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*French
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Swans at Clavé by Eric Hansford

Apr 2022 Newsletter

Easter is fast approaching and despite the current cold snap, it has been rather pleasant. Life in the garden is starting to emerge, fields are being ploughed and the yellow hue of oil seed rape seems to be everywhere. The glories of spring!

We of course heard the sad news about Bob Seager and many of us will congregate on Saturday 9th April to share memories and stories of dear Bob, plus raise a glass or two in his honour.

Happy Easter everyone and try not to eat too much chocolate!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Photo Group	Thurs 14 April	14.00	Via Zoom
Reading Circle	Tues 26 April	11.30	Cherveux
Bluebell Walk	Fri 29 April	10.30	Menigoute
Wine & Lunch Club	Tues 3 May	11.30	Exireuil
Northern Walk	Fri 27 May	10.30	St Maixent

- Next Committee Meeting Wed 13th April via Zoom
- Final Copy Date May Newsletter Items 26th April 2022
- **(gtnewsletter79@gmail.com)**
- for publication by 30th April 2022

NEW AND REJOINING MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome new and rejoining members:

Sheila and David Oldroyd

Elizabeth Furneaux

Tim Carlyle

We look forward to meeting you at a future event.

Newsletter Editor

I would like to give notice now that I will be handing over the role of Newsletter Editor at the next AGM i.e. March 2023.

If any member is interested in taking over from me next year then please get in touch. I know it seems a bit of a way off, but these things can take time. If you would like to know more about the role please email Annette via **gtnewsletter79@gmail.com**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Photo Group - Thurs 14th April - 14.00 - Via Zoom - Steve Marshall

The next meeting of the Photo Group will take place on Zoom at 1400 on Thursday 14 April 2022.

Group Co-ordinators Steve Marshall & Roger Amsden

Reading Circle - Tues 26th April 2022 - 11:30 hrs - Chez Ritchie - Lesley Ritchie

The April reading circle meeting will be at 11.30am on 26th, at Lesley's house in Cherveux.

We will be discussing *The Dust that Falls from Dreams* by Louis de Bernieres.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Lesley.

Bluebell Walk - Friday 29th April 2022 – 10.30 hrs – Menigoute – Martin Hughes

Bluebells always seem to be the harbinger of Spring proper, leading into the early days of Summer.

So for another year we will be enjoying the woods of IFFCAM and the etang du bois Pouvreau, twixt Menigoute and Coutieres. Both traditional blue bluebells and the Spanish variety should be on show.

We will meet in the car park at IFFCAM on the road between Menigoute and Coutieres [see Google Maps]. There should be plenty of space. The first part of the walk is into the IFFCAM woods via paths that first take us through their fields. This effectively is a short walk as we go back past the car park.

We then will walk, via quiet lanes and tracks via the bois Pouvreau, returning to the car park

It is intended that lunch will be taken at LeDixVingt in Reffannes [see the formule du jour attached – a veggie option will be available]. This is in the centre of the village, which straddles the main St Maixent to Parthenay road. Any non-walkers are most welcome to join us.

Please contact Martin Hughes if you wish to join us and stating any preference for lunch [formule or veggie]



Lunch & Wine Group Tues 3rd May 11.30 am Annette and Leslie Green

The next Lunch & Wine group will be held at Annette & Leslie's home near Exireuil.

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 America 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

[Event Reports](#)

LUNCH CLUB REPORT Tuesday 1st Mar Chez Ritchie By Alan Peel

Eleven of us gathered chez the Richie's for a super (long) lunch of Mediterranean delights and conviviality. It was particularly nice to welcome two new members, David and Suzette.

We tasted an interesting selection of white, rose and red wines from the south selected, as usual, by Keith Mousdale who always manages to find interesting wines at a

reasonable price: Henceforth to be known as our own Noz Clarke!

Thanks to Neil and Lesley for their hospitality and to Keith and Diane for the organisation.

Quiz report 9th March, 2022, held at the Le P'tit Toque in Nanteuil Report by M.Hughes

Six teams of enthusiastic members and an odd guest met for a Torquemadian experience at the kind hands of Eric the quizmaster under the strict eye of the Michele , the score keeper.

Three paper rounds were presented on arrival, covering anagrams, antigrams and other conundrums.

There followed various themed rounds interspersed with a meal and of course alcoholic beverages of the type to sustain a brain through the evening.

After some ferocious battling the Lezayanne team of John and Maureen Buckley, Chris Parsons and the late Bob Seager emerged victorious by the slender margin of one and a half points over Les Quatres Mousquetaires.

Prizes were awarded and we all departed exhausted to our beds.

Many thanks to Annette Green for organizing the quiz and to Michele and Eric for being such excellent quiz masters.

AGM report 16th March 2022 Chateau de Cherveux report By Kate Sangster

A small but interested group of members gathered at the chateau for the AGM. We were greeted by the chateaux dogs and a welcoming log fire.

After a very quick EGM we proceeded to the business of the day.



Photo by Kate Sangster

The formal report can be found in the minutes which will be in the GT newsletter and website.

At the end of the meeting there was unanimous call of thanks to the committee for their excellent service and time during the last two difficult years. The committee work hard for our enjoyment and one way of showing our thanks is to attend the AGM in person, it gives us the chance to put forward our thoughts and suggestions during any other business. If you haven't attended an AGM please consider it next year as your support will be appreciated.

After the meeting we enjoyed a varied bring and share lunch our thanks to all who contributed to it.

During lunch we had the phone call informing us of the sad news of Bob Seager's death. It was fitting in a way that we should hear the news at the AGM as he was always a regular attendee and very verbal participant. In fact I only remember him missing one

in his late seventies after an event that included a roof, a set of ladders, a swimming pool and multiple bruises.

After lunch we stayed on for the History Group , and that's for someone else to report on.....

Minutes of Get Together EGM 16/3/2022 12am Chateau de Cherveux

Present The GT Committee, other than Annette Green, Newsletter Editor, and 14 members.

Notice of the AGM to be held on the 24th February was given in the January Newsletter. For technical reasons it was not possible to hold the AGM on that date and the meeting was postponed to the 16th March, to coincide with the History Group meeting in the afternoon. This extraordinary general meeting resolves that it is in order for the AGM to be postponed to this date and the AGM will follow immediately.

This motion was put to the vote and all present voted in favour.

Minutes of the GT AGM 16/03/2022 12.10am Chateau de Cherveux

1 Apologies: Annette and Leslie Green, Helen Horton, Dorothy and Alan Peel, Irene and Richard Knowles, Diana and Richard Hooker, Robert Pierson, Bernie and Richard Smith

2 Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on 25 February via Zoom were accepted in full, proposed Roger Amsden, seconded Andy Walmsley. All present voted in favour.

3 Matters Arising: Bradley Warden was appointed as auditor for 2021 but his confirmation was not included in the minutes. Keith Mousdale expressed pleasure at the decision made at the last AGM to ask a suitable member from the GT ranks to be auditor, rather than pay for an external auditor. Kate Sangster noted that legally there is no requirement for an audit but GT previously decided that this was something we should do to demonstrate that all was in order and traditionally it had been a member of GT.

4 President's report: The President expressed everyone's surprise that we should still be living under the cloud of Covid for so long. However he was pleased to note that a number of events had still been successfully organised despite ongoing restrictions - some in person, some via Zoom. Successful activities included the Photographic Group, the Lunch Club, the History Group, the Reading Circle and a number of quizzes and walks. Martin thanked the organisers and hosts of these activities. He also thanked Annette Green, the Newsletter Editor, whose work has been such an important part of keeping us in touch. The President thanked the rest of the Committee for their service in these exceptional times. He thanked Andy Walmsley for his contribution in maintaining the website and Bradley Warden for carrying out the role of auditor.

5 Treasurer's report: Eric went through the account sheets to explain how the various totals had been reached. He declared that they had been audited and accepted by Bradley, who has agreed to act as auditor next year. The accounts as presented were unanimously approved, proposed by Roger Amsden, seconded by John Chard. All present voted in favour.

6 Election of Officers: As there were no other nominations for the available posts, there was no need for an election. The current committee therefore remains unchanged, proposed by Bradley Warden, seconded by John Chard. All present voted in favour.

7 Appointment of Auditor: Bradley Warden's appointment was confirmed unanimously proposed by Kate Sangster, seconded by Lesley Ritchie.

8 Membership fees for 2023: Eric proposed that the current fees should remain unchanged.

9 AOB: Michele Hansford noted that the official address of GT included on the Website version of the constitution is not accurate, nor is the reference number, given by the Prefecture. She will send the correct information to Andy Walmsley for amendment. Proposed by Michele Hansford, seconded by Bradley Warden, accepted by all.

Keith Mousdale thanked the Committee for their efforts over the past year in keeping the Association functioning during a difficult period. To this had been added some criticism from some members related to the functioning of the committee as well as to a number of members personally, criticisms which in his view had been carried out vexatiously. He said he was pleased to note that despite the criticisms being aimed at individuals, the Committee as a whole had agreed to continue in office and again thanked them for their service over the past year.

Ann Riley raised the issue of the GT Book library. This is currently stored in a member's barn. She suggested it be brought out and distributed among members, perhaps for a nominal cost. The History Group book collection will be stored at the Hansfords'.

The President thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 13:00.

History Group Talk - The Birth of French Aviation - Wed 16th Mar by M. Hughes

Following the AGM in the great hall of Chateau Cherveux we were lectured on the birth of French Aviation.



Montgolfier Brothers

Leonardo, adoptive son of Amboise, was referenced with his screw driven flying machines,

Not unremarkably the name Montgolfier came up early on and it was fascinating that only one of the brothers actually flew in their hot air balloon, and then only once, as they considered it far too risky! Instead two volunteers, one rich and hence dispensable, were found to undertake the exercise.

There followed a history of glorious attempts and failures often fueled by a

competition or two.

Then a certain Mr Benz and others developed the internal combustion engine and it

didn't take long for the ingenuity of man to invent a successful lighter than air flying machine.

Obviously Louis Bleriot's name came up. As a successful inventor of headlights for cars, monies rolled in and rolled out again as he applied himself to aviation culminating in his successful flight across the Channel from near Calais to Dover. In doing so he won the £1000 prize offered by the Daily Mail.

This was a fascinating talk by Eric Hansford, to whom we owe our thanks. He has promised us part 2 at a later date.

Northern Walk Fri 25th March 2022 Parthenay Report by Kate Sangster

Thirteen walkers plus one very enthusiastic labrador met at the bandstand in the centre of Parthenay for our very sunny walk.

Geoffrey was not well so Margaret changed her route to suit all comers. We walked down to the river, along the Winston Churchill path and then across the river over the new and very substantial footbridge. A very kind driver stopped to allow us all across the very busy main road.



Photo by Kate Sangster

Next we went around the lovely park seeing deer, donkeys and peacocks. We then returned to the other side of the river and walked and climbed many steps back to the start. It was a lovely walk with plenty to see and later talk about at our excellent lunch at Panda Wok.



Photo by Kate Sangster

Many thanks to Margaret for leading the walk and to her and Geoffrey for planning a Great Day Out.

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 , 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, 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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