

*Founded  
1989*



*French  
Association  
3035*



Lake at Menigoute by Diane Mouldale 1

## June 2022 Newsletter

Well the superb weather continues (although we need some rain!). You will see we have a host of events lined up for your enjoyment.

There is still a chance to attend the Jubilee Celebrations this Sunday, details in the main newsletter. Lots of you are attending, so its good to see that life after Covid is starting to truly get back to normal. Yippee!!





## **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 most of this year, which leaves no organisers for **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.

Lesley Ritchie

## **Photo Comp 2023**

Due to the lack of participation in last years Photographic Competition, the Committee have decided that we will not hold a competition this year.

However, if anyone would like to submit a photograph to be included in the newsletters each month for 2023, then please send your photo/s to [gtnewsletter79@gmail.com](mailto:gtnewsletter79@gmail.com).

If we have a few to choose from, The Newsletter Editors decision is final!

## [FORTHCOMING EVENTS](#)

### **Jubilee Celebrations Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

If you are interested in joining us please contact

### **Lunch & Wine Group Tues 7<sup>th</sup> June 11.30 am Martin Hughes - **FULL****

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

**History Talk Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> June 15.00 hrs Chateau de Cherveux Michele Hansford**

***A History of French Art from about 1700 to the 1850's***

**Talk for the GT History group June 16<sup>th</sup> by**

**Anthea Libby**

I am excited to be able to give this talk on the leading French artists of their day, examples of their incredible work, an insight into their techniques and relating them to the political, social and cultural scenes of their day. Also an insight into the importance of the 'Salon' and it's control.

The period covers the Rococco, neo-classical, Romantic eras, spanned the French revolution and the Napoleonic times, and finally realism, which became the precursor of the Impressionist painters and the breakaway from the strict regimes of the classical salon art classes.

I will be demonstrating some of their techniques.

Teas, coffee and biscuits/cake will be provided after the talk

**There will be a charge of €5 to cover the cost of the venue and refreshments.**

The 6 steps leading up to the grand hall do not have a hand rail, but rest assured assistance will be on hand to those who require assistance.

Please email Michele to book your place.



**Riverside Walk - Fri 24<sup>th</sup> 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 Sevres 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.

Lunch will be at Le P'tit Toqué in Nanteuil, €13.50 meat, fish and veg courses will be available. Please indicate your choice when emailing.

Non walkers are more than welcome to join us for Lunch.

To book your place and stating your food preference please email Annette not Leslie (he will be off working).

**GT Summer Event – Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 12.30 hrs Exireuil Martin Hughes and the Committee**

We will be holding our Summer event at Annette and Leslie's home in Exireuil.

We will start proceedings with Aperos at 12.30 hrs, there will be The really Nasty Horse Racing Game, croquet and Molly to entertain you.

We ask that you bring and share a variety of salads and desserts, a couple of BBQ's will be alright for you to cook your own meats, fish or veggie kebabs.

Details on chairs and tables will be nearer the time but we ask that you bring your own glasses, soft drinks, crockery, cutlery and candelabra (only joking!)

GT will provide aperos, wine (rosé, white and red), teas and coffees, bread and cheese.

For those who wish to swim, please bring your cossies, sadly no dishy lifeguard will be on hand to save you!

To book your place please email Michele

**History Talk Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 15.00 hrs Chateau de Cherveux Martin Hughes**

**Georges Simenon in hiding, talk by Jocelyn Simms**

Between 1943 and 1945 Georges Simenon was living in obscurity in the village of St Mesmin-le-Vieux on the Deux- Sèvres /Vendée border. He was hiding from the Gestapo but other interested parties were also pursuing him. How he escaped capture is the subject of this unique archive.

Formerly a convivial man (with a pressing need for the company of women) he died a recluse at the age of 86 in Switzerland.

Fascinated by shady characters and misfits Simenon said that he didn't need imagination as he had witnessed the scenes he recounted in his novels. Almost 500 books were published in his lifetime. He corresponded with many famous authors: André Gide, Colette, Thornton Wilder and T. S. Eliot to name but a few.

We will take a look at his place in the canon of 20<sup>th</sup> Century literature.

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Jocelyn Simms lives in St André-sur-Sèvre, once part of St Mesmin-le-Vieux, where she discovered this previously unpublished story. Jocelyn is a published poet and with her husband Gordon (poet and playwright) has put on writers' workshops, events and festivals in the UK and France.

Teas, coffee and biscuits/cake will be provided after the talk

**There will be a charge of €5 to cover the cost of the venue and refreshments.**

The 6 steps leading up to the grand hall do not have a hand rail, but rest assured assistance will be on hand to those who require assistance.

Please email Martin Hughes to book your place

## Event Reports

### Photo Group Report by Roger Amsden 12<sup>th</sup> May via zoom

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of may last the photo group met via zoom. We asked the group to use their phones for a change. This follows a brief talk by Steve the previous meeting that explored the facilities offered by the device we all had on us most of the time. It was surprising in as much that on exploring the camera menu we found out that we could alter such things such as spot focusing and film speed to mention just a few.

The first Photo was Steve M of the remains of a clematis from last year, the second Alison Love who has visited us for the first time, of an unusual lamp in black and white. The other is the only other one that I have, that was mine of a sunrise approaching Portsmouth and had attracted a few votes too. We had over seventy photos to review. Phew.



Photo by Steve Marshall 1



Photograph taken by Alison Love 1



Photograph taken by Roger Amsden 1

### The Bluebell Walk, IFFCAM near Menigoute, Fri 29<sup>th</sup> April report by Alfie the hound

Nineteen humans met in the car park at IFFCAM on the warmest day of the year with a beautiful Charente blue sky full of warm sunlight.



Three of my four legged friends and I went on a brisk walk though the Bois Pouvreau and by the lake along with three of the humans as we weren't allowed in the bluebell wood!

Master, as I allow him to call himself, took the rest of the humans on a different walk. This is as related to me later. They went along gentle paths, climbed a mound, saw a deer [grrrr] and went into the bluebell wood with all its proliferation of flowers. They posed for a



Photo taken by Martin Hughes 1

photograph outside a hide in a clearing, under the dappled trees.

Then the funny part. All the other humans said Master got lost but he assured me it was according to plan as they found the bridge that led them on the return path under the trees back to the car park.

We canines had to go home except Holly, lucky girl, as the humans went for lunch at the DixVingt in Reffannes for lunch. They were joined by two more GetTogetherians and I understand had a very good meal, though Master could have brought me back some chicken. PS master

had to type this as my claws are a little too long and clatter the keys.

### **Wine and Lunch Club 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 Exireuil Report by Dorothy Peel**

We welcomed Steve and Yvonne Pond to their first lunch club.

A sunny day, so we made the most of Les and Annette's lovely garden to eat "al fresco".

The theme was wines and food from South America. The first wine was a Sauvignon Blanc from Chile with zesty peach, citrus fruit and gooseberry flavours for an appero. The second Cabinet Sauvignon from the central valley of Chile accompanied three spicy starters of pizza, an egg and potato dish with a lovely sauce and nachos with three different fillings.



The next two wines were from Argentina, both Malbec, one from high altitude Andes near Mendoza and the other oak cask from Aminga Valley in the foothills of the Andes. South American cheese was difficult to buy but we tasted a wide variety of regional cheeses including some spicy ones .

All the wines were delicious. For me, in particular, the last Malbec I enjoyed the most. We finished off with alcoholic, fruity cheesecake and caramel filled shortbread biscuits.

No need to eat again in the evening!

#### **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](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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