

Bob's memorial – a Thank You

Stephanie and Mark (Bobs son and daughter) would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who came to celebrate Bob and Margaret's lives with us yesterday 8th April. We know that a lot of people travelled a long way, which really means a lot to us. As we live so far away it was a comfort to us that they had so many friends looking out for and helping them.

Craft Club - Advance Notice

Any keen crafters out there?

I'm planning on setting up a new and invigorated craft club in the autumn. There will be an inaugural meeting on Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 10am at 14 La Bourse. Please feel free to bring with you anything that you are currently working on and we can have a convivial sharing of ideas over coffee and cake.

If interested, please contact Helen Horton.

Future GT walks.

Because of our difficulty finding hosts for southern walks, we have temporarily merged the two groups.

Thanks to members stepping up, we have northern walks arranged for May, June September and November this year, which leaves no organisers for **July, October and December.**

If you want the walks to continue, please put your name forward to organise one. It really isn't very arduous. You just have to plan a walk close to where you live and book a meal nearby for walkers and others who want to come.

I am really hoping to hear from you, as the walks and meals are such a good chance to get together, to meet and re-connect with friends and to get out in the fresh air.

Lesley Ritchie

GT Library

At the recent AGM, one of the members expressed her regret that there had been no GT library for a while. She felt that it had worked most effectively when boxes of books were circulated and members took turn to host the event and provide tea etc.

We discussed this at the last committee meeting. Michele and Eric Hansford have offered to house the history books.

However, before we go any further reorganising and reviving the library and possibly including DVDs, we would like to find out how many people are actually interested in using it again, so please contact me with your views and ideas.

Covid Booster Vaccine

It is now possible to have a 2nd booster vaccination if you are 60 plus and it is 6 months since your last booster injection. Appointments are available on doctolib.fr

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

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.

Photo group Thurs 12 May 14.00 hrs via Zoom Steve and Roger

Arrangements were agreed for a trip to the BioParc at Doué la Fontaine on Thursday 5 May - meeting at the main gate at 1100 with a picnic lunch. Anyone wishing to join us should contact Steve to make sure we have everyone at the start.

The next Zoom meeting will be on at 1400 on Thursday 12 May. The challenge will be pictures taken with mobile phones. Up to six images to Steve.

Group Co-ordinators Steve Marshall & Roger Amsden

Walk & Lunch Friday 27th May 10.30am Chateau Bourdin Diane & Keith Mousdale

Chateau Bourdin is between Parthenay and Mazieres en Gatine on the D134/D130.

If coming from the north approx. 2Km from the roundabout at the end of the western Parthenay by-pass take a right turn signed Chateau B, stay on this road to the village. If coming from the south take the main Niort road D743 towards Parthenay, at the St Pardoux turning turn left and carry on through the village and out of it until you reach a cross roads with a left turn to Chataeu Bourdin.

The meeting point is in the car park by the church at the bottom end of the village. The walk is approx. 7Km mainly on tracks. There are no toilets available.

Lunch details will be arranged shortly.

Non walkers are as always very welcome to join us for lunch.

Please contact Diane and Keith.

Jubilee Celebrations Sun 5th June 15.00 hrs Lezay Martin Hughes and Committee

Come and join us to toast the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee.

The event will kick off at 15.00hrs with aperos. Bunting will be fluttering in the wind and ideally we ask you to wear Red, White or Blue – or ALL three! Games will be available eg Petanque, molly and croquet.

We are proposing that you bring and share a dish, either a savoury or sweet dish; eg salads, quiche, cheesecake, tart citron etc etc.

GT will provide aperos and the toast to the Queen. Teas and Coffees too.

We ask that you bring chairs, crockery, utensils, glasses and whatever drinks you would prefer, wine, water, agrum etc and of course your chosen dish. There is an open barn should the weather be unfavourable,

Please contact **Annette Green to book your place via email gtnewsletter79gmail.com** , she will also keep a tally of who is bringing what dish, so we do not have too many quiches or apple pies!

Reading Circle - Mon 6th June 2022 - 11:30 hrs - Chez Ritchie - Lesley Ritchie

The June Reading Circle meeting will be at 11.30am on Mon 6th, at Helen's house in La Bourse, followed by a very amicable bring and share lunch.

We will be discussing *The Dig* by John Preston - In the long hot summer of 1939 Britain is preparing for war. But on a riverside farm in Suffolk there is excitement of another kind: Mrs Petty, the widowed farmer, has had her hunch proved correct that the strange mounds on her land hold buried treasure. As the dig proceeds against a background of mounting national anxiety, it becomes clear though that this is no ordinary find ... And pretty soon the discovery leads to all kinds of jealousies and tensions.

John Preston's recreation of the Sutton Hoo dig - the greatest Anglo-Saxon discovery ever in Britain - brilliantly and comically dramatizes three months of intense activity when locals fought outsiders, professionals thwarted amateurs, and love and rivalry flourished in equal measure

Lunch & Wine Group Tues 7th June 11.30 am Menigoute Martin Hughes

The next Lunch & Wine group will be held at Martin's home at Menigoute.

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 wines and food for springtime on the Patio 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.

Fine Wine Event - Wed 8th June - 19.30 hrs - Cherveux - Neil Ritchie FULL

Our next fine wine event is on **Wednesday 8th June 2022 at 19.30 hrs, hosted by Lesley and Neil in Cherveux.**

We will be tasting four fine wines, a Sancerre - Henri Bourgeois-Grande Reserve 2020, a Rioja - Vina Real Gran Reserva 2014, a Haut Medoc - Chateau Belgrave 2016 Grand Cru Classe 1855 and lastly a Bourgogne - Chateau de Beaune, Volnay 2016.

Spaces are limited to 12 maximum, there will also be a few nibbles to try/compliment the wine. Cost will be approx €10 each. Please eat beforehand.

Please email Diane and Keith directly to reserve your spot

Riverside Walk - Fri 24th June -10.30 hrs - Saint Maixent L'Ecole - Annette and Leslie Green

We will meet outside the Hotel Saint Martin in Saint Maixent, there is plenty of parking, but no toilet facilities, but plenty of discrete places along the way.

The 8 kms walk takes us along the Sèvres Niortaise for half of the route, through woods too, then we cross the river at Veillon, do a little chimney and then take a gentle climb up the hill back towards St Maixent, with great views along the way. If you are bringing a four legged friend they can be mostly off the lead, it is virtually all off road.

There will be a short 3 kms walk available. As always wear appropriate footwear.

Non walkers are more than welcome to join us for Lunch – which has yet to be confirmed.

To book your place please contact Leslie

GT Summer Event – Sun 28th Aug 12.30 hrs Exireuil Martin Hughes and the Committee

Certainly a date for your diaries, we are still ironing out the detail and will update you a.s.a.p.

Event Reports

GT Wine and Lunch club 5th April 2022 - kindly hosted by Michele & Eric Report by Suzette

Keith brought wines from SW France and we had food prepared by the attendees to match the wine region. - due to a few cancellations and some late joiners, the usually well-organised food courses went a little awry, but I didn't mind as we had 2 lovely puddings and I for one was happy and replete when we left!

Keith said 'the Southwest is an area in which there is no set theme and is simply a "name" to attach to that area'. Which was very useful as David made a cake from St Tropez and decided this meant he could move the boarder too and call it a SW dish!

The tasty vegetarian starter was made with tomatoes, onions and peppers. It was accompanied by a lovely bottle of Château Pujols Grande Cuvée. The wine had a dark red colour with a hint of red fruits and was very smooth to drink.

The cheese course was next and it was a very nice selection from the area, with my favorite being the Tomme (the one with the black skin!)... This was served with crusty bread and the 2nd wine choice named Le Passelys – Prestige. It had a lovely fresh taste and was a great accompaniment to the cheese, but the smell was a little odd! Apparently this is usual? It was my favourite wine of the day.

Keith selected a Dessert wine for the last course of 2 cakes! The first cake, was delicious and I had 2 pieces.... Or was it 3??

The wine was called Château Perrou-la-Baragoile .

It was certainly an interesting talking point, as it was a selection of 4 types of grapes that grew mould known as 'noble rot'.

You never knew how many of each type of grape could be used in the making of the wine because it would depend on how many on each vine had gone 'mouldy'!? The rot itself has a unique flavour and it also causes the grape to dehydrate, therefore intensifying the flavour of the grape. All these grapes have to be hand-picked and hand-selected, so it also makes it an expensive wine.

Although our desserts were sweet, the wine was sweeter! I accompanied the desserts well and was a good example of a Dessert wine, but I think we nearly all agreed, due to the sweetness, you would only be able to drink one glass.

A good afternoon had by all



Photo Group Report

The group met on zoom on Thursday 14 April.

Steve presented on ways to get the best possible pictures using the camera we almost all have with us - the mobile phone. He identified a number of easy to use features and more were discovered by group members during the presentation.

We looked at the submissions on the theme of Entrances and Exits. The best with equal votes were Anthea's Water Pot, Howard's Harbour Post and Roger's Window Reflection.

Runners-up were Roger's Tulips and Steve's Beach. The fact that Roger's Tulips had nothing to do with Entrances and Exits didn't stop people voting for it.



Photo taken by Anthea Libby

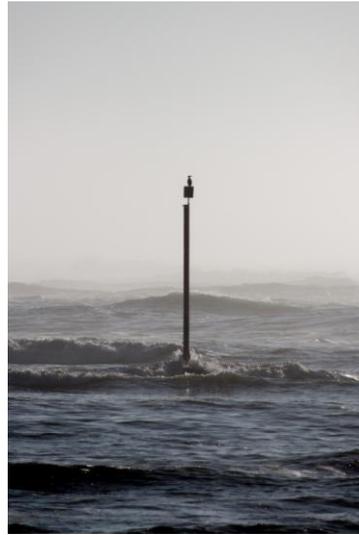


Photo taken by Howard Needs



Photo taken by Roger Amsden



Photo taken by Roger Amsden



Photo taken by Steve Marshall

2nd Reading Group – 26th April - Report by Eric

The second circle reading group met on 26 April at Lesley Ritchie's house to discuss *The Dust That Falls From Dreams* by Louis de Bernières.

This book is the first volume of a family saga starting before WW1 and going through to after WW2 by the third novel. Unfortunately the group were disappointed with the first novel and considered that it wasn't up to the standard of previous novels such as Captain Correlli's Mandolin. Whilst the first half of the book contained some graphic descriptions of life and death in the first world war it somehow failed to involve the reader and felt a bit formulaic. In the second half the book tended to drift with no clear plot but it did present some entertaining vignettes of life in those days.

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.

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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