The scheme will require you to post your stamps that will no longer be valid to them.

Current stamps that will be affected include those with the Queen's head that say '1st' or '2nd' class, or any other price, and those that are Christmas-themed.

After the January cut-off date they will not be valid and you will have to pay an as-yet-undefined surcharge.

### Cancer Support Deux Sevres

Aims to improve the lives of people affected by Cancer in Deux Sevres.

Cancer Support Deux Sevres has recently merged with Cancer Support Vienne, and we are now known as Cancer support Vienne and Deux Sevres , we are still here to help if you need us but contact is now via Cancer Support France, 0800 240 200, or [helpline@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:helpline@cancersupportfrance.org) , please note we no longer have a direct phone number for contact



### 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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